

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



May 2018

Next meeting - May 9th

7:00 pm Junior Rockhounds classes and adult social hour

8:00 pm Program: Jacob Setera from Rutgers on Breakup of Pangea, mass extinctions and potential new hotspots. How do the igneous rocks in the White Mountains of NH relate?

Upcoming Programs:

June: William Stephens

July and August - no regular meetings

September: Show and Tell

November: Lauren Adamo from Rutgers on the history of the geology museum



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

President's Corner:

Well, it seems as though we went directly from winter to summer. We are working on a summer full of an exciting mix of minerals and fossils collecting trips. Below you will find several trips that are tentatively planned for the next few months. Please sign up for these trips at the regular meeting. We may also plan on a few short notice trips for scouting out sites before we plan them for a club trip. All of our trips are subject to cancellation due to severe weather conditions.

Franklin Mineral Museum Super Digg, Saturday, April 28th: Saturday was an extremely overcast start to the Super Digg. The sun looked as if it might never come out. Someone showed up at 5:00 am. More people were showing up around 7:00. Everyone was looking at the sky and saying it's supposed to burn off around 10:00. People were already in line at 8:20 am for the first session of special "Mill Site" material. At 9:00 sharp people filed into the fenced staking claim to the areas many of them worked last year. Steve Phillips raked out the pile to expose more quality material. The flow of people entering the blackout tent, to view their finds, was non-stop. Just like clockwork the sun burned through the clouds by 10:00. There were very nice fluorescent calcite and Willemite with Franklinite and Zincite mixed in, large chunks of Hardingstonite and Sphalerite with many more minerals that didn't fluoresce. Throughout the day there were hourly museum tours as well as two special guided geology tours over across from the Buckwheat mine dump near the Trotter mine. The weather held out to near 7:00 pm when a bad lightening storm with high wind and colder temperatures arrived. But that couldn't hold back the die-hard collectors.



Special thanks go out to those who made the Super Digg a huge success: Jeff Winkler, Jim Cooper, Mil LeCompte, Stacey Bamash, Kathy Veston, Fran Kinsey, Jim Brennan, Brian Schwab and Zac "the Ironman" Schwab, Herb Kropnick, Mike Denton, Mike Russo, Steve Phillips, Carol and Debbie from the Franklin Mineral Museum crew, the Boy Scouts and their leaders and Mark Leipert. The final numbers are not in yet but we had somewhere around 150 collectors in attendance and almost one and a quarter tons of rock removed from the site. Mark your calendar now because next year's Super Digg is on April 29th, 2019.

Sayreville, NJ Amber, Marcasite and Lignite collecting trip, Saturday, May 12th: We will be returning to the clay pits area where we scouted out the site last fall. We found many small pieces of amber with a few chunks of marcasite and lignite. Let's hope the ticks continue to stay away. Sign up for the trip at the regular meeting.

Phoenixville Area Locations on Saturday, June 9th: We will visit a new location to find dolomite crystals before we head over to the Pickering Golf Course to visit the Brookdale and Chester Mines to find quartz crystals, pyromorphite, and possibly some silver and lead. Sign up for the trip at the regular meeting.

Edelman Fossil Park at Rowan University, September 2018: details forthcoming on the Annual Community Day Dig. If you would like to help out at our table at the event or sign up for an opportunity to dig and look for fossils, stay tuned.

Medford Quarry in Maryland: Date TBD. We are getting closer to setting a date for a mineral collecting trip to this quarry. I've been told that there is Dog Tooth Calcite, Malachite, fluorescent Calcite and quartz scepters to name a few. Details to follow. If you are interested sign up at the regular meeting.

Special Trip for late September entitled: The role that Geology played during the Gettysburg Campaign. At the time of the Civil War, the science of geology was young, and military geology, as the term is understood today, was years in the future. Yet the principles of military geology, applied or all too often not applied, influenced decisively the outcome of more than one campaign. The Gettysburg campaign is an excellent example of intelligent use by commanders of both armies of terrain and topography and, therefore, of geology.

Explore the rocky heights-the Round Tops, Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery and Culps Hills, the mile of treeless plain where Pickett made his ill-fated charge and discover the reasons how geology resulted in the losses of more than 51,000 soldiers in just three days during the nation's bloodiest conflict.

Due to the enormity of the area to be covered such as the National Military Park, which covers an area of about 15 square miles as well as other points of interest found in the historic borough of Gettysburg, an overnight stay is recommended considering the overall travel time.

Mark Leipert, President









Quote of the Month:

Every particular in nature, a leaf, a drop, a crystal, a moment of time is related to the whole, and partakes of the perfection of the whole. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

News



Lava from volcano eruption in Hawaii destroys 2 homes

https://abcnews.go.com/US/evacuations-ordered-hawaii-volcano-erupts/story?id=54927569&cid=clicksource_4380645_1_hero_headlines_headlines_hed

U.S. Volcanoes and Current Activity Alerts

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/index.html>

Shows and Events

May

May 12: The Earth Science Show & Sale, Presented by The Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA at Christ United Methodist Church, 501 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, PA; 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Jewelry & All Things Related to the Earth Sciences; Admission: \$2.00 Donation, Children 12 & Under Free.

June

June 2: Mineralfest, Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. Mineralfest is the biannual mineral, fossil, and gem show. Breakfast and lunch available in the building. Free parking, rain or shine, adult admission only \$2.00, free admission and mineral specimens for children under 12, door prizes awarded hourly, gold panning and sluicing demonstrations. <http://www.mineralfest.com/>



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.

