

# DV<sup>ESS</sup>Scapades

*escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures*



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



**February, 2013**

◇◇◇◇◇ our 57<sup>th</sup> year ◇◇◇◇◇

**Meeting: February 13th, 2013**

**Program:** DVDs from the Eastern Federation

"Amber Hunters" and "Romania's Mines and Minerals"

Remember to bring some specimens to donate to our Junior Rockhounds program.

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

### **Winter Weather Advisory**

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



**President's Message:** By Mark Leipert

As we enter the middle of winter I want to remind everyone who has not paid their annual dues that now is the time to pay up. Dues are \$15.00 for the first family member and \$5.00 for each additional

family member. If you are lucky enough to be a senior (65+) the cost is \$10.00 for the first senior member and \$5.00 for each additional member.

In the winter months, the club likes to visit museums. We are planning to visit the Delaware Museum of Natural History, the Cornwall Iron Museum, the Mutter Museum, as well as the Prehistoric Museum in Greenwich Township, NJ.

We are looking for volunteers to help out with the Annual Super Science Saturday sponsored by the Trenton State Museum on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We need help manning a club table and giving out literature promoting earth science, DVESS club information and hand sized specimens. Contact Ann or Mark for details.

Also, mark your calendars for our Annual Sterling Hill Super Digg which is put on by our club which will take place on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. This event gets bigger and better every year. We need volunteers to make it work. Contact Mil or Mark if you are interested in volunteering for various positions including registration, sales, membership, weighing in, set up /cleanup and site safety officers, etc.

## Minutes of January General Meeting by Grant Elliott, Recording Secretary

Meeting was held at Centenary UM Church in Berlin, NJ.

Attendance: AnnLynne Benson- 1st VP/Special Events Coordinator, Gary Weinstein- Treasurer/Program Chair, Grant Elliott- Recording Secretary, Mark Leipert- President/Field Trip Chair, Susan Moore- Newsletter Editor, Lance Schnatterly- Cyber Consultant, and Mil LeCompte- Jr Rockhound Coordinator/Facilitator.

Lou Detofsky- 2nd VP was ailing and could not attend.

Stu Cleveland, Jim Brennan, Meredith Taylor, Gerald & Jonathan Feigin, Sue Vancola, Carol DeCuzzi, and Robert Bartosz were also present.

### **Program:**

President AnnLynne Benson gaveled commencement of the meeting at approximately 7:55pm. There was immediately a change of command ceremony and new President Mark Leipert made his inauguration address.

Program: Gene Hartstein on the "The old days at the C&D Canal". It is amazing what fossils can be found in that part of Delaware.

### **Future Programs:**

February 2013 - Slide Program from Eastern Federation.

March 2013 - DVD presentation on mining Crocoite in Tasmania.

April 2013 - Manny Robbins on Terlingua Calcite and its fluorescence/phosphorescence.

October 2013 (approximately) - Lou will present a monumental treatise on the archeology and geology of the Mediterranean (Italy, Turkey, and Greece).

### **Special Events/Field Trips:**

Field trip in the spring at Bob Todd's house to peruse boxes of specimens.

Magician/geologist/professor Dr. Steve Okulowitz will lead an expedition to Staten Island in 2013.

Rutgers Geology Museum Open House on Saturday 1/26/2013.

Have to prepare for our April 27th Sterling Hill Digg.

Mark coordinating Secaucus, NJ "Field Station Dinosaurs" field trip to take place in spring 2013.

Jim Brennan offering a house (weekend overnighter) for a trip to St. Clair.

Saturday 5/4/2013 Super Science Saturday at Trenton State Museum - Need Volunteers to man table(s) to distribute DVESS brochures and advertise the organization.

Susan Moore will be our hard working and esteemed Newsletter Editor ([aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com)).

At present, Gary will do Membership.

2013 Annual dues are now being accepted. Eight paid at this meeting.

Future Executive Board meetings:

January 16th - At Mark's house in Winslow Township.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

## News

### **Record Setting Asteroid Flyby**

#### **NASA Science News**

On February 15th an asteroid about half the size of a football field will fly past Earth only 17,200 miles above our planet's surface. There's no danger of a collision, but the space rock, designated 2012 DA14, has NASA's attention.

"This is a record-setting close approach," says Don Yeomans of NASA's Near Earth Object Program at JPL.

"Since regular sky surveys began in the 1990s, we've never seen an object this big get so close to Earth."

Read more at [http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2013/28jan\\_2012da/](http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2013/28jan_2012da/)

## Message from the First Vice-President

**PUTTING KIDS FIRST!** by Ann Lynne Benson, Assistant to the Junior Rockhounds Teacher

The Junior Rockhounds Program at DVESS runs the gamut from meeting the educational needs of scouts, to answering kids' questions and exploring topics of **their** choosing, to helping them master skills and knowledge needed to earn all 20 merit badges in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' (AFMS) *Future Rockhounds of America Merit Badge Program*.

The American Federation believes kids should have choices about which activities they participate in, and the opportunity to help shape those activities. Focusing on what is best for our youth fires their interest in ways that engender a sense of belonging, with meaningful opportunities from which lifelong interest and commitment will emerge naturally. Our newly-elected President, Mark Leipert, is a splendid example of this, having been brought to DVESS by his teacher - our own Lou "Doc Rock" Detofsky - and subsequently going on to work as a geologist for the Navy and Army Corps of Engineers, and currently working with the Superfund Division of the Environmental Protection Agency.

If we can continue to find ways to make youth responsible and fully engaged participants, not just recipients, the long-term health of our club – and, in my opinion, our nation – will follow as a natural result.

Our club has been in contact with Scouting organizations in both South and North Jersey in connection with the April 27 Super Digg at Sterling Mine; we hope this will help continue DVESS' tradition of assisting scouts in getting some of their earth-science-related scouting badges.

We need your help to pass along the message of invitation to other youth organizations, teachers, school principals, after-school programs, 4H, etc. Invite them to our meetings and let them know we are available to give presentations to them in ways that are relevant and that benefit their goals.

Please consider helping us create a viable Publicity outreach; we need to sketch out and implement a proactive plan to raise the DVESS profile within the community and let everyone know what we can offer in helping to educate and cultivate kids with an interest in the myriad aspects of our hobby.

I hope you will also support our Junior Rockhounds program by donating some specimens; with the February meeting, we renew our goal of providing every new child attending our meeting with a free mineral or fossil.

## Websites of the Month

Sterling Hill Super Digg [www.UVworld.org](http://www.UVworld.org)

The Dino Directory

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/dinosaurs-other-extinct-creatures/dino-directory/index.html>

American Federation <http://www.amfed.org/>

Eastern Federation <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>

Wildacres Spring 2013 workshops <http://efmls-wildacres.org/page2/index.html>

computer games for kids <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only/index.html>

Mineral Identification Key [http://minsocam.org/MSA/collectors\\_corner/id/mineral\\_id\\_keyi1.htm](http://minsocam.org/MSA/collectors_corner/id/mineral_id_keyi1.htm)

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society <http://www.sfgms.org/articles.html>

Who is Dom Pedro and why is he worth \$10 million? This website answers the question:

<http://news.softpedia.com/news/Famous-10-363-Carat-Gem-Joins-Smithsonian-Exhibition-312549.shtml> - read more about it at <http://newsdesk.si.edu/photos/dom-pedro-aquamarine>.

**Palaeocast**     <http://www.palaeocast.com/>

Palaeontology Podcasts

"An open broadcast of paleontological information, a place where the beauty, diversity and complexity of the field can be conveyed and discussed in a digital format."

## Field Trips

April 27 – Sterling Mine Super Digg, 9 am–11 pm. Tour the Underground Mine, Upper Mine and Mill, Blackout Tour, Private Trotter Tunnel Tour; see nighttime illumination of the famous “Fluorescent Wall” in the Fill Quarry. Nothing – absolutely nothing – beats collecting fluorescent minerals at night - collect in all 3 collection areas on the property!!! ONLINE registration at [www.uvWorld.org](http://www.uvWorld.org) -

*YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE – separately* – if you wish to drop children off for the 2-hour beading session; these classes may be cancelled due to insufficient registration.

## Shows and Events

### February

February 16 - Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club’s 23rd Annual Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show at the Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, MD, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

February 17 - Paleopalooza at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Activities, shows, and more—all featuring your favorite animals—dinosaurs!  
<http://www.anasp.org/Visit/Events/Details/?eid=1686&iid=5239>

### March

March 2–3 - Delaware Mineralogical Society at Delaware Technical & Community College, Newark, DE Exit 4B of I-95 (Southbound, it’s the first right turn after you get off the ramp)

March 9 - The Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA Micromount Show “Minerals under the Microscope” and mineral sales, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 140 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

March 9–10 - North Jersey Mineralogical Society’s 24th Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show at: Pope John II Center, 775 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ, March 9 & 10, 2013, 10 am – 5 pm. Door prizes, Refreshments, Free Specimens for all kids, All indoors, Free parking.  
[www.nojms.webs.com](http://www.nojms.webs.com)

March 23–24 - Connecticut Valley Mineral Club’s Western Massachusetts Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show (about 4 hours away) <http://www.westernmassmineralshow.com/>

### April

April 6–7 - Delaware Valley Paleontological Society & Philadelphia Mineralogical Society’s 33 annual Fossil Fair; FREE Fossil Dig for children and a Kids Corner with FREE Mineral

Specimens and Scouting Merit Badge Information; Food, Beverages, and Door Prizes!

<http://dvps.essentrix.net/>

## June

June 1–2, EASTERN FEDERATION CONVENTION Plainview, NY hosted by Rockhounds and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club – more info to follow!



## 2013 Super Science Saturdays at the Iron Hill Museum, 1355 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark, DE 19702 12:30pm – 3:00pm

February 9 – All About Recycling

The Iron Hill Museum wishes to present its Science Saturday! The day is all about Recycling! Presentations at 12:30 pm, and 2:30 pm. Find out what and how we can recycle in Delaware! Come and learn about the different types of plastics and how to read them, how newspapers are made into new newspapers, and find out what happens to our junk mail! Enjoy a crisp winter nature walk on our trails. Admission to the museum is \$2 for Science Saturday, but children under the age of 4 are free. If you wish to know more information about our program, please contact the staff at the Iron Hill Museum. 302-368-5703 [director@ironhill-museum.org](mailto:director@ironhill-museum.org)

March 9 – All About Birds

April 13 – All About Insects

May 11 – All About Archaeology

June 8 – All About Paleontology

Check out the Museum's calendar at [http://www.ironhill-museum.org/museum\\_calendar.htm](http://www.ironhill-museum.org/museum_calendar.htm)



## 2013 GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS IN TUCSON, ARIZONA The Insider's Guide

Show dates, vendors, visitor guide, hotels, restaurants, articles, photos, and more.

<http://www.tucsongemandmineralshows.net/>

## Wildacres Workshops

Wildacres is situated on 1600 acres at an elevation of 3,300 feet atop a mountain near the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. The 5-day program costs about \$370 per person including room, board and classroom instruction (plus a nominal fee to cover materials and supplies); completed projects can be taken home with you. The week at Wildacres is divided into two parts or "semesters":

students take one class lasting either the full week (4 days) or two different classes lasting 2 days each. The day between "semesters" is set aside to allow participants to explore the region and just relax. It doesn't get any better than that!!

2013 Spring classes include Peyote beading, Kumihimo, Cabochons, Faceting, Geology, Photographing Small Mineral Specimens, Photographing Gems and Jewelry, Polymer Projects, Silversmithing, Soapstone Carving, and Wirewrapped Jewelry.

<http://efmls-wildacres.org/page2/index.html>

## Club Brochures

Please pick up one or two yellow club brochures and have them on hand in your vehicle or handbag to give out to folks. If you see a parent and child, strike up a conversation by asking, "Does your child like rocks or dinosaurs?" Offer them a club brochure; if they're not from our area, addresses and websites for the American Federation are on the back of the brochure. Your small gesture may make a world of difference to that child, his/her family, and to our club.

## Quote of the Month

"The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds the most discoveries, is not "Eureka!" (I found it!) but 'That's funny..."

— *Isaac Asimov*

## 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:*

\$15.00 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

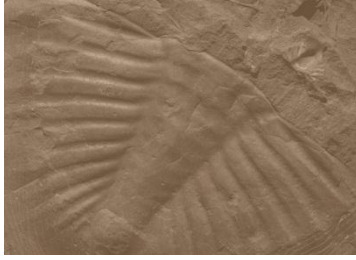
\$10.00 for Rowan University Students with College ID

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

"Silver" \$50.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive a Geode Specimen

"Gold" \$75.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive Native Gold Specimen

"Platinum" \$100.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive 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 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 for publication in the DVESScapades, contact the Newsletter Editor at [aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com). How about some photos of your prized specimens or latest collecting trip? Share them with us!



