

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



September 2023



Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 13th (in-person and Zoom)

7:00 pm: Social hour

8:00 pm: Program: Our speaker will be J.P. Hodnett, Curator of the Dinosaur Park located in Laurel, MD. "Maryland Dinosaur Park Bone Bed: An Early Cretaceous Treasure Chest!" Learn about the new discoveries made within the last 3 years at the Maryland Dinosaur Park Bone Bed which has produced the largest concentration of dinosaur fossils in over 100 years!

Looking ahead

The October meeting will be our annual Show-and-Tell.

Meeting location: Education Bldg. behind Centenary United Methodist Church,
149 South White Horse Pike, Berlin NJ 08009

President's Message

I hope everyone had a nice, safe and adventurous summer. Our first hybrid meeting back from our summer break, during July and August, will be an in-person/Zooming meeting on September 13th. Although September is usually our “Show-and-Tell” program, we will be having a guest speaker this month and the “Show-and-Tell” program will be re-scheduled for October. We still need some other club members to step up into other temporary or voluntary positions,

We are making plans for our fall/early winter field trips now. Please contact me and Fred with any ideas of localities or specimen types (fossil or minerals) you would like to visit. We try to keep a good mix between minerals and fossils to strike a happy medium.

Attempting to bring back something old: We are going to bring back the prize table, which we did many years ago. We are going to start off slowly and see where we go from there. You can purchase a ticket for a dollar. You can also purchase more than one ticket. When your number is called you come up and pick up a specimen. If you are clearing out some old specimens from your collections, please donate them to the prize table. You should label the specimens and note the locality when you donate. Your donations will be appreciated. This is a way the club can make a few bucks each month. We are also going to have a 50/50 raffle where tickets/chances can be bought for one dollar. The winner gets 50% and the club gets 50%.

How are we doing with our hybrid meetings? We are going to continue holding our hybrid meetings in September and probably through early 2024. We may continue to use the Zoom setting during the winter months with the possibility of hazardous weather. It’s a challenge, but we are managing to make it work. Several members have been working with me to improve our hybrid meeting by observing what other clubs have been doing. With practice these hybrid meetings will eventually become second nature. Let us know how the hybrid meeting came across. How was the sound quality?

For the latest updates on the Edelman Fossil Quarry and Museum construction:

It looks like the grand opening for the museum will be in Spring of 2024. Several club members recently went for a walking tour of the new museum and fossil park. You can go to Instagram and look up Kenneth Lacovara. Things are really shaping up, the road to the museum and parking lot have been under construction for a while. Work also continues on the exterior of the museum while work on the interior of the building is progressing at a fever pitch to get the exhibit halls ready for full-sized prehistoric creatures. You can see some photographs of the tour in this newsletter.

Annual DVESS picnic – The annual picnic was held at the house of Gerald and Jane Feigin. Special thanks to them for hosting the club once again. The weather was hazy, hot and humid. Everyone seemed to enjoy each other's company. Many of us haven't seen many members since before the pandemic. We had 23 members attend. Gerald did a great job at cooking the burgers and hot dogs while I managed to get placed on rolls and delivered. There were plenty of desserts and drinks to go around. Gerald took some members on a tour of his arboretum. Gary returned to be the auctioneer and there was some hot bidding going on. We raised \$644.00 for the club treasury. Gerald and several members took advantage of the pool and went swimming. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

September 13th Program: J.P. Hodnett will be our guest speaker this month. He is the Curator of the Dinosaur Park located in Laurel, MD. The park is run under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. We may have an opportunity to help on future dinosaur digs. Everyone will get a Zoom invite emailed to them on Monday, September 11th for Wednesday's meeting.

Field Trips:

National Limestone, Middleburg Quarry August 19th : We met at the parking lot at Woodcrest Station of the PATCO High Speedline at 6:30 am. It was 3 ½ hour drive up to the Middleburg Quarry in Middleburg, PA. We met up with Eric Stahl, the quarry owner, and had our orientation and safety brief. We had the following

members attend: Billy and Ray Pape, Fred Hochkile, Chris Christy, Gina and Dave Shearer, Mike Dunton, Phyllis Greico, Peggy Thompson and me. We collected fluorite, calcite, celestite, travertine and flow stone from some former caves on-site. Billy was using his pneumatic jackhammer to break up the large boulders containing nice veins of calcite and deep purple fluorite. After about 3 hours of collecting we decided to move down to the Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry. We had found many of the same minerals there with the exception of travertine. We caught a break with the weather, the temperature was in the low to mid 80's with a nice breeze. This allowed for a more pleasurable day for collecting. We decided to forego the Seven Stars alternative fossil collecting area because we were all tired. We still had a 3 ½ hour trip to get home. Even though the crystals were not as good as the previous visit they were still very nice and everyone went home happy with their treasures.

Ramanessin Creek, August 26th: We were originally supposed to be going to the Reedy Point Dredge Spoil Area at the C&D Canal but I found out the Army Corps of Engineers had flooded the area. We changed our plans at last minute to go up to Ramanessin Creek instead. One of our newest members, Olga Shorokhova, got to the site early and said it poured for about 1 ½ hours. So, Ramanessin Creek became a fast-moving river. The depth of the water went up about 3 feet. Those of us attending the trip were: Cathy Eskew, Karen Sweeten, Bob Boman, Olga Shorokhova, Fred Hochkile, Sue VanCola, and me. A family consisting of a husband, wife and three small children asked if they could join us since they never collected fossils before. We attempted to go up to our normal drop-in location but the water was too fast moving. Fred pushed forward and was able to find a location to collect. Sue later joined Fred up by the dam. The rest of us relocated about 1,200 feet down stream to a large gravel bar. The family with the small kids found about a dozen small teeth and many quartz pebbles. The kids had a blast. Olga got the mother-load of teeth, 30 to 40, working the leading edge of the gravel bar. Fred and Sue found several larger teeth upstream near the dam. As we were finishing up collecting the water level subsided to almost a foot deep. The water looked like hot chocolate because of all the sediment being washed in

during the 1 ½ hour deluge. We were all satisfied with finding some teeth, bone and fossil shells. See photos of our adventure throughout the newsletter.

Cape Atlantic Gem & Mineral Club Gem and Mineral Show will be held on Saturday, September 16th from 9 to 5 and Sunday, September 17th from 10 to 4. The event takes place at 2653 Cologne Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ

Other potential trips: There are no field trips in the month of September. Trips will be planned for later in October and November to places like Sterling Hill, Pickering Golf Course, Easton Quarry, etc.

Mark Leipert, President



Shows and Events

September

Cape Atlantic Gem & Mineral Club Gem and Mineral Show Saturday, September 16th from 9 to 5 and Sunday, September 17th from 10 to 4. The event takes place at 2653 Cologne Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ

October

2023 Autumn Minerafest, Saturday, 7 October 2023, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA <https://www.minerafest.com/>

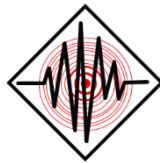
News

Morocco earthquake live updates: At least 1,037 dead in rare, powerful quake

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/live-updates/?id=103047032>

Over 1,000 dead after quake strikes near Marrakech, Morocco

<https://www.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/morocco-earthquake-09-09-2023/index.html>



Quote of the Month

I was awakened by a tremendous earthquake, and though I hadn't ever before enjoyed a storm of this sort, the strange thrilling motion could not be mistaken, and I ran out of my cabin, both glad and frightened, shouting, "A noble earthquake! A noble earthquake" feeling sure I was going to learn something." - John Muir

Photos

by Mark Leipert, Catherine Eskew, Ray Pape

Construction tour of Edelman Museum and Fossil Park



Ramanessin Creek



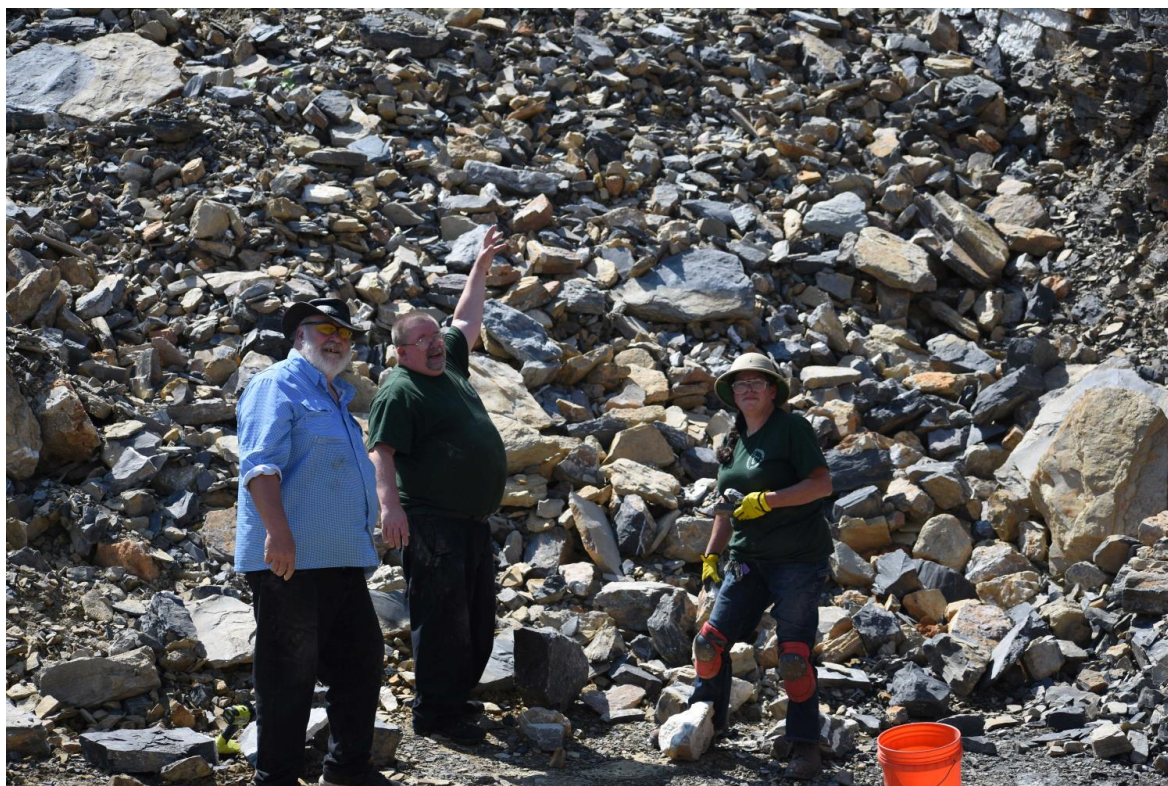


National Limestone, Middleburg, PA









DVESS Directory for 2023

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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.

