

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



November 2020



Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 11th

7:00 pm social hour

8:00 pm Program: **Harold Connolly will present an update on the OSIRIS-REx mission, via Zoom**

Next meeting: December 9th

No regular, in-person meetings until further notice

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

President's Message

Well, the Presidential election is over and everyone is sitting around wondering who won. It could take days to weeks. It's been seven months since our last face to face meeting. I'm sure everyone is getting tired of hearing that everything is closed or cancelled. You can start taking some short field trips to places nearby and you can drive yourself. You should still wear masks and socially distance and still have a good time collecting fossils or minerals. Several members have done some fossil, mineral or collecting something interesting during this pandemic.

The Centenary United Methodist church we meet in is not allowing any outside organizations to resume regular gatherings. Everything will be on hold until at least early 2021 or until a vaccine is developed and distributed.

In the meantime, continue taking field trips to your basement, clean up dirt covered rocks and fossils, discover something you've probably had for years hiding away in your closet, garage or secret stash area. Remember our Junior Rockhounds, if you discover duplicates or extras that might be of interest to someone who will never be able to collect at a closed locality. Think about bringing them to a future meeting for the junior rock hounds or give away table. The club might have a field trip to someone's driveway in the near future. There will be several piles of rocks from localities that are closed to the public. This will be something to take advantage of. I'm taking a poll right now to see if there would be any interest in a Junior Rockhound's Zoom session once a month. Let me know what you think.

Maybe if you're feeling ambitious, you could research some places you would like the club to go on field trips once we are let free from our shelter-in-place. Feel free to e-mail, text or call myself or any officer with your recommendations. Meanwhile, until we meet again please stay safe, practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, disinfect surfaces and wear some type of face mask when you go out.

We held our fourth Zoom meeting last month. I'd like to thank our guest speaker, Dr. Peter Dodson for enlightening the club on his dinosaur hunting and excavating adventures across four continents. We will probably be continuing into the winter months and beyond using Zoom as our vehicle to hold meetings.

This month's Zoom meeting will be on the second Wednesday, November 11th at 7:00. We will have a twenty minute or so social time, then some club business and then special guest speaker, Dr. Harold Connolly. He is professor of Geology at Rowan University as well as the lead scientist on NASA's OSIRIS-Rex mission to collect a surface soil sample from the asteroid "101955 Bennu." He has exciting news on how the whole event went down, plus what's next for the spacecraft and how long until we see the samples.

There is a petrified wood trip to Odessa, DE on Saturday, November 28th at 10:00. If you are going, we are driving individually and we will meet at the school across from the farmer's field. This field trip is in honor of John Wolf, long time member of the Calvert Cliffs Fossil Club and DVPS. If the weather is nice we will be going to the C & D Canal spoils to collect marine fossils. RSVP me at mark.leipert@yahoo.com if you plan on going.

I continue digging out some select articles from old club newsletters and sharing them as part of our current newsletter. There is a lot of history, write-ups of field trips, mentioning of guest speakers, the old picking table, and plenty of good old science like geology and paleontology. It's important to share some of our club's highlights over the last 64 years. Next year we will be celebrating our 65th Anniversary.

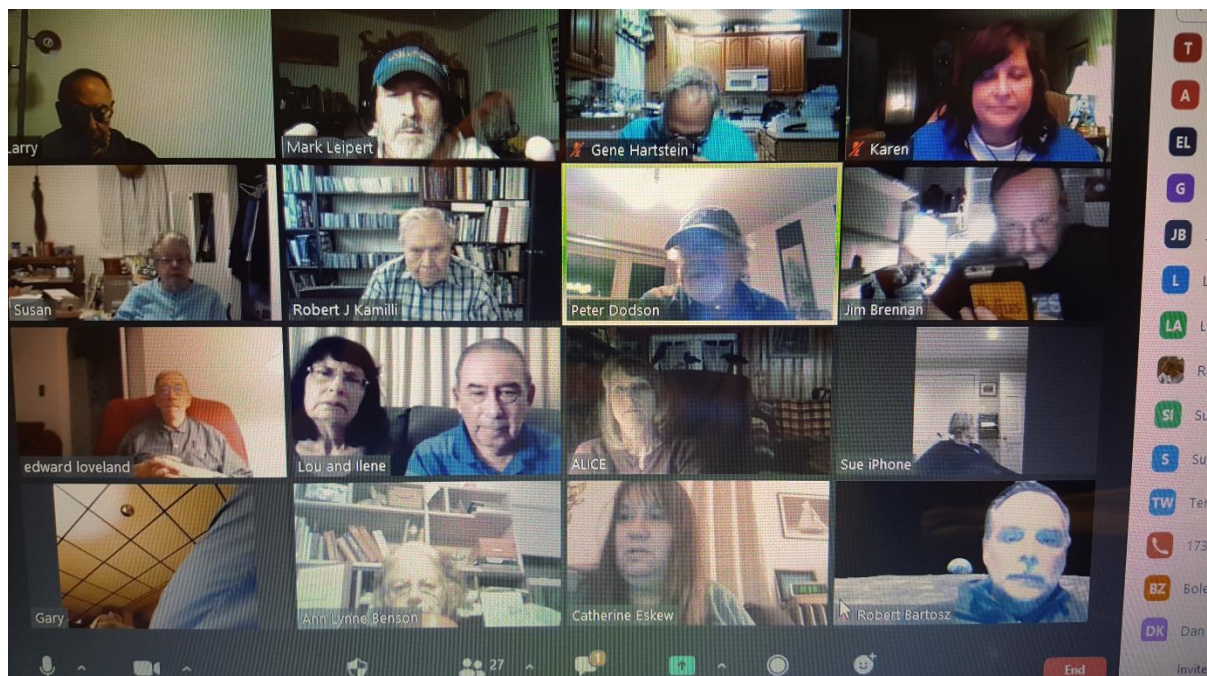
Right now we are setting our sights on Super Diggg Spring 2021. This gives us more time to get organized, gather up more volunteers and get the Franklin Mineral Museum promoting this event on their website and social media. I have also been notified that there will be a cost increase per pound for the material you collect.

Don't forget to visit our Facebook page and share with as many friends as possible. This month share your favorite dinosaur with everyone on our page. Nobody shared last month.

Everyone stay safe and hope to see you all soon!

Mark Leipert, President

Our October Zoom call with Dr. Peter Dodson



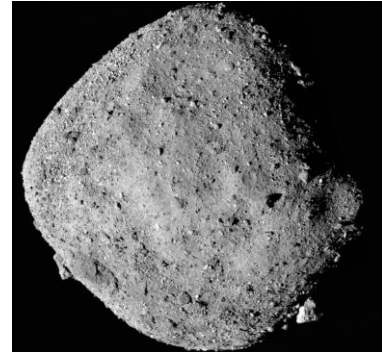
Quote of the Month:

To set foot on the soil of the asteroids, to lift by hand a rock from the Moon, to observe Mars from a distance of several tens of kilometers, to land on its satellite or even on its surface, what can be more fantastic? From the moment of using rocket devices a new great era will begin in astronomy: the epoch of the more intensive study of the firmament. - [Konstantin E. Tsiolkovsky](#), Father of Russian Astronautics, 1896

Websites

OSIRIS-REx Mission

<https://www.asteroidmission.org/>



NASA's OSIRIS-REx Spacecraft Successfully Touches Asteroid

1 [NASA/GODDARD/UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA](#)

[www.nasa.gov › press-release › nasa-s-osiris-rex-spacec...](http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-s-osiris-rex-spacec...)

NASA Releases Incredible Video of OSIRIS-REx Tagging Asteroid

<https://scitechdaily.com/nasa-releases-incredible-video-of-osiris-rex-tagging-asteroid-mysterious-dark-patches-puzzle-team/>



News

Mount Merapi Could Be on the Verge of Major Eruption in Indonesia

<https://weather.com/news/video/mount-merapi-could-be-on-the-verge-of-major-eruption-in-indonesia>

FIELD TRIPS FROM HOME

by Ann Lynne Benson

I love field trips! Over my 36 years as a member of DVESS I have encouraged some of my friends to join by telling them that being a member was like having a personal travel agent – all you had to do was show up at the school and you would be driven or caravanned to the collecting site. That way, I amassed a collection big enough to fill a small museum. That was before arthritis set in and blocked my ability to walk well enough to collect.

But no worries – there's more than one way to travel these days! Two of my favorites are listening to NASA's music from space and Road Scholar "escapades" (*exciting activities – our newsletter takes its name from this aspect of membership "DVESScapades"*)

Do you know about ROAD SCHOLAR? On the road or online, it's your ticket to learning, adventure and fun. Road Scholar is a not-for-profit organization that provides educational travel programs primarily geared to older adults. From its founding in 1975 until 2010, Road Scholar was known as **Elderhostel**. Today it's the world's largest and most innovative creator of experiential learning opportunities for adults, offering study tours throughout the United States, Canada and approximately 150 other countries. I believe that DVESS member Jane Bourquin was a member.

Road Scholar includes some 5,000 programs, divided into such categories as theme-based, inter-generational, outdoor adventures, service learning, adventures afloat, and independent city discoveries. It's like going to a travel agent and booking a trip, but when you arrive they give you text/note book and a teacher/guide who will conduct a well-organized tour giving you detailed information about the place(s) you visit. This enables you to touch history where it happened and really **experience** the locale, not just look at it.

Road Scholar has made lectures available on YouTube for those who can't get away due to disability or the pandemic. Here are three you can listen to right now:

Road Scholar Virtual Lecture:

Victoria Falls Part 1: Formation of the Falls with Mark Geraghty

Mark was born in Ndola, Northern Zambia in 1964, where his father was stationed as a Major in the British Army. He grew up in Lusaka and Harare, Zimbabwe, where he attended St. Georges College. Being the product of a Jesuit education, Mark has a wide and varied interest in the world around him. He has travelled widely throughout southern Africa, Kenya and the Congo. Mark is a passionate storyteller with a piercing insight and great sense of humor. Mark Geraghty is a frequent speaker on Southern Africa Safari and Train Adventure: From Cape Town to Victoria Falls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psbSrdvhXYo&list=PLZpGKgSTb6KEz3yRNMtcsbKkTrBoxFjr1>

Road Scholar Virtual Lecture:

Victoria Falls Part II: David Livingstone with Mark Geraghty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8kuT38tT4Y&list=PLZpGKgsTb6KEz3yRNMtcsbKkTrBoxFjr1&index=25>

Road Scholar Virtual Lecture:

A Snapshot of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with Leslie Stoltz

Leslie Stoltz is a naturalist and has lived in the Greater Yellowstone Area for 40 years. Leslie has a B.S. in biology, with an emphasis on botany and ecology. Over the course of her career, she has worked for the National Park Service in both Glacier and Yellowstone. She specialized in the areas of research and education, ultimately working on a grizzly bear research project. Leslie's time with the National Park Service provided a wonderful foundation for her career as a teacher and guide in National Parks around the Rocky Mountain West. She has been an instructor on Road Scholar programs in Yellowstone for 25 years.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Swg-M30ST1k>

THIRD ROCK RADIO

is produced by NASA. Its ongoing mission is a built around a blend of art and science designed to bring young adults closer to science, engineering and technology. *Third Rock Radio's* "explore and discover" theme spotlights the work of NASA, and its private industry partners, that seek to create a sustainable future for all.

<https://thirdrockradio.net/>



DEFINITIONS
or
(Personalities of our Hobby)

The following definitions are frequently spelled out in the various publications of our hobby interests. They are never quite correct or complete from the reader's point of view. Always falling short of the expert's (reader's) opinion of how the subjects really should be defined.

Perhaps the cause of this criticism has something to do with the fact that we can never quite see other people as they see themselves; or (vise-verse).

In other words, who is the better authority of a descriptive definition, the reader about whom we write? Or the authors who often think they know the reader better than he knows himself?

Whichever, your DVESS editorial staff members, after long diligent lunch hour and company time research, submit the following definitions. with hopes that no-one dare deny, or criticise them as incomplete or incorrect.

Please read the following with an open/ receptive mind.

PS: It is the express wish of your DVESS Newsbulletin Editor to take a stand to the effect that the comments and opinions expressed in the contributed articles, are not always necessarily his own.

DEFINITIONS

PEBBLE PUP: There are two definitions here, "The Junior", and "The Senior".

1. - THE JUNIOR PEBBLE PUP:

A typical "All American Youngster" who's wild imagination, and multiple hobby interests are steering him in the correct direction. That is, away from the modern fraternity of beatnik dead end gangs. Woefully in need of Parent and other Adult properly administered encouragement and help. With careful guidance, (such as offered by our DVESS), he will have the potential capability of becoming a future scientist.

His hair may be mussed, his face may be dirty, but he must be every Adult's Angel, because the future destiny of our world is dependant upon him.

2. - THE SENIOR PEBBLE PUP:

Often the backyard gardener who made the mistake of taking a closer look at his rockgarden materials. Moreoften, a Parent who stopped to take a second look at materials through the fabulous eyes of his own youngsters. Always a confused person who feels a bit embarrassed to ask for help, even if he did know where, or of whom to inquire. Always containing the potential capability of becoming an avid - mineral collector hobbist, Always a person who well rates the time and trouble necessary to sell him on his confused mild interest. (A prospective DVESS member possibility).

2.

DEFINITIONS Cont'd.

3. - THE ROCKHOUND:

One of the world's finest people. A kind, helpful, generous hearted, willing soul who is ever so proud of the fact, and wants the world to know that he is a "Rockhound". He has learned how to see the great depths of wondrous beauty that lies in nature's Rocks and Minerals. He cares little whether his specimens are rocks, minerals, fossils or gems. Every piece is a museum specimen to him. He has not yet experienced observing the wondrous beauty of specimens through a microscope. But, he knows it is there, and is always going to add a good scope to his collection, someday. (But, he just can't never quite afford to get one right now). Yet, he can afford a good car every couple years apart, at \$2,000 dollars plus, with which to visit all the Rock and Mineral Shows, and to drive into all the quarries. He never adds up the couple hundred dollars, minimum a year that he spends on specimens to give away to his "special friends". (Every one who ever dares to help him the least bit is his "special friend").

The Rockhound is the very salt of the earth, the type of man who makes up the "backbone" of a Nation, And God's blessings follow him into every quarry all the days of his life.

4. - THE MINERAL COLLECTOR:

Always a sophisticated individual who works long hard hours at his hobby. He burns the midnight oil, trying hard to understand the professional technical language of his selected scientific hobby. He likewise tries very hard to hide all that he cannot understand about his chosen hobby science. He hides this, along with his vast fiber Mc Gee closet full of his unidentified collection boobies, his incompleated study specimens, and all his beginner, and rockhound collections. (He does this for what he considers "the best of reasons").

He very proudly displays all his successful identifications in elaborate museum like glass showcases.

In order to live up to the dignity of the professional sciences, that he enjoys considering himself a part of - he will invariably correct anyone who calls him a Rockhound.

With all his shortcomings, deceptions, and sophistications the Mineral collector is a very fine guy. Always willing to help others to understand the scientific phases of the things he has worked so hard to understand, (often the things so many Rockhounds could care less about). Generosity is no stranger to this collector of nature's rarer minerals. Carefully sharing his rarer collection specimens with anyone who hints at wanting to learn more about their hobby. Although sometimes a bit too intollerant with the lukewarm, or part time hobbist, he will never let go of the hopeful possibility of influencing this hobbist sinner into becoming an avid student of his hobby science.

He is always the organizer, and the "worker" of all our Hobby Societies. A firm believer in the association of like interests. Deep down beneath this collector's guise and dreams of acquiring professional knowledge about his hobby, the Mineral Collector is still a Rockhound at heart. Afterall he was a "Pebblepup" only - yea years ago.

3.
DEFINITIONS Cont'd.

5. - THE AMATEUR MINERALOGIST:

Sophistication is not the only feature of this amateur hobbist. Any more than minerals are his only collection.

He is also frequently a "prestige collector", or a collector of the professional Men of Science. It has been said that there are times when he even wines and dines our Scientific Men of the professional field, and goes all out to win their favor.

The amateur mineralogist is often a most generous hearted soul with his specimen material, giving it away, but, only to the more diserving Museums, schools of Higher Learning, and to the scientific Laboratories. All specimens "doned" with his specially engraved identification formats. These identification labels reading like a scientific research analog, with fancy phrases that would scare any ordinary undergraduate student mineralogist to death.

To this amateur who pursues his chosen hobby with "dignity", the word "Rockhound" is a very bad dirty word, never to be spoken aloud in his presence.

Unfortunately, this amateur has generally been denied the thrilling experience of ever having been a Pebble Pup or a Rockhound. The experience of groveling all through a quarry, or mine dump in search of a semblance of specimen material has seldom, if ever, been this poor unfortunate's blessing in life. When he does rare occasionally visit the collecting places, it is because of specially aquired information, whereupon -- dressed in formal attire, white shirt, and tie (never bola ties) and shined shoes, he will don his kid gloves, and with Electric Counter, and Electronic Mineral Finder, he will search out a rich specimen pocket. Then clean the pocket out (bone dry), and return to his Lab; After shower and change he will then proceed to study the atomic structure of his new specimens.

His favorite collecting places are always the Dealer Shops. Using his famous silver pick, and other various sundry methods to extract museum specimens from the dealers to add to his collection.

It is well known that :

The Rockhammer in the hands of a "Pebble Pup" is like unto a razor in the hands of an infant, often an instrument of devistation.

The Rockhammer in the hands of "a Rockhound" is an instrument of rockbusting, of boulder pulverization in search of pockets of material worth collecting.

The Rockhammer in the hands of a "Mineral Collector" is an instrument of Art, the medium of daintily extracting a potential museum specimen from nature's matrix.

The Rockhammer in the hands of our "Amateur Mineralogist" is -- Ugh -- what a dirty thought. Why blister his lilly white hands, or wrinkle his white shirt collar, when for a few paltry dollars he can let someone else do all the dirty work of collecting. Besides, he can select his choice of specimen quality rather than accept the junkite specimens mother nature so begrudgingly gives away free.

But, exactly as for the Pebble Pup, the Rockhound, and the Mineral Collector, there is a noble place of fine value in this common interest scientific hobby of ours for this Amateur Mineralogist hobbist.

Were it not for him, would not our schools of higher learning, our museums, and our professional labs suffer from loss of quality specimen material?

And what is wrong with having our professional men of science Wined and Dined in grand style occasionally? Too often their dedicated salary brackets cannot afford such a luxury. Are not they justly deserving of such good treatment in the company of a well dressed amateur enthusiast who recognizes, respects, prizes, and protects the dignity of their professional standing?

So, let us not criticize the definition of this important amateur hobbist who may do good in another direction of this vast hobby world of ours.

Now that we have truthfully defined the personalities of our common interest hobby may we all recognize and admit the good and bad that exists in all phases of this life.

But, may we also recognize that our Hobby comes closer to eradicating bad, and promoting good among mankind than most other activities of life. Why? Because of the very nature of our hobby.

Consider, that we collect "God's tools of Man's progress. We collect the flowers of the mineral kingdom, and we practice sharing them with other people, because our special type of enthusiasm makes us want others to know about and to experience the happiness our hobby brings to us.

Not to mention that because this hobby of ours is an educational hobby - where man can grow in knowledge, and wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God.

PS: OUR DEFINITION OF "THE DEALER" WAS VERY BEST OF ALL, BUT ALAS,- SPACE WOULD NOT PERMIT.

"MAY WE ALL DOFF OUR HATS AND DEFINE OUR ALL AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS MAN-
"THE DEALER" - AS OUR FRIEND-WITHOUT WHOM OUR COLLECTIONS WOULD SUFFER, OUR KNOWLEDGE WOULD LACK, AND OUR HOBBY COULD NEVER BE AS VARIED AND COLORFUL AS IT IS TODAY."

And let us not kid ourselves about "The Good old days of yore"- when this collecting hobby of ours was not so over crowded and availability of materials must have been so abundant!

As many "Old Collections reveal"- We have more materials, Bigger Variety (at prices we can afford) more access to Rare Minerals than even before in the history of time.

DVESS Directory for 2020

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
<p>President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 mark.leipert@yahoo.com</p> <p>Vice President: Amy Simpson 856-821-2083 simpsonamyj77@gmail.com</p> <p>Secretary: Phyllisann Grieco 609-556-9154 safesite2013@gmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 brenimage@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Junior Rockhounds Chair:</p> <p>Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763 WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com</p> <p>Field Trips: Mark Leipert</p> <p>Co-Field Trips: Ed & Alice Houseal alicehouseal@verizon.net</p> <p>Membership: James Brennan</p>
<p><u>Newsletter</u></p> <p>Editor: Susan Moore aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Other Information:</u></p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.DVESS.org</p> <p><u>Facebook:</u> DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</p>



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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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.

