

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



August 2021

August 8th - Club Picnic

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 11th



7:00 pm social hour

8:00 pm Program: **via Zoom - Dr. Paul Ullman** an Assistant Professor of Geology at Rowan University, will give a presentation on the "Original tissues and biologic molecules can survive in fossil bones - but how?"

September will be our annual "Show & Tell"

Upcoming - In November, we will have Dr. Karen Wenrich who will be talking about her experiences in the mining industry at the "Sweet Home Mine in Alma, Colorado."

No regular, in-person meetings until further notice

President's Message

Well, things are cautiously opening up. Delta variant of COVID-19 cases are on the rise. As rock, mineral and fossil collectors, we normally socially distance anyway. Being an outdoors activity, we don't have to worry about wearing masks, except for the possibility of commuting to the sites or stopping somewhere to eat. We took two trips this month, one fossil and one mineral trip. Send reasonable suggestions for field trips to me at mark.leipert@yahoo.com. I'm also looking for a few activity leaders for things like field trips and the club picnic. Thank you to Cathy Eskew for volunteering to help with the club picnic.

We are planning to continue using Zoom as our vehicle to hold meeting. We are planning to hold Zoom meetings for September, October and November and have a live face-to-face meeting for our Christmas Party. Until then, we will continue Zooming. We are always looking for interesting speakers, so if you have ideas or know of someone please let me know.

Continue taking field trips to your basement, cleanup your dust covered rocks and fossils, discover something you've probably had for years hiding away in your closet, garage or secret stash area. Bring some items out to our summer club picnic, this coming Sunday. You might be able to give away or trade some of the materials you've been waiting to give away to other club members.

Guest Zoom Speakers: Last month we had Dr. Kristyn Voegelé an Assistant Professor at Rowan University's Paleontology Department who presented a very interesting talk on the topic of "Bicep curls of a giant: The Biomechanics of the elbow of the *Dreadnoughtus schrani*." This month we have Dr. Paul Ullman, an Assistant Professor of Geology at Rowan University, who will be presenting the topic on the "**Original tissues and biologic molecules can survive in fossil bones - but how?**" Dr. Karen Wenrich has re-scheduled for our November 10th meeting and will be sharing her experiences in the mining industry at the "Sweet Home Mine in Alma, Colorado" and showing us some fantastic minerals collected from the mine. As always our September meeting will be our annual "Show & Tell" event. I am also trying to continue the line-up of interesting speakers for the fall.

Field Trips:

Possible Future Trips: Our annual trip to Sterling Hill. Watch for details in an upcoming email. Because of our club picnic this month, there are no official field trips planned. If a trip happens to form spontaneously we will send out an email blast.

July 24th Fossil Field Trip to C&D Canal. We had 6 people attend this trip: Susan Moore, Fred Hochkile, Vince Male, Bob Bowman, Sue VanCola and I. Two days before the proposed trip I found out that the National Guard were doing exercises in the planned Reedy Point dredge spoils area, so it was off limits. We decided to try and find another dredge spoils area. We located another near the "One Thousand Acre" Farm Site. We found some fossil material but it wasn't as

good as Reedy Point. After around three hours of collecting in the baking sun we decided to go back across the Reedy Point Bridge. Going across the bridge we could see that there was heavy machinery at the Reedy Point dredge spoil area but no people. We pulled up the ramp and proceeded to walk up to the gate. There was no one there. That meant that we were free to go collecting. The National Guard had dug a super wide trench through at least 15 feet of dredge spoils leaving a cross section of the dredge spoils and many fossils exposed on the surface. We found many whole exogyras (tops and bottoms complete), belemnites and other fossils. We probably brought home 30 or 40 whole exogyras. It wound up being a fantastic collecting day and the weather cooperated too.

July 31st National Limestone Quarry Special “Shot” Trip at Mt. Pleasant Mill, PA: I

received a call from the quarry owner, Eric Stahl, early Thursday morning asking if I'd like to bring some club member up to the quarry on Saturday, July 31st. I made a bunch of calls, texts and emails. We wound up having 8 people attend this trip: Susan Moore, Fred Hochkile, Bob Bowman, Jeri Cuffley, Jimmy Burlage, Alice and Ed Houseal and I. We all left round 5:30 in the morning to be able to meet Eric in the parking lot of the quarry. He told me that he had invited another three or four rock clubs too. It was exciting to meet and see people we hadn't seen for months. Everyone was very pleasant. We all signed in and got our last minute orders from Eric and we were off. We were all looking for the mother lode of calcite crystals with strontianite tufts on top or fluorite or the highly prized celestite. But there was no celestite from the blast that occurred earlier in May. We found many very beautiful specimens with crystals gleaming and reflecting the sunlight. We collected in that portion of the quarry for around three hours. Then we proceeded to the older section of the quarry where we were supposed to find the other highly prized mineral, wavellite. Some people said the area was too much picked over. We pushed forward and were not disappointed. We found many pieces of wavellite, maybe not the \$900 piece, but still wavellite. We packed up and said our goodbyes around 2:30. We had one more quick stop at a fossil location near Seven Stars but everyone was too tired to do any more collecting plus it was a long ride home. Another successful day of collecting. There must have been close to 40 people in the quarry on Saturday.

August 8th, Club Picnic: Our club annual picnic will be held this **Sunday, August 8th** starting at 1:00. The picnic will once again be held at the home of **Gerald & Jane Feigin (63 Berkshire Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080)**. The hamburgers and hotdogs, rolls, sodas and water are provided by the club. We ask that people bring side dishes and salads, snacks and refreshments to share. We encourage everyone to sign up and tell everyone what you are bringing to eat, so we don't wind up with ten plates of brownies. Please log onto www.whosbringingwhat.com/dvess to let us know how many from your family are coming and what you plan on bringing to share with others. If there are special dietary needs please bring your own items. We will also be holding our traditional club auction so please bring some of those precious treasures you dug out of your basement or your hiding place to be auctioned off for the club.

Fossil Fair and Mineral Treasures Show for 2021: Cancelled due to COVID-19. This show is rescheduled for end of March 2022.

The “Cape Atlantic Club Mineral Show & Sale”: Cape Atlantic Rock Club held its mineral sale/show on May 15th and 16th. The weather was beautiful and the event was well attended. Their fall sale/show will be September 18th and 19th.

Super Diggg event has been cancelled with the Franklin Mineral Museum.

We are now working with Sterling Hill Mining Museum to have a Super Diggg there in the spring of 2022.

Mark Leipert, President



Events

October

4th Annual South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show

Date: October 9-10, 2021

Location: 1721 Springdale Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08054

Show Times: Saturday (10/9/21) 10:00 am - 6:00 pm & Sunday (10/10/21) 10:00am - 5:00pm

Website: www.sjmineralshow.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow

News

Volcanic tremor and deformation at Kīlauea

<https://phys.org/news/2021-08-volcanic-tremor-deformation-klauea.html>

Greece's Santorini volcano erupts more often when sea level drops

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/greece-santorini-volcano-eruption-sea-level>

5.8 magnitude earthquake strikes off Japanese coast

<https://nypost.com/2021/08/03/5-8-magnitude-earthquake-strikes-off-japanese-coast/>

890-million-year-old fossils may be oldest sign of animal life on Earth, Canadian geologist says

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/07/29/fossils-canada-sponge-animals/>

Photos - by Fred Hochkile, Jeri Cuffley, Mark Leipert and Susan Moore

C&D Canal, July 24, 2021









National Limestone Quarry, July 31, 2021











Quote of the Month:

We wish to discuss a structure for the salt of deoxyribose nucleic acid. (D.N.A.).
This structure has novel features which are of considerable biologic interest.

— Rosalind Franklin



DVESS Directory for 2021

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
<p>President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 mark.leipert@yahoo.com</p> <p>Vice President: Amy Simpson 856-821-2083 simpsonamyj77@gmail.com</p> <p>Secretary: Phyllis Grieco phyllisgrieco494@gmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 brenimage@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Junior Rockhounds Chair:</p> <p>Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763 WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com</p> <p>Field Trips: Mark Leipert</p> <p>Co-Field Trips: Ed & Alice Houseal alicehouseal@verizon.net</p> <p>Membership: James Brennan</p>
<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Other Information:</u>
<p>Editor: Susan Moore aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Website:</u> www.DVESS.org</p> <p><u>Facebook:</u> <i>DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</i></p>



Membership Information

Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities.

Regular Membership:

\$20.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each family member

\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each family member

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Information

The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc. (DVESS), a non-profit organization, was founded in 1956 and incorporated in the state of New Jersey in 1957. The Society:

- promotes interest in, knowledge of, and the development of skills in the “earth sciences.” These interests include mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, archeology, and local preservation.
- supports the conservation of natural resources, advocates the availability of collecting sites, and maintains close contact with those in the academic field.
- is a member club of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (<http://www.AmFed.org/EFMLS>)

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Inc. (DVESS)

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

PO Box 602

Berlin, NJ 08009-0602

DVESS Website: <http://www.DVESS.org>



To submit an article or photos for publication in the DVESScapades, contact the Newsletter Editor at aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com.

