

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

*Meeting Time: 7:30 PM, 2nd Wednesday of month*

*Meeting Date: February 12th, 2003*



## This Month's Meeting

*February 12th, 2003*

**Donald Peck**

## Geology From Space

*Don't miss it!*

## Junior Rockhounds Club

Mini-lesson 7:40 - 8:00PM

New members welcome!

No additional fees

This month's mineral:

**Larvikite**

**Blue Pearl Granite**

Crystal samples from Norway will be distributed.

## **Don't Forget! Trotter/Buckwheat/Sterling Annual Trip**

April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Contact: Jeff Winkler, [TripMaster@UVworld.org](mailto:TripMaster@UVworld.org), 973-835-2582

<http://www.UVworld.org>



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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

<b><u>Regular Membership</u></b>				
\$15.00 for the 1 <sup>st</sup> family member + \$5.00 for each family member				
\$10.00 for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Senior (65+ ) member + \$5.00 for each family member				
<b><u>Sponsoring Membership</u></b>				
<b><u>Level</u></b>	<b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Member</u></b>	<b>+</b>	<b><u>Additional Members</u></b>	<b>= <u>Receive</u></b>
“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>

**DVESS 2003 SPONSORS**

“Platinum” - Gerald Feigan  
“Platinum” - Harvey Cantor

**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.

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 2003 Officers & Positions

**President**  
Grant Elliot  
(856) 728-1731  
[gle@bellatlantic.net](mailto:gle@bellatlantic.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
Rick Harty  
(215) 729-2059  
[a8rharty@msn.com](mailto:a8rharty@msn.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Lou Detofsky

**Treasurer**  
**Program Chairperson**  
Gary Weinstein  
(856) 234-0708 – Home  
(856) 795-5077 – Work  
[d.g.wein@att.net](mailto:d.g.wein@att.net)

**Recording Secretary**  
Terry Wilson  
(609) 714-1309  
[terry@dvess.org](mailto:terry@dvess.org)

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Pat Carey

**Sage**  
Len Morgan  
George Petreshock

**Membership Chairperson**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Mike Jacob  
(856) 596-2230  
[stargazer7584@yahoo.com](mailto:stargazer7584@yahoo.com)

**Jr. Rockhound Coordinator**  
Paul Funk  
(856) 912-1245  
[jerry7@snip.net](mailto:jerry7@snip.net)

**Field Trip Coordinators**  
Rick & Alice Harty  
(215) 729-2059  
[a8rharty@msn.com](mailto:a8rharty@msn.com)

Paul Funk  
Jeff Winkler

**Website Coordinator**  
Terry Wilson  
[terry@dvess.org](mailto:terry@dvess.org)

**Special Events**  
**Coordinator**  
Ann Lynne Benson  
(856) 783-0969  
[SeleniteQueen@comcast.net](mailto:SeleniteQueen@comcast.net)

## President's Message

By Grant Elliot

I am writing this the morning of Saturday February 1st after having heard the horrific news that the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas while returning to Earth. It is ironic that a radio newscast I heard the other day was commemorating the January 28, 1986 Challenger tragedy.

This brings to mind that not all knowledge we acquire comes without some sacrifice. In this case, as well as the 1986 disaster and the Grissom/Chaffee/White accident on January 27, 1967, exploring the unknown has always been a perilous journey. Apollo 13 further reminds us how razor thin the line is between wonderful adventure/discovery and the eternal abyss.

I hope and pray that the loved ones and friends of the Columbia crew can somehow find solace in this indeed most tragic of days. The rest of us will somehow move forward with the understanding that seeking knowledge does have, at times, an overwhelming price. I hope to see you all on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Bus Trip!

Well it's time for the Annual DVESS bus trip, and the Executive Board would like to show their appreciation to the club members, by offering a special price this year.

\$10.00 Adult Members

\$ 5.00 Children to age 16

\$15.00 Non-members

What a better way to break the winter blahs than to join us on a ride to New York, to visit the Natural History Museum.

Sit back, let someone else do the driving, enjoy a movie (Title later), read, sleep if you want, next thing you know we'll be there. Even if you just sit in the cafeteria with coffee all day, at least you're out of the house, or you could go for a hike in Central Park, it's on the corner, across the street from the museum. Even more radical we can check out the new and permanent exhibits and shows inside. I'm sure you can find something of interest.

I must now note that the Hall of Meteorites and the Hall of Gem and Minerals will be closed during our visit; however the fossil exhibit and the Rose Center will be open.

Hope to see you there!

Alice Harty

**Space Show price includes the museum admission and it's 42 permanent halls, the Rose Center for Earth And Space (includes Big bang, Cullman Hall of the Universe and Heilbrunn Cosmic Pathway) and the Space Show in the new Hayden Planetarium**

\$21.00 for adults

\$15.50 for senior citizens (age 60 and up) and students

\$12.50 for children ages 2-12

## Bus Trip! (Cont.)

Space (which includes the Big Bang, the Cullman Hall of the Universe, and the Heilbrunn Cosmic Pathway), and the Space Show in the new Hayden Planetarium:

- **IMAX® Admission Prices include suggested Museum admission.**

\$17.00 adult's

\$12.50 students and senior citizens

\$10.00 children ages 2-12 [Hall of Planet Earth](#) - closed Jan. 29-31

- [Hall of Meteorites](#) and [Hall of Gems and Minerals](#): Closing February, 2003. Will re-open in October, 2003
- [Baseball as America](#): On tour
- [The Butterfly Conservatory](#): Now Open!
- [The Hall of Ocean Life](#): Closed for renovations through May, 2003
- [The Genomic Revolution](#): Closed
- **Laser Shows**: Discontinued
- **Hall of Eskimos**: Closed indefinitely
- **Hall of Oceanic Birds**: Closed
- **Mollusks and Our World**: Closed
- **Giant Squid**: No longer on exhibit

**Museum Hours:**(79th St. at Central Park West):

The Museum is open daily, 10:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m.

The Rose Center remains open on Fridays until 8:45 p.m. The Museum is closed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Space Show Hours:** Every half hour Sunday-Thursday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Museum Entrance Hours:**

Every day from 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m.

## Moon Rock on Loan to Museum from NASA

On December 5, 2002, a never-before-displayed Moon rock on loan to the Museum from NASA was installed in the American Museum of Natural History's Rose Center for Earth and Space. It is displayed in a case next to the three-and-a-half-foot bronze Moon model near the entrance to the Gottesman Hall of Planet Earth, which now has a marker indicating the location where the Moon rock was collected during the Apollo 15 mission in 1971.

The coarse-grained basalt rock is lava from a volcanic eruption on the Moon three billion years ago. The rock was found 28 meters south-southeast of the rim crest of Dune Crater, south of the Apollo 15 landing site, and is one piece of some 380 kilograms of lunar material NASA astronauts brought to Earth from the Moon between 1969 and 1972.



## Dues are Due For the Year 2003

<u>Category</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.

## Minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003 DVESS General Meeting

By Terry Wilson

Twenty-two members and guests attended the first meeting of the New Year. Grant opened the meeting around 8:00 and turned it over to Gary Weinstein, Program Chairman.

Although he has arranged speakers for the rest of the season, Gary had a tough time finding anyone for January, since the meeting fell early this month, putting it very close to the holiday season. Instead of a speaker, we watched a video put out by the Smithsonian Institution, "Gemstones of America." At first the VCR and television wouldn't play nice together, but after enough people pushed enough buttons, we finally had a show.

The video was narrated by Efreim Zimbalist, Jr., who turns out to be a rockhound himself. Mr. Zimbalist explained the basic process of gemstone formation through the earth's natural physical processes, and showed the different ways in which they are finally revealed. Nearly all known types of gemstones have been found in the US, including some rarities, such as green tourmalines and sunstones. This video highlighted US gem mines by interviewing their operators and taking us on a tour in the mining operations. We saw the Ponderosa Mine in OR (sunstones); Harris Mine in UT (red beryl); Mt. Mica in ME (green tourmaline); Himalayan Mine, near San Diego, CA (rare blue-tipped pink tourmalines); El Dorado Bar Mine, MN, (sapphires in stream gravels); San Carlos Apache Tribe Mine, AZ (peridot); and the Sleeping Beauty Mine, AZ (turquoise). The interviews were interesting; some of the owners were rockhounds who followed their passions by buying a mine, and still marvel at every gem uncovered. There was also a lapidary section to the video, followed by a Smithsonian segment. Everyone seemed to enjoy the production; it was quite interesting, and not what you might expect of a documentary.

Following the presentation, we proceeded with the business part of the meeting. New people introduced themselves: Steve Decaro (Philadelphia); Marla and Ken Bozarth (Deptford); Scott and Gwen Peters (Haverford); and Jim Connors (Clementon). Grant announced an interview with one of our members, Bob Bartos, on fossil collecting, in the next day's Courier Post, Gloucester Co. edition.

Gary gave the treasurer's report, followed by Mike Jacob, our new membership chairman, reminding people to renew. Minutes were approved as written in the newsletter, and then Gary went over the list of speakers for upcoming months. Mike, also newsletter editor, pointed out that the constitution was printed in the January newsletter. He appealed to the members to opt for email delivery of the newsletter in PDF form to save the club some money, and to receive the newsletter early.

For field trips, Gary spoke in Alice and Rick's absence. The bus trip to NYC's Natural History Museum is tentatively scheduled for March 15. The club treasury will subsidize the bus fare for members, bringing the cost down to \$10 (\$5 for children). Non-members are encouraged to come along, but they will pay the full \$15 fare. In April, we have our 5th Trotter Dump field trip. This year, Trotter attendees will also be allowed into the nearby Buckwheat Dump (daytime only).

I gave the website report, announcing that I've totally revamped the site, and posted pictures from the Aurora trip and the visit with George Powell. Speaking of the Internet, Gary encouraged members to join the Yahoo group that Mike set up for us.

Marge Tibbets donated some maps to the club; Mike brought a Siberian meteorite to show, and Gary talked up Lapis Magazine. Paul DelGesso won the door prize of Stilbite and Apophyllite. Guest Jim Connors won \$11 in the 50/50. Meeting adjourned at 9:50.

## Junior Rockhound Report

By Paul Funk

The January Junior Rockhound meeting was comprised mainly of members who missed the previous meeting. So we began by studying the Stilbite from December, then we moved on to the January mineral, Apophyllite. This meant that we were actually trying to cram two lessons into one twenty-minute period. Whew, talk about a crash course in the zeolite and apophyllite groups. I would like to thank Barbara Turner for helping the children transpose the chemical formula for Stilbite with their Periodic Tables. Barbara's occupation will prevent her from being Jr. Rockhound Assistant on a regular basis. However, it is nice to work with her when she can.

I would like DVESS members to take notice of our schedule. I have never planned to have a before and after Jr. Rockhound Meeting like Lorraine Campbell did in the past with her quiet time during the business meeting. The junior rockhound meeting will be between 7:30 and 8:00, after they have their specimens or the program begins, parents will be responsible for the children. This is still equal or greater than attention given juniors by other scientific organizations. Juniors can decide if they want to see the program or leave before the business meeting.

In the future, every effort will be made to give absentees the minerals they missed for their collections but only the current mineral will have a presentation. The accompanying handout's exercise will be for the most part self-explanatory. Keep in mind that some month's rarer samples may be on a first come basis.

January's lesson showed the difference between Phyllosilicates and Zeolites, and introduced the different types of atomic bonds that hold crystals together. Apophyllite has two types of bonds and a quartz crystal has only one, the covalent. We also learned that Apophyllite belongs to the trigonal crystal system meaning basically that it doesn't grow as wide as it grows long.

The psuedocubic crystal was examined by the way that Apophyllite can appear to have three equal axes like a cubic crystal (isometric system). But as we learned, the structure of Apophyllite is trigonal and has only two equal axes around its width.

I hope that a gradual introduction to the science of minerals with samples will help Jr Rockhounds gain a wide knowledge of the subject, and not overwhelm them by the technical. This is why only a cursory list of the chemical formula is made, and why atomic bonds are referred to by name only and not with their cations and anions, etc. The crystal systems are being presented one at a time, for those who attend regularly that is, and not all seven geometric shapes at once. There is a great deal of science involved in the study of minerals, however; Jr. Rockhounds should not forget the fun of looking for that unusual stone along a path, stream bank or the edge of a field and then identifying it later.

Need to get caught up? Stilbite and Apophyllite crystals remain available for Jr. Rockhounds who have missed any meetings since December. January's participants were Jonathan Feigan, Paul Delgesso, Chris Turner, Alex Clayton and Nikki Marx.

## Surprise! It's Your Favorite Video

By Paul Funk

Last month's program, billed only as "A Surprise Mystery", came with a guarantee that it would be entertaining and informative. I felt confident that this promise would be kept because this society's programs are reliably rewarding. Still, some people may not have wanted to take a chance on such an ambiguous invitation. However, I happen to like surprises anyway and that was exactly what I felt when I finally realized what was going to fill the bill. It was a video I had already seen once years ago and liked so much that I can safely say, it is my favorite. The video was Efreem Zimbalist Jr. narrating a Creative Vision and STS Production of "Gemstones of America". After the plague of welding and decorating shows beamed up by my documentary channels, I knew I was in store for a real Rock and Mineral Collector's delight. This time the resolution would be much clearer than the first copy I viewed and increase the pleasure of my experience.

The narrator not only provides the storyline, but also commands the role of a collector at some exclusive locality. Anchored near an underground pegmatite mine, (probably in California since most pegmatites in New England have been exposed by geologic forces enough to permit open-pit mining) Efreem Zimbalist Jr. introduces the minerals and locations by most seriously relating their affectations with a rockhound's point of view. Each time he appears, it seems that he is deeper inside the mine. Watching him hold a hammer in front of a pocket, one can only imagine at the things he might be collecting. So once again, after providing many of my formative years with a weekly sense of security by curtailing corruption and capturing kidnappers on the TV show the FBI; this quasi authoritative figure was again offering me reassurance by reaffirming the reasons that I like to collect crystals in the field. Of course, mineralogical content was the predominate cause of my captivation with the story. Kudos to our Program Chairperson, Gary Weinstein, for providing this excellent choice and next best thing to a live speaker. And thanks too for reuniting me, however remotely, with this hero from my youth.

Speaking of heroes, for those who did not see it, this documentary abounds with icons of mineralogy, notably John Sinkankas speaking about the extra beauty one discovers when faceting crystals into gemstones. Another authority, John White, then curator at the Smithsonian, appropriately displays exemplary specimens from our nations mineral archive. As the video progresses one's senses are overwhelmed with numerous glimpses of these treasures and after seeing them extracted from their respective locations by what are actually somewhat rustic measures, the rockhound/amateur miner is left with a feeling of anticipation and exhilaration. Who could not help being moved sitting in the same room, so--to--speak, with people who are collecting: Rubelite; Elbaite; Red Beryl Emeralds; "Jolly Green Giant" Tourmaline-Maine; from an Indian Reservation's basalt "NATIVE AMERICANS ONLY" big - unique Peridot; every Color of Sapphires Under the Rainbow; a Several Pound Fire Opal; slabs of Authentic, Hand Dug Turquoise; Diamonds; and more all in America! Even though most of the places are "OFF LIMITS", the video makes them seem less exotic than things one usually only reads about.

This timeless documentary never ceases to shed new light on the gems and locations it contains, because their provenance is always appearing in one recent publication or another. Presently, the Maine Geological Survey is gathering support to open the Newry Mine for collecting. We see that locality here in an earlier phase of gem mining glory. Also, the importance of the cast members is constantly being elevated into relevancy by our need to reference their contributions and discoveries. Whenever I meet someone from California, I mention that I saw Efreem Zimbalist, Jr. claiming to be a Rockhound. Asserting my assumption, that he might actually have done some collecting where they live. To date the only response from these West Coast residents is that of an epiphany. I looked for Efreem Zimbalist Jr. on the Internet when I saw this story about 5 years ago. The web was still very much in its infancy at that time and there were no worthwhile results. It would nice to find at least one mineralogical entity that he has subscribed to. If only, to prove to myself he wasn't just acting like a rockhound.



TWENTY- SEVENTH

# MICROMOUNT SHOW

**MM 03**      **SWAP-SELL- LEARN**

SATURDAY MARCH 8, 2003

10:00 AM-3:00 PM

**SPONSORED BY:** ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
840 TRENTON ROAD  
FAIRLESS HILLS, PA. (Parking in rear)

**TABLE SPACE \$8.00  
(HALF OF AN 8 FOOT TABLE)**

VISITORS \$1.00 DONATION Children under 12 Free

**EXHIBITS      RAFFLE      DOOR PRIZES**

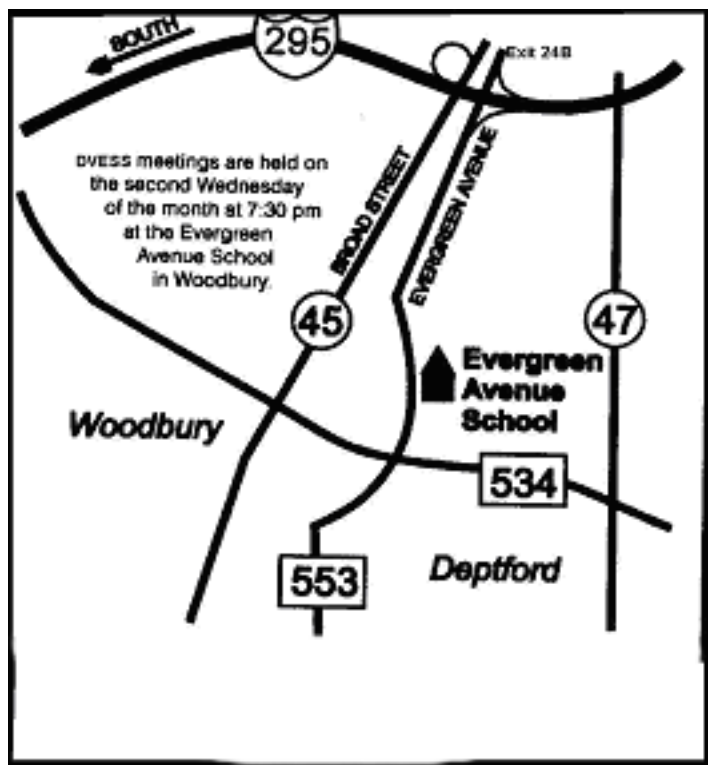
FOOD WILL BE SOLD AT THE SHOW

BRING A MICROSCOPE, MICROS AND AN EXTENSION CORD

SALES TABLE – MINERALS AND SUPPLIES

**THIS YEARS FOCUS: ZEOLITES OF NEW JERSEY**

Reservations: Send Check for \$8.00 per table space make checks payable to.  
RICHARD TILLET, 820 SYCAMORE AVENUE, CROYDON, PA. 19021 (215) 785-2642



**This Month's Meeting:**  
Wednesday, February 12th 2002

7:30 PM at the Evergreen Avenue School

**Donald Peck**

**Geology From Space**

*Don't miss it!*

## DVESScapades

*The Newsletter of the  
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society*

**PO Box 372**

**Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052**



**Birthstone: [Amethyst](#)**