

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

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

*Meeting Date: **June 8, 2005***



Main Program

Egypt Dinosaur Expedition by Patti Kane-Vanni

Junior Rockhounds

Professor Gerald Feigin will be continuing his lecture series on minerals by chemical classifications

Field Trip – Buckwheat Dump (Night) Saturday June 4, registration at 7 PM Franklin Mineral Museum

Field Trip – Burkholder's Quarry, Saturday June 25, 9:30 AM

Annual Picnic Sunday June 26 at the Feigin's house 1 – 5 PM



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 2005 SPONSORS

Harvey Cantor – Platinum
Gerald Feigin – 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 2005 Officers & Positions

President Special Events Coordinator

Ann Lynne Benson
(856) 783-0969

SeleniteQueen@comcast.net

1st Vice President Jr. Rockhound Coordinator Field Trip Coordinator

Gerald Feigin
gfeigin@co.gloucester.nj.us

2nd Vice President Lou Detofsky

Treasurer Program Chairperson

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Recording Secretary Open Grant Elliot(acting) (856) 728-1731 gle@bellatlantic.net

Corresponding Secretary Chuck O’Loughlin

Sage
Len Morgan
George Petreshock

Newsletter Editor Chuck O’Loughlin ac.oloughlin@att.net (856) 663-1383

Membership Chair Chuck O’Loughlin

Librarian
open

President's Message by Ann Benson

Summer is upon us! Time to get out the sunscreen, the rock hammers and collecting bags. Even though DVESS is taking a summer vacation from meetings, we have plenty of activities planned, from field trips to our annual picnic. Wherever you go, remember SAFETY FIRST and the AFMS Code of Ethics.

SAFETY

1. Never collect directly above or below other people or below unstable rock piles, cliff walls or overhangs where there may be danger of falling rock.
2. Take a first aid kit with you.
3. Do not throw rocks or engage in "horse play" and do not allow children to do so.
4. Do not stay in direct sunlight or heat too long.
5. Avoid old mine tunnels and be alert for snakes, scorpions, ticks, etc.
6. Don't use a rock hammer close enough to a vehicle that a chip could break a window (as those of us who were there know only too well).

More safety rules can be found on the AFMS website. Don't have a "rocky time" but enjoy your collecting trips. Remember to bring your special finds to our September 14 Show and Tell meeting.

The AFMS Code of Ethics has over a dozen statements beginning with the words "I will" and dealing with such issues as respecting private and public property, not using firearms or blasting material in collecting areas, filling in excavation holes, leaving no litter, recycling surplus materials you have collected (for example, to your club's Junior Rockhounds program), conducting yourself in a manner which will enhance the public "image" of rockhounds everywhere and obeying local, state and federal laws,

Speaking of federal laws, the threat of Senate Bill S-263 still looms over our heads. The American Federation says it is "imperative" that you write to your Senators and Representatives expressing your views on both the legislation and the effort to "fast-track" it without debate. "If we remain silent... we will lose our right to collect. Although this bill deals with fossils, other collecting possibilities may be threatened next" according to the summer 2005 AFMS Newsletter. See elsewhere in DVESScapades for a sample letter to your legislator.

Rockhounds are collectors. Whether its fossils, minerals or shells, we collect. As Americans, we take our freedom to do so for granted. Let's not be so complacent about these two facts that we fail to heed the warning that WE CAN LOSE OUR RIGHT TO COLLECT! The Bible asks, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" Our collections are our pride and pleasure; it is our joy and passion to add to them. Within our souls there is an almost spiritual appreciation for the awesome mystery of what we collect. We revere each specimen for its intrinsic beauty. We're amazed at the incredible age of our fossils. Whether our collection fits on a windowsill or overflows several rooms of our home, it means the world to us.

Today we face the forfeit of the future of collecting and managing our collections because small groups within the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and a few misguided academics have used aggressive tactics to push through their skewed agenda which is good for neither the fossil collector nor the true science of paleontology.

Envision for a moment a tragic future, your future, in which you live under the fear of being arrested simply because you picked up a bone, shell or fossil of some sort. Mineral enthusiasts, don't pass on this one saying

President's Message (continued)

"It's about fossils – it has nothing to do with me". If they win, we all lose and your hobby may be next. Don't let it happen. Write your Senator or Congressman today, while you still have a voice in this dreadful decision.

Were we collecting firearms and if our club was the NRA, we'd be storming the Capitol in Washington, demanding that Senate Bill S-263 be tossed out with the garbage.

A SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND TO YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING SENATE BILL S-263 IS INCLUDED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

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.

May 11, 2005 General Meeting Minutes

by Grant Elliott, Acting Recording Secretary for Life

President Ann Benson gavelled the meeting to order at 8:01 pm. Present were Ann, Gary Weinstein-Treasurer/Programs, Chuck O'Loughlin- Newsletter Editor/Membership, Len Morgan- Sage, Lou Detofsky- 2nd VP, and Grant Elliott- Recording Secretary (Acting).

Lou took over as this evening's President, because Ann had to leave right after calling the meeting to order. Lou turned the meeting over to Gary, who introduced our speaker, John Sanfacon from the Morris Museum Mineralogical Society. John spoke on causes of color in diamonds, with emphasis on the rare pinks and reds from the Argyle Mines in Western Australia. It was a fascinating presentation for all of us, except perhaps our acting President, who kept mumbling that diamonds were merely "cut glass" and that he preferred his jewelry as minerals in matrix. Mr. Detofsky is quite a romantic.

Lou made the motion and Bob Todd seconded to accept the minutes of April's general meeting.

Chuck covered some upcoming events: On 5/14/05 10 am- look for Goethite in Oreland, Pa. 5/21/05- Sterling Hill night dig. 5/28/05- Pennsylvania and Maryland Triassic lizard dig led by Chuck (Ole Lizard Man himself). First weekend in June- Buckwheat Dump. 6/26/05- annual picnic at Gerald Feigin's house.

Gary read to the group Steve Philips' letter of appreciation extended to DVESS efforts at the Trotter Digg.

Next Wednesday's Executive Board meeting on 5/18/05 will be at Lou's house- It is hoped that all attendees will emerge unscathed from the labyrinth of his objects d'art, curios, and matrixed minerals.

Motion made by Lou to adjourn and seconded by Gary- meeting closed at 9:55pm

Junior Rockhound News by Gerald Feigin

Last month the Club guest lecturer spoke about how graphite, one of the softest minerals and diamond, the hardest by far are both comprised of the same carbon atoms or similar chemical composition. The juniors will be continuing our exploration of minerals by chemical classification. Minerals that do not appear to have anything in common but just like diamond and graphite are related.

Also be sure to attend the Club's picnic on June 26th. There will be plenty of activities for all and loads of food.

Programs by Gary Weinstein

The presentation for our June meeting will be "Egypt Dinosaur Expedition". Our speaker will be Patti Kane-Vanni. Her talk will be about searching for dinosaurs in Egypt and include some Egyptian archeology as well. She is a wonderful person and delightful speaker. She really has a passion for kids, and the Junior Rockhounds should really enjoy this.

Patti was part of the January/February 2000 Egypt Dinosaur Expedition that discovered a new dinosaur, *Paralititan stromeri*. This discovery was published in the June 1, 2001 issue of *Science*, was made into an A&E television documentary, and a book entitled "The Lost Dinosaurs of Egypt."

You can learn more about Patti, her trip to Egypt and other collecting localities, her terrific fossil illustrations, etc. at <http://dino.lm.com/artists/display.php?name=Paleopatti> & <http://groups.msn.com/DinosaurandFossilDigs/paleopattiamppaleotypes>

Upcoming Field Trips by Chuck O'Loughlin (see page 2 for contact information)

Buckwheat Dump at Night Saturday June 4, 2005 – The Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin NJ will be offering a night dig at the Buckwheat Dump 7 to 10:30 PM for more information contact the Museum at (973) 827-3481 or on line at <http://www.franklinmineralmuseum.com/>

Burkholder's Quarry Saturday June 25, 2005 – DVESS has been invited by **Martin Limestone Inc.** to collect in their Burkholder's Quarry. We will meet at the quarry office at 9:30 AM, 404 Martindale Road, Ephrata, PA. You must have hard hat, long pants and steel toed boot to enter. (Take the PA Turnpike to Rt. 222 south to Rt. 322 east go approximately 1 mile and turn left on Martinsdale Rd. (quarry on your left – office on your right).

Field Trip Report by Chuck O'Loughlin

Oreland, PA - May 14, 2005. Excellent weather highlighted a wonderful day. The Anderson clan (at least a portion thereof), Richard Wilke, Nikki Marx, Stu Cleveland and yours truly scoured the creek bottom for goethite and quartz. Everyone brought home more than enough to start our own iron foundry.

Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg, NJ – May 21, 2005. Another fine day for collecting, allowed Keith Lopez and myself to remove roughly 40 pounds between us from the Sterling Hill quarries. Before heading home Keith wanted to show me a nearby location highlighted in "Weird New Jersey" where a small jet had crashed. After having gotten us lost on our way there and then wondering aimlessly through the woods and swamps at the so called location, I got fed up and decided to take over the lead of the lost expedition. I immediately lead myself into a deep bog. My left leg was buried up to my knee and my right leg was half way to the knee and sinking fast. Keith keep saying, "I sorry Chuck I did not mean for this to happen" but was taking no action to help pull me out. I was think for sure that the next edition of "Weird New Jersey" would include an asterisk on the plane page advising its patrons to look for the remains of the fool who got trapped in the swamp while looking for the plane. Fortunately or unfortunately (depending on your point of view) I was able to grab onto a tree sapling and pull myself free. As I freed my feet from the mud the sucking sound was accompanied by the most awful stench and the constant drone of Keith apologizing. After returning to terra firma, Keith was able to get his bearings and led us to the wreckage of the small military jet in another section of the swamp. Between the stench of my clothes and the thought of having to drive home two hours covered in swamp dampened my

Field Trip Report (continued)

enthusiasm for the sight of the aviation disaster. Keith, however, had a fabulous time and as usual collected several artifacts from the site.

Rocky Ridge, MD – May 28, 2005. Kim Ruth and three of his sons (Kevin, Eamonn and Sean), Richard Wilke and I made the long drive to Rocky Ridge to see the on going late Triassic dig. Rick Fulton and Cathy met us at the visitor's center on Rt. 15 and led us to the site. Rick had several of the recent recoveries in the back of his car for us to view and then led us out to their workings in the field. Seeing the work first hand makes you appreciate the patience and perseverance that paleontologists must have to be able to do what they do. The sheer effort to remove large quantities of overburden and then to carefully remove the final layers and extract the fossils without damaging them is truly a daunting task, all done in less than optimal working conditions.

After our tour of the site, Rick and Cathy took us to a nearby location to collect. While our host seemed to be able to spot fossilized tracks and skin impressions, the rest of us needed to work on our identification skills. We may have brought home some worm bore holes or we may have brought home a lot of red shale. The Ruth boys found several pounds of discarded railroad spikes and other odd implements to their great joy and their father's lament. (Mr. Artifact [Keith Lopez] is undoubtedly kicking himself for missing out on the opportunity to pick up several pounds of railroad discards to go along with his bits of airplane and mining artifacts that he is forever collecting.)

The weather held until about 1 PM when we had to make a mad dash back to the cars loaded down with armfuls of railroad spikes to avoid the rain. The trip home was a little dicey due to the weather but we arrived safely. Special thanks to Rick and Cathy for the wonderful day.

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

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

June 12, 2005 - Earth Day at Smithville, NJ off Rt. 38 east of Mt Holly and west of Rt. 206. The event is free. Stuff is available for sale, but a lot is free. All sorts of environmental groups display, etc. There is nice music, and adequate seating to listen. There is a hiking trail, and a canoeing stream and lots of free parking. Fred and Ebba will have a table, so come out to join them for what should be a good time.

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

June 26, 2005 – DVESS Annual Picnic at the Feigin's house, featuring one of the east coast biggest and best fossil, mineral & meteorite auctions. The club will provide soda, bottled water, hamburgers, hotdogs and buns. Each family is requested to bring a covered dish, salad, dessert, etc. to share. There will be lot of fun and activities and many notable guests such as the anti-government Fossilite radical leader "Selenite Queen", who if we are lucky will share with us her infamous message about "taking out the garbage".

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

Articles & Items of Interest

DINOS FOR SALE a/k/a STONES AND BONES by Grant Elliott

There is a great article in the May 2005 National Geographic on the fossil trade. This link is from National Geographic's website. The multimedia and other features are quite interesting-

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0505/feature3/index.html>

Also, More fun and informative stuff. The American Museum Of National History has opened their new exhibit. Check out this link- <http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/dinosaurs/?src=dinosemail5>

Editor's note: Another well written article by our very own wordsmith. I hope everyone has a computer and knows how to turn it on otherwise you will not benefit from the depth, insight and effort Mr. Elliot put into his presentation.

Old & New Club Business by Gary Weinstein

Please make note that **Gary's Gem Garden** will not be open on Sundays during the summer.

Don't forget the picnic. Sign up on www.whosbringingwhat.com/dvess if Terry has got it running. Mention Auction, Food, Fun, Pool, Auction, Sun, Minerals. Oh, did I mention AUCTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Well, another year, another Trotter. I would like to thank those responsible for another wonderful outing. We could not have done it without your help and it has been through the selfless volunteers of the DVESS that it can be done. No other field trip brings so many from so far or offers door prizes like ours in the entire country! Thanks also go out to the many attendees, some of whom are regulars. We could not do it without you, either.

Would our members please consider running for office to help your club continue to do the great things we have been doing. Some of our officers are tired and some can't run for another term. Without your help the club will not continue

Editor's note: Another shameless plug for the Old Gem Garden (If Gary does not come through with the payola he promised, we may have to start charging for the free advertising).

Wonderful Websites (or at least interesting) submitted by Anne Benson

The Fourth of July Fireworks depend on Minerals: <http://www.womeninmining.org/july41.htm>

Dinosaurs: www.dinoruss.com

Ask a Geologist: <http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/isgshome/ask-geo.htm>

Misc.: www.paleoportal.org, www.usgs.gov,

Homework Help for Students from the Mineral Information Institute: <http://www.mii.org/helpforstudents.html>

Minerals, gemstones, faceting, digital photography, and a Close-up Gallery (57 close-up images of parts of "things": look at the image and try to guess what it might be (includes answers): www.theimage.com

Mineral identification, Descriptions of Terms and a plethora of other information: www.rockhounds.com

Comprehensive, direct links to local and regional Museums: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/sla/natmus.html>, <http://paleo.cc/kpaleo/museums.htm>

Meteor crater in Arizona: <http://www.barringercrater.com/index.htm>

Annual Picnic and Auction by Chuck O'Loughlin

It been announced on the front page. It was listed in upcoming shows and events and Gary mentioned it in his old & new club business message. Obviously with that much fanfare it must be something big and it is. It is the DVESS annual picnic and auction.

The event will be held at the home of the Feigin's (grateful thanks to the Feigin's for once again inviting the Club to enjoy their beautiful grounds for our picnic). The Feigin's home is located at 63 Berkshire Drive, Sewell, NJ.

From Rt. 55 take exit 56 (the Rt. 47 exit) proceed east on Rt. 47 at the five points intersection proceed straight through the light and the road name changes to Egg Harbor Road approximately 1 mile after the intersection Berkshire Drive will be on the left. Turn left onto Berkshire Dr. and make the 1st right (also Berkshire Dr.) 63 is on the right.

From Rt. 42 turn on to Green Tree Rd. (its a T intersection and you can only go one way) at the second traffic light turn right onto Egg Harbor Rd. approximately a mile plus you will come to Berkshire Dr. on the right. Turn right onto Berkshire Dr. make 1st right (also Berkshire Dr.) 63 is on the right.

The Club will be providing soda, bottled water, hamburgers, hotdogs and buns. Each family is requested to bring a covered dish, salad, dessert, etc. to share. Please sign up early so that the Club can plan accordingly. Sign up at www.whosbringingwhat.com/dvess

There will be plenty of activities for both young and old. Swimming, eating, swimming, eating and whatever happens when you swim to soon after eating. The back forty should be open this year, so hiking, golf, frisbee and similar type activities will be possible (be sure to bring your equipment). The ever popular lounging by poolside while eating and drinking will as always be a hot ticket (**you may want to bring your own lounge chair as demand for seating exceeds supply**). The day of course will be highlighted by the annual Club's auction of fossils, minerals, meteorites and related items (**donations of auction items will be gratefully accepted**). Some of the highest prices last year went for display and storage items.

Celebrity guests will be on hand adding something special to this year's event. The Selenite Queen, the radical current leader of the Fossilites, will be conducting demonstrations on forms of peaceful protest in preparation for her million fossil march on Washington tentatively scheduled for Independence Day. Learn skills such as how to handcuff yourself simultaneously to a fossil and your congressman until he/she votes against S-263. Doc Roc, the ambitious leader of the Geologists, will be on hand to answer your silly questions on geology while stumping for the Presidency and handing out free condiments. Don't you just love politics, free condiments imagine that! Thaddeus Butterstone; editor, humorist, adventurer and titular leader of the Flat Earth Society, will be signing autographs and regaling all who will listen about his adventures in Maryland and Pennsylvania while searching for Yingling's Auction House. While he has not declared his intentions with respect to December elections, do not be surprised to see the dashing Mr. Butterstone tease the crowd with vague allusions to his political ambitions. Nor can we fail to mention the eminent pathologist, amateur paleontologist, lapidary enthusiast (the senseless cutting of perfectly good minerals and fossils apparently is a hold over from his day job) and heir apparent as the First Vice President, Gerald Feigin, will of course be on hand and it is hoped that to enhance his inside position he will shamelessly resort to the traditional American political tactics of ply the crowd with whiskey (take that Second VP with your free condiments).

Annual Picnic and Auction (continued)

Yes my fellow DVESS members the maneuvering for the December elections has already started and remember that you too can be a part of the fun as there are many positions to be filled. Several candidates will be vying to replace the current “lame duck”. (The American with Disabilities Act requires me to mention that the term “lame duck” refers to the fact that the current presidents has already served two terms and can not run again and not to any physical problems or disabilities that she may have.) So please come out and meet the candidates and have a wonderful time with your friends, and if you don’t know anyone, don’t worry you will before the day is out.

Another important reminder is that you bring large quantities of dollars, so that you can bid on all of the items up for auction. Remember that the auction supports a worthy organization (well at least a non profit organization)

Closing Notes by Chuck O’Loughlin

I am working on a few other field trips for over the summer, I will post them on the yahoo group site as the information becomes available. If you are not on the yahoo group site, get me your contact information (phone # or e-mail address) so that I can let you know what and when. I am looking to get the club into a few other quarries and we hope to do a geology and collecting tour of Staten Island with Dr. Okulowitz.

Although they will not be official club trips, Flag Pond Calvert County Park in Maryland is open to the public to collect fossils for a nominal park access fee. Remember the beautiful shark teeth and other fossils our one speaker, Scott Neimen, brought to our meeting? They are there for the finding. According to www.saltwatertides.com low tides for Flag Pond for:

Saturday and Sunday June 11 & 12 at 1:30 PM & 2:20 PM,
Saturday and Sunday July 9 & 10 at 12:18 PM & 12:45 PM
Saturday and Sunday July 23 & 24 at 11:45 AM & 12:26 PM

Also the Sterling Hill Mining Museum opens the quarries to collecting on the last Sunday of each month:

Sunday July 31 & Sunday August 28, 10 AM to 3 PM

The Buckwheat Dump at the Franklin Mineral Museum is open every day that the museum is open.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your newsletter editor. Thank you all for putting up with the antics of my ultra egos and myself.

Have a happy and safe summer.

By the way if you need directions to the picnic or any other location get in touch with me. Again the contact information for the Editor is on page 2 of your newsletter.

SAMPLE LETTER RE SENATE BILL S-263

Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives (or Senate)
(address)
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman (or Senator):

As one of your constituents, I am writing to ask for your help to defeat Senate Bill S-263 "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act". It has already passed through committee without amendment for action on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I am a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, one of seven Regional Federation of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - all of which oppose this poorly conceived legislation. I ask that you do what you can to block passage of this Bill which will prove a detriment to this country and its citizens for the following reasons:

1. It masquerades as protecting fossils and academic inquiry. IT DOES NEITHER.

To the contrary, it inhibits both. Most museum collections are the result of non-commercial or amateur finds. The work of amateur collectors has resulted in much of what is known today about fossils.

2. The Secretary of the Interior asked that academic, amateur and commercial fossil collectors be consulted in the preparation of potential legislation regarding fossil resources on public lands. To my knowledge, commercial collectors were not consulted, input from amateurs was not solicited and there was never an opportunity for either to testify.

3. This legislation is the product of a few academics in concert with a small group of managers from the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service using aggressive tactics to push through a skewed agenda that is not good for the true science of paleontology. Passage of this bill would be a tragic mistake.

Bill S-263 serves neither the scientific community nor the public. I believe I can speak for all amateur collectors and ask that our rights as citizens not be infringed upon. We should not live under the fear of being arrested simply because we picked up a bone, shell or fossil of some sort or traded, swapped or sold part of our collection to another collector. A broad interpretation of this bill, if made law, would make us criminals if we incorrectly labeled a fossil specimen.

Please do whatever you can to eliminate this unnecessary and dangerous Bill, S-263.

Best Regards,

DVESScapades

The Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

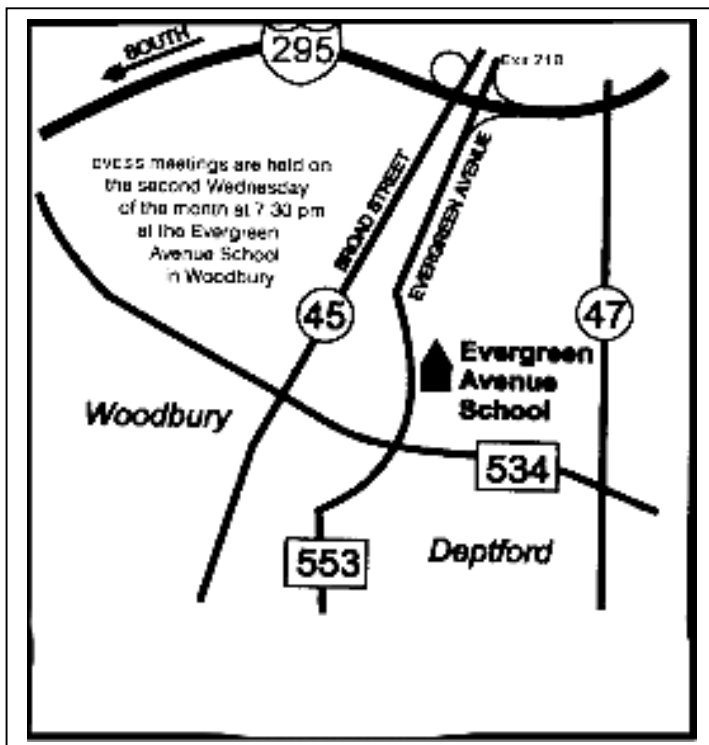
PO Box 372

Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052



DVESScapades

June 2005



This Month's Meeting:

June 8, 2005

Main Program

Egypt Dinosaur Expedition by
Patti Kane-Vanni

Junior Rockhounds

Minerals by chemical
classifications by **Gerald Feigin**