

*Meeting place: Evergreen Avenue School
Woodbury, New Jersey*

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM, 3rd Wednesday of month

*Meeting Date: **December 18th, 2002***



**** Election of Officers ****
Annual Holiday Party

Gift Exchange

Bring a wrapped ~\$10 gift.

Following the meeting we will adjourn to:

Hollywood U.S.A. Café & Diner
Route 45 & Elm Avenue
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097

Junior Rockhounds Club

Mini-lesson 7:40 - 8:00PM

New members welcome!

No additional fees

Holiday Gift Exchange

Bring a wrapped ~\$5 gift.

This month's mineral:

Stilbite

Specimens from New Jersey will be
provided by Paul Funk.

Next Meeting
January 8th, 2003

January's program has not been confirmed as of the publication deadline, but is expected to be enjoyable, educational and entertaining. More info in the January DVESScapades!

******* IMPORTANT NOTICE *******

December's meeting has been rescheduled to December 18th - 3rd Wednesday of the month.



American Federation
of
Mineralogical Societies



Eastern Federation
of
Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



Special Congress
Representing
Involved Bulletin Editors

DVESSCAPADES

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society – DVESS

BACKGROUND

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. The Society supports the conservation of natural resources, advocates the availability of collecting sites, and maintains close contact with those in the academic field.

MEETINGS

The Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through June, at the Evergreen Avenue School in Woodbury, New Jersey. At 7:30 pm members meet to socialize, view displays, sign the registry and receive a door-prize ticket, toward a specially chosen specimen. Meetings start promptly at 8:00 PM and include the evening’s program followed by the monthly business meeting, concluding around 10:00 PM. Meetings are open to the general public.

MEMBERSHIP

See the Membership Chairperson for an application for membership in the Society. Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities and to receive a newsletter when published. Sponsoring memberships are entitled to all of the above plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Membership rates for the Society are:

Regular Membership

\$15.00 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

Sponsoring Membership

<u>Level</u>	<u>1st Member</u>	+	<u>Additional Members</u>	=	<u>Receive</u>
“Silver”	\$50.00	+	\$5.00	=	Geode Specimen
“Gold”	\$75.00	+	\$5.00	=	Native Gold Specimen
“Platinum	\$100.00	+	\$5.00	=	Premium Specimen

Dues are renewable each year in January

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Inc., - DVESS
P.O.Box 372
Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052

DVESS Website:
<http://www.dvess.org>

EFMLS Website:
<http://www.AmFed.org/EFMLS>

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 editors.

To submit an article for publication in the DVESScapades contact the Newsletter Editor.

DVESS 2002 SPONSORS

“Platinum” – Harvey Cantor
“Gold” - Rick & Alice Hartly
“Gold” - Eugene Szymanski
“Silver” - Barbra Haulenbeek
“Silver” - Jeff & Jason Winkler

Evergreen Avenue School
160 N. Evergreen Ave.
Woodbury, N.J. 08096
Privilege to enter the school is limited to the night of the meeting between the hours of 7PM & 10PM under the direction of the school staff.
Permission from the school staff is required to enter the school at any other time.

DVESS 2002 Officers & Positions

President

Grant Elliot
(856) 728-1731
gle@bellatlantic.net

1st Vice President

Rick Hartly
(215) 729-2059
a8rharty@msn.com

2nd Vice President

Lou Detofsky

Treasurer

Program Chairperson
Gary Weinstein
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Field Trip Coordinators

Rick & Alice Hartly
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a8rharty@msn.com

Paul Funk
Jeff Winkler

Website Coordinator

Terry Wilson
terry@dvess.org

Special Events

Coordinator

Ann Lynne Benson
(856) 783-0969

President's Message

By Grant Elliot

Our meeting on the third Wednesday of this month should find us very much in the holiday spirit, being that much closer to Christmas than past Decembers. We will exchange gifts- Give one/Get one, vote in a new slate of officers (I hate running unopposed-Isn't there any grass roots candidate out there?), and then go to the Hollywood Diner for a festive feast. It cannot get any better than that, unless it's hammering rocks in the field or searching for some natural treasure out there somewhere. I look forward to seeing you all on December 18th.

Volunteer Still Needed!

The club is still looking for a member to take on the position of Librarian. If interested please contact a club officer. Phone numbers and email addresses are on page two.

French Creek Mines Opportunity

Hello!

The Institute for Biblical and Scientific Studies, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, has a great opportunity to save the French Creek Mines in St. Peters, PA from destruction by land developers. The French Creek Mines are famous for their unusual mineral specimens. We want to preserve and restore the mines. The mine shaft itself would remain buried. We would restore the old railroad station as a museum with mineral displays from these mines. There is a big dump site that would be opened to collectors with lots of minerals to find. The cost of the property is \$85,000. We can obtain half of this money with easement grants, but we still need to raise at least another \$40,000 before the property is sold to others. We need at least four people that could loan us \$10,000 or 8 people to loan us \$5,000 at 7% interest over ten years or less. There may be some that could give an out right donation for a tax write off. If you know anyone that might be interested in helping us out financially to save the French Creek Mines, please let me know. You can see pictures of the mines at http://bibleandscience.com/french_creek_mines.htm .

The Institute has a park just down the road from French Creek Mines called Triassic Park. We are looking for more rocks and fossils to add to our park. If you know where we can get a pick-up truck load of interesting minerals or fossils, please let me know? See pictures and information about Triassic Park at <http://triassicparkofpa.com> .

Any help or advice would be appreciated. You can contact me at 215-423-7374 or by e-mail at ibss1@aol.com. Feel free to forward this e-mail to people who might be interested in this project. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Stephen C. Meyers, Th.D.
Vice-president/ treasurer
Institute for Biblical and Scientific Studies

Dues are Due For the Year 2003

<u>Category</u>	<u>1st Member</u>	<u>Each Additional</u>	<u>Sponsor Gift</u>
Basic	\$15	\$5	N/A
Senior Citizen (65+)	\$10	\$5	N/A
“Silver” Sponsor	\$50	\$5	Geode Specimen
“Gold” Sponsor	\$75	\$5	Native Gold Specimen
“Platinum” Sponsor	\$100	\$5	“Premium” Specimen

Pay Your Dues before or at the February 12th meeting to enter the
“Early Dues Specimen Drawing”
at the March meeting.

Pay Your Dues at Any Meeting or Mail to:

DVESS
P.O. Box 372
Maple Shade, N.J. 08052

Please be sure to give us your correct Email address and whether you prefer to receive the DVESScapades newsletter via Email or a printed version via snail-mail. Remember, an Emailed newsletter saves the club significant money and you will get it several days sooner.

Bus Trip Planned!

Planning is in the works for a February/March bus trip to New York City to visit the American Museum of Natural History and the Rose Center. The cost of the trip will be partially subsidized by the club treasury making it very affordable for the whole family. Keep your eyes open for future announcements regarding details of date and cost.

Minutes of the November 13, 2002 DVESS meeting

By Terry Wilson

In Grant's and Rick's absence, Gary Weinstein presided over a meeting attended by 22 people who turned out to see Lou Detofsky, our longtime member and current 2nd VP, talk about Madagascar.

Lou toured Madagascar in June, which is winter for them. His interest in Madagascar began long ago when he saw the lemurs at the Philadelphia Zoo. Lemurs are considered living fossils, ancient animals surviving today only in Madagascar. Another reason for this particular trip was to see a solar eclipse, the first of the new millennium. Madagascar is called the gem capital of the world, another reason this was a very exciting trip for Lou, an earth science scholar.

Lou showed slides and explained the continental breakup of Pangia, and how Madagascar played into that, with theories of why so many different species are endemic -- only found in one place -- to Madagascar. Madagascar once touched borders with Antarctica, India, and Africa. It is sufficiently isolated from other large land masses that besides the many variations of unusual animals -- lemurs, iguanas, Nile crocodiles, civets, rats -- there are plenty of prehistoric plants there also, like tree ferns, cycads, and certain palms. And conversely, few common species of the animals are found there. Add that to the fact that some of the oldest rock in the planet comprises Madagascar, and you truly step back in time.

Lou showed us a little bit of everything, including the total eclipse, with an educational bent. He is a teacher after all. He was so full of energy and excitement, he only closed the presentation when the cleaning crew brought in their vacuum cleaners. Well, not really, but we did need to allow time to have the business portion of the meeting.

For the business portion, we started with the door prize, a nice Maine pink and green tourmaline specimen won by Paul Funk. Ed Loveland won \$10 in the 50/50 drawing. Gary announced that we are now current on our fire permit for the school, and also that the school sent us a thank you letter for our donation to be used for earth science books to their library.

December brings our annual elections, and the nominating committee announced the slate of incumbents. No other nominations came from the floor. Ann Benson volunteered to take over Special Events from Lorraine, and Ed Loveland has moved back to the area and will be bringing the name badges again. Paul asked for a volunteer to help with the Jr. Rockhounds; Gerald Feigin offered to do that. Gary reminded us that dues are now due for the upcoming year.

We discussed the upcoming trip to Aurora and side trip to George Powell's, and asked if anyone wanted to fill the two empty slots we had. Then we talked about a bus trip in the winter or spring to New York City. Gary announced the untimely recent death of Roland Bounds, one of our speakers last spring (he gave the Canada program). He died of the flesh-eating disease that has made the news in recent years. Roland lived in Delaware, and was an active and well-liked member of the regional rockhounding community. Lastly, Ed Loveland brought some small showcases he built, and offered them for sale.

Lee Creek/ Aurora Field Trip Report

Excerpt from elasmocom

November 23rd, 2002



Both days this weekend shared similar traits -- beautiful weather (cool under blue skies), high expectations and slow collecting. On Saturday the Delaware Valley Earth Science Club and Columbia Gem & Mineral Club collected the NCP cut. On Sunday, the New Jersey Paleontological Society and the Gem, Mineral & Lapidary Society of Washington sampled Block 26-A and the smaller spoil piles of area 'B'.

Pat reported on Saturday's results: Paul Funk found a very nice 4-inch *meg* upper, and Alice Harty, a 2-incher. Ed Gitler got a 3-1/2 and his brother Dan, a 4-1/4 incher (both with root damage). Large *hastalis* teeth were relatively abundant, the largest being Ken Young's 2-1/2" lateral and John Everette's slightly smaller specimen. *Notorynchus* lowers were also fairly abundant (some people bringing out two or three) and *cuviers* were common. Ed Horlick also found a nice *I. retroflexus* lower (see image).

Marine mammal material also surfaced -- Rick Harty and David Dycus each found nice sperm whale teeth and Ed Horlick, an un-erupted one. Dan Payne, a first time visitor, found a *Squalodon* tooth and Terry Wilson (another first timer) a perfect sand dollar. The most interesting finds of the day were a sawfish (cf *Anoxypristis*) rostral tooth (rare) found by BJ (see image) and 4 sections of an *Arturia* found by Becky. (*Arturia* casts have not been seen for several years and are exceedingly rare.) Pat went on to note that, "on Friday, in reject dirt, John Miller found a large partial *meg* with extreme pathology. One serrated edge was folded over the back of the tooth. Although missing its' root, it was quite impressive."

On Sunday, the area 'B' tailings had been dormant for a couple weeks, and had been well rained upon during that period - there seemed to be every reason to arrive with high hopes. It didn't take long to realize that more time (and rain) was required. There are some beautiful Yorktown sediments in this section, but even the Yorktown crawl yielded relatively few specimens. The afternoon was used for area 'A' which was slow to give up its treasures. Despite the negatives, many specimens were collected (I probably took 75-100) and good things were found. The top *megs* were Melissa's 3-1/2 and Kim Greene's 3-1/4 inchers, but Doug Hales 2-1/2 inch *chubutensis* lower was gorgeous. There were a number of *hastalis* teeth (Candace, Ellie Rouse, Eric Woody and others), but Julie Rael's patho was the most interesting of the group. There were quite a few *Notorhynchus* teeth, however Tom Caggiano's partial *Hex* drew the most attention -- only the distal 6 or 7 conules were present, but that fragment must have 1-1/4 inches in length. (Unwilling to allow a Yankee to return with this booty, John Everette appropriate this tooth for the citizens of North Carolina.) Kim found a nice *Squatina* tooth and Candace two more. The award for best eyes went to Howie Cohn who picked a cookie-cutter (*Isistius*) tooth from the Yorktown of area 'B'. Turtle material was collected by Becky and Andy Abdul. Quite a few bird bones were reported, the best being George Klein's three associated specimens. For those invertebrate lovers out there, Eric and Candace each found clusters of the echinoid *Echinocardium kelloggi* (sp?).

As a sidebar, I had my first chance to visit the Aurora Museum for some time. It really is coming along nicely, and the comparative dentition collection is both useful and well presented. I had the opportunity to spend some time with Curtis Jr. over the weekend and his enthusiasm and strategy for expanding the scope and quality of the museum bodes well for its future.

EFMLS News

Reserve The Date!!! Session I - May 16 - 22, 2003 from Esther B. Dunn, Wildacres Functioning Committee Chair

Wildacres is a mountain-top retreat where you can go and experience the quiet, solitude, peace and camaraderie of people of like mind. Many friendships are made that will last a lifetime. It has modern lodges, a separate dining room where meals are served family style, an auditorium and library, and a snack bar that is open after classes and each evening.

Although attendance at the September session of the workshop was a bit low, those who came had a great week. On Thursday we were joined by a group of Micologists (mushroom hunters and experts) who roamed the surrounding mountains looking for many different species. They had a display of over 200 species neatly laid out and identified, on tables in the pottery shop. One of their members spoke to our group and showed us characteristics of different kinds of mushrooms, especially the poisonous kinds. One of them was so deadly that if you didn't wash your hands thoroughly after touching it, anything that you handled and ingested would make you very ill.

Our students worked diligently on their projects, which were displayed in the auditorium on the last evening of the workshop. It's amazing to see just what a beginner can accomplish in a week! We had excellent instructors who were very patient and helpful to their students, making sure they understood each step of the process necessary to complete their projects to their satisfaction. Occasionally a student had to start over from 'scratch', but the experience gained was worth the extra time and effort.

The first EFMLS session next year will be held May 16 - 22, 2003. The fee for the week will be \$275 per person, the first rate increase in three years. (We only raise our fees when the Blumenthal Foundation, owners of the Retreat, raise theirs to us). Where else could you go for a week that would cost you less? Your fee includes room and board, all meals, the opportunity to take classes from excellent instructors and lots of fun. There is a modest additional cost for materials for some of the classes.

If you have any desire to learn about how to make a cabochon, facet a stone, do silversmithing, make a soapstone carving, work with precious metal clay, learn how to make channel work jewelry, do wire-wrapping, or other hobby related specialties, plan to join us for an unforgettable experience! We also have a class on judging, so if you have wondered how the judges come to their conclusions, come and learn how to evaluate an exhibit. We even have the exhibits for you to practice on.

Our guest speaker for the first session will be Gordon Austin from Tucson, AZ. An expert in US gemstone production, Gordon will surely give us much information about the gems and minerals of the US (and perhaps the world). Dates and speaker for the spring session will be announced shortly.

Reservations will be accepted for either the spring or fall session beginning January 1, 2003. For your convenience, a registration form is available on page 12 of this issue. A complete list of classes will be available in the January newsletter or on the EFMLS website <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>.

Ready to dig again in 2003?

Plan NOW for next April 26th & 27th

**Trotter Dump! Buckwheat Dump!
Sterling Hill!**

Franklin & Ogdensburg, New Jersey



Discover minerals
not found anywhere
else on earth

•
**Fluorescence
without equal !**



For information & pictures
of last year's "dig"
and
updated info on registering
for 2003

visit www.uvworld.org
or send email to
tripmaster@uvworld.org

or write to
Jeff Winkler
55 White Way
Pompton Lakes, NJ
07442

Trotter Dump! Buckwheat Dump!

Sterling Hill!

Franklin & Ogdensburg, New Jersey

April 26 & 27, 2003

**Along with the 31st Annual NJESA Gem & Mineral Show
and Outdoor Swap & Sell !**

The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society (DVESS) and the North East Field Trip Alliance (NEFTA), in cooperation with the Franklin Mineral Museum and Sterling Hill Mining Museum, invite you to share an international collecting experience. This field trip has attracted dedicated collectors from across the globe. Be one of them this year! Read the following terms, and then contact the coordinator below to reserve your spot . . .

Trotter Mineral Dump Saturday • April 26th

Facilities fee: \$20
Daylight Hours: 9a.m. to 7p.m.
Night Hours: 7:30p.m. to 11p.m.
Daylight pound rate: \$1/pound
Nightlight pound rate: \$2/pound
Owner will provide: running water;
restroom facilities;
darkroom for admiring your
flourescent minerals;
electricity (in darkroom);
off-road parking area.
Age limit: No one under 9 years old
will be permitted on the site.

Buckwheat Dump Saturday • April 26th

Facilities fee: (included in Trotter fee)
Daylight Hours: 9a.m. to 7p.m.
Night Hours: Sorry, NO night dig
Daylight pound rate: \$2/pound
Nightlight pound rate: no digging
Will provide:
restroom facilities;
darkroom for admiring your
flourescent minerals;
electricity (in darkroom);
off-road parking area.
Age limit: Children must be
accompanied by an adult.

Sterling Hill Dig Sunday • April 27th

Facilities fee: \$10
The \$10 fee will be collected on-site by the Sterling Hill Mining Museum at time of first entry (bring cash) and will be credited against poundage fees.
Daylight Hours: 9a.m. to 3p.m.
Night Hours: Sorry, NO night dig
Daylight pound rate: \$1/pound
Will provide: restroom facilities;
darkroom for admiring your
flourescent minerals;
electricity (in darkroom);
off-road parking area.
Age limit: No one under 13 years old
will be permitted on the site.

Please note -- each of the three sites above is operated by a different group or organization, so there are different facilities, fees, rules, etc. for each site - as shown in the sections above. In addition, there are rules and requirements that are common to all three sites and to the "dig" in general - these are below:

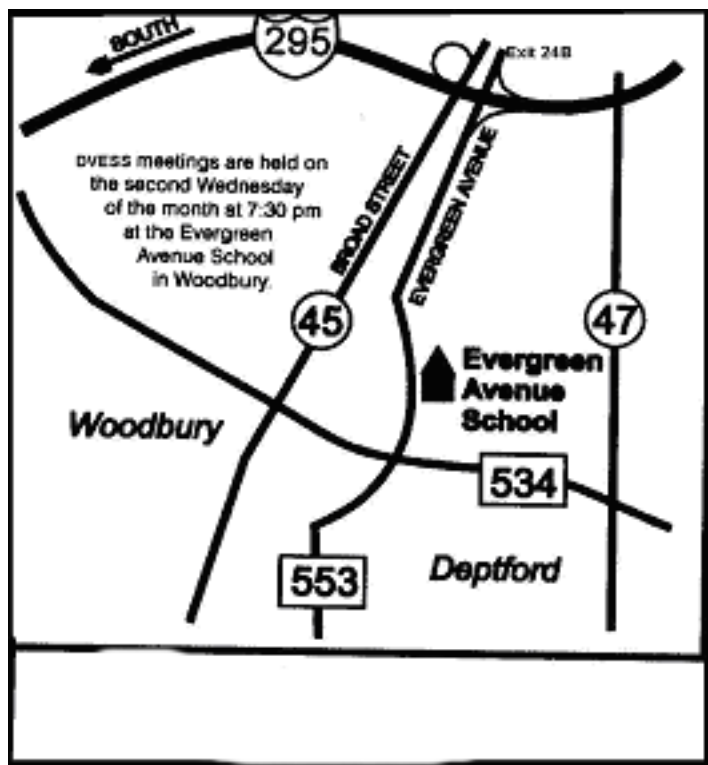
- Tools and UV lights will be available for purchase at the Franklin Museum and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum.
- Both Trotter and Buckwheat will have excavation / turnover of fresh NEW soil areas for your digging pleasure.
- Attendance is by advance reservation. Sign up early! See below for details. We MUST have at least 100 people. and . . . in case you are wondering, it IS "rain or shine" -- so come prepared !! Maximum of 200 this year.
- Local hotels/motels fill up quickly, so if you are staying in the area overnight be sure to reserve early.
- All collectors must carry liability insurance that covers damage to the property, such as the insurance offered by the EFMLS to its affiliate clubs. Your club must co-sponsor the activity in order to be covered by Federation policies. If you have no other means of insurance, you may join the DVESS to get it. Proof of personal liability is acceptable. Collectors enter any site at their own risk and must sign a hold-harmless liability waiver when registering.
- Standard Federation safety rules apply -- safety goggles and durable footwear are mandatory (no sneakers or sandals). Work gloves are strongly recommended. Note the age requirement at each site.
- All guests at Trotter/Buckwheat sites receive a \$1 discount coupon for tour of Sterling Hill Mining Museum (good only on Sunday, April 27th)

To register right away, send \$20 per collector made out to DVESS, to Jeff Winkler at
55 White Way, Pompton Lakes NJ 07442
email: TripMaster@UVworld.org
phone: 973-835-2582

Official web site for "Trotter 2003" is
www.UVworld.org

Visit the web site to find trip info, pictures, area maps, hotel/motel info, update news, number registered, etc.

Also stop by and visit www.DVESS.org



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Wednesday, December 18th 2002

7:30 PM at the Evergreen Avenue School

**** Election of Officers ****

Annual Holiday Party

Gift Exchange

Bring a wrapped ~\$10 gift.

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Hollywood U.S.A. Café & Diner
Route 45 & Elm Avenue
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097

DVESScapades

*The Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society*

PO Box 372

Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052



Birthstone: [turquoise or blue zircon](#)