DVESSCAPADES

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society – DVESS

Year 49, Volume #2 February 2006

Meeting Place: Room 236 Westby Hall, RowanUniv. 201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, New Jersey

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

Meeting Date: February 8, 2006



Main Program

Joseph Hatcher, Curator of
Paleontology at PaleoWorld
Research Foundation Garfield
County Museum in Montana
www.paleoworld.org, will present a
lecture on the history of the Hell
Creek Region, macro geology of the
formation, dinosaur fauna and
paleoecology

Junior Rockhounds

Professor, Doctor and Society President Gerald Feigin will be covering the "Feldspar Group" of minerals

Bus Trip to Smithsonian Institution Saturday February 18, 2006

Sign up early as space is limited. See inside for details
Open House Bryn Mawr College Mineral Collection
March 19, 2006



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors

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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 Rowan University, Glassboro, New Jersey. At 7:30 pm members meet to socialize, view displays, sign the registry and receive a door-prize ticket, toward a specially chosen specimen. Meetings start promptly at 8:00 PM and include the evening's program followed by the monthly business meeting, concluding around 10:00 PM. Meetings are open to the general public.

MEMBERSHIP

See the Membership Chairperson for an application for membership in the Society. Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities and to receive a newsletter when published. Sponsoring memberships are entitled to all of the above plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Membership rates for the Society are:

Regular Membership

\$15.00 for the 1^{st} family member + \$5.00 for each family member \$10.00 for the 1^{st} Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each family member \$10.00 for Students with College ID

Sponsoring Membership

Level	1 st Member	+	Additional Members	=	Receive
"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

Privilege to enter Rowan University facilities is limited to the night of the meeting between the hours of 7PM & 10PM under the direction of the University staff.

Permission from the University staff is required to enter the school at any other time.

DVESS 2006 Officers & Positions

President Jr. Rockhound Coordinator Field Trip Coordinator

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Grant Elliot

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2nd Vice President

Lou Detofsky

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Lisa Stickler

Sage

Len Morgan George Petreshock

Newsletter Editor Recording Secretary Membership Chair

Chuck O'Loughlin (856) 663-1383 editor@dvess.org

<u>Librarian</u>

Open

Special Events Coordinator Past President

Ann Lynne Benson (856) 783-0969 SeleniteQueen@comcast.net

President's Message by Kernel Gerald Feigin

Three score and 10 days ago, more or less, I was elected president of the DVESS. I hope to make a few changes, most notably keeping the business portion of the meeting as brief as possible. I don't plan on skipping anything, just keeping to the point and streamlining it. This should allow us to spend more time on the educational as well as social aspects of the club. It should also allow those of us who have young children to stay for this important part of our meetings. I would also like to see us get over to the telescope in the astronomy department at our new home. Hopefully, this will be but one way we can use our new meeting. One of the professors owes me a favor and I hope to call him on it soon. I would like us to use our new meeting location in a positive way. Rowan University has a lot to offer and we our only limited by our imagination. Recently a pretty major paleontology find was made less than 10 minutes from our new home. Hopefully, we can get over to the marl pit and make a similar one. I hope we can all have fun learning and sharing our knowledge. As Emil Faber said "knowledge is good"

January 11, 2006 General Meeting Minutes

by Thaddeus Butterstone acting for Chuck O'Loughlin, In-volunteer Recording Secretary

As comrade O'Loughlin was preoccupied with his duties as Membership Chairperson and the First Vice President was relishing the ample capacity of the adult size seats to accommodate his ample seat and the Second Vice President was in full professor mode, babbling on about demantoid and pyrope garnets, The Web Coordinator was busy adjusting blinds, the Treasurer was consumed with hastily reconciling the books and trying to remember where he had left the club's meeting essentials and the life form formerly known as madam President was, well no need to go into details there, the task of keeping the minutes fell once again upon my shoulders.

The Kernel called the business portion of the meeting to order at approximately 9 PM following the Eastern Federation antiquated slide presentation narrated by comrade Weinstein, who once again demonstrated the hypnotic power of his voice to lull the audience into a transcendental state.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Treasurer once again claimed the organization was solvent, without divulging any important information, blaming the bank for failing to provide the necessary records. The February bus trip was discussed with the Kernel announcing that he had secured the permission of Underwood Hospital in Woodbury to allow DVESS to park cars in their parking facilities for the trip to Washington. The two pick up locations are now confirmed: Departing Cadbury in Cherry Hill at 7 AM and departing Red Lion Road by Underwood Hospital in Woodbury at 7:30 AM on February 18, 2006. The Special Events Coordinator and Former President announced that she will be commandeering the bus during the return trip for an extensive detour into Virginia so that she can sample the cuisine of a restaurant that she apparently picked at random off of the internet, bon appetite my friends. There was probably some other business discussed, but it was not of any significance. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 PM

Junior Rockhound News by Gerald Feigin

The juniors will be exploring the Feldspar group during this month's program.

Programs by Gary Weinstein

Our February meeting will be on fossils. Mr. Joseph Hatcher, Curator of Paleontology at PaleoWorld Research Foundation Garfield County Museum in Montana www.paleoworld.org, will present us with a lecture including history of the Hell Creek Region (i.e. Lewis and Clark, Sitting Bull/Custer) macro geology of the formation, dinosaur fauna, paleoecology, and information about their program and how DVESS members can join their dig in 2006.

Club News and Items of Interest by various contributors

Wildacres by Ann Lynn Benson

AN UNBELIEVABLE OFFER! Spend a week in a beautiful and secluded mountain resort for the unbelievable price of only \$320 including room, meals and entertainment. An exclusive offer to member clubs of the EFMLS, WILDACRES is situated on 1,600 acres at an elevation of 3,300 feet atop a mountain in Little Switzerland, North Carolina, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Its 1,600 acres are adjacent to thousands of acres of the Pisgah National Forest. The buildings are modern yet rustic and provide a very comfortable setting with guests staying in two lodges. Each of the 57 rooms accommodates two guests and has a private bathroom. Wildacres also features a spacious lobby, a library, a fully equipped lapidary workshop and a dining room where three family-style meals are served each day. A 200-seat amphitheater, finished in 2003, provides a beautiful spot for meetings, gatherings, and campfires. When the weather permits, the patio is an excellent location for group meetings and social functions.

May 22 - 28

4-day classes (you take 1 class for the entire session) Faceting, Pewter Fabrication or Exhibiting & Judging

2-day classes (you take two different 2-day classes)

Basic Cabbing, Basic Beadcraft, Bead Weaving, Micromounting, Silversmithing (basic and/or advanced), Wirecrafting, Wire sculpture, more to be announced later

<u>September 11 – 17</u>

4-day classes (you take 1 class for the entire session) Faceting, Exhibiting & Judging

2-day classes (you take two different 2-day classes)

Basic Cabbing, Micromounting, Wirecrafting, Wire sculpture, Beaded Bezels, Silversmithing (basic and/or intermediate), Metalcrafting (type of class yet to be determined)

PLUS you will be able to go on Field Trips, see new Videos, hear and socialize with a prominent speaker: the May session features Helen Serras-Herman, a well known glyptographer (gemstone carver) whose work has been featured in *Lapidary Journal*; September's "speaker in residence" will be Tom Tucker, a retired geologist who's collected in almost every part of the U.S. and Europe. Tom was the featured speaker at the 2005 Rocky Mountain Federation Convention.

Your week winds up with a "Good Stuff Auction", an official sharing time and a Fun Night.

You can take a virtual tour of the facility and see photographs of the buildings and grounds at www.WildAcres.org. A Wildacres CD is available to the club for the asking; attendance is limited and applications will be accepted beginning January 1, 2006. Contact Ann Benson for a registration form.

OUR MILD WINTER by Gary Weinstein

For those rockhounds out there who have missed seeing snow this year and would like to study some crystals, indoors, of a unique nature, try this. Type into your browser search bar – "pictures of snowflakes". Google will give you loads of sites to check out including some wonderful shots of one-of-a-kind crystals of a very fragile mineral. My daughter, Crystal, was surprised to find that snow was make of hexagonal growths and that each was different from the next.

MORE ONE-OF-A-KINDS by Gary Weinstein

Isn't it interesting that in the mineral world there is only one rock which will float on water, one mineral which will do the same, one mineral/metal which is liquid, at room temperature, and the hardest natural substance is made of one element? Can you think of any other one-of-a-kinds?

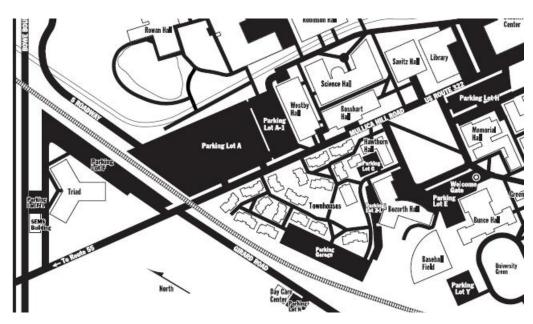
Editor's note: Mr. Weinstein will be providing the answers to the above questions at the February meeting.

Club members, who will be attending shows to look, buy or sell are invited to notify the editor at editor@dvess.org and we will get the information into the newsletter. Also let us know if you spot any of are far flung members making surprise appearances anywhere. We are always on the lookout for something of interest to report on our members activities.

NEW MEETING LOCATION commencing with the January 2006 meeting.

As previously reported, Rowan Professor Louis Detofsky has secured a new meeting place for the club at Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ. Room 236 in Westby Hall will be our new home through at least the spring of 2006. We will continue to meet on the same night and time as usual. There is ample parking next to Westby Hall.

Directions to Rowan University as well as a campus map can be obtained by visiting the Rowan University web site www.rowan.edu members without access to the web, the campus can be reached by taking Rt. 55 exit 50A (Rt. 322 East towards Glassboro). Proceed east on Rt. 322 through one traffic light and after crossing the rail road tracks turn left into the parking lot. Westby Hall is the building adjacent to the parking lot. The campus can also be reached from Rt. 47 (Delsea Drive). From Rt. 47 turn onto Rt. 322 West in Glassboro. After turning onto Rt. 322 west go through three (3) traffic lights, Rowan University buildings will be on your right with Westby Hall being the last building on the right before the large parking lot. Turn right into the parking lot A and park. Use the main enterance to Westby Hall by Rt. 322



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Field Trips by Chuck O'Loughlin (for additional information or to sign up for any field trips contact me at 856-663-1383 or editor@dvess.org)

February 18, 2006 bus trip to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 7 AM till?

Be sure to sign up for the club's annual bus trip. This year we head south to Washington D.C. The cost of the trip is \$20 for non-member adults, \$15 for member adults and \$10 for children (member or non-member). Admission to the museum is free (included as part of your federal taxes, so take advantage). The bus will be departing from Cadbury Retirement Home, 2150 Rt. 38, Cherry Hill, NJ (located next to the Cherry Hill Mall) at 7 AM. The bus will also make a pick up in Woodbury, NJ. Underwood Memorial Hospital, 509 N. Broad St., Woodbury, NJ (intersection of Broad St or Rt. 45 and Red Bank Road) has graciously agreed to allow us to park for no charge in their lots. Just mention that you are with DVESS. The bus will make the pick up on Red Bank Road and will be departing at 7:30 AM. Do not be late or you will be left behind. You can sign up at www.whoscoming.com/dvess or by contacting Ann Lynn Benson at 856-783-0969 or see Ann at the February meeting. There is a limited number of seats so do not wait too long to sign up.

March 19, 2006 Open House Bryn Mawr College Mineral Collections 10 AM to 3 PM

The Bryn Mawr College Geology Department has one of the finest collections of minerals from Pennsylvania and around the world. The Collections have been used for study, research and display for over 100 years. The Department's founder, Florence Bascom, established the initial collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils for use in the classroom and for exhibit. Her personal label and/or Department labels in her hand may be found on old specimens in the early College Collections In 1903, Theodore Rand, a Philadelphia lawyer who lived in Radnor, left the College his large collection of minerals. This collection was merged with the College collection in the 1940's to bring the total number of specimens up to about 9500. In 1958, the family of George Vaux, Jr. gave his collection of over 8000 specimens to the College. The Vaux Collection includes specimens collected from the late 1800's through 1930, and specimens collected from old localities, many of which are no longer accessible. They include minerals from around the world and a fine collection from Pennsylvania localities. Several recent donations from local collectors have strengthened the holdings further. As of the year 2000, more than 25,000 minerals have been donated to Bryn Mawr College.

There are 1500 minerals on exhibit in 28 hall cases in the Park Science Center. Dorothy Wyckoff, Professor of Geology from 1930-1966, arranged several hall cases of large specimens from the College Collection, as well as teaching exhibits in the Introductory, Mineralogy, and Paleontology laboratories. Harold W. Arndt, Associate Curator from 1958 - 1989, selected many of the finest minerals from the Vaux Collection for display in hall cases along the first and second floors of the Physics and Math wings of the Park Science Center. In addition, a display of fluorescent minerals (many from the Franklin Mine in New Jersey) is housed in a special dark room.

Directions: Take I-476 (Blue Rt.) to Exit 13 Villanova/St. Davids Follow Route 30 (Lancaster Avenue) east through Villanova for 2.4 miles. Turn left onto Morris Avenue. There is a Starbucks coffee shop on the right and a Sunoco station on the left corner of Morris and Lancaster. Please note that the street is called "Elliot" on the right and "Morris" on the left - and the Morris sign is hard to see! Note: there is NO sign for Bryn Mawr College on Lancaster Avenue in this direction. Follow Morris Avenue as it curves left under the train-track bridge then bears right. Cross Montgomery Avenue (at the traffic light). The Benham Gateway, which houses the Office of Admissions, is located on the corner of Morris Avenue and Yarrow Street. The driveway entrance is on Morris Avenue and ample visitor parking is available.

Or Take I-76 west (Schuykill Expressway) to the City Avenue exit 339 (Route 1 South). Once on City Avenue, travel about 2.5 miles and turn right onto Lancaster Avenue (Route 30 West). Travel about 4 miles to reach the center of Bryn Mawr. Turn right onto Morris Avenue; a gas station will be on your right and a Starbucks on your left. Once on Morris Avenue follow the directions above to the Benham Gate.

It is possible that we will receive permission to park at a location closer to the Park Science Building in which case I will provide any additional directions in next months newsletter.

April 28 & 29, 2006 Trotter, Buckwheat and Sterling Hill Dig. Once again DVESS will be hosting the big Franklin weekend dig, which includes a rare night dig to allow everyone to find the best fluorescent minerals. While we want all of our club members to sign up to participate in the dig, we also need everyone to volunteer to help run the event. This is our club's fund raising event. The money we raise this weekend allows us to subsidize the newsletter, the bus trip the banquet, the picnic, the junior rockhound program and other activities. The last couple of years just a handful of members have carried the load, which has not been very sporting of the rest of us. They too are fluorescent mineral enthusiasts yet because they are working the whole time don't get to pursue their passion. Volunteering to help out for a few hours would be a wonderful way to show your support for the club. All of the volunteer tasks are so simple even a caveman can do them. Contact the head caveman, Gary Weinstein, to sign up for an all important shift at this year's triple dig.

Field Trip Report by Thaddeus Buttterstone

Saturday January 28, 2006 was the Open house at the Rutgers University Geology Museum. Traveling with O'Loughlin, Sage Morgan and Weinstein, we left early as Gary wanted to be the first in line for the Friends of the Museum's mineral sale. Alas, we arrived at 8:30 to find a rather large crowd already gathered at the venue. Queuing up, we found ourselves in a virtual line up of who's who in local mineralogy. In addition to DVESS, the Philadelphia Mineralogy Society, Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks, New Jersey Mineralogy Society, The Morris Museum Club, The Sterling Hill Foundation and numerous others organizations were well represented. In addition to the mineral sale, there were four educational programs that included programs on paleontology, archeology, geology and astronomy, all of which were well received by the audience. Between the morning and afternoon educational programs, there was ample time to tour the Museum itself and view its outstanding collection of New Jersey and world wide minerals and fossils.

This is an annual event and the programs while somewhat technical are not beyond the capabilities of children as young as 12 years old. I hope that more of our membership especially those with children will takes advantage of this outstanding educational opportunity along with a chance to add some interesting specimens to your collection for very reasonable prices at next years program. The program is always held on the last Saturday of January.

DVESS members who took advantage of the event beyond the three members previously mentioned, included Keith Lopez, who was stocking up on fluorescent minerals to go along with the new three wave ultraviolet lamp he recently acquired. Keith also mentioned he had tracked down another airplane crash site that he is willing to lead a field trip to explore if anyone is interested (caution be sure to stay away from swamps when trekking through the back woods with Keith). Also spotted was Sarna Storm who was once again observed with her ultra violet lamp which if I had not seen her pass it to O'Loughlin during the event would swear that it was a permanent part of her anatomy. Second VP Lou Detofsky was heard asking a typical professorial type question that rambled on for about five minutes during one of the lectures. Fearing that the lengthy question would require a equally lengthy response many of the audience members began to bail, but fortunately the on stage professor was looking forward to returning to Arizona and escaping New Jersey so confined his answer to a few words.

Once again our intrepid field reporter has scoped all of the other persons attending the Rutgers Geology Museum Open House. Good job Butterstone.

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

March 4 & 5, 2006 - Delaware Mineralogical Society 43rd Annual Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show. The show will be located at the Delaware Technical & Community College, Churchmans Road (Rt. 58), Newark (Stanton), DE at exit 4B, I-95. Hours are 10AM to 6PM Saturday and 10AM to 5PM Sunday.

March 11 & 12, 2006 - North Jersey Mineralogical Society, Clifton Gem and Mineral Show. The show will be located at Pope John Paul II Elementary School, 775 Valley road, Clifton, NJ, 10AM to 5PM each day.

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April 1 & 2, 2006 – Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society, Fossil and Mineral Show. The show will be located at the Lulu Temple, 5140 butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA, 10AM to 5PM Saturday and 10AM to 4PM Sunday.

April 29 & 30, 2006 – Franklin Show presented by the New Jersey Earth Science Association. The show will be held at the Franklin School, Washington Avenue, Franklin, NJ, 9AM to 5PM Saturday and 10AM to 5PM Sunday.

May 20 & 21, 2006 – Berks Mineralogical Society's World of Gems and Minerals. Located at the Leeport Farmers Market, Route 61, Leeport, PA. 10AM to 5PM Saturday and 10AM to 4PM Sunday. Saturday only, tail gate section, setup 8AM. info@berksmineralsociety.org

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

The Case of the Bone Headed Paleontologist by Elliot Grant

This story is from the Seattle Weekly...here's the link: http://www.seattleweekly.com/news/0604/burke.php

In early November, three experts in fossil collecting and curation arrived at the University of Washington's Burke Museum to assess the state of the museum's assembly of 42,000 vertebrate bones. The <u>full report</u> tells a sorted story: one of 35 years of curatorial secrecy, carelessness, and misdirection that may have done irreparable harm to the integrity of the Burke's fossil collection. In language more reminiscent of a prosecutorial indictment than a scientific report, the team enumerated its findings:

- In visits to 72 sites in Wyoming, Montana, and Oregon over 35 years, the curator had a valid permit for only four.
- Locality data, "was conducted with a disregard for completeness and accuracy, either through carelessness or deliberate falsification," say the authors.
- Notes taken during collecting are the basic data for making sense of a collection. No notes by the curator were found at the Burke. "Failure to keep field notes, retaining them as the collector's personal property, or simply discarding them is extremely poor practice, if not worse."
- "It was well known in the vertebrate paleontology community that access to collections and data in the Burke Museum was strictly controlled by its curator. Many paleontologists and their students who requested access were denied, and the few who did receive permission were allowed to see only selected specimens under certain conditions. . . . [B]ecause many of the specimens were collected from federal lands, access to them cannot be denied to any qualified investigator. Although the specimens are in the possession of the Burke Museum, they remain the property of the federal government and hence all Americans."

Removing, selling, trading, or otherwise disposing of fossil material from a federal site is a felony. This is potential bad news for the former curator of the Burke, who retired from the university in 2004 but continues to be active in the profession, giving interviews to science reporters on points of interest in his specialty. It is in a way even worse news for the UW, for whom the work and expense of cleaning up the Burke collection is only beginning. Someone's going to have to be hired to go through the collections piece by piece to identify as best as possible who the likely legal owner is—tribe, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, or others. Then, each owner must be contacted and asked how the Burke should proceed to make restitution.

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Membership by Chuck O'Loughlin, Membership Chair

<u>This is the last time</u> I will be including the membership renewal information in the newsletter. Please sign up or renew your membership in the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society for 2006. DVESS is pleased to present a new membership category designed for college students.

Please complete the membership application bellow and return it by mail or in person at the monthly meeting or complete an on line application at www.dvess.org Payment can be made on line or by mail or in person at a regular scheduled meeting.

DVESS is a non-profit organization for people of all ages who share an interest in fossils, minerals, lapidary, geology and the earth sciences. Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through June. Meetings start at 7:30 PM with socializing and a Junior Rockhound lesson, followed by the general meeting at 8:00 PM.

Membership Application

Membership Type	<u>Number</u>	Donation	Total
Basic Membership		\$15.00	
Senior Membership (65+)		\$10.00	
Student Membership		\$10.00	- <u></u>
Additional Members		\$5.00 each	
Silver Membership		\$50.00	
Gold Membership		\$75.00	
Platinum Membership		\$100.00	
Total			
Name:			
Name:			
Child:			_ Age:
Child:			_ Age:
Address:			
City:			
State:	Zip (Code:	
Phone:			
E-Mail:			

Return the completed application at the meeting or by mail to DVESS, PO Box 372, Maple Shade, NJ 08052. Please make your check payable to DVESS. Thank you for your continuing support.

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Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052



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This Month's Meeting: February 8, 2006

Main Program

History of the Hell Creek Region, macro geology of the formation, dinosaur fauna and paleoecology

Junior Rockhounds

Feldspar group of minerals