

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

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

*Meeting Date: November 10, 2004*



## Main Program

Geologist, Jeri Jones,  
Will lecture on “Favorite  
Collecting Spots of  
Southeastern  
Pennsylvania”.

## Junior Rockhounds

Gerald Feigin will be  
conducting a program on  
Eastonite, Tremolite and  
Serpentine.

## Field Trips

**Sunday, November 21 Sterling Hill  
Sat & Sun December 11 & 12 Flag Pond  
Nature Park (Calvert Cliffs), MD**



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>

### 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  
Coordinator  
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Field Trip Coordinator  
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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Lou Detofsky

Treasurer  
Program Chairperson  
Gary Weinstein  
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Membership Chair  
Librarian  
Stu Cleveland  
[cleveland@rowan.edu](mailto:cleveland@rowan.edu)

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## President's Message

By Ann Lynne Benson

What an exciting time of year! The gem and mineral community is entering a brilliant phase in November we have the annual GEMARAMA, presented by the Tuscaroara Lapidary Society ([www.lapidary.org](http://www.lapidary.org)); in December, DVESS has elections and our holiday party (gift exchange for adults and the club provides gifts for the Junior Rockhounds). December 11&12 we will have a major marine fossil collecting trip to Flag Ponds Nature Park in Calvert County, Maryland (<http://calvert-county.com/flagpond.htm>); and Feb. 19 we ([www.DVESS.org](http://www.DVESS.org)) will have our annual bus trip – this year to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (<http://www.amnh.org/>).

At our November meeting you will be able to nominate someone, anyone, even yourself, for any elected position in the club. Elections will take place at the December meeting.

The American Museum of Natural History offers an Imax Theatre with a choice of films; the monumental 120-foot-high, 333,500-square-foot Rose Center for Earth and Space which increased the Museum's square footage by approximately 25 percent; several halls dedicated to birds; habitat group dioramas; mammal halls; the Division of Anthropology's culture halls; and of course, my personal favorite, the fossil halls including two famed dinosaur halls. The Museum is home to the world's largest collection of vertebrate fossils, totaling nearly one million specimens. More than 600 of these specimens, 85 percent of which are real fossils as opposed to casts, are on view. Completely renovated between 1994 and 1996, the fossil halls now stand as a continuous loop on the fourth floor, telling the story of vertebrate evolution. The *Hall of Biodiversity* is an 11,000-square-foot hall, which opened in 1998 to demonstrate the Earth's diverse and endangered life forms, while painting a vivid and inspiring portrait of the breathtaking beauty and abundance of life. Dominating the hall is a spectacular diorama of the Dzanga-Sangha rain forest, which represents one of the most biodiversity-rich ecosystems on Earth including more than 160 species of flora and fauna and more than 500,000 leaves, each painstakingly made by hand. The rain forest - 90 feet long, 26 feet wide and 18 feet high – uses high-resolution imagery, video, sound, and smell to depict the forest in three different states: pristine, altered by natural forces, and degraded by human intervention. Another major element of the Hall is the *Spectrum of Life*, the only exhibit of its kind in the world, showcasing the glorious diversity of life organized into 28 groups along a 100-foot-long installation with more than 1,500 specimens and models including microorganisms and mammals, bacteria and beetles, fungi and fish.

Junior Rockhounds may soon be able earn badges covering the full spectrum of our hobby, including: Rocks & Minerals, Showmanship, Earth Resources, Communication, Fossils, Field Trips, Lapidary Arts, Leadership and Collecting. We hope this program will accomplish two things at the same time:

- 1) Give junior leaders at local clubs a variety of proven, organized activities that offer their kids challenging educational and artistic opportunities on an on-going basis.
- 2) Provide motivation for pebble pups and junior members to work toward earning tangible rewards and recognition and learning satisfying skills and knowledge while—as always—having fun!

If kids earn 6 of the 9 badges for these activities, they will earn a Rockhound badge.

**BUS TRIP**  
**to**  
**NEW YORK CITY**

**Saturday, February 19, 2005**

**Pick up points:**

leaving Evergreen Ave. School, Woodbury, NJ at 8:00 am  
leaving Cadbury (on Rt. 38 near Cherry Hill Mall) at 8:30 am

**Drop off point:**

American Museum of Natural History  
New York City

**Leaving New York at 5:00 pm**

**PRICES:**  
**\$20 (non-members)**  
**\$15 (members)**  
**\$10 (children)**

**Sponsored by:**

non-profit, educational

**DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY**

*celebrating 50 years of service to the community*

make check payable to DVESS, P.O. Box 372, Maple Shade, NJ 08052  
for more information call 856-783-0969 or email [SeleniteQueen@comcast.net](mailto:SeleniteQueen@comcast.net)

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## Minutes from the October 13, 2004 DVESS General Meeting

By Terry Wilson

Twenty four people attended October's meeting, including some guests brought by the Feigin's. Ann Benson, president, opened the evening by introducing the officers, then turned the meeting over to Gary Weinstein, program director. Gary actually was the presenter, giving a slide show lecture on Indonesian Tectonics. He discussed the subduction of the Indian Ocean slipping underneath Indonesia, at the rate of 6 cm a year. We saw slides of volcanic action and evidence of past volcanic activities on Sumatra, Krakatoa, Java, and Bali. It was a very interesting program on the power of what lies beneath.

After the featured program, we held the door prize drawing of natrolite from Mt. St. Hilaire. Ed Loveland won the specimen. We proceeded to the business part of the meeting. Minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter; Gary gave the treasurer's report followed by Chuck O'Loughlin's newsletter report. Gerald Feigin, field trip chairman, gave a report on upcoming field trips. His research shows that Dec. 11-12 is a good weekend for a fossil trip to Flag Pond in MD due to a favorable low tide. We have a chance to hold a club trip to Sterling Hill in November. Gerald is planning a trip to Inversand, and our winter bus trip to NYC to the natural history museum is scheduled for February 19.

The annual banquet, held the upcoming Sunday, was talked up and a signup sheet was available. Dr. Steve Okulewicz will be presenting the geology of the Grand Canyon for the program, along with the usual silent auction, penny auction, and door prizes. Ann announced that she wants to start planning for our 50th anniversary coming up in 2006. Gary had raffle tickets for sale for the Gold issue of Lapis. The meeting adjourned at 9:20PM.

## Club News

### **The End of an Era** by Gary Weinstein

Finally, after over two years and much labor (more than 9 months), the warehouse/storage unit which was packed to the gills is no more. No longer will I have to pay almost \$200.00 per month to store the clubs rocks as well as some of my own.

It began innocently enough as a place to pack unused belongings in order to make the house in Maple Shade ready to sell. Well I just kept on packing it up, 10 feet across by 20 feet long by 12 feet high. After moving I began the task of slowly emptying the unit. Before the job was hardly started, someone willing to donate her late father's rocks called the Club rather than pay to have someone haul away the trash. Well I made about 8 trips in my van, Mike Jacob used his pick-up twice and a friend of mine used his truck 3 or 4 times to bring the enormous amount of material down from Hightstown. Well the storage unit was again filled but not as neatly as the first time, due to the limited time we had to remove the donated material. I spent a lot of time repacking a lot of the donated minerals into containers that were not collapsing from age and slowly began moving it to my home. Special thanks to my parents, my daughter, Danielle, Mike Jacobs, Chuck O'Loughlin and his son Evan for all their help in moving and sorting and repackaging.

I will be requiring the help of other club members to I.D. this material, so that the club can put it on the pick table, auction block or just outright sell it, sometime in the not to distant future before my wife has to call someone to haul away the trash! Much of it is mixed up with personal and store inventory, so it will be slow process. Anyone interested in participating in indoor field trip?????????????

## Club News (Continued)

### Junior Rockhound by Gerald Feigin

The juniors should bring to the next meeting, their ulexite from last year. It has some amazing properties that I learned about from the Borax Museum. It is absolutely incredible. It is photo-optical.

## Field Trips

### DVESS Day at Sterling Hill Mine & Museum – Sunday November 21, 2004 by Chuck O'Loughlin

DVESS has a club membership with the Sterling Hill Mine & Museum. The membership allows the Club to have an annual day with both a tour and collecting. The facility opens at 10AM and we will start with collecting in the mine run dump, the Passaic Pit and the Nobel Pit areas. The standard collecting fee of \$1 per pound with a \$10 minimum will be in effect. The mine tour will start at 1PM lasting about 2 hours and includes the mine, the museum and the Thomas Warren Museum of Fluorescence. There is no additional charge for the tour. A picnic area, snack bar, rest room and gift shop are available. The trip is age appropriate for age 6 and up. You can collect, do the tour or both. A sign up sheet will be available at the November meeting or contact me at 856-663-1383 or [ac.oloughlin@att.net](mailto:ac.oloughlin@att.net) to reserve your place.

Directions – NJ Turnpike north to exit 10. Take I-287 north to I-80 west (Delaware Water Gap). Follow I-80 west to Route 15 (exit 34B). Follow Rt. 15 north to the Sparta-Franklin exit Route 517. Make a right at the light at the top of the exit ramp onto Rt. 517 north. Upon entering Ogdensburg you will see a large sign for the Museum directing you to turn left on to Brooks Flat Road. Follow the signs the rest of the way to the Museum.

### Flag Pond Nature Park (Calvert Cliff) Maryland – Sat. & Sun. December 11 & 12, 2004

By Chuck O'Loughlin for Gerald Feigin

Flag Pond Nature Park is run by Calvert County Maryland Natural Resources Division. Miocene age fossils can be found along the shores of the park. The scheduled date of the trip is to go inside with the lowest tides of the year at approximately 1 – 2 PM on both Saturday and Sunday. Despite the low tides, Gerald is recommending that you bring waders, if you are interested in getting to the better collecting areas. Additional recommended equipment includes a garden rake with hardware cloth (fiberglass screen door/widow material). I not familiar with the site, but the brochure claims that fossils can be found along the beach should you not have waders nor desire to test the water temperature in December. Brochures will be available at the meeting or contact Gerald for more information.

Directions – Take I-95 south to the Baltimore Beltway (I-695). From the Beltway take Route 301 south to Route 4 south. Just 10 miles south of Prince Frederick, look for the sign and turn left to the Nature Park. Gerald suggests that we meet at the ranger station at noon each day. For those who plan to overnight, Gerald has indicated that several motels are located on Rt. 4 in Prince Frederick, MD.

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## Annual Banquet

By Chuck O'Loughlin

An intimate group of Club members, family and friends met for the DVESS annual banquet on Sunday October 17, 2004 at the Pufferbelly restaurant in Lindenwold, NJ. It was a wonderful opportunity to socialize while enjoying a sumptuous feast. Everyone quickly got into the spirit of the event and actively participated in the silent and Chinese auctions. Even some of the staff from the restaurant could not resist the lovely auction items and bought some chances. Richard Wilke won the edition of *Gold* generously donated to the Club by Matrix Publications. The highlight of the afternoon was the informative and highly enjoyable slide presentation by Dr. Steve Okulewicz, who took us on an epic journey down the Grand Canyon by dory. A dory is a small row boat that seats five including the doryman whose job it is to row the dory down the river and through the rapids. Dr. Steve's tales of life in the dories along with his slides and descriptions of the geological formations in the Canyon were magical. Speaking of magic, Dr. Steve also entertained us with a few magic tricks at the end of his presentation to the delight of all.

## Items of Interest

### WHAT'S IT WORTH???

I found this thought provoking article in the November 1996 DVESS newsletter. Grant Elliott

#### “Mineral Prices: Why So High?”

*By John Betts, Editor of The Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Club-*

*I am a part time mineral dealer. I get many questions about the prices of collectible mineral specimens. Novices are the most confused because they have yet to understand the confusing factors that affect mineral values. The following is a hypothetical chronology of prices and events of a typical mineral specimen.*

#### **The Beginning**

All minerals start in the ground. A specimen is not worthless but it does not yet have a price tag. It will lie there undisturbed, as it has for millions of years, until one of two things happen. Either it will erode from the solid rock, work its way into a sedimentary deposit and start another cycle of rock formation OR man will intervene and do something with it. It could go to a smelter to be refined into a commercial/industrial resource. Or it could become a collectible mineral specimen. I am going to focus solely on this latter path.

#### **Price Evolution**

A collector digs it up and stores it wrapped in newspaper in his basement. It typically will remain in this state for two or three years, until his wife threatens to toss out all of the “junk” in the basement. Price=\$0.00.

The collector washes it off for the first time and decides it is still worth keeping even though most of the other material he collected should have been left in the ground. He trades it at a swap along with ten other pieces to a collector that can see through the iron staining in acid to reveal the real beauty of the crystals. It is now clean and lustrous. Price=\$5.00.

The specimen is donated to the local mineral club for their fund raising auction. It sells for \$12.00.

The new owner trades it away at a local swap to a savvy collector who knows the location has just been closed and no more specimens will ever be found. Owner values it at \$25.00.

Years later, Mineralogical Record runs an article on the lost location. The author identifies a rare left-handed twin crystal form as unique to the location. The owner doubles the price to \$50.00.

The owner dies leaving most of his collection unlabeled. His heirs have no idea of what to do with the collection. A local mineral dealer calls the widow and offers \$1,800.00 for the entire collection and will not

charge her extra for moving it. The price paid each specimen approximately \$0.50.

Now the mineral, unlabeled, is misidentified by the dealer as originating in Austria and a \$50.00 price is assigned along with the “classic” location notation.

The specimen does not sell for two years. The small-time dealer discovers there is no money in selling mineral specimens and decides to sell wire wrapped amethyst pyramids instead. Sell his whole stock for 20% of the labeled prices. The specimen goes for \$10.00.

The new owner is more knowledgeable and recognizes the true origin of the specimen. He researches the location and makes a copy of the article in *Mineralogical Record* as a sales prop and prices it at \$100.00.

An “instant” collector, who has just started collecting minerals again, now that he makes enough money at age 35 after giving up collecting in high school, buys the specimen for \$90.00. He is happy He got 10% off.

Meanwhile, there is so much demand for minerals from the old location that prices climb. Brian Wayne Lees-Thompson (All names used herein are fictitious) reopens the mine, attracting attention to the location again.

Because of savvy marketing and the perceived shortage of specimens, prices are set at numbers that look like long distance telephone numbers.

After two years the market is saturated. Mr. Lees-Thompson can't give them away. Prices drop to 10% of post-reopening prices. The minerals from the mine become a commodity worth about as much as Uruguayan amethyst! Meanwhile our specimen is sold to a new owner for \$150.00.

He shows the specimen to an experienced collector who owns a microscope. They spot rare inclusions of baloneyium. They write an abstract that is accepted for presentation at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. They give a 15 minute presentation. It is offered for sale for \$500.00.

It sells immediately to a locality collector that specializes in only that location. It is placed in a position of honor in his collection. The abstract is published in *Rocks and Minerals* magazine. The collector is offered \$1000.00 for it and he refuses.

As the owner's age goes up, so does the mineral's value in the owner's mind. But he also knows that he can't take it with him when he passes on. He offers it to a local museum for \$5000.00. The museum has an annual acquisition budget of \$1000.00. They try to find a donor to purchase the specimen for the museum.

In the meantime, the owner dies. The heirs know nothing about the collection- They just want to move into the house. So everything is hauled away by the trash hauler. The mineral specimen ends up in the local landfill and starts the rock-forming cycle anew.

### **So What is a Mineral Really Worth?**

This silly chronology illustrates that the price is determined in varying parts by aesthetics rarity, location, associations, uniqueness, marketing, and scholarly study. As with art, value increases with knowledge of the subject. There is no absolute value. There are no hard and fast rules. (Adler, 1981)

If there were not mishaps along the way, the greater fool theory would prevail. Each owner would buy it and sell it to a greater fool that will pay more. Eventually it works its way up the price ladder until it reaches a practical limit. As a collector, all that matters is whether there is a bigger fool out there to pay more than we did. And there is.

### **References**

Adler, Mortimer J., 1981, *Six Great Ideas*, MacMillan Publishing Co., NY

### **Web Sites of Interest**

By Gary Weinstein

<http://www.hadrosaurus.com/>

<http://www.terraserver.com>



## Book Review

By Chuck O'Loughlin

*“A Mile Deep and Black as Pitch” An Oral History of the Franklin & Sterling Mines*  
by Carrie Papa and published by the McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company. [www.mwpubco.com](http://www.mwpubco.com)

A **must** read for any collector of Franklin minerals, mining buffs or those who are interested in New Jersey history or history in general. Special thanks to Ms Papa for tracking down a dwindling number of participants from a bygone era. The author, herself the daughter of a Zinc Company miner, allows the 34 narrators, both men and women, to tell their tales about life in the mines of the NJ Zinc Company and in the towns of Franklin and Ogdensburg, New Jersey. The book is well organized in three parts.

In part one, the reader is entertained with informative stories by miners, muckers and geologists working in the mines. It was easy to imagine the vivid colors reflecting from the walls and ceilings as the geologist prospect with their ultraviolet lights for the next vein of ore to be removed. Feel the dust and grim as the muckers cleared the tunnels following the blasting of the ore. Sense the ever present danger of working in a hostile environment deep below the surface with powerful pneumatic drills and explosives, and share in the miners' anxiety as they are frightened by spectral sights and sounds from long lost comrades.

The second part of the book deals with the company towns. Again the narrators weave vivid tales of life in a late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century company town. Immigrants from Russia, Hungary, Mexico and many other parts of the world brought their families along with their language, culture, religion, customs and food to a remote rural corner of New Jersey. The Zinc Company workers and their families lived in company housing, attended company schools, drank company water and lighted their houses with company supplied electricity. While most narrators praised the company for its benevolence and generosity some complained that the company paid poorly and that the services it provided were merely for its own benefit and convenience. The question of whether the company was 'big brother or patron saint' is of course a matter of opinion, and the readers will surly form their own opinion based on the record presented.

The third and final part of the book tells the story of the closing of the mines and the formation of the present day museums in Franklin and Ogdensburg. Again the narrators tell of the economic and political events that resulted in the closing of the mines. We learn about the social and economic disruption brought about by the loss of jobs, the tax base and the company's support for much of the towns' infrastructure. Finally we hear first hand from a dedicated group of individuals who have made personal sacrifices to preserve what remains of the Zinc Company and the great collections of Franklin minerals for joy and benefit of all.

**Announcement** edited from various web sources by Chuck O'Loughlin

On October 18, 2004, Jesse L. (Jay) Lininger, Jr., age 64, of Dillsburg, PA, passed away. A man gifted by God with extraordinary talent and intellect, Jay, along with his wife Paula, was the founder and President of MATRIX Publishing Services and MATRIX Art Services. Jay was also well known nationally and internationally in the world of mineralogy as an author, publisher, lecturer and foremost as a collector. He was a cofounder and lifelong member of the York Rock and Mineral Club and was active in the PA Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy, serving as a Board Member and past president. Jay will be missed. He was a giant among us.

# DVESScapades

The Newsletter of the

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

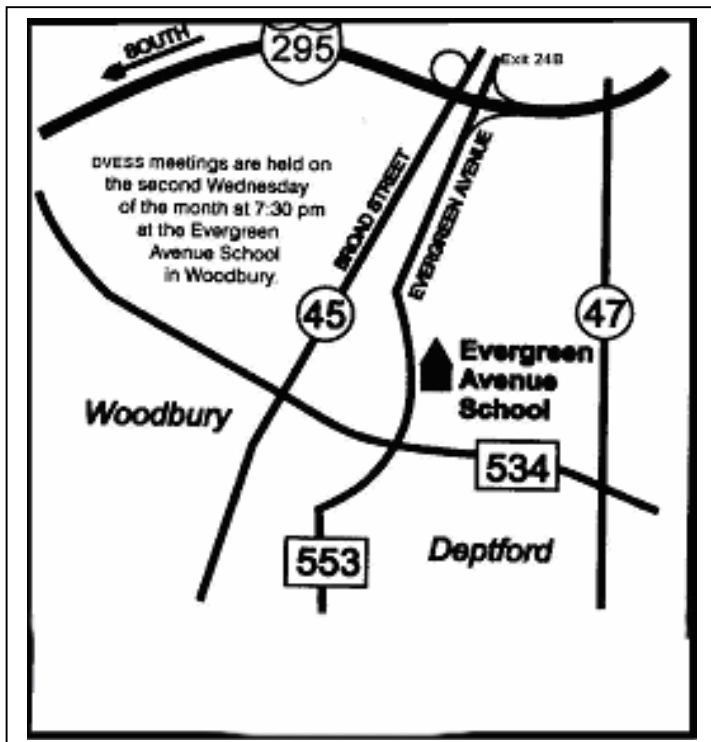
PO Box 372

Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052



## DVESScapades

November 2004



### This Month's Meeting:

**November 10, 2004**

Geologist, Jeri Jones,  
Will lecture on "Favorite  
Collecting Spots of  
Southeastern  
Pennsylvania".