

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter



June 10, 2009

Program: Surprise Topic and Speaker!

Pot Luck Dinner - postponed indefinitely

Annual Picnic -

will be held in July, date to be announced in the JULY newsletter

President's Message - by AnnLynne Benson, DVESS President and EFMLS Director

Welcome, June! Not just the month of June, but Pastor June Stitzinger-Clark, the new Pastor of Centenary United Methodist church where our club is privileged to meet on the 2nd Wednesday every month, year-round. Pastor June will assume her new role in July; we wish her the best in her new assignment and invite her and her family to attend a meeting to see what DVESS is all about; we look forward to a long and happy association with her.

Hold That Date! The annual EFMLS Convention will be held Oct. 17 and 18 in near-by Bristol, CT (a four hour drive from here). Room rate is just \$103 plus tax per night (1 king or 2 double beds). The weekend starts off with snacks & beverages at 3 pm Friday at the Cracker Barrel Meeting, then dinner on your own. The Annual Meeting will be held at 7 pm and includes dessert, coffee and tea. On Saturday, Delegates and guests will enjoy the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club annual show followed by snacks at 6 pm and the Awards Banquet at 7 pm (banquet cost is \$38). The Editors' Breakfast will be held Sunday morning at 8 am.

NOTE #1 - the Queen does not understand why she would be made to sleep in a "king" bed.

NOTE #2 - should anyone wish to provide a chariot for the Queen's transportation to the Convention, please contact Her Royal Seleniteness at your earliest convenience.

At the Convention a proposal will be made to amend the Bylaws to change the date dues must be paid from April 1 to March 1, otherwise **"the member society will forfeit its right to all services provided by the Federation to member societies."** *Rationale:* get important, up-to-date information out to clubs via the website and Directory earlier. The vast majority of clubs already send in dues in January and February and therefore will not be affected. (Reminder, EFMLS dues are calculated on club membership as of December 31.) **NOTE TO GARY** - this by-laws change may be in response to the agita we gave our Regional Vice President over our pseudomorphically late dues payment.

We Want To Know - when and where did **you** find your first fossil? Joy Bourne, AFMS President, found hers on a mandatory field trip during her

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undergraduate years - she was a math major and only went on the trip because it was a requirement of the University curriculum! "Wow, was I excited!" she exclaims, describing the experience. "That's when I became a Rockhound!" Joy went on to take every geology course in the syllabus, and wound up with dual certification to teach Mathematics and Earth /Space Science. *Moral of the story* - a field trip can be a life-changing experience.

NOTE TO LOU - you're taking over as Field Trip Leader when???

May 13, 2009

DVESS General Meeting Minutes

By Grant Elliott, Recording Secretary

Meeting was held at Centenary United Methodist Church in Berlin, New Jersey.

Officers present were Ann Lynne Benson - President, Gary Weinstein - Treasurer/Programs, Grant Elliott - Recording Secretary, Terry Wilson- Website Coordinator, Mel LeCompte- Junior Rockhounds /Field Trips Designate and Carol DeCuzzi- Newsletter Editor/Membership. Others attending included Peter DeCuzzi and Stu Cleveland. Ann gaveled the meeting to order at 8:02pm.

PROGRAM: Chet Lemanski was scheduled to speak, but was in hospital for tests. Gary instead regaled attendees with a presentation on the fascinating subject of meteorites.

BUSINESS SUBJECTS: Steve Okielowicz (The magic man) is a possible speaker at our fall banquet.

Reviewed last month's Sterling Hill experience. The Hardys were paid \$250.00 to cover their expenses in assisting us.

Discussed upcoming astronomy club star party at Chatsworth (Franklin Park Reserve) on 5/23/2009. No pot luck dinner this year, since a convenient date cannot be scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

OTHER BUSINESS: Gary will be making a presentation at Tuscarora Lapidary Society in November, which will preclude his attendance at that month's meeting.

Look at the online version which has pages beyond our printed version, limited to 12 pages for mailing. For more info about current meteorite discussion plus more on the great Rutgers' Darryl Pitt's disgusting response.

Clean Up Your Act – SAFELY

(adapted from an article by Ted Reith, AFMS Safety Chair in the June/July 2009 issue of AFMS Newsletter)

The lovely, sparkly, near pristine specimens many of us 'collect' at gem and mineral shows hardly ever are found in that condition in Nature. Those who collect 'in the wild' will have some cleaning chores ahead of them, whether planning to sell those specimens or add them to a personal collection. **When using complex cleaning methods with hazardous chemicals, do so safely.**

An important key to any cleaning is to know your specimen and know its contaminant(s). This means to know each in terms of Mohs hardness and chemical make-up. Hardness will guide one in mechanical cleaning options, while the chemistry will dictate specific cleaning materials. Following are Simple/safe to Complex/less safe procedures:

- Soak in or clean under running water, using a bristle brush.
- Same as above, but add a cleaning agent, such as household detergent, to the water. This will help 'wet' the surface contaminant and allow it to be flushed away more readily.
- If appropriate, use a brass brush (Mohs 3.5 – 5) or steel dental pick (harder). his is where knowledge of the base mineral hardness is useful: **the tool needs to be harder than the contaminant, but less hard than the base material.** Test first on an obscure area first to confirm suitability.

One very interesting cleaning option is to use Soft Scrub cleaner (ground calcium carbonate in a detergent base) and a battery powered toothbrush. The following link provides an excellent write-up:

<homepage.mac.com/rasprague/PegShop/extras/brush/brush.html>.

Spills or solutions remaining after use of any acid should be neutralized with an alkaline material. Some fairly common household items to do that would include soda ash, lime, or baking soda. How do you know when you have enough neutralizer? You can get some red cabbage and use its juice as an indicator. At pH 2 (acid), it will be red; at pH 12 (alkaline), it will be greenish-yellow. At neutral pH of 7, it's blue.

Ted's entire article can be read at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009_06.pdf on page 3.

CLARIFICATIONS:

EFMLS = Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies -

our "parent" club and Regional arm of the *AFMS* (American Federation of

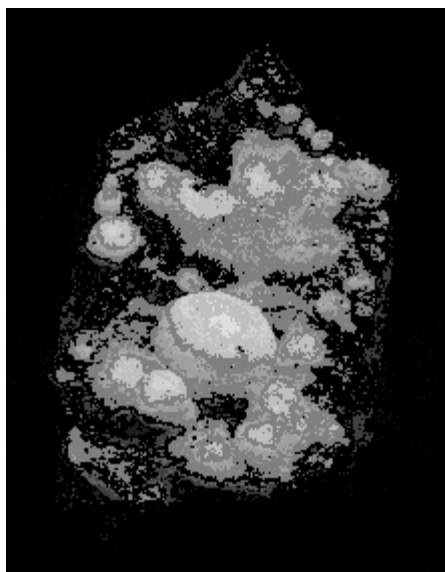
Mineralogical Societies - our "grandparent" club)

"pseudomorphically late" - kinda, sorta, almost late, except the date

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Mineral of the Month **Okenite**



Chemical Formula: $\text{CaSi}_2\text{O}_5 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Crystal System: Triclinic

Hardness: 4.5 - 5

Specific Gravity: 2.5

Luster: Glassy (Vitreous)

Color: White - You will see brightly colored specimens for sale on the internet and sometimes in mineral stores.

Warning: they are not natural. They are dyed (yellow, blue, green).

Streak: White

Uses: Of interest to collectors.

Interesting Facts: Okenite "balls" are very interesting. They look like cotton balls. Adults and children seem to have an urge to touch okenite specimens to see how soft they are.

The problem is that they are very, very, very easy to damage. A light touch will leave a dent where a finger touched the specimen. It is best to put your okenite specimen(s) in a place where people will not be able to touch them. Place them under a glass cover or in a cabinet where they are protected.

Name: Okenite was named after the German naturalist, Lorenz Ocken who lived from 1779 to 1851. It was first discovered in 1828.

Above Left: A number of okenite "balls" around a single white gyrolite ball. From near Bombay, India

Left: Lorenz Ocken

Photo Source: <http://www.fernuni-hagen.de/EUROL/Projekt/biografien/oken.htm>



Read more where I get this great info and publish with permission at:

www.diamonddanpublications.net

ZEOLITE WORD SEARCH

Okenite is usually found associated with a group of minerals called "The Zeolite Minerals." Some mineral collectors specialize in collecting zeolites and the minerals associated with them. Search the word search puzzle for the names of zeolite minerals that specimen collectors like to add to their collections. Zeolites (typically collected by specimen collectors):

Analcime, Chabazite, Heulandite, Harmotome, Phillipsite, Mesolite, Natrolite, Scolecite, Stilbite, Stellerite, Thomsonite. Minerals associated with zeolites (but which are not zeolite minerals):

Prehnite, Apophyllite, Okenite, Gyrolite

E	T	I	L	O	S	E	M	W	E	S	L	E	Y	S
T	H	O	M	S	O	N	I	T	E	F	E	G	P	C
L	I	P	M	I	K	E	E	H	O	L	L	Y	D	O
H	A	R	M	O	T	O	M	E	D	P	P	R	I	L
E	L	E	G	R	I	P	I	A	S	D	H	O	A	E
U	M	H	E	I	C	W	C	M	O	M	I	L	Y	C
L	O	N	T	A	S	H	L	N	T	I	L	I	S	I
A	Q	I	I	H	O	P	A	D	R	Y	L	T	R	T
N	A	T	R	U	N	T	N	B	V	C	I	E	D	E
D	O	E	E	S	R	T	A	B	A	L	P	D	A	D
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D	T	O	T	B	E	E	P	O	O	L	E	W	E	R
E	J	C	S	A	P	O	P	H	Y	L	L	I	T	E

The following four pages are copied from the Diamond Dan publication as a snapshot. You can see the type of info I am able to acquire from this publication for your education and enjoyment.
Ed

Label Maker

4

Every specimen in your collection must have a label. You could create labels, one by one, using basic word-processing software (for example, Microsoft Word™ or Microsoft Publisher™). HOWEVER, there is a new program you can use to create personalized, professional-looking labels for your own collection. This program will even let you put your own picture (of a favorite specimen or even of yourself!) on the label.

You will not be able to download the program to your own computer. You will have to be online to use it. You will also use a feature on your computer called "Notepad."

Go to the Mineral Movies website, www.MineralMovies.com. Click the link at the top of the page "Label Maker." There are detailed instructions for you to make your own labels and to use your own picture. You won't be able to use a different picture for each label (unless you want to create and then print one label at a time which would be a lot of extra work). But you can use a picture that is uniquely yours.

The first thing you have to do is get all your information together. Prepare a list of all your mineral specimens, the catalog number for each, and where the specimen was found. Follow the directions in the box on the Label Maker page. In the Notepad program, you will type your information in the following format:

catalog number : description : locality : collection_name :

For example, say your first specimen (specimen #1) is a Quartz crystal from Arkansas. You would type the following in Notepad.

1: Quartz: Arkansas: Your Name Collection

Hit "enter" and type the information for the next specimen. Repeat this process until you have entered the information for your entire collection, OR do as much as you like and come back later to do the rest.

Save the file you have created in Notepad.

Copy the entire file (ctrl. A and then ctrl. C) into the box on the Label Maker page (to paste it in the box, hit ctrl. V). Now all you have to do is click the type of label you want, either the large or small (thumbnail) label style.

Do you want to use your own picture? Follow the directions on the bottom of the Label Maker page. We admit, there are a lot of instructions and you will actually be doing a little programming to make this work for you. If you need an adult to help, ask for help! But it works and it is worth it.



Many thanks to Mr. Jeff Fast of the mineral company, Mineral Movies. He created this label making program for use in his business and has chosen to make it available for all of us - at no charge! Jeff, we appreciate your generosity.

Jeff travels the world to acquire fine mineral specimens. He invites you to visit his website often to see his new discoveries.

One of the nice features of his website is that when a specimen appears on the screen, it will rotate so that you can see the specimen from all angles. In addition, you will find photos and stories from Jeff's mineral adventures around the world.



mindat.org

Your one-stop source for all the mineral information and mineral photos you will ever need.

The statement at the top of the mindat home page says it all: *Mindat.org is the largest mineral database and mineralogical reference website on the internet. This site contains worldwide data on minerals, mineral collecting, mineral localities and other mineralogical information. . . This site is growing every day, with new mineral information, localities and photographs added by members - whether you are interested in mineral collecting, a student or a professional mineralogist why not join so you can keep the site updated with information on areas you are familiar with.*

Mindat is the invention of Mr. Jolyon Ralph. What began as a complete source for mineral information has grown into a community of collectors, all of whom can contribute to the information kept on mindat.org.

When you visit mindat, **SIGN UP!** On the banner at the top of the page is a link for you to "Register." Once you are registered, you will be able to contribute to the database, join in for mineral discussions, and much more.

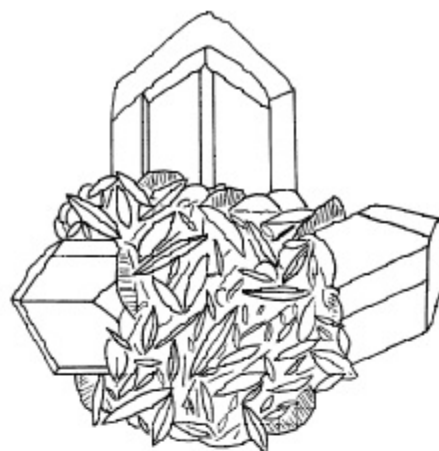
What does mindat have for a Mini Miner?

1. **INFORMATION!!!** You can search for information on minerals by name, based on their chemical formulas, where they are found, by physical properties, and even by association. For example, if you found a specimen with calcite and fluorite and dolomite, you might be able to identify the little red crystal as sphalerite because sphalerite is commonly found with these other minerals.
2. News about minerals, mineral gatherings, mineral shows, and more. These reports always have a lot of information and great pictures.
3. **FREE** mineral books. A large number of important and historic mineral books are available for **FREE** as PDF files that you can download to your computer. The "Free Mineral Books!" link is near the top of the page.
4. Chat rooms where you can talk with other mineral collectors. (Always join chat rooms with your parent's help and guidance.)
5. The largest directory of mineral dealers you will find anywhere.
6. Scientific publications about the newest minerals discovered and described.
7. On the left side of the home page are a number of links. In the list is "Mineral Quiz." Take the quiz and discover how much you know (or think you know) about minerals.
8. The largest photo collection of minerals from all over the world. Professional and amateur collectors and photographers upload their pictures so that mineral collectors all over the world can have access to these great mineral photos.
9. Information on crystal systems and classes.
10. On the message board you will find topics such as "Lost and Stolen Specimens," "Mineral Shows," information on "Collecting Minerals," "Mineral Cleaning," "Mineral Photography," and much, much more.

Well, you get the idea. There is a LOT of mineral information for you . . . right at your fingertips.

Right: Mr. Jolyon Ralph, founder and creator of mindat.org.





Gypsum

Gypsum is a very useful mineral. It is very soft. It can be colorless or very colorful. It is all around you, and you may not even know it! In this activity, you will learn about the mineral called *gypsum* and its uses.

Physical Properties

Cleavage _____	Hardness _____	Specific Gravity _____
Luster _____	Fracture _____	
	Crystal System _____	

Name _____

The name *gypsum* came from the Greek word *gypsos* which means *plaster*. You will find out why later on in this issue!

Gypsum Fun Facts

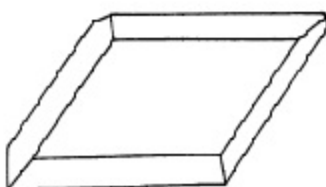
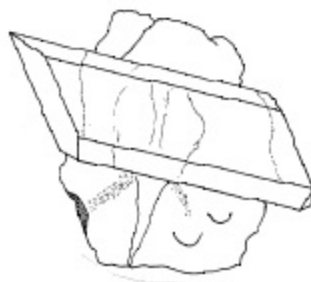
Complete the facts in the left column with those in the right.

Gypsum is used in selenite.
Gypsum has _____ in it.	. . . making walls (wall board).
Clear gypsum is called VERY large.
Gypsum crystals can be water.
When gypsum is heated, it turns to Plaster of Paris
_____ is created when water	
is added to gypsum powder.	. . . powder.

Gypsum is found as a mineral and as a rock. Rock gypsum is a _____ rock where it formed in _____.

Gypsum crystals can be colorless, or any of the following colors:

**Gypsum is mined in 19 states in the United States.
It is mined in more than 90 countries.**



Making Fossils with Gypsum Plaster

In this activity you will need more Plaster of Paris powder, water, a spoon to stir, modeling clay and some hard items like sea shells or little plastic action figures, vegetable spray.

Repeat steps 1 and 2 from the previous page. When your plaster is ready, place it aside for a couple minutes and do the following.

Step 3: Fill the bottom of a small paper cup with modeling clay. There should be 1 to 2 inches of clay in the bottom of the cup.

Step 4: Take one of your items, like a sea shell or a small plastic figurine, and push it into the clay so that it leaves a mark in the form of the object.

Step 5: Carefully remove your hard object. You now have an indentation in the shape of your item. Give a light spray of vegetable spray into the cup. This will make it easier for you to separate the plaster from the clay in Step 9.

Step 6: Pour plaster into the paper cup. You only need to add enough to fill the indentation and cover the top of the clay.

Step 7: Hold the cup with the clay and plaster and firmly tap it on the counter top a number of times. This will push the plaster completely into the indentation and will help force out any air bubbles that might be in the plaster.

Step 8: Put the cup in a safe place on your counter and allow the plaster to completely harden. It is best to wait overnight.

Step 9: When the plaster is completely hard, carefully separate the plaster from the clay. If you need to, you can rip the paper cup to pieces to remove the cup from the clay and plaster inside.

What did you create?

You actually created a fossil! Can you see how your plaster actually looks like the item that was pushed into the clay??!! This is very similar to how many fossils were created in nature.

In ancient seas, sediments settled on the ocean bed. Organisms died and they settled onto the sediment. Their shells left impressions in the sediment. Over time the sediment hardened and the shell dissolved away, but an impression of the shell was left - just like the impression you made in the clay. More sediment filled into the impression - just like your plaster. All of these sediments hardened into stone (a process geologists call "lithification").

The impression left by a shell in sedimentary rock is called a "mold." The sediment that fills in this impression and hardens to look like the original shell is called a "cast." Cast and mold is one manner in which fossils are created.

The impression you made in the clay is the "mold." The plaster created the "cast." You have made a cast and mold fossil in your own home!!

mineral stamps

A brief introduction by Darryl Powell from Diamond Dan Publications

In addition to collecting minerals, many young people enjoy collecting stamps from all over the world. The collector who is interested in minerals and stamps will be very happy to know that there are many colorful and interesting stamps from all over the world that feature minerals, crystals and gems.

Two sets of mineral stamps have been issued in the United States. In 1974 the first diamond-shaped stamps were issued by the United States Postal Service. The set of four featured petrified wood, rhodochrosite, tourmaline on quartz and amethyst. In 1992, a second set of four mineral stamps were issued. This set featured wulfenite, azurite, copper, and variscite.

Mineral stamps are relatively inexpensive. You will be able to find them rather easily from stamp dealers. There are many trustworthy stamp dealers on the internet. There is a very good chance that there is a good stamp and coin dealer within a reasonable driving distance from your home. Below are some black and white pictures of a variety of different mineral stamps from the United States and around the world. How many do you have in your collection?



For more information about mineral stamps, and to see these stamps in color, visit the following website:

<http://stampmin.home.att.net/country.htm>.

You will find even more websites about mineral stamps on Kreigh Tomaszewski's website:

<http://tomaszewski.net/Kreigh/Minerals/MineralLinks.shtml>

PROGRAMS:

A number of other 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.

DVESS General Meeting Future Dates 2009, July 8, Aug. 12; Sept. 9, Oct. 14; Nov. 11, Dec. 9

NOTE NEW DATES NOW INCLUDED, FOR JULY AND AUGUST

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FIELD TRIPS: Sterling Hill tour for DVESS will take place in September 2009.

EVENTS: The potluck dinner is cancelled for this year because of date scheduling conflicts.

The banquet at Vitarelli's on October 18, 2009. Gary had previously suggested a DVD presentation on Rhodochrosite (A perfect use of the new Dell machine).

NOW 16 thru Sept. 20, 2009 Franklin Institute (now known as The Franklin) in the Mandell Center. Step into the realm of *Star Trek* and be part of the legacy that has captured the imagination of generations! This unprecedented exhibition features the world's most comprehensive collection of authentic *Star Trek* ships, sets, costumes and props from all five series and ten films over the last 40 years and includes over 200 authentic objects, a full-motion flight simulator AND the spaceship bridge from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*!

NOW thru Sept. 7, 2009 Reserve your tickets today for a look at this exclusive exhibit, created specifically for The Franklin about "The Father of Modern Science!". The Franklin is proud to have been selected as the only host of *Galileo, the Medici and the Age of Astronomy*, presented by Officine Panerai. Created through The Franklin's exclusive partnership with the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza in Florence, the exhibit showcases Galileo's accomplishments, his relationship to the ruling Medici family, his discoveries and his overall impact on astronomy, physics and math. This is the first time one of the only two remaining Galileo telescopes has left Italy! Also exhibited are other instruments belonging to Galileo, as well as paintings, prints and manuscripts from the priceless Medici collection. Together, the collections will showcase how the union of science, art and political power gave rise to Galileo's success.

New Jersey State Museum Sunday Science Lecture Series

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. Junior Rockhounds meet at 7:30pm with the regular meeting beginning around 8 pm.

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@gmail.com
1 st Vice President Gerald Feigin gfeigin@co.gloucester.nj.us	2 nd Vice President Richard Murray bearich@snip.net
Jr. Rockhound Coordinator Mel LeCompte 856-783-0969 works-in-faith@comcast.net	Recording Secretary Grant Elliott 856-728-1731 gle@verizon.net
Website Coordinator Terry Wilson 609-714-1309 terry@dvess.org	Special Events Coordinator Ann Lynne Benson 856-783-0969 SeleniteQueen@gmail.com
Treasurer, Program Chair, Membership Chair Gary Weinstein 856-234-0708 - home 856-795-5077 - work garyskyrock@hotmail.com	DVESS Newsletter Editor Carol De Cuzzi 856-428-0621 - home decuzzic@comcast.net or DVESS@int-pro.com

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



Dear Folks, This is a follow-up email from Darryl Pitt. Disgusting response from the "lead scientist". Does he still have a position with Rutgers? Academia gone wild - - -
an e-mail from Grant

----- Original Message ----- From: "Darryl Pitt" <darryl@dof3.com> To: "Meteorites USA" <eric@meteoritesusa.com> Cc: <meteorite-list@meteoritecentral.com> Sent: Friday, May 08, 2009 11:53 AM Subject: Re: [meteorite-list] Anyone remember this?

Yes, there was a steel mill nearby and a wood-chipper component to this story. Mike Fowler of this list who is expert in such matters brought this notion to light.

I might also mention that Eric Twelker had expressed his doubts to the same New York Times reporter with whom I had spoken, and he reached out to the lead scientist and warned the object wasn't a meteorite, to which the scientist at Rutgers tersely responded, "Get your facts straight."
Indeed.

As Mike had pointed out, the guys operating the hypothetical chipper wouldn't be inclined to come forward. Rutgers also had no interest in determining the true origin of the object or just how earthly it was. Obviously at the outset a meteorwrong but somehow required months to establish after a team of scientists from Rutgers declared it was a meteorite.

Darryl Pitt (Macovich) wrote:

"It's just a rock," stated an incredulous Robert Siegel about meteorites. Well, so are diamonds, Mr. Siegel. It's relevant to note that thousands of dedicated scientists throughout the world study meteorites for the clues as to the formation of the solar system – and more – none of whom consider meteorites to be "just rocks." Moreover, while there have been no documented human fatalities resulting from a meteorite, there have been several individuals struck by meteorites.

Correction: In this interview, David Herskowitz said, "Out of all of history, there have been no meteorite-persons collisions. In other words, not one meteorite has hit any human being on this planet." This is not correct. In 1954, a meteorite came through the roof of a house in Sylacauga, Ala., and struck Ann Elizabeth Hodges on the hand and hip.

Recently there's been more interest in the Tunguska event. More scientists are trying to explain it, and some are even looking at a lake near the blasts epicenter believing that this is the missing crater. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6239334.stm>

Photo of Lake Cheko:

http://a52.g.akamaitech.net/f/52/827/1d/www.space.com/images/070626_lake_cheko_02.jpg

A witness in Vanovara (36 Miles SE of the epicenter) said in O. Richard Norton's "Rocks From Space"

"The crash was followed by noise like stones falling from the sky, or guns firing." and "when I lay on the ground I covered my head because I was afraid that stones might hit it." We all know too well that witness reports aren't ideal information but useful anyway. But, how would this person know to say that there was a "noise like stones falling" unless that were the case? Or did the witnesses report become tainted after countless interviews? How many times was this witness interviewed? I know people have searched for meteorites under and around the epicenter area. But what if this was a tony meteoroid, and the explosion blasted meteorite pieces 30-50 miles away. The devastation this explosion caused is evidence that it was one hell of a blast and was on par with a nuclear explosion.

YouTube Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiXpp-i442s>

Donald Yoemans (JPL) states in the History Channel video that this blast was 15 megatons of equivalent energy "roughly 1000 times that of the Hiroshima blast."

VERY COOL ARTIST RENDERING: <http://svideo.us/misha/image/tunguska2.jpg>

Photos of Devastation:

<http://astro.wsu.edu/worthey/astro/html/im-meteor/tunguska-photo.jpg>

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ad/Tunguska.png>

<http://www.wilsonsalmannac.com/images1/tunguska3.jpg>

http://www.world-mysteries.com/sci_tu3.gif

Artist Rendering: <http://aura.gaia.com/photos/34/338910/large/tunguska-1.jpg>

Area Map: http://www.world-mysteries.com/sci_tunguska1.gif

Blast Damage Area: http://www.world-mysteries.com/sci_tu2.gif

When you factor in all this information, how come people aren't looking 30-40 miles away for debris from this blast. If it was as powerful as they say (as evidenced by the downed trees and other devastation) wouldn't it make perfect sense that area around the blast would be completely void of meteorites as is the case?

Having said that, wouldn't it be prudent to look further away from the blasts epicenter for fragments? How far will a blast such as that throw debris? If a Navy destroyer can launch a huge shell a hundred miles using a few pounds of gunpowder, how far can a meteoroid blast such as this launch stone fragments? Bomb squad techs and investigators will be the first to tell you that there's always something left over from a blast no matter how powerful. Pieces get thrown sometimes miles from the epicenter of powerful blast. In the case of Tunguska this blast was nuclear powerful! Yes a lot of the mass would have been melted and disintegrated but, how likely is it really that the blast would make ALL trace of the meteoroid disappear? Could there be meteorite pieces within a 30-50 mile ring around the epicenter?

-- Regards, Eric Wichman Meteorites USA <http://www.meteoritesusa.com>
904-236-5394

Why Are Meteorites So Expensive?

All Things Considered, May 12, 2009 · Some pricey chunks of space rock are among the objects for sale at a Dallas auction house this weekend.

The Garza Stone, a 5-pound piece of a meteorite that famously crashed through the roof of a house in Park Forest, Ill., in 2003, is expected to fetch more than \$55,000.

"Meteorites are more than just rocks," says David Herskowitz, director of the natural history section at Heritage Auctions. "They hold the key to life on this planet."

What would a visit to Athens be without going to the Acropolis to see the Parthenon? And still people ask why the Partheon is so important. Its because it was the most perfect building built by the world's most advanced civilization and even though we have been studying it for centuries we are still not sure how they managed to accomplish the feat.

Acropolis from the bus stop.



Partheon from another bus stop.



Ephesus temple Kusadasi -Ephesus Turkey

Ephesus is considered one of the great outdoor museums of Turkey, in fact perhaps of the world. It is located on the south of Izmir's Selcuk county. The links of Ephesus with the Amazons and the myths had survived throughout history. The town of Apasas under the rule of Ahhiyava Kingdom mentioned in the written records of the Hittites of the 14th and 13th centuries B.C. is Ephesus.



mosaic floors from 12th and 14th BC that still survive inside the ruins of these ancient multi-storied buldings

an example of



The volcano as it is now.

It is *asleep*, not dead. It's an active volcano that erupted in 1956 and may do so again one day though perhaps not in our lifetime. Proof of the life that still exists within this giant hole filled with water is the island of Nea Kamini in the center of the bay which emerged in 1707. Next to it in the older island of Palia Kamini you can take hot mud baths, usually an indication of something brewing beneath the surface. You can reach these two islands by excursion boats. Across the bay is the island of Thirasia which is actually the other rim of the volcano and was once part of the same island.



If you have never been to Santorini the only way it can be described is by road, is to imagine a slinky toy stretched up a thousand foot cliff. A most frightening ride to the top of the crater that was the first time I saw the volcano. I had no idea there could be anything so spectacular. It was mind boggling and all I could do was stare at this enormous crater filled with water, part of the Ionian Sea. We were so high that the cruise ships anchored below Thira looked like models and the wind on the water looked like calligraphy.

Santorini is like three islands. One side is the caldera with the villages of Thira, Imerovigli, Firastefani and Oia perched so far above the sea that it may as well be a painting. This is the commercial part of Santorini.



There are the ruins of Akrotiri which some claim is evidence that the people that once populated the island may or may not have been the civilization of Atlantis. The first trace of the city was discovered by French archeologists after an eruption of the volcano in 1866. Professor Spyridon Marinatos later unearthed the rest of the city which was preserved by volcanic ash. Marinatos was killed by a fall on the site and he is buried among the stones to which he had devoted his life. Since the ruins are mostly of mud brick the site is covered to shelter it from the elements.

Temple by Alexander the Great



Hermes 340-330 BC found during excavation in 1877 at the temple of Hera



City walls of Dubrovnik Croatia

From the cruise ship.



From the scary bus ride into town.



Mt. Etna from the cruise ship.

Mt. Etna is located on Sicily, the island being kicked by the toe of the boot of Italy. Mt. Etna is Europe's most active volcano and is visible from all over the eastern part of the island. we spent an afternoon walking around Mt. Etna. Through the centuries, and when they say centuries, they mean going back long before the birth of Jesus, Mt. Etna has dominated life in Sicily. Eruptions from the volcano have buried cities and damaged towns that still bear the scars. It is surprising as you tour the island how often you will be reminded of the power of the mountain. And yet, her fertile soil has produces food for one of the poorest areas of Italy.



Inside the crater you are allowed to walk around on the tour.

Stromboli from the cruise, we weren't allowed to land.



Stromboli Sicilian: is a small island in the Tyrrhenian Sea, off the north coast of Sicily, containing one of the three active volcanoes in Italy. It is one of the eight Aeolian Islands, a volcanic arc north of Sicily. This name is a corruption of the Ancient Greek name *Strongule* which was given to it because of its round swelling form. The island has a population of between 400 and 750. As soon as they could they settled here, it was new free and free from taxes land until Italy begins taxes soon.. The volcano has erupted many times, and is constantly active with minor eruptions, often visible from many points on the island and from the surrounding sea. The last major eruption was in August 2, 2008 Stromboli stands 924 m (3,031 ft) above sea level, but actually rises over 2,000 m (6,500 ft) above the sea floor. There are three active craters at the peak. A significant geological feature of the volcano is the **Sciara del Fuoco** ("Stream of fire"), a big horseshoe-shaped depression generated in the last 13,000 years by several collapses on the north western side of the **cone**.

Some photos from our trip April 2009