

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter



December 10, 2008
HOLIDAY PARTY

Come to the December meeting (12/10) for our annual Holiday Party. Bring a wrapped gift and receive a wrapped gift (\$10 - 20 value). Bring food (sign up at www.whosbringingwhat.com/dvess).



Be prepared to vote for the candidates of your choice.



ALERT * STOP THE PRESSES *** ALERT**

DVESS has a new home (3rd month)

**Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30)
in Berlin, 856-767-3881 or 856-767-7453.**

Located between Estaugh Ave and W Taunton Ave on your left, the church is on the left hand side.

We'll have coffee and snacks waiting for you!

President's Message - by **AnnLynne Benson**, DVESS President and EFMLS Director
Welcome to the Holiday season, and the end of another good rock hounding year.

One of my favorite quotes is, "*Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.*" (Helen Keller). We in DVESS certainly live out that maxim. Despite a flagging economy, we were able to meet expenses without raising dues (by the way, DUES ARE DUE - you may pay at the meeting, or send a check to our postal address on the last page).

We cheered as valued members took on new roles of responsibility: **Carol DeCuzzi** as Newsletter Editor who is spicing up **DVESScapades** with pictures and puzzles from Diamond Dan's *Mini Miner's Monthly* newsletter; **Mel LeCompte** as Alternate Junior Rockhounds Teacher specializing in the American Federation's Merit Badge Program, and **Richard R. Murray** who is running unopposed for the position of 2nd Vice President (come to the meeting Dec. 10 and vote for your candidates). Peter De Cuzzi will be a membership conduit for any other nominations.

The **DVESSentials** (essential members of the Executive Board) visited each other's homes to conduct the behind-the-scenes laugh-a-thon (and other essential business); various club members traveled together to shows, and in April, our **STERLING HILL Super Dig** brought our members collecting opportunities like no other in the country! Our annual **FREE** tour of

STERLING HILL Mine and Museum was greatly enjoyed by all who availed themselves of this unparalleled opportunity. Their monument to the World Trade Towers gave me my first chance to see an actual piece of the wreckage from the 9/11 disaster.

Our marvelous meetings took place in three different locations, finally coming to rest in the Education Building behind Centenary United Methodist Church in Berlin, which hopefully will be our new permanent home. Its spacious accommodations include a kitchen which means we can now enjoy snacks and beverages during our meetings, and for the first time in our 50 plus year history, we will be having **year-round meetings!!**

We had not one, but **two** EACH ONE TEACH ONE meetings featuring hands-on learning projects - these events were greatly enjoyed and we heard the message that you want more of them!!

We initiated **CLUB PARTNERING** with our sister club the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County. This partnering makes possible joint field trips as well as other ways of doubling everyone's mineral and fossil experience.

Once again, DVESS picked up **more than half** the cost of each person's delectable dinner at our annual banquet, and we learned that it's possible to have an extremely enjoyable picnic despite pouring rain.

I am very proud to have had the opportunity to serve as your President during this exciting year. I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season, the warmth and love of your families, the blessings of the Higher Power of your choice and a prosperous new year.

* * * * *

LIABILITY INSURANCE CHANGES

Economic woes have hit the Eastern Federation. Due to a change in our insurance carrier, the Federation was faced with the unpleasant choice of (1) increasing insurance premiums, (2) keeping the same rate but having each club pay a \$1000 deductible for any claim, or (3) paying the same rate with EFMLS paying up to one [1] \$1000 deductible for each club for claims arising during the 2008-2009 policy period, with additional deductibles to be the responsibility of the club.

Since EFMLS has had only two claims since 2001, it was decided to go with the last option (#3 above). We are therefore happy to inform you that your dues will not increase as a result of necessary changes to the insurance.

* * * * *

HOTLY CONTESTED RACE FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Moments before nominations were closed, past president Gerald Feigin threw his hat into the ring to challenge incumbent Lou Detofsky for the position of 1st vice president. Rarely have we seen such enthusiasm!! Who will be the winner? On December 10, YOU will cast the deciding vote.

* * * * *



GONE!!!! Your right to collect fossils is about to expire! Bill HR554 will make it a crime to collect fossils on public lands (**OUR** lands, since **WE** are the public). We believe this bill will go directly to the floor for the vote. Congressman John Culberson, **R**, 7th District West Houston, Texas **who is a rockhound himself** said he **needed** each rockhound **throughout the U.S.** to

contact their congressman and let them know their feelings on the issue. See <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efoct08.pdf> for a letter written by a professional geologist to his Representative. Take a moment to preserve the future of our hobby by contacting your Representative; you can find her/his contact information at <https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>. (note all hyperlinks in color are instant links, click on them and voila !! You are at the recommended sight) See an article later on in this newsletter.

Agriculture Committee Members:

Democrat Majority

[Collin C. Peterson](#), MN, Chairman
[Tim Holden](#), PA, Vice Chairman
[Mike McIntyre](#), NC [Bob Etheridge](#), NC
[Leonard L. Boswell](#), IA [Joe Baca](#), CA
[Dennis A. Cardoza](#), CA, [David Scott](#), GA
[Jim Marshall](#), GA
[Stephanie Herseth Sandlin](#), SD
[Henry Cuellar](#), TX [Jim Costa](#), CA
[John T. Salazar](#), CO [Brad Ellsworth](#), IN
[Nancy E. Boyda](#), KS [Zachary T. Space](#), OH
[Timothy J. Walz](#), MN [Kirsten E. Gillibrand](#),
NY [Steve Kagen](#), WI
[Earl Pomeroy](#), ND [Lincoln Davis](#), TN
[John Barrow](#), GA [Nick Lampson](#), TX [Joe](#)
[Donnelly](#), IN [Tim Mahoney](#), FL

Republican Minority

[Bob Goodlatte](#), VA, Ranking Minority
Member
[Terry Everett](#), AL [Frank D. Lucas](#), OK
[Jerry Moran](#), KS [Robin Hayes](#), NC [Timothy](#)
[V. Johnson](#), IL [Sam Graves](#), MO
[Mike Rogers](#), AL [Steve King](#), IA [Marilyn N.](#)
[Musgrave](#), CO
[Randy Neugebauer](#), TX
[Charles W. Boustany, Jr.](#), LA
[John R. "Randy" Kuhl](#), NY
[Virginia Foxx](#), NC [K. Michael Conaway](#), TX
[Jeff Fortenberry](#), NE [Jean Schmidt](#), OH
[Adrian Smith](#), NE [Tim Walberg](#), MI
[Robert E. Latta](#), OH

PROGRAMS: A number of speakers are being lined up, including Chet Lemanski (After February 2009 Tucson show). Since we will have meetings at the Centenary United Methodist Church in Berlin, NJ during the summer, Gary will show/plan additional programs. The Christmas (December) meeting will have it's party at the Church, which will include a short video program, (Cash and Treasures/ How It's Made), elections, gift exchange (\$10-\$20 limitation), and pot-luck food. WE need people directed to (<<http://whoscoming.com/dvess>>whoscoming.com/dvess) and/or <<http://www.whosbringingwhat.com/dvess>>www.whosbringingwhat.com/dvess to set up what will be brought and for how many. If you can't do the computer, don't worry, I'm sure there will be plenty.

The possibility of Lou Detofsky becoming Field Trip Chairman is rather tenuous. Gerald Feigin is always good for a trek to Flag Ponds (Maryland) to hunt for fossils.

OTHER BUSINESS: Gerald discussed setting up Earth-Science lectures and speakers for the Washington Township Elementary School. A Len Morgan award will be presented to a worthy individual in 2009.

Mineral of the Month Talc

Chemical Formula: $Mg_3Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2$

Crystal System: Monoclinic (but forms “fake” 6-sided crystal groups; mineralogists call this pseudohexagonal).

Hardness: 1 Specific Gravity: 2.5

Cleavage: Perfect basal into thin, flexible flakes.

Luster: Greasy to vitreous (glassy)

Color: White (when pure); can also be gray or apple green.

Streak: White

Name: The mineral name talc comes from the Arabic word for this mineral, talq.

Interesting Facts: Talc is most often found in large masses. It

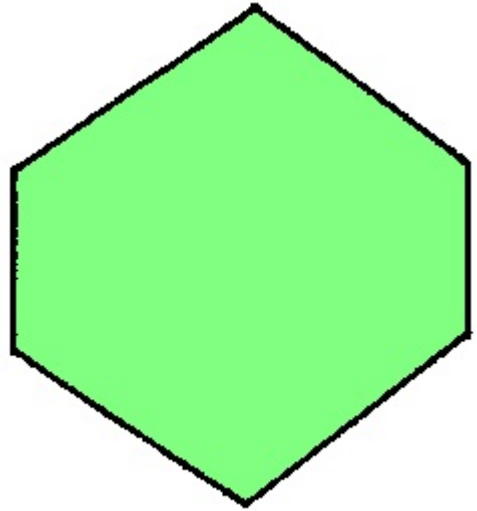
is the softest mineral on Mohs' hardness scale (number 1) and therefore can be very easily scratched with a fingernail. It has a greasy feel when you rub a piece between your fingers. Crushed talc feels very soft and slippery.

Talc is a “metamorphic mineral.” This means that it forms in metamorphic rocks.

Metamorphic rocks are rocks that have been changed by great heat and pressure deep in the crust of the Earth. Talc forms when the rock serpentine combines with carbon dioxide. It can also form when the rock dolomite combines with quartz and water. These chemical reactions can only happen, however, when the pressure and temperature are very, very high.

Uses: The most important use for talc is in the production of talcum powder. Look at the label of the baby powder or foot powder in your medicine closet. You will see that it contains crushed talc (mixed with small amounts of other materials). It is sometimes added to foods and to medicines. It is also used in the process of making ceramics.

Previous article and the following article are courtesy of the Mini-Miners Monthly as in the box.



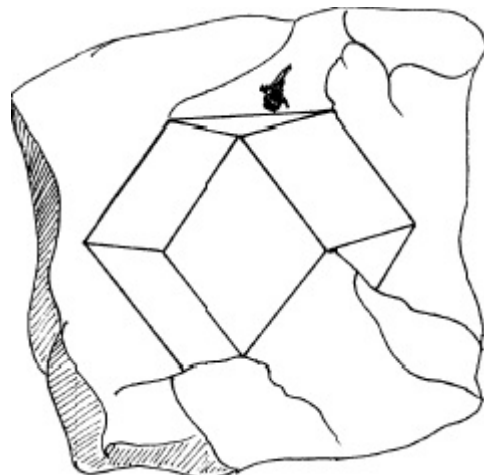
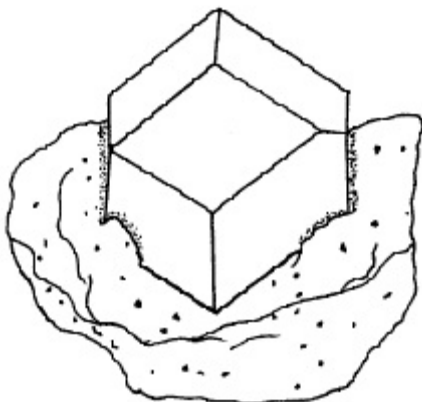
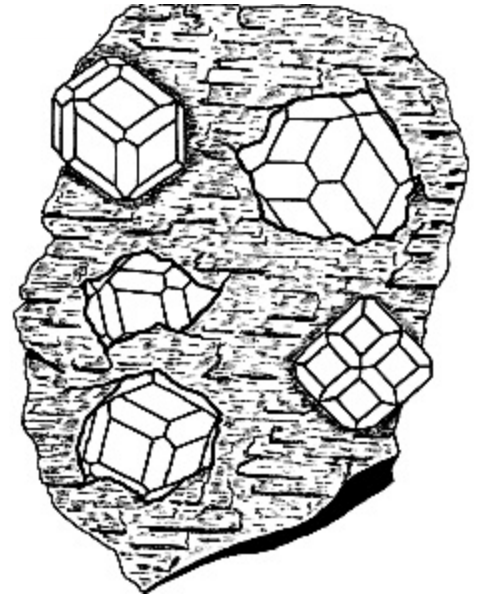
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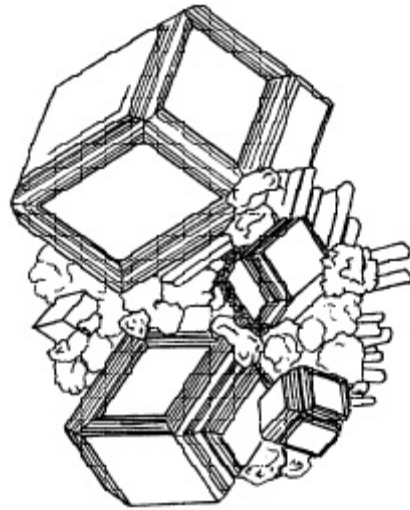
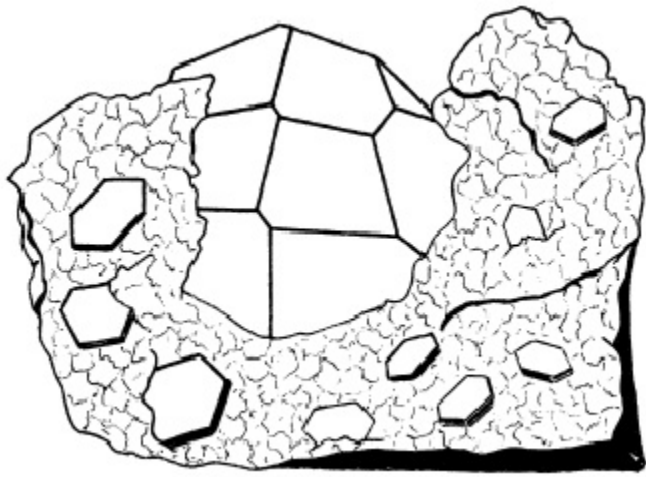
Garnet Crystals Are Given to Alaska's

Children: Wrangell Island is on the Stikine River on the southeast portion of Alaska. Gold prospectors rushed to Alaska in search of their fortunes in 1861 and again in the mid-1870's. They passed through Wrangell on their way to the Klondike where they hoped to find gold.

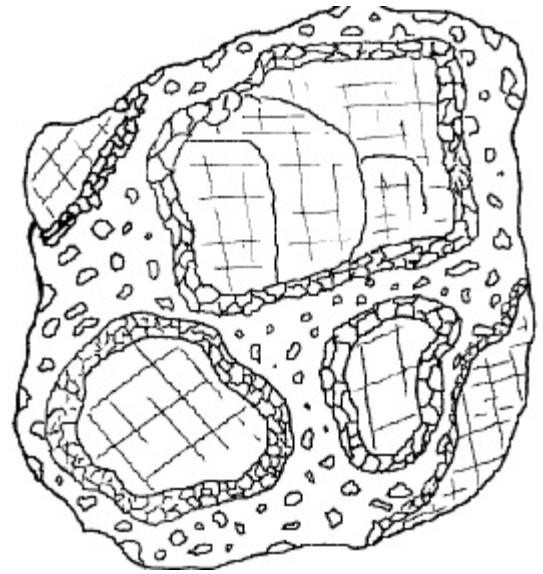
Fine, well-formed, deep red garnet crystals were discovered in a ledge on Wrangell Island. A man who was the mayor of the Town of Wrangell made arrangements that when he died, the ledge of garnets would be given to the children of Wrangell. To this day the children remove single crystals and crystal groups in their rock matrix (a metamorphic rock called schist) and sell their finds to tourists and collectors that come through the area on cruise ships. These garnets are nearly perfect in form. They are not perfect, though, for cutting into gems. Sometimes they are polished into rounded forms called cabochons.

The name garnet comes from the Latin word granatus which means a pomegranate seed. To really understand this, ask your mom or dad to take you to the grocery store and buy a pomegranate. Take the pomegranate home and cut it in half. You will see that inside the pomegranate are hundreds of little seeds that are covered with a juicy cover. You can eat the entire seed, along with the juicy cover. Depending on how ripe the pomegranate is, the seeds may be sweet or sour or somewhere in between (some people describe them as "tangy"). Look at a number of garnet specimens, both hand specimens and good pictures in mineral books. Notice that some varieties of garnet, like pyrope garnets, are small, round, purple crystals that look a lot like small bunches of seeds.



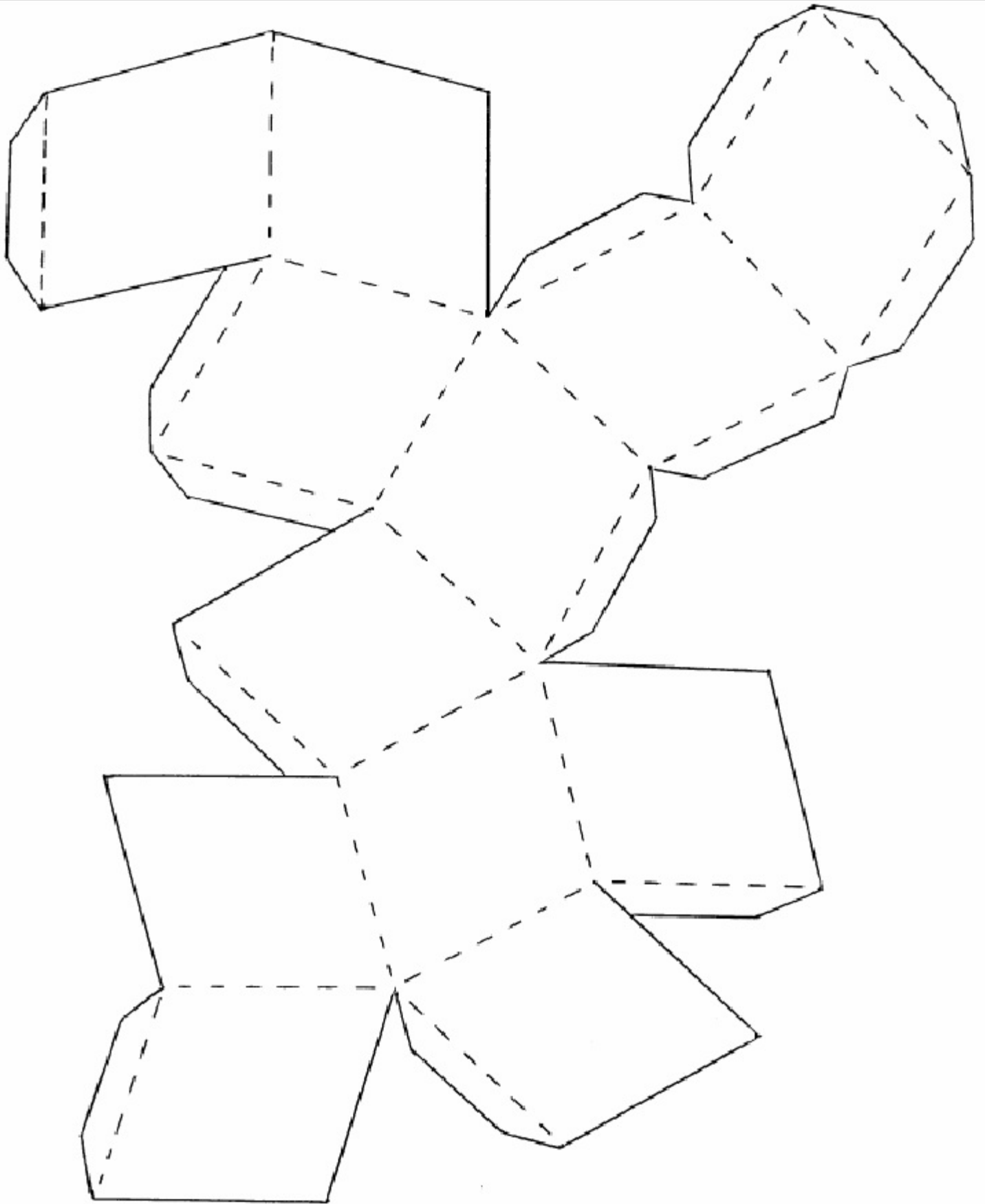


Lower Left previous page: Bright red garnet from Mexico.
Lower Right previous page: Dark green garnet in dark brown matrix from Colorado.
Upper Right: Orange garnet from Canada.
Upper Left: Deep red garnet from Maine on gray quartz with light tan mica crystals.
Below right: Masses of red garnet in black matrix from Gore Mountain, New York.



MAKE A CRYSTAL

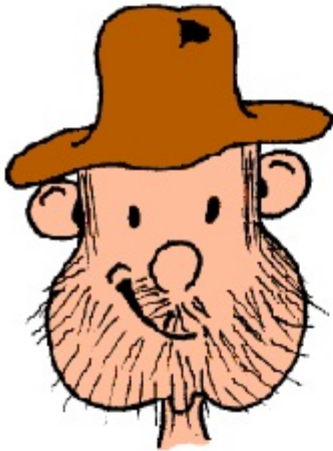
You have probably noticed that there are a lot of garnets in this issue. Garnet crystallizes in the cubic crystal system (it is also called the isometric crystal system). Garnet almost NEVER forms cubes, however, it is most commonly found in 12-sided crystals that are called dodecahedral crystals. A single crystal of this form is called a dodecahedron. Here is a cut-and-fold dodecahedron for you to try. We suggest you make all the folds and see how the crystal model curls together. Then, tape the small tabs to the crystal faces. When it is done, compare it with real garnet specimens and pictures of garnets in mineral books. (You can copy this model onto thicker paper. If you do you will have a stronger and harder crystal model when you are done.)



DIAMOND DAN HAS A BRAND NEW WEBSITE

Diamond Dan has just started a brand new website. You can find it on the internet at

www.diamonddanpublications.net



Follow the link on the Home Page to *Mini Miners Monthly* and there you will find links for a bunch of free pages that you can download, print and use at home. Come back often. We will be adding good stuff every week for you to have - FREE!

Have you visited a good internet site about minerals?

There are a lot of really great mineral websites available from which you can learn a lot.

www.rockhounds.com

This terrific site is safe and has hundreds of links to interesting information. One of its highlights is an entire section about NASA's Mars Rover Expedition. You can also find information on crystal system, on cutting gemstones, how to wire wrap a crystal, articles on mineral stamps, and much, much more.

MEMBERSHIP Thank you to all of those who already renewed your membership for 2009 – this is a good start to the new year. I would like to get filled out renewal forms for all renewals this year to put in a Membership Binder so I have current records for everyone. I have attached a renewal form with this issue of the DVESS Newsletter for that purpose, and I would appreciate all of you renewing, including those of you who have already renewed, but make sure I get a filled out Renewal form with current information. Thank you. CDC. Editor, DVESScapades

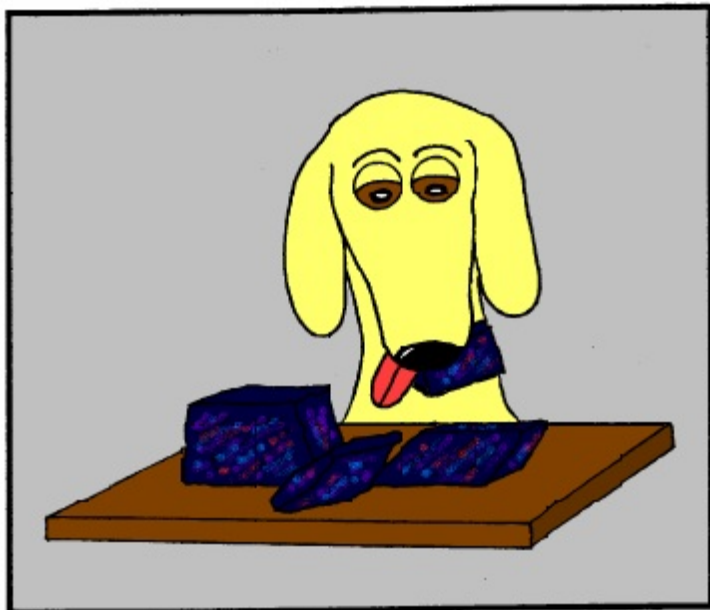


New Jersey

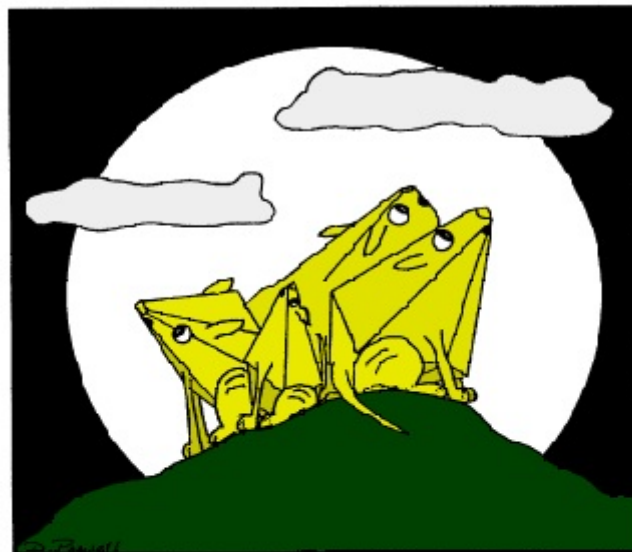
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ALPHA	ELM	LODI	ORANGE
ATCO	GLENDORA	LONGPORT	OXFORD
ATLANTIC CITY	HACKENSACK	MADISON	PORT NORRIS
AVALON	IRONIA	MAHWAH	PRINCETON
CAMDEN	KEARNY	MANTUA	RUMSON
DEAL	KENVIL	MILFORD	TRENTON
DELTRAN	KEYPORT	NEPTUNE	VERONA
DOVER	LAKEWOOD	NETCONG	WENONAH
EDISON	LAWNSIDE	NEWARK	WILDWOOD
ELIZABETH	LINDEN	OLD BRIDGE	WOODSTOWN

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<http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html>



A mineral collector's best friend:
a Labradorite Retriever



Late at night, if you listen carefully, you can hear the
Dogtooth Calcite howling at the moon.

Some Fun Mineral Comics for our Mini
Miners. Just in case you want an explanation,
go to the Mini Miners page on the website.
Follow the link to "Mineral Comics".

Other Happenings:

Hadrosaurus foulkii - THE DINOSAUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD special exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences opens on November 22nd and runs thru April 19th, 2009. In 1868 the Academy became the first museum in the world to display the complete skeleton of a dinosaur. See Hadrosaurus foulkii again, remounted and reinterpreted for the 21st century and learn of its fascinating discovery 150 years ago. **Academy Of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia**

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/31/2009 Rutgers Open House, which appears to be a good one.

New Jersey State Museum Sunday Science Lecture Series

- Jan. 11, 2009 Dr. Daniel Rubenstein, Princeton University
"Zebra Societies & Conservation: Different Types for Different Stripes"
- Feb. 8 Dr. Chet Sherwood, The George Washington University
"A Natural History of the Human Brain"
- March 8 Dr. Ian Burrow, Hunter Research
"Secrets of the Ancients: Myths & Mysteries in Archaeology"
- April 5 Dr. Chung Shih, Infineum USA
"Silent Stories - Fossil Treasures from Liaoning, China"
- May 3 Dr. Kenneth Miller, Rutgers University
"Sea-level & Climate Change: Should I Sell My Shore House?"
- June 14 Robert Denton, Discoverer and leading paleontologist of the famous Ellisdale Fossil Site

Space is limited. Reserve your seats early!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW Free Admission - Free Parking, Museum Auditorium
Each lecture begins at 4pm. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, or to make reservations, please call (609) 292-8594

DVESS MEETING LOCATION : Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin, 856-767-3881 or 856-767-7453. Located between Estaugh Ave and W Taunton Ave on your left, the church is on the right hand side.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Regular members are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities. Sponsoring members are entitled to the same plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Dues are renewable each year in January. Membership rates for the Society:

Regular Membership:

\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

Sponsoring Memberships (each additional family member - \$5.00):

“Silver” \$50.00 for 1st family member - receive a Geode Specimen

“Gold” \$75.00 for 1st family member - receive a Native Gold Specimen

“Platinum” \$100 for 1st family member - receive a Premium Specimen

SOCIETY INFORMATION

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.
- * supports the conservation of natural resources, advocates the availability of collecting sites and maintains close contact with those in the academic field.
- * is a member club of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (<http://www.AmFed.org/EFMLS>)

MEETINGS

The Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month throughout the year at Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin

Anyone with info for the newsletter please share with me. You can be published!
Stuff you did in school, on a trip etc., see my info below.

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 editor.

To submit an article for publication in the DVESScapades contact the Newsletter Editor.

decuzzic@comcast.net, or Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Inc., DVESS, P O Box 372 Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052 or DVESS Website: <http://www.dvess.org> garyskyrock@comcast.net

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

(American Federation of Mineralogical Societies)

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land

without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities,

any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct

myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

<i>DVESS Directory 2008</i>	
President Ann Lynne Benson 856-783-0969 SeleniteQueen@comcast.net	Recording Secretary Grant Elliott 856-728-1731 gle@verizon.net
1 st Vice President Lou Detofsky "Doc Rock"	Website Coordinator Terry Wilson 609 -714 -1309 terry@dveess.org
2 nd Vice President - Jr. Rockhound Coordinator Gerald Feigin gfeigin@co.gloucester.nj.us	Special Events Coordinator Ann Lynne Benson 856-783-0969 SeleniteQueen@comcast.net
Treasurer, Program Chair, Membership Chair Gary Weinstein 856-234-0708 - home 856-795-5077 - work garyskyrock@comcast.net	DVESS Newsletter Editor Carol De Cuzzi 856-428-0621 - home decuzzic@comcast.net

Membership Form

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP+4:

Phone:

Email:

Cell Phone:

Profession, School or Major Work

Okay to let other members see your email and other orange-starred information?

Okay to share _____
Do NOT share _____

Newsletter Delivery via

Email _____
Postal Mail _____

Type of membership **Regular Membership:**

\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

First Name: _____

Last Name (if different)

First Name: _____

Last Name (if different)

First Name: _____

Last Name (if different)

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"Gold" \$75.00 for 1st family member - receive a Native Gold Specimen

"Platinum" \$100 for 1st family member - receive a Premium Specimen

Interests Minerals ___ Fossils ___ Lapidary ___ Collecting ___ Museum Trips ___
Trotter ___ Sterling Hill ___ other, list _____

How did you learn of DVESS? _____

Other clubs you belong to _____

Comments _____

What NON-DVESS interests or hobbies do you have? _____

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc. (DVESS)
P.O. Box 372
Maple Shade, N.J. 08052
DVESS Website : <http://www.dvess.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

