

DVESSCAPADES

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society – DVESS

Year 47, Volume #7

October 2004

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

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

*Meeting Date: **October 13, 2004***



Main Program

Gary Weinstein will present a slide lecture on the Indonesian subduction zone, a very active region of plate tectonics.

Junior Rockhounds

Gerald Feigin will be instructing the junior rockhounds in how to make their own micro mounts.

Annual Banquet!

Sunday October 17th 2 to 6 PM

The Bufferbelly Restaurant

Lindenwold, NJ - Phone 856-783-4544



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 2004 SPONSORS

Mr. Harvey Cantor – Platinum
Mr. Gerald Feigin – Platinum
Ms. Barbara Haulenbeek - Platinum

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
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Field Trip Coordinator
Gerald Feigin
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2nd Vice President
Lou Detofsky

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President's Message

By Ann Lynne Benson

Our **Annual Banquet** will take place at the Pufferbelly Restaurant (783-4544) in Lindenwold, New Jersey on Sunday **Oct. 17th from 2 pm to 6 pm**. Located adjacent to the Lindenwold station of the High Speed Line, one very short block off the White Horse Pike (Rt. 30) at Laurel Road. This new location for us should be easily accessible to most of our members and guests. The buffet will offer choices of **hot roast beef** and **baked ziti** as main dishes, tossed salad, deli platter, potato salad, rolls and butter, coffee/tea/soda, and cake for dessert.

The price will be \$15 per adult, \$6 for children 12 years and younger. There will be door prizes and our traditional silent auction of neat, wonderful and surprising "stuff" (which **you** will supply – so start cleaning out that attic and pack up duplicate specimens from your collection). We hope that Lorraine will be able to join us with activities for the younger set.

Dr. Steve Okulewicz will show us a slide lecture on the **Grand Canyon**. We look forward to seeing everybody on the 17th for fun and good food.

Directions: the road that Pufferbelly is on runs between the Black Horse Pike in Turnersville to Church Rd. in Cherry Hill and (in that order) is known by the names of: College Drive, Laurel Rd., White Horse Rd. and Springdale Rd. Going from Turnersville to Cherry Hill, this road is intersected by Blackwood-Clementon Rd.(at Shop Rite), the White Horse Pike (Rt. 30 – just past UMDNJ-Kennedy Hospital in Stratford), Haddonfield-Berlin Rd. (Rt. 561 – at Eagle Plaza), Evesham Rd. (between Super G and Commerce Bank- Holly Ravine branch), Kresson Rd. (at Katz Jewish Community Center), Rt. 70 at the college annex, and Greentree Rd. at Springdale Plaza. If you need further directions or wish to sign up, please call me at 856-783-0969 or email at SeleniteQueen@comcast.net (I don't look at email very often).

Our **Oct. 13** meeting will feature **Gary Weinstein**, our Treasurer, and Director of Programs and world-traveler, presenting a slide lecture on Plate Tectonics in the Indonesian subduction zone. At the very first DVESS meeting I ever attended, Lou Detofsky (Doc Rock) had just returned from Hawaii and presented a program about plate tectonics in that location - it sounded so fascinating, I joined the club!

It is also time to start thinking about who you want to elect as officers for the next year.

November 6 & 7, 2004 (10 am – 6 pm on Saturday and 10 am – 5 pm on Sunday) the Tuscarora Lapidary Society will be presenting their annual GEMARAMA mineral, gem, fossil and lapidary show at the Church Farm School in Exton, PA. The show location is on the north side of Business Rt. 30, 1/2 mile west of Frazer - Rt. 30 exit off of Rt. 202, Exton, PA. Their theme this year is **Copper in Disguise in Gemstones and Minerals**. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. You can download a discount ticket (\$1.00 off adult admission) from their website www.lapidary.org/ or you may use the **Discount Ticket** available at the meeting. You can even photocopy it!

Our annual bus trip (**February, 2005**) will be to the **American Museum of Natural History in New York**. This is NOT a fund-raiser, so the tickets will be the best deal you ever got for a bus trip to New York!

There's a lot going on, so shut off that TV, get out of the house, and join a great group of people for interesting, stimulating learning opportunities, conversation and down-right, old-fashioned fun!

Minutes for the Sept. 8, 2004, DVESS General Meeting

By Terry Wilson

Fifteen people attended, along with one junior rockhound. Despite low attendance, the Jr. Rockhounds portion was held as planned, with a program on pterosaurs.

President Ann Benson opened the general meeting at 8 pm, and introduced Gary Weinstein, our program director. Gary proceeded to invite members to show and tell of their collecting adventures over the summer, as is our September meeting tradition.

Robert Todd (We have two Bob Todd's in the membership, unrelated. What are the odds?) brought back a diamond from the Murfreesboro, AR diamond collecting spot, The Crater of Diamond State Park. He came up empty-handed on his own collecting, but bought this nice specimen from another collector. He also went to nearby Blanchard Caves, and brought back brochures for the many caves in the region.

Bob W. Todd brought banded chert specimens he collected in Bedford, PA, as well as aventurine.

Richard Wilke visited two commercial caves, Echo Caverns and Crystal Cave, and an archaeological dig in Gwynnd.

Chuck O'Loughlin spent time up in Sterling Hill where he found azurite and malachite among the more usual fluorescent minerals. He also collected fluorite, graphite, big garnets, mica, and radioactive allanite in Limecrest Quarry. At French Creek he pawed through the diabase tailings for diabase specimens and magnetic ores.

Rob Trail, and environmental consultant, brought specimens from his travels over the years in NY and Hawaii.

Gary Weinstein took his family to Niagara Falls and had photos of this geologic masterpiece to show people who have never been there. On that same vacation, he attended the EFMLS convention representing our club, then took the family collecting Herkimer Diamonds in the St. Johnsville area. He also brought some Keokuk, Iowa crinoid geodes to show what they look like inside.

The door prize drawings were for a St. Claire area fern fossil, won by Chuck O'Loughlin, and a Herkimer Diamond won by Bob Todd.

In the business portion of the meeting, the minutes for June were accepted as printed in the newsletter. Gary gave the treasurer's report. We talked about the club's Sterling Hill club membership. This would give the club a free field trip once a year to Sterling Hill.

Terry Wilson, website coordinator, announced that a membership form is in the works, and online membership registration and payment will be ready for our renewal period in January.

We discussed the upcoming fall banquet and the winter bus trip to NY or possibly the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. We discussed the idea of holding the jr. rockhound program over the summer when the general meetings go on hiatus. Gary sold raffle tickets for an issue of Lapis (subject gold). Ann reported that George Petroschok is doing well, and encouraged members to visit him in the nursing home. Gary announced that we had two members pass away over the summer: Marge Tibbets and Harold Cramer. Marge donated her rock collection to DVESS, which Ed Loveland brought with him this evening.

The meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

Club News

Upcoming Programs by Gary Weinstein

Our annual banquet is upon us, to be held on Sunday, October 17th at 2 pm. We have relocated to the Pufferbelly Restaurant in Lindenwold, just off the White Horse Pike at the Lindenwold high speed line station, near the Echelon Mall, due to the closing of the Starview Diner. A fine selection of food will be available as well as door prizes for everyone and raffles galore! On this occasion we welcome back Dr. Steve Okulewicz who will show us a slide lecture on the Grand Canyon. Some of you may remember his magic presentation at our banquet two years ago. Everyone attending enjoyed it and we are happy that he can return again. Dr Steve is from Staten Island, NY and has an impressive list of credentials: Society of American Magicians, The Geological Society of America, Staten Island Geological Society Inc., Certified Professional Geologist (CPG), Senior Instructor with Tetra Tech NUS Inc., American Institute of Professional Geologists, Registered Professional Geologist (PG) in Pennsylvania, Adjunct Geology Lecturer, College of Staten Island, CU.

Come out and share in this great fun time with all your fellow club members and as always friends, relatives, enemies and even spouses are welcome.

Other future programs include;

October regular meeting, Gary Weinstein will present a slide lecture on the Indonesian Subduction zone, a very active region of plate tectonics.

November regular meeting, Mr. Jeri Jones of York, Pennsylvania will again join our group and give us a new lecture on 'Favorite Collecting spots in South Eastern PA'. Field trip members should not miss this one!

December regular meeting will be our election of officers and annual holiday party and gift exchange. More info to follow, check your newsletter.

2005 programs will be out soon. Look forward to more from, Dr Phil Betancourt, Past President and Member. Mr. Jack Troy, of Hawthorn, NJ, who gave us a wonderful presentation on the 'Tucson Experience' at our June 19 97 meeting. Mr. Derek Yoost, of West Patterson, who has enthralled us with NJ amber and Meteorite lectures. .Mr. Bob Summerfield, Philadelphia, who also spoke on Meteorites, has new material for us. Mrs. Carrie Papa from Bridgewater, NJ who has just authored a book entitled "A Mile Deep and Black as Pitch: an oral history of the Franklin and Sterling Hill mines" has agreed to come down and give us her slide lecture, offer her books for sale and autograph them, too! Mr. Richard Bostwick will again be available to educate and entertain us with more mineral material. And a gentleman from the Morris Museum has many lectures to give and will be on the slate for the coming year. There will be many other goodies to come from your hard working program chair.

Jeri Jones, the York Co., PA geologist, has a very informative website www.Jonesgeo.com

P.S. don't allow your membership to lapse now!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people behind the scenes who helped to make our picnic auctions such a success. Donations were made to our auction by members Harvey Cantor, Ebba and Fred Ligouri, Len Morgan and others I can't recall as well as non members whose collections I have been accumulating, and accumulating, and accumulating! Your intrepid "also know as stupid" [I can't turn away neglected minerals] auctioneer.

Equipment Available submitted by Ebba Ligouri

Fred and I had a booth at the Smithville (Burlington County Park) show "Articulture" in September. Fred was carving soapstone.

A lovely older lady stopped off and told me her deceased husband had been a great rock collector, cutter, etc. She has a bunch of equipment that is sitting there and she would like to sell, or for an institutional charitable donation.

If anyone out there is interested, her name is Mrs. Davis and she lives in Tabernacle. You may contact her at 609-268-2543. I told her everyone in this group would be fair and safe for her to speak with. So, if you need equipment, or know of someone who does, please contact her and look it over. If you like it, please make her a fair offer if you are interested.

Thanks for the information Ebba. You should have told us that you and Fred were working the show. We would have listed the event in last month's newsletter. It would have been nice to see Fred's carvings. Editor

Rutgers Geology Museum Program submitted by Gary Weinstein

Again I remind everyone of an upcoming program to be held at Rutgers Geology Museum, New Brunswick, on Wednesday, Nov. 3rd at 8:00 pm. Dr Matthew Golombek, Rutgers geology alumni '76, a scientist with the JPL branch of NASA, worked on the landing sites for the two rovers, Opportunity and Spirit, and will lecture on the latest discoveries on the red planet.

The museum **MUST** prepare for expected guests and requests RSVP by Oct. 15th. I will contact for my group going up. I have a 7 seat van which now has three remaining seats available. I will leave from Mt. Laurel at 7 pm, One mile off of I-295. Other cars wishing to follow me can also arrange to meet here.

RSVP to Patricia Badillo at badillo@fas.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-8433 if you wish to go. Contact me for a ride or to follow or even directions at garyskyrock@comcast.net

Calendar of Upcoming Events compiled by the editor

October 17, 2004 - DVESS Annual Banquet at the Pufferbelly Restaurant, Rt. 30 & Laurel Rd., Lindenwold, NJ 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Sign up at the October meeting or by contacting Ann Benson or Gary Weinstein whose phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.

October 16 & 17, 2004 – Poughkeepsie Gem & Mineral Show & Sale, Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Poughkeepsie, NY, 10:00am to 5:00pm both days. Additional information is available by calling 845-227-1188 or www.geocities.com/nyrockhounds .

October 30, 2004 – The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County presents “Ultraviolation 2004” fluorescent minerals only, show – swap – sell, First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hill, PA, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Additional information is available by calling 609-882-6819 or uvrocks@comcast.com

November 6, 2004 – Fall Night Dig at the Franklin Mineral Museum “Buckwheat Dump”. Doors open at 6:00pm for registration; dig 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Fee \$10 adults' \$8 children to 12 years old, goggles are a must.

Calendar of Upcoming Events continued

November 6 & 7, 2004 – The Tuscarora Lapidary Society presents “Gemarama 2004”, a gem, jewelry and mineral show, The School at Church Farm, north side of business Rt. 30, ½ mile west of Frazer, PA – Rt. 30 exit off Rt. 202. Information, directions and discount tickets can be found at www.lapidary.org

November 20 & 21, 2004 – The 2004 Pascack Show, 14th Annual Mineral, Fossil, Gem and Jewelry Show & Sale, Pascack Hills High School, Grant Ave. & Spring Valley Rd., Montvale, NJ, Sat. 10 - 5pm Sun. 10 - 4pm. Additional information – something 201-262-2726 or somthg@bellatlantic.net

November 27 & 28, 2004 – Rock and Mineral Weekend at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ, Sat. 10 – 5pm and Sun. 1 – 5pm. Additional information is available at 973-971-3720 or at www.morrismuseum.org

A limited number of brochures for the above events will be available at the meeting.

Items of Interest

Hickory Horned Devil by Ann Benson

What’s green and has 4 large orange, curving, black-tipped horns (sometimes 3/4 inch long), 4 shorter, black or yellowish horns, spikes all down its back, is as big as a hot dog and nearly 3/4-inch in diameter? One was seen on September 24, 2004 walking into the front door of the Animal Adoption Center in Lindenwold, NJ.

It has a ferocious, frightening appearance. It resembling a small dragon, ranging in colors from deep blue-green to tan to green. It is usually seen between July and October but you probably have never encountered one because although its natural range is from the New England states to northern Florida and west to Kansas they are seldom seen because they are not abundant. They are more common in the southern part of their range.

They are found throughout deciduous forest areas feeding (for a period of 37 to 42 days) on leaves of such trees as walnut (its preferred food source), hickory, ash, pecan, persimmon, butternut, sweet gum, sourwood, sycamore and sumac, but are not considered destructive because there are so few of them.

Give up? It’s the **Hickory Horned Devil** caterpillar (*Citheronia regalis* [Fabricius]), larva of the beautiful orange and brown **Royal Walnut Moth** or **Regal Moth** which has a wing span of **6 inches!** It is among the largest of our native saturniid caterpillars but does **not** spin silk as does its cousin, the larvae of the **Giant Lunar moth**.

They molt as they grow, changing from the original black to brown, then tan and finally to green. After a summer of gorging on host tree leaves, their body color morphs from green to a beautiful turquoise and they stop eating and descend from the trees. The regal, as do all saturniidae, does all of its eating in the larvae stage. The adult moth has no mouth. As larvae, they are in danger of being eaten by predators. If the plump caterpillars don’t become snack food, they burrow a few inches beneath the surface and form a chamber in which to pupate. In the ground they change into shiny brown pupae (the overwintering stage). Although late caterpillars can survive moderate frosts, most remain as pupae, underground, for one or two winters. Exactly how they survive subfreezing winter temperatures remains unclear. Sometime in the spring or summer, the adult **Royal Walnut Moth** (or Regal Moth) emerges.

Hickory Horned Devil continued

A **Hickory Horned Devil should not be killed!** Despite their appearance, are harmless. The spines of this frightful-looking, large but completely harmless caterpillar are not poisonous and are not particularly sharp. Ah, the feeling of holding it! Its body is smooth and firm, the spikes are stiff and noticeably pointy, but not tear-your-skin sharp. When it crawls, you get a gentle "prickly" sensation from the little points on its feet. It's a little odd at first, but not unpleasant. I can attest to this fact.

Their population was thought to be declining due to attacks in the New England area by a fly, which was brought into this country to act as a bio-control agent against native moth species. However, because of their ability to adapt to environments inhabited by humans (in addition to the Lindenwold caterpillar, another was found a few weeks ago on a patio in Bucks County), their numbers are rebounding. Jason Weintraub, an entomologist at the Academy of Natural Science in Philadelphia, is tracking sightings of these magnificent creatures.

The Penn Dixie Site: A Paleontological and Outdoor Education Center

From <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/edocs/education/geogram.htm>

The Penn Dixie Site is an abandoned shale quarry, southwest of Buffalo in the Town of Hamburg, New York, once worked by the Penn Dixie Cement Company. An important and very fossiliferous section in the Middle Devonian Hamilton Group is exposed here.

A few years ago, some dedicated individuals began an effort to preserve the quarry for its paleontological and stratigraphic features, and in 1993, formed the Hamburg Natural History Society, Inc. (HNHS); its mission--to acquire and develop the quarry site for educational purposes.

These excerpts from a letter written by Professor Carlton Brett, University of Rochester, in 1990 express the geologic importance of these exposures. "...Many beds are shown here particularly well because of the low angle at which the quarry has been beveled. ... Weathered exposures at the north end of the old quarry have revealed an abundance of fossil crinoid, which are not found commonly in the upper Wanakah Shale at other localities. The section of Grey Windom Shale on the opposite side of the road is arguably the best and most complete outcrop of this unit in the state. It is also still highly fossiliferous and contains some fossils which cannot be found at any other localities, for example, some pyritized sponges and also blastoids which are as yet undescribed. The rim of the quarry on the south side is one of the best exposures of a fossil bone bed in the state. This stratum, the North Evans Limestone, ... is a particularly interesting stratum from a variety of standpoints (we have described it in two guidebook articles).... The unit also contains some of the only well-preserved fossil fish remains found in western New York. In the northeast corner of the quarry is a very important limestone ledge, the Tichenor Limestone that shows evidence of having been a marine erosion surface during the Devonian period.

In January 1996, the Town of Hamburg purchased the 56-acre quarry property, and deeded to the Hamburg Natural History Society 32.5 acres now officially known as the Penn Dixie Site. The remaining acreage went to the local Community Development Program for housing.

The primary purpose of the Society is to preserve the Site for present and future generations, so that interested individuals from all walks of life can study and collect fossils. During the past two years, the Society has had an active educational program that included field trips to collect fossils and evening astronomy programs. In the spring of 1996, they trained a number of field trip leaders, and now offer guided field trips for students in

Penn Dixie continued

elementary through high school levels. They will conduct trips for amateur geology clubs, scouts, and other organizations, as well. The Site is accessible to amateur and professional geologists, school groups and other organizations. There is a nominal charge to non-members of the Society to collect fossils.

The Penn Dixie site was one of the many stops Gary Weinstein made with his family on their summer adventures in New York State. I was intrigued by his description and even more impressed when Rob Trail, a new member who brought an impressive collection of fossil specimens to the “show and tell”, announced that he was scheduled to visit the site sometime this fall. I just had to learn more, so I did a little research. In order to fit the space available in the newsletter I had to cut some of the information provided on the web site. So if you are interested and want more info read the full text at the site listed above or check out the organizations own web site www.penndixie.org - Editor

Letters to the Editor

I have generally been pleased with your efforts as the editor of the club’s newsletter, but after reading your article (I assume it was your article since no one was credited for it) “**Have You Been to a Meeting Lately?**” which appeared in the September 2004 newsletter. I just had to write to bring to your attention the fact that you neglected to mention the wonderful program George Powell presented on fossil collecting.

Signed Fossil Fan

You caught me Fossil Fan. The pressure of pulling together the newsletter caused a memory short circuit. After the newsletter was printed and I was in the process of putting mailing labels on the newsletters, I realized my error when I came to George’s label. I quickly added a hand written note to George’s newsletter apologizing for the oversight. I am grateful for your letter as it gives me an opportunity to remind the membership of yet another fantastic program appealing to both young and old and one more reason why everyone should attend the meetings. Editor

I have not seen or heard anything concrete about field trips in either the newsletter or on the yahoo group site or at the meetings. I joined this club for the chance to get out into the field and do some collecting. While the programs, picnics and banquets are great, my real passion is to get out into the field and get my hands dirty and bring home some specimens. What gives?

Signed Rusty & Dusty Rock Hammer

Rusty, you are not alone in wondering what is going on. I have overheard similar comments from others and the Executive Board has expressed concern that the club has not had sufficient field trips to qualify for participation in the Northeast Field Trip Alliance. The Board is looking for volunteers to assist the Field Trip Coordinator. Most of us have jobs and family which are our priority and you squeeze the club work in when you can, and an additional volunteer or two would be very beneficial towards getting our field trip program up and running again. If you are interested please see any of the officers or send me another e-mail. Editor

The deadline for submitting any articles, reports, calendar events or letters to the editor for the November newsletter is October 22, 2004. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this month’s newsletter. Editor

DVESScapades

The Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

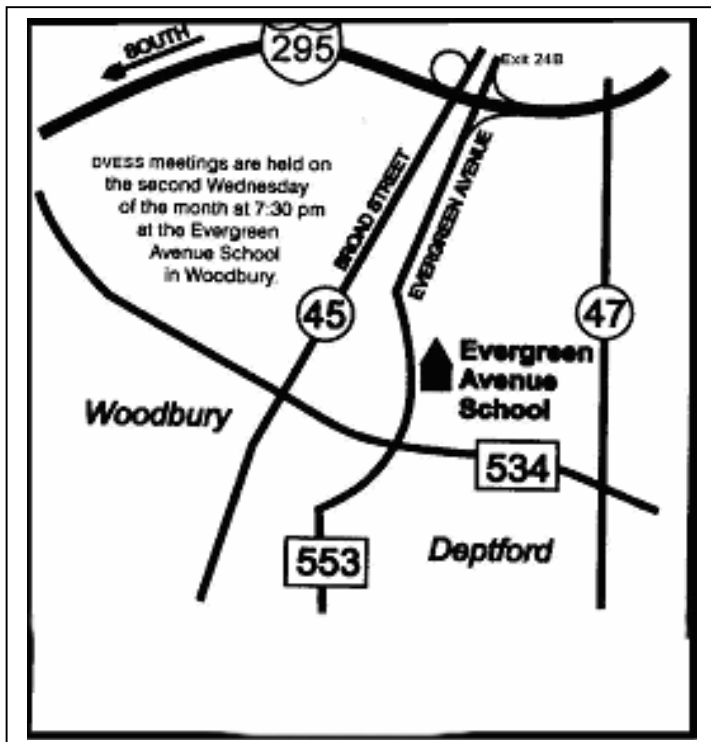
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October 2004



This Month's Meeting:

October 13, 2004

Gary Weinstein will present a slide lecture on the Indonesian subduction zone, a very active region of plate tectonics.