

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter



Meeting February 9, 2011

Program: Copper County Adventure and

Slide presentation, Michigan Collecting in

given by our intrepid far traveled mineral/fossil hunting treasurer Gary W
he will have some of his collected specimens and some other specimens
for sale from his store. It promises to be an interesting night.

President's Message - for February 2011 By Terry Wilson

When we cancelled January's meeting due to snow, we posted a message on the Yahoo group and put a notice on the web page. In the future, we'll do the same, in addition to sending an email blast to current members (emails from the membership database), since not everyone is subscribed to the Yahoo group. Because our meeting is in the evening and is held in a church, the school closing number for Berlin is not necessarily pertinent for us. If you are not able to use the internet to find closing information, please feel free to call any of the board members listed in the newsletter for snow closing status.

If I accomplish only one thing in my presidency, it will be to encourage fellow members to arrange ad hoc field trips to places they've been, or places they are curious to check out. When I joined this club, it was known as a field trip club. Over the years we've lost members, people have less free time, quarries have closed... many things conspired to dampen our field trip reputation. Please bring minerals and fossils you've personally collected to our meetings and 'fess' up to the locality. We'll devote a few minutes of the meeting to showing what can be found within driving distance. From here, we'll develop field trips. People already bring found specimens to meetings; we are now going to incorporate this into the formal part of the meeting.

We are also going to tighten up our meeting schedule and try to wrap up the main presentation by 9 or so. We value our junior members and want them to be able to stay for the main program. Since we meet on a school night, often the juniors are pulled away before things are finished. We're going to do this by limiting presentations to 1 hour, and moving club business to the end of the meeting. We'll start off the meetings at 7:45 with a brief question and answer period, and the specimen show and tell. At 8 the program starts. At 9, we'll have the door prize and 50/50 drawings, announcements and club

DUES ARE DUE!!, DUES ARE DUE!!

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business. (Oh yeah... we're going to start doing a 50/50.)

The Berlin Diner is just next door, and some of us regularly head over for a bite and continued camaraderie. Everyone is welcome!

Dues are due! Please come to the next meeting armed with a little cash to pay your dues. Or if you prefer, go to our website to pay online using a credit card or paypal funds. To renew online, just follow the link to Join/Club Info, then Membership.

The Executive Board has decided to standardize our meetings to help the Junior Rockhounds becoming a regular part of our club. The was suggestion is as follows:

1. 7 - 8 pm - Start time for our Juniors program
2. 8 - 8:10 - opening remarks for adults and welcoming the Juniors into the meeting
3. 8:15 - 9:15 (1 hr max) for the program presenter
4. 9:15 - 9:45 - Club business meeting
5. 9:45-10 - pm clean up/lock up

As usual, comments and suggestions are welcome from all. Please contact one of us by E-mail or phone



I am now a Volunteer at the Franklin Institute, I usually work Fridays. Some of the things I do is to make paper with the visitors, play with puzzles and brainteasers, run the Baldwin 600,000 - a 350 ton train up and down 14 ft of track, explain the heart and brain cart.

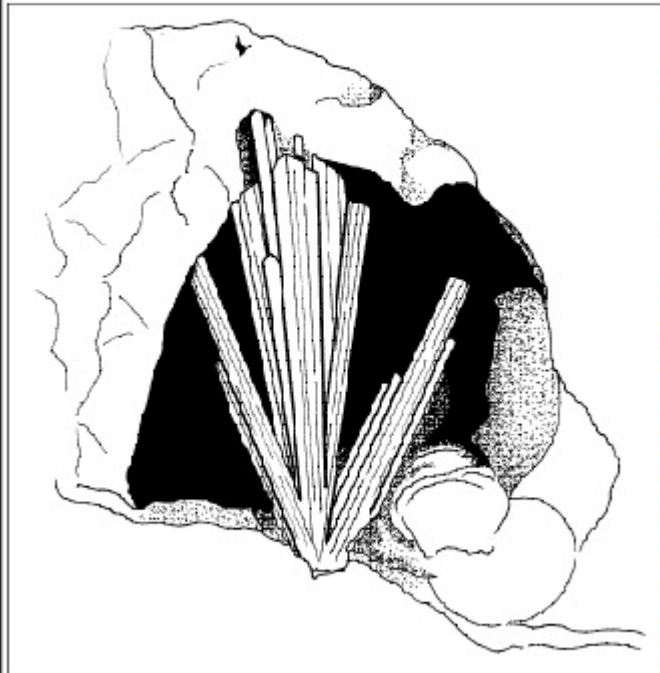
In the brain cart we show you the anatomy of the brain and some of the amazing stuff youe brain can do for you..... like;

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phanmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid. Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttair in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh????

THIS SPACE LEFT **BLANK** ESPECIALLY FOR YOUR ARTICLE, Please!!!!

Mineral of the Month

Scolecite



Chemical Formula: $\text{Ca}(\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_3)\text{O}_{10} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Crystal System: Orthorhombic

Color: Colorless, white

Luster: Vitreous (glassy)

Hardness: 5 - 5.5

Specific Gravity: 2.2

Cleavage: Good prismatic

Special Properties: Often fluoresces orange. When heated and melted, worm-like pieces come out of the crystals.

Uses: Scolecite is a zeolite mineral. All zeolites contain water. They also have large spaces between the atoms in their crystal structure. This makes them very useful as filters for molecules. They are also widely used as water softeners and purifiers.

The name "Scolecite" is from the Greek word *scolex* which means *worm*. This is a reference to the fact that worm-like structures grow out of Scolecite crystals when they are heated and melted. Scolecite is very similar, chemically and physically, to the minerals *natrolite* and *mesolite*. Scolecite crystals are thicker and sturdier than natrolite and mesolite crystals.

Scolecite crystals form in igneous rocks. The most common occurrences are in dark igneous rocks like basalt. They also form in pegmatites (a *pegmatite* is a very slow-cooling granite that typically forms very large crystals and very rare, exotic mineral species).

Have you visited The Mineral of the Month Club's website recently? The Sittingers continue to offer high-quality, reasonably-priced minerals for collectors of all levels of experience. Please visit their website at

www.mineralofthemonthclub.org

and consider joining the Mineral of the Month Club. You will be glad you did.



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Just Keep Diggin'

By Mitchell Murphy

McPherson Gem & Mineral Club

The day started out in the dark (it usually does when we go rock hunting). My dad drove a couple of hours while my twin brother, Morgan, and I slept. Finally, after meeting about 30 other people we reached our hunting spot in the chalk hills of Western Kansas.

When we got out of the car we divided up, dad, mom and Morgan and Grandma and me. We headed in one direction and they went the other way. We had just left the car and walked a short distance to a small chalk hill when Grandma spotted a vertebra on top of the ground. I looked around and found two more laying there. They were almost 2 inches across. So I started digging and finding some think black bones and pieces.

I wanted to keep digging. Grandma said if I was going to keep anything I needed to wrap it up. I went back to the car and got a box of Kleenex since I didn't have a box flat. I dug around some more finding small pieces so Grandma said, "Let's go. There's nothing else here. Don't waster your time," but I didn't want to go. I like to dig. I have dug out other things before and I have watched Mom dig out some nice specimens.

Grandma left so I kept digging, finding more. I carefully wrapped up what I was finding and put it in a bucket. Dad came along and watched me and then he left. So I just kept digging alone, following the bones into the hill.

In the 2 1/2 hours I dug, I got out 11 good vertebrae and two more broken ones. I also got two big, solid bones that haven't been identified yet, for sure, but are probably ribs and several thin black pieces. Soon it was time to go but I would have liked to stay longer. It was fun and I wonder what is still in the hill. Next time we go back there I want to go to the same spot, but the land is always changing because of the rain and erosion, so I may not find anything. The vertebrae are from the xiphactinus fish that lived in Kansas a long time ago.

Several other people found nice things. A couple found jaws with teeth and several shark's teeth. Grandma and dad each found a shark's tooth and Mom and Morgan found a string of small vertebrae that was nice. When we got home Grandma laid out my things and there was a flat full. For once when we hunted in the chalk hills it wasn't real hot and windy or wet.

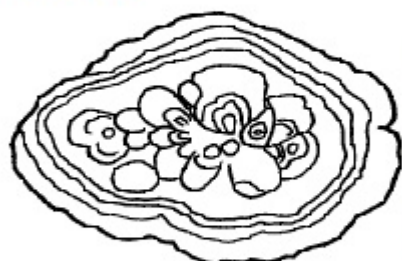
My advice to Grandma is "keep digging!" She gives up too soon.

This is a story I wrote about my geology field trip. I am a 4-H member with the Macon 4-H Club in Newton and a member of the McPherson Gem & Mineral Club in McPherson, Kansas. Since I am a member of a gem and mineral club, I get to take more field trips. I have been hunting rocks ever since I was a baby, since my brothers were in 4-H Geology and my parents and Grandma always went on field trips.



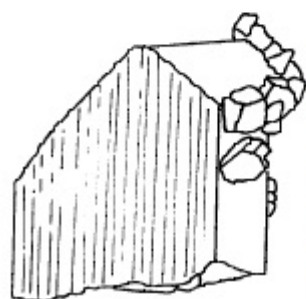
Some Copper Minerals

If you have been collecting minerals for a while, you most likely have some copper minerals in your collection. One hint that you have a copper mineral is its color. Copper minerals very often are a shade of green. Copper minerals can be found in other colors, too. Here is a list, with some pictures for you to color, of copper minerals that are favorites of mineral collectors.



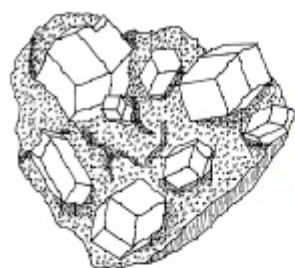
Malachite

is usually found as banded masses. Pieces of banded malachite can weigh many tons. There are columns made of malachite in the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia. This specimen has many bands each of which is a different shade of green.



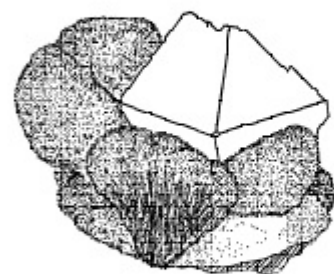
Azurite

can be light blue to very dark blue (so dark it almost looks black). It is found as rounded masses and as beautiful, glassy crystals. This is a deep blue azurite crystal from Tsumeb, Namibia, Africa. It has small, white calcite crystals attached to it. Over time, azurite changes into malachite. It is not uncommon to find azurite crystals that have completely changed into malachite.



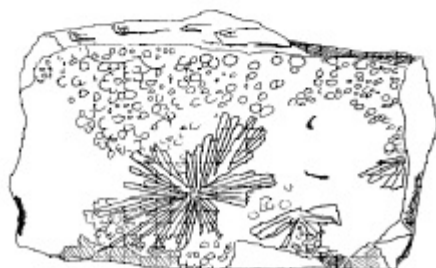
Diopside

is a favorite copper mineral for collectors. The crystals are well-formed and glassy. Because they are so beautiful and popular, they are usually very expensive. These bright green crystals are from Tsumeb, just like the azurite above.



Cuprite

is also known as *red copper ore* because its crystals can be bright red. As you might expect, cuprite crystals are found with native copper, malachite, azurite and other copper minerals. The specimen pictured here is a large red cuprite crystal sitting in groups of malachite needles. It is from Africa.



Atacamite

was first discovered in the Atacama Desert in Chile. It was named after the desert. It is a fairly rare mineral and is not a copper ore. Atacamite can form needles that are so sharp they can stick deep into your skin. Once under the skin, they break up and can not be removed.

DATEEVENTLOCATION

January 29, 2011 – April 24, 2011
 Take a journey back in time — and into a few evolutionary nooks and crannies — to experience firsthand some of the strangest creatures ever to inhabit the earth. This exhibit explores the forces that cause life to change over time and adapt to different environments and reveals that fact is often stranger than fiction.

Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences



Saturday, April 2, 10 am to 5 pm;
 Sunday, April 3, 10 am to 4 pm.
 \$5.00. Children under 12 \$1.00;
 Uniformed scouts free. 2011
 Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and
 Fossil Fair. Lulu Temple, 5140
 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting,
 PA., (PA Turnpike, exit 333; or I-476, exit 20) Free Parking.

Information: Cheryl Leibold, cleibold@verizon.net, 610-644-2492.

Special Features: There will be a special display of Pennsylvania minerals presented by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. A line-up of professional speakers will again be presented. Details will be available at www.philamineralsociety.org.



Dues are due. The club works on the calendar year.
 It's a new year, so..... Please, and thank you.

February 19, 2011 - Upper Marlboro, MD - 21st Annual Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the So. Maryland Rock & Mineral Club. The Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, MD.

March 5-6, 2011 - Newark, DE - 48th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & Community College, Newark, DE.

March 12, 2011 – Levittown, PA – The Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA Mineral, Fossil and 35th Annual Micromount Show. Faith Reformed Church, Levittown Parkway and Sexton Lane, just south of Mill Creek Parkway. Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

DVESS MEETING LOCATION :

DIRECTIONS:

From Atco (west-bound), after the traffic light at Taunton Ave. (Rite Aid drugstore on the left), the church is about the 3rd building on the right; turn into the first driveway. If you miss it, pass by the church and turn Right onto Broad St. (at the Berlin Diner) then turn Right into the parking lot of the Baptist Church and go straight all the way - the parking lots of both churches connect.

From Rt. 73 in Marlton: head East (South) on Rt. 73. As you enter Berlin, you will pass Wal-Mart (on the left) and a shopping center (on the right) with Shop Rite and Staples. **Get into the Right "Exit Only" lane and follow the signs for Cross Keys Rd. At the intersection of Cross Keys Rd. and the White Horse Pike (Rt. 30) turn LEFT. At the next intersection (Broad St.) continue straight past the Berlin Diner and SPEEDY MART on your left; pass by 2 or 3 white storefronts on the left then see the big white church with red front doors on your left. Pass in front of the church and turn into the driveway on the far side. Education Building is behind the church.**

From Lindenwold or Clementon on the White Horse Pike (east-bound):

As you enter Berlin business district, you will pass through the traffic light at Cross Keys Rd. (CVS Pharmacy on right corner). Follow highlighted directions above.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Regular members are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities. Sponsoring members are entitled to the same plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Dues are renewable each year in January. Membership rates for the Society:

Regular Membership:

\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

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

Sponsoring Memberships (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 a Native Gold Specimen

"Platinum" \$100 for 1st family member - receive a Premium Specimen

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 , knowledge 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>)

MEETINGS

The Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month throughout the year at Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin. Junior Rockhounds meet at 7:30pm with the regular meeting beginning around 8 pm.

Anyone with info for the newsletter please share with me. You can be published!

Stuff you did in school, on a trip etc., see my info below (next page).

Editor's Notes: Editor is not responsible for authenticity of information in any articles submitted for publication. Nor are the opinions expressed in the "DVESScapades" necessarily those of the officers of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc., and/or the editor.

To submit an article for publication in the DVESScapades contact the Newsletter Editor. decuzzic@comcast.net, or Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Inc., DVESS, P O Box 372 Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052 or DVESS Website: <http://www.dvess.org> garyskyrock@comcast.net

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies)

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

<i>DVESS Directory 2008</i>	President terry@terryfic.com	Terry Wilson or terry@dvess.org
1 st Vice President 856-783-0969 Ann Lynne Benson SeleniteQueen@gmail.com	2 nd Vice President	
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Treasurer and Program Chair Gary Weinstein 856-234-0708 - home 856-795-5077 - wk garyskyrock@hotmail.com	DVESS Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair Carol De Cuzzi 856-428-0621 - home decuzzic@comcast.net or DVESS@int-pro.com	



Membership Form

start w/ first family member (**designated as head of family**) Juniors must have an adult head of family with the Junior as the additional family member for insurance purposes.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP+4 _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Profession, School or Major Work

Okay to let other members of the Club see your email and other orange-starred information (on website)?

Okay to share _____

Do NOT share _____

Newsletter Delivery ONLY via e-mail

**additional family members to be registered
w/ above member**

Type of membership **Regular Membership:**
\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member
\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each additional family member
Dues are collected on a calendar year Jan to Dec, no pro-rata rates
additional members on another paper if needed

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

Sponsoring Memberships (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 a Native Gold Specimen

"Platinum" \$100 for 1st family member - receive a Premium Specimen

Interests: Minerals ____ Fossils ____ Lapidary ____ Collecting ____ Museum Trips ____
Trotter ____ Sterling Hill ____ other, please list _____

How did you learn of DVESS? _____

Other clubs you belong to _____

Comments _____

What NON-DVESS interests or hobbies do you have? Would you be willing to share with our members? _____

What would you like the club to do or provide for you? _____

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc. (DVESS)

P.O. Box 372

Maple Shade, N.J. 08052

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

