

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



January 2026



**This Meeting:** Wednesday, January 14th, 2026. Our guest speaker will be Joe Deckhut, who is working on his PhD from Rowan University, Paleontology Department.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 11th

**Meeting location:** Atco Senior Center, 474 E. Atlantic Ave, Waterford, NJ.

## President's Message

Happy holidays and Happy New Year! I hope everyone's holidays were full of happiness, celebrating with family & friends and eating of holiday treats. Now it's time to get back on our diets. We had a record number of attendees (38) at our Holiday Party. There was no shortage of food and desserts. It was great to see everyone. Just think 5 years ago we had to socially distance at the 2020 Holiday Party.

First of all, I'd like to thank John Arsenault for taking on the position of President for the past 2 years. I moved up from Vice-President to President, Cathy Eskew moved up from Secretary to Vice-President, Karen Sweeten is taking on the duties as Secretary and Jim Brennan retained the position of Treasurer. It takes a whole team to run an organization like ours. I'll be looking for volunteers throughout the year to help with field trips, the summer picnic and the Holiday Party as well as any other special events.

We ran our Ramanessin Creek and Sterling Hill trip just in time. For the better half of the month of November and all of December we had temperatures below normal. Not a particularly nice time to be fossil collecting standing in cold water. We are officially in museum season. Unless we get a significant warm up over the next 2 months we will be visiting museums, going to lectures and mineral/fossil sales and having some neat experiences that are in the planning stages.

I will be taking a vote at the regular meeting next week whether to meet at the Edelman Fossil Park and Museum during the time frame that we normally hold meetings or hold a meeting on a Sunday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the theatre. Both options are available and I would like to get a feel for what everyone likes. Then, I would pursue getting final approval and details. Can we have a guest speaker? Do we need to purchase tickets? What type of group discount can we get?

### **Programs:**

**Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>:** Our guest speaker will be Joe Deckhut, a student working on his PhD from Rowan University, Paleontology Department. Once I have more information on the topic of his presentation it will be included in the In-person/Zoom meeting invitation. I will also include the speaker's bio.

## Field Trips and Happenings:

**On Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at Folsom Township Elementary School:** I was invited to go back to the Folsom Elementary School to talk to two classrooms about the Rock Cycle, rocks, minerals and fossils. Each student received a specimen of petrified wood and a belemnite found locally in South Jersey.

**Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Delaware Museum of Nature & Science:** Current Research and Discoveries at the Edelman Fossil Park and Museum by Dr. Zack Boles. The address of the museum is 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807.

**Rutgers' University Geology Museum Open House, Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>:** The theme of Rutgers 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House Event is Minerals! The mineral sales in Scott Hall begin at 9:00 am. The Rutgers Geology Museum welcomes distinguished professors and scientists from around the world to discuss the latest discoveries and advances in the fields of geology, paleontology, anthropology, astronomy and more. Talks are designed for the general public and there is sure to be something to interest everyone. Below is a list and times of lectures:

**10AM:** "Fantastic Mineral Specimens Donated to the Rutgers Geology Museum" by David Tibbits

**12:30PM:** "New Jersey's Role in American Mining: Iron, Zinc and More" by Michael Di Maio

**2PM:** "Roving the Red Planet: Exploring the Geology and Habitability of Mars" by Dr. Shaunna Morrison

**There are activities for children ages 8 and up in Scott Hall as well as a number of activities all day long in the Geology Museum.** Check the event website for further details and times of activities. [Annual Open House](#)

**Parking:** Special arrangements are made so that Open House Visitors can park in Rutgers Lots 11, 16, 26, and 30, but you must [register your vehicle](#) to avoid a citation. (See event website for active link)

**Waterford Township Library** has planned a summer reading program with a theme called “**Unearth a Story**” - **Dinosaurs, Paleontology and Archaeology**. They would love to have our club go to the library and do a presentation or program for either kids or adults. It’s to take place between mid-June to August. I’ll be looking for a few volunteers once I get more details.

**Mark Leipert - President**

**Edna M. Day** passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on January 7. She had held many positions with the Atco Senior Center, including as President , and was the point of contact for DVESS.

**Subject: A few thoughts from the new Vice President, Catherine Eskew**

I would like to thank all of the members that had previously elected me as Secretary for 4 years and also now for allowing me to become the new Vice President. I hope to do a good job for our Society.

I have grown to love and enjoy what we represent. I also am very happy to be serving with Mark Leipert. He has been an amazing leader and also held many positions of all sorts for very many years. We did enjoy serving with John Arsenalt over the past 2 years.

Also, James Brennan has done a fantastic job as the Treasurer, and Susan Moore has always done a phenomenal job with our Newsletter .

We have an amazing team. I hope to be as good as them now being your new Vice President.

May we make this a fun and exciting year with trips to cool places both new and old favorites. May we all be able to find wonderful fossils and rocks that will greatly enhance our collections.

I also want to thank you all for the very kind card that all signed and the beautiful plant that was sent from you all for the passing of my Dad the last day of October. That was a very hard time for me. Many, many thanks.

Don't hesitate to call Mark, Karen, Jim or myself with any new ideas that may come your way.

Happy 2026, All Members of Our Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

**PHOTOS**

**Holiday Party**

by Catherine Eskew and Mark Leipert







# Folsom Elementary School

Mark Leipert teaching students about the Rock Cycle, rocks, minerals and fossils. Special fluorescent mineral presentation. Each student received a piece of petrified wood and a belemnite from South Jersey.



## *DVESS Directory for 2026*

<u><b>Officers</b></u>	<u><b>Committee Chairs</b></u>
<p>President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 <a href="mailto:mark.leipert@yahoo.com">mark.leipert@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Vice President: Cathy Eskew <a href="mailto:ceskew.5@gmail.com">ceskew.5@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Secretary: Karen Sweeten</p> <p>Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 <a href="mailto:brenimage@hotmail.com">brenimage@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p>Junior Rockhounds Chair: Mark Leipert</p> <p>Field Trips: Mark Leipert Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile</p> <p>Membership: James Brennan</p>
<p><u><b>Newsletter</b></u></p> <p>Editor: Susan Moore <a href="mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com">aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><u><b>Other Information:</b></u></p> <p><u><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.DVESS.org">www.DVESS.org</a></u></p> <p><u><b>Facebook:</b> <a href="#">DVESSNJ</a> – Amy Simpson</u></p>



## Membership Information

*Regular memberships* are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities.

### *Regular Membership:*

\$20.00 for the 1st family member + \$15.00 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)**

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).

