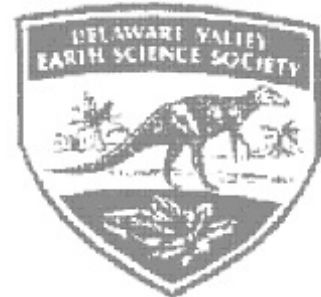


DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter



January 12, 2011

Program: TBA

DUES, DUES, DUES ARE DUE NOW.

President's Message - Greetings from your new president, who in turn congratulates the DVESS for being the first organization able to railroad me into the presidential position. I've been on the board practically since I've been a member (about 20 years, I think), so guilt got the better part of me in a weak moment. Because of my longevity, I have a pretty good idea what to do, as long as the rest of the board doesn't abandon ship! These folks are really the ones who keep the club moving: Gary Weinstein for programs and treasury and being the long-standing glue that holds the club together, Carol DeCuzzi for the newsletter and membership, Mel LeCompte for the junior program and securing our location, Ann Benson for handling ancillary events and general support, Grant Elliot for so faithfully recording the minutes, Gerald Feigin for hosting the picnic and answering anatomy questions, Lou Detofsky for giving us programs when we need them. And all of the above for nudging me when I forget to update the website.

But, I really have to acknowledge the rest of our members, the ones who bring their own experiences and expertise to share with everyone - and most importantly, the ones with QUESTIONS. Sharing our love and knowledge of rocks and fossils embodies DVESS's whole spirit and reason for being. For without people with questions, the people with answers have no vehicle for sharing.

Lastly, one favor... if you need to communicate with me, please email instead of picking up the phone. See, email gives me a record of who, what, when, where, how, etc. so I can easily refer to these automatic notes in the future. My email terry@terryfic.com or terry@dvees.org.
Terri Wilson

Membership dues for the upcoming year will gladly be accepted by our club Treasurer, Gary Weinstein. Dues are \$15.00 for the first family member, each additional family member is \$5.00 per year. For junior rock hounders, the first member must be a responsible adult with the junior the second or additional member.

The following are some interesting tid-bits from Parade Magazine for 2010 that were not available until the end of December. They are printed for your info now:

DUES, DUES, DUES ARE DUE NOW.

Sorry for the tardiness of the newsletter I now work. Ed

PARADE REVEALS 2010's MOST AMAZING DISCOVERIES

A man-size lizard, the world's oldest leather shoe, a test for autism — these are just a few of 2010's remarkable discoveries and innovations. This Sunday's issue of PARADE features a list of 12 of the best. Here's a sampling!

SOMEONE TELL THE GEICO CAVEMEN

Next time you're tempted to call the driver who cuts you off a Neanderthal, know that you might be partly right. Scientists decoded DNA taken from Neanderthal skeletons in Croatia and found that some of their genetic material exists in people alive today! Anthropologists previously believed that the early human relatives simply died out, but the latest findings show that interbreeding must have taken place. Among those confirmed to have Neanderthal genes: Ozzy Osbourne. (Yes, that's actually true!)

SHOES, BOOZE AMONG THE YEAR'S FINDS

A team of archaeologists discovered what's thought to be the world's oldest leather shoe in a cave in Armenia. Thanks to the cave's cool, dry conditions, the 5500-year-old leather lace-up moccasin (about a woman's size 7) was so well-preserved that even its laces were intact. Meanwhile, Swedish scuba divers exploring a shipwreck off the coast of Finland found several bottles of Veuve Clicquot champagne dating back to the early 1800s. Not ones to pass up the opportunity, the divers tried a bottle and found it more than drinkable.



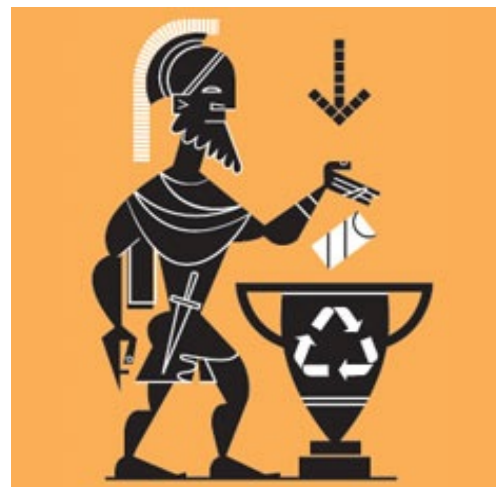
FRUIT-EATING LIZARDS, PURRING MONKEYS, OH MY!

In an age when even pets are plugged in via Facebook and Twitter, there remain creatures so far off the grid that they haven't been discovered yet. Each year scientists identify more than 15,000 new species out of the more than 10 million different kinds of plants and animals believed to exist on the planet. Among the standouts from 2010: the six-foot-long, yellow-and-black Northern Sierra Madre Forest Monitor Lizard, a timid relative of the Komodo dragon that eats fruit and lives in treetops in the Philippines, and the Caquetá titi, a cat-size, red-bearded monkey found in the jungles of Colombia. Unlike most monkeys, the titi mates for life and purrs like a kitten when cuddling.



ROMANS CAME, SAW, AND RECYCLED!

What did the ancient Romans do when they weren't staging gladiators' fights and throwing Christians to the lions? Being eco-friendly, it turns out. Archaeologists analyzed 1700-year-old samples of Roman glassware from 19 sites in the U.K. and found evidence of widespread recycling. The specimens contained elements used in two very different glass-making processes, leading the scientists to conclude that the Romans mixed and melted pieces from a variety of sources, like modern recyclers do.



Check out more discoveries from the top 12, including news about belly buttons, promising information in the fight against HIV, and more. See a slideshow with other astounding 2010 finds — King Tut's granddad, hints of life on Mars — at Parade.com/discover.



A NEW GLAMOSAU

Paleontologists at the University of Utah have unearthed two flamboyant new dinosaur species that seem to have been the Lady Gagas of their day. The elephant-sized *Utahceratops gettyi* had a huge head studded with five horns. The *Kosmoceratops richardsoni* boasted a frill-adorned noggin with a whopping 15 horns on its skull, nose, and cheeks, leading one scientist to call it “one of the most amazing animals known.”

IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY

For the first time astronomers have discovered a corner of outer space that might be just right for human habitation. Researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz and the Carnegie Institution of Washington were studying light that was coming from an obscure star, Gliese 581, when they detected a rocky planet in its orbit three times more massive than Earth. Dubbed Gliese 581g, the unconfirmed planet appears to lie within the star's “habitable zone,” in which the heat reaching its surface is neither too strong nor too weak for liquid water to exist. But we're unlikely to test that out anytime soon: Since it lies 20 light years away, a conventional space probe would take thousands of years to reach it.



A SHIP FROM A DISTANT PORT

Not much shocks New Yorkers, but even so, workers excavating the site of the new World Trade Center weren't prepared for what they found: rows of standing timbers that turned out to be part of a 30-foot-long hull of a ship buried over 200 years ago. Although it's dry land today, in the late-18th century the spot lay at the foot of a wharf. Archaeologists working for the site's developer were able to deduce that the vessel had spent part of its life traveling to the Caribbean. Some also speculate that the partial hull was deliberately buried as landfill, an old-world way to create something that has never gone out of style — more valuable Manhattan acreage.

LIFE ON MARS?

Scientists say the Red Planet is now showing signs of life. Specifically, soil samples from NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander contained carbon-rich organic elements, including perchlorate, an organic compound made of chlorine and oxygen. Although the discovery reverses findings from Viking landings in the 1970s, scientists were quick to point out that it is unclear whether the organic elements are indigenous to Mars or were brought by meteorites.



DUES, DUES, DUES ARE DUE NOW.

LONG LOST WHALE RESURFACES

More than 200 years after being driven to extinction in the Mediterranean Sea, a lone Gray Whale was found swimming off the coast of Israel in May. Scientists speculate that it somehow must have wandered thousands of miles through the Northwest Passage from its normal habitat in the north Pacific. Scientists believe there may be more -- that the species might be repopulating old breeding grounds that have not been used for centuries.



KING TUT'S GRANDPA

Egyptian archeologists unearthed a more than 3000-year-old statue of the pharaoh believed to be King Tut's grandfather. Members of the Supreme Council of Antiquities discovered the red granite statue of King Amenhotep III near Luxor, Egypt. The ruler, believed to be the grandfather of the renowned King Tutankhamun, reigned from 1390 to 1352 B.C.



SUPERSTAR SIGHTING

Astronomers says they spotted the biggest star ever . Using the European Southern Observatory's VLT (or "Very Large Telescope"), scientists discovered a star more than 300 times the mass of the Sun, and twice as large as the generally accepted size limit of stars.

BAREFOOT RUNNING

Harvard University researchers have concluded that barefoot running causes almost no impact on runners' knees, legs, and heels. In a study of runners around the globe, scientists found those who run with shoes more often double their impact on each step -- landing heel-to-toe -- which produces greater collisional force on the body. But runners who had never worn shoes use only the front of their feet, and suffer less impact-related discomfort.

SECOND STONEHENGE?

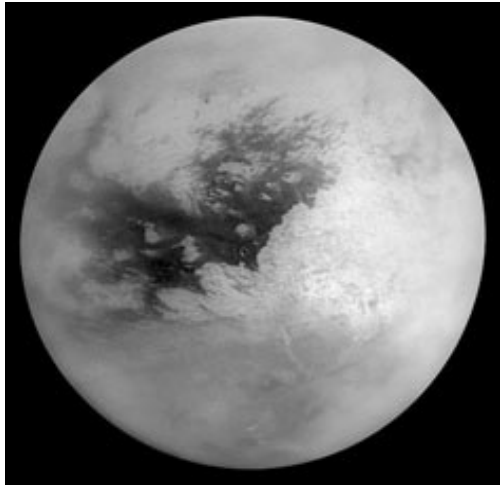
Archaeologists have discovered evidence of a second "henge" just a mile away from the famous Stonehenge monument in Wiltshire, England. Named Bluestonehenge for the Welsh rocks of which it was made, the former 25-stone circle is about 30 feet in diameter. Historians believe the site was built as early as 3000 BC, and may have formed the beginning of a processional avenue from the Avon river to Stonehenge.



DUES, DUES, DUES ARE DUE NOW.



THE SPOT WHERE POCAHONTAS TIED THE KNOT
Scientists believe they've found the remains of a church in Jamestown, Virginia, where Pocahontas married settler John Rolfe in 1614. A team of archaeologists discovered the evidence of the church at the heart of the England's first settlement of the New World. Pocahontas, an Indian chief's daughter, converted to Christianity and married Rolfe when she was 19.



FORGET THE RINGS, A NEW LOOK AT THE MOONS OF SATURNS

Scientists discovered hints of life on Saturn's largest moon Titan, including primitive organisms that might be breathing its atmosphere and feeding on fuel at the surface. Meanwhile, a team from the Mullard Space Science Laboratory also found signs of subsurface water on Enceladus, another Saturn moon, which could indicate similar organisms there.

**NEW SCHEDULE BEGINS JANUARY 8! For the New Jersey Museum in Trenton
Saturday & Sunday**

1 pm: **One World, One Sky** Ages 3 to 6 with adult
Elmo and Big Bird live in the United States and Hu Hu Zhu lives far away in China, but they discovered that they still see the same stars at night!

2 pm & 4 pm: **Ultimate Universe** General Audiences
Go on a grand tour of the Universe and discover its most captivating secrets.

3 pm: **STARS** General Audiences
Through every phase of their existence, stars release the energy that powers the Universe. Journey to the farthest reaches of our galaxy and experience both the awesome beauty and destructive power of STARS.

General Admission: \$5 per person

Cultures in Competition: *Indians and Europeans in Colonial New Jersey* On extended view in the Lower Level Gallery. Also on extended view in the lower level gallery is **What is Natural History? Fossil Mysteries: Investigating the Prehistoric**

DUES, DUES, DUES ARE DUE NOW.

Some interesting stuff from around the area from Al Zagofsky, Publisher of the *Carbon County Magazine* — the online community magazine of Carbon County, Pennsylvania

A Passion for Soapmaking

I'm telling you – you don't know what a temptation soap is! And I'm a guy saying that!!

My primary association with soap was my mother making me wash off a full day's worth of glorious dirt accumulated from rolling around on the playground. What fun was that?



Turns out – now that we're all grown up – it's a lot of fun, even for a guy. And a truly fun creation of a local shop is Soapothecary in downtown Jim Thorpe, PA two blocks up Broadway.

The store, relocated to Jim Thorpe's Douglas House in summer 2010 and constantly changing as new products are introduced, offers a fantastic variety of all-natural olive oil soaps and luxurious skin care products – all handmade on site by local soapmaker, Penelope Briggeman.

"It began as a hobby in my basement," Ms. Briggeman says. "When my friends and family began knocking on my door asking for more soap, my entrepreneurial spirit kind of took over." She



moved into a store front and has never looked back. As natural skin care products and herbal remedies have entered the mainstream, and consumers look for alternatives to mass-produced products, her customer base has steadily grown. Word of mouth has taken care of the rest. Ten years later, Penelope has expanded her line to include lotions, facial products, creams, shower gels and body sprays.

Her newest effort is the creation of a range of natural home cleaners and products, diversifying her offerings even further. Ms. Briggeman holds herself to strict production standards, using only all-natural, renewable ingredients. Nothing animal, synthetic or petroleum-based is found in her soaps.

Soapothecary is located at 77 Broadway in the Douglas House Market. It's a beautiful store with plenty to occupy your senses, so give yourself plenty of time to look around and enjoy yourself. Give Penelope a call at 570-325-3850; or, to browse her website, or order online, visit <http://soapothecary.com>



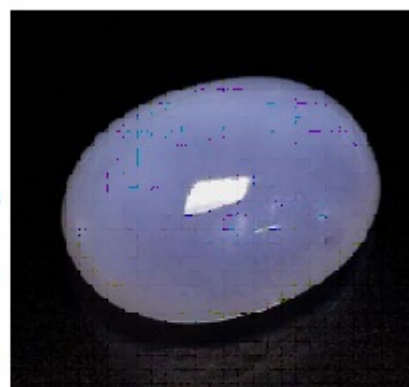
DUES, DUES, DUES ARE DUE NOW.

Mineral of the Month: Chalcedony

Mineral of the Ages

by Emma Fajcz

Chalcedony is a fascinating mineral with many interesting details about it, both historically and scientifically speaking. The mineral's name is derived from the old seaport of Chalcedon, which was an ancient Greek city in Turkey, where it is still mined to this day. Some of the more common varieties of this semi-precious gemstone are carnelian, chrysoprase, onyx, flint, jasper, bloodstone, and agate. The varieties of chalcedony come in many different colors, including white, blue, grey, red, green black, tan, yellow and brown. This mineral's value varies greatly in quality from specimen to specimen, but most samples are affordable. The best quality pieces are evenly colored and free from inclusions.



This beautiful mineral has much historical significance. In the ancient world, different civilizations carved varieties of chalcedony into hunting tools, cups and bowls, as well as jewelry. Archaeologists have even discovered Babylonian and Assyrian cylinder seals dating from 2500 to 500 B.C. It has even been used in mosaics in Florence, Italy. The Romans used sardonyx, a reddish brown and white variety of chalcedony, as material for their signet rings because the wax did not stick to the seal. Victorian gem engravers loved onyx, a black type of chalcedony, for cameos because it was strong and easy to carve. This mineral has been, throughout the ages, probably the most common of stones used by gem engravers. The Roman historian, Pliny, noted that when heated and rubbed, a chalcedony specimen would attract straw. Chrysoprase, the most valuable form of chalcedony, was the favorite stone of Frederick the Great of Prussia who loved its brilliant green color. It is believed that Alexander the Great wore a sample of chrysoprase on his girdle during all his battles.

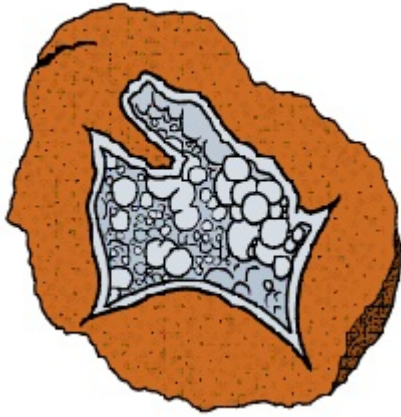
There are numerous scientific facts about this gemstone. It forms in small cavities containing quartz-rich water. Specimens of chalcedony are mined all over the world since it has so many varieties, although many of the well-known mines are located in Uruguay and Brazil, many fine samples are found in the United States as well. For example, chalcedony roses, a collection of chalcedony blades on a host rock, are found in the Southwestern desert of California. Interestingly enough, pure samples of this mineral are white, although the stones used for jewelry are bluish in color. Chrysoprase, which is only mined in Australia, acquires its color from nickel. However, the blue-colored chalcedony gets its coloring from the scattering of light on tiny particles of stone, which is the same mechanism that is responsible for the blue color in the sky. This stone is very porous, so it can be dyed easily to deepen its coloring. This, of course, must be taken into consideration when cleaning this kind of jewelry, as harsh chemicals can ruin the gem. Also, if this mineral is left in



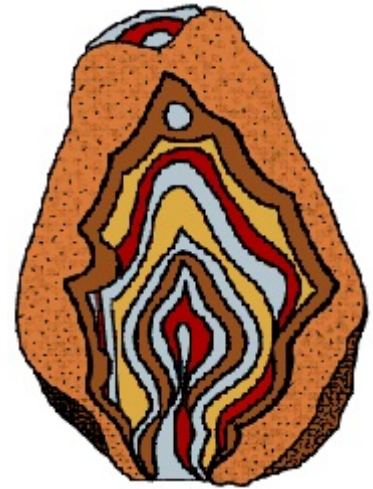
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the hot sun, it will fade. Chalcedony is a beautiful, widely-used, semi-precious gemstone used all around the world. Ancient peoples prized this unique specimen for its beauty and durability. Today, this mineral is used primarily in jewelry and mineral collections. From California to Brazil, and from Roman times to modern day, chalcedony is truly the mineral of the ages.



Introducing Emma Fajcz

Emma, the author of the article you just read, was asked to send a biography about herself. "I am an eleven year old home schooled, high school student who has the privilege of being the oldest of three girls. Despite the fact that I've always been fascinated in rocks and minerals, my collection hasn't really flourished until this past summer. I love collecting rocks and minerals because of their beauty and their vast diversity. My two favorite specimens from my collection are Spirit Quartz and Malachite.

This fall, I became a member of two geology clubs in Brunswick, Georgia which I find very inspiring. Even though I would like to be a Geologist when I grow up, I also adore the creative arts of literature, dance, and the visual arts.

I am very honored for Diamond Dan to publish my article in 'Mini Miners Monthly.' I've enjoyed reading this wonderful magazine, and it's exciting for me to be able contribute to it."

Here is a picture of Emma with her mineral collection. Emma, we are honored and impressed by your intelligence and writing abilities. We are thrilled you love minerals and art, too. Remember, Mini Miners, you are always invited to submit articles for publication.



Coming Events

January 20, 2011 – Fairless Hills, PA – Leidy Microscopical Society Regular Meeting at the Northminster Presbyterian Church 7:30 PM. The program will be the Copper – Lead – Zinc Mines of Ecton, Audubon, PA by Dr. Wayne Geller. Please bring microscopes and samples. Everyone is welcome.

January 29, 2011 – New Brunswick, NJ – Rutgers University Geology Department Annual Geology Museum open house in Scott Hall. Specimens are sold and there are free lectures. Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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.

Sat Jan 29th Mineral sale 9am begins and there are four presentations -10 am, mass extinction and CO₂ ;11:30 am dino hunting with NJ state Museum; 1:30 pm forensic seismology; and, 3 pm Carbon Dioxide and the ocean

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

MEMBERSHIP Thank you to all of those who already renewed your membership for 2011 – this is a good start to the new year. I would like to get filled out renewal forms for all renewals this year to put in a Membership Binder so I have current records for everyone. I have attached a renewal form with this issue of the DVESS Newsletter for that purpose, and I would appreciate all of you renewing, including those of you who have already renewed, but make sure I get a filled out Renewal form with current information. It can be copied and emailed to me at either of the e-mail addresses in the info box Thank you. CDC. Editor, DVESScapades

DVESS MEETING LOCATION: Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin, 856-767-3881 or 856-767-7453. Located between Estaugh Ave and W Taunton Ave on your left, the church is on the right hand side.

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

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.

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@dveess.org
1 st Vice President 856-783-0969	Ann Lynne Benson SeleniteQueen@gmail.com	2 nd Vice President
Jr. Rockhound Coordinator 856-783-0969	Mel LeCompte works-in-faith@comcast.net	Recording Secretary 856-728-1731
Website Coordinator 609-714-1309	Terry Wilson terry@dveess.org	Special Events Coordinator 856-783-0969
Treasurer and Program Chair Gary Weinstein 856-795-5077 - wk	856-234-0708 - home garyskyrock@hotmail.com	DVESS Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair Carol De Cuzzi 856-428-0621 - home decuzzic@comcast.net or DVESS@int-pro.com

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



DUES, DUES, DUES ARE DUE NOW.