

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



July 2022



Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 13th, via Zoom

7:00 pm social hour

8:00 pm **Program:** Mark Leipert will be speaking on Safety, Equipment, and How to Get Your Specimen Home in One Piece.



President's Message

We will continue having Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future. COVID-19 sub-variants are on the rise again. We will continue taking trips and remain safe too. We are lining up our summer field trip schedule now. I'd like everyone think about members that we haven't seen on our regular Zoom meetings. Please reach out, give them a call and let them know you are thinking about them. If you don't have their address or phone number, call me at 856-524-2103.

June 8th, 2022, Zoom Meeting: Our guest speaker was Derek Yoost who presented the topic "Big Brook: - A Stream of Possibilities." It was a fresh and slightly different view on a place most of us have collected at before.

July 13th, 2022, Zoom Meeting: Our speaker is going to be Mark Leipert. He will be speaking on Safety, Equipment and How to Get Your Specimen Home in One Piece.

DVESS Club Project: We are going to be sending a package to the Gem & Mineral Club from Ventura, California containing fluorescent minerals from Franklin and Sterling Hill, NJ. If you have some small specimens (less than 2 inches in diameter) that are fluorescent and you are interested in participating/contributing, please notify Fred Hochkile or myself to make donations. Thanks.

Club Annual Picnic in August: Looking for a group of people to organize and make it happen. If interested, please contact me.

Sterling Hill Super Diggg 2022 is postponed until further notice. There is a fairly slim chance we will be holding the event spring of 2023.

The "Cape Atlantic Club Mineral Show & Sale": Stay tuned for details for their September (Fall) show.

Summer Kick-off event at James G Atkinson Park in Sewell on June 11 from 11am-5 pm. DVESS set up several tables as usual. This was another opportunity for our club to reach out as a resource to another nearby community. The day had a lot offer but the weather gods had something else in mind. The rain became steady and without tarps/canopies, we closed up shop early.

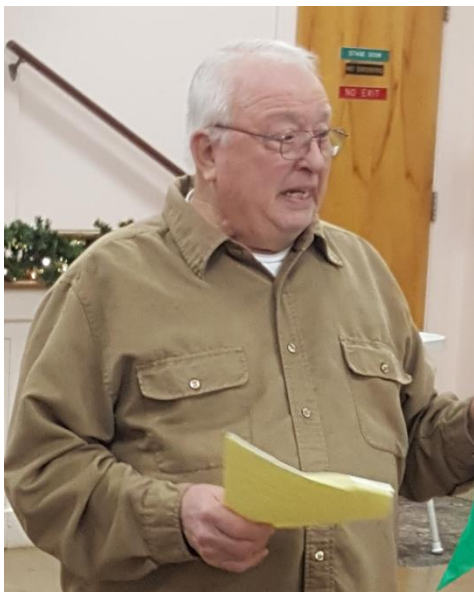
June 18th, 2022, Saturday Field Trip to the C&D Canal at the Reedy Point Dredge Spoils Area; we once again went to the C&D Canal to collect Cretaceous marine fossils. Ray and Christine Pape, Sue Moore, Vince Male, Vince Franchi, Fred Hochkile, Steve Bliefuss and I went out on this beautiful day to collect belemnites, Exogyras, other shell fossils as well as a few microfossils including some small brachiopods and coral. Everyone had a fun time.

Future Field Trips:

July 23rd, 2022: Cornwall Mine spoil piles and Museum and possibly Indian Echo Caverns if time allows. We will be meeting at the Woodcrest Station of the PATCO High Speedline at 8:30 am. Wear hard shoes (boots), bring rock hammers, chisels, buckets, containers, newspaper, water and snacks.

August 13th, 2022: Big Brook Fossil Preserve and Poricy Brook Fossil Bed: We will be meeting at the Woodcrest Station of the PATCO High Speedline at 8:30 am. Wear hard shoes (boots), bring buckets, screen or sieves, containers, newspaper, water and snacks.

September 10th, 2022: Middleburg National Limestone and Mt Pleasant Mills quarries: We are meeting up at the Middleburg Quarry first at 10:00; after collecting for a while we will head down to Mt. Pleasant Mills quarry. If there is time, we may stop at new trilobite locality. Right now, the plan is to leave around 7:00 at the Woodcrest Station of the PATCO High Speedline.



Robert W. Todd lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on Saturday July 2nd almost 8 months after being diagnosed with it. I first met Bob and Sally when I was a teenager in the DVESS. I met them in the mid to late 1970's. I knew Bob's mother and stepdad, Virginia and Richard Harbison. If my memory serves me correctly, Bob had a fairly long beard. It wasn't until I returned to the DVESS after my 20-year hiatus after being a coach, scout leader and church leader did I really get to know Bob and Sally. I remember Bob saying to me, do you think

if I put 13 piles of rocks from different localities along my driveway anyone would come? Bob had been clearing out some of his minerals from various localities that were no longer open to collect. I told him it was a great idea, where else could you go to and collect from 13 closed localities at one time. It was a huge success, so Bob carried it one step further. Bob kept trying to get his garage cleared out of his extra materials, so he started bringing the materials to our regular meetings to share with the Junior Rockhounds and other members. Most if not all the materials would go.

I recall Bob calling me up and asking me if I'd be interested in some free lapidary equipment, grinders and polishers and a bunch of raw material. I told him yes, but I had no idea how to use any of the equipment. Well, once I said yes, Bob would give me a bag of grinding belts/wheels and various grits for polishing every time I saw him. Bob was always thinking about someone else, myself, the Junior Rockhounds and other members. He was always asking myself and others to come over and see his collection in his workshop behind the house or throughout their house. You could spend a whole day over Bob and Sally's and still not see everything. In Bob's workshop he had a forge, where he would make his own tools. He would show you around his display cases of minerals and would tell you a story about each sample.

Bob was the type of individual that would ask a question about something and then would fully research it and then share what he found out about that subject with the club. Bob would do mini talks about things that interested him, and he fully researched the topic. An example of this was when he gave a talk on Poisonous Minerals, gemstones in King Tut's sarcophagus , and a meteor that crashed into the Baltimore area. He was a wealth of knowledge. He would tell me about all the times he and Sally travelled and collected from localities all over the country.



About 4 to 5 years ago now, I noticed I hadn't seen Bob and Sally for a few meetings. We didn't meet in the summertime so it always seemed like a while where we wouldn't see each other. I said to Bob how'd you been, I hadn't seen you in a while. He opened his shirt, showed me his fresh scar and said "I had a heart valve replaced and I'm ok now". About 10 to 12 months ago, Bob was in and out of the hospital frequently and he told me about his jaundice condition and how he was getting treated for it. He said he was feeling better, but he was back in the hospital again. So, one time after returning home from a hospital visit, he let it slip that he had to schedule an appointment with his oncologist. I said to him your oncologist? He shared with me at the time he had a tumor on his pancreas. He said I'm getting ready to start chemotherapy. I'm going to fight this. This was happening during the pandemic, so we didn't see each other, and he wasn't participating in the Zoom meeting. I know he continued going in and out of the hospital because the chemo was pretty rough to handle and made Bob very sick. They would take breaks from treatment to allow him to get stronger. Bob and Sally told me that the tumor had shrunk. That was a hopeful sign. Well, back in the middle of May, Bob called me and asked if I was going to the Cape Atlantic Gem and Mineral Show on Saturday. I was planning on it, but it started raining and I decided to go on Sunday instead. Bob called me Saturday night and said he didn't see me at the show and asked if I was going to go on Sunday because it was supposed to be nicer. He and Sally were going to the Bottle Show at Batsto Village and then would head over to Cape Atlantic to meet me for lunch. I didn't see him at lunchtime, so I didn't think he was going to make it. About 1:30 or so, I looked up and saw Sally and I almost didn't recognize Bob. He had lost so much weight. He struggled to walk across the site over to one of the vendors. About 10 minutes later, he approached the table a place a heavy specimen in front of me and asked me what I thought of the specimen. It was a beautiful specimen of Native American Copper from Adams County, Pennsylvania collected by a friend of Bob's, Kerry Matt. He said it's for you. He gave me a card that said, "Given to Our Friend, Mark Leipert, from Sally and Robert Todd". I thanked him very much for the specimen and I realized how hard it was for him to push himself with the walker across the parking area. I had some specimens of Wavellite for Bob to take with him.

About 3 or 4 week later I visited Bob and he was keeping himself busy with his stamp collection. I had a few more specimens to give him for our collecting trips over the past 2 years. Bob gave me a really nice book called Pennsylvania's Rainbow Under Ground by his friend Kerry Matt. The book is beautifully photographed and written by Kerry. Bob also sent me an article he found on a new species of lobed-finned fish called *Langlieria smalingi* found at Red Hill near Williamsport, PA. I kept in touch with him until about 2 weeks before he died. Sally said he lost the ability to talk. I had an odd feeling Saturday evening of July 1st. When I arrived home from church on Sunday, Sally called me and told me he passed on Saturday night. Robert Todd was a great man, person, friend to not only me but to the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society. He extended invitations to many of the members of our club to come over and see his massive collection. He will truly be missed. In his obituary the family requests any donation be made for the Junior Rockhound Program at the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society.

Mark Leipert, President

Robert W. Todd, 80, of Glassboro, NJ passed away on July 2, 2022. He lived in Glassboro for 79 years. Robert joined the Army in 1960 serving in Korea and worked for South Jersey Gas Co. for over 40 years. He enjoyed cooking and collecting rocks, fossils, stamps and bottles and was a proud member of Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Merchantville Stamp Club and the Confederate Stamp Alliance.

<https://obits.nj.com/us/obituaries/southjerseytimes/name/robert-todd-obituary?id=35625873>

Shows and Events

September 23-25, 2022 – EFMLS Annual Convention sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Harrisburg, PA.

October 8, 2022 - 10 am to 6 pm. 2022 Mineral Treasures Outdoor Show

Location: Picnic Grove at St. Michael's Byzantine Church, 203 Jacobs St., Mont Clare, PA 19453.

Admission \$5 adult; under 13 and all scouts in uniform free. Minerals, fossils, gems, crystals, and jewelry from all over the world, as well as books, decorative items, and other

merchandise for sale, with over 30 vendors under the pavilion and on the picnic grounds.

Free parking. Kids' activities & free mineral specimens. Snack bar. Picnic tables on site -- bring your own picnic. Indoor restrooms. Information: www.phillyrocks.org. Contact: Cheryl

Leibold: cleibold@verizon.net

Now is the time to sign up for the fall session at Wildacres.

The Fall Session of Wildacres (September 5-11) is open for registrations. Wildacres, sponsored twice a year by the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (EFMLS), provides room and board, classroom instruction with a small number of students, lectures by the Speaker-In-Residence, a tailgate with a chance to buy or sell hobby related items, an auction, a chance to meet old friends and make new ones, the comradery of being with others in the hobby, to name a few perks of attending Wildacres sessions. All this for a very reasonable fee AND room and board are included in the fee.

FALL SESSION, September 5-11, 2022

Classes – Whether looking to learn a new aspect of the hobby or just wanting to improve your knowledge and skills in an area you already know, with seven classes to choose from, there is sure to be a class for anyone.

See EFMLS website <https://efmls.org/wildacres/> for class offerings and registration form.

Photos

by Mark Leipert and Susan Moore

Summer Kick-off Event at Atkinson Park in Sewell. Rock painting and displays from club members.





Fred and Mark set up a new display on "Fossils of South Jersey" at the Scotland Run Nature Center.



C & D Canal field trip, June 18th





News

A 76-million-year-old dinosaur skeleton to go on sale

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/kidspost/2022/07/06/gorgosaurus-skeleton-to-be-auctioned/>

Sotheby's in NYC to auction 76 million-year-old dinosaur skeleton

<https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-dino-sothebys-exhibit-20220705-vdqmmxco6fg7hi3xi7zotiutfm-story.html>



Quotes of the Month:

Sir Richard Owen coined the word dinosaur in 1841. The word "dinosaur" meant "terrible lizard." - *Kelly Landgraf*.

The combination of such characters, some, as the sacral ones, altogether peculiar among Reptiles, others borrowed, as it were, from groups now distinct from each other, and all manifested by creatures far surpassing in size the largest of existing reptiles, will, it is presumed, be deemed sufficient ground for establishing a distinct tribe or sub-order of Saurian Reptiles, for which I would propose the name of Dinosauria. - *Richard Owen*

DVESS Directory for 2022

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 mark.leipert@yahoo.com Vice President: Jimmy Burlage james.burlage@outlook.com Secretary: Cathy Eskew ceskew5@gmail.com Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 brenimage@hotmail.com	Junior Rockhounds Chair: Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763 WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com Field Trips: Mark Leipert Co-Field Trips: Ed & Alice Houseal alicehouseal@verizon.net Membership: James Brennan
<u>Newsletter</u> Editor: Susan Moore aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com	<u>Other Information:</u> <u>Website: www.DVESS.org</u> <u>Facebook: DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</u>



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.

