

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



August 2024



This Meeting: Wednesday, August 14th - **Dean Ruocco** will be talking about Fossils of the Mahantango Formation in Pennsylvania.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 11th. Show and Tell

Annual DVESS picnic – August 18th

New meeting location: Atco Senior Center, 474 E. Atlantic Ave, Waterford, NJ.

President's Message

Hi Fine Folks,

Got your summer tan on? It's been warm for sure.

We hope that Dean Ruocco will be presenting about Fossils of the Mahantango Formation in Pennsylvania this month. And certainly hope his health has improved.

Last months mineral identification, I think, went well. An intro from myself on how I do mineral identification and the tools I use might have spurred others to dig into the realm of identifying them, themselves.

We are always looking for donations for the rock table. So, if you have multiple specimens or you have one or a few that you don't want, we have a table just for you. Thanks to the members who have already donated to the rock table. We do have additional specimens from the Gary dig that will supplement the table.

Feedback on improving our meetings is always welcome! Drop me a line or bring it up in the meeting.

Did you do anything earth science related and have any photos of your adventures you'd like to share? Please send them in to Susan Moore. If you are aware of other events, shows, or an interesting science article, again send them in to Susan and we'll get them in the newsletter.

A good turnout to the Sewell, NJ dig and it was great. The weather was very nice. Exogyra and Belemnites and even a shark tooth were found.

The National Limestone Quarry dig was postponed in hopes that our presenter would accompany us on that dig because he knows where some good stuff is. It is now scheduled for Sept. 21st.

The website prices are still not fixed, Please mail membership checks to James Brennan, 139 Ashbrook Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 or you can pay in person at the meetings. Membership cards have been going out, so if you paid, look for them coming soon.

The dig at Gary's went quickly. Alex and Bob made quick work of getting all the rocks out from the crawl space.

Jim, our treasure was kind enough to print out some of the new brochures. If you are going to be at an event, you might think about taking some brochures to hand out or leave on a table, if appropriate. Good to see Jim back!

A recommendation to put the newsletters out on Facebook was a good idea but unfortunately Mark nor I can figure out how to do that on a commercial page. If you know, let us know.

We are designing a club logo for the shirts. Stay tuned.

The picnic is coming up August 18th. Live auction and free food! Don't forget to sign up and bring a side dish. It will be held at Gerald and Jean's house again - 63 Berkshire Drive, Sewell, NJ at 1:00 pm.

*Did you hear about the girl who got
cooled to absolute zero? She's OK now*

John Arsenault - President

Field Trips and Events

Outings

Chestnut Branch Creek, Sewell, NJ Saturday, July 27th: We had to postpone our Mt. Pleasant Mills trip until the temperatures cooled off to more reasonable temperatures and humidity. We chose a nearby site in which we could cool ourselves off in a streambed while collecting fossils. It was another hot morning but more reasonable humidity levels. We had the following members and guests out collecting marine fossils: Karen & Rick Sweeten with grandson Phen (4), Nancy Kuntzleman with grandson Parker (14), Olga Shorokhova, Jenny Mulligan, Mark Breen-Klein with friend Bob, Fred Hochkile, John Arsenault and myself. Everyone found belemnites, Exogyras and a few ammonite pieces. Olga found part of a Mosasaur tooth and a few small shark teeth. A good time was had by all. Jenny and I had a good conversation with Bill, a local member of the historical society.

Fellowship of the Rock, Saturday, August 3rd Freehold, NJ: Fred Hochkile and I attended a picnic at KC Dalby and his wife Betsy's place, with fellow members of the Friends of Mineralogy North Jersey Group. John was supposed to come too but he had vehicle problems. We got to

see KC's 500 plus specimens of fluorites from around the world (see photos in newsletter). We ate hamburgers and hot dogs with assorted potato and macaroni salads and baked beans. Other members brought specimens to sell or swap. They were a little rich for me and Fred. We made several new friends. We shared stories of collecting sites and promised to invite them to some of our future trips. We thank Dave Shapiro (Groundhog Dave) for the invite to enjoy some fellowship with some fellow rockhounds.

Micro-Fossil Gathering, Sunday, August 4th Harleysville, PA: Fred Hochkile and I were invited to join Tom McKeeman and Matt Okasinski, fellow Delaware Valley Paleontological Society members, at a Microscopic Get-Together. We brought some of our micro-fossils from Vincentown and Chestnut Branch Creek, sieved them and placed them on special paleontological microscope slide to look at what we found. Tom and Matt provided microscopes for us to view the micro-specimens. Matt also shared micro-fossil material from a Devonian reef formation from Michigan. We were able to see micro- corals, shells, ostracods and many really neat things. We even saw a micro shark tooth. It's another aspect of mineral and fossil collecting you might be interested in. I myself have 15,000 micro-mount mineral specimens and now I may start preparing micro-fossils. If you think you might be interested in this really small side of things, let me know. You may not be able to get a whole crystal or a whole fossil on a large scale, but you will have a greater chance of seeing those on as a micro-specimen. (See a few photos from our micro-fossil gathering in the newsletter).

Club Picnic

Annual DVESS Picnic & Auction – August 18th at Gerald Feigin's home (63 Berkshire Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080) at 1:00 pm. The hamburgers and hotdogs 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. **I have sent out an email asking for people to sign up for what they are bringing and how many are coming. When you answer hit reply all. That way everyone sees what you are bringing.** Please sign up so we know how many hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages to purchase. Bring a bathing suit to take advantage of the great pool! Bring specimens for the club auction and bring plenty of money so you can bid on many items at our auction. You may also bring specimens to put on a giveaway table. **Be careful where you park so as not to run over the lawn sprinkler heads.**

August Speaker

Speaker for August 14th Regular Meeting: Our speaker will be Dean Ruocco. Dean will be discussing the “Fossils of the Mahantango Formation in Pennsylvania. Dean is a 17-year-old rising senior at Upper Dublin High School. He has dedicated himself to collecting and understanding Pennsylvania's vast Paleozoic faunas and their implications on stratigraphic

correlation. He has been collecting Eurypterid fossils since he was seven. He has always been interested in paleozoic arthropods, and at a young age, fell in love with eurypterids. He started his own fossil company at fourteen and began to collect eurypterids extensively in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ontario. Dean has had many lucky opportunities to befriend great eurypterid collectors, such as the late Samuel Cirurca and Allan Lang. He has amassed a large collection of Upper Silurian and Lower Devonian Eurypterids from across the world, with a focus on the northeastern United States.

Future Trips:

Summer Trip to Herkimer Mountain, Rome/Johnstown, NY: September timeframe to collect Herkimer Diamonds. We need at least 12 people to make the trip happen. The cost is \$100 per person/day. This would also require an overnight stay. Please sign up if you think you might be interested at our regular meeting.

Dinosaur Park in Laurel Maryland: TBD: We are gathering a list of volunteers who would be interested in working at a dinosaur site. We have no set date but we're in contact with JP Hodnett to set up a date later this year. Please sign up if you are interested in digging at a real dinosaur dig site. This site is run by the National Park Service and you cannot remove any dinosaur material from the site. Please sign up if you think you are interested at our regular meeting.

National Limestone Quarry at Mt. Pleasant Mills on Saturday, September 21st: I contacted Eric Stahl from the Nation Limestone Quarry and we are going to the Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA site to collect Calcite, Celestine, Strontianite, Fluorite, Wavellite and even fossils just to name a few. We will be meeting at the quarry at 10:00 am. Please sign up if you are interested in attending this trip at the regular meeting. You'll need different types of hammers and chisels, buckets, safety goggles, gloves, paper to wrap up your specimens, water, snacks, lunch and sun block.

Mark Leipert - Vice President

The Baltimore Mineral Society
is pleased to announce the
68th Annual
Paul Desautels Memorial Micromount Symposium
October 4-6, 2024

At
Natural History Society of Maryland
6908 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206

Micromounters Hall of Fame Induction
Mineral Talks, Silent and Voice Auctions
Sales, Giveaway Tables, Trading

Details to be Announced: Mseeds@fandm.edu

NEWS

This Is the Most Exciting Rock Ever Found on Mars

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/nasas-perseverance-rover-discovers-a-rock-that-may-contain-alien/>

Photos by Frederick Hochkile, Mark Leipert, and John Arsenault

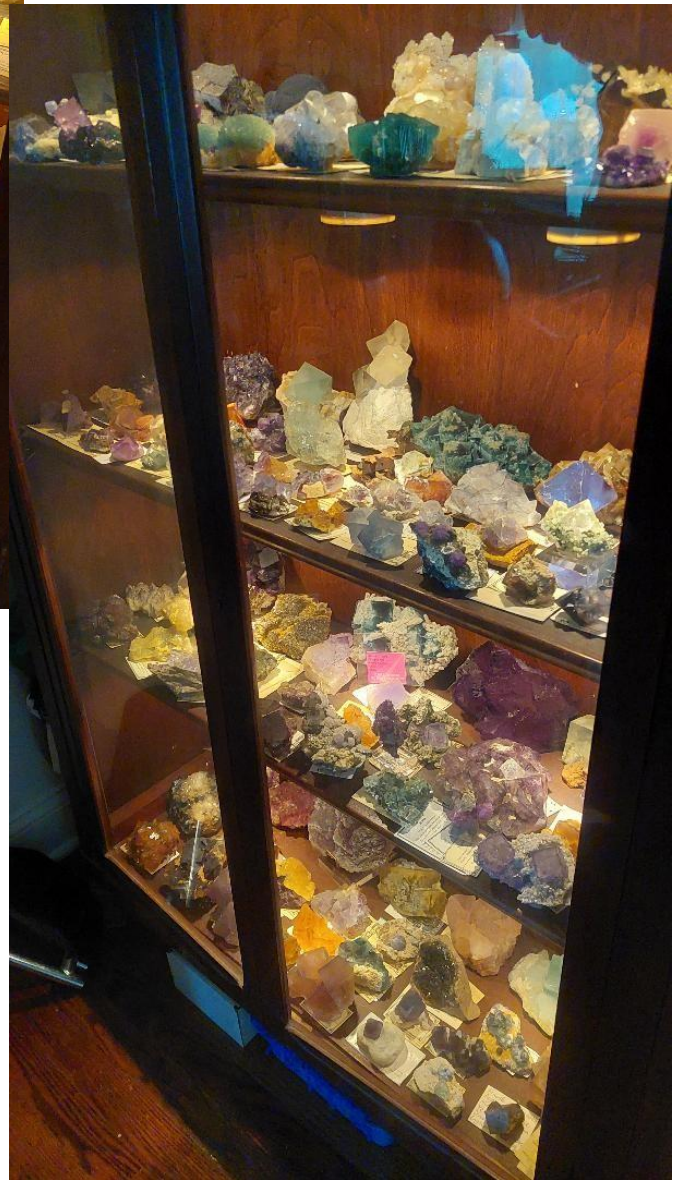
Chestnut Branch Creek, Sewell, NJ Saturday, July 27th



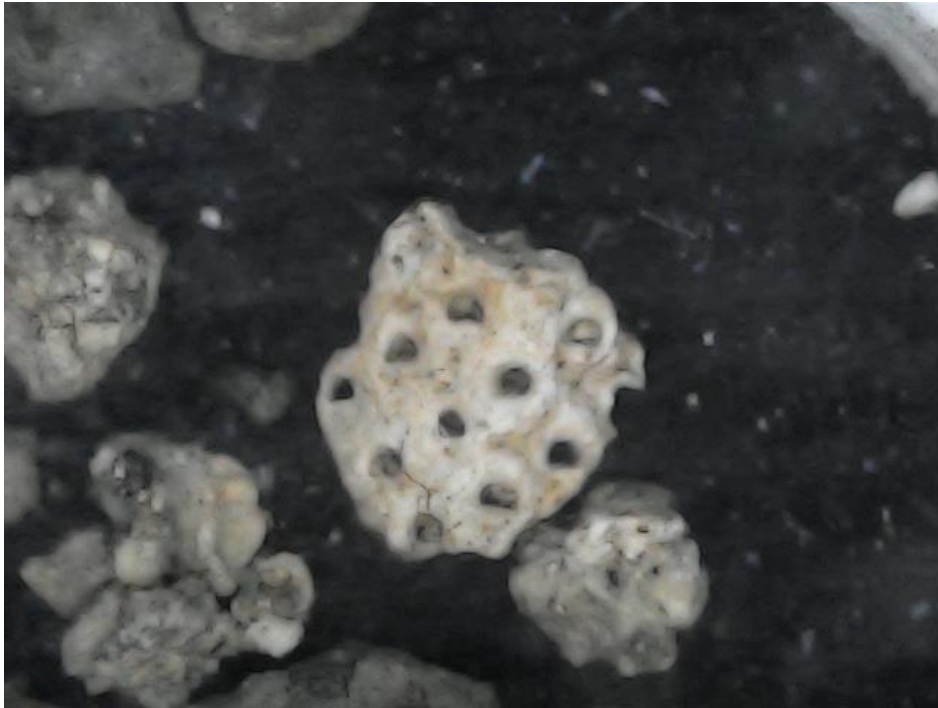


Fellowship of the Rock, Saturday, August 3rd Freehold, NJ





Micro-Fossil Gathering, Sunday, August 4th Harleysville, PA



DVESS Directory for 2024

Officers

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Junior Rockhounds Chair: Millard LeCompte
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Field Trips: Mark Leipter

Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile

Membership: James Brennan

Other Information:

Website: www.DVESS.org

Facebook: [DVESSNJ](#) – Amy Simpson



Membership Information

Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities.

Regular Membership:

\$20.00 for the 1st family member + \$15.00 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)

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.

