

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



December 2025



This Meeting: Wednesday, December 10th: Holiday Party and election of officers

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

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

President's Message

Hi Fine Folks!

You have to love the weather in NJ. Cold one day, hot the next. Today as I write this. it's freezing cold and rain. At least it's not snow. Count your blessings.

As my time as president ends this month, and looking back over the two years, I'd like to thank all of you for putting up with my sense of humor but one of my goals was to make this a more personable club. I hope I achieved that. Another goal was to get more club members. We do have more members than when I started. Some of that due to word of mouth, club events, and the old Internet, and to anyone that came to my rock shed! Special thanks to Rick for finding us a new location. Thanks to Mel and Ann for getting us that great donation from the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County. And another special thanks to Mark, who guided and gave input at every turn. Without him, this club would be lost. Not all goals were met but I leave that to the next president to achieve. I didn't want to get everything done and leave the position a 'cake walk' for the next president. I will still be around and helping where needed. You can't get rid of me that easily. I wish the next president all the best. Thanks yet again for a great two years.

Did you go on any adventures this past month? What about a picture of you favorite minerals? Got a joke? What about a science article you read? Send your stories and/or pictures to be included in our newsletter. Please send any submissions to our editor, Susan Moore.

Always feel free to bring snacks to the meetings! And if you want to donate to the club's Rock Raffle Table, we'll take them.

See ya there!

Science Article:

[Curiosity Cracked Open a Rock on Mars And Revealed a Big Surprise](#)



What kind of fish is made of only two sodium atoms?

2 Na

John Arsenault - President

Field Trips and Events

December Meetings and Field Trips:

Summary of our November Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 12th: Our special guest speaker was **Dr. Harold Connolly** who updated us on the **OSIRIS-Rex** mission chemical analyses and geological/petrographic findings of regolith from Bennu. Many thanks to Dr. Connolly for his excellent and interesting presentation. If you missed his presentation **“The Nature of the Asteroid Bennu Sample,”** I recorded the session for future viewing pleasure. Available upon request.

Holiday Party: Yes, it’s that time of year again. The club provides the usual chicken nuggets and hoagies. I’ve contacted everyone to identify what everyone can bring as far as side dishes and desserts, etc. I’ll be sending out one more reminder and that’ll be it. Don’t forget to bring your gift for the gift exchange. If you give one, you’ll get one in return. We will also hold the election for officer positions for 2026. We are looking for someone to hold the position of club secretary.

Election of Officers: (Slate of Officers)

President: Mark Leipert

Vice-President: Cathy Eskew

Secretary: ?

Treasurer: Jim Brennan

Field Trips:

Above Ground Mine Refining Plant, Sterling Hill Mine Tour and Mineral Museum, Saturday, November 29th. Most of the club members met up at the Museum around 9:30/10:00. We had 20 members which tied last year's numbers for our free mine tunnel tour. Mel took us for a tour of the Upper Mine Refining Plant which processed the raw ore to be shipped to Palmerton, PA. It's always interesting to look at the mechanical marvel that was constructed to extract the zinc ore from the other raw materials. I can only imagine the levels of noise the workers were exposed to back in the early 1900's through 1986. Everyone had a chance to grab a piece of rock on the conveyor belt from the last days of operation from 1986. Once we exited the above ground mine works, many of us went to the collector's row to find some fluorescent rocks. We confirmed the fluorescence in the brick building located along the side. Once everyone had weighed out their treasures, we began our museum and mine tunnel tours. The Oreck Mineral collection was amazing as always. Then we proceeded into the Mine Tunnel where we saw a real mine tunnel with rail tracks for ore cars, modern day speleothems, the Rainbow Room, drilling setups and what working in the mine would have been like. The fluorescent mineral rooms were spectacular. The temperature in the tunnel was about 12 degrees warmer than the outside temperature. We had several first timers on the trip and it certainly didn't disappoint.

Potential Field Trips: We are entering into museum season due to the cold temperatures. I'm in the process of trying to get some behind the scenes tours in museums. Places might include: Edelman Fossil Park, Academy of Natural Sciences, Monmouth Amateur Paleontology Society (MAPS), Delaware Museum of Nature and Science, to name a few.

Rutgers' Geology Museum Open House 2026: Saturday, January 31st. Details will be provided when available.

Dinosaur Park, Laurel, MD: I will continue to take names of those that are interested in participating. They are still getting their volunteer program together. The Park is run by the National Park Service. I will keep reaching out to him every now and again. Right now, the Dinosaur Park is closed to excavation until Spring of 2026.

Edelman Fossil Park and Museum (EFM): I am working on an agreement to have one of our regular meetings there at the museum once or twice a year at the museum. I will update on the progress. We will need to determine whether we meet on a Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 at EFM or our regular meeting night from 7:00 to 9:00 at EFM.

Club T-Shirts: Coming in 2026. Our 70th Anniversary.

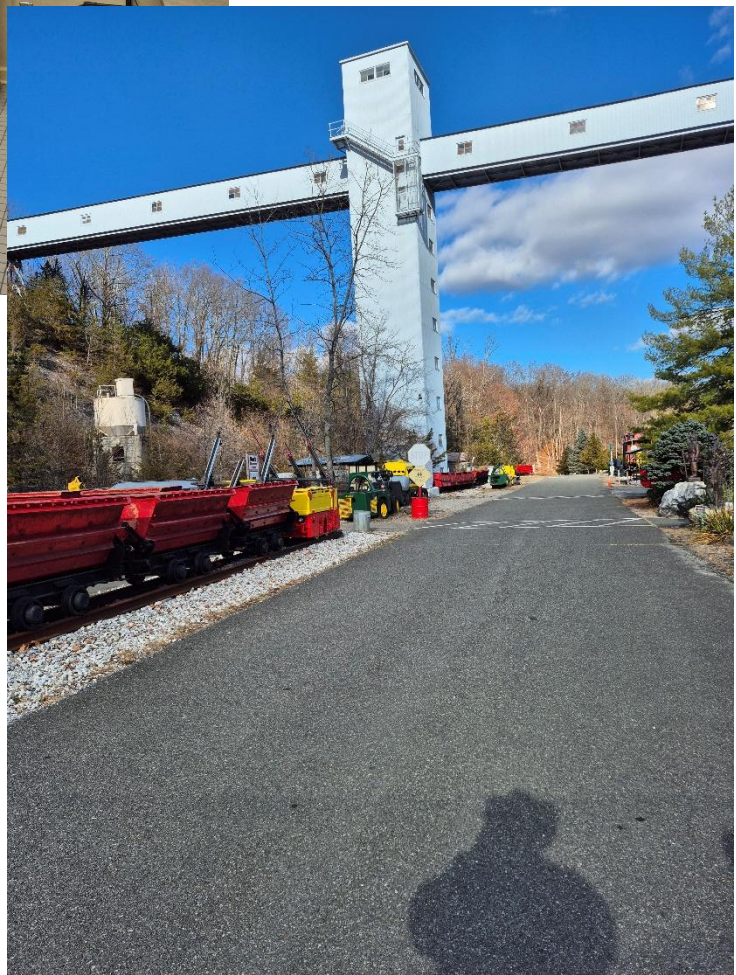
Mark Leipert - Vice President

PHOTOS

Sterling Hill Mine Museum

by Frederick Hochkile and Mark Leipert













DVESS Directory for 2025

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
<p>President: John Arsenault 856-495-8550 Asuwsh4@yahoo.com</p> <p>Vice President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 mark.leipert@yahoo.com</p> <p>Secretary: Cathy Eskew ceskew.5@gmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 brenimage@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Junior Rockhounds Chair: Mark Leipert</p> <p>Field Trips: Mark Leipert Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile</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: www.DVESS.org</u></p> <p><u>Facebook: DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</u></p>



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.

