

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



October 2022



Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 12th, via Zoom

7:00 pm social hour

8:00 pm Program: **Jason Downs**, a paleontologist with the Academy of Natural Sciences and Delaware Valley University, on "Recent Work in the Catskill Formation of Pennsylvania Revealing a New Species in the Vertebrate Fin-to-Limb Transition"

President's Message

We will continue having Zoom meetings for the near future. Our next in-person meeting may be in time for our Christmas Party in December. We need to see if the COVID levels continue to stay down. We will continue taking trips and remain safe too. We are making plans for our fall field trips now. Please contact me should you have any ideas of localities or specimen types (fossil or minerals) you would like to visit.

October 12th Speaker will be Jason Downs, a paleontologist with the Academy of Natural Sciences and Delaware Valley University. He will be presenting on one of his recent projects in the Catskill Formation in Pennsylvania. His presentation will be titled the "Recent Work in the Catskill Formation of Pennsylvania Revealing a New Species in the Vertebrate Fin-to-Limb Transition." Jason's bio can be found below:

Jason Downs is a Philadelphia-based vertebrate paleontologist. He received his Ph.D. in Geology & Geophysics from Yale University in 2006.

Currently an associate professor in the biology department at Delaware Valley University, Jason is additionally on the faculty of the Wagner Free Institute of Science and is a research associate at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. His current research focuses on the anatomical and ecological contexts of the vertebrate transition to land.

DVESS Club Project: Thanks to everyone who provided fluorescent materials to be sent to the Gem & Mineral Club from Ventura, California containing specimens from Franklin and Sterling Hill, NJ. The package is being mailed later this week.

Field Trips:

September 10th, 2022: Middleburg National Limestone and Mt Pleasant Mills quarries: We met up at Mt. Pleasant Mills quarry first at 10:15. After a quick discussion on the safety rules for collecting and other topics, Eric the quarry owner let us loose to collect. Those in attendance were Fred, Ray, Billy, Christine, Vince, Phyllis, Steve, myself and our newest members Bob, Carrie, Gina & Dave. Billy brought his hammer drill to bust up some rock and expose more crystals. While rest of us resorted to the standard variety of large sledgehammers and rock chisels.

We all found an assortment of crystals including Calcite, large Dog-tooth Calcite, Strontianite tuffs and Fluorite. Later in the afternoon we set off to find the recently excavated mine shafts where others had found high quality Wavellite. We all found some very nice pale to deep green botryoidal masses and radiating crystals of Wavellite. On the way home we stopped at a new alternate “Seven Stars” Trilobite locality. We found some highly weathered Devonian reef fossils. We found a few less weathered specimens we could bring home and prepare them for sealing. Steve wound up twisting his knee coming down the hill and had to be carried to Mark’s car for transport home. After at least 10 hours in the ER, Steve, his wife, Barbara and daughter, Brandy brought him home. He had fractured his fibula and had to get used to crutches and a splint device on his leg. He’s doing better now but needs at least 3 to 4 more weeks before he can go collecting again.

On September 18th our club’s participated in the **Water Fest Event at Scotland Run Park in Clayton, NJ** to show others our rocks, minerals and fossils specimens. Those in attendance were Cathy & Joe, Fred, Ann, Karen, and myself. Others enjoyed our rock painting activities station manned by Cathy and Joe. We also took the opportunity to share our knowledge of earth science with the event attendees. We also got several requests to help teachers in teaching earth science/geology to their students. Our tables were set up next to the Rowan Edelman Fossil Park and Museum table. Combined, we shared information on the upcoming opening of the Edelman Fossil Park and Museum in the Spring of 2023.

Future Field Trips:

Saturday, October 22nd: Our annual pilgrimage up to the **Sterling Hill Mining Museum** for our free museum and mine tunnel tour as well as collecting on the mine tailings. Wear hard soled shoes, sweatshirt or light jacket, and bring hammers, chisels, gloves, backpack, snacks and water. You will have some time to collect fluorescent minerals. There is also a possibility to take in the haunted mine tour at night. We will be meeting at the PATCO High Speedline at the Wood Crest Station at 8:30 at Parking Lot 8A.

If there is enough interest a number of members might like to get tickets for the Sterling Hell Haunted Mine Tour for later the evening of the 22nd. Tickets can be purchased for \$13.00 from the Ogdensburg School 8th Grade at the link below:
<https://sterlinghell.ticketleap.com/sterling-hell-haunted-mine-2022/> Sterling Hell

Haunted Mine 2022 is a non-profit fund raiser held yearly to support the graduating eighth grade class and pay for their yearly class trip to Boston. It is a project run by the eighth grade class and their families in cooperation with the Sterling Hill Mining Museum and the support of the local community of living and dead souls. This is the fifth annual Haunted Mine Event. We look forward to seeing everyone again that may have survived last years visit!

Saturday, November 12th, Sewell Stream Trip: We will be meeting at the old train station across from the Olive Italian Restaurant (195 Center Street, Sewell, NJ 08080 next to Louie G's (190 Center Street, Sewell, NJ). We'll be meeting at 8:45 next to the railroad tracks. You'll need boots, shovel, screen, bucket, water and snack.

Mark Leipert, President

Shows and Events

through Jan. 8, 2023 - Jaw Dropping World of Sharks, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton. Sharks and their relatives share a 400-million-year history and have a diverse family tree. They inhabit the world's oceans, rivers and estuaries evoking fear and mystery. But much this fear comes from a lack of understanding about sharks and their habitats. This exhibition dispels some of the myths and misunderstandings about sharks and their relatives by exploring their biology, fossil record, conservation and cultural significance. Specimens and artifacts from the New Jersey State Museum collections will be on display to demonstrate the truly jaw-dropping world of sharks!

October 8 - 9, 2022 - 5th Annual South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, 1721 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08054. Show Times: Saturday (10/8/22) 10:00 am - 6:00 pm & Sunday (10/9/22) 10:00am - 4:00 pm. www.sjmineralshow.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow

October 8 - 2022 Mineral Treasures Outdoor Show 10 am to 6 pm. Location: Picnic Grove at St. Michael's Byzantine Church, 203 Jacobs St., Mont Clare, PA 19453. Admission \$5 adult; under 13 and all scouts in uniform free. Minerals, fossils, gems, crystals, and jewelry from all over the world, as well as books, decorative items, and other merchandise for sale, with over 30 vendors under the pavilion and on the picnic grounds. Free parking. Kids' activities & free mineral specimens. Snack bar. Picnic tables on site -- bring your own picnic. Indoor restrooms. Information: www.phillyrocks.org. Contact: Cheryl Leibold: cleibold@verizon.net

November 12-13, 2022: Symposium on Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology, by Friends of Mineralogy – Pennsylvania Chapter. Saturday: Symposium at Bright Side Opportunities Center, 515 Hershey Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603. Talks by knowledgeable speakers; sales; silent auction; giveaway table. Sunday: field trip to Mount Pleasant Mills, open only to symposium registrants. Please register in advance. See <https://www.rasloto.com/FM/>



Photos

by Mark Leipert

DVESS and Edelman Fossil Park working the Water Fest together



Fossil collecting at Seven Stars alternative location. Devonian reef fossils



Mineral specimens from Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA

The first three photos are dog tooth calcite XLS. The last photo is of botryoidal and radiating Wavellite crystals.





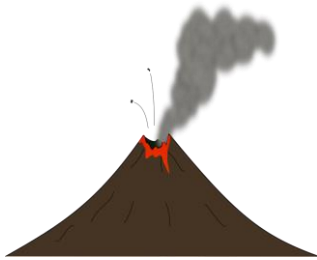
News

'Baby' island appears in Pacific Ocean after underwater volcano erupts

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/24/world/baby-island-pacific-ocean-science-trnd/index.html>

50 million tons of water vapor from Tonga's eruption could warm Earth for years

<https://www.space.com/tonga-eruption-water-vapor-warm-earth>



Quote of the Month:

I think when you work on fossils, and you realize that a species is there, and it's abundant for quite a long period of time, and then at some point it's no longer there - and so, when you look at that bigger picture, yes, you realize that either you change and adapt, or, as a species, you go extinct. - **Louise Leakey**

DVESS Directory for 2022

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
<p>President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 mark.leipert@yahoo.com</p> <p>Vice President: Jimmy Burlage james.burlage@outlook.com</p> <p>Secretary: Cathy Eskew ceskew5@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

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To submit an article or photos for publication in the DVESScapades, contact the Newsletter Editor at aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com.

