

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



July 2024

This Meeting: Wednesday, July 10th - **Dean Ruocco** will be talking about Fossils of the Mahantango Formation in Pennsylvania.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 14th

Annual DVESS picnic – August 11th



New meeting location: Atco Senior Center, 474 E. Atlantic Ave, Waterford, NJ.

President's Message

Hi Fine Folks,

Have you been staying warm since our last meeting? What are you doing July 14th? Read below...

Dean Ruocco will be presenting about Fossils of the Mahantango Formation in Pennsylvania this month.

The question of what we should do if we are unable to secure a presenter for whatever reason was brought up at last month's meeting and some great suggestions were mentioned. Things like:

- Mineral Identification night. Perhaps we could bring some tools to help identify what they are or could be.
- Club only swap and sale.
- Show and tell.
- Silent auction.

Hopefully, we can continue to get presenters but it's good to know that we do have a backup plan. Other ideas are also welcome.

Last month's presentation was very interesting due to a lot of interest in Greenland and Iceland geology since there has been a lot more rock exposed. We do need to apologize for the low volume. Since the invite and permission from the other NYC mineral club came in as a last minute thing, we didn't test the volume and apologize for that. We hope that we continue to share presenters with that club in the future.

We are always looking for donations for the rock table. So, if you have multiple specimens or you have one or a few that you don't want, we have a table just for you. Thanks to the members who have already donated to the rock table.

Feedback on improving our meetings is always welcome! Drop me a line or bring it up in the meeting.

Did you do anything earth science related and have any photos of your adventures you'd like to share? If so, please send them in to Susan Moore. If you are aware of other events, shows, or an interesting science article, again send them in to Susan and we'll get them in the newsletter.

The club went out to Pickering Golf Course a couple of weeks ago. It was a hot one but we had a decent turnout. Some folks came out for their first dig and had a great time.

We also went to the Audubon Museum and toured the place as well as did some exploring on the grounds. Found some 'new' mine tailings which could be a future trip.

And finally, we went to the Vincentown Eagle Walk park and collected microfossils.

It's July folks and some of you still have not paid your dues. No one should be getting a free membership. If the president pays, so should you. If you feel that you are entitled to a free membership, come talk to me about it but rest assured, the first things out of my mouth will be that it covers the insurance and it's not that expensive. Note: on some occasions, we do give out one year memberships to our presenters in lieu of paying them for their professional presentation.

The website is still not fixed. Please mail membership checks to James Brennan, 139 Ashbrook Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 or you can pay in person at the meetings. We are working on membership cards. Stay tuned on that.

If you have a Facebook account, you might want to join our page and feel free to post pictures of your trips or even favorite mineral, or fossil.

We are in the process in getting our new brochures priced out.

We are still researching on club shirts. Stay tuned. We do appreciate all the feedback we received last month.

We, as a club, have agreed to continue our meetings throughout the summer since we have air conditioning!

The picnic is coming up in August. Live auction and free food!

On **July 14th** there will be a special 'dig' you might be interested in....

You've been hearing about this for sometime now and finally it's coming to fruition.

Gary has been acquiring collections over the years and has earmarked some of these items for DVESS. Many of these items have been used for door prizes, auctions, and banquet gifts in the past. Unfortunately, some of these items have been mixed up with store inventory and private collections. With your help we can use these for the rock raffle as well as adding some to your personal collections.

These specimens are in the crawl space under Gary's house. A 3-foot access panel is in the hall closet. There is a low ceiling with nails. There may be unwanted insects. Hard hats and lights are required. We don't want any injuries.

Place: Gary's House

Date: Sunday, July 14th

Time: 10:00-3:00

What to bring: - Lunch, snacks, water or beverage of choice.

-Flats, boxes, or buckets to carry your specimens home with you. You might also want to bring something to wrap your specimens.

-Pen and paper to write down what the specimens are. This may be provided.

-Hardhat, flashlights if you plan on going under the house.

Here's the plan: Some people will need to volunteer to go under the house to grab specimens and bring them to the opening.

- Then we'll need folks to bring them to the tables where Gary will determine if the specimens belong to the club or to Gary.

- The specimens that belong to Gary will be moved to where Gary wants them.

- The specimens that belong to the club will be taken to different tables. Trevor, Gary's associate, will help in identifying the specimens, if needed.

- We'll probably need volunteers to help Trevor labeling the specimens.

- Once a good number, (to be determined), of specimens have been identified, we will allow members to select one specimen from each box. This NEEDS to be fair to all members.

- The remaining specimens will go to the club for future rock raffles.

- This process will repeat as many times as possible and hopefully, different volunteers will do different tasks.

Please sign up at the meeting for this event or contact Mark or myself.

This is not a DVESS sanctioned event.

Joke:

Why should you never make fun of a paleontologist? Because you just might get you Jurasskicked!

John Arsenault - President

Field Trips and Events

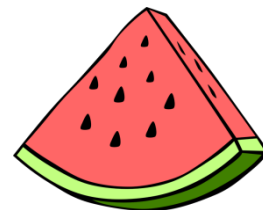
Trip Reports

Pickering Golf Course: Saturday, June 22nd: Several people were concerned with the extremely hot weather predicted for Saturday with the heat index up around 105⁰. I was tempted to cancel. I suggested that we start early around 8:30 because by 11:30 it was already supposed to be around 92⁰. Heat is my enemy. I came equipped with my coolant vest with 2 changes of ice packs to keep my core temperature cool. We met in the parking lot and we went into the Pro-Shop to let them know we were there and to see if they would rent us a golf cart. There were some issues with the cart usage, but we cleared that up for this visit. We headed to the parking area to load up our equipment and then proceed to our normal area near the smokestack to start. Those attending this trip were Billy and Christine Pape, John Arsenault, Fred Hochkile, Bob Bowman, Alex and Rebekuh Pepenella, Doug Withstandby and myself. We also met up with Lucas and his mom, Lisa, from a North Jersey Mineral Club. Then John, the older brother, led us to a newer area that was recently excavated. We collected for close to 3 hours. We found quartz, pyromorphite, galena, silver, limonite, goethite and sphalerite. I also found a very neat iridescent green sprawling micro crystal (unknown). The heat was really starting to get to us, so I loaded up the golf cart with our goodies and equipment and drove up to our vehicles. We ate lunch in the Pro-Shop grill. The food was pretty good. We discussed whether to stop for the day or explore the nearby Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, which I had collected at the Ecton (copper, zinc, lead) Mine back in the late 1970's. A smaller group followed to the Wildlife Sanctuary. I refreshed my coolant vest and we went into the sanctuary museum. They were having a Pollinator's Event and the entrance to the museum was free for the day. Then we went for a long walk to find the remains of the old brick smokestack and quarry spoils. After a while, most of the group headed back to the cars to get some cool

refreshments. Doug and I pursued the smokestack and quarry spoils. I found the smokestack and several specimens loaded with pyrite and other metals. We need to go back and explore when the heat index is less than 105+. Everyone was exhausted from the heat and walking all day. When we got to the car the temperature read 104⁰. I think everyone enjoyed the adventure of the day but we all agreed we could do without the heat. See photos in the newsletter.

Vincetown Eagle Trail- June 29th: We met in the parking lot at the head of the trail. It was another hot and humid day. Those on the trail were: Vince Male, John Arsenault, Karenne Snow, Len Porcelli (PMS & Leidy), Mike Heierbacher and his son Finn and myself. We set off on the Eagle Scout Trail to find the locality we collected previously. The water levels was higher than before so we proceeded to another more level collecting area. The water level was at the backup location was too high also. We then decided to go back to the original location and an adjacent flat area to collect our fossils. We will need to sieve our specimens to find the foraminiferas and other micro fossils. We also will need the assistance of a good microscope. After all was said and done, we had plenty of material to work with and mostly everyone was happy. We need to go back when the water level is about 6 inches lower. See photos in the newsletter.

Annual DVESS picnic – August 11th at Gerald and Jane 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 will 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. You may also bring specimens to put on a giveaway table. **Be careful where you park so as not to run over the lawn sprinkler heads.**



Speaker for July 10th Regular Meeting: Our speaker will be Dean Ruocco. Dean is a 17 year old rising senior at Upper Dublin High School. He has dedicated himself to collecting and understanding Pennsylvania's vast Paleozoic faunas and their implications on stratigraphic correlation. His presentation will be on the Mahantango Formation and the vast number of fossils found at various localities. He has also been collecting Eurypterid fossils since he was seven. He has always been interested in paleozoic arthropods, and at a young age, fell in love with eurypterids. He started his own fossil company at fourteen and began to collect eurypterids extensively in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ontario. Dean has had many lucky

opportunities to befriend great eurypterid collectors, such as the late Samuel Cirurca and Allan Lang. He has amassed a large collection of Upper Silurian and Lower Devonian Eurypterids from across the world, with a focus on the northeastern United States.

Geology Outreach:

Delco Academy: Collingsdale, PA: I was invited to come into the Delco Academy in Delaware County, PA, on June 4th, to talk to several classrooms about fluorescent minerals. The teacher, Stacey Bamash, a former member of DVESS, told the students about these special rocks that were fluorescent. The students did not believe her. I figured this was a great opportunity for them to learn something new. I went into the school with a black box, constructed by Ray and Billy Pape, armed with several short & long wave ultraviolet lights to make the students believers. We found a way to make all the rooms totally dark. I had their attention for the entire time. I taught them about fluorescence and phosphorescence. The kids, ranging in age from 8 to 16, had a great time and actually learned something other than playing games on their phones. We need to reach out to schools, scouting groups, libraries and senior centers to spread the word about science.

55 and Over Community at Lake Oburst Club House in Glassboro, NJ: Sunday, June 23rd: About 12 years ago, I went into my parents 55 and older community and talked to them about fossils, minerals and fluorescent minerals. I was asked to speak again at a BBQ for Father's Day, on June 23rd at their community clubhouse. I had four large tables filled with numerous fossils and my black box in a totally dark room for fluorescent mineral demonstration. There were many questions as to when the Edelman Fossil Park and Museum was going to open. I explained how fossils were formed and where they could be found. I split the group into smaller groups so that everyone could see the fluorescent minerals from Franklin and Sterling Hill quarries. I also gave everyone in attendance a belemnite from Sewell and a piece of petrified wood from Turnersville. I mentioned our club, DVESS, and how we have guest speakers who talk about geology related topics as well as our field trip to collect our own specimens. I had a fantastic time talking to everyone about fossils, fluorescent minerals and geology in general. I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

Future Trips:

Summer Trip to Herkimer Mountain, Fonda/Johnstown, NY: July/August time frame to collect Herkimer Diamonds. The cost is \$100 per person/day. This would also require an overnight stay. Please sign up if you think you might be interested at the regular July meeting.

Dinosaur Park in Laurel Maryland: TBD: We are gathering a list of volunteers who would be interested in working at a dinosaur site. We have no set date but we're in contact with JP Hodnett to set up a date later this year. Please sign up if you are interested in digging at a real

dinosaur dig site. This site is run by the National Park Service and you can not remove any dinosaur material from the site. Please sign up if you think you are interested at our regular July meeting.

National Limestone Quarry at Mt. Pleasant Mills on Saturday, July 27th: I contacted Eric Stahl from the Nation Limestone Quarry and we are going to the Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA site to collect calcite, celestine, strontianite, fluorite, wavellite and even fossils just to name a few. We will be meeting at the quarry at 10:00 am. Please sign up if you are interested in attending this trip at the regular July meeting. You'll need different type of hammers and chisels, buckets, safety goggles, gloves, water, snacks, and sun block.

Mark Leipert - Vice President



NEWS

Iceland's volcano eruptions may last decades

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/06/240626152033.htm>

Drone footage shows Europe's most active volcano roaring with lava

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/04/world/video/mount-etna-erupting-drone-video-ldn-digvid>

Photos

Pickering Golf Course and Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary: Saturday, June 22nd

by Frederick Hochkile and John Arsenault



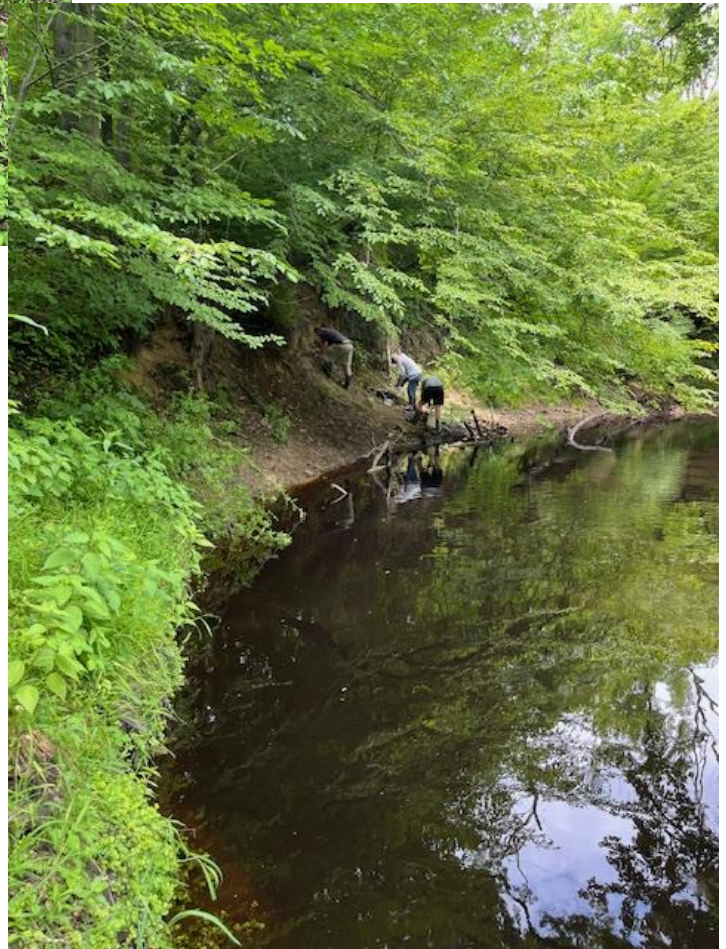






Vincentown microfossil dig

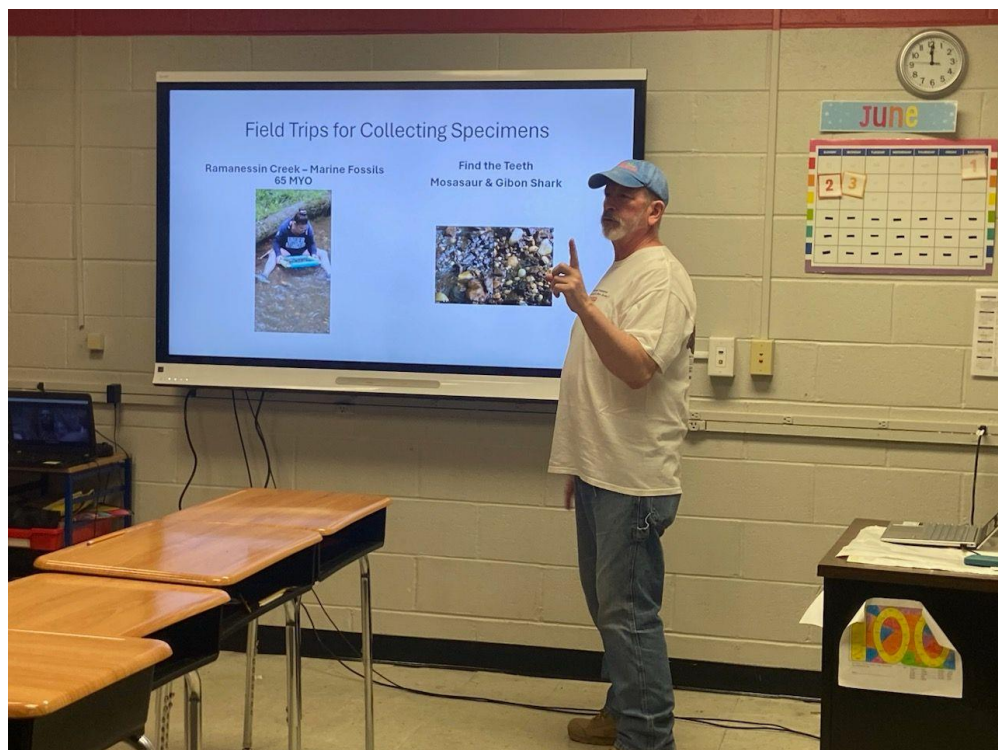
by John Arsenault







Presentation of Fluorescent Minerals to Delco Academy, Delaware County, Collingdale, PA.



Presentation at Lake Oburst Senior Community Center, Glassboro, NJ



DVESS Directory for 2024

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
<p>President: John Arsenault 856-495-8550 Asuwsh4@yahoo.com</p> <p>Vice President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 mark.leipert@yahoo.com</p> <p>Secretary: Cathy Eskew ceskew5@gmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 brenimage@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Junior Rockhounds Chair: Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763 WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com</p> <p>Field Trips: Mark Leipert</p> <p>Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile</p> <p>Membership: James Brennan</p>
<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Other Information:</u>
<p>Editor: Susan Moore aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Website:</u> www.DVESS.org</p> <p><u>Facebook:</u> <i>DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</i></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.

