

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

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

*Meeting Date: **May 11, 2005***



Main Program

John Sanfacon will be presenting a program on the causes of **color** in **diamonds**, with emphasis on the rare pinks and reds from **Arglye, Western Australia**.

Junior Rockhounds

Ann Benson will be will introduce the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' **Future Rockhounds of America Merit Badge Program**

Field Trip – Oreland, PA for Goethite – Saturday, May 14

Field Trip – Sterling Hill (Night) – Saturday May 21

Field Trip – Rocky Ridge, MD – Saturday May 28

Field Trip – Buckwheat Dump (Night) plus another location during the day – Saturday June 6



American Federation
of
Mineralogical Societies



Eastern Federation
of
Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



Special Congress
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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
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DVESS Website:
<http://www.dvess.org>

EFMLS Website:
<http://www.AmFed.org/EFMLS>

DVESS 2005 SPONSORS

Harvey Cantor – Platinum
 Gerald Feigin – Platinum

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.

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President's Message by Ann Benson

My new favorite TV show is “**Hot Rocks – The Geology of Civilization**” on the **Science Channel**. Hosted by a bright young geologist with a Scottish accent, the show takes the viewer all over the world to explore the role of geology in architecture, etc. The first episode I watched explained that the pyramids are made of sedimentary rocks which can hold a lot of weight, but afford very little room inside. The beautiful temples in Greece were made of metamorphic rock – marble – which is stronger, allowing for roofs and more spacious interiors. Finally, the Romans used igneous rocks to make bricks and concrete, which supported arches and allowed for the most spacious interiors of their domed cathedrals. The scenery in this show is absolutely breath taking. It teaches by visual example and made the topic so easy to understand, and so entertaining, that I watched it twice!

On April 9 I drove over the river to LuLu Temple for the combined **DVPS/PMS show**. It was bigger and better than ever. I was able to purchase two of my favorite fossils - an entire crinoid specimen and a trilobite. Both are very small but perfectly detailed. I took a “new” child to this show, the daughter of a friend of mine who had never attended a gem and mineral show before. For the past 20 years I have made a point of taking at least one child to every show I attend, no matter whether they are family, friends, or neighbors. This is good for the child (who is exposed to something new, wonderful, beautiful and exciting), for the adult (who gets to see this wonder through the eyes of the child – preventing the boredom of “it’s just another show”), and for our hobby (the future of which rests with the young). I encourage you to take a kid to the next show you attend. This sort of comes under the category of Each One Teach One.

On April 16 I attended an open house at the new (18 months old) Astronomy Bldg. and **Planetarium** on the campus at Rowan University in Glassboro (geology is no longer taught there). The planetarium is nearly 2/3 the size of the one at the Franklin Institute and has **shows** at 7 pm every Friday and Saturday night (admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children and seniors over 60 years. Now showing “**Deep Impact**”: *In July, space scientists will send a 770-pound piece of machinery smashing into the nucleus of a comet at 25,000 miles per hour, just to see what will happen* [what makes that a good idea? -ed.]). We were also able to tour the rotating observatory (you don’t see one of those too frequently in South Jersey!). Take advantage of this gem in your own back yard! See www.rowan.edu/planetarium for more info.

Our annual **PotLuck Dinner** was held on April 17 and if you didn’t attend, you missed something special. Not just the program (“Origin of the Universe”), not just the door prizes (everybody got one), not just the silent auction (yes, I did get the selenite) but it’s the one time of the year when we all can relax with each other and just talk. We didn’t have to rush to get out of the building “on time” after our speaker and business meeting as at our monthly meeting. We didn’t have to focus on the technical aspects of running a non-profit educational organization as we do at the Executive Board meeting. And we didn’t have to pay anything and be distracted by surrounding noise as we do at the annual banquet at a local restaurant. This was exclusively OUR time and we had a great time. I hope you’ll be able to join us next spring.

On April 24 I paid a visit to our member George Petreshock at Greenbriar East Nursing Home in Deptford. George looks well and sounds hearty. He avidly follows our activities in the newsletter and loves to have visitors.

There is so much to see and do in this wonderful world of ours. I am grateful to DVESS for the friendships I’ve made and for giving me the opportunities to “stop and smell the roses”, to continue to learn and be amazed at the wonders of nature, and to develop an eye for the small treasures I could easily miss. I found a rock this month. It’s simple yet elegant. It was in one of those newly-landscaped-with-rocks places and since this was a

President's Message (continued)

big place, the rocks were big. It's 5" x 4.5" x 3" high, metamorphic, kind of roundish, as many rocks are, and brownish with a tinge of red; but what made it stand out were these two exceptionally bright white lines – one going around the top and the other going around the bottom. I passed by it for days trying to figure out if it had been painted, which I was sure it wasn't (who'd bother to paint a landscaping rock?). Determinedly, I developed a plan. Furtively, when I hoped no one was looking (was it moral concern about stealing, or embarrassment of being seen picking up a *rock* ?), I snatched it! Upon examination, the "painted" lines turned out to be quartz veins (duh!). It now graces my dining room on a small antique table. Do I see a great dichotomy in this room: an 1890's solid oak, hand-carved, dining room table, an 18th century ornately carved china cabinet, 2 antique occasional tables and a rock? Not at all (the other small table holds the "Queen Ann" selenite). Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Let no stone go unturned – or unappreciated!

April 13, 2005 General Meeting Minutes by Grant Elliott, Acting Recording Secy.

Ann Benson, President gaveled the meeting to order at 8:pm and introduced present Board Members. Present were Ann, Chuck O'Loughlin- Newsletter Editor, Gary Weinstein- Treasurer/Programs, Len Morgan- Sage, Gerald Feigin- 1st VP/Junior Rockhounds, Grant Elliott- Acting Recording Secretary and Terry Wilson- Website Coordinator.

Stu Cleveland- Membership/Librarian appeared briefly and indicated that he was resigning due to personal reasons.

Derek Yoost spoke on Dinosaurs of New Jersey.

May's program will be on diamonds and June's program will address Dinosaurs of Egypt, including a newly discovered Sauropod species.

Trotter is a go, hitting the 100 person sign-up minimum just recently.

Motion to approve the minutes of last month's meeting was made by Grant and seconded by Bob Todd.

Chuck has volunteered to take on the duties of Membership Chair.

Meeting concluded at 10.00pm.

The Legislative Front submitted by Ann Benson

It starts out innocently enough, "The purpose of S.263 is to establish a comprehensive national policy for preserving and managing paleontological resources on Federal lands administered by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture."

Some background information is given; a "need" is stated. Some history is given ("S. 263 was introduced on February 2, 2005."). On Feb. 9, 2005 the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources unanimously recommended that the Senate pass the bill.

Congress is concerned about the lack of unified policies and standards for the management of fossils on federal lands; a recommendation has been made "that vertebrate fossils continue to be protected as rare and within the ownership of the federal government." *Who gave them ownership in the first place?*

According to a report accompanying the bill, public comments "supported the involvement of amateurs in the science and enjoyment of fossils, including the availability of most plant and invertebrate fossils". [translates to: **Continue to ignore this issue and in the future you'll be lucky to get your hands on a fern fossil or a**

The Legislative Front (continued)

stromatolite, but vertebrate fossils will be totally owned by the Federal Government – amateurs need not apply.”

If made law, **you will be prevented from receiving, swapping, selling and even transporting** “any paleontological resource” which originated on Federal land.

You may want to contact your Senators regarding “Paleontological Resources Preservation Act” S236. More information is available in the AFMS newsletter. Subscriptions are only \$4.50 per year; Send checks payable to “*AFMS*” AFMS Central Office, Attn: Steve Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

Junior Rockhound News by Ann Benson

The **Junior Rockhound** program for May will introduce the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies’ **Future Rockhounds of America Merit Badge Program**. Each Junior in attendance will receive their first badge for Membership. There are 10 more badges in the program, 1 for each of the 9 modules and the coveted ROCKHOUND badge when they have completed the program and graduate from Pebble Pups to Rockhounds. The first module is Rocks and Minerals. Juniors must complete at least 3 of the 7 activities in this category to earn the **Rocks and Minerals badge**. We will discuss the program and focus on Activity #1.4 The Three Rock Types. If possible, Juniors should bring with them one each of the 3 types of rocks: igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary.

Programs by Gary Weinstein

The program for our May meeting will be a presentation by John Sanfacon, who will be speaking on the color of diamonds and their imitators, what causes color in diamonds, with special attention given to the rare and beautiful pink and red diamonds of Argyle, Western Australia. So brace yourself for a trip down under.

Upcoming Field Trips by Chuck O’Loughlin

Saturday May 14, 2005, 10 AM, Oreland, PA – We will be collecting goethite in the Stony Brook Creek. The creek is a dry bed. Goethite and quartz can be found in abundance among the rocks in the creek bed. The trip is appropriate for all ages. There is some broken glass in the creek bed so sturdy shoes and gloves are a good idea. Directions available at the meeting, or contact me.

Saturday May 21, 2005, 6 PM, Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, NJ – The Sterling Hill site will be open for a night dig for Foundation members only. DVESS is a member and we are thus eligible to participate. I will be going and will have the club’s membership card. If anyone else is interested please see me at the meeting or get in touch with me by phone or e-mail.

Saturday May 28, 2005, 10 AM, Triassic Rocky Ridge, MD – For those of you who are not on the DVESS yahoo group site, you have been missing Richard Fulton’s posting about this fantastic site (I have reproduced several of his postings further on in the newsletter). The site is an ongoing exploration and excavation, so no collecting will be allowed, but Rick has offered to show us a nearby location where we might be able to collect after our visit to Rocky Ridge. I am still working out the details, so if you are interested in attending please call or e-mail me so I can get you the information when it is finalized.

Field Trip Report by Jeff Winkler

The 2005 Triple Diggg (Trotter, Buckwheat & Sterling Hill) April 23 & 24, 2005 – was an outstanding success. The weather threatened rain all day Saturday, but other than a brief shower in the early morning and a good soaking at the very end of the night, collectors were barely fazed by the on and off light showers that occurred throughout the day. It was an international event with collectors traveling from all over the world for this once yearly opportunity to collect on the famed Trotter dump. A great deal of time, energy and money was spent on breaking up an old concrete retaining wall. Only in NJ will you find people strange enough to demolish a concrete wall, haul it off and to top it off, gladly pay you for the privilege. In all seriousness though, the concrete pieces were highly sought after and filled with chunks of fluorescent minerals that date back to when the mine was active. You will undoubtedly be seeing some of these very attractive conglomerates of rare specimens and fluorescent sands appearing on your favorite fluorescent mineral web site soon.

Our sponsors and friends donated some super door prizes this year, quite a few of them **just for the youngsters**. By the way, we've been told that we are the only organized dig in the USA with door prizes like these! And our fees have not gone up for seven years.

\$50 Gift certificates from [GSLocks](#) were won by Edward Wingate, Lois Shriver, Brandon Haggerty & Gary Weinstein.

\$25 Gift certificates from [GSLocks](#) were won by Albert Woodward, Dwight Ridenour, Ed Bruffey & Fred Baer.

A 12-volt portable SHORTWAVE UV lamp with battery pack – donated by [GSLocks](#) and [Way Too Cool](#) was won by Robert Dunne and Kayla Mignon.

Calcite crystal helectites included with uranium salts (fl green, sw) from Mexico- ~6" from Gary's Gem Garden was won by Jeremy Zolan and an octoheadral pink Fluorite with calcite crystals (fl purple sw&lw, calcite also fl) from Mina navidad, Mex.--~3" also from Gary's Gem Garden was won by Mark Quinby.

Several short-wave lamps and long wave lamps, as well as other nifty little things for kids (some adults were a little put off that they were not eligible for these great gifts) – donated by [Uvtools were won by](#) Brandon Hagerty, Kyle Darling, Liz Smith, Jade Loughery, David Anderson, Thomas Anderson, Todd Fulton, Heather Dudley & Daniel Anderson.

A couple, who came all the way from Colorado for the dig, donated several fluorescent geodes and fluorescent Nebraska agates as door prizes and we extend our thanks to you both even though I failed to write down your name. Those door prizes were won by Christopher Myers, Jean Midkiff, Mr. Forst, Charles White & Mark Gialanella.

Thanks to all that signed up and came out to collect, because without your support this event would not happen. Special thanks to our fantastic sponsors, GSL Rocks, Way Too Cool, UVTools, Gary's Gem Garden, The Franklin Mineral Museum, Sterling Hill Mining Museum and DVESS. Don Halterman, Jason Winkler, Chris Gillis, Peter Gillis, Rick Hart, Alice Hart & Gary Weinstein, all deserve special mention for their hard work year after year helping to make this event go.

*Editor's note: The one person who deserves the greatest praise is Jeff Winkler. I know that I speak for DVESS and every fan of Franklin minerals in extending our appreciation to Jeff for his outstanding efforts in pulling the triple diggg together. **Thanks Jeff!!!***

Calendar of Shows and Events compiled by Chuck O'Loughlin from various sources

May 21, 2005 – Annual Chesapeake Show at Goucher sponsored by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Goucher College, Kraushaar Pavilion, Dulaney Valley Rd. at I-695, Towsand, MD.

June 4, 2005 – PESA Spring Minerafest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Science Association, Inc. Macungie Memorial Park Building, Macungie, PA.

June 16-19, 2005 – Scranton Mining History Conference sponsored by the Mining History Association. This is a rare opportunity for East Coast mining history buffs to attend this conference. More information can be obtained from www.mininghistoryassociation.org or contact Johnny Johnson at johnnyj@qis.net

Additional shows and events are listed on the Eastern Federations Web site www.amfed.org/efmls

Articles & Items of Interest

Robert Bartosz reports that **The NJ State Museum** is having some great programs about dinosaurs over the next few months. More information can be obtained from the museum's website.

www.state.nj.us/state/museum/exhibitions/changing.html about the special exhibit “Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs & Babies”.

www.state.nj.us/state/museum/public/adult.html#dinosaur about the dinosaur lecture series

www.state.nj.us/state/museum/public/family.html#silver about Super Science Family Festival

Editor's note: Bob submitted this last month and there was not enough space to include it. Some of the special programs have already started, so if you are interested do not delay.

Rocky Ridge submitted by Richard “Rick” Fulton

Here is a brief list of recoveries to date from the Rocky Ridge (Gettysburg Formation) site:

Rhynchosauroides brunswickii (reptiles): Hundreds of individual tracks along one horizon (wading and swimming). Other track layers marked but not yet excavated. Three body resting impressions showing belly scales, etc. from mud flat horizons, one amid a cluster of what we are tentatively calling cricket tracks. Possible turtle or dicynodont. Only one nice clear print was found and two less defined among the Rhynchosauroides brunswickii in the wading-swimming horizon.

Invertebrates: In the inundation (Rhynchosauroides brunswickii wading and swimming zone) - small pelecypods and gastropods. Plant matter. On exposed mud flat horizons - loads of ichnofossils representing burrows, etc., tracks: Cricket(tentative), beetles (tentative), millipedes (tentative), plant matter and suspected bacterial mats.

Last week, along with MGS, we identified two thick beds of lake and lake margin deposits we feel will be the layers, most likely producing dinosaur. These layers closely match the dinosaur track producing beds of the old Emmitsburg quarry, which lies about 15 minutes away from this site.

Rocky Ridge (continued)

No attempt has been made to date to excavate any of these green, limey shale, as the focus has been on the *Rhynchosauroides brunswickii* concentration about 300 stratigraphic feet below those horizons.

Current ongoing excavations and assessment:

1) Overburden above a section of the *Rhynchosauroides brunswickii* "wading-swimming" horizon is being removed in order to try and obtain larger plates. Exposed strata previously removed are too friable to permit the recovery of slabs larger than 1" to 4" across.

2) About a foot of shale beneath the above mentioned layer is being "stepped" to allow for precise stratigraphic measurements. These beds are primarily comprised of mud flat exposed layers and contain numerous insect and other ichnofossils, including scattered *Rhynchosauroides brunswickii*.

3) About six inches or so of shale above the *Rhynchosauroides brunswickii* "wading-swimming" horizon will be left intact to excavate at a slower pace in the future. It is the only horizon to date, which seems to contain identifiable plant material.

4) Possibly as early as this Sunday, an assessment will be made on how to best proceed to excavate the green shale. An adjacent creek bottom is littered with green shale slabs from this layer, which need to be recovered and examined.

This is a 150-acre farm and Triassic from one end to the other. Thus far, we have only scratched the surface. The site seems generally fossiliferous from top to bottom which fossils occurring at irregular intervals, but in great numbers where they occur.

Further Tales of Rocky Ridge submitted by Rick Fulton

This is a working farm which houses race horses and some cattle. The circumstances do not allow for the primary excavation site to be isolated, so we share the site with the horses and the cattle, which have added to the challenge and sometimes-humorous moments.

Cathie (recovery and prepping) was "assailed" by the horse gang last week led by the usual troublemaker we call Ginger. Ginger kept grabbing the back of her elastic belt and snapping it. When she stood up to get the horse to stop, several others crowded in and started licking her (Cathie) up the side of her head. It produced quite an amusing hairdo.

She yelled for me to help but I was laughing too hard to be of much use, but the Aussies (herding dogs) heard her and came and herded the horses off to another field.

It's not unusual to find me chasing a calf across the site trying to retrieve one of the whiskbrooms she seems to have an affinity towards. This particular calf seems to regard herself as the alpha calf, and we even watched one evening as she pursued ten deer across the farm at breakneck speed.

Then there is the bull who is the self-appointed inspector of every box and bag brought onto the site. We also found he seems to like to pee a lot, especially upstrike from where you are working, which adds to the challenge.

Further Tales of Rocky Ridge (continued)

Fortunately, the two Aussies tend to escort us and hang about as we work, mainly because Bridget is a fanatical chaser of anything thrown, and will even fetch shale discards. Bridget's favorite tact is to get her football, stand upstrike from where you are working, and then let it roll down in front of your face so you have no choice but to throw it.

However, they are great at moving the inquisitive livestock out and a command of "get them out" is usually sufficient. The other two farm dogs are useless in this regard and scatter the livestock in all directions instead of moving them as a herd.

So forth and so on...

<http://triassicpark.oceancityusa.com/triassic/rockyridge-rhynchosauroides-skin.html>

Editor's note: Rick has been working with me to arrange a DVESS fieldtrip to this site. The trip is scheduled for May 28, 2005. I'm excited.

Everything you wanted to know about the Executive Board but were afraid to ask or a funny thing happened to me on the way to an Executive Board meeting.

by Chuck O'Loughlin

I am sure that many of you out there think that holding a club office or being on the Executive Board is nothing but a headache and a lot of hard work. Well that can be a pretty fair assessment for a very small portion of the time. Most of the time, however, it is about interacting with some wonderful fun loving people who happen to share a common interest in the beauty & wonder of nature. I have very much enjoyed the opportunity of working together with these fantastic people on many rewarding tasks.

Until I became active in the club and started attending the executive board meetings, I did not really know or appreciate the officers or for that matter the other members of the club. While coming to the general meetings was stimulating, I did not really feel a part of the group. All of that changed when I volunteered to help with some of the little jobs that need to be done for any organization to be successful. Taking that first step allowed me to truly experience the fellowship and camaraderie that available for any who wish to become more involved in a truly worth while adventure.

You do not have to volunteer to be the President, there are hundreds of little jobs such as being the Librarian or running the 50-50 at each meeting. You could help with field trips or contribute an article to the newsletter and you can attend the executive board meetings. You do not have to be an officer to participate in or attend the board meetings. They are open to the general membership and **your input is wanted and welcome.**

If you are lucky, you will even get to see a more relaxed less serious side of everyone (well maybe not Gary). Just last month I hosted the board at my house. Between the screen door being pulled off when some one missed the back step, the soda bottle exploding and spraying all over the kitchen floor and the glass of soda dumped into Len Morgan lap by a wildly gesturing hand a good deal of serious business was attended too. As you can see we are just a bunch of regular folks, who know how to mix some slap stick comedy with getting the job done. Come on out and join us for what has been for me a very enjoyable evening. Become a part of something exciting. June's executive meeting will be hosted by Lou Detofsky, all are invited. If you are interested and need directions, contact me.

DVESScapades

The Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

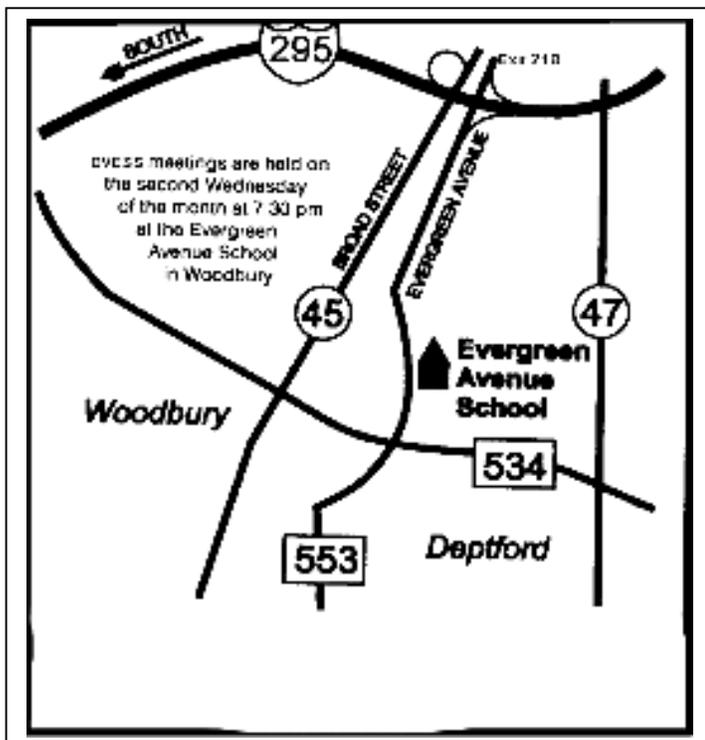
PO Box 372

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DVESScapades

May 2005



This Month's Meeting:

May 11, 2005

Main Program

John Sanfacon on colored diamonds

Junior Rockhounds

**Future Rockhounds of America
Merit Badge Program**