

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



July 2023

*No meeting in July or August!*

**Annual DVESS picnic** – Sunday, August 6th at 1:00 pm



### Looking ahead

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 13th. Our speaker will be J.P. Hodnett, Curator of the Dinosaur Park located in Laurel, MD.

## President's Message

I hope that everyone practices safe driving and standard safety when collecting rocks, minerals and fossils. Use common sense and remember safety glasses/goggles and gloves. Our normal summer break is in July and August (**no meetings**), but we will still run field trips throughout the summer months. We haven't had a break in the last 3 ½ years. Check below for some details. We still need some other club members to step up into other temporary positions like field trips and picnic committee.

We are making plans for our fall/early 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. We want to have a good mix to make everyone happy.

**How are we doing with our hybrid meetings?** We are going to continue holding our hybrid meetings in September. It's a challenge, but we are managing to make it work. Several members have been working with me to improve our hybrid meeting by observing what other clubs have been doing. With practice these hybrid meetings will eventually become second nature. Let us know how the hybrid meeting came across. How was the sound quality?

**Updates on the Edelman Fossil Quarry and Museum construction:** It looks like the grand opening for the museum will be in Spring of 2024. For photographic updates on the museum progress, you can go to Instagram and look up Kenneth Lacovara. You can see some cool drone photographs and videos of the museum's construction progress.

**June 14<sup>th</sup> Program:** We watched a movie from Topher Cosmo Spinnato which narrates a video tour of the Arizona State University Meteorite Vault. The movie is called "Mind-Blowing Meteorites" found on You Tube. The video runs for about 1 hour and 50 minutes. There are also several other videos by Topher on meteorites. Feel free to look them up.

**Annual DVESS picnic – August 6th at Gerald Feigin's home (63 Berkshire Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080) at 1:00 pm.** The hamburgers and hotdogs are provided by the club. We ask that people bring side dishes and salads, snacks and refreshments to share. We encourage everyone to sign up and tell everyone what you are bringing to eat, so we don't wind up with ten plates of brownies. **I'll be**

**sending out an email asking for people to sign up for what they are bringing and how many are coming. When you answer hit reply all. That way everyone sees what you are bringing.** Please sign up so we know how many hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages to purchase. Bring a bathing suit to take advantage of the great pool! Bring specimens for the club auction and bring plenty of money so you can bid on many items at our auction.

**September 13<sup>th</sup> Program:** We normally reserve this month to be our show and tell program but when you get a speaker you need to schedule them according to their availability. We will be having J.P. Hodnett, Curator of the Dinosaur Park located in Laurel, MD. The park is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. We may have an opportunity to help out on a dinosaur dig in the future.

### **Field Trips:**

**Beltzville State Park in the Poconos on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>:** We will be running this trip in conjunction with the Rowan Geo Club. We will be meeting up at the Beltzville State Park parking lot at 2950 Pohopoco Drive, Leighton, PA 18235. We are meeting in the parking lot at 10:00. Look for Fred Hochkile. He will check you in. I'll be getting there late due to a doctor's appointment. We will be collecting Devonian fossils (trilobites, brachiopods, bryozoans, coral, crinoids) in the spillway from 10:00 to around 2:00. There is also an opportunity to collect quartz crystals there too. You will need: hard soled shoes, geology hammer (brick layers hammer), small sledgehammer, rock chisels, gloves, sunblock, water, snacks, buckets to carry specimens, newspaper for wrapping up specimens and a hat.

**Cape Atlantic Gem & Mineral Club** in Cologne, NJ will hold their outdoor annual gem and mineral show on Saturday and Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Sayreville Amber Locality Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>:** The trip was a success. Although no one found large pieces, we found a few nice nuggets. There were signs that some construction maybe getting ready to happen like wooden stakes and orange survey tape were scattered around the site. We may need to go up there again before the summer is over.

**MAPS (Monmouth Amateur Paleontology Society) Museum Trip happened as planned for Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.** Ralph Johnson had invited our club up to up to see his Upper Cretaceous Fossils of NJ collection. He has over 18,000 specimens. This is a fantastic reference collection for anyone who is interested in collecting fossils from the Cretaceous of New Jersey.

**Mt. Pleasant Mills or Middleburg Quarries August 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>:** We are waiting on which date and locality we will be allowed to collect at. As usual you will need hard soled shoes, geology hammer (brick layers hammer), small and large sledgehammers, rock chisels, gloves, sunblock, water, snacks, buckets to carry specimens, newspaper for wrapping up specimens and a hat. When other details become available, they will be sent out via email. We plan on being up at the quarry around 10:00 am. So, I anticipate leaving Woodcrest Station at exactly 7:00 am.

**Other potential trips:** Sayreville, Pickering Golf Course, Reedy Point Dredge Spoil Site at C&D Canal, Ramanessin Creek, etc.

**Mark Leipert, President**

## **Shows and Events**

### **July**

**Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies 73rd National Convention, July 7 – 9, 2023.** Host: Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse. Show location: Center of Progress Building, NYS Fairgrounds 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, NY 13209. Host Hotel: Holiday Inn & Suites 400 Seventh North Street, Liverpool, NY

### **September**

**Cape Atlantic Gem & Mineral Club Gem and Mineral Show** in Cologne, NJ on Saturday and Sunday, September 16-17.



## Social Studies in the National Park at the Independence Historic Park

Bob Bartosz and Mark Leipert participated in the 1st Social Studies in the National Park event at the Independence Historic Park in Philadelphia on May 10. Over 500 3rd/4th/5th grade students visited our table to learn about the fossils in President Thomas Jefferson's collection including the prehistoric giant ground sloth, woolly mammoth, mastodon, and megalodon. We had fossils similar to those in Jefferson's collection for the school children to see and touch. We also shared the little known story about the Lewis & Clark Expedition looking to see if these prehistoric beasts were actually still living in the unexplored territories of the American West.



## Photos

by John Arsenault, Susan Moore

**Sayreville, Saturday, June 17th**













## MAPS (Monmouth Amateur Paleontology Society) Museum Trip











# *DVESS Directory for 2023*

## **Officers**

President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103

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Vice President: Molly Burlage

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Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540

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## **Committee Chairs**

Junior Rockhounds Chair:

Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763

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

