

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWLETTER



◆◆◆◆ our 57th year ◆◆◆◆

Next Meeting: June 12th, 2013

Program: tba

Location: Education Bldg. behind Centenary United Methodist Church
149 South White Horse Pike, Berlin NJ 08009

President's Message: By Mark Leipert, President

With the first heat wave under our belt, the summer of 2013 has begun. Many of you will be going on vacation this summer visiting many interesting places. Remember, if you find anything interesting enough to share with the rest of the club that September's program is "Show and Tell". Have a safe and pleasant collecting experience this summer.

Staten Island Field Trip, Saturday, May 18th – Five members of the club braved the dreary looking day to go collecting at a serpentine mineral locality. Those five were: Sue VanCola, Susan Moore, Ann Benson, Jim Brennan and myself. We met Dr. Steven Okulewicz up in Staten Island who lead our club to this classic serpentine outcrop. The outcrop of Staten Island serpentinite along R-278 which we were able to access from a cul-de-sac. I don't know how long this outcrop will be available after the Staten Island Department of Transportation has decided to backfill the abandoned off-ramp to R-278. We talked with the site foreman and with others at the site for permission. They were nice enough to take a break for a little while we collected. The green rock is about 425 million years old and forms the highest topography south of Maine at 413 feet above sea level. The site has serpentine group minerals (mostly

lizardite, chrysotile, and some antigorite), with small magnetite and chromite crystals. Secondary rhombs of talc and calcite fill veins and fractures. Also found were aragonite crystals filling veins, brucite, peccolite needles, and hydromagnesite coating many of the weathered serpentine. If we are lucky we might find some purple stichtite and gold pyroaurite. We hope to have several specimens that were collected on display at our June 12th meeting.

Geology Grand Tour, June 22nd –

This is a geology study and collecting trip conducted by DVESS Field Trip co-Chair and Geologic Assn. of NJ founding member Lou “Doc Rock” Detofsky and our other Field Trip co-Chair, President Mark Leipert.

ITINERARY – The itinerary has changed from last year's trip. The first two stops the Inversand Marl Pits; Sewell, NJ and Irish Hill; Runnemede, NJ have been removed from last year's itinerary. We plan on stopping at the following locations during the course of the “Grand Tour: Trenton State Museum; Titusville (DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS); Lambertville; Byram; Frenchtown; Milford, PA; Coffman Bucks County Park; Hellertown (Ringing Rocks), New Hope (Bowman's Tower), and Lost River Caverns. We are working on some new additions for this trip. The information will be provided to you if you attend the trip.

WHAT TO BRING:

Tools: rock hammer, boots for wet areas

Collecting Equipment: collecting bag, notebook, newspaper, zip lock bags, ball point pens, sharpies, index cards (specimen name, locality, formation, age), vials, medicine bottles.

Safety Equipment: hard hat, gloves, first aid kit, sunscreen, OFF,

Misc: camera, plenty of water, snack bars, snacks and lunch.

ATTENDEES:

This trip is intended for adults who are members of DVESS or another club covered by American Federation insurance. Registration is limited to fifteen people; contact Mark Leipert 609-567-7551 or email to (mark.leipert@yahoo.com) or Ann (856-783-0969) to register. We plan on using the Baptist Church's 15 passenger van. If you're interested in going please sign up at the meeting on June 12th.

Big Brook Fossil Trip, Marlboro, NJ (or alternative fossil locality), Saturday June 29th – We will be taking a fossil collecting trip to one of our old favorite localities for shark teeth, *Belemnitella Americana*, as well as other vertebrate fossils like fish, turtle, sting ray, crocodile, mosasaur, plesiosaur and some rare dinosaur fossils. Large specimens of fossil shells, *Exogyra*, are common in the stream sediments. Bring boots and a screen for sorting fossils from the stream deposits. It has recently been brought to our attention that the Big Brook Fossil Preserve has limited collecting to 5 fossils per person per day. This would make for a very short trip, so we may be looking into an alternative location. If you have some suggestions give me a call or send me an email. More details to come. Please sign up for this trip at the June 12th meeting.

D.V.E.S.S Summer Picnic: Our annual picnic will be held at the home of Gerald Feigan on Sunday, July 14th at 1:00. The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs as well as soda and water. Please bring other items such as salads, baked beans, snacks and desserts. An email will be sent around for you to tell us what you are bringing. Bring your bathing suit to go swimming and stay cool in the pool.

There will be a club auction at the picnic. We will be auctioning off materials from Claire Leap, Len Morgan, and many more surprises. Please bring materials to be auctioned off, too.

Minutes of the DVESS General Meeting - May 8, 2013

By Grant Elliott, Recording Secretary

Meeting was held at Centenary UM Church in Berlin, NJ.

Attendance: AnnLynne Benson- 1st VP/Special Events Coordinator/Membership, Lou Detofsky- 2nd VP, Gary Weinstein- Treasurer/Program Chair, Grant Elliott- Recording Secretary, Mark Leipert- President/Field Trip Chair, Mil LeCompte- Jr Rockhound Coordinator/ Facilitator. and Susan Moore- Newsletter Editor (aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com).

Lance Schnatterly- Cyber Consultant ([facebook.com/DVESSNJ](https://www.facebook.com/DVESSNJ)) could not attend.

Stu Cleveland, Bob & Sally Todd, Evelyn Vickovich, James Lawless, Scott Shild & 2 children, Heather Bolton, Sue Vancola, Ted Leydon, and Jim Brennan were also present.

President Mark Leipert gaveled commencement of the meeting at approximately 8:05pm.

Mark read Margit Holsworth's obituary. Membership voted to donate \$50.00 to the Audubon Society in her memory.

Sterling Hill will provide onsite storage in the future for our annual "DIGG" event equipment and field infrastructure items, which will save Mil a ton of hours labor.

DVESS honorary membership be awarded to Terry Wilson, Jeff Winkler, and Rick & Alice Harty. Also, all Sterling Hill volunteers will receive free admission to October's Annual Banquet.

Program:

AMNH DVD "Journey to the Stars" narrated by Whoopi Goldberg.

Future Programs:

May - September T.B.D.- Amy Carpenelli tentatively scheduled as speaker for July. Derek Yoost and John Sanfacon in the works.

October 2013- Lou will present a monumental treatise on the archeology and geology of the Mediterranean (Italy, Turkey, and Greece).

Special Events/Field Trips:

A number of earth science trips planned once the weather warms up. Trips will include many of the following (dates and details to follow):

- Whale Back, Deer Lake, and Saint Clair
- Inversand (Opening up April 5th) Mark is continuing to stay close to the principals.
- Cornwall Furnace Museum and Indian Echo Caverns, Wheatly Mine, Ecton Mine, Upper New Street Quarry, Delaware Museum of Natural History, The Mutter Museum, The Prehistoric Museum in Greenwich Township, NJ.

Waiting for Berlin Baptist Church Board approval to use their 15-passenger van for some of these events. Forwarding DVESS certificate of insurance to Church.

Scheduled:

May 18th – Magician/geologist/professor Dr. Steve Okulewicz will lead an expedition to a serpentine mineral body on Staten Island. Sign-up sheet at general meeting

June 22nd – Lou's Grand (Coastal Geology) Tour – 15 passenger van trip, if Berlin Baptist Church allows usage of the vehicle. Sign-up sheet at general meeting.

June 29th – Big Brook stream sediment fossil expedition. Sign-up sheet at general meeting.

July 14th – DVESS Summer Picnic at Gerald Feigin's house- Donations from previous years (Clare Leap collection, etc.) will be auctioned.

September 21st – Sterling Hill Mine Club Tour

October 13th – Annual Club Banquet at Mandarin Restaurant- featuring Magician/Geologist/Professor Dr. Steve Okulewicz presentation.

Other Business:

Jilian Shild won specimen door prize.

Future Executive Board meetings:

May 15th- At Grant's house in Williamstown.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

News

May 13, 2013. Mexico's [National Center for Disaster Prevention reported](#) that **Popocatepetl volcano** was experiencing explosions and expulsions of ash and gas. Authorities restricted access within 12 kilometers of the volcano.

May 14, 2013. **Pavlof and Cleveland volcanos**, in the Aleutian Island range southwest of mainland Alaska, are showing activity, including lava flows. According to John Power, a scientist from the U.S. Geological Survey "They are very similar, and both have the ability to erupt."

May 14, 2013. **Solar flare activity** is heating up, with at least four X class flares in a 48-hour period. So far, they have been pointed away from Earth. Current Space Weather Conditions from NOAA <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

Iceland expands volcano monitoring

Installation is under way of an expanded monitoring system for Iceland's volcanoes, which it is hoped will give the world more warning of the next big eruption.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/science-environment-22555779>

NASA Radar Reveals Asteroid Has Its Own Moon

A sequence of radar images of asteroid 1998 QE2 was obtained on the evening of May 29, 2013, by NASA scientists using the 230-foot (70-meter) Deep Space Network antenna at Goldstone, Calif., when the asteroid was about 3.75 million miles (6 million kilometers) from Earth, which is 15.6 lunar distances.

The radar imagery revealed that 1998 QE2 is a binary asteroid. In the near-Earth population, about 16 percent of asteroids that are about 655 feet (200 meters) or larger are binary or triple systems. Radar images suggest that the main body, or primary, is approximately 1.7 miles (2.7 kilometers) in diameter and has a rotation period of less than four hours.

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?release=2013-182>

Websites of the Month

The Geology of Staten Island <http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/as/geo/sigeo.htm>

Big Brook Fossil Identification Guide <http://www.njfossils.net/cover.html>

USGS, Current Alerts for U.S. Volcanos <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/activity/status.php>

American Federation <http://www.amfed.org/>

Eastern Federation <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>

Wildacres Spring 2013 workshops <http://efmls-wildacres.org/page2/index.html>



Staten Island Field Trip - May 18th, 2013

photos by Jim Brennan



Dr. Steve Okulewicz [in the green jacket] lead our club to a serpentine body on Staten Island, NY. The site is an unused ramp for Route 278. A large central portion of the bedrock was exposed by the original excavation. More construction work is going on at the site - note the muddy, freshly exposed ground surface in the photos.



1 ARAGONITE VEIN



2 PECTOLITE OUTCROP



Upcoming Field Trips

June 22 – Grand (Coastal Geology) Tour – Bus Trip.

June 29 – Big Brook Fossil Trip.

Shows and Events

June

June 1–2, Eastern Federation Convention Plainview, NY hosted by Rockhounds and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club

July

July 14th - DVESS Summer Picnic at Gerald Feigin's house - Donations from previous years (Clare Leap collection, etc.) will be auctioned

Looking Ahead

September 18th - 22nd - AFMS/SFMS Convention and Show, Heavens and Earth, Jacksonville, FL
<http://www.amfed.org/show2013.htm>

September 28-29 - 49th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

October 13th - Annual Club Banquet at Mandarin Restaurant- featuring Magician/Geologist/Professor Dr. Steve Okulewicz presentation.

October 12th - Sterling Hill Mine Club Tour (tentatively scheduled)

October 13-19 – Earth Science Week 2013 promotes awareness of the many exciting uses of maps and mapping technologies in the geosciences. <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>

October 26 - The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA presents our Annual “ULTRAVIOLATION” an all Fluorescent Mineral Show, at the First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA. Information contact Chuck O’Loughlin: ultraviolation@yahoo.com



2013 Super Science Saturdays at the Iron Hill Museum, 1355 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark, DE 19702 12:30pm – 3:00pm

June 8 – All About Paleontology

Check out the Museum’s calendar at http://www.ironhill-museum.org/museum_calendar.htm



Hadrosaurus fouldii, looking quite at home among the trees in Haddonfield

Club Brochures

Please pick up one or two yellow club brochures and have them on hand in your vehicle or handbag to give out to folks. If you see a parent and child, strike up a conversation by asking, "Does your child like rocks or dinosaurs?" Offer them a club brochure; if they're not from our area, addresses and websites for the American Federation are on the back of the brochure. Your small gesture may make a world of difference to that child, his/her family, and to our club.



Quote of the Month

"To uphold a tenet that contradicts reason is to undermine one's credibility. To contradict empirical evidence is a still greater fallacy." *The Dalai Lama*

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:

\$15.00 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

\$10.00 for Rowan University Students with College ID

Sponsoring Membership: (each additional family member - \$5.00)

"Silver" \$50.00 for 1st family member – receive a Geode Specimen

"Gold" \$75.00 for 1st family member – receive Mineral Specimen

"Platinum" \$100.00 for 1st 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. How about some photos of your prized specimens or latest collecting trip? Share them with us!



