

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



February 2023



**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 8th, via Zoom

**7:00 pm:** Social hour

**8:00 pm:** Dr. Lily S. Pfeifer from Rowan University on **Permian Loess and Equatorial Glaciation in Eastern Equatorial Pangea**

## President's Message

Well, good old Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow this morning, he says we'll be seeing 6 more weeks of Winter. Hopefully, we don't have the ice and snowstorms that the rest of the country is having. Don't expect to have face to face meeting right away. During the winter months when there is a better chance for inclement weather, we will still be Zooming. When we start face to face meeting on a regular basis we will also attempt continue Zooming. This hybrid type of meeting creates challenges, and this is all new to us so give us some room for mistakes. We will continue taking trips as weather permits. With some of these 60-to-70-degree days that have been popping up we might be able to sneak in a trip or two. We are making plans for our winter field trips now. Please contact me should you have any ideas of localities or specimen types (fossil or minerals) you would like to visit. Remember, we are in the middle of museum trip season. We definitely plan on taking Ralph Johnson up on his invitation to see his Upper Cretaceous Fossils of NJ at his Monmouth Amateur Paleontology Society (MAPS) museum. We are also planning on behind the scenes tours/visits to several nearby museums.



**Dues:** Annual club dues are due for 2023. The base fee is \$20.00 while each additional member from a family remains at \$5.00. Senior citizens are only \$10.00 for the year.

**January's Speaker:** Special thanks to Dr. Aaron Michael Barth our guest speaker from Rowan University who presented The timing and nature of Laurentide Ice Sheet thinning in the Adirondack Mountains of New York.

**Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup> speaker:** Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Lily S. Pfeifer** from Rowan University with a presentation on **Permian Loess and Equatorial Glaciation in Eastern Equatorial Pangea**. Lily's experience and research is presented below:

Lily received her B.S. in Geology from Bucknell and her M.S. and Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma. She worked as a Geologist for Conoco and is

currently an Assistant Professor of Geology at Rowan University, She teaches a range of students from bachelor to doctoral programs.

Dr. Lily S. Pfeifer is a geologist with expertise in sedimentology and paleoclimate. She applies both traditional field methods and analytical techniques (in geochronology, geochemistry, cyclostratigraphy) to understand the climatic and tectonic processes that prevailed hundreds of millions of years ago. Her research on ancient sedimentary basins (from Western Europe to the midcontinent U.S.) illuminates aspects of the Earth's climate system (e.g., long-term controls on carbon cycling) that have implications for understanding present and future climate solutions.

I will send out the Zoom invitations two or three days before the meeting. Remember, each time the access code is different. Don't try to use the old password because it won't work.

**Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, RiverWinds Environmental Cleanup:** It was a cold and windy morning on the Delaware River waterfront. It was only in the upper 20s. Cathy Eskew organized the event and we had 15 people brave the elements and collect over 20 bags of recyclable trash found on the waterfront along with a car tire. Cathy, Joe, Karen, Molly and I were the only club members in attendance. Residents of the RiverWinds community who walk every morning saw what we were doing and joined in collecting bags of recyclables too. I would call this a very big success with so few people in attendance. The next cleanup will be in the spring. Hopefully it's much warmer out then. See photos below in newsletter.

**Classroom Visit, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Folsom Elementary School:** This past summer, when we participated in the Water Fest at Scotland Run Nature Center, I talked to a teacher who asked if I could go to her classroom and talk to her students about Geology/Earth Science. I told her that our club would love to be a resource for teachers. Early in January, she contacted me and asked if the first week in February was ok. So, this afternoon I went to Folsom Elementary to find three classes of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders eager to learn about rock formation, the rock cycle and the three rock types. It was fun to see the excitement in some of the student's eyes as they saw and held rock specimens. Each student got their own piece of 20-million-year-old petrified cypress wood I collected in Turnersville from back in the

late 1970s. I'm scheduled to go back in 2 weeks to talk about fossils and fluorescent minerals.

### **Field Trips:**

**Rutgers Geology Museum Annual Open House:** John, Molly, Susan, Gary, Val, Fred and I attended the event. There were many people lined up to get first dibs on the specimens on sale. There were a few treasures mixed in all the specimens. Scott Hall had the lineup of a series of lectures that focused on core samples through ice, rock and sediment and their findings relative to paleoclimates. The student center had only SubWay as a choice for dining. There had been a lot of changes since the last time we were there face-to-face. Before we left for the ride home we hit the Geology Museum and found it to be in need of a major renovation and specimens needing identification verification.

**MAPS Museum Trip** is in the planning stages. More details to come.

**Delaware Mineralogical Society's Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show:** At the Double Tree by Hilton at 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202), Wilmington, DE on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. From 10 am to 5 pm each day.

**Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair 2023:** At the LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm. Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society and the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society.

**Mark Leipert, President**

## Shows and Events

### March

**Delaware Mineralogical Society's Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show:** At the Double Tree by Hilton at 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202), Wilmington, DE on Saturday, March 4th and Sunday, March 5th. From 10 am to 5 pm each day. <https://www.dmsrocks.org/>

**Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair:** March 25th, 10 am to 5 pm & March 26th, 10 am to 4 pm. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA. Fossils, minerals, gems, speakers, and exhibits. Kids mineral corner and fossil dig with free giveaways. Food and door prizes throughout both days. Admission: \$7 adults, \$2 kids 12 and under, scouts in uniform free. <https://www.philamineralsociety.org/spring-mineral-show>

### April

**4th Annual OUTDOOR South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show.** April 29, 10 AM – 5 PM. 1721 Springdale Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-2133, United States



# WILDACRES 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WORKSHOP

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to make that trip to Wildacres this year?

The clock is ticking, marking off the minutes and hours before the EFMLS Workshops' 50<sup>TH</sup> year at Wildacres this May 15-21. There are plenty of spaces to be filled. If you have never been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, this May would be an ideal time to find out why so many people rave about the week and return year after year. In addition to the regular activities (classes, lectures by the speaker-in-residence, tailgate, auction, etc.), special activities are being planned to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wildacres workshops. You have to be there to participate in the activities.

The instructors are superb and well-known. For information on what classes are being offered, and who is teaching them, go to [www.efmls.org/wildacres](http://www.efmls.org/wildacres).

Wildacres is a relaxing week away from the pressures of daily life and the hustle and bustle of car noise, blaring radios and TV's, etc. The retreat is in the mountains just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, NC.

The cost for the week is more than reasonable at \$455 per person. Where else can you get room and board, instruction in a class or two of your choice, great food, and a chance to learn from terrific instructors and hear an excellent "Speaker-in-Residence" for that low a cost for a week? Add to that a chance to visit various locations around the beautiful countryside on mid-week Activity Day, enjoy (and bid on) items at an always fun auction, buy or sell at the tailgate, etc.

Class sizes are limited, thus students for each class are assigned on a first-come, first-assigned basis. You definitely want to be assigned the class that is your first choice. What are YOU waiting for? **Registration is now open. Register today!**

**If you have any questions or need further information, please contact:**

**John Milligan, Registrar ([jmilligan@stny.rr.com](mailto:jmilligan@stny.rr.com))**

**Mark Kucera, Director ([mark\\_j\\_kucera@yahoo.com](mailto:mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com))**

## News

### Rare 'fossil' clam discovered alive

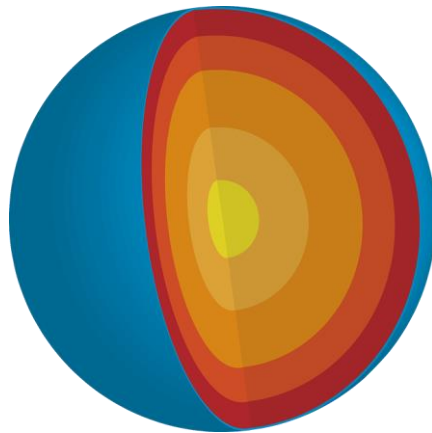
<https://www.geologypage.com/2022/11/rare-fossil-clam-discovered-alive.html?fbclid=IwAR1-UCOyR-hz i7zOanD451PqHD7XvWxLwaYwbGYIzOzpv9FwzAbOKwV2r4#>

### 17-pound meteorite found in Antarctica, likely hidden for millennia, is perfectly intact

<https://www.livescience.com/heavy-meteorite-discovered-antarctica>

### Uh, Earth's Inner Core Just Stopped Spinning

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/environment/a42623052/earths-inner-core-stopped-spinning/>





## Photos

### RiverWinds Environmental Cleanup

by Cathy Eskew























### Quote of the Month:

I go to the Natural History Museum and look at the cage of stuffed starlings there. But my favourite thing is the big blue whale. The scale of it is unbelievable, and makes you feel how insignificant you are as a human being. - [Arthur Darvill](#)



# *DVESS Directory for 2023*

## **Officers**

President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103

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## **Committee Chairs**

Junior Rockhounds Chair:

Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763

[WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com](mailto:WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com)

Field Trips: Mark Leipert

Co-Field Trips: John Arsenault

Membership: James Brennan

## **Other Information:**

## **Newsletter**

Editor: Susan Moore

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**Website:** [www.DVESS.org](http://www.DVESS.org)

**Facebook:** [DVESSNJ](#) – Amy Simpson



## 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

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Berlin, NJ 08009-0602

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To submit an article or photos for publication in the DVESScapades, contact the Newsletter Editor at [aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com).

