

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

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

*Meeting Date: **June 11th, 2003***



## **This Month's Meeting**

A Video Program from the vast  
Archives  
Of  
The  
DVESS

## **Junior Rockhounds Club**

Mini-lesson 7:40 - 8:00PM

New members welcome!

No additional fees

## **“Christmas in June”**

Each Junior will receive a  
wrapped gift plus a bonus!

## **Annual Picnic!**

Come one Come all to the Second Greatest Show on Earth.

(we try harder!)

**June 29<sup>th</sup> 2003**

The Feigin residence in Turnersville, NJ



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:

**Regular Membership**

\$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

**Sponsoring Membership**

| <u>Level</u> | <u>1<sup>st</sup> 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>

**DVESS 2003 SPONSORS**

“Platinum” - Gerald Feigan  
 “Platinum” -- Harvey Cantor  
 “Silver” – Jeff Winkler

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

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**Program Chairperson**  
Gary Weinstein  
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**Recording Secretary**  
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**Corresponding Secretary**  
Pat Carey

**Sage**  
Len Morgan  
George Petreshock

**Membership Chairperson**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Mike Jacob  
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**Jr. Rockhound Coordinator**

VACANCY

**Field Trip Coordinator**

VACANCY

**Website Coordinator**  
Terry Wilson  
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**Special Events**  
**Coordinator**  
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## **Letter from the Editor**

By Mike Jacob

I regret that I must report that our planned speaker for June, Mr. George Powell was taken ill suddenly and will be unable to attend. Please join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. We hope to see him at one of our meetings next fall.

This month's Junior Rockhounds subject will be "Christmas in June". Each Junior will receive a wrapped gift courtesy of the DVESS plus a bookmark & mini New Jersey Map donated by the NJ and PA Geological Surveys. Mrs. Barbara Turner will be hosting the festivities this month.

## **We Need a New Junior Rockhounds Co-coordinator**

By Loraine Campbell

There are several ways the club could have a Junior Program starting in September. I have specimens that have been donated for the kids and I am organizing them into lessons with information sheets for the Juniors.

Someone is needed to be the coordinator. That person ( a Junior mom or dad, or a member without children in the club) could give the lessons each month before the meeting or the coordinator could have another person do the lesson and the coordinator would be there to help with the Juniors. More than one person could work together as coordinators. Please think it over, you do not have to be an expert, you can learn along with the Juniors!

Please contact Loraine Campbell if you would like to help out the kids. You can contact me by phone in Tennessee, our cell phone number is 856-889-1121. My new address is 176 Country Estates Drive, Rogersville, TN 37857

## **Minutes of the May 14th, 2003 DVESS General Meeting**

By Terry Wilson

President Grant Elliot called the meeting to order at 8:00. Gary introduced Gene Hartstein from Delaware, who had given a program on Mazon Creek fossils in the past. Tonight he talked about fossils and geology in Texas. He took us all over Texas with slides and stories, and told us it was one of his favorite places to find specimens.

In the business portion of the meeting, the minutes were accepted as printed in the last newsletter with a couple of minor corrections. Gary Weinstein, Treasurer, gave his report, saying that we sold patches, snacks and tools at Trotter, adding to our share of the gate. In the absence of our membership chairman, Gary announced one reinstated member, and several who joined as a result of the Trotter field trip.

Gary, Program Chairman, continued with the program report. June's program will feature George Powell, of Aurora fossil fame. [As of this printing, due to health reasons, George is rescheduling for a later meeting.] Our picnic is our next event, on June 27, at Gerald Feigin's. We had no report on the newsletter, and Terry Wilson, website chairman, said the pictures from Trotter would be up soon. For field trips, we need a leader. Paul Funk has stepped down, and Gary said he'd call Bill Vis, who has moved back into the area, to gauge his interest. Perhaps we could use individual members to arrange and lead trips to areas of their choosing. Gary then gave a report on the Trotter dig, which he followed by reading a letter from F&R Associates thanking us profusely for the fine job we do with the Trotter effort.

Len Morgan won the door prize of fossilized Pleistocene cypress wood from Odessa, DE. The meeting adjourned at 9:40.

**June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**Annual DVESS picnic  
&  
fund-raising auction!**

Rain or Shine

1 pm to 6 pm

160 Fries Mill Road  
Turnersville, NJ 08012

No cover charge, but bring a covered dish entrée, salad or dessert.

The club will provide Hot Dogs, Buns, Sodas, Ice, Condiments,  
Plates and Utensils.

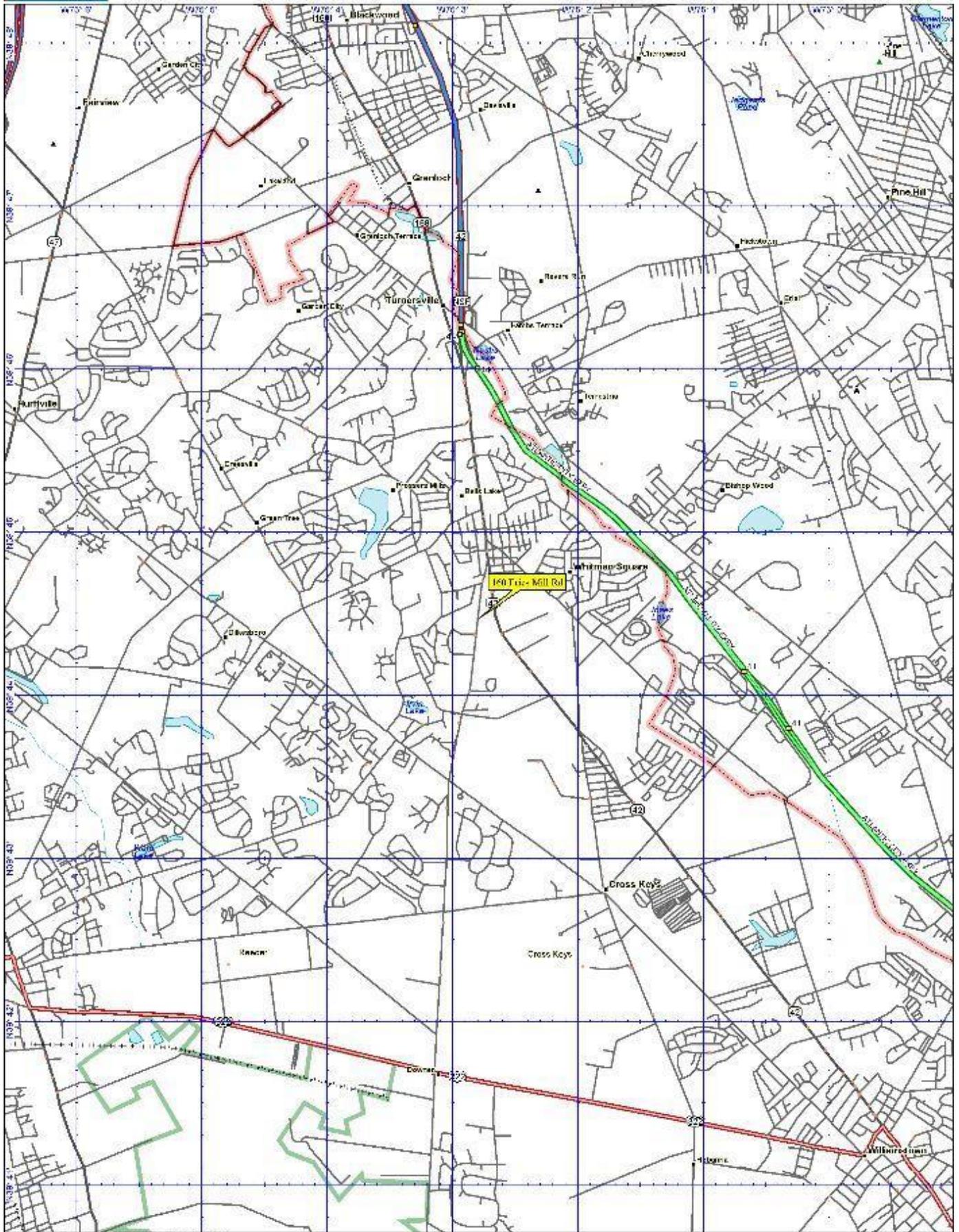
Bring an extra chair if you want to assure a reserved seat.

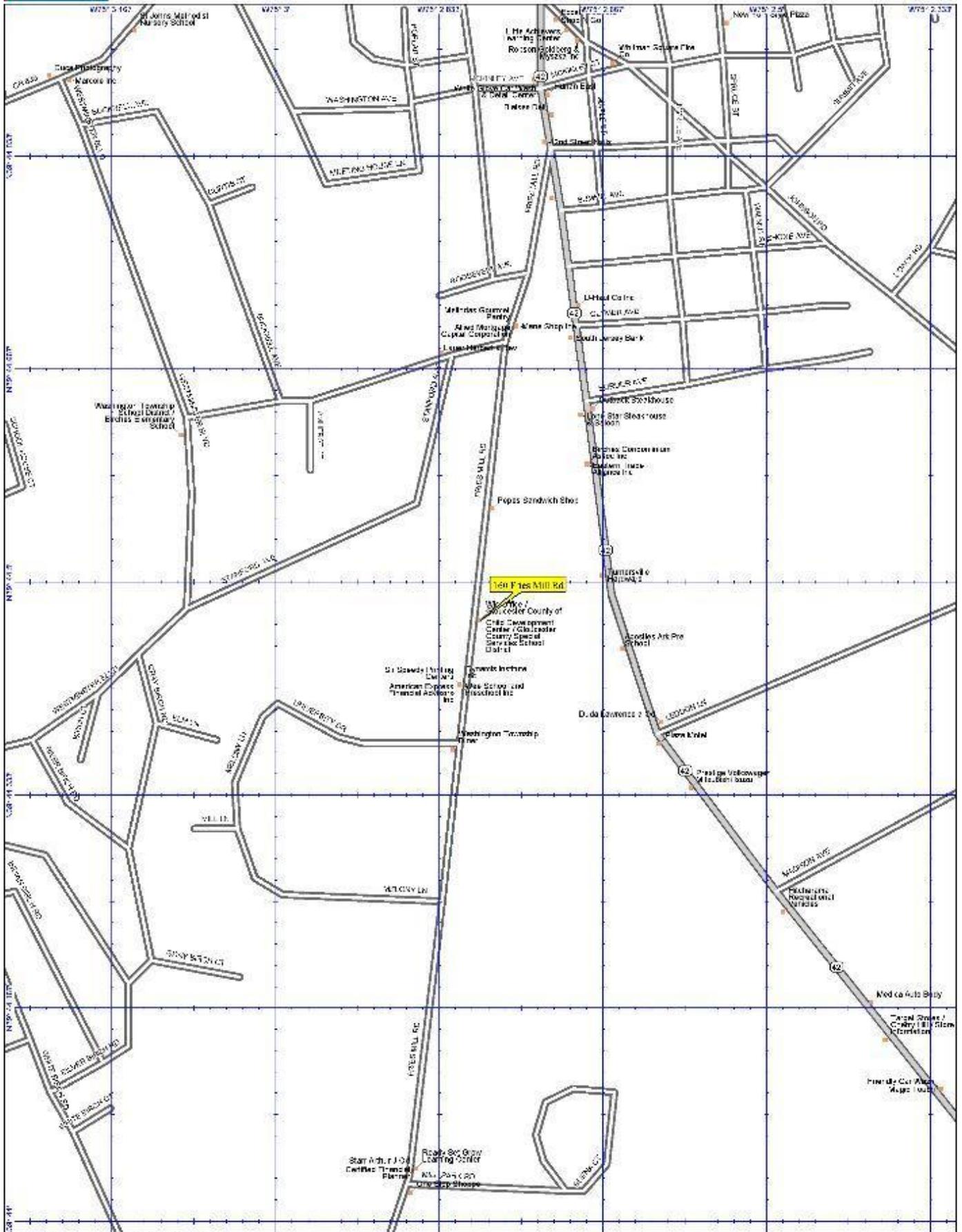
Swimming pool and Gazebo!

Be prepared to bid early and often. Gary has prepared an auction of  
unprecedented breadth and scope.

Minerals, Rocks, Gems and Fossils for all pocketbooks.

Donated items are welcome.





## **TREASURES FROM THE HILLS OF ATAPUERCA American Museum of Natural History- March 15, 2003**

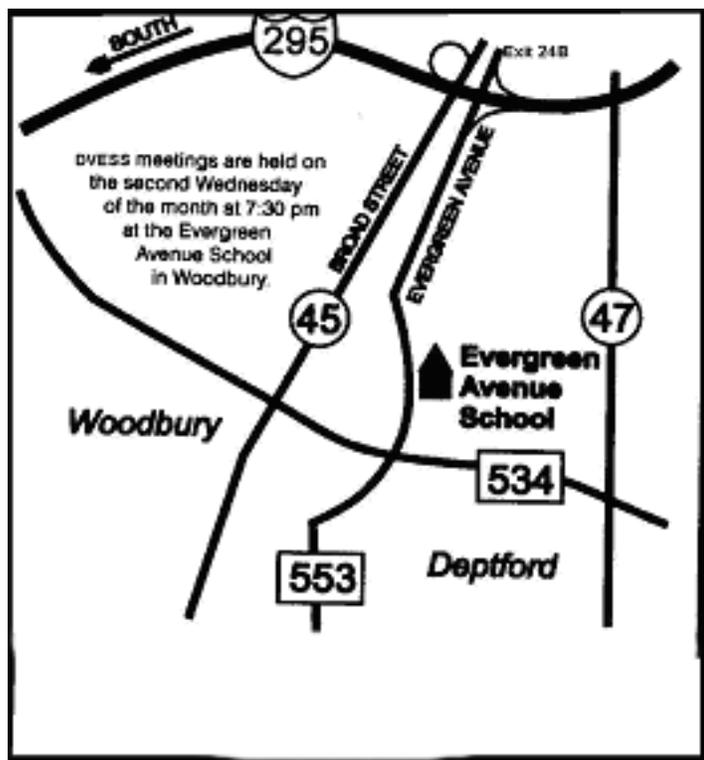
By Grant Elliot

I accompanied Delaware Earth Science Society members on their field trip to the American Museum of Natural History, New York City on March 15, 2003. The highlight of the trip was touring The First Europeans: Treasures from the Hills of Atapuerca exhibition that ran from January 11th to April 13<sup>th</sup> 2003.

This exhibition sought to show who were the earliest humans in Western Europe, how long ago they lived, and what their lives were like. In the area of the Atapuerca hills in northern Spain just a few hundred meters apart are two spectacular archaeological sites which illustrate the lives and behavior of the earliest humans discovered in Western Europe. Hominid and animal fossils and stone tools as old as one million years have been found. The Sierra de Atapuerca located in the north of Spain was formed from marine origin limestone laid down 80,000,000-100,000,000 years ago. Later sequences of clays, marls, and gypsum overlay this Cretaceous base. There is a complex system of limestone caverns and caves throughout the area that gave shelter to animals and humans nearly one million years ago. This has resulted in sedimentary layer upon layer evolutionary progression of fossils and tools over the millennia.

One site, Gran Dolina, was discovered during railroad construction during the 1890's. It is the face of an exposed cliff created by railroad cutting. The exhibition recreated the exposed cliff in a fascinating way, by turning the cliff face on its side, including steel ladders, and offering one a walking tour of the most recent to the oldest sedimentary layers, showing fossils via a time-line along the way titled "Slice of Prehistory". Approximately 800,000,000 years ago, a group of early humans took shelter in a cave at the Gran Dolina site. These fossils are unlike any other found in Africa, Asia, or Europe. These humans have been classified as a new species, *Homo Antecessor*, from the Latin word for explorer. This may have been the first hominid to populate Western Europe. The exhibition showed something that was shocking. Some of the human bones showed signs of cannibalism. There were obvious serrations and cuts in the bones that were identical to the marks on animal bones.

The other site, Sima de los Huesos, which translates to "Pit of the Bones", is a remote underground cavern which contains the largest and most complete accumulation of hominid bones ever recovered, which has been designated *Homo Heidelbergensis* or related species. The 400,000,000-year-old remains were mixed with animal remains. Since there are no stone tools or any evidence of habitation, it has been determined that this was a dumping site for the dead (Perhaps ritual) and that the animal remains were the result of bears and the like falling into the pit. An interesting observation from this site was that human males were twice as large as females (Modern day: 10% larger) much like gorillas. Also, the male pelvis would have allowed the head of a modern human to pass through. By extrapolation, the female of those pre-history times would have had a hard life, but experienced an easy childbirth. Apparently, there have been tradeoffs since the beginning of time.



## **This Month's Meeting: Wednesday, June 11th 2003**

7:30 PM at the Evergreen Avenue School

*A Video Program  
From the vast archives  
Of the DVESS*

**PICNIC!**  
Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003

## **DVESScapades**

*The Newsletter of the  
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society*

**PO Box 372**

**Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052**



**Birthstone: Pearl**