

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



February 2015

Next Meeting: February 11th

Program: From the 2014 Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium, a new DVD from Blue Cap productions, "The Great Oxidation Event - Diversity of Colorful Mineral Species" by Dr. Robert Hazen of Carnegie Institution. This video has garnered rave reviews from mineral aficionados on Mindat, which has led to a great discussion on the message board. Come out and enjoy this feature presentation. Jim said he was bringing pizzas.

Upcoming Programs:

March: John Sanfacon

May: Gene Hartstein

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**



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

President's Message

by Ann Lynne Benson

I want to thank Mark Leipert for two years of excellent service to DVESS; I'm most grateful for his insight and initiative. Many thanks also to Gary Weinstein for his years as Treasurer and continuing on as Program Chair (to many people visiting his store, Gary is the "face" of DVESS). Gratitude also to Lou Detofsky, our 2nd vice president and Grant Elliott our faithful, if somewhat reluctant, Recording Secretary for Life; Susan Moore our newsletter editor; Gerald Feigin our picnic host; and Mel LeCompte our much valued Junior Rockhounds Teacher and Sterling Digg Organizer.

I know you will all throw your support behind the Incoming Board including many of the above and Jim Brennan, our new Treasurer. Two of the issues we want to tackle this year are streamlining the Sterling Digg processes and revising the Constitution and By-laws.

My travels will start with the **Delaware Mineralogical Society Show 3/7 and 3/8** - this is one of the closest shows, and one of the best so I urge you to attend. At the end of March I head south to North Carolina for the **Eastern Federation Convention**; hopefully I'll meet up with our First Junior Rockhounds Teacher, Lorraine Campbell and we'll head from there to Kentucky and Tennessee.

This may mean I'll miss the **DVPS/Philadelphia Mineralogical Society show March 28 and 29**, but I hope you don't miss it! This is a great show and right in our own back yard.

We have our **Sterling Digg April 25 - WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** May 9 brings **Super Science Saturday** at the Trenton State Museum and again, **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Less than a week after that, I'm off to North Carolina again for WILDACRES, followed by more touring and collecting with Lorraine.

2015 will be an exciting year, so Keep on Rocking!



Field Trips

Mark Leipert, Field Trip Chair



PaleoPalooza: February 14th and 15th at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel in Philadelphia, PA from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm for more info check out this link [Paleopalooza](#) .

University of Delaware Mineralogical Museum and Delaware Museum of Natural History on Saturday, February 28th. Time and meeting place to be announced at the February 11th regular meeting. Please sign up if you plan on going.

Fossil Fair at LuLu Temple in Plymouth Meeting on March 28th and 29th. Click on this link for further details: [Fossil Fair](#).

Super Dig! Sterling Hill, April 25th. We need volunteers to help run all our stations and make this event successful. Sign up sheets will be available for many positions.

Once the weather starts warming up we plan on going out and collecting. Please let me know of some sites you would like to go.

Website of the Month

New Jersey Geological and Water Survey - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs/>

Maps and reports are available to the public in printed and [digital format](#) through the Survey website. GIS data is available via electronic transfer from our [Digital Geodata Series](#) .

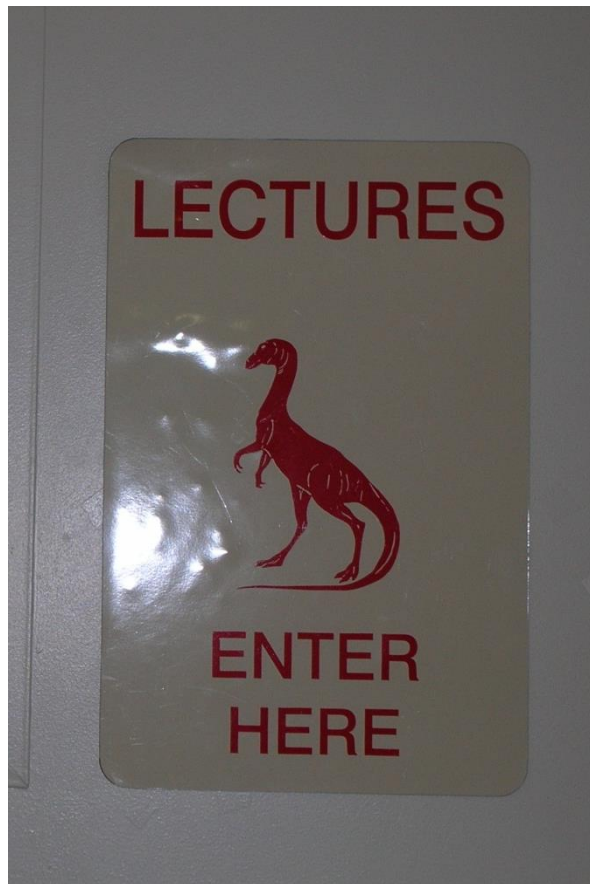


Rutgers Geology Department Open House

Saturday, January 31, 2015

In spite of the very cold weather, some DVESS members attended the Rutgers Geology Open House, including the Rock and Mineral sale and some interesting presentations:

- *"A Dip in the Ocean: An Interactive Exploration of How the Ocean Impacts You and How You Impact the Ocean"*
- *"Extremophilic Environments and Microbial Diversity Within"*
- *"Earth's Cocktail Party: Deciphering the Physics of Earthquakes with Networks of Seismic Arrays"*
- *"The Art of the Geological Map"*





News

Oldest Known Snake Fossils Identified

Fossils of four snake species found in England, Portugal and the United States, have been dated to about 143 and 167 million years ago.

<http://news.yahoo.com/oldest-known-snake-fossils-identified-152845830.html>

Long-necked 'dragon' discovered in China

The dinosaur was about 15 meters long and lived about 160 million years ago in the Late Jurassic.

<http://phys.org/news/2015-01-long-necked-dragon-china.html>



Quote of the Month

I shall collect plants and fossils, and with the best of instruments make astronomic observations. Yet this is not the main purpose of my journey. I shall endeavor to find out how nature's forces act upon one another, and in what manner the geographic environment exerts its influence on animals and plants. In short, I must find out about the harmony in nature. — **Baron Alexander von Humboldt**, in a letter to Karl Freiesleben (Jun 1799).



Shows and Events

March 7–8: 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

March 14–15: Clifton, NJ - 26th Annual North Jersey Gem & Mineral Show. Over 25 dealers featuring rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, crystals, lapidary rough, rockhounding supplies, and much more. Organized by: [North Jersey Mineralogical Society](http://www.njmsociety.org) - Pope John Paul II Center (775 Valley Road), Clifton, NJ.

March 28–29: Plymouth Meeting, PA - Delaware Valley Paleontological Society Fossil Fair - Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society and the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society. Fossils, minerals, gems, and jewelry for sale; fossil and mineral exhibits and demonstrations; learning activities for kids. Food, beverages, and door prizes. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. <http://dvps.essentrix.net/fossilfair.htm>

April 25, 2015 - Sterling Hill Super Dig - mark your calendar!
<http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/superdig/index.php>

April 25–26: Franklin, NJ - 43rd Annual NJ Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show with Outdoor Swap. Donation: \$6.00 per person, children under 14 free with paying adult. Franklin School, 50 Washington Ave., Franklin, NJ 07416. <http://www.njesa.org/>



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

\$10.00 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)

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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.

