

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc. (DVESS)
P.O. Box 372 Maple Shade, N.J. 08052
DVESS Website : <http://www.dvess.org>



Meeting: October 12, 2011

Program: Lou Detofsky on "Geology of the Caribbean"

President's Message: by AnnLynne Benson

Our esteemed President, Terry Wilson, has moved on to her new home in California and once again, I find myself assuming the role of President.

" Looking back over the twenty seven years that I have been a member I can remember many good times. During those years, I have made many friends. I have learned all manner of new things, spoken with various interesting speakers, attended mineral shows, and produced programs of my own.

"It was membership in this club that expanded my horizons and inspired me to accomplish the things that I did. I started collecting rocks and minerals when I was eight years old, but during those years, it was a very casual hobby. I collected when I could, and read books, but was not very serious. It was the club and the camaraderie that brought out the best in me.

*"As we move towards the end of 2011 it will be time for the election of new club officers. This is a cause of some concern. The last ten years have not been kind. We have lost many senior members. The reason why this club has lasted so long is because younger members have stepped up to the plate to take over from the senior members. Being a club officer is not very demanding and it can be fun to get involved. I have found it so. So I take this time to appeal to you, our members. Please step up to the plate and help us keep the club going. If you enjoy the club, its programs, the shows, the pick table, and camaraderie, then help it to continue. Become a part of tradition. **We Need YOU!***

"I can tell you from experience that pursuing a hobby alone is not as much fun as it is when you can share your experiences with others who are like-minded. There is nothing as satisfying as accomplishing new things or gaining the respect of senior members. You will not get experiences like this off of the internet."

These words were "spoken" by Thomas Pallanta, Jr., President of The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA in their September 2011 newsletter **Rock Chatter**. I could not have expressed my thoughts and feelings in a more clear and sincere way, so thanks to Tom Pallanta for giving a "voice" to the sentiments in my heart.

I never guessed what a significant role DVESS would play in my life when I joined "to find an activity I could share with my children." Little did I know that my children would grow to adulthood, go off on their own, and leave Mom at home collecting rocks! YOU know YOU enjoy coming to meetings, going on field trips, and sharing exploits with fellow members. I invite you, encourage you, and urge you to kick your membership up to the next level by coming to an Executive Board meeting where you will

enjoy food, fun and fellowship. And maybe, just maybe, some day you will be surprised at your own willingness to accept a leadership role. My crystal (selenite) ball tells me it will be one of the most rewarding choices of your life. **Let DVESS rock your world!**

MINUTES:

DVESS General Meeting on August 10, 2011
By Grant Elliott, Recording Secretary

Meeting was held at Centenary UM Church in Berlin, NJ.

Attendance: Gary Weinstein - Treasurer/Program Chair, AnnLynne Benson - Acting President/1st VP/Special Events Coordinator, Grant Elliott - Recording Secretary, Carol DeCuzzi - Newsletter Editor/Membership, and Mil LeCompte - Jr Rockhound Coordinator. Others present included Peter DeCuzzi, Stu Cleveland, Mark Leifert, Val Korszniak (Backup Recording Secretary), Lance Schnatterly, Evelyn Vickovich, Meredith Taylor, amongst others.

Ann gaveled the meeting to order at 8:15pm.

Show and Tell Program:

Gary recounted his Springfield, Massachusetts show experiences.

Evelyn expressed her delight and satisfaction working with participants at the DVESS Sterling Hill Digg.

Meredith related her tales of kayaking on the St Mary's River retrieving fossil shells and other material native to the Calvert County Maryland area.

Finally, Lance presented a fascinating slide show of his family adventures in the Hell Creek region fighting the mud and water while digging for vertebrate fossils.

Future Programs:

October- Lou Detofsky on "Geology of the Caribbean"

November- Don Miller (Fossil elephants)

December- Xmas party.

Meeting concluded at approximately 9:30pm. Some members then repasted at the Pallas Diner.

BANQUET TIME!!!!!!

Our annual banquet will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2011 from 1 pm – 5 pm at the Mandarin Buffet restaurant at "Ellisburg Circle" in Cherry Hill – intersection of Rt. 70 and Kings Hwy. Enter from Kings Hwy north of Rt. 70 – it's the first shopping plaza on the right (if you go as far as the first traffic light, you missed it). The sign says "Cherry (something)"; turn in and go straight and you're there (it's the last doorway on the right); also accessible from Rt. 70 West – turn into the driveway after passing the jughandle and before Kings Hwy. itself.

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Adults \$11.00 and children \$5.99 - our speaker is the noted and well appreciated magician/geologist/professor Dr. Steve Okulowitz.

Notify Ann or Gary if you plan to attend (specify # of adults and kids).

ANNUAL <<FREE>> STERLING MINE TOUR

Saturday Nov. 5, 2011 Carpool arrangements will be made at the Oct. 12 meeting; call if you are unable to attend the meeting and need a ride. Feel free to journey on your own. Tour start time is 1 pm. You may collect prior to the tour for the usual \$5. fee plus \$1.50 per lb.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

Mel and Gerald will each have a class: ages 8 to 13 with Mel and 14 to 18 with Gerald. Each class is limited to 10 kids.

Info from Gary for the future.

October's Program is our own Dr. Louis Detofsky speaking on the Geology of the Caribbean or carabene or caribeanne, whatever. This promises to be an exciting topic to begin our fall season so come on out and hear his lecture.

For November I have secured Don Miller of Delaware, a well known fossil collector and dealer, who will regale us with tales (or is it tails?) of Fossil Elephants. He will also be bringing a selection of fossils to sell if any member wants to add some goodies to their collection.

December is our annual holiday party/ gift exchange and election of next years officers. The club will supply a cold cut platter, rolls, etc., coffee, tea and sodas. We would ask that members please bring a covered dish, salad item or desert to share to round out the festive fare. Bring a wrapped gift (suggested value about \$10.00) and receive another surprise in return. (Should be hobby related).

Our upcoming annual banquet is to be held Sunday October 16th once again at the Mandarin Buffett on Kings Highway at Route 70 in Cherry Hill. Scheduled from 1 to 5 there will be door prizes for all, a raffle specimen, great food (all you can eat) and the best group of rockhounds money can buy. As if all this camaraderie etc. isn't enough we will be enthralled by one of Dr. Steven Okulowitz's wonderful lectures. You may remember his talk back in '04 on the Grand Canyon in the Pufferbelly restaurant where he had to compete against an Eagles Football Playoff Game!

For next year I have already spoken to Mr. Dick Bostwick, John Sanfacon and Derek Yost who have all graciously agreed to come down to give us presentations so come out to the meetings, partake, learn, share, vote and pay your dues for next year. You don't want to miss it!

Thank you, Gary

Election of next years officers: Yes it is that time again. The selection committee has opened the floor for nominations and volunteers to help run the club in the future. So far the slate of persons running (read "Coerced") is; President- Ann Benson; 1st V.P.- Mark Leipert; 2nd V.P.- Lou Detofsky; Secretary- Grant Elliot; Treasurer- Gary Weinstein

We are thankful to Mark for stepping forward this year as all the other officers above have served many terms in the past and we need some new blood to step up occasionally. Also thanks go to Val

Korsniak who volunteered to be back up Secretary or as we like to call it "scribe in waiting".

For your further travel pleasure, consider the following fun places to go...

October:

- 15-16: 38th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show & Sale sponsored by the Kanawha Rock & Gem Club. So. Charleston Community Center, So. Charleston, WV.
- 22 – 23: 42th Annual Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science Mineral Section and Rochester Lapidary Society. Monroe Co. Fair & Expo Center, Henrietta, NY.
- 29: Annual "Ultraviolation" Fluorescent Mineral Show sponsored by the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA.

November:

We are set to go for Saturday Nov. 5, 1 pm tour, collecting in the morning if we get there early enough (\$5. entrance, \$1.50 / lb unless we find out differently - maybe we should not have to pay the \$5.?). I signed up for 15 people (that can increase to 15 adults plus kids if necessary).

<http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/> Ann Benson - President/Special Events Coordinator

- 5 - 6: 7th Annual Rock & Gem Show sponsored by the Penobscot Mineral & Lapidary Club. Brewer Auditorium, Brewer, ME.
- 19-20: 45th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead & Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. So. Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East; West Palm Beach, FL.
- 25-27: 32nd Annual Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Show sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd; Salem, VA.

This space left blank waiting for your contribution.

20 Things You Didn't Know About... Crystals

The ones inside comets forged by the Sun, the ones buried under Manhattan, and the "crystal" ones that aren't crystal at all by Rebecca Coffey

From the May 2011 issue; published online July 5, 2011 2diggsdigg

1. It's all about the rhythm: Crystals are repeating, three-dimensional arrangements of atoms, ions, or molecules.
2. Almost any solid material can crystallize—even DNA. Chemists from New York University, Purdue University, and the Argonne National Laboratory recently created DNA crystals large enough to see with the naked eye. The work could have applications in nanoelectronics and drug development.
3. One thing that is not a crystal: leaded "crystal" glass, like the vases that so many newlyweds dread. (Glass consists of atoms or molecules all in a jumble, not in the well-patterned order that defines a crystal.)?
4. The oldest known pieces of our planet's surface are 4.4-billion-year-old **zircon crystals from the Jack Hills of western Australia**.
5. The center of the earth was once thought to be a single, 1,500-mile-wide iron crystal. Seismic studies now show that the inner core is not a single solid but perhaps an aggregate of smaller crystals.
6. Tiny silicate crystals, which need high temperatures to form, have been found inside icy comets from the solar system's distant, chilly edges. Powerful flares from the sun may have provided the necessary heat.
7. In Chihuahua, ? Mexico, **a limestone cavern 1,000 feet below the surface contains the largest crystals in the world**: glittering gypsum formations up to 6 feet in diameter and 36 feet long, weighing as much as 55 tons.
8. You may be sitting in a gypsum cave right now: It is a primary component of drywall.
9. Are the streets of New York paved with gold? No, but the bedrock schist beneath them is studded with opal, beryl, chrysoberyl, garnet, and three kinds of tourmaline.
10. In 1885 a garnet weighing nearly 10 pounds was discovered beneath 35th Street near Broadway, close to today's Macy's store. According to urban lore, it was unearthed either during subway construction or by a laborer digging a sewer.
11. Cheaper by the pound: The so-called Subway Garnet was sold within a day, reportedly for \$100—just \$2,300 in today's dollars.
12. The unit of measure for gemstones had humble beginnings. "Carat" comes from the Greek *keration*, or "carob bean," which was used as a standard for weighing small quantities. It is equivalent to 200 milligrams, or about 0.007 ounce.
13. When Richard Burton bought Elizabeth Taylor the heart-shaped Taj-Mahal diamond, he is said to have bragged, "It has so many carats, it's almost a turnip."
14. A "fancy intense pink" diamond **recently set a world record when it was purchased at auction for \$46 million** by a London jeweler.
15. The **Cullinan diamond** is the largest known gem diamond — or, actually, was. It weighed 3,106 carats, or nearly a pound and a half, when it was discovered in South Africa in 1905, but it has since been cut into more than 100 stones.
16. The Cullinan stones, all flawless, are now part of the British Regalia. The largest, a 530-carat behemoth, is set in one of the British royal scepters.
17. For the rest of us, there is crystallized sodium chloride, otherwise known as salt. We are literally awash in it: If the water were evaporated from the world's oceans, we'd be left with 4.5 million cubic miles of salt, equivalent to a cube measuring 165 miles on each side.

18. Another crystal for commoners: sugar. Each American eats an average of more than 130 pounds of it per year.
19. As if sugar's ties to obesity and tooth decay weren't enough, new research out of Imperial College London suggests that [it contributes to high blood pressure, too](#).
20. Snow is near-pure crystallized water, but when it collects on the ground it acts as a reservoir for atmospheric pollutants such as mercury and soot. So you probably shouldn't eat the *white* snow either.

A botanist has [discovered a new species of plant](#) in eastern Brazil whose branches bend down upon bearing fruit and deposit seeds on the ground, often burying them in a covering of soft soil or moss. This trick is an example of [geocarpy](#), a rare adaptation to survival in harsh or short-lived environments with small favorable patches. The adaptation ensures seedlings germinate near their parents, helping them stay within the choice spots or microclimates in which they thrive. One well-known practitioner of geocarpy is the [peanut, which also buries its fruit in the soil](#) [PDF].



The tiny, inch-tall plant was first spied by the scientist's handyman while he "hunched down behind a shrub for a common human activity," according to the [news release](#). He then brought the strange plant to the attention of botanist Alex Popovkin, who has found and categorized over 800 plant species to date in [Bahia, Brazil](#). The team dubbed it *Spigelia genuflexa*, named after the act of [genuflection](#), or kneeling to the ground.

Reference: Alex Popovkin, Katherine G. Mathews, José Carlos Mendes Santos, M. Carmen Molina, Lena Struwe. *Spigelia genuflexa* (Loganiaceae), a new geocarpic species from northeastern Bahia, Brazil. *PhytoKeys*, 2011; 6 (0): 47 DOI: 10.3897/phytokeys.6.1654 Image credit: [Alex Popovkin](#)

DVESS MEETING LOCATION :

DIRECTIONS:

From Atco (west-bound), after the traffic light at Taunton Ave. (Rite Aid drugstore on the left), the church is about the 3rd building on the right; turn into the first driveway. If you miss it, pass by the church and turn Right onto Broad St. (at the Berlin Diner) then turn Right into the parking lot of the Baptist Church and go straight all the way - the parking lots of both churches connect.

From Rt. 73 in Marlton: head East (South) on Rt. 73. As you enter Berlin, you will pass Wal-Mart (on the left) and a shopping center (on the right) with Shop Rite and Staples. **Get into the Right "Exit Only" lane and follow the signs for Cross Keys Rd. At the intersection of Cross Keys Rd. and the White Horse Pike (Rt. 30) turn LEFT. At the next intersection (Broad St.) continue straight past the Berlin Diner and SPEEDY MART on your left; pass by 2 or 3 white storefronts on the left then see the big white church with red front doors on your left. Pass in front of the church and turn into the driveway on the far side. Education Building is behind the church.**

From Lindenwold or Clementon on the White Horse Pike (east-bound):

As you enter Berlin business district, you will pass through the traffic light at Cross Keys Rd. (CVS Pharmacy on right corner). Follow highlighted directions above.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Regular members are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities. Sponsoring members are entitled to the same plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Dues are renewable each year in January. Membership rates for the Society:

Regular Membership:

\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

Sponsoring Memberships (each additional family member - \$5.00):

"Silver" \$50.00 for 1st family member - receive a Geode Specimen

"Gold" \$75.00 for 1st family member - receive a Native Gold Specimen

"Platinum" \$100 for 1st family member - receive a Premium Specimen

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 , knowledge 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>)

MEETINGS

The Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month throughout the year at Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin. Junior Rockhounds meet at 7:30pm with the regular meeting beginning around 8 pm.

Anyone with info for the newsletter please share with me. You can be published!

Stuff you did in school, on a trip etc., see my info below (next page).

Editor's Notes: Editor is not responsible for authenticity of information in any articles submitted for publication. Nor are the opinions expressed in the "DVESScapades" necessarily those of the officers of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc., and/or the editor.

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies)

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>DVESS Directory 2011</i> | President Ann Lynne Benson see next box for info |
| 1st Vice President Ann Lynne Benson 856-783-0969 SeleniteQueen@gmail.com | 2nd Vice President |
| Jr. Rockhound Coordinator Mel LeCompte 856-783-0969 works-in-faith@comcast.net | Recording Secretary Grant Elliott 856-728-1731 gle@verizon.net |
| Website Coordinator Terry Wilson 609-714-1309 terry@dveess.org | Special Events Coordinator Ann Lynne Benson 856-783-0969 SeleniteQueen@gmail.com |
| Treasurer and Program Chair Gary Weinstein 856-234-0708 - home 856-795-5077 - wk garyskyrock@hotmail.com | DVESS Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair Carol De Cuzzi 856-428-0621 - home decuzzic@comcast.net or DVESS@int-pro.com |

Membership Form

Start w/ first family member (designated as head of family) Juniors must have an adult head of family with the Junior as the additional family member for insurance purposes.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP+4 _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Profession, School or Major Work

Okay to let other members of the Club see your email and other orange-starred information (on website)?

Okay to share _____

Do NOT share _____

Newsletter Delivery ONLY via e-mail

additional family members to be registered w/ above member

Type of membership Regular Membership:
\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member
\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each additional family member
Dues are collected on a calendar year Jan to Dec, no pro-rata rates
additional members on another paper if needed

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

Sponsoring Memberships (each additional family member - \$5.00):
"Silver" \$50.00 for 1st family member - receive a Geode Specimen
"Gold" \$75.00 for 1st family member - receive a Native Gold Specimen
"Platinum" \$100 for 1st family member - receive a Premium Specimen

Interests: Minerals ___ Fossils ___ Lapidary ___ Collecting ___ Museum Trips ___
Trotter ___ Sterling Hill ___ other, please list _____

How did you learn of DVESS? _____

Comments _____

What NON-DVESS interests or hobbies do you have? Would you be willing to share with our members?

What would you like the club to do or provide for you? _____

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

