

DVESScapades

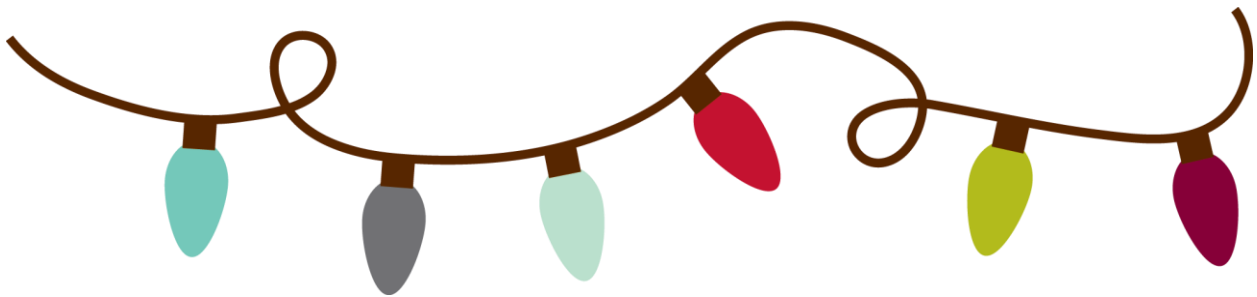
escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



December 2020



Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 9th

7:00 pm **Social hour via Zoom:** Holiday Party - bring your favorite beverage and some of your best collecting stories!



Upcoming meeting: January 13th

No regular, in-person meetings until further notice

President's Message



No one feels in the holiday spirit right now. The holidays are going to be like nothing any of us have ever seen. COVID-19 is having its second surge right now. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year. Good riddance to 2020. Hopefully 2021 is a much better year. I can't wait to see everyone in person sometime in 2021. I'm sure everyone is getting tired of hearing that everything is closed or cancelled. You can start taking some short field trips to places nearby and you can drive yourself. You should still wear masks and socially distance and still have a good time collecting fossils or minerals. Several members have done some fossil, mineral or collecting something interesting during this pandemic.

The Centenary United Methodist church where we meet is not allowing any outside organizations to resume regular gatherings. Everything will be on hold until at least early 2021 or until a vaccine is developed and distributed.

In the meantime, continue taking field trips to your basement, clean-up dirt covered rocks and fossils, discover something you've probably had for years hiding away in your closet, garage or secret stash area.

Election of Club Officers for 2021: There was a proposal to keep the same slate of officers as we had for the 2020 year into 2021. The slate is as follows:

President - Mark Leipert

Vice President – Amy Simpson

Secretary – Phyllisann Grieco

Treasurer –Jim Brennan

Christmas Party: Social hour from 7:00 to whenever. Bring your favorite beverage and some of your best collecting stories. I hope to see everyone's happy face on our Zoom meeting next week.

Rutgers' Geology Open House, Saturday, January 30, 2021: Usually held on the last Saturday in January. There are no details posted to date.

Fossil Fair and Mineral Treasures Show for 2021: Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Super Diggg 2020, Franklin Mineral Museum, most likely postponed until fall of 2021. Details TBD at a later date.

Mark Leipert, President

C&D Canal Marine Fossil Collecting Trip by Mark Leipert

The bi-annual John Wolf pilgrimage, for the Saturday after Thanksgiving, to the farmer's field in Odessa for petrified wood didn't happen this year. Everyone was chomping at the bit to get out and collect. First of all the farmer didn't go and cut down the corn stalks at the end of the season. That would make it extremely hard to find the pieces of petrified wood. Secondly, all clubs were told that the trip was off because of COVID-19.

I was planning on running a side trip to the C&D Canal. Since I didn't get any calls from anyone wanting to go, I was going to cancel. Steve Bleifuss from DVPS who had just recovered from shoulder surgery really wanted to get out and collect. So on Saturday, November 28th, I met Steve down at the spoils piles at the C&D Canal. Years ago it had become overgrown and there were trees everywhere. Then the Army Corps of Engineers went and clears the area of many of the trees and moved some of the mounds of soil around. Last time, in January 2019, when I went it was totally grown over. There were still a few clearings where you could still find material on the surface without digging.



Well, this time I was in for a big surprise, the Army Corps came back and totally cleared the entire dredge spoils area and spread it out nice. The vegetation was cleared down in most of the areas. Steve and I had the whole place to ourselves. We collected for about three hours in the bright sunshine, 60 degrees and no wind. That's the best it's been in years. Usually it's either snowing or raining, very windy and running out of daylight. We found many belemnites and exogyras. I was on my hands and knees and even on my belly trying to look for the many micro-fossils this site is so well known for. I actually came out with a few dozen micro-fossils of brachiopods, clams and other shells. We made sure we socially distanced and still had a lot of fun. Four days later I also found I brought home a little friend, a tick, latched on my chest. So, when you go there remember to search yourself for ticks.



News

Small earthquake felt in parts of N.J. and Pennsylvania - 3 December 2020

https://www.nj.com/news/2020/12/small-earthquake-felt-in-parts-of-nj-and-pennsylvania.html?utm_content=nj_facebook_njcom&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=njcom_sf&fbclid=IwAR3fcmWYkEX4vT3-UM3Ha7a7wmiOyTJWQVgo4PuXE1CDwSaryGYtn0Z1m6Y

Sewell Streambed Fossil Trip by Mark Leipert

A few month's ago I wrote about finding the Pleisiosaur vertebrae in the streambed in Sewell as well as exogyras, gastropods, belemnites, turtle shell material and other assorted fossil shells. Well, Saturday was so nice, Fred Hochkile took Karen Sweeten and her daughter Kathy and Cathy Eskew back to the streambed to see what luck they might have. They were all very successful and came out with lots of shells and belemnites to spare. Saturday was a great day for collecting fossils everywhere.



Quote of the Month:

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, not the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change." — [Charles Darwin](#)

Events

Ask A Geologist: Bugs from the Crypt Friday, December 18, 2020, 1:00 pm

An online presentation from the Rutgers Geology Museum about Archaeological Entomology, or how bugs can be used in archaeology. Presentation will be by Michael Monzon, Masters Student in the Rutgers Entomology Department.

<https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/museum-events/all-events/icalrepeat.detail/2020/12/18/307/58/ask-a-geologist-bugs-from-the-crypt>



The Great Greenfield DinoFest celebrates the amazing dinosaur footprints in the Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts. It is virtual this year so you can join via Zoom on December 5-6, 2020. To learn more and register for the presentation, visit <https://ptco.org/festivals/dino/>

DVESS Directory for 2020

<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: Phyllisann Grieco 609-556-9154 safesite2013@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>
<p><u>Newsletter</u></p> <p>Editor: Susan Moore aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Other Information:</u></p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.DVESS.org</p> <p><u>Facebook:</u> DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</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

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

