

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



December, 2014

Next Meeting: December 9th

Program: Holiday Party and Gift Exchange, food and elections.



Meeting location: Education Bldg. behind Centenary United Methodist Church,
149 South White Horse Pike, Berlin NJ 08009

Winter Weather Advisory

in case of bad weather, the meeting will be CANCELLED
if the Berlin Schools are CLOSED. Listen for School
Closing Number **579**



President's Message: By Mark Leipert, President

Happy Holidays! Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa to all! We've had a pretty good year as far as field trips go. I would hope that we can keep the field trips coming. Thanks to everyone who made my last two years as President a pleasure. I will be staying on as field trip co-coordinator. We will do our best to keep trips happening even if there is poor showing. We have to slow down some in the winter months and limit our trips to museums, exhibits and presenters. Because everything is so hectic around the holidays, there will be no field trips in December.

November's Saint Clair Fossil Fern Trip: Postponed until warmer weather.

The Dreadnoughtus Extravaganza: Many members got to experience the *Dreadnoughtus schrani* first hand and extremely close-up. On Thursday, November 20th sixteen members of our club got an exclusive invitation to go and see the "World's Largest Dinosaur" at Drexel University's Paleo-Lab at the Papadakis Intergrated Science Building. Seven adults and nine junior rockhounds got the experience of a lifetime and with pictures to prove it. Many got to touch and hold some of the 77 million-year-old bones of the *Dreadnoughtus* as well as view Drexel's Inversand Fossil collection. On Tuesday, December 2nd, one final group was able to have a similar experience before the *Dreadnoughtus* would be packed into wooden crates and would never be back in the United States soil again. This was a chance of a lifetime and we were very lucky to have this opportunity available to us. Please view the many photographs of our visit to Drexel's Paleo-Lab. Click on the link to see a Youtube video of the *Dreadnoughtus* bones in Drexel's Paleo-Lab: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyoTwDfXZ6c>.

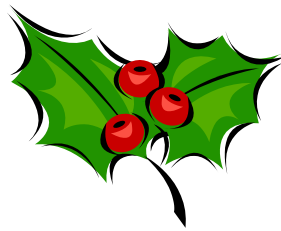


December 10, 2014: Regular Meeting-Holiday Party: Holiday Party and gift exchange. The gift should cost no more than \$10.00; if you give a gift you get a gift. Everyone is to bring food (side dish or finger food) to share with others. The club will provide lunchmeat and rolls. We are looking for people to bring condiments, soda, desserts and side dishes. We have set up a link where you can sign up so we don't have doubles. The link is as follows: <http://whosbringingwhat.com/dvess>. We will also be showing a DVD on an exciting topic. Finally, we will be holding the election of officers for 2015. The slate of officers is almost finalized. We will be taking nominations from the floor up to right before the election. If you are interested in holding a position in the club, it's not too late. Please contact Gary Weinstein, Jim Brennan or Meredith Bare.

Dues: Due to increases in the Eastern Federation insurance fees we are going to have to raise our base level dues to \$20.00 to help defray the increasing costs for liability insurance. The amount the Eastern Federation charges per person has increased to double what it was last year. If you paid dues in the September/October/November 2014 time frame you are lucky. As of December 1, 2014 the base fee increases to \$20.00 while each additional member from a family still remains at \$5.00.

January 31st 2015: Rutger's Geology Open House: Is always held on the last Saturday in January. There will be mineral sales and lectures and fun activities for kids at the Geology Museum. More details to come.

Everyone have a safe and happy holiday season!



News

World's Newest Lava Lake Appears in Africa

The lava lake at Nyamuragira volcano in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) simmers deep within the summit's North Pit Crater.

<http://news.yahoo.com/worlds-newest-lava-lake-appears-africa-110009140.html>

Lava from Cape Verde volcano threatens to engulf town

Molten lava from a volcano in the Cape Verde archipelago slid towards the town of Cha das Caldeiras on the island of Fogo.

<http://news.yahoo.com/lava-cape-verde-volcano-threatens-engulf-town-220845777.html>

Photos - *Dreadnaughtus* at Drexel

by Mark Leipert and Susan Moore







Just one little tooth - that's all they found!



Quote of the Month

Dinosaur footprint casts which extend down from the roof several inches are a nuisance where the coal seam is thin, causing the roof to be low; mine workers continually bump their heads on them. More serious problems have existed with them since mining began in the area in the early part of the century, because they fall and kill or seriously injure mine workers... We are unaware of other lethal trace fossils, nor do we know of other circumstances where dinosaur activity has contributed to the possible death of human beings. – *Parker, L.R., & Rowley, R.L.J.* 1989, Dinosaur Footprints from a coal mine in East-Central Utah, in Gillette, D.D., and Lockley, M.G., Eds., *Dinosaur Tracks and Traces*: New York, Cambridge University Press, p. 361-366.



Shows and Events

January 24, 2015: Philadelphia Mineralogical Society Swap 'n' Sell event - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At Cathedral Village, 600 E. Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (Andorra). Free admission. Dealers/Swappers may set up at 8:00 a.m. \$10 per table, limit one table per person. To reserve a table you must be a member of a local mineral or fossil club. Swapping and selling open to all. For details and reservations, call John Rateike at: 215-576-0741

January 31st, 2015: Rutgers' Geology Open House - always held on the last Saturday in January. There will be mineral sales and lectures and fun activities for kids at the Geology Museum.

March 7–8, 2015: Newark, DE - The Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc. will hold its 52nd Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show, Delaware Technical and Community College 400 Stanton-Christiana Road; Newark, Delaware 19713. www.delminsociety.org

April 25, 2015 - Sterling Hill Super Dig - mark your calendar!



Membership Information

Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities.

Sponsoring memberships are entitled to the same plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Dues are renewable each year in January.

Regular Membership:

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

\$15.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each family member

Sponsoring Membership: (each additional family member - \$5.00)

“Silver” \$50.00 for 1st family member – receive a Geode Specimen

“Gold” \$75.00 for 1st family member – receive Mineral Specimen

“Platinum” \$100.00 for 1st family member – receive Premium Specimen

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)

P.O. Box 372

Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052

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.



