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DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter



January 13, 2010

Program: Arkansas Diamonds



President's Message- January 2010 by Grant Elliott

Welcome all to a new decade, which actually starts next year, if one is a stickler in these matters.

I want you to accept my presidency of this wonderful organization. I was last President of DVESS in 2002 and 2003. My feelings regarding reelection are reflected in an old political ditty from the 1950's, which has been previously vocalized to a few members in jest:

- Roosevelt proved a person can be President more than once
- Truman proved anyone can become President and
- Eisenhower proved we don't need a President

I don't know where I fit in the above, but I suspect very strongly that all three categories apply.

Please support our officers and vital support staff in this new year:

Lou Detofsky- 1st VP, Jonathan Feigin- 2nd VP, Richard Murray- Recording Secretary (Backup Recording Secretary is Val Korszniak), Gary Weinstein- Treasurer/Programs (New to the job?), Terry Wilson- Website Coordinator, Carol DeCuzzi- Newsletter Editor/Membership Chairman, Mel LeCompte- Jr Rockhound Coordinator (And tireless worker).

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Hopefully Gerald Feigin will continue as our Field Trip Chairman, and I want our esteemed past Madam President, Ann Lynne Benson, to continue assisting in coordinating special events and reaching out to outside entities. Her support will be invaluable in many different ways. We all want DVESS to grow and prosper.

I do hope I have not left anyone out. In a sense, We are all in the same boat - Every single person needs to row together in unison.

Remember that annual membership dues need to be paid if you have not remitted as of yet. As stated in the beginning, welcome folks, to a new decade of adventure, learning, and exploration.

I feel inadequate to the task and need you all.

FIELD TRIPS - IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERATION INSURANCE REGULATIONS, THE FOLLOWING FIELD TRIPS ARE ANNOUNCED:

We will be traveling by **car pool or caravan** from Gary's store unless otherwise noted:

Saturday Jan. 30 - Rutgers Geology Museum Open House and Mineral Sale - 8 am

PLEASE CALL ANN OR GARY TO CONFIRM

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Each and every one of you is important in helping keep the lines of communication, education, and involvement alive, not only our club, but in the Federation as well. One place this teamwork can be seen is in the preparation for the Sterling DIGG, coming up in, April 2010. Many people have taken on tasks which together will make it possible for you to enjoy a collecting experience rockhounds in other parts of the globe can only dream of - night collecting in the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World. See www.uvworld.org for more information.

Being stuck indoors while it's raining or snowing is a great time to write an article for your newsletter. Your fellow club members, as well as your editor, will greatly appreciate your efforts. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate: your take on a field trip, a get-acquainted blurb about a new (or old) member, some thoughts on a mineral or fossil that you found while on vacation, or on research you've done on the internet.

Now is the time to think about the Spring sessions at Wildacres. More information can be found on the EFMLS website <www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>.

Get involved, get active. Invite a friend to a meeting. Attend one of the upcoming shows. You'll get more out of life when you LIVE IT!!

Minutes of Dec Meeting: The meeting was concluded by Lou recanting his recent adventures in Hawaii. He apparently had a religious awakening by coming face to face with a live volcano. The inspiration was thus that he went all Lord Byron on us and read a two page tome that he penned on the precipice of that fiery hell of Earth's creation.

Mark your calendar for Philadelphia Mineral Treasures And Fossil Fair's 30th Annual Show and Sale sponsored by the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society and the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society. Check the DVPS website for more info.

Again this year – they will have several speakers talk about paleontology, geology and minerals. Dr. Ted Daeschler, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at The Academy of Natural Sciences will speak on The Nunavut Paleontology Expeditions: Late Devonian Fossils from the Canadian Arctic. For more information on Dr. Daeschler's research, you can go on the web to

http://clade.ansp.org/vert_zoology/people/daeschler/.

Dr. Lauck Ward, Curator Emeritus of the Virginia Museum of Natural History will speak about the Plain. The Show will be held at the Shriners LuLu Temple 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 For more information on the Show, please go to the DVPS website at <http://dvps.essentrix.net>

MEMBERSHIP Thank you to all of those who already renewed your membership for 2010 – 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. It can be copied and emailed to me at either of the e-mail addresses in the info box Thank you. CDC. Editor, DVESScapades

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Jersey State Museum Sunday Science Lecture Series

Sunday Science Lecture Series The New Jersey State Museum is excited to offer the third season of the Sunday Science Lecture Series, sponsored by the Friends of the New Jersey State Museum. Scholarly, yet family-friendly lectures will be presented in the Museum's Auditorium by some of the world's most distinguished and prominent researchers in the natural sciences, including wildlife and ecology, paleontology, paleo artistry, archaeology, paleoanthropology, space science, and global climate change. The Lecture Series is free and open to the public. The experience isn't over when the presenter is finished: following each lecture, guests will have the opportunity to ask questions, share their own experiences and ideas, and meet the featured lecturer. Bring your own specimens for the Museum's professional paleontologists and archaeologists to identify! Each lecture begins at 4 pm. Parking is free. For more information, please call (609) 292-6740 weekdays from 8:30 to 3:30. Reservations are suggested.

Paleo-Illustrations - March 14, 2010 4pm; (60 min); General Audience; Auditorium; Free

New Jersey native Larry Felder is one of the world's leading paleo artists, with much of his work featured in museums and books. He will be discussing the subjects of his art, as well as sharing many of his newest pieces.

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

UPCOMING SHOWS

- February: 20-21: 7th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale co-sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and the NY State Academy of Mineralogy. Museum of the Empire Plaza, 4th Floor, Albany, NY.
- March: 6 – 7: Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 60th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical College, Rts 58 & 7, Stanton, DE. *EFMLS Annual Meeting Friday, March 5.*
- Mar 19-20: 40th Annual Unifour Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC.
- Mar 26-28: 37th Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference hosted by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. Registration &

Info: S. Weinberger, <cscrystals2@verizon.net>.

- Mar 27-28: 38th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Island Rockhounds. Holy Family School, 25 Fordam Av; Hicksville, NY.
- Mar 27-28: 41st Annual Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, Sayre, PA
- April 10-11: 41st Annual New York Southern Tier Geology Club Show sponsored by the Southern Tier Geology Club. Johnson City Senior Citizen Center, Johnson City, NY

DVESS MEETING LOCATION: Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin, 856-767-3881 or 856-767-7453

DIRECTIONS:

From Atco (west-bound), after the traffic light at Taunton Ave. (Rite Aid drugstore on the left), the church is about the 3rd building on the right; turn into the first driveway. If you miss it, pass by the church and turn Right onto Broad St. (at the Berlin Diner) then turn Right into the parking lot of the Baptist Church and go straight all the way - the parking lots of both churches connect.

From Rt. 73 in Marlton: head East (South) on Rt. 73. As you enter Berlin, you will pass Wal-Mart (on the left) and a shopping center (on the right) with Shop Rite and Staples. **Get into the Right "Exit Only" lane and follow the signs for Cross Keys Rd. At the intersection of Cross Keys Rd. and the White Horse Pike (Rt. 30) turn LEFT. At the next intersection (Broad St.) continue straight past the Berlin Diner and SPEEDY MART on your left; pass by 2 or 3 white storefronts on the left then see the big white church with red front doors on your left. Pass in front of the church and turn into the driveway on the far side. Education Building is behind the church.**

From Lindenwold or Clementon on the White Horse Pike (east-bound):

As you enter Berlin business district, you will pass through the traffic light at Cross Keys Rd. (CVS Pharmacy on right corner). Follow highlighted directions above.

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 in the box 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

Come visit DVPS the 4th Thursday of the month at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, PA



A prehistoric beast in Harrisburg? By Amy Worden Inquirer Harrisburg Bureau

HARRISBURG - For nearly 12,000 years, the giant beast lay buried under a peat bog in the Poconos, until a dredging machine accidentally hooked its massive skull in 1968.

Workers quickly abandoned their peat-mining expedition and started collecting bones, gathering about 90 percent of its skeleton, the most nearly intact mastodon ever found in Pennsylvania.

The Marshalls Creek Mastodon - named for the tiny community near East Stroudsburg where it was found - has been part of the State Museum of Pennsylvania's collection since, but the public has never seen it in its entirety.

That could change this month.

After a year long, \$350,000 restoration, the museum plans to include the complete skeleton in "Tusks! Ice Age Mammoths and Mastodons." The exhibit is scheduled to open Jan. 24, but it could be jeopardized - and the museum closed - by a new round of state budget cuts.

Visitors would get the full effect of the mastodon - 11 feet tall, 2,000 pounds, and set, as museum director Jack Leighow put it, "like a jewel" in a delicate armature. Viewed from the front, it appears to be trotting forward.

Excavated from the peat swamp that had encased it for millennia, the mastodon was taken to the museum and encased again, this time in a fiberglass cave. The museum did not have the space to mount the full skeleton, so workers set the partial left side in the exhibit case. The other half was boxed and stashed away. "I thought it was such a pity we didn't have room for it,"

said Robert Sullivan, the museum's senior curator for paleontology. "About three years ago, I thought we should redo the area and remount the mastodon."

Museum staff consulted with mastodon experts to get the pose just right, as if the giant herbivore were sauntering through the woodlands looking for its next meal. Exhibit designers used an innovation by cantilevering the massive skull, which eliminated the need for an additional pole support and gave it a more lifelike appearance.

Mastodons - large, tusked mammals closely related to elephants - roamed North America at the end of the most recent ice age, and are believed to have become extinct around the time of the rise of human habitation.

It's not unusual to find their skeletal remains in the West, and bones have been found in New York state and Western Pennsylvania. This skeleton was unusual because it was plucked nearly intact from the bog where the animal died, Sullivan said.

Because the tusks were missing, the exhibition designers cast a new set from another mastodon and replaced a few missing teeth. They also had to patch holes left by earlier, more invasive, pin-setting exhibit techniques.

After that half of the fragile jigsaw puzzle was pieced together, much of the work involved digging the rest of the skeleton out of the fiberglass cave in which it had been inaccurately set. Fiberglass was the wonder material of its day, but now is considered potentially damaging to historic artifacts.

"We have better materials now," said Ken Marshall, deputy director of museum operations for Phil Fraley Productions, a New Jersey exhibit-fabrication company that has a studio in Pittsburgh. "Half the job was getting the skeletal material out

of the fiberglass mount."

The State Museum is mounting the mammoth exhibit with ever more minuscule funding. It is one of 25 sites operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and budget and staffing cuts this year forced it to reduce hours and charge admission for the first time.

The museum's future remains in question. Shortly before

Christmas, Gov. Rendell said he might have to close it - and lay off 1,000 government workers - if the General Assembly fails to approve table-games legislation to provide funding by Friday. For now, museum workers are keeping their focus on the positive: the Jan. 24 scheduled exhibit opening.

Said Barbara Franco, director of the museum commission, while admiring the towering figure last week: "We hope it will be an icon for Pennsylvania."

January 2010 Puzzle

by

Ed Loveland

Puzzle maker to the DVESScapades for many great years, and well appreciated.

THANKS ED, hope for many more!!!

With apologies to all, there is no puzzle again, my fault! When I fell Oct 24th, put my shoulder out I actually splayed the right rotator cuff, tore ligaments, tendons and muscles. On Nov 27th I was operated on, they pegged back the tendons/ligaments but trimmed off the muscle. Extremely painful ! I had a skeleton newsletter done for Dec & Jan before all this happened. We went on vacation to Fiji, New Zealand & Australia because the doctor said I could not move the arm and if I was careful we should not give up the trip we had saved for 10 years.

So here is Jan, better than nothing. I will start, 15 - 20 min per day with one arm, hopefully I can catch up puzzles etc.

Carol, ed

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 Grant Elliott 856-728-1731 gle@verizon.net
1 st Vice President Louis Detofsky	2 nd Vice President Jonathan Feigin
Jr. Rockhound Coordinator Mel LeCompte 856-783-0969 works-in-faith@comcast.net	Recording Secretary Richard Murray bearich@snip.net
Website Coordinator Terry Wilson 609-714-1309 terry@dvees.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

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) _____

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

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? _____

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

