

# DVESScapades

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



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



October 2025



**This Meeting:** Wednesday, October 8th: The impact meteor crater that created the Chesapeake Bay area.

**Next 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.

**Looking Ahead:** Wednesday, December 10th: Holiday Party

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

## President's Message

Hi Fine Folks!

Again, I can't say enough about how great this weather has been in New Jersey. Get outside because soon enough, we'll be complaining about the weather.

Several of us made it over to the Cape Atlantic Rockhounds Fall show. Lots of vendors. Lots of deals. I even found some specimens for my growing collection which is up to about 1600 specimens. One of my first goals was to collect one of each letter of the alphabet and that is complete. I need to come up with another goal....

We have elections coming up. 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.

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

America's mine waste may secretly hold the key to ending dependence on imported critical minerals.

[America is throwing away the minerals that could power its future](#)

(As a side note, this is being looked at in Pennsylvania by a good friend of mine, who works for the EPA.)

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

**Joke:**

*Did you hear about the drunk geologist?*

*He hit rock bottom.*

**John Arsenault - President**

**Field Trips and Events**

**September Regular Meeting:** There was no speaker. September was our “Annual Show and Tell” program. Some members came prepared to share with everyone their specimens/stories/photos of their summer adventures. We had a lot of great specimens and stories to go along. Special thanks to those who participated in our event.

**October Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 8th:** We will be watching a YouTube video on the impact meteor crater that created the Chesapeake Bay area. A few years back, Robert Todd gave a mini-presentation on this very topic.

**November Regular 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.

**Field Trips:**

**Pickering Golf Course, Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>: (Rescheduled from early June)** We made our annual pilgrimage back to the old Brookdale Mine in the area collectively known as the Wheatly Mines to collect pyromorphite, quartz, calcite, malachite, galena, silver, cerussite and sphalerite to name a few. We went back to the area immediately in front of the old smokestack. The area had been recently dug up from another club or two. I almost didn't recognize the area.

Then we went over to the new area we were shown last time. I can't say it was much better but we found quartz crystals and a few pieces of pyromorphite. A doe decided she like us and decided to lay down and watch us collect for a while. Golf balls were whizzing past our heads a few time but none of us got hit. Those who attended were Dottie Lennon, Dave & Gina Shaerer, newcomer Jeff Lux, Steve Ditullio, Fred Hochkile, other newcomers Jack Helberg & John Aruta and me. We were not allowed to rent a golf cart. The weather was cool and much different from our last adventure there when the heat index was close to 110 degrees.

**Plant Fossils/Coal Mine Trip, Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Lansford, PA:** This trip consists of two parts. In the morning, we will be collecting fossil ferns/plants in an active coal strip mine. In addition to fossils, minerals like quartz crystals, pyrite and peacock coal may also be found. Then, after lunch we will take a short drive to the No. 9 Coal Mine Museum and Tour. We will be able to tour the longest running coal mine in Pennsylvania and view the museum exhibits that preserve the legacy of the anthracite coal mining industry of the area. There is a fee for the No. 9 Coal Mine Museum. We need a total of 20 people to attend from all the clubs involved to get a group discount rate. I need to know if you are planning on attending by Sunday, October 5th.

We are going to meet another club up at the site at 8:45 or you can meet the group at PATCO High Speedline, Woodcrest Station, Parking Lot 8A at 6:15 sharp. We will meet at the parking lot of the No. 9 Coal Mine Museum, 9 Dock Street, Lansford PA 18232. Please be there by 8:45 am and check in with me. I have a gray Toyota pick-up truck, and I will have a green hard hat on. At that time, I will be collecting the money for the Coal Museum and Coal Mine tour later that day. We will be leaving the parking lot at 9:00 am promptly and caravanning a short distance to the Lehigh Anthracite Coal strip mine. Collecting will occur unless we have heavy rain or lightning. If the trip needs to be canceled, I will contact you by 5:00 pm the night before the trip.

Children are allowed on this trip but must be under the supervision of their guardian. Any children with behavior that is seen as unsafe for themselves and other attendees will be asked to leave. Attendees must wear a hard hat and sturdy boots with steel tips. Other recommended safety gear includes eye protection and gloves. Attendees must stay away from any vehicles and

equipment in the mine; this is an active strip mine. A safety representative from Lehigh Anthracite Company will be joining us in the mine.

We will be collecting on spoil piles of the mine, the primary focus being fern and plant fossils from the Pennsylvanian Period (318-299 million years ago). The shale we will be collecting fossils from is the Llewellyn formation, and the coal that is being mined is from many different veins and can not be identified at the spoil piles. I recommend looking up [www.fossilguy.com](http://www.fossilguy.com) and looking at his Carboniferous fern fossil identification page. Although the fossils from this page are from a different formation, the plant fossils from Lansford are similar. There is good pictures of ferns from the St. Clair fossil site as well. If you have a greater interest in the subject, the PA Geological Survey offered the book Fossil Plants From The Anthracite Coal Fields of Eastern Pennsylvania by John Oleksyshyn years ago and used copies of this book can still be found on Amazon. In addition to the plant fossils, you may also find quartz crystals, pyrite, and peacock coal.

You will not need large equipment to collect from the spoil piles. A hammer and chisel are the standard tools; an old screwdriver can be utilized as a chisel as well. Some collectors use putty knives or old butter knives to split shale into thinner pieces. Bring containers to put your specimens in; boxes and 5-gallon plastic pails are used by some collectors. You may want to bring newspaper to wrap your finds. Some people use aluminum foil to wrap up more delicate fossils. As with most fossil and mineral collecting, you probably are going to get dirty, so be prepared. I like to carry a container of hand wipes with me.

Collecting at the strip mine will end at 12:00 pm sharp, and for those who are staying for the No. 9 Coal Mine tour, we are taking an hour lunch break. The No. 9 Coal Mine Museum has a picnic pavilion available if you are packing a lunch. Also, if you want to share your finds from collecting, join us at the picnic pavilion. There are 2 convenience stores nearby that you can pick up something to eat: The Friendly Food Market, 135 W Patterson St, Lansford, PA, and Pappy's Mini Mart, 113 E Water Street, Coalsdale, PA. Cabrera's pizza shop, 161 W. Ridge St., Lansford, PA is close as well, just be back by 1:00 pm.

The visit and tour of the No. 9 Coal Mine Museum will start at 1:00 pm. **The group entrance fee is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children aged 4 to 12. You will need to pay in cash; please have exact change.** They recommend bringing a light

jacket or sweater to go into the mine, and open-toed footwear is not allowed. Check out their website, [no9coalmine.com](http://no9coalmine.com).

**Possible November trips:** Ramanissin Creek, Chestnut Branch Creek, Sterling Hill Mine and Museum.

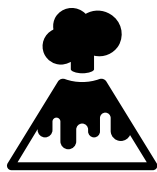
**Dinosaur Park, Laurel, MD:** I will continue to take names of those that are interested in participating. They are still getting their volunteer program together. The Park is run by the National Park Service. I will keep reaching out to him every now and again.

**Edelman Fossil Park and Museum:** I am still trying to have a meeting there once or twice a year at the museum. I will update on the progress.

**Club T-Shirts:** I'm still working on a new design and hope to have T-shirts by sometime in autumn timeframe.

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

**Mark Leipert - Vice President**



**[N.J. has a volcano! Everything you need to know about what's hiding beneath this hill.](#)**

**Beemerville Volcano erupted in Wantage, give or take 6 million years, according to geologists.**



## PHOTOS

### Pickering Golf Course and Brookdale mine spoil piles

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></u> <a href="http://www.DVESS.org">www.DVESS.org</a></p> <p><u><b>Facebook:</b></u> <a href="#">DVESSNJ</a> – 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](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com).

