

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



January 2015

**Next Meeting:** January 14th

**Program:** DVD; Special Election

### 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 Benson, Quasi-President

Thank you very much for your confidence in voting me, once again, as President of DVESS. This year I celebrated my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the club, having attended my first meeting in September of 1984, and having served on the Executive Board since January of 1985. I will do my best to preserve the DVESS legacy and maintain the standards of the **Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies**, our "parent" organization, and the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**, our "grandparent" organization.

It is important to note that an irregularity occurred during the election. I nominated Mel for the Presidency, which was followed immediately by an objection from the floor; someone stated that in order to be elected to this position, one would have to have previously served as an officer on the Executive Board.

As the person offering the objection was unable to document his belief, and as none of the Executive Board members present was able, at that moment, to substantiate the rationale, the position of president defaulted to the previously nominated slate (with myself as president) and an impromptu Board meeting was held after the general meeting ended; at that time the Constitution of the club was scrutinized. Under the section about who may be elected to an office, the Constitution states in a single sentence that any member may be elected to any position. There is no other requirement.

In light of this unusual situation, President Mark Leipert, whose term officially expired at the end of December, will remain as Acting President until a special election is held January 14th.

Altho the President brings to that position their own personal style and ideas, I have always maintained that any member interested in holding any position on the Board can nominate themselves (or be nominated) with great confidence, because it is actually the Executive Board that "runs" the club. No Board member is out there all alone with a sole, potentially overwhelming, responsibility; it's a team effort. Be sure to look elsewhere in this newsletter for a message from Acting President Mark Leipert.

In closing, I encourage you to keep on top of information and activities of the **Eastern Federation** and the **American Federation** at these websites respectively: <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm> (click on the link by year and month) and <http://www.amfed.org> (click the link for "latest" or "current" newsletter download).

Of prime interest in the Eastern Federation newsletter is information about the upcoming WILDACRES workshop to be held from **Monday, May 18 thru Sunday, May 24**; this is one of your outstanding benefits as a member of an EFMLS club. The fee for this entire week, which includes two two-day classes or one four-day class, plus room and board, gratuity for the Wildacres staff, and six talks by an outstanding speaker-in-residence, is only \$390; there's a non-class day midweek for exploring the area. The May Speaker will be Bob Jones, senior editor of *Rock & Gem* magazine - and did I mention that all of this takes place on top of a mountain in Little Switzerland, NC. I'm looking for traveling companions and possibly a roommate and I hope to see you at the January meeting. Keep on Rocking!

## Interim President's Report: Mark Leipert

As many of you may have heard, there was an allegation made while finalizing the slate of nominees for officers for the 2015 calendar year. An assertion was made that a person could not be nominated to be President of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society (DVESS) unless they were or are currently an officer. In order to determine whether the allegation was true, the current officers agreed to revert back to the original slate of nominees, until it was fully investigated. After researching the By-Laws and the Constitution of the club, it was determined that any "regular adult member or life member" in good standing could be nominated for President. The details of this can be found specifically in Article 5, Sections 3 and 5 of the Constitution.

### **Original Slate of Nominees:**

*President: Ann Benson*

*1st Vice-President: Mark Leipert*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Lou Detofsky*

*Secretary: Grant Elliott*

*Treasurer: Jim Brennan*

### **Proposed Slate of Nominees from the Floor:**

*President: Mil LeCompte*

*1st Vice-President: Mark Leipert*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Ann Benson*

*Secretary: Grant Elliott*

*Treasurer: Jim Brennan*

On Wednesday, January 14, 2015, we will be running a "Special Election" to determine the slate of officers for 2015. First, we will check to see if there are any more nominations from the floor. Then we will determine if those already on the slate of nominees still want to be on the slate. After the slate is finalized, we will vote on the officers. The President appoints a person who is not a candidate for office to act as the conductor of the election. Therefore, the election will be conducted by Gary Weinstein who is not a candidate for any office.

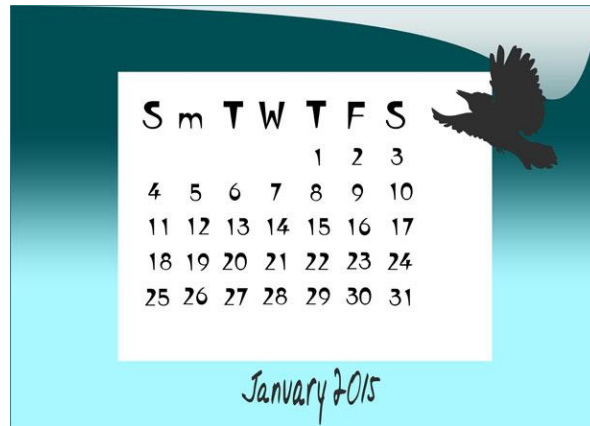
### **Field Trips:**

Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> – Museum Trips: We will be going to the Delaware Museum of Natural History as well as potentially another. We will be leaving from the Centenary United Methodist Church at 149 South White Horse Pike in Berlin, NJ. A sign-up sheet plus additional information will be available at the regular meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> – Rutgers' Geology Open House: Join the Rutgers Geology Museum all day on Saturday January 31, 2015 for the 47th Annual Open House. This free event features a lecture series, hands-on kids lectures, make-and-take arts and crafts activities, and mineral sale and much more! Adults and kids of all ages are sure to find something that interests them so bring the whole family. For more information go to this link: <https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/museum-events/events-calendar/47th-annual-rutgers-geology-museum-open-house>. The event will take place at

the Geology Museum and at Scott Hall from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. A sign-up sheet will also be at the regular meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Reminder : Dues are due!** The base rate has been increased to \$20.00. Each additional person is \$5.00. The senior rate remains at \$10.00. **A member will be grandfathered at the \$15.00 rate for dues, if they paid the \$15.00 base fee after the announcement of the increase in the December newsletter and prior to December 15<sup>th</sup>.**



## News

### **110-million-year-old crustacean holds essential piece to evolutionary puzzle**

Javier Luque, a grad student at the University of Alberta has discovered a fossil in Colombia that pushes back the oldest known record of true higher crabs into the Early Cretaceous, about 110 million years ago. Read more at: <http://phys.org/news/2014-12-million-year-old-crustacean-essential-piece-evolutionary.html#jCp>

### **Video shows cameraman's lucky escape after being hit by lava at volcano**

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/01/02/video-shows-cameramans-lucky-escape-after-being-hit-by-lava-at-volcano-5007812/>

### **Forget fireworks, Mexico's Popocatépetl volcano puts on an explosive New Year's show**

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/lifestyle/2015/01/02/forget-fireworks-mexico-popocatepetl-volcano-puts-on-explosive-new-year-show/>



## Quote of the Month

"There are plenty of ruined buildings in the world, but no ruined stones."

*Hugh Macdiarmid (Christopher Murray Grieve)*

## Shows and Events

**January 24, 2015: Philadelphia Mineralogical Society Swap 'n' Sell event** - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At Cathedral Village, 600 E. Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (Andorra). Free admission. Dealers/Swappers may set up at 8:00 a.m. \$10 per table, limit one table per person. To reserve a table you must be a member of a local mineral or fossil club. Swapping and selling open to all. For details and reservations, call John Rateike at: 215-576-0741

**January 31st, 2015: Rutgers's Geology Open House - Schedule:**

**Mineral Sale** - 9 am to 4 pm, Scott Hall Room 135

**Lecture Series** - Scott Hall Room 123.

10 am to 11 am- *"A Dip in the Ocean: An Interactive Exploration of How the Ocean Impacts You and How You Impact the Ocean"*

11:30 am to 12:30 pm- *"Extremophilic Environments and Microbial Diversity Within"*

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm- *"The Art of the Geological Map"*

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm- *"Earth's Cocktail Party: Deciphering the Physics of Earthquakes with Networks of Seismic Arrays"*



**Kids activities** - Scott Hall

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

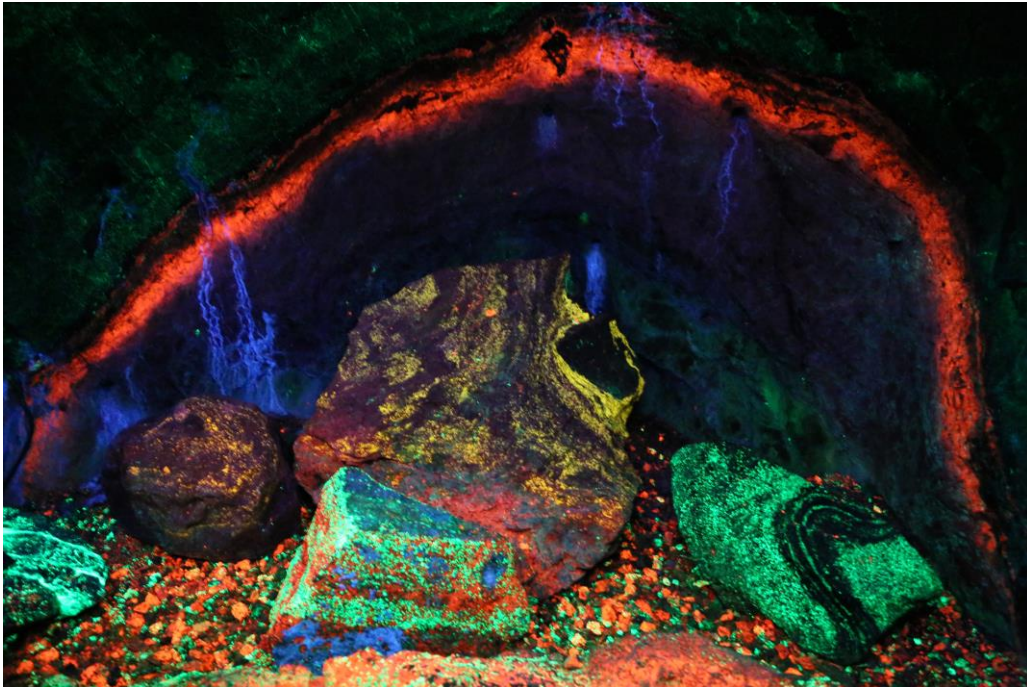
- Room 203- Activity 1- Outbreak
- Room 204- Activity 2- Stone Tools
- Room 205- Activity 3- Earth Impact

**Make-and-Take Activities** - Geology Museum between 11 am and 3 pm.

**Rock and mineral identification** - Scott Hall Room 206 between 11 am and 2 pm.

**March 7–8, 2015: 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](http://www.delminsociety.org)

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





## 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 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive a Geode Specimen

“Gold” \$75.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive Mineral Specimen

“Platinum” \$100.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> 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)**

P.O. Box 372

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](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com).





