

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



February 2021

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 10th

7:00 pm social hour

8:00 pm Program: **via Zoom** - Dr. Peter Megaw will be talking to us on the subject of "Minerals of Mexico"

Upcoming - In March, Dr. Steve Peters will give a presentation on "Geologic Work in Afghanistan"



No regular, in-person meetings until further notice

Dr. Peter K.M. Megaw, Is a *Consulting Geologist* (PhD UofA) President of IMDEX/Cascabel and co-founder of MAG Silver and Minaurum Gold. Peter has been a dedicated mineral collector since first setting foot in Santa Eulalia in 1977. He moved to Tucson in 1979 and quickly joined the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, taking on the job of Exhibits Chair for the Tucson Show in 1984. This has given him the opportunity to visit most of the world's major mineral museums



with a special eye out for what they should bring to Tucson. His mineral collecting has come to focus almost exclusively on Minerals of Mexico and he has spoken and written extensively on specimen localities there; most recently an in-depth article for *Mineralogical Record* on the Santa Eulalia Mining District in Chihuahua, Mexico. He is also a contributing editor for *Rocks and Minerals* and occasionally writes for *Mineralogical Monographs*. In his spare time he collaborates on studies of silver isotopes in silver minerals, is Mindat's moderator for submissions on Mexico and co-moderator of the FMF Mineral Forum, often with tongue planted firmly in cheek. A combination of the above led him to be awarded the Carnegie Mineralogical Award for 2009.

President's Message

Not too much has changed except the promise of one of several vaccine possibilities. I can't wait to see everyone in person sometime later in 2021. I'm sure everyone is getting tired of hearing that everything is closed or cancelled. It's a little too cold for outdoor field trips but maybe you can watch some good educational shows on the History Channel, PBS or National Geographic or you can visit a local museum if they are open, and some have online virtual tours. When the weather gets warmer at the end of March 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.

The Centenary United Methodist church where we meet is not allowing any outside organizations to resume regular gatherings. Everything will continue being on hold this year until a vaccine has been distributed and the number of COVID cases has decreased dramatically. And even then we will still need to socially distance and wear face masks.

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

DUES are past DUE!! Please pay your dues either on Pay Pal or send a check (Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, PO Box 602, Berlin, NJ 08009-0602). Dues are \$20.00 per initial family member and \$5.00 for each additional family member. If you are a senior, 65 and older, the fee is \$10.00.

Guest Zoom Speakers: I am trying to continue to bring interesting speakers into our zoom meeting sessions. This month we have Dr. Peter Megaw who will be talking to us about “Minerals of Mexico” and next month we have Dr. Steve Peters who will be talking about his “Geologic Work in Afghanistan.” I also have a few more interesting speakers in the coming months.

Field Trips: Most field trips are postponed or cancelled until further notice.

Rutgers’ Geology Open House, Saturday, January 30, 2021: This event was held virtually.

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

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

Mark Leipert, President

Larry Rosoff, Esq.

Haddon Twp. - It is with great sadness that the family of Laurence Rosoff, Esq., 71, announces his passing on January 12, 2021. Laurence was a former Camden Municipal Prosecutor, Municipal Court Judge, private practice and adjunct law professor at Rutgers and Drexel. He is survived by his former wife Lori Rosoff, his son Ari Rosoff, sisters Karen Rosoff, Sue Rosoff and the late Beth Strum, nephew Carl Strum, niece Carolyn Strum and brother-in-law Lonny Strum.

News

NASA's asteroid-sampling OSIRIS-REx probe will head back to Earth in May

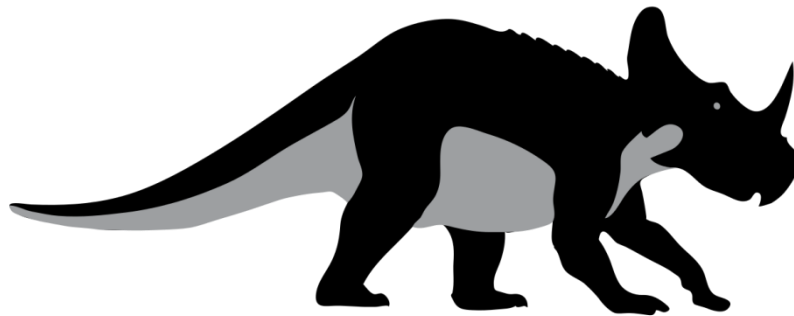
<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/nasa-osiris-rex-start-journey-back-to-earth-may-091847253.html>

Japan scientists to study source of high heat on asteroid

https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/japan-scientists-study-source-high-heat-asteroid-75681463?cid=clicksource_4380645_17_hero_headlines_headlines_hed

These dinosaurs may have used their frills to flirt

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/02/world/dinosaurs-frill-scn-trnd-protoceratops/index.html>



Collection Management

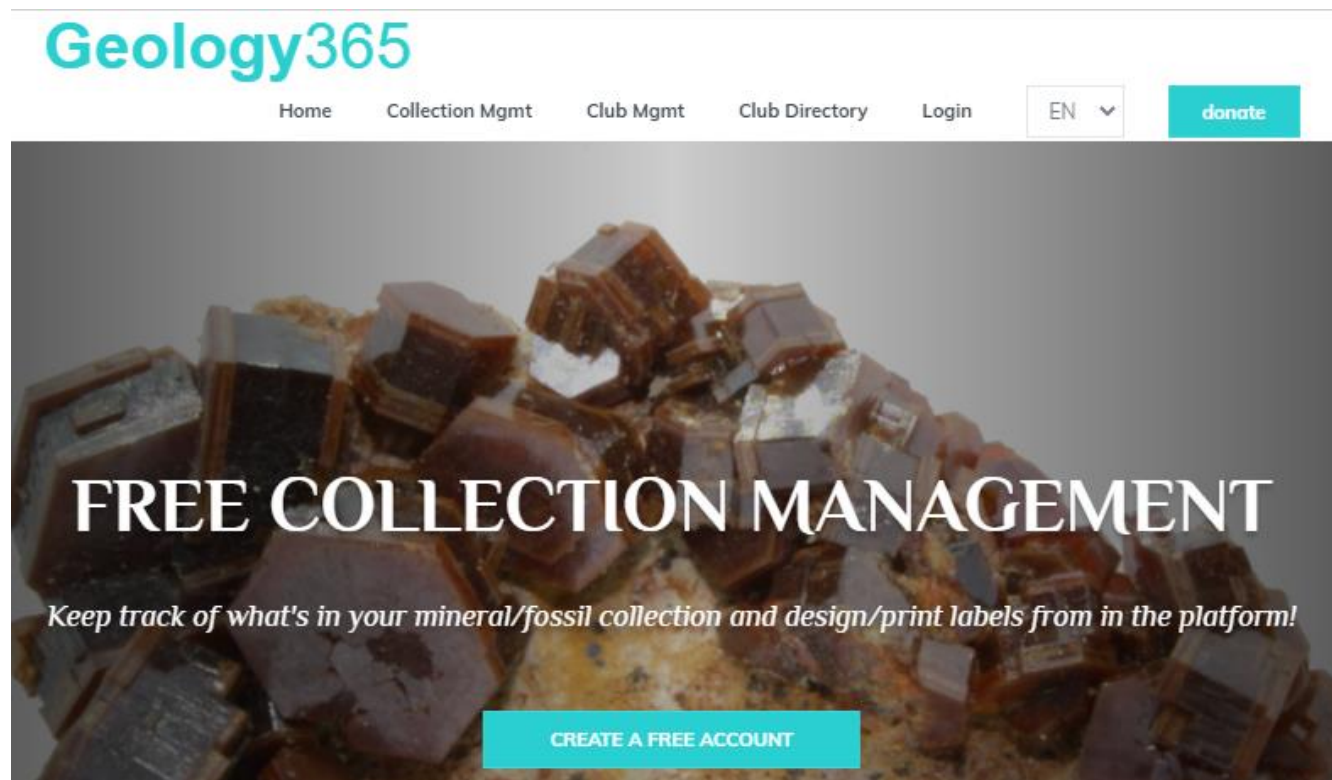
Geology365

By Pam Pollister, Philadelphia Mineralogical Society on behalf of the EFMLS

Author's note: The following information is based off a presentation made by Ryan Klockner and reviewing the website. This is not a personal endorsement of the site but rather sharing information about an online resource that could be helpful to mineral collectors and societies.

Have you heard about Geology365.com? It is a FREE resource for mineral collectors as well as for rock and mineral societies. Geology365 was the brainchild of Mark Klockner and his son, [Ryan Klockner](#). As rockhounds, they knew the importance of documenting a collection and together created an outline for an online resource that all mineral collectors could use. In honor of his father who passed away in 2018, Ryan has fulfilled their vision by creating Geology365.com.

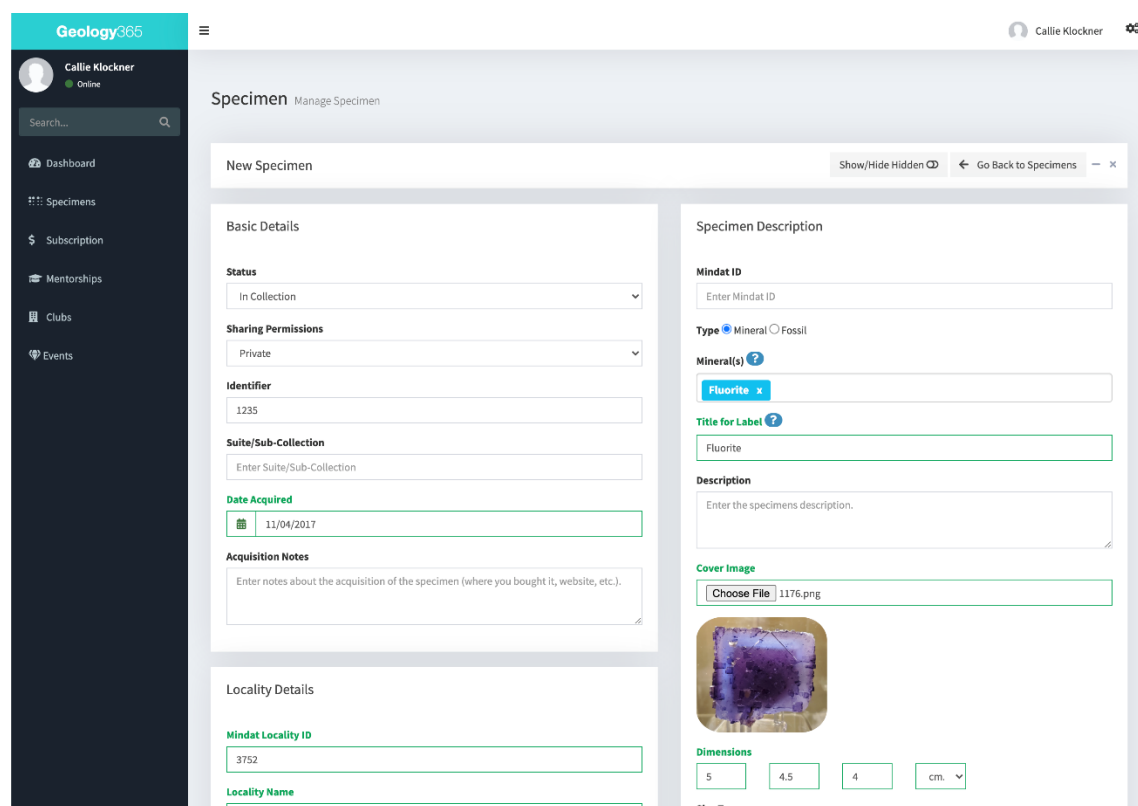
his article will focus on how you, a mineral collector, can use this free website. There are also many tools available in Geology365 to assist mineral societies in creating a website, managing membership and even fieldtrips. Those features will be the topic of a future article..



Collection Management

Geology365 allows you to easily create and maintain an electronic catalog of your rocks and minerals. Afterall, it is important for you – and your family - to know what is in your collection. There are fields for everything you might want to track and if there are too many options, you can select which fields you'd like to use. For example, the online database has fields for you to enter location, date collected/obtained, estimated value and other relevant details about each piece. There is a limit of 365 specimens that may be included for free in your personal catalog. For \$5/month you can add up to 1,460 specimens (there are additional options, as well, for larger collections). Each specimen has a public/private setting. If “private” is selected, only you can view the item on the website.

Do you already have an electronic list of your collection and want to move it to Geology365? If so, you are in luck as there is an import feature that allows you to upload a csv or Excel file.



From a financial and practical standpoint, having your collection cataloged is a pre-requisite for insuring your minerals. This tool may also serve as a resource for you and your family if/when the collection must be moved forward.

Labels

Once you have minerals in the collection management system, Geology365 has a template to design custom labels. Once set up and saved, the custom format can be used for all your mineral labels. Capabilities remain in place if you later want to change the design of your label. As your collection grows you can print labels for just your new specimens.

Geology365 can also incorporate QR codes (Quick Response code) on the labels. When the QR code is scanned your computer or smart phone will automatically open Geology365.com to that specimen's page where you can read the available information. Having a QR code on a label is a great way to assure that the mineral's provenance is not lost to future generations.



Conclusion

Geology365 was created by a father-son team who recognized the mineral collector's need to catalog and label their collection. By sharing this website, Geology365 is a free and easy to use online resource that any mineral collector may use. Perhaps this is the year you will document and custom-label your collection. Let Geology365.com help you attain that goal.



photo credit: <https://whenonearth.net/trovants-growing-stones-romania/>

Name three types of rock: classic, punk, hard.

Did you hear the one about the rocks that could grow? Seriously, these amazing stones grow - age rings similar to the ones of a tree trunk are visible if you cut the stone. They can move from one place to another. Not strange enough for you yet? They have root-like extensions.

Trovants are bulging bulbous boulders with organic-looking shapes and strange cement oozings. They are a type of concretion - sedimentary sand grains or rocks bound together by a limestone (calcium carbonate) cement. They vary greatly in size and shape - some can snugly fit in your palm, while others loom overhead, up to 15 or more feet tall. They are made by highly-porous sand accumulations and sandstone deposits that are cemented by waters rich in calcium carbonate. Due to irregular cement secretion trovants grow from a few millimeters to as large as about 33 feet, developing inconsistent shapes, usually smooth and edgeless (cylindrical, nodular, and spherical).

Of the 100s of known trovants, seen across at least 20 sites through Romania, some were only unearthed after the sand around them was quarried away. Some are firmly (if precariously) fixed to the ground below with a solid rock base, like the 'Old Ladies' from Ulmet (photo above). Their bizarre, and sometimes seemingly gravity-defying bulges, have to do with their origins.

The growth of trovant stones in Romania is believed to happen when a chemical reaction sets in between the layers of deposits and the mineral carbonates in the presence of rain water. But this process of growth in stones is not well documented yet.

Researchers have found no difference between the trovants and surrounding sand substrate. So they suspect the spheroid shapes were formed by the unusually long-lasting and intense seismic activity of the Middle Miocene. Shockwaves emanating from the earth compacted the sandy sediments and concentrated the limestone cement to mold their spherical lumps.

Trovant is a synonym for the German term "*Sandsteinkonkretionen*", which means Cemented Sand. They are believed to be a type of sandstone concretion that secretes cement and can appear to grow at times, as if they are alive. These fascinating 'living stones' are thought to consist of a stone core with an outer shell of sand, and after a heavy rain small stone forms are said to appear on the rocks leading them to be dubbed as the "growing stones".

The naturalist Gh. M. Murgoci introduced the term "trovant" (trovanti) in "The Tertiary in Oltenia."

They can be found in Russia, the steppes of Kazakhstan, the Czech Republic, and particularly Costesti, Romania as well as other places.

What makes these rocks multiply? Any form of water rich in calcium carbonate is essential in forming a trovant, therefore the rocks will grow in the presence of rainwater. After every heavy rain shower, trovants absorb the rain's minerals, which combine with chemicals already present in the rock; this creates a reaction and pressure inside which makes the rock grow spontaneously from the center to its margins, with a deposition rate of about 4-5 cm in 1000 years.

What good are they? Besides making interesting souvenirs, they have widespread use as a building material for tombstones.

See a video: <http://www.hoaxorfact.com/Science/the-living-and-growing-stones-of-romania-facts-analysis.html>

Quotes of the Month:

“For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver.” - [Martin Luther](#)

"Commodities such as gold and silver have a world market that transcends national borders, politics, religions, and race. A person may not like someone else's religion, but he'll accept his gold. Commodities such as gold and silver have a world market that transcends national borders, politics, religions, and race. A person may not like someone else's religion, but he'll accept his gold." - [Robert Kiyosaki](#)

DVESS Directory for 2021

<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: Phyllis Grieco phyllisgrieco494@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

PO Box 602

Berlin, NJ 08009-0602

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.

