

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



November 2025



**This Meeting:** Wednesday, November 12th: Dr. Harold Connolly will be updating us on the OSIRIS-Rex mission results as well as other projects he is involved with and his world travels

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 10th: Holiday Party

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

## President's Message

Hi Fine Folks!

Did you remember to fall back? I remembered all the clocks that do not do the time change themselves except one, which threw me for a loop for a good 10 minutes until I remembered. I also trust that everyone got out and voted.

My winter goal is to reorg my mineral collection. Currently it is somewhat alphabetized, but as I add minerals, I run out of space, so I find a space. My backup to finding them if they are not where they are supposed to be, is to look at my spreadsheet which tells me exactly where they are. So now my goal is to perhaps find a new way to place them. Every idea has its pro's and con's. Alphabetical is still a viable way of having them but the downside is mentioned above. Organizing them via the three main categories (Metamorphic, Igneous, and Sedimentary) can also be somewhat deceiving because in order to find them in amongst 1600+ specimens creates a challenge. Do I use the Dana System, which is to organize them by chemical composition and crystal structure? Again, this has pros and cons. Do I do it by locality or perhaps by crystal structure alone? How about by color or the best looking? There are all sorts of ways to do it and I don't believe that there is a perfect way of doing it. And I didn't even start on the minerals that have more than one mineral in the assemblage. I do believe that having a searchable database is key to a large collection. What are your thoughts and how do you organize your collection?

Elections are upon us. If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, just let any of the executive folks know. It's a two year stint, and my term will be up in January. None of the positions are difficult and you'll certainly have past officers be glad to help you. I know I've had fun so far. I'm not going anywhere but the constitution and bylaws say that I must leave the position. So I'll be stepping down and the spot will be vacant.

Did you go on any adventures this past month? What about a picture of your favorite minerals? Send your stories and/or pictures to be included in our newsletter to Susan Moore.

Unless you submit articles, jokes, or stories, you'll have to put up with mine.

Always feel free to bring snacks to the meetings! See ya there!

**Science Article:** This is how Harvard does it...

[Specimens | Mineralogical & Geological Museum](#)

Feel free to submit science articles that you find and want to share.

**Joke:**

WHAT DID THE THIRSTY MINERALOGY STUDENT ON A DIET BUY?

SODALITE



**John Arsenault - President**

## Field Trips and Events

**Summary of our October Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 8th:** We watched several short You-Tube videos on the impact meteor crater that created the Chesapeake Bay area. After the meeting there were several requests for the video links that were presented. The links are also provided here for your viewing pleasure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hV7qE8QMCSE&t=46s>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/e8S6MAckuKQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjkQuOvRONM&t=18s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2M13rmla9oM>

**November Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 12th:** Our special guest speaker will be **Dr. Harold Connolly** who will be updating us on the **OSIRIS-Rex** mission results as well as other projects he is involved with and his world travels. The title of his presentation is **“The Nature of Asteroid Bennu Sample.”**

**Biography:** Professor Connolly is founding Chair and Professor of Geology within the Department of Geology at Rowan University. He joined the faculty in the fall of 2016 and has led the effort to create the undergraduate (B.S. and B.A.) and graduate degree (Ph.D.) programs in Geology, including detailed curriculum development. He has served as a member of the faculty at the City University of New York for 15 years, prior to coming to Rowan. His post-doctoral years were spent at the California Institute of Technology, and he was educated at Rutgers University, earning 3 degrees in Geological Sciences. He is a petrologist who studies scientific problems in the fields of cosmochemistry, meteorites and planetary science. He was the first Mission Sample Scientist (MSS) on a sample return mission from space. He was the MSS and a Co-Investigator (Co-I) on NASA’s New Frontiers 3 asteroid sample return mission, OSIRIS-Rex (returned in September 2023). He was also a Co-I on the JAXA asteroid sample return mission, Hayabusa2, which returned sample to Earth in December 2020.

## Field Trips:

**Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> New Ringgold, PA:** The site is composed of the Mahantango Formation which is Devonian in age (360 to 420 MYA). There were numerous brachiopods, bryozoan, coral, crinoid stems and trilobites. The trilobites were of the *Eldredgeops rana* variety. Those in attendance were Jack Helberg, Phyllis Greico, Vince Franchi, Jill Lee and friend Linda Kemble, Gina Shearer, Brian Gaunt with girlfriend Melissa Shearer and me. It was a cool day, but the sun was shining bright and the wind had died down considerably. Everyone came home with at least a bucket full of fossils.

**Plant Fossils/Coal Mine Trip, Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Lansford, PA:** This trip consisted of two parts. Most of those attending this trip left before sunrise. There were close to 50 people in attendance. Those from the DVESS and Friends of Mineralogy- NJ Chapter included: Dottie Lennon, Vince Male, Jenny Mulligan, Robert Bartosz, Jeff Lux, Paulina Galayda, Matt Downing, Fred Hochkile, John Aruta, Kayla Kuchta, Mike Dunton plus 12 FM-NJ members and me. We all met in the parking lot of the museum and No. 9 Coal Mine and caravanned to one of the Lehigh Anthracite Strip Mines for a safety brief prior to collecting fossil ferns/plants. In addition to fossils, minerals like quartz crystals, pyrite and peacock coal could also be found. Then, after lunch we gathered for the No. 9 Coal Mine Tunnel and Museum tour. We toured the longest running anthracite coal mine in Pennsylvania and viewed the museum exhibits.

The plant fossils were from the Pennsylvanian Period (318-299 million years ago). The shale we collected fossils from was the Llewellyn formation. If you would like to further identify the fossil plants you collected you can download from the PA Geological Survey the book [Fossil Plants from the Anthracite Coal Fields of Eastern Pennsylvania](#) by John Oleksyshyn.

**November 1, 2025 Ramanessin Creek Fossil Trip:** This was a multi-invitational club field trip consisting of DVESS, DVPS, Cape Atlantic Rockhounds, friends from Rowan and Rutgers' Universities included the following: Matt Downing, Fred

Hochkile, Eric Carr, Debbie White, Olga Shorokhova, Karen Sweeten, Jeff Lux, Paulina Galayda, Adam Arroyo, Dillion Ayars, Nicole Hall and myself. It was a mostly sunny day, the wind had died down, and everyone was hopeful of finding shark teeth, mosasaur and crocodile teeth and bones after the torrential rains from two days before.

Everyone split up along the stretch of the creek with their shovels and screens in hand. I saw many members and guests with shark teeth, a few potential mosasaur and crocodile teeth, pieces of bone, potential theropod tooth, crocodile scoot and many other specimens that needed further assistance in identification. Overall, everyone had a great time and made new friends and acquaintances.

**Sterling Hill Mine Tour and Mineral Museum, Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>:**

Mark your calendar for this exciting trip. You must be a DVESS member. We contribute to the Mining Museum as a club. It's about a 2 ½ hour + trip to get there. We would like everyone to have the opportunity to collect some fluorescent minerals before the tour. We will tentatively leave to drive up at 8:00 am. **Sign up at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**Dinosaur Park, Laurel, MD:** I will continue to take names of those that are interested in participating. They are still getting their volunteer program together. The Park is run by the National Park Service. I will keep reaching out to him every now and again.

**Edelman Fossil Park and Museum:** I am working on an agreement to have one of our regular meetings there at the museum once or twice a year at the museum. I will update on the progress.

**Club T-Shirts:** Coming in 2026. Our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Christmas Party:** Yes, it's that time of year again. We need someone or group of people to help get the Christmas party off the ground again.

### **Mark Leipert - Vice President**

Catherine Eskew's father, Edward Ruiz, Sr., 93, of Williamstown, passed away on Friday, October 31, 2025, in the comfort of his home, just 1 day before his 94th Birthday. He was grandfather of 18 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.

Relatives and friends are invited to his viewing on Wednesday, November 12th from 6:00-8:00 PM and Thursday, November 13th from 10:00-11:00 AM at the BELL-HENNESSY FUNERAL HOME, 420 S. Main St., Williamstown, NJ. 08094. Funeral Services will follow at 11:00 AM.

**PHOTOS**

**Sewell**

by Frederick Hochkile



**New Ringgold**

by Mark Leipert





**Pickering Golf Course  
Brookdale Mine (former Wheatly Mine)**

by Mark Leipert



## *DVESS Directory for 2025*

<u><b>Officers</b></u>	<u><b>Committee Chairs</b></u>
<p>President: John Arsenault 856-495-8550 <a href="mailto:Asuwsh4@yahoo.com">Asuwsh4@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Vice President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 <a href="mailto:mark.leipert@yahoo.com">mark.leipert@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Secretary: Cathy Eskew <a href="mailto:ceskew.5@gmail.com">ceskew.5@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 <a href="mailto:brenimage@hotmail.com">brenimage@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p>Junior Rockhounds Chair: Mark Leipert</p> <p>Field Trips: Mark Leipert Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile</p> <p>Membership: James Brennan</p>
<p><u><b>Newsletter</b></u></p> <p>Editor: Susan Moore <a href="mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com">aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><u><b>Other Information:</b></u></p> <p><u><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.DVESS.org">www.DVESS.org</a></u></p> <p><u><b>Facebook:</b> <a href="#">DVESSNJ</a> – 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 + \$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).

