

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



November 2023



**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 8th (in-person and Zoom)

**7:00 pm:** Social hour

**8:00 pm:** Program: Our speaker will be J.P. Hodnett, Curator of the Dinosaur Park located in Laurel, MD. "Maryland Dinosaur Park Bone Bed: An Early Cretaceous Treasure Chest!" (rescheduled from September)

### Looking ahead

December: Holiday Party and election of officers

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

## President's Message

Fall has finally come and gone are those 90 plus degree days. I think this is the best time to be outdoors. No bugs, less humidity and less sweating while on any outdoor adventures. In a very short time, the holidays will be upon us. We will be having our annual Christmas Party at the Centenary Church. I'm looking for someone to organize the party this year. It's not all that hard, you just need people to volunteer to bring certain items. It's also time for a change of our club leadership and I expect everyone to help whomever that person is.

We are making plans for our fall/early winter field trips now. Please contact me and Fred with any ideas of localities or specimen types (fossil or minerals) you would like to visit. We try to keep a good mix between minerals and fossils to strike a happy medium.

October was our "Show and Tell" program but due to COVID concerns we conducted our meeting via Zoom. Thanks to those who participated in the program. I would like to have a short "Show and Tell" at every meeting. So, bring in a specimen or specimens to give a quick presentation at a meeting. We still need other club members to step up into other temporary or voluntary positions to take some of the burden off our officers.

It's now the time to think about museum trips, gem and mineral shows, and lecture/programs because winter is creeping up on us. We are open to suggestions.

**Attempting to bring back something old:** We are going to bring back the prize table, which we did many years ago. We are going to start off slowly and see where we go from there. You can purchase a ticket for a dollar. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase. When your number is called you come up and pick up a specimen. If you are clearing out some old specimens from your collections, please donate them to the prize table. You should label the specimens and note the locality when you donate. Your donations are appreciated. This is a way the club can make a few bucks each month.

We are also going to have a 50/50 raffle where tickets/chances can be bought for one dollar. The winner gets 50% and the club gets 50%.

**How are we doing with our hybrid meetings?** We are going to continue holding our hybrid meetings through early 2024. We may continue to use the Zoom setting during the winter months with the possibility of hazardous weather. It's a challenge, but we are managing to make it work. We are still working our way through issues, but we are working with me to improve our hybrid meetings. With practice these hybrid meetings will eventually become second nature. Let us know how the hybrid meeting came across. How was the sound quality? Visual quality?

**Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024:**

**President: John Arsenault**

**Vice-President: Mark Leipert**

**Secretary: Cathy Eskew**

**Treasurer: Jim Brennan**

Nominations for the club officers occurred last month. Last minute nominations will be taken on the floor during the first ½ hour of the November meeting. Nominations shall be closed by a motion and vote by the membership. Voting will take place at the December meeting. This part of the election will be run by a person in the club that doesn't hold any office. If there is only one person running for each position, the vote will be for the approval of the slate of officers and not individual ballots.

**For the latest updates on the Edelman Fossil Quarry and Museum construction:**

It looks like the grand opening for the museum will be in Spring of 2024. You can go to Instagram and look up Kenneth Lacovara. Things are really shaping up, the road to the museum and parking lot have been under construction for a while. Work also continues on the exterior of the museum while work on the interior of the building is progressing and getting the exhibit halls ready for full-sized prehistoric creatures.

**November 8<sup>th</sup> Program: Due to technical difficulties with the internet at our September meeting,** J.P. Hodnett had to be rescheduled and will be our guest speaker this month. He is the Curator of The Dinosaur Park located in Laurel, MD. The park is run under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. He will also talk about some of the recent finds at the park. We may have an opportunity to

help on future dinosaur digs. Everyone will get a Zoom invite emailed to them on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> for Wednesday's meeting.

### **Field Trips:**

**C.K. Williams Quarry in Easton, PA, Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>:** We will be meeting at the Woodcrest PATCO High Speedline at 8:00. You will need rock hammers, chisels, sledgehammers, safety goggles, hard soled shoes, water, gloves, bucket, snacks and/or lunch. You need to reply to this email if you are attending.

**John Wolf Memorial Petrified Wood Collecting Trip in Odessa, DE and/or Fossil trip to the C&D Canal Site, Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>:** We will be meeting at the Woodcrest PATCO High Speedline at 8:00. You will need a bucket, gloves, shovel, water, snack, screen/sieve and knee pads.

**Rutger's Geology Museum Open House, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** There is no information posted about this event to date. We will keep you informed of lectures and programs happening as we get closer to the date.

**Other potential trips:** Trips will be planned for November/December to places like: Chestnut Run Creek, Ramanessin Brook, etc.

**Mark Leipert, President**



## DVPS Library Presentation

**On Saturday, September 16, 2023, DVPS members Bob Bartosz and Mark Leipert** gave a presentation at the Gill Memorial Library in Paulsboro, NJ. About a dozen kids were in the audience. Bob gave a talk about Mary Anning and her amazing fossil discoveries, inspiring the children that they too could discover things that have never been found before, such as young Mary did over 200 years ago. Icky the ichthyosaurus made his public debut for the children to see and touch, as well as other fossils from Lyme Regis, England such as ammonites and belemnites. Mark provided an update on the Edelman Fossil Park's new Museum scheduled to open in Spring 2024. Mark explained how fossils are formed and showed an extensive collection of fossils that can be found throughout New Jersey and the Delaware Valley. Everyone enjoyed touching and holding real fossil specimens, something not usually possible in a museum. Mark provided samples of belemnites and exogyra fossils so all of the kids can start their own collections.

## Shows and Events

### November

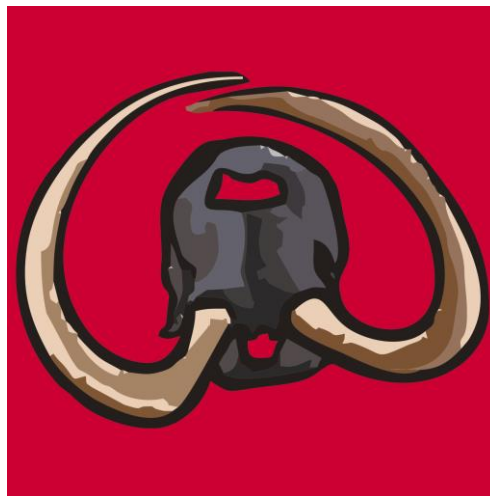
**Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter 2023 symposium** for mineral collectors in Johnstown, PA, on Saturday, November 11. This year there will also be a mineral, gem, and fossil show, with 40 tables and free admission for the public. Plans include a meet & greet on Friday evening, Nov. 10, and a field trip (for symposium registrants only) to New Paris Quarry on Sunday, November 12. The symposium theme is Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology, and there will be six interesting talks by knowledgeable speakers. There will be a silent auction, give-away table, and plenty of opportunities for visiting with fellow enthusiasts.

### 2024

### January

**Rutger's Geology Museum Open House, January 27<sup>th</sup>** - The theme of the Geology Museum's 56th Annual Open House Event in January 2024 will be Ancient Seas! A fun-filled day of lectures and activities focused on ancient sea life like mosasaurs and trilobites!

<https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/annual-open-house>



## News

**NASA spacecraft discovers tiny moon around asteroid during close flyby**

<https://apnews.com/article/asteroid-spacecraft-nasa-flyby-bc24131a8bd9dc9161ab8793e7693f45>

**Smithsonian debuts first display of asteroid fragment brought back by OSIRIS-REx**

<http://www.collectspace.com/news/news-110323a-smithsonian-osiris-rex-bennu-asteroid-unveiling.html>

## Quote of the Month

“I went into geology because I like being outdoors, and because everybody in geology seemed, well, they all seemed like free spirits or renegades or something. You know, climbing mountains and hiking deserts and stuff.” — **Kathy B. Steele**

## *DVESS Directory for 2023*

### **Officers**

President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103

[mark.leipert@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.leipert@yahoo.com)

Vice President: John Arsenault

Secretary: Cathy Eskew

[ceskew5@gmail.com](mailto:ceskew5@gmail.com)

Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540

[brenimage@hotmail.com](mailto:brenimage@hotmail.com)

### **Committee Chairs**

Junior Rockhounds Chair:

Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763

[WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com](mailto:WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com)

Field Trips: Mark Leipert

Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile

Membership: James Brennan

### **Other Information:**

### **Newsletter**

Editor: Susan Moore

[aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [www.DVESS.org](http://www.DVESS.org)

**Facebook:** [DVESSNJ](#) – Amy Simpson



## 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](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com).

