

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



May, 2014

**Next Meeting:** May 14th

**Program:** John Sanfacon on Crown Jewels of the World for the past 2000 years.

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

**President's Message:** By Mark Leipert, President

**Super Dig, Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** - Wow! We pulled off another successful "Super Dig." We had over 260 registered/walk-in collectors who totaled over 3.5 tons of fluorescent minerals to take home. Many thanks to Mel LeCompte for a job well done. Many hours of planning and preparing went into making this weekend's event a giant



success. I'd like to thank everyone who helped out in any way, from our own members to the Sterling Hill Mine staff, to the two Boy Scout Troops and others. Door prizes were donated by UV World and Gary's Gem Garden. It really was a great event. The weather was almost perfect, except for a few showers. We want your feedback on how we can continue to improve things at next year's "Super Dig."

**Super Science Saturday, May 3rd at Trenton State Museum** - On Saturday May 3rd, Super Science Saturday, our club had a display table at the NJ State Museum in Trenton. This was a FREE, FAMILY event featuring **Free Admission, Free Parking, Free Performances, and Free Face Painting!**

**Special thanks to Jim Brennan, Robert & Sally Todd and Gerald Feigin for mineral donations to be given out.** I also collected some fluorescent minerals to give away. Ann and I will update everyone on how well the event was attended at the meeting on Wednesday.

### **Geology Grand Tour, June 21st**

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:**

Sewell, NJ – Inversand Marl Pit; Runnemede – Irish Hill; Trenton – State Museum; Titusville (DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS); Lambertville; Byram; Frenchtown; Milford. PA; Coffman – Bucks County Park; Hellertown (Ringing Rocks); New Hope (Bowman's Tower); Lost River Caverns.

#### **WHAT TO BRING:**

**Tools:** rock hammer, boots for wet areas

**Collecting Equipment:** collecting bag, notebook, newspaper, zip lock bags, ball point pens, index cards (specimen name, locality, formation, age), vials, Crystal Light cans,

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

**Misc:** camera, plenty of water, snack bars.

#### **ATTENDEES:**

This trip is intended for adults who are members of DVESS or another club covered by American Federation insurance. Registration may be limited to a specific number of people (unknown at this time how many); contact Mark Leipert 609-567-7551 or email to ([mark.leipert@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.leipert@yahoo.com)) or Ann (856-783-0969 or 856-418-6121 text) to register.

We hope to have the use of the Baptist Church's 15 passenger van otherwise we will be car pooling. If you're interested in going please sign up at the meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Big Brook Fossil Trip, Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>** - 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. More details to come. Please sign up for this trip at the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Annual D.V.E.S.S Summer Picnic** - Our annual picnic will be held at the home of **Gerald Feigin on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 (Rain date is Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>)**. 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 old books, minerals specimens, rock tumbler, to rock polishing equipment and many more surprises. Please bring materials to be auctioned off, too.

## News

### **USGS: Magma levels inside Mount St. Helens on the rise**

According to Seth Moran, a volcano seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, "This is giving long-term (data) that it's getting ready to erupt again, but it could be decades before it does something again," Moran said. "It's getting ready but it's not there."

[http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2014/04/usgs\\_magma\\_levels\\_inside\\_mount.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2014/04/usgs_magma_levels_inside_mount.html)

### **Bus-Size Asteroid Buzzes Earth, Comes Closer Than the Moon**

A newly discovered asteroid came within 186,000 miles (299,338 kilometers) of Earth on May 3rd, close enough to pass within the orbit of the moon. Video animation of the asteroid's orbit -

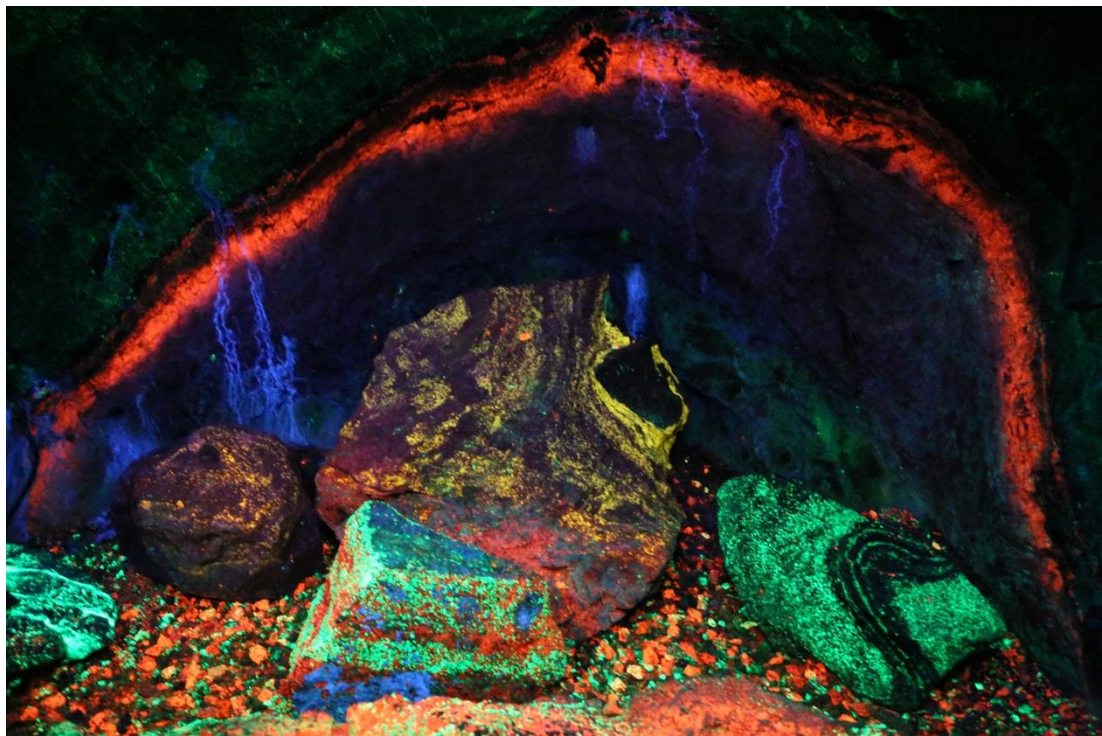
<http://www.space.com/25739-space-rock-to-zip-between-earth-and-moon-orbit-animation.html>

<http://news.discovery.com/space/asteroids-meteors-meteorites/bus-sized-asteroid-buzzes-earth-closer-than-moon-140503.htm>

## Sterling Hill Big Dig Photos

by Jim Brennan





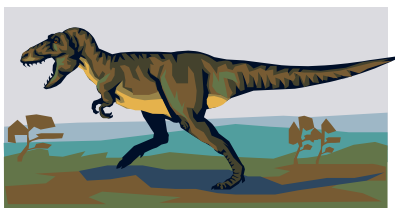


And another rainbow....

## Upcoming Field Trips

**Big Brook Fossil Trip, Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>** - a fossil collecting trip to one of our old favorite localities.

**Lou's Grand (Coastal Geology) Tour** – June 21, 2014 (Rain date June 22nd). Highlights - Inversand Marl Pit, Irish Hill, Trenton State Museum, dinosaur footprints, Ringing Rocks, Bowman's Tower, and Lost River Caverns.



## Fall Fun at Wildacres

by Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

Wildacres in the fall...

- Cool breezes after a long, hot summer.
- Days spent enjoying our hobby without the interruptions of radio, television, traffic and work.
- Being served delicious meals without having to cook them.
- Learning new skills from our wonderful instructors.
- Gaining new knowledge from our interesting speaker.

And all of this for a very reasonable cost of \$390 per person for the week (class supplies are extra). What more could anyone ask for?

For over forty years now the EFMLS has enjoyed the Wildacres facility to conduct its educational retreats. People have come back year after year to participate in this excellent opportunity to immerse themselves in our all-encompassing program. Not only do registrants gain knowledge and new skills, but many have developed life-long friendships with other participants.

Our speakers over the years have run the gamut of mineralogists, geologists, jewelry experts, and world travelers. This fall we are pleased to have Justin Zzyzx, well known mineral collector and editor as our Speaker-in-Residence. Justin, who will be accompanied by his wife Brandy, will present six talks to us during the week, live on campus, and participate in all our activities.

If you've not yet registered, why not do so? The earlier you send in, the better your chance of getting your preferred choice of classes. The dates are September 1 – 7. <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>

## Shows and Events

### May 2014

**May 17–18 - Leesport, PA** - 46th Annual "World of Gems & Minerals" sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, Rt 61; Leesport, PA.

**May 24 - Towson, MD** - 25th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Club. Ruhl Armory, I-695 at exit 26, Towson, MD.

**May 31-June 1, 2014 - Riverdale, NJ** - The North Jersey Mineralogical Society's Annual Spring Outdoor Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Swap, The Glenburn Estate, 211 Hamburg Tpk., Riverdale, NJ. [www.nojms.webs.com](http://www.nojms.webs.com)

### June 2014

**June 7 - Macungie, PA** - Spring Mineralfest – Mineral, Fossil and Gem Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA.

**June 7–8 - Monroe, NY** Orange County Mineral Society annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil show sell and swap. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Museum Village, 1010 Rt. 17M, Monroe, NY 10950 On Display is the most complete Mastodon found in New York State; Museum collection of local minerals; New Fluorescent Mineral Display. We will also have a Sluice. Special admission for the Museum and Show; adults \$5.00 seniors and kids \$3.00; Scouts in uniform and kids under 6 free. [www.Orangecountymineralsocietynewyork.com](http://www.Orangecountymineralsocietynewyork.com)

### July 2014

**July 13 - Annual D.V.E.S.S Summer Picnic** - Our annual picnic will be held at the home of Gerald Feigin on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 (Rain date is Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>). There will be a club auction at the picnic.



### Looking ahead

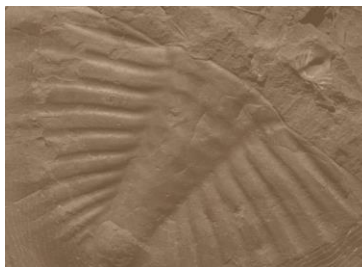
**November 1–2: Exton, PA** - 45th Annual Gemarama 2014 sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. School at Church Farm, 1001 E Lincoln Highway, Exton, PA 19341.

## Quote of the Month

"Whereas non-scientific (and potentially dangerous) thinking starts with a premise and then looks for things that support it, scientific thinking constantly tries to disprove itself. That alone makes all the difference in the world." *Derren Brown*

## 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.



## 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

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

"Silver" \$50.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive a Geode Specimen

"Gold" \$75.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive Mineral Specimen

"Platinum" \$100.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com). Show us the highlights of your collection!

