

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



November 2021



Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 10th

7:00 pm social hour

8:00 pm Program: **via Zoom** - Dr. Karen Wenrich will be talking about her experiences in the mining industry at the "Sweet Home Mine in Alma, Colorado."

Upcoming - In December - Holiday Party and Election of Officers

No regular, in-person meetings until further notice

President's Message

COVID-19 cases are their lowest since July. We are going to continue not meeting face to face for a while. We are cautiously planning on a Christmas Party at our December meeting. The church has undergone some renovations since the last time we met back in March of 2020. As rock, mineral and fossil collectors, we normally socially distance anyway. Being an outdoors activity we don't have to worry about wearing mask, except for the possibility of commuting to the sites or stopping somewhere to eat. Send reasonable suggestions for field trips to me at mark.leipert@yahoo.com.

I'm also looking for a few activity leaders for things like field trips, Christmas Party and possibly a club banquet. We are planning to continue using Zoom as our vehicle to hold meetings. We are planning to hold Zoom meetings and possibly have a live face-to-face meeting for our Christmas Party in December. Until then, we will continue Zooming. I continue looking for interesting speakers, so if you have ideas or know of someone who's interested, please let me know.

Continue taking field trips to your basement, clean-up your dust covered rock and fossil specimens and maybe discover something you've probably had for years hiding away in your closet, garage or secret stash area. Bring some items out with you when you come out on field trips. You might be able to give away or trade some of the materials you've been waiting to give away to other club members.

Election of Officers for 2022: In accordance with the DVESS Club By-Laws we are required to come up with a slate of officers every October. Once we have the nominations and the slate of officers is complete, we'll be ready for elections. We have the elections at our December meeting and the newly elected officers will take office in January of the new year. We are working on completing this process of making up the slate of officers for 2022. We are looking for volunteers to help make the club operate more efficiently, not just officers but chairpersons to run events/field trips, etc. It's a lot for one or two people to run. We need help. If you are interested in holding an office please let myself or Jimmy Burlage at james.burlage@outlook.com know.

Guest Zoom Speakers: Last month we had Derek Yoost as our guest, who presented an interesting topic on "The Permian/Triassic Extinction Event –The Worst Dying of All Time." Could we be going through the next extinction now? This month we have **Dr. Karen Wenrich** who will be sharing her experiences in the mining industry at the "**Sweet Home Mine in Alma, Colorado**" and showing us some fantastic minerals collected from the mine. See below for her biographical information.

I will continue trying to line-up interesting speakers into the winter and spring months.

Field Trips:

Our annual free trip to **Sterling Hill** was held on **Saturday, October 23rd**. We had a good number of members who made the journey up to Sterling Hill. We had new member Steve Bleifuss, Ray, Barbara, Bill and Christine Pape, Fred Hochkile, Vince Male, Jimmy Burlage, Phyllisann Grieco and I. We all collected in the main collector's lane. We received a personal mine tunnel and museum tour by Bill Kroth, President of the Board at Sterling Mining Museum. Several of us toured the facility in preparation for our upcoming Super Diggg on April 23, 2022. This was one of the better trips to Sterling in years.

Saturday, October 30th: I had a doggie emergency I had to take care of so I asked Fred if he'd lead the trip. We had Fred, Jimmy, Karen, Steve, Phyllis and Cathy go to a local stream in Sewell to collect Cretaceous marine fossils. Several people got wet of course. Belemnites, exogyras, an Enchodus (saber-tooth herring tooth) and many more fossils were found.

Saturday, November 27th we will be going to **Odessa, Delaware** to collect **Petrified Wood** for the John Wolf Memorial collecting trip. Later, we will move to the **C&D Canal, specifically the Reedy Point Bridge Dredge Spoils Site**. We are hearing that this site may be going away soon to make way for more recent dredge spoils (non-fossiliferous).

Fossil Fair and Mineral Treasures Show for 2022: The past 2 years the show was cancelled due to COVID-19. This show is rescheduled for the last weekend in March 2022.

We are now working with Sterling Hill Mining Museum to hold the next Super Diggg there in the spring of 2022. We are going to need a bunch of volunteers to pull it off. Stay tuned for more details.

Mark Leipert, President



Quote of the Month:

"Sixty-five million years ago the dinosaurs had a bad day." -Phil Plait.

Dr. Karen Wenrich

Dr. Karen Wenrich spent her childhood being dragged around the U.S. by a father who was a colonel in the Air Force. Climbing on rocks as a child in the west was a way of life, which undoubtedly stimulated an interest in geology. Her uncle would ask her what she wanted to be when she grew up, and when she would reply “a geologist,” he would say, “You’ll outgrow it.”

Tired of being uprooted, she set roots down at Penn State on a scholarship, and then a fellowship -- she left Penn State with a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in geology/volcanology to return to Colorado for a job with the USGS. Karen’s Ph.D. was on “Trace and major element chemistry and the petrogenesis of lavas from the upper portion of Humphrey’s Peak, San Francisco Mountain, Flagstaff, Arizona.” Karen was quickly converted to an economic geologist by the USGS, where she worked for 25 years, which was followed by her present career, consulting for the mining industry. She has published over 175 papers, received several USGS outstanding performance awards and AAPG best paper presentation awards.

She is an AIPG certified professional geologist and a fellow in the Society of Economic Geologists. Karen has a worldwide reputation as an expert in the geology and mineralogy of uranium deposits. From 2002-2005, Karen worked with diplomatic status for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, as their senior uranium geologist in charge of studying worldwide uranium resources. As an IAEA staff member, she shared in their receipt of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize: “For their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way.” She has done extensive studies and mapping on the breccia-pipe uranium deposits of northern Arizona and elsewhere. In 2008, 2010, and 2011, Karen testified before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee about the proposed bill to permanently bar the filing of mining claims on 1.1 million acres of federal lands north and south of the Grand Canyon. These efforts to prevent the bill from passing in congress were successful.



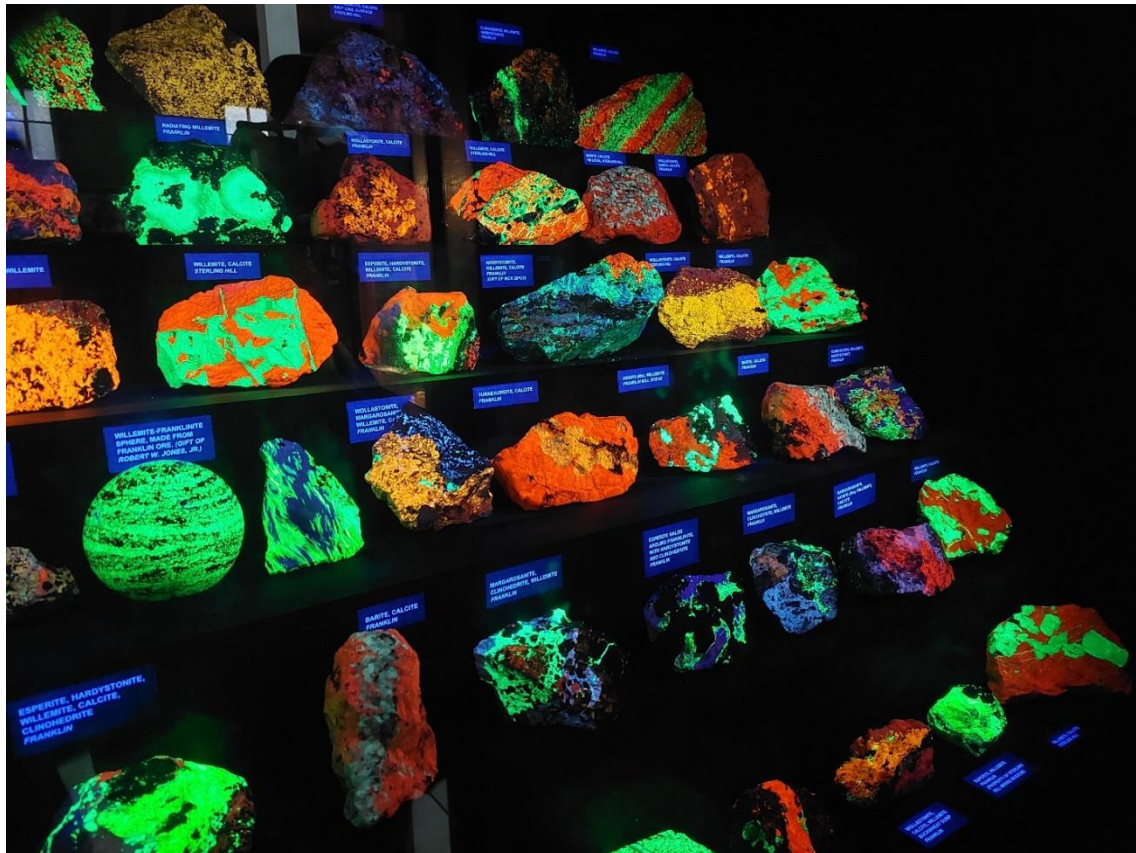
Visit to the Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops), Egypt accompanied by Egyptian geologists.

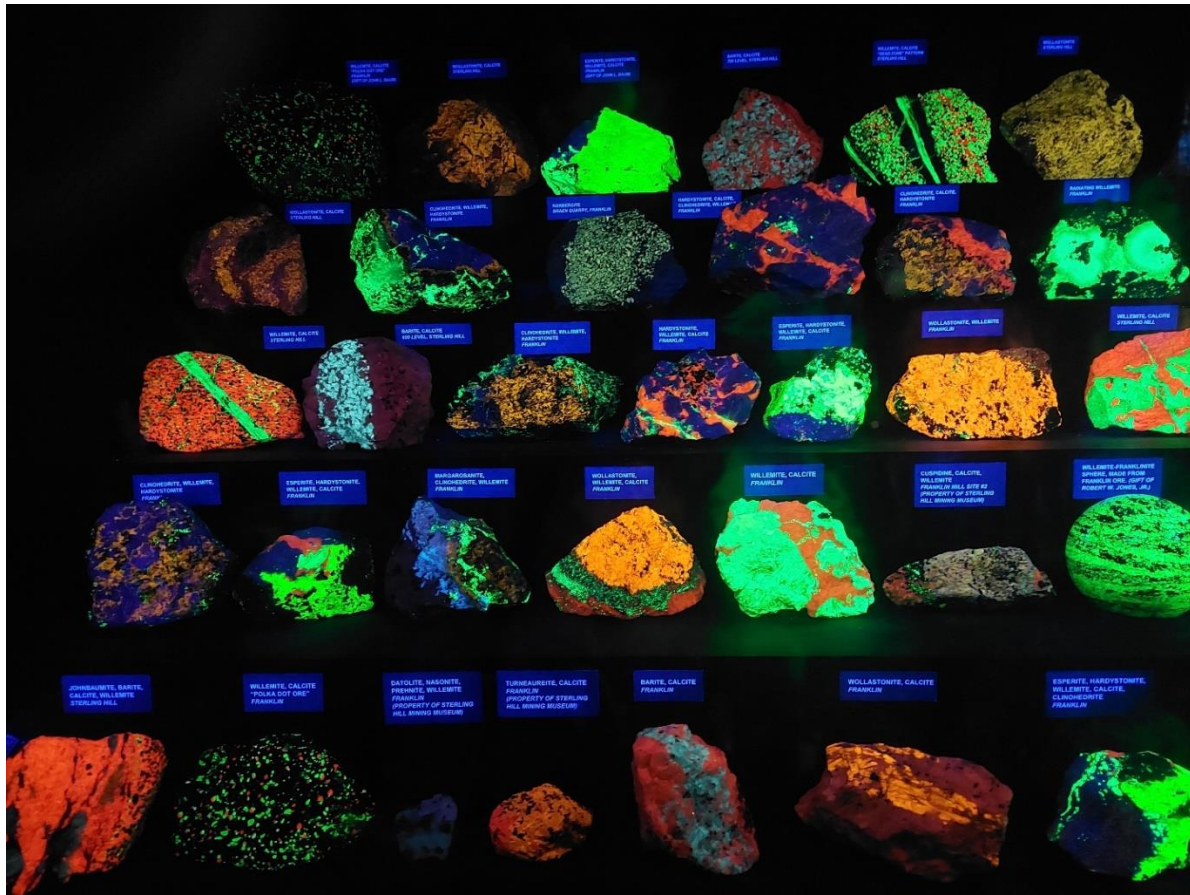
Sterling Hill Mining Museum

by Fred Hochkile

What a absolute delight the DVESS trip to Sterling Mining Museum was on Saturday, October 23rd. We were honored that Bill, the president, gave our tour. We began the day by milling around the site while waiting for everyone to arrive. The old mining equipment all over the site is amazing. After checking in, we went collecting in massive piles of stone. The museum staff had done a wonderful job of putting out the best material they had available. A darkroom and a scale were provided as well, and Bill had brought along a powerful short wave light that allowed us to look in our buckets. Thank you, Bill.

Those with experience assisted the others. Everyone was kind. We showed some folks how to collect and then how to sort it down to a level that could be carried. Next, we were given tours of the mine, as well as several museums. Amazing collections of everything imaginable. Large meteors that Phyllis and myself could not help but to slap magnets on. We were educated about light and fluorescents. When the lights went off and short waves were turned on it provided an opportunity to photograph the likes of which I have never seen. I would like to thank everyone for a real lifetime experience that was truly mind blowing.



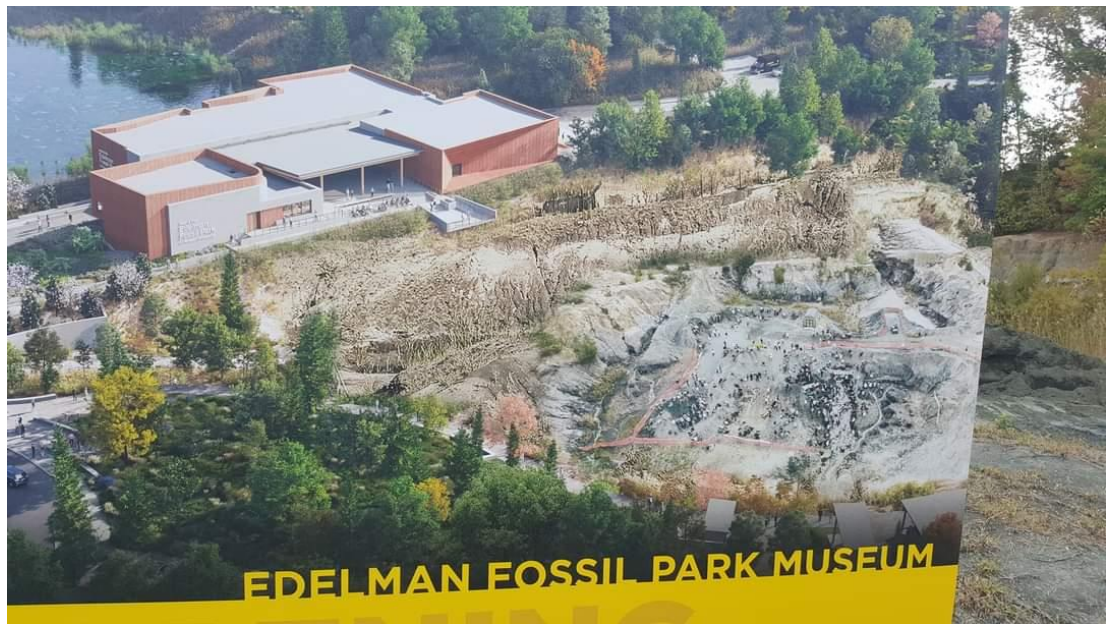


Ground Breaking for Edelman Fossil Park by Fred Hochkile

A very important event that was attended by several DVESS members who also volunteer with Edelman Fossil Park. It was the ground breaking for the new 73 million-dollar museum. It was quite the event. Many well-known people are working on this project, including members of DVESS - Karen, Kathy Mark, Vince, Lou and Fred. It should take about 2 years to finish and will really be something.

This was followed by work on excavation of a 4-foot turtle. We were unable to extract the turtle by hand. The following day we had the use of construction equipment.

Included are pictures of the event and an artist rendering of the museum.







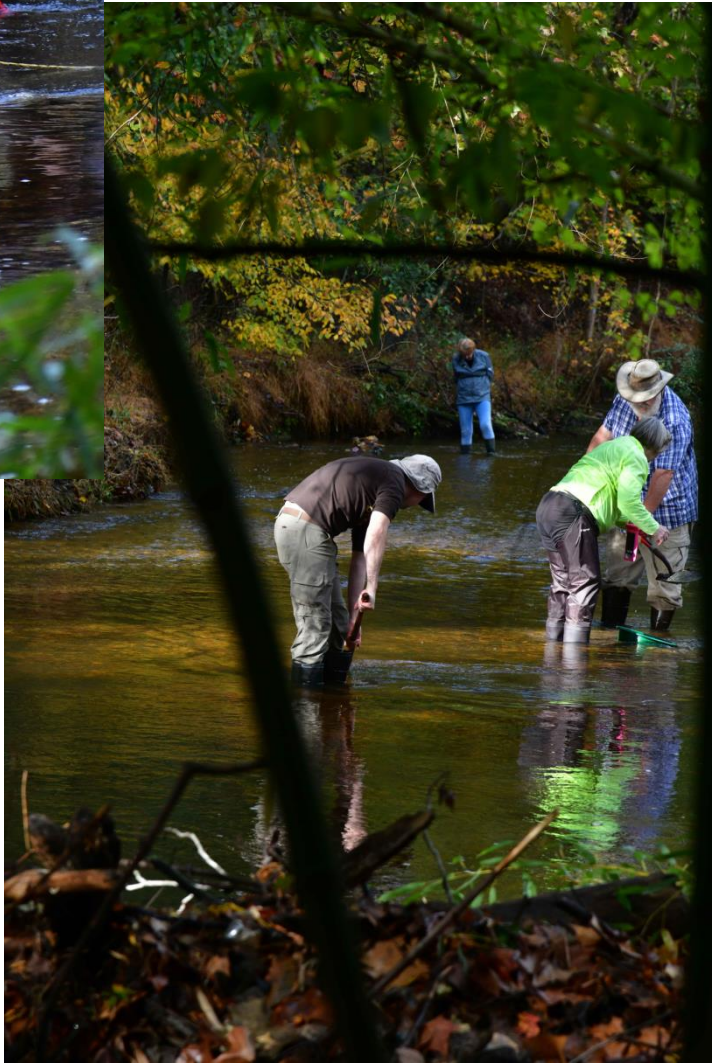
Photos

Here some pictures from the trip to the stream in Mantua, NJ. It was a beautiful day. The stream was a little higher than usual, but still workable and the water was very clear. Usual finds included belemnites of various sizes, and many different large oyster shells. Mark, Fred, Sue, Steve, Jimmy, Phyllis, Cathy, Karen and Karen's husband, Rick all attended. Rick took the pictures.

Karen Sweeten







News

No end in sight: Stunning images from the eruption of Spain's La Palma volcano

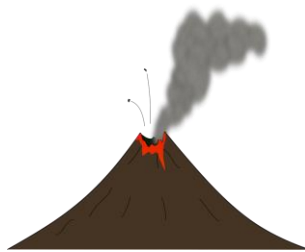
<https://www.reuters.com/news/picture/no-end-in-sight-stunning-images-from-the-idUSRTXJETR5>

Spain's La Palma Volcano Continues to Erupt and Spew Ash

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/spains-la-palma-volcano-continues-to-erupt-and-spew-ash-180978965/>

Kīlauea still spurting lava, 1 month into the latest eruption

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2021-11-01/kilauea-still-spurting-lava-1-month-into-the-latest-eruption>



DVESS Directory for 2021

<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: Phyllis Grieco phyllisgrieco494@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: www.DVESS.org</u></p> <p><u>Facebook: DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</u></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

PO Box 602

Berlin, NJ 08009-0602

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.

