

# DVESScapades

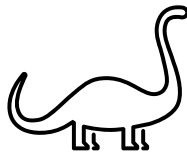
*escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures*



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



March 2026



**This Meeting:** Wednesday, March 11th. Tess Gallagher, a PhD student at Rowan University, will speak about “The Color and Texture of Giants.”

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 8th

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

## President's Message

Has everyone had enough snow for a while? Well, after the deep freeze and ice storm that covered everything for 2 to 3 weeks and the 16-to-18-inch snowstorm, I'm hoping winter's reign is close to being over for this year. The weather people don't get it right until after the storm is over. They've been teasing us with mid to upper 60's and even 70's but it's still cloudy and cooler than predicted. I know everyone is chomping at the bit to get out and start collecting. The first day of spring is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Maybe we've seen the last of the real cold weather as well as any sizeable snowfall.

I'm looking for a few people to give a short presentation, approximately 15 minutes, at our meetings to allow people to share things that they like as part of the earth science, geology, paleontology field, etc. Please contact me if you are interested. Thanks.

Please feel free to bring some type of refreshments and light snacks to our meetings. We'll put a sign-up sheet at this month's meeting.

We still have at least one more behind-scene tour of one or more museums while waiting for the warmer weather. I'm still looking at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel and the Wagner Free Institute. I'm also still working on arrangements to get the club into the new Edelman Fossil Park and Museum. We've agreed that a Sunday is the best day for club members to meet but I now need to nail down the details and agree on the time and date with the museum. Once I have all the details confirmed an announcement will be made. Will it be a meeting/tour or just a museum tour with the hope for a behind the scenes tour in the "Collections and Preparation Room"? Do we need to purchase tickets? What type of group discount can we get? More details at upcoming meeting.

### Programs:

**On Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** at our regular meeting our guest speaker was Alexander Falster (author, renowned researcher, chemist), who presented, "Symmetry, crystals, and crystallography." He provided an in-depth explanation about the crystal systems, using 3-D symmetry & the Miller Indices to show crystal axes, forms (open & closed) & crystal morphology. The mineral Falsterite is named after him! We enjoyed this interesting presentation very much!

**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting:** At this month's meeting we have the pleasure of having Tess Gallagher, a PhD student at Rowan University, to talk about "The Color and Texture of Giants."

"Tess Gallagher is a paleobiologist who specializes in studying dinosaur skin, from its physiology, preservation and color patterning. She acquired her bachelor's at Union College in Schenectady, New York, and her Paleobiology masters at the University of Bristol, UK. Her primary focus is taphonomy, physiology, and color patterning of dinosaur scales. Her previous work on juvenile diplodocid skin advanced our understanding of the appearance and physiology of these animals. Juvenile *Diplodocus* were highly textured animals, just like modern day reptiles, and may have had color patterns that were just as diverse." Tess has been published in the Royal Society Publishing with an article titled "Fossilized Melanosomes Reveal Color Patterning in a Sauropod Dinosaur. Her groundbreaking research uncovered preserved color patterning in a *Diplodocus*. Tess is also quite an accomplished paleo-artist. Tess is also a team member of the Edelman Fossil Park and Museum.

### **Field Trips and Happenings:**

#### **Monmouth Amateur Paleontologist Society (MAPS): Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

A team of 10 DVESS members arrived at the Monmouth Amateur Paleontology Society a little after 10:00 am. Fred and I were there about 3 years ago. The remaining 8 were first timers. The group included: Peggie Thompson, Jenny Mulligan, Karen Sweeten, Andre Pugliese, Phyllis Greico, Fred Hochkile, Jill Lee, Gina & Natalie Shearer and myself. Ralph had two MAPS members, Emma Larsen and Trevor Martin, there to assist with the tour and answer questions.

Ralph has a very detailed and one of the most complete fossil collections of New Jersey Cretaceous Fossils. We were there for about 3 ½ hours. Ralph showed us his display cases, flat file drawers loaded with various fossils from many different localities, many of which don't exist anymore. There was drawer after drawer with ammonites, belemnites, Exogyra, Bryozoan, Baculites and many other invertebrates as well as several dinosaur bones. He also shared that he has close to 40 research projects that he would love to have students adopt. Ralph has a world-class museum filled with world-class specimens. If you didn't go on this

trip, you missed a great one. We may go back in the fall if there is enough interest.

**C.K. Williams Quarry, Saturday, May 2nd:** Once again we have been invited to join North Jersey Mineralogical Society (NoJMS) and Friends of Mineralogy NJ Chapter (FM-NJ). We will meet at a meeting location where we can carpool with others. The plan is to meet at Jay R. Snyder Memorial Park at Eddyside Beach at 9:45. Serpentine, asbestiform minerals and various micas, pegmatite bodies are present with feldspar, quartz, micas, schorl, titanite and associated minerals. Some radioactive minerals are present. If you have a Geiger counter, feel free to bring it along. Sign up at the March and April meetings.

**Wagner Free Institute tour: Date TBD.** This tour would have to happen during the weekdays, Monday through Friday. We can possibly accommodate a group as large as 15. Please sign up at the meeting if you're interested in attending.

**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. Its to take place between mid-June to August. I'll be looking for a few volunteers once I get more details.

**Delaware Mineralogical Society, 62<sup>nd</sup> Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show:** March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Double Tree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803, Saturday 10 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday 11 am – 5:00 pm, Seniors \$6.00, Adults \$7.00, Juniors \$4.00, Scouts and children under 12 Free.

**Cape Atlantic Rockhounds, 2026 Spring Gem & Mineral Show:** May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 4:00 pm, Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, 3210 Route 50 Mays Landing, NJ 08330, Free Admission & Parking, Rain or Shine.

**Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair 2026, Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society:** Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 4:00 pm, Adults \$7.00, \$2.00 kids 12 and under, Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA

**Mark Leipert - President**

## **Condensed Minutes for February Meeting**

Condensed meeting minutes from 2/11/2026 held at the Atco Senior Center. We collected \$56 from the rock raffle. Attendance was 32 total from online and in person. Possible trips were presented such as to The Academy of Natural Sciences and The Wagner Free Institute, both in Philly with parking nearby.

Mark discussed the possibility of having a meeting at the Edelman Fossil Museum where we might be able to have a tour of the facility and/or the Paleo Lab. Helping with the summer program at the Waterford Library was discussed with a chance to sign up to show/teach kids about minerals & fossils. Up coming Mineral/ Fossil Shows were announced. Karen asked for help in looking for people who might be interested in showcasing part of their collections, experiences, stories, etc for our future meetings. Phyllis might have a lead for a presenter from the Wissahickon Park. If you still need to pay dues, please see Jim. Alexander Falster (author, renowned researcher, chemist) presented "Symmetry, crystals, and crystallography." He provided an in-depth explanation about the crystal systems, using 3-D symmetry & the Miller Indices to show crystal axes, forms (open & closed) & crystal morphology. Mr. Falster is an Experimental Chemist and Researcher for William B. Simmons Research Laboratory at the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum and one of the founders of the MP2 Research Group. Fun fact- the mineral Falsterite is named after him! It was very interesting and enjoyable!

**Karen Sweeten**

Secretary

## PHOTOS

by Karen Sweeten and Mark Leipert

### MAPS Trip on Saturday, February 21















## *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> <i>DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</i></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).

