

DVESSCAPADES

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society – DVESS

Year 48, Volume #7

September 2005

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

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

Meeting Date: September 14, 2005



Main Program

Reality TV comes to DVESS. Members get the chance to put on the grease paint and step into the spot light. Sing, dance, do a stand up comedy routine or show us what you collected over the summer and tell us about your adventures.

Junior Rockhounds

In Professor Gerald Feigin absence, a guest lecturer will be presenting a mystery program

Field Trip – September 25 Meckley’s Quarry Mandata, PA

Annual Banquet October 16, 2005



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
Barbara Haulenbeek - Silver

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

Gary Weinstein
(856) 234-0708 – Home
(856) 795-5077 – Work

garvskyrock@comcast.net

Website Coordinator

Terry Wilson
(609) 714-1309

Recording Secretary

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

Sage

Len Morgan
George Petreshock

Newsletter Editor Corresponding Secretary

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

Librarian open

President's Message by Ann Benson

Evolution: the theory that new species build up from an unbroken line of gradual, independent, random variations

Intelligent design: the belief that life is so complex it cannot be explained by evolution alone and must have originated through an intelligent cause or agent

It was very difficult to pick up a newspaper or magazine this Summer and not see an article on "intelligent design" (a term used at least as far back as 1994). The entire country seems caught up in a new creation vs. evolution debate, spurred by President Bush's support for introducing intelligent design into classrooms around the country.

If a sign saying "EVOLUTION" is posted on one wall of a classroom, or room of any type, in this nation or around the world, and if on the opposite wall another sign is placed that says "CREATION", and if those in the room are instructed to stand by the sign they most "agree with", any number will gravitate toward one side of the room or the other, with some folks remaining standing in the middle of the room.

Pure science is not the only reason people believe in evolution; religion is not the only reason people believe in intelligent design.

Some believe in intelligent design because the alternative is belief in something which no empirical evidence could ever confirm and which no empirical science could ever demonstrate. Others say "order" is the opposite of "random"; therefore random selection couldn't possibly produce complex ecosystems and biological life forms such as bacterial flagella and the tiny rotary motors that drive them - living nanotechnology machines about 1/100,000th of an inch wide composed of 40 parts, powered by a flow of ions that can rotate at up to 100,000 rpm (ten times faster than a NASCAR racing engine). Could these have "just happened" by natural causes or were they designed by an intelligence?

On the other side of the room, people insist that evolution of interconnected, interlocking, dynamic systems and a seemingly limitless variety of intricate life-forms is a "given" and that there is simply too much evidence demonstrating this to justify worrying about "blank spots" in the evolutionary record.

In the middle of the room stand those who either don't know what to make of it or can see validity on both sides. Many say they are open-minded, that the jury is still out, and await more definitive reasons for believing in one or the other. Others point to the many dedicated and experienced scientists who have dismissed evolution as implausible or impossible:

- Biologists Lynn Margulis ("Darwinism is wrong by what it omits and by what it incorrectly emphasizes") and W.R. Thompson ("I am not satisfied that Darwin proved his point or that his influence in scientific and public thinking has been beneficial.")
- Zoologist Pierre-P. Grasse ("From the almost total absence of fossil evidence relative to the origin of phyla, it follows that any explanation of the mechanism in the creative evolution of the fundamental structural plans is heavily burdened with hypothesis... The lack of direct evidence leads to the formulation of pure conjectures as to the genesis of the phyla; we do not even have a basis to determine the extent to which these opinions are correct.")
- Molecular biologist Sir Ernst Chain ("felt that [Darwin's theory of] evolution was not really a part of science, since it was ... not amenable to experimentation" - "I would rather believe in fairies than in such wild speculation")
- Cosmologist Jayant Narlikar ("The most fundamental question in cosmology [is] 'Where did the matter we see around us originate in the first place?'... By ignoring the primary creation event, most cosmologists turn a blind eye to the above question.")
- Paleontologist Colin Patterson ("I still maintain that skepticism is the scientist's duty.")
- Physicist H. S. Lipson ("*A Physicist's View of Darwin's Theory: Evolutionary Trends in Plants*")
- Biochemist Michael J. Behe ("*Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*")

President's Message (continued)

- Astronomer and cosmologist Robert Jastrow, Ph.D., founding director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Director Emeritus of Mount Wilson Observatory ("*God and the Astronomers*")

Some authors have written from a scientific point of view; others suggest that God created the universe and allowed it to evolve according to natural laws. If scientists cannot agree with each other, how can the average person be expected to concur with one proposition or another?

Our own Doc Rock, Lou Detofsky, Ph.D., is one of the many science educators standing firmly in the middle of the room, ascribing to the premise that God created the universe and that life on our planet evolved over time. Of course, the most prominent figure in the middle of the room is President George Bush who believes "Both sides ought to be properly taught so people can understand what the debate is about...education is to expose people to different schools of thought." Apparently a majority of Americans agree; in a Harris poll conducted in June 2005, 55% of 1000 adults surveyed agree that children should be taught both concepts.

Extremely fundamentalist Christians, citing scripture ("the word of God"), insist the world was created in six days, ignoring two major facts: first, bible verse 2 Peter 3:8 "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." Second, until 1582 when collaboration between Pope Gregory XIII and astronomer Christopher Clavius led to creation of the Gregorian calendar, "calendar days as we know them" did not exist.

Christians have not cornered the market on belief in creation. The Torah originated with the Jews; they have a long history of relationship with the Creator. Websites of various religions (Islam - Harunyahya.com, Buddhism - Krishna.com, etc.) offer compilations of published works and scientific evidence "that have been ignored or rejected by the scientific establishment but that nonetheless were initially reported in scientific journals".

In Darwin's time, nothing was known about life at the cellular level. As more and more is learned about the mind-boggling complexity of cellular structure and chemistry, trenchant authors like Fred Hoyle continue to maintain that complex and intricate order arising from random selection is as probable as a tornado sweeping through a junkyard and correctly assembling a jetliner.

The only example of evolution I can report having personally witnessed is the Canadian geese phenomenon. As a child growing up in Philadelphia, I don't remember ever seeing geese in the sky or anywhere else; but when I moved to Glassboro (Gloucester County) NJ, every Fall they appeared over my house, streaming across the sky on their way South. At the age of 3 my daughter Janice came running into the house one day excitedly shouting, "Laughing birds, laughing birds." We went outside and she pointed to the sky; sure enough, several squadrons in their familiar V-formation were headed for the winter hiatus somewhere else. It's not like that anymore. Sure, they used to land here occasionally to refuel, but they never **stayed**! New Jersey was just a pit stop. Now whatever imprint Canadian Geese used to have that told them NJ was just a place to visit but they wouldn't want to live here has apparently been obliterated. They're everywhere: holding up traffic and raising young who think our fields, developments and industrial parks are their permanent home. Every morning, going from my car to the employee's entrance, I look like a kid playing hop scotch in my attempt to circumvent the mucky green evidence that geese have spent the night in the parking lot and on the lawns and walkways. They have no natural predators, their numbers have increased at an exponential rate, the government has failed to address the issue, and they imperil us with messiness and possibly disease when they nest on rooftops near air-intake vents.

The chair that you're probably sitting on right now is a mass of atoms whirling around each other at incredible speed. Planets whirl around the sun; galaxies whirl around the universe. Vast forces are clearly at work. Precise laws govern much of what we can and can't see from the smallest electrons, neutrons, protons and quarks to the largest galaxies, nebulae, black holes, white dwarfs and neutron stars. How can there be so much order and no plan? How can there be so much fixed and immutable law and no intelligence behind it? Design and no designer? Were these contentions true, wouldn't it follow that this universe originated in a cipher, means nothing and aimlessly rushes nowhere?

President's Message (continued)

Many people do not believe there could be a God who is love and provider of personal guidance. Others believe just as deeply that within every man, woman and child is the fundamental idea of God. This world of our common experience, the things we all observe daily and the ways in which they exist and co-exist, display a pervasive and intelligible order that is the product of either chance or design.

DVESS has not limited itself to earth sciences. Our members from school children to sages have heard speakers on a universe of topics from archaeology to astronomy. Some of us cannot help but see a creator. Others are convinced our world needs no God to explain it.

If only we had another universe, we might be able to create an experiment that would conclusively establish a means for the "big bang" to have occurred and for all biological life to have proceeded from there. Unfortunately we don't. So for now, evolution of life forms from non-living, non-sentient matter cannot be proved. Nor can the existence of an intelligent designer be disproved. We'll just have to wait for more to be revealed.

June 8, 2005 General Meeting Minutes

by Grant Elliott, Acting Recording Secretary for Life

President Ann Benson gavelled the meeting to order at 8:05pm. Present were Ann, Gary Weinstein- Treasurer/Programs, Grant Elliott- Recording Secretary, Len Morgan- Sage, Gerald Feigin- 1st VP/Junior Rockhounds Coordinator/Field Trips Chairman, Terry Wilson- Website Coordinator, and Chuck O'loughlin- Newsletter Editor/Membership/Corresponding Secretary/Assistant Field Trips Chairman. Lorraine Campbell, esteemed member, Rev. Peggy Parker, and Bob Bartoz were also present.

Before the rest of the meeting commenced, Ann presented Chuck with a pictorial certificate memorializing his Weird New Jersey bog adventures, as detailed in the June 2005 Newsletter :



He may reek of bog stench and be pretty, pretty ugly, but he's our Chuck.

SPEAKER: Bob Bartoz introduced our speaker, Patti Kane-Vanni, Field Paleontologist, University of Pennsylvania Environmental Geology student, and fossil illustrator, among other things. Patti spoke on "The Egyptian Dinosaur dig; Searching For Fossils in the Bahariya Oasis". The fascinating presentation even included archeological information on ancient Egypt.

At 9:20pm, a motion was made by Gary and seconded by Terry to accept May's General Meeting minutes.

TREASURER: DVESS continues to hold a sound financial position.

PROGRAMS: Picnic/Auction on June 26th at Gerald's estate. September- Show and Tell. October- Banquet. November- Costa Rican adventure presented by one of our less colorful members (Lou).

MEMBERSHIP: Art Dickson from Port Norris was voted in.

FIELD TRIPS: Staten Island trip in July is being organized.

Executive Board Meeting at Terry's house on August 17th.

At 9:56pm motion by Terry and seconded by Richard Wilke to adjourn the meeting-

Motion passed.

Junior Rockhound News by Gerald Feigin

Juniors brace yourselves! Academically challenging, yet fun programs are being planned for the up coming year. We will be exploring the mysteries and history of our universe with exciting hands on programs conducted by myself and guest lectures. As in the past there will be lots of opportunities to add to your collections. I hope that you are looking forward to the up coming year as much as I am.

Programs by Gary Weinstein

Scheduled to speak to our group at the Oct. 12th meeting is Mr. Bryan Clark of Philadelphia. His topic will be "Dinosaur Fossils of the West".

As he has just returned from another exciting excursion to the badlands, we will be some of the first to see his new finds. Don't miss this opportunity to see, firsthand, Tricerotops, T-Rex, Paelysephlopod and Croc teeth, claws and bones, as well as other remains which have been buried for years.

The program for the banquet is still in the works, while November will feature our own Dr. Lou Detosky speaking on the geology and volcanism of Costa Rica and its environs.

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

September 25, 2005 Meckley's Quarry Open House Noon to 5PM, Rt. 225, Mandata, PA. Standard safety gear is required (hard hat, goggles, rock hammers and sturdy shoes). There is a \$1 admission charge which benefits local charities. Directions – PA turnpike (I-76) west to exit 247 or I-83 north to I-81 west to Rt. 22/322 west to Rt.147 north follow to Mandata where you will pick up Rt. 225 north follow to Quarry.

Field Trip Report by Chuck O'Loughlin

Sunday July 24 a crew of G. Weinstein, L. Morgan, L. Campbell, C. O'Loughlin and 4 of 6 Anderson's met with Dr. Steve Okulowitz to explore the wild outback of Staten Island, NY.

The first stop was the Slossen Avenue abandoned exit/road cut. The site was a serpentine formations on both sides of an abandoned exit ramp. Hunting was easy as much of the available minerals had weathered out of the formations and was on the talus slopes. Everyone collected their fill of lizardite, sticktite, aragonite, antigorite and other minerals. Everyone had much fun touching their tongues to the lizardite which is similar to putting your tongue on a frozen sign pole, and butt surfing down the talus slopes. Our second stop was an overgrown field next to the Home Depot in which trailings from water tunnel projects in NYC had been dumped. Gneiss, Schist and Inwood Marble were to be found scattered about the site. Garnets, tourmaline's and Muscovite were collected. Our third stop was a beach along the Arthur Kull that runs between Staten Island and Perth Amboy, NJ to look for magnetite in the sand.

This concluded the collecting trip and while clan Anderson needed to head home the rest of us decided to take a ride on the Staten Island ferry. An hour round trip cruise past Lady Liberty, Ellis Island and the spectacular site of lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge capped a wonderful day. We all bid a fond farewell to Loraine Campbell who had delayed her return to Tennessee in order to join us on our trip and wished her a safe journey and happy hunting. Special thanks to our host Dr. Steve Okulewitz for showing us around the Island and spending his Sunday answering all of our silly questions.

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

Sept. 10-11, Cologne, NJ - Cape Atlantic Rockhounds. 38th Annual Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show. Clubhouse grounds, 2643 Cologne Ave. 856-217-2413, capeatlantic_rockhounds@yahoo.com.

Sept. 17-18, Harrisburg, PA - Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club. Gem, mineral, jewelry, fossil, & bead show. Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 3rd & Division Sts. 17th, 10-6; 18th, 10-5. Ted Keck, 717-474-0112, www.rockandmineral.org.

Sept. 24-25, Franklin, NJ - Franklin Mineral Museum. 49th Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show. Franklin School, Washington Ave. Lee Lowell, 973-827-6671, fmm1954@earthlink.net.

Sept. 25, Arts in the Park – Historic Smithville Park. Over 100 artists of all genres – music, drama, fine arts, upscale crafts, etc. make for a fun day. Workshops and demonstrations for all ages. Puppets, face painting, magic and more. 11AM – 5PM. Rain or shine. FREE. Smithville Road in Eastampton, NJ, just off NJ State Highway Route 38. 609-265-5958

Oct. 1, Macungie, PA - Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Semiannual Gem and Mineral Show. Macungie Memorial Park Building. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ed Richards, 610-641-8010.

Oct. 2, Whitebog, NJ – Pinelands Preservation Trust. Fall festival off Rt 530 - north of Rt 70, South of Browns Mills

Oct. 28-30, Philadelphia, PA - Women's Committee of the Penn Museum. Treasures: From the Silk Road to the Santa Fe Trail. Preview on Oct. 27. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 3260 South St. (Penn Campus). 215-898-9213, treasures@museum.upenn.edu, www.museum.upenn.edu.

Oct. 29, Fairless Hills, PA – Lower Bucks Rock & Min. Club. Ultraviolet fluorescent mineral show. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Ralph Thomas, 215-295-9730

Nov. 5-6, Media, PA – Friends of Mineralogy PA Chapter. Fall Symposium “Classic Eastern Localities II” Delaware County Institute of Science, 11 Veterans Square. Arnold Mogel, 15 Oak Rd, Schuylkill Haven, PA pioche@losch.net

Nov. 5-6, Exton, PA - Tuscarora Lapidary Society. 36th Annual Gemarama. CFS School at Church Farm, Business Rte. 30 & Rte. 202. 5th, 10-6; 6th, 10-5. Nancy Marks, 570-342-1355, www.lapidary.org.

Nov. 18-20, Pittsburgh, PA - Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Gem and Mineral Show. 412-622-3131, www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmnh/minerals/gemshow.

Nov. 19-20, Montvale, NJ - 2005 Pascack Show. 15th Annual Show. Pascack Hills High School, Grand Ave. & Spring Valley Rd. 19th, 10-5; 20th, 10-4. 201-262-2726, somthg@bellatlantic.net.

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

Articles & Items of Interest

Ed Loveland submitted the following link to an amusing story - [Lost Treasure Online NewsLetter June 7, 2005](#) which to summarize for those without internet access is an editorial about a precious opal fine on BLM lands in Wyoming. The State Geologist is credited with some amusing quotes regarding the opal rush that followed the announcement, including "It was quite a rush and 99% of the people I talked to had no idea what they were doing, so it was pretty entertaining". Many ended up miles away from the opal because "they didn't know how to read a map". It was initially believed that the environmental impact would be minimal as oil and gas prospecting was already taking place, but the BLM had to restrict vehicle on 360 acres as some prospectors were driving off roads and endangering the desert yellowhead, a sunflower like plant on the endangered species list. To make matters worse most prospectors failed to do their homework and of the 1048 claims staked only about 50 have filed the necessary papers with BLM and of the 50 that were filed most are incomplete. *We have met the enemy and it is us.*

Ebba Liguori reported – "Saw Rick and Alice Harty in Spruce Pine the first week of August. They helped Charlie Ward of Fluorescent Minerals set up his tents for the Grassy Creek Mineral Show. (this is in NC) Also saw Rick at the MAGMA "Lost Dutchman" Show in Lebanon, PA the weekend of August 19-21. He was again helping Charlie with a weekend of mineral sales. I understand that Alice was babysitting with grandchildren. They were staying with their daughter's family. Now that Rick and Alice are living in NC, we see more of them than in previous years!

Fred Liguori will be participating in the Smithville Arts Festival on September 25. He will be carving soapstone. Fred will also be at the Pinelands Festival at Whitesbog on October 2 (off Rt 530 - north of Rt 70, South of Browns Mills) still carving soapstone. Both events have a variety of activities, including lots of free entertainment. Both events run from about 10 am to 3 pm.

(Nice plug for Fred, hope he give Ebba a discount on anything she buys)

Grant (space cowboy) Elliot submitted the following links on meteorites and comets:

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

http://www.mzexpos.com/colorado_fall.htm

Old & New Club Business

Annual Banquet by Chuck O'Loughlin

The club will be holding its annual fall banquet on Sunday October 16, 2005 at the Winslow Family Diner and Restaurant, Williamstown Rd., Sicklerville, 2 - 6 pm. Ann Benson, President and special events coordinator has been working feverously on the preparations and will provide additional information at the September meeting. The banquet will likely consist of a sit-down, served meal (not a buffet). Diners may choose one of the following: chicken parm or fried or broiled flounder or stuffed shells or manicotti, accompanied by soup or salad, pasta or veg, and beverage and dessert. Children will be able to order off the children's menu. The club will be subsidizing the cost in order to make the event affordable for all especially those with children, \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. There will be some wonderful door prizes for all and plenty of beautiful minerals, fossils and other items of interest offered at the silent auction/Chinese auction or however they plan to do it this year.

The Club's banquets, pot lucks and picnics are outstanding opportunities to get to know your fellow club members and best of all they are family friendly, so be sure to bring the kids. Afraid they will get bored? Pack a hacky sack or Frisbee as there is ample safe space near the diner for kids to have fun while the adults are yakking away.

Annual Picnic and Auction by Chuck O'Loughlin

The Club's annual picnic was held on June 26, 2005 at the idyllic setting of the Feigin's back yard. Despite is severely injured shoulder; Mel manned the grill with gusto serving a never ending supply of hot dogs and hamburgers. All of the attendee brought along their favorite side dishes and desserts and everyone filled up with the gastronomical delights.

The annual auction featured some unusual and highly sought after items, including a gypsum specimen shaped like a rams horn and several meteorites. When the auctioneer's finished for the evening the club had reaped its largest take in many a years. The steal of the day was a selenite specimen that was believed to have been spray painted gold and as a result went for a minimum bid. The fortunate bidder did some research and discovered that the specimen is actually the symbol of power for the Queen of the Selenties'. The Selenites' were an ancient culture believed to be extinct or dispersed and assimilated into superior cultures due in part to their inability to read maps and follow basic directions. This historical treasure will be on display at the September meeting.

Letter to the Editor

I've been lurking on your Yahoo group for a while, and wanted to put in a "human interest" story for your newsletter, if you think that's appropriate. If not, please pass the message to Lou and have him email me back (if that old crusty bum has a computer).

My name is Steve Mastro, and on of the biggest role models in my life is one of your well known members, Lou Detofsky. I wanted to just share a little bit, and if appropriate, you could include in your newsletter.

In fall of 1981 I attended Washington Township Middle school, which was just one year old and is now one half of the behemoth Washington Township High School Megaplex. I entered my earth science class to find a bearded, corduroyed mass of energy - Lou Detofsky. I had never met anyone more enthused about teaching, or more enthused about science in my life. Over that year, I learned a great deal about earth science, and joined the Geology Club of which Lou was the academic leader.

Through my class with Lou, and my participation with the club, my life changed forever. I always tell people that while I was always a top student, after studying with Lou I started doing well because I **wanted** to, not just because I was supposed to. Our class was fast paced and fun, and Lou's enthusiasm was contagious. Geology club took me camping, hiking, digging, to NYC and Washington DC to lectures, museums and the like. The discussions in the car were as worthy as the digging at our destination - we covered everything from politics, music & religion to astronomy and geology. We even attended a lecture by Isaac Asimov at (then) Trenton State College where we had him sign the official Geo Club Rubber Chicken (Carl Sagan had already signed it!). After Geology club looking at highway abutments and minor bridges over streams became much more interesting -- who knew there were trilobites **right there*!?!?*

I finished high school in the top 5% of my class. I earned a BS Mechanical Engineering, MS Engineering Management, MS Materials Engineering, and a PhD Materials Engineering at Drexel over the next 20 years, while working as a full time engineer and research scientist for the US Navy. I have 23 published publications, 8 granted and pending US Patents, and numerous conference presentations to my credit. I also managed to marry, and have 3 beautiful children. I mention this not to blow my own horn, but to note that the trunk of this tree of achievement is comprised of Lou's encouragement, enthusiasm, and love of the study of science. He made a real difference in my life, and I thought I'd like to share that.

Best Wishes, Steve Mastro

Editor note: I explained to Steve that if I didn't publish his letter, the old crusty bum would never get it as he refuses to acknowledge the digital age. Thanks for sharing such a personal story with us, Steve. Please consider joining the Club as Lou does occasionally make an appearance at the meetings.

In this our second issue of DVESScape From Reality the staff, Thaddeus Butterstone, Rodinia and I wish to thank the members of the Organization with putting up with us and our antics.

Chuck O'Loughlin Editor

Esscape's Butterstone goes Toe to toe with the leader of the Sage political faction, Len Morgan

Esscape: What is a Sage and what do Sages do?

L. Morgan: Sage is a spice and Sages spice things up.

Esscape: My dear Mr. Morgan, I am perfectly aware that sage is a spice. I was, however, referring to the honorific title extended to persons of great knowledge and experience whose counsel is sought after.

L. Morgan: If you already know what a sage is than why are you wasting my time? You know I was not born yesterday and spent a lifetime answering silly questions, so let's get on with it.

Esscape: Pardon me Mr. Morgan, I know all about other people wasting your time; I was led on a wild goose chase through Maryland by a well meaning but geographically challenged individual. To get right to it than, rumors have been circulating that you intend to run for President of DVESS in 2006. Is that correct?

L. Morgan: That is without a doubt untrue. I have spent over 50 years in this club without ever holding an office and I don't expect to start now.

Esscape: So than I guess we will not be seeing the second coming of Ronald Reagan?

L. Morgan: you are darn right about that. I have too many other important things to do with my time and babysitting a bunch of rockhounds is not one of them.

Esscape: With your extensive collecting experience I was hoping that you could share with us some anecdotes from your long career?

L. Morgan: If I shared my antidotes with you than everyone would live to be 97 or more and I don't think that the world is quite ready for some people to be hanging around that long.

Esscape: Again Mr. Morgan you misunderstand me, I meant by anecdotes personal stories about collecting career. L.

Morgan: Did I ever tell you about the time I was collecting in New Hampshire. Well it was getting to be late and I still had a long hike back to the camp, but I just could not stop searching for that perfect crystal. Needless to say by the time I stated back night had fallen. I was without a flashlight, but was not concerned as the trail was well maintained and as long as the trees kept passing on my left and right I was in good shape. All of a sudden I could hear some large animal on the trail in front of me. It could have been a deer or might have been a bear, I could not tell. I pulled out my rock hammer and started making as much noise as I could and fortunately the beast retreated through the woods and I safely made it back to base camp.

Esscape: Wow that must have been frightening. Did you learn anything from the experience?

L. Morgan: Why of course, always sharpen the pick end of your rock hammer before venturing out into the woods at night.

Esscape: One last question, given the political apathy in the club do you have any words of wisdom for the membership?

L. Morgan: Keep a low profile, never volunteer for anything and if you live long enough you too can become a sage.

This is a continuing series in which DVESScape from Reality goes one on one with the leading candidates for officers' positions. Despite the denial, it was obvious to our staff that Mr. Morgan was hurt that he had never been called upon to serve the DVESS organization. When Butterstone played the interview for us we could all feel the pain that this egregious oversight has caused such a fine person. While the Editorial Staff at Esscape would love to support Sage Morgan for the presidency of DVESS it is against our policy to publicly support any candidate.

Vote Intelligently and Often

News about the Club & its Membership

Esscape has learned that Acting Recording Secretary for Life, Grant Elliot is unhappy with the length of his new title. In order to lessen the burden on Mr. Elliot we propose that the title be shorted to include only the essential items. We therefore suggest the new title be listed as Acting for Life. The brevity and simplicity of the new title will enable Club management to constantly shift his duties to meet any managerial crises that arises. Given the apathy of the membership to serve, that flexibility will be vital to the continuing existence of the club, however, since Mr. Elliot is the source of much of the club's crises we might be creating our own sword of Damocles

Editorial by Rodinia

During the summer it was revealed that there is an Occamist faction within the Club. These followers of William of Occam believe that the simplest of competing theories be preferred to the more complex or that explanations of unknown phenomena be sought first in terms of know quantities. The philosophy, commonly known as Occam's Razor was use by this sinister group to attempt to prove that Butterstone does not exist. If this philosophy were indeed true then everyone would know who William of Occam is. If simpler is preferable to more complex, than why do we now have computers? Why have DVD players replaced VCR which in turn replaced the super 8 projector? Why have slide projectors been replaced by digital projectors that hook up to laptop computers? If people wanted simple instead of complex none of these inventions would have been commercialized. Nor would sci-fi be so popular if people wanted explanations of the unknown by examination of the known. There would be no Roswell! Heaven forbid. We as a club must move forward not backwards and therefore, for the good of the Club and the well being of our fellow citizens we must identify the Occamist and deprogram them.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Members of the Star Chamber,

I have been in contact with a person by the name of Bosley Snarfington, who has expressed interest in running for President. One problem exists- He is not a member, by my recollection.

He does express some reservations regarding some factions within the DVESS group. He considers the Geologians a rather stuffy outdated bunch of people- Hey folks, they're just rocks. The Wire-Rappers are too liberal, loud, and in your face. The Lapidarians are too effete and concentrate on grinding things- Hey folks, they're just rocks. Mr. Snarfington feels most akin to the Fossilites, since they are the most enlightened group.

Bosley (BS for short) does have the problem of not being a member and is reaching out to Thaddeous Butterstone for support. I trust he is not too late in his bid for Presidency - Please Support BS.

Grant Elliot

Dear Friend of BS:

As much as we sympathize and would like to support Snarfington, he must pay his dues like everyone else. Perhaps the friends of BS could hold a fund raiser as this is going to be a hotly contested election and if he hopes to be successful he will need far more than just the membership fee to get to the top. Rumor has it that the "Do Nothings" have once again rolled out their perennial candidate, Grant Elliot, to head up their formidable ticket. We are still anticipating a candidate from the Flat Earth Society and you can never count out the Mineralcrats. While we would love to endorse the undeclared candidacy of Sage Morgan for the presidency, that would first of all be against policy and secondly would leave a vacancy on the Sage bench. Given the power of the Sages, The editorial staff at Esscape believes that it would be in the Clubs best interest to leave Sage Morgan where he is and seek an alternative for president.

DVESScapades

The Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

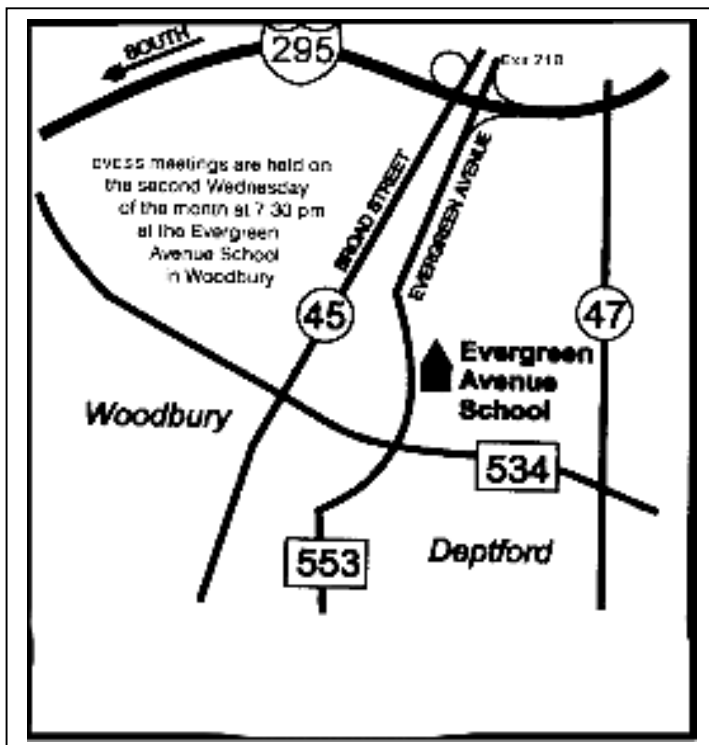
PO Box 372

Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052



DVESScapades

September 2005



This Month's Meeting:

September 14, 2005

Main Program

Member Show & Tell

Junior Rockhounds

Mystery program featuring a
mystery instructor