

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



October 2024

This Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th.
**Dreadnaughtus schrani: Remembering the
10th Anniversary.** Presentation by Mark
Leipert

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13th



New meeting location: Atco Senior Center, 474 E. Atlantic Ave, Waterford,
NJ.

President's Message

Hi Fine Folks,

Fall is upon us. Do you know why the leaves change color?

At this month's meeting, Mark Leipert will talk about *Dreadnaughtus schrani*: Remembering the 10th Anniversary.

Last month's Show and Tell was good. Even some shy folks got up and talked about the specimens they brought in. We even had some mineral identification going on. I'm digging the interaction for this fine group.

Elections are coming up in December, so if there's a position you have your eye on, think about running.

We are always looking for donations for the rock table. So, if you want to donate some of your precious specimens or some not so precious specimens, we have a table just for you. Thanks to all the members who have already donated to the rock table.

Did you do anything earth science related and have any photos of your adventures you'd like to share? Please send them in to Susan Moore.

If you are aware of other events, shows, or an interesting science article, again send them into Susan and we'll get them in the newsletter.

Everyone has been super busy, so unfortunately, the website membership prices are still not fixed. Membership dues are coming up again in January. Send checks to James Brennan, 139 Ashbrook Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 or you can pay in person at the meetings.

If you need the new brochures because you are going to be at an event, reach out to Jim!

As you know, logo design is still ongoing for the shirts.

*Why did the geologist need to see a
counselor?
He wanted to discuss his faults!*

John Arsenault - President

Field Trips and Events

Program for Wednesday, October 9th: Dreadnaughtus schrani: Remembering the 10th Anniversary. Presentation by Mark Leipert

Herkimer Mountain Mine Collecting Trip: Will be re-scheduled for Spring of 2025.

Saturday, October 12th Field Trip: New Ringgold, Schuylkill County, PA on State Rte 895. It is a borrow pit/quarry owned by East Brunswick Township. The site is a marine Devonian site in the Mahantango Formation. The fossils found are similar to Beltzville and Deer Lake. There are abundant corals, trilobites, crinoids, brachiopods and bryozoans. Preservation is pretty good with some of the fossils coated in orange iron oxide for nice contrast. Collecting will be with hammer and chisel by breaking rock although there is much rock already broken up. This is a local road department borrow pit so depending on how much they've been using it there may more or less loose rock exposed. Everyone should find something worth bringing home. Parking is right next to the collecting site and there are no facilities available there. The site has a lot of loose boulders and rocks and overhangs and requires utmost care in walking around and cracking rock. There is also equipment and bulldozers at the site. Stay clear of them. Required equipment – sturdy shoes, garden knee pads, rock hammers, chisels, Elmer's glue, aluminum foil, collecting bag, lunch, and water. We are going to meet at the site

at 10:00 or you can meet the group at PATCO High Speedline, Woodcrest Station, Parking Lot 8A at 8:30. Sign up at the meeting.

Ramanessin Creek, Cretaceous Maring Fossils: Saturday, November 9th at 10:00 at the Village Elementary School, 67 McCampbell Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733.

Meet at the PATCO High Speedline, Wood Crest Station, Parking Lot 8A at 8:30.

You will need the following: Long handle shovel, sieve (1/4"), boots, bucket, zip lock baggies or medicine bottles for specimens, water, snacks, gloves. Sign up at the regular meeting.

Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Saturday, November 23rd: Our Annual Free Mine Tunnel Tour, Museum Tours and mineral collecting. Sign up at the regular meeting. This is approximately a 3-hour trip each way.

Trip Report: Mt. Pleasant Mills and Middleburg Quarries: Saturday, September 21st: We all left our starting places at a the time set to make it to the Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry by the 9:30 meeting with Eric Stahl. Everyone started arriving shortly after 9:00. As it approached 9:30, I took a quick look around and noticed everyone was in attendance except for Eric. I called him on his cell phone, and he answered and said, "you guys are at the wrong quarry, you were supposed to be at Middleburg Quarry." My email requesting a reservation was specifically for Mt. Pleasant Mills. You don't argue with the owner. He's always right if you ever want to come back. Eric finally arrived and we listened to his "safety brief" and signed the back of our copy of our insurance policy. We then drove down into the quarry and started out within the first section of the quarry before splitting up into other groups. We had the main quarry, the newly blasted section and the wavellite pits.

Those that were in attendance were either DVESS members or friends of DVESS: Fred Hochkile, Mark Leipert, Peggie Thompson, Sue VanCola, Dean Ruocco, Mike Clifford, Alex and Rebekah Pepenella, Christine and Billy Pape, Steve Stambaugh, Bruce Gerlach, Nancy Kuntzleman, Jeri Cuffley, Kelli Carpenter, Doug Withstandley and Cora James. This was one of our best attended field trips in quite a while. Eric was sure glad to see all the people.

We all started in the main quarry and collected there for about an hour before we started breaking up into groups/areas. The main area was nice but not of the quality Dogtooth Calcite crystals as 3 or 4 years ago. So we split up to check out the new blasting area on top and also around where the wavellite pits were located. The wavellite pits were down a side road that was wide enough for the vehicles to drive down in one direction. The first pit was the usual small pit. But Doug's friend sent him coordinates for a second pit. We drove about 300 to 400 feet further down the road to an area about 5 or 6 times larger than the first pit. The amount and quality was much better than the first pit. Besides looking for wavellite, everyone had their eyes out for trilobite fossils. Only a small piece or two were found. People were ready to move on to the Middleburg Quarry around 12:30.

On the way to Middleburg Quarry, we tried hard to caravan, but we managed to get separated due to winding roads. Then we got lost a few times within the quarry boundaries. Finally we all were together again. We found some nice calcite, strontianite and fluorite crystals. Dean was helping us to try and find the elusive Eurypterid fossils. Very few pieces of Eurypterids were found. It definitely required a trained eye to see them. They were black on black fossils, so they were extremely difficult to see by the untrained eye. We left around 3:30 and started our journey home. We were too tired to stop at the fossil locality. All in all, the weather cooperated and it was a beautiful day for collecting minerals and fossils. Everyone had a great time.

Mark Leipert - Vice President

Friends of Mineralogy – Pennsylvania Chapter

SYMPOSIUM ON PENNSYLVANIA MINERALOGY AND GEOLOGY, Theme: GREEN PENNSYLVANIA MINERALS

And SECOND ANNUAL MINERAL, GEM, AND FOSSIL SHOW

Symposium and Show November 9, 2024 Field Trip November 10

University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown, PA

<https://www.rasloto.com/FM/>

The Friends of Mineralogy – Pennsylvania Chapter will hold their 2024 Symposium and field trip, and First Annual Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show, on the second weekend in November. Mineral collectors arriving on Friday November 8 are invited to an evening Meet & Greet; bring your best find from this year to talk about. Those in attendance on Saturday will check in at the University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown’s Heritage Hall at the Living Learning 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. The Mineral Show, held on Saturday only, has free admission for all. On Sunday, a field trip will provide an opportunity for mineral collecting at Mount Pleasant Mills quarry. The field trip is open only to symposium registrants who attend the Saturday afternoon safety briefing in person or online. Safety equipment will be required.

NEWS

A materials scientist seeks to extract lithium from untapped sources

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/chong-liu-lithium-ev-batteries>

PHOTOS

Microscopic analysis of micro-fossils

by Mark Leipert





Mt. Pleasant Mills and Middleburg Quarries: Saturday, September 21st

by Frederick Hochkile





DVESS Directory for 2024

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
<p>President: John Arsenault 856-495-8550 Asuwsh4@yahoo.com</p> <p>Vice President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 mark.leipert@yahoo.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: Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763 WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com</p> <p>Field Trips: Mark Leipert</p> <p>Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile</p> <p>Membership: James Brennan</p>
<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Other Information:</u>
<p>Editor: Susan Moore aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Website:</u> www.DVESS.org</p> <p><u>Facebook:</u> DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</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.

