DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter

November 2026



This Meeting: Wednesday, November 11th: via Zoom only

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 9th: Christmas/Holiday Party to be held at a restaurant. More details to follow

Meeting location: We are looking for a new, permanent meeting location.

President's Message

I am still looking for a new permanent home for the DVESS. I tried to get into one of the local libraries and that almost worked, except for the fact that Wednesday November 11th is Veteran's Day and all public offices and libraries are closed. So, there is no regular DVESS meeting this coming Wednesday; instead we are going to Zoom our meeting. I'll be sending out all the Zoom information on Monday evening.

We are working on a long-term fix to our meeting place dilemma. In December there will be a club Christmas Party at which all paid members will be invited and at a location TDB.

We said our goodbyes to Cathy Eskew outside at the outdoor luncheon area for school groups at the Edelman Fossil Park. Vince brought a delicious cake to thank and wish Cathy a safe journey to Indiana. We then went inside the Edelman Fossil Museum for our personalized tour. I narrated most of the areas for those that had never been to the museum. Everyone who went had a great time. We will miss Cathy dearly. It has been a pleasure working with her and Joe on both the club and Edelman Fossil Park and Museum over many years. Thanks for the memories, Cathy.

I'd like to personally thank Linda Elliott, Karen Sweeten, Jenny Mulligan, myself, Cathy's neighbors and their church member who help her pack and load everything up into the U-Haul truck. Cathy made it out safely to her son and daughter's home in Indiana in about 16 hours.

We are looking for a new meeting location in the near future. A new challenge as this year draws to a conclusion is that we need to complete our non-profit 501(C)3 application form and get our non-profit status. This will open more doors for DVESS. Many towns and other organizations only allow non-profit organizations to utilize their space. Jim Brennan and I are working to finalize everything to obtain our non-profit status.

There have been many recommendations for field trip localities to explore. We need to network with other clubs we are friendly with to help explore new possibilities. I'm looking to line up a few of our old standby fossil trips to Chestnut Branch Creek, 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. I'm looking for some new blood to be trip leaders. If you're willing to take the challenge, feel free to contact me.

Field Trips and Happenings:

Chestnut Branch Creek Fossil Trip: We will probably run several more trips to this local creek before the winter months are upon us. This is a local stream and it is a great beginner trip.

Plant fossil/Coal Mine Trip Lansford, PA October 10th: I'd like to thank Fred for leading the trip in my absence. In addition to the plant fossils, minerals like quartz crystals, pyrite, and peacock coal may also be found. Great fossil ferns and quartz crystals were found. See photos below.

Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg, NJ: Saturday, October 24th: Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Mine Tunnel Tour and museums plus self-collecting. We had 13 people attend the museum and mine tunnel tour as well as collecting some of the beautiful fluorescent minerals. They included: Fred Hochkile, Jenny Mulligan, Josh & Kate Andrews with their boys Oliver and Everett, Joel & Jenna Ouellette and their son Lucas, Lou Iacona, Phyllis Greico, Steve Stambaugh and myself. The museum tour and mine tunnel tour were top notch as usual. Everyone had a great time. We'll be going back next year for our annual pilgrimage.

Ramanessin Creek, November 7th: Postponed until later this month due to participating in the inaugural "Fossil Fair" at the Edelman Fossil Museum.

Fossil Sales at Edelman Fossil Museum: The inaugural "Mini Fossil Fair" at the Edelman Museum during Teacher's Convention Week, November 5th through November 8th was a success. I'd like to thank Karenne Snow, Fred Hochkile, Jenny Mulligan, Vince Male, Karem Sweeten, Bob Bartosz, Olga Shorokhova and myself for making the event a success. I'd also like to thank Nick, Matt, Scott and Eric of Facilities at the museum for tearing down the former VR Room and finishing the new Events Room in time for the Fossil Fair. Beautiful job guys. Part 2 of the "Fossil Fair" is November 27, 28 and 29th. Contact me if you're interested in selling fossils.

Christmas/Holiday Party is going to be held at a restaurant on Wednesday, December 9th. More details to follow. The club will cover the cost. If you get any alcoholic beverages, that's on you. We need to get a head count ASAP so please send me info if you plan on attending to get a count for the restaurant. We will also be having our gift exchange - give one, get one. There is a $15.00 limit.

Mark Leipert - President

Friends of Mineralogy – Pennsylvania Chapter

https://FM-PA.org
Friends of Mineralogy – Pennsylvania Chapter and
West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Department

SYMPOSIUM FOR MINERAL COLLECTORS

IN PERSON and ONLINE

Symposium Saturday November 14, 2025 Field Trip Sunday November 15
West Chester University – West Chester, Pennsylvania
Please Register in Advance

The Friends of Mineralogy – Pennsylvania Chapter and West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Department will hold their 2026 Symposium and field trip on the second weekend in November. Those in attendance on Saturday will check in at West Chester University's Merion Science Center. Activities, including informative talks by knowledgeable speakers on minerals, geology and mining in Pennsylvania and beyond, are planned. Online attendance is also being planned; registration deadline for online attendance is November 12. On Sunday, a field trip will provide an opportunity for mineral collecting at Phoenixville area sites. The field trip is open only to symposium registrants ages 12 and up; participants must wear high-visibility vests and provide their own safety equipment. Field trip attendance is limited and is filling up.

All interested mineral collectors are invited to register and attend. As usual, there will be a silent auction, give-away table, and plenty of opportunities for visiting with fellow enthusiasts. Lunch is available nearby on campus and at restaurants in the area.

Please see the web site https://fm-pa.org/symposia/fm-pa-fall-symposium for updates, details, and the registration form.

Dates: Saturday & Sunday, November 14-15, 2025
Location: Saturday, Nov. 14: Merion Science Center at West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania

Sunday, Nov. 15: collecting trip to Perkiomen Mine dumps, open only to Symposium registrants 12 & up.

Registration: $20/person for non-members (or join for 2027 and get the member rate),
$15/person for current FM-PA members; free for college students with ID; free for younger students.
$10/person for Sunday field trip (symposium registrants only, age 12 & up)
Parents must provide supervision of minors at the symposium.
Advance registration is preferable; a form is available on the web site.

Professional Geologists: Six Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance.

Web Site: https://fm-pa.org/symposia/fm-pa-fall-symposium
Contact: e-mail: <bstephens@stephensenv.com>

PHOTOS

by Robert Bartosz and Karen Sweeten

Edelman Fossil Park and Museum

DVESS President Mark Leipert expertly led club members to a personal tour of the Edelman Fossil Museum and its many exhibits on October 17. Everyone was captivated listening to Mark's stories and fun facts about the dinosaur displays and fossil collections. Thank you Mark for making this special experience possible!

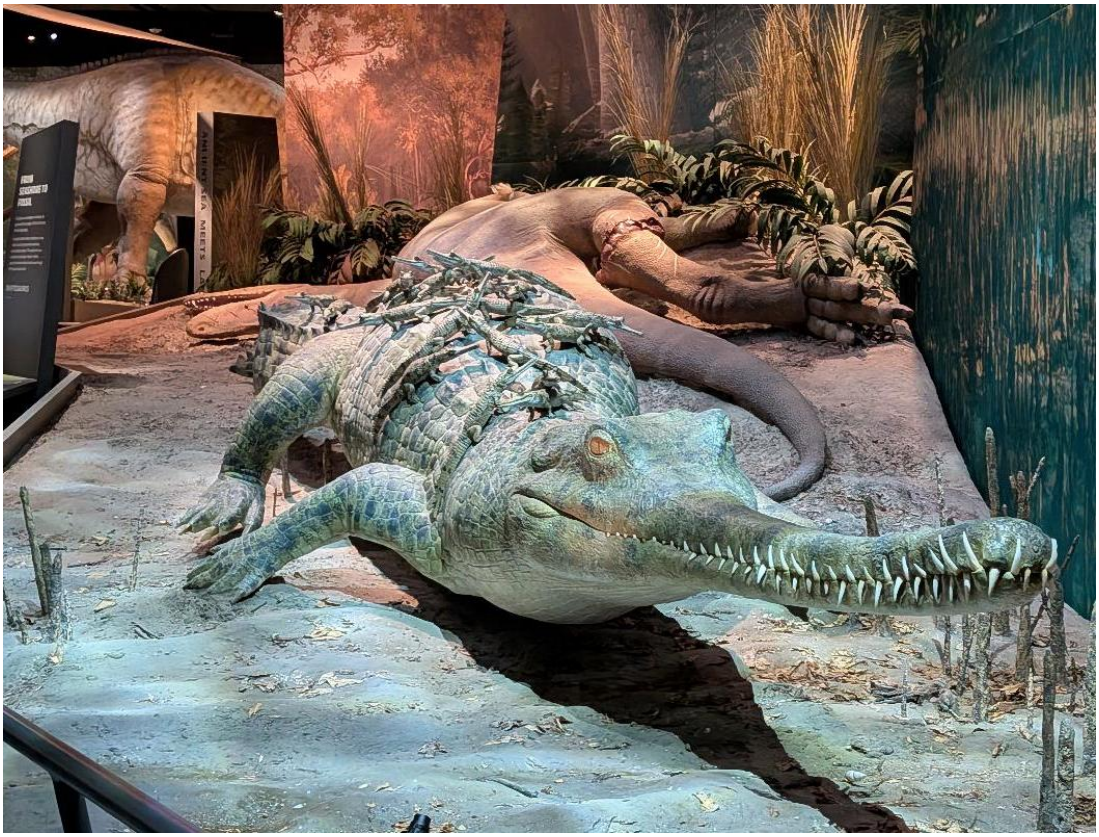
Robert Bartosz






Euclastes wielandi
Sea turtle


SEA REX




A DEEP AND
ENDURIN
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Sterling Hill Mine Museum trip

by Lou Iocona and Fred Hochkile







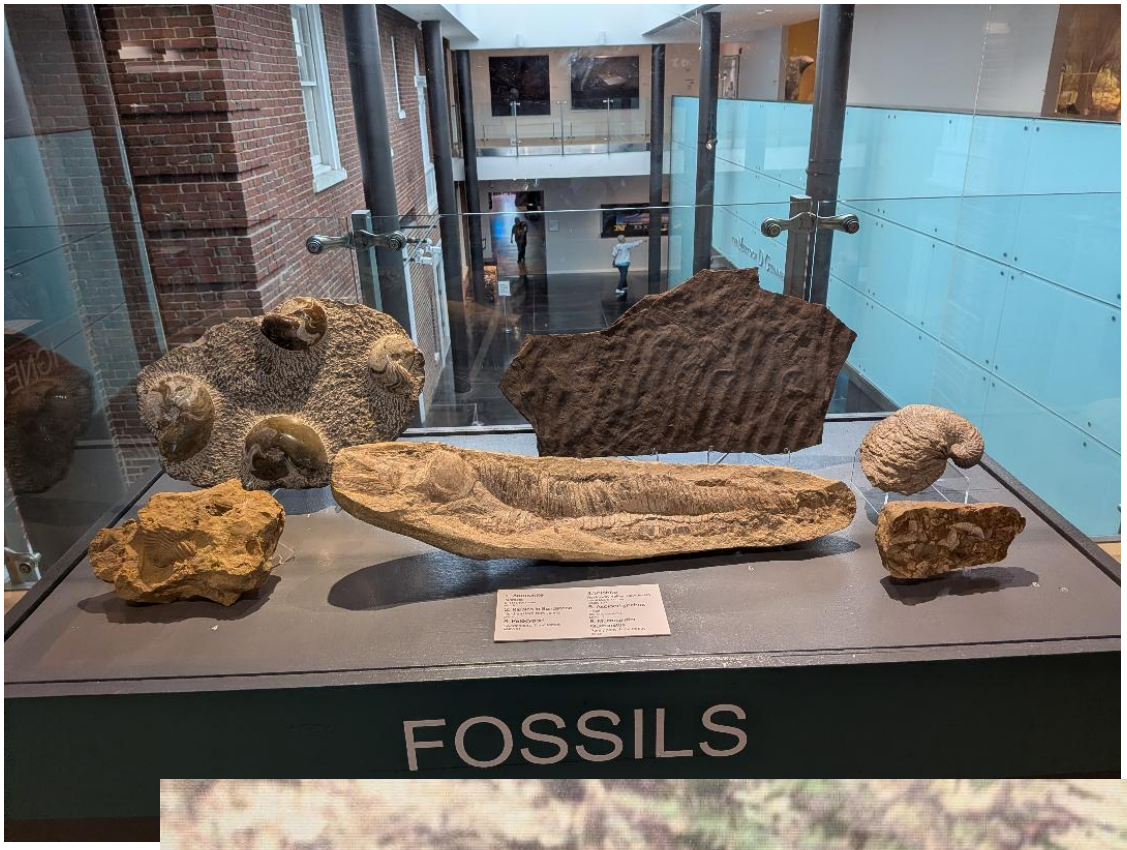
Morris Museum

Recently I visited the Morris Museum in Morristown, NJ. It is a small art & science museum with the distinction of being the only museum in New Jersey to be a Smithsonian Affiliate. After a guided tour of the original paintings, sculptures, and photography, the guide pointed out other exhibits to visit. I was happily surprised to learn that there was a display of minerals and fossils on the second floor! Pictures of some of those items are included here.

Karen Sweeten






FOSSILS


Petrified Wood
Cretaceous Period
Blackwood, New Jersey
Morris Museum Collection

DVESS Directory for 2026

Officers

President: Mark Leipert
856-524-2103
mark.leipert@yahoo.com

Vice President: Cathy Eskew
ceskew.5@gmail.com

Secretary: Karen Sweeten

Treasurer: James Brennan
610-322-1540
brenimage@hotmail.com

Newsletter

Editor: Susan Moore
aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs

Junior Rockhounds Chair: Mark Leipert

Field Trips: Mark Leipert
Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile

Membership: James Brennan

Other Information:

Website: 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 + $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.