

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



May 2026



**This Meeting:** Wednesday, May 13th. Mark Leipert will be presenting "DVESS the First Seventy Years"

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 10th

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

## President's Message

The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society (DVESS) is celebrating 70 years since being established in 1956. Congratulations to us on celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We will be celebrating this milestone throughout this year.

Field trip season is upon us once again. I'm looking to line up a few fossil trips to Chestnut Branch Creek, C&D Canal/Reedy Point Site, Ramanessin Creek/Big Brook and New Ringgold for Devonian marine fossils. Also, a few mineral trips including Pickering Golf Course, Phoenixville, PA, National Limestone in Middleburg and Mt. Pleasant Mill, PA and several new mineral locations.

Please feel free to bring some types 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 at one more museum at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University and the Wagner Free Institute. These trips would be on a Friday.

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 get more 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"? More details will follow at an upcoming meeting.

### Programs:

**On Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** we had a short presentation given by Rick Reed on the topic "A Short History of Atlatls/Spear Throwers." Special thanks to Rick for volunteering to be first of our short talks. I'm looking for a few people to volunteer to give a short presentation from time to time, approximately 15 minutes in length, at our meetings to allow people to share interests they like as part of the earth science, geology, paleontology field, etc.

**DVESS Regular Meeting Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 to 9:30** . Mark Leipert will be presenting “**DVESS the First Seventy Years.**” We are celebrating our 70th Anniversary this year! Please bring photos and memories to share with members.

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

**Earth Day Event on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Redbank Battlefield in National Park:** Our club was asked to participate, and we operated two tables. The volunteers in attendance were Cathy, Joe, Fred, Karen, Judy and Mark. The weather was raw, cold, windy and horrible for an Earth Day Celebration next to the Delaware River. The turnout was poor because of the weather. Members exhibited a few of their specimens, while Cathy helped youngsters paint rocks and others passed out brochures and information. We had fun even though conditions were not ideal at all. See photos in newsletter.

**C.K. Williams Quarry, Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Once again we joined the North Jersey Mineralogical Society (NoJMS) and Friends of Mineralogy NJ Chapter (FM-NJ) as well as members of Pennsylvania Earth Science Association (PESA). Those representing the DVESS were Phyllis Greico, Eric Carr, Billy Pape and myself. We met at the quarry down the road from the local water treatment facility just off the Delaware River. PESA members reviewed the many minerals to be found at the site, including: serpentine, asbestiform minerals and various micas, pegmatite bodies present with feldspar, quartz, micas, schorl, titanite and associated minerals. Some radioactive minerals were present. Bring your specimens to this month’s meeting. We will be checking them outside the senior center after the meeting. **Don’t bring the specimens that are thought to have some low level of radioactivity into the building.**

**Ramanessin Brook Greenway Nature Trail, Monmouth County, 67 McCampbell Road, Holmdel, NJ: Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>:** I am the trip leader for DVESS and DVPS as well as others who will be joining us for this trip. We will be meeting at the Village Elementary School parking lot at 9:30 am. You will need a long-handled shovel, small garden shovel, screen (less than 18” X18”), water boots, gloves, containers to put specimens in, water and snacks.

**Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University: Date TBD:** I am in the process of lining up a behind scenes tour with our point of contact. We will be visiting the

Academy on a Friday and purchase a regular ticket for the museum first in order to get the behind scenes tour. We will be touring the “Invertebrate and Mineral Collections.” Please make sure you sign up at this month’s meeting. Tickets for Seniors is \$19.00, Adults (age 13 and above) \$22.00 and Children (2 – 12) \$18.00.

**Wagner Free Institute tour, Date TBD:** This tour will have to happen on a Friday. We can possibly accommodate a group as large as 12 to 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. It is to take place mid-June to August. I’ll be looking for a few volunteers once I get more details.

**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.

**Water Fest Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at Scotland Run Park** at 980 East Academy Street, Clayton, NJ from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. DVESS will be sharing our love of minerals and fossils with the public. We will have three tables to share our wares. If you’re interested in helping out, please sign up at this month’s meeting.

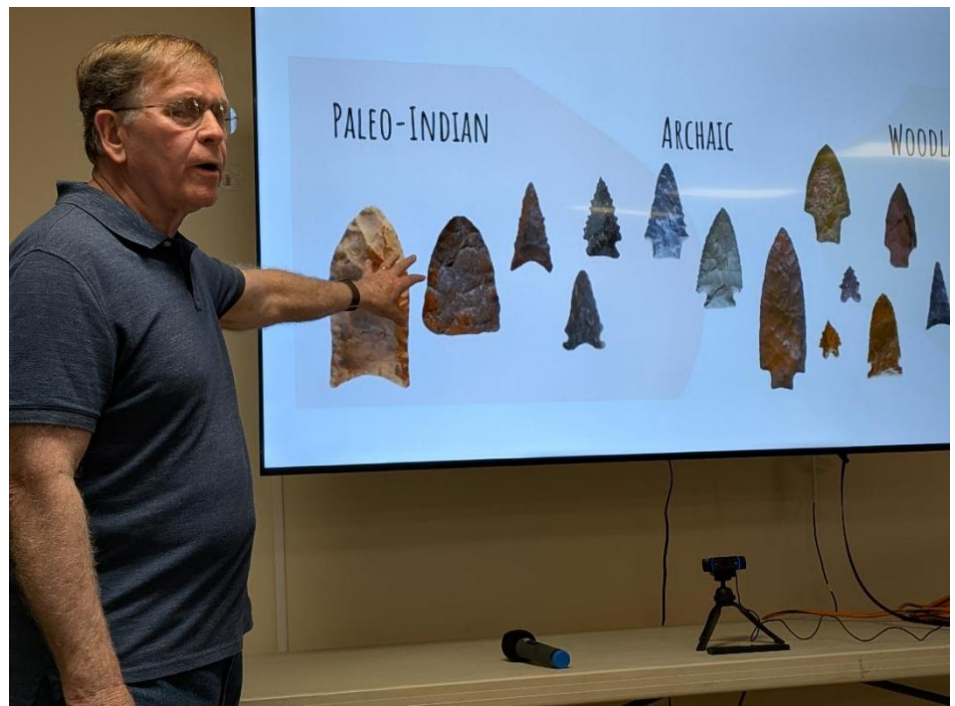
**Annual DVESS Summer Picnic: Held at the Waterford Township Senior Center.** Details TBD. Need help with organizing food and auction items. Contact me or Cathy if you’re interested.

**Mark Leipert - President**

## Condensed Minutes for April Meeting

At the last meeting, April 8, 2026, \$36 was collected from the rock table raffle and there were a total of 23 people in attendance. It was acknowledged that DVESS is celebrating 70 years as a club!! A new logo for t-shirts is still being discussed. Fred Hochkile had some samples made and they look very nice. Sign-up sheets were available for trips to Easton, Pa to collect minerals on May 2 with more details to follow, the Wagner Free Institute in Philly (TBD), the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philly (TBD), and Chestnut Run Branch in Sewell (TBD). There were also sign-up sheets for manning our club table at two Gloucester County events: April 19th at Red Bank Battlefield in National Park celebrating Earth Day 11 am-4 pm, and June 7th at Scotland Run Park in Clayton celebrating the 29th Annual Water Fest 11 am-4 pm. Mark thanked Tess Gallagher for her presentation last month. Cathy Eskew and Joe Kelly gave a short PSA about the harmfulness of Data Centers being proposed in all our towns. The evening's presentation, "A Short History of Atlatls/Spear Throwers," was from fellow member, Rick Reed. We thank Matt Downing for some rock/sand/fossils that he brought to the meeting.

**Karen Sweeten**  
Secretary



**PHOTOS**

**Red Bank Battlefield Earth Day celebration**

by Catherine Eskew and Karen Sweeten











## Sue Vancola's trip to Elba, Italy

### Minerals from Elba



### White stone beach at Ghiaie



Portoferraio



Napoleon's summer home



## *DVESS Directory for 2026*

<u><b>Officers</b></u>	<u><b>Committee Chairs</b></u>
President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 <a href="mailto:mark.leipert@yahoo.com">mark.leipert@yahoo.com</a>  Vice President: Cathy Eskew <a href="mailto:ceskew.5@gmail.com">ceskew.5@gmail.com</a>  Secretary: Karen Sweeten  Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 <a href="mailto:brenimage@hotmail.com">brenimage@hotmail.com</a>	Junior Rockhounds Chair: Mark Leipert  Field Trips: Mark Leipert Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile  Membership: James Brennan
<u><b>Newsletter</b></u>  Editor: Susan Moore <a href="mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com">aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</a>	<u><b>Other Information:</b></u>  <u><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.DVESS.org">www.DVESS.org</a></u>  <u><b>Facebook:</b> <i>DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</i></u>



## 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).

