

DVESSCAPADES

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society – DVESS

Year 47, Volume #4

May 2004

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

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

Meeting Date: May 12th, 2004



Main Program

Dick Tischin
of the South Jersey
Metal Detecting Club
will speak and show slides
on the artifacts found by
Club members at the I-95 dig
in Philadelphia

Junior Rockhounds

7:30 - 7:55 pm

**The Junior Rockhounds will
continue with their investigation of
unknown minerals, testing streak,
hardness, luster and crystal
formation. Adults are invited to
attend.**

Club Members are invited to bring their recent
finds from the Trotter and Sterling Hill field trip.
Please come out to view and help identify these
mysteries of the earth.



American Federation
of
Mineralogical Societies



Eastern Federation
of
Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies

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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>

DVESS 2004 SPONSORS

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 2004 Officers & Positions

President
Jr. Rockhound Coordinator

Special Events
Coordinator

Ann Lynne Benson
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SeleniteQueen@comcast.net

1st Vice President
Field Trip Coordinator

Gerald Feigin
gfeigin@co.gloucester.nj.us

2nd Vice President
Lou Detofsky

Treasurer
Program Chairperson

Gary Weinstein
(856) 234-0708 – Home
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Terry Wilson

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Recording Secretary

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Corresponding Secretary

Pat Carey

Sage

Len Morgan
George Petreshock

Newsletter Editor

Chuck O'Loughlin
ac.oloughlin@att.net

Membership Chair
Librarian

Stu Cleveland
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President's Message.

By Ann Lynne Benson

Welcome spring! It is wonderful to see the trees beginning to turn green, and the gardens splashing with color. This is a great time to go collecting: not too cold, and not too many bugs out yet. I have some small pieces of petrified wood (silicified cypress, kirkwood formation) that was collected on Orr Rd. in Blackwood; if anyone knows the exact location (the whole road is only one mile long) please let me know.

Welcome, New Members! We are delighted you joined. If there's anything we can do for you, any questions you need answered, please contact me or any other member of the Executive Board. We are here to serve your needs and to make your learning and collecting experiences just plain FUN.

In New Jersey the month of May means Horseshoe Crabs: Starting around the time of the full moon (at night), take yourself and your kids down past the end of Rt. 55 (just continue to go straight) to Reed's Beach (look for the sign on the right) and witness one of nature's wonders – horseshoe crabs coming out of the water, on to the beach, to mate. Two events are scheduled to mark this ancient ritual. First, the First Annual Horseshoe Crab Festival will be held on Sat., May 29, 10 am – 5 pm in Milton Delaware – a day of unique fun to raise awareness for horseshoe crab conservation that includes craft and food vendors and educational exhibits. For more info call 302-684-1896. Nature would never let ALL of those eggs become horseshoe crabs, so if you go to Reed's Beach or one of the other locations (during the day), you will see migrating shorebirds stopping to fill their bellies (also migrating photographers recording the occasion). The second event will be held on Sat., May 29 at 10 am at the Nature Center of Cape May; they'll help you identify the birds that feed on horseshoe crab eggs; meet at the Center to carpool to the beach. There is a fee for this event. For info, call 609-898-8848.

Question:

What's round and yellow and has a picture of a rock hammer and the word "ROCKHOUND"?

Answer:

A ROCKHOUND STICKER: This sticker is not intended to replace club or federation badges, it compliments them by saying "I am a Rockhound". No other words or mottoes are necessary. In short, everyone, rockhound or not, will recognize it, thus widening your circle of friends and helping you to learn of new locations and ideas. Because of its simple design it can be recognized easily and from a distance.

Use it anywhere and in anyway to attract the attention of other rockhounds, to advertise that a rockbound is present and willing to talk about rocks, minerals, fossils and related subjects. Look for the sticker where rockhounds may be present, such as campgrounds, potential collecting areas, and craft shows, etc.

The stickers sell for 50 cents each for 1 to 59 stickers (minimum order – 10 stickers) or 30 cents each for quantities of 100 or more; price includes postage and handling. Frank will accept checks or credit cards. When ordering make check payable to: ROCKY FIVE. To order stickers, contact:

Frank Mullaney
5705 Begonia Dr.
San Jose, CA 95124-6535
Ph.: 408-266-1791
E-mail: rockyfiv@aol.com

President's Message continued

In the Odd Names Department: *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump* is known around the world as a remarkable testimony of prehistoric life and bears witness to a custom practiced by native people of the North American plains for nearly 6000 years.

Thanks to their excellent understanding of topography and of bison behavior, they killed bison by chasing them over a precipice and subsequently carving up the carcasses in the camp below. In 1981, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated the jump as a **World Heritage Site** placing it among other world attractions such as the Egyptian pyramids, Stonehenge and the Galapagos Islands. For more information, consult www.unesco.org.

Website to check out: <http://kyw.iewatershed.com>. If you have trouble connecting (as I did), go to Google and enter "kyw-tv 3 watershed".

Usually around this time of year we would be having our **Potluck Dinner**; however this year it has been cancelled due to lack of interest in recent years. If you are disappointed, **please** let us know. Historically we have had two dinners (with speaker, silent auction and door prizes) each year: the Banquet, held in the fall, at a local restaurant (\$\$) and the pot luck dinner, held in the spring, wherever we could get a hall cheap (free, except you had to bring food). For the benefit of those on tight budgets who might not be able to attend the Banquet, we would like to re-institute the Pot Luck Dinner next year.

My next surgery date is May 14, so I will be passing the gavel for a while to our intrepid 1st Vice President, Gerald Feigin, and the eminently knowledgeable 2nd Vice President, Lou Detofsky.

Ann Lynne Benson
President

A Day and a Night at the Trotter Dump

By: Gaelen O'Loughlin and George Rogers (Junior Rockhound reporters)

A long and boring weekend was how I envisioned my dad's latest "family activity", two day of looking for rocks in the middle of a big pile of rocks. However with my good friend George along I had hope that the whole weekend would not be a waste. After we arrived at the Trotter Dump, my perception began to change. We were clueless at first as to what to look for, but with so many helpful people around we quickly became junior experts (well sort of). We spent a lot of time running up the hill to the tent where the UV lights were set up to look at the florescent and phosphorescence (see I told you we were experts) rocks we found. A quick swim at the hotel's indoor pool in the late afternoon and back in time for the drawing of the door prizes. George won a small portable short wave lamp, which came in handy that night. Well if we thought the day was special, the night was awesome. The glowing wall at the mine head and everyone's UV lights lighting up the rocks and even the sand all over the site was an amazing spectacle. It was a trip to remember and we brought home plenty of rocks as mementos our trip by, which by the way we now know, are actually more than just rocks they are florescent and phosphorescent rocks.

Minutes of the April 14, 2004 DVESS General Meeting

By Grant Elliott

Gerald Feigin, Acting President, called the meeting to order at 8:10pm after conducting a Junior Rockhound session on the hardness of minerals.

Officers present: Gerald Feigin, 1st VP; Gary Weinstein, Treasurer; Stu Cleveland, Membership; Grant Elliott, Recording Secretary; and Len Morgan, Sage. 18 members signed the April meeting log.

Chet Lemanski was introduced as our speaker. Chet presented information on MINDAT.org, which is the world's largest on-line mineralogical reference database. It is a comprehensive user accessible database and continues to be a work in progress. Information and features are being added each day. During the presentation, Gerald had to leave at 8:50pm, so that prior to departing, the two door prizes were awarded by drawing. The first door prize was 4 fossils brought from Maryland by Gerald, donated by a park ranger. The second door prize was a Keokuk Quartz crystal geode donated by Gary. Chet finished his presentation at 9:17pm and left for his long journey home.

The minutes to March's general meeting were waived. Treasurer Gary Weinstein reported on the current bank balance. In regards to field trips, Gary commented on Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County, Maryland, introduced earlier in the evening by Gerald. The Trotter Field Trip on April 24th and 25th now has in excess of 100 signed participants, which makes it a go. Chuck O'Loughlin and Stu Cleveland volunteered to help man the table. We still need a Newsletter Editor. Chuck is considering taking the position.

Dr. Earl Verbeek will speak at June's meeting. The May speaker is to be announced. The Executive Board meeting will be held (tentatively) at Gary's store with Grant hosting.

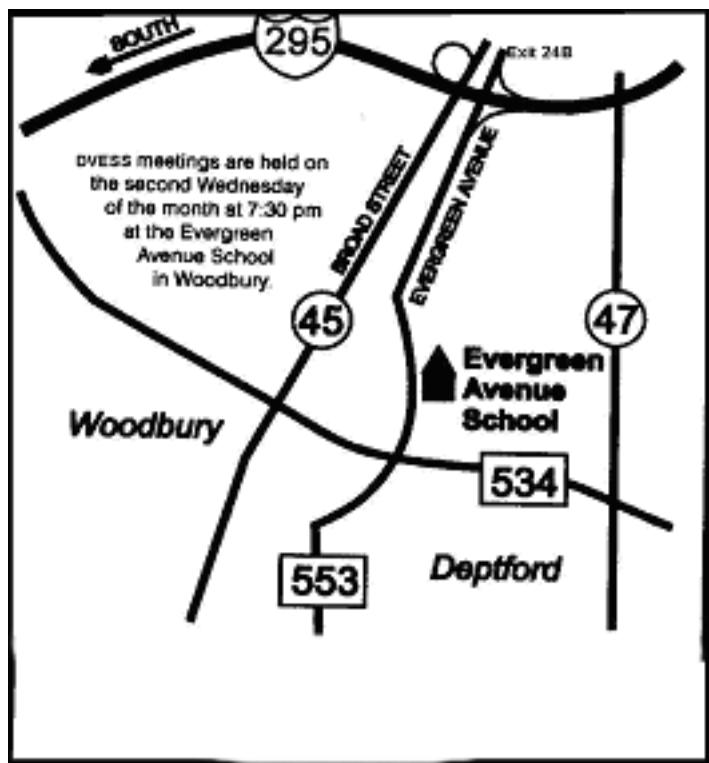
The meeting concluded at approximately 9:50pm.

Greetings from the New Newsletter Editor

By Chuck O'Loughlin

If you read the minutes above you would have seen the notation that "Chuck is considering taking the position". Once I expressed interest it became a foregone conclusion. I will do my best to serve the club as your new editor. I would like to thank Mike Jacobs for the fantastic job he did as editor and for all the help he has extended to get me started.

It is not my newsletter but **our** newsletter, so I am expecting everyone to pitch in and help. Everyone is capable of contributing. This month we had an article by two of our Junior Rockhound about their exciting field trip to the Trotter Dump. Yes, one of the contributing juniors is my son. Yes, I strongly suggested he and his friend George write a short article. Yes, I did edit their work. But they did contribute and so can you. Send me your articles or even your ideas. If you do not have access to a computer, handwrite your thoughts and give them to me at the meetings or mail them to me at the clubs post office box. Together we can make the newsletter something special.



This Month's Meeting:

May 12th, 2004

7:30 PM at the Evergreen Avenue School

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of The South Jersey
Metal Detecting Club
will speak and show slides
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I-95 dig in Philadelphia

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