

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Newsletter February, 2007

February 13 Program : Eastern Federation program, Illinois Fluorite – Remembering the Past by Dean Stone. This was 2003 AFMS 1st place winner, an overview of Illinois mining of the past, along with a tour through two museums as well.

President's Message - by AnnLynne Benson

Winter is off to a good start, and so is **DVESScapades**. I met with our new editor, Carol DeCuzzi, to discuss our mutual plans for the newsletter; it was an exciting and productive meeting and she is a welcome addition to the DVESS Team.

The **DVESSentials** (essential members of the Executive Board) met at Grant Elliott's home to conduct routine business of the club and to discuss the Publicity Initiative. We are asking all of you to send in contact information for your local newspapers and schools.

It's sad to be (or to feel that you are) on the outside looking in. Thankfully, DVESS is open and welcoming to all - no age or gender restrictions, no cliques. Everyone's suggestions are valuable, all members are invited to attend Executive Board meetings. Whenever and wherever we get together, there's a seat waiting for **you**!

Many of us have come into this hobby through a parent; mine took me to the Franklin Institute and Academy of Natural Science in Philadelphia on a regular basis. My father took me, and two of my sisters, on vacation every year; we saw the grandeur of the Grand Canyon, the soaring Rockies and Tetons, thousands of dinosaur bones in Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, and just about every national park west of the Mississippi. These sights and experiences embedded in me a passion for minerals, fossils and geology.

Our club has a family also: our "parent" organization is the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, EFMLS; our "grandparent" organization is the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, AFMS.

AFMS would like to see **birthstones** on a US Postal Stamp; for more information see <http://www.amfed.org/2007BirthstoneStampPromotionFlier.pdf>. Here are the birthstones and the states where many of them are found:

January	Garnet	Maine, New York, PA, NC, Idaho, Ga, Mt, Ca	June	Pearl	Tn, Ar, Al, La
			July	Ruby	NC and Mt
			August	Peridot	Arizona
February	Amethyst	Az, Co, Ga, Na	Sept.	Sapphire	Montana
March	Aquamarine	Co, Ca, Idaho	Oct.	Opal	Nevada and Idaho
April	Diamond	AK and Co	Nov.	Topaz	Ca, NH, Co, TX, UT
May	Emerald	North Carolina			

Don Monroe, the AFMS Safety Chair, has a great article in the February AFMS Newsletter on *Footwear and Foot Care* for Rockhounds (http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_02.pdf).

No matter where **you** fit in, we're glad you've chosen to be a member of the DVESS family.

AMAZING AQUARIUM - - by © Ann Lynne Benson, 2008

What's less than the thickness of your pinkie finger, purple, has a gaping yellow mouth and a yellow crest? I don't know either, but Dan Rizzi has one in his 150 gal. aquarium located in, of all places, Carollo's Pizza and Family Restaurant in Mt. Ephraim at the intersection of Kings Highway and the Black Horse Pike (Rt. 168).

Dan installed the combination reef/fish aquarium in September 2007, and what an aquarium it is! The crystal clear salt water tank is home to bubble coral, purple finger anemones and feather duster tube worms. Purple Indonesian clams dot the hard coral and a gently pulsating blue reef clam is center stage in this 5' wide by 36" high tank. Joel Stemetski, an adept aquarist, helps Dan maintain the tank; both men share a passion for the beauty of these delicate sea creatures.

Seemingly dozens of red arms wave from pristine white shells of flame scallops. The lion fish dramatically drifts past an orange and white clown fish hiding in the waving tentacles of a white anemone. What appears to be a bouquet of brown-eyed susans is a sun polyp coral; a blue anemone is the neighbor of a coral that looks like a mushroom with fluorescent green stripes.

A lobster claims the shadows under a bright coral that owes its color to the symbiotic algae living within it; a moray eel takes cover under a Toadstool Mushroom Leather coral. The most common leathers are Sarcophyton; they generally have a thick stalk with a leathery top which changes appearance remarkably from fuzzy (when the polyps are all extended) to smooth (when retracted). Leathers and other soft corals, extremely varied in shape, form and color, are the perfect visual contrast to the hard corals.

A small child exclaims, "Look Mom!" and tugs excitedly toward the tank. It's obvious that people come to Carollo's for more than pizza. Adults and kids alike crowd in front of the counter, some placing orders, others gazing mesmerized at angel fish drifting past large bat fish. A fox-face rabbit fish and a yellow tang play hide and seek behind pulsing Xenia coral and around a beautiful branching frogspawn coral.

Suddenly a bright ribbon of blue and yellow erupts from a coral cave and ripples across the tank, majestically undulating like a banner in a blustery breeze. Yellow mouth gaping, the stunning streamer completes its circuit of the tank and returns to its niche near a golden polyp rock. Amazed, I ask Dan, "What **was** that?" Smiling, he replies, "A Blue Ribbon Eel." An apt name, as the eel and the aquarium are certainly first prize winners.

A CHANCE TO VOLUNTEER The New Jersey State Museum in Trenton will hold its annual Super Science Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, May 17th & 18th from 11am to 4pm each day. If you are interested in participating for/with the DVESS we need to know by Feb 18th. Please contact our President AnnLynne Benson at SeleniteQueen@comcast.net Or 856-783-0969 with your creative ideas. This would be a good place to make others aware of our club. Please consider helping, it is a good educational opportunity for all.

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE??

adapted from the February 2008 issue of
the AFMS newsletter by AnnLynne
Benson

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (Senate version S320 and House version HR554) is still hanging over our heads. This proposed law is based on the premise that “all vertebrate fossils are rare”. **SUCH IS NOT THE CASE.** Vertebrate fossils are found in abundance all over the world. The United States alone has billions of shark’s teeth and Dr. Charles Love, a noted Paleontologist, estimated that in just a one-half mile area of the Green River Formation in southern Wyoming, there are enough fossil fish specimens to provide two for each man, woman, and child who live on this earth. Even the coveted dinosaur fossils are really not that rare and more are constantly being discovered. Nearly all museums have dinosaur fossils and many have prize specimens for which they have made no attempt to prepare for display.

If this proposed legislation is passed and enacted in it’s present form, a mechanism is going to be in place that could ultimately be used to restrict our access to public lands not only for hunting fossils, but, for almost any other kind of activity. The most desirable collecting locales will be placed “**off limits**” except for the select few. Under Section 10 of this bill any sites that contain paleontological resources will be “kept secret ” (since the proposed legislation doesn’t provide for any type of public oversight, it makes you wonder what other discoveries might also be kept secret.) This seemingly needless legislation has the power to cheat the American public out of their rightful heritage and limit freedom of access to public lands which we own and support.

Sections 7 and 8 of the proposed bill establishes some pretty tough penalties. Pick up one of the billions of shark’s teeth on federal lands and you could go to jail, pay a hefty fine, loose your vehicle and anything else you have with you. **There are no requirements for the enforcement official that issues a citation to be an expert in paleontology or even be familiar with different kinds of rocks.** The burden of proof is going to be on you, which means attorney’s fees, other related cost, and the possibility of having your vehicle impounded for a prolonged period.

Another special added proviso contained in the bill is the “grandfather clause” in Section 7(d), which exempts owners of vertebrate fossils from penalty if the fossils were lawfully obtained prior to the date the proposed legislation is enacted. The catch is, are you sure you have absolute proof that you acquired yours legally? Owning fossils of any kind, particularly vertebrate fossils, may in the future put us at odds with the law.

Fossils are a substantial part of the businesses associated with our hobby. If this law is enacted, many rock shops around the country may have to go out of business. Think about the dealers at your gem and mineral shows - while exclusive fossil dealers are few, most dealers offer some fossils for sale. A lot of the exhibits at our shows are fossils. If enacted, this bill is going to have a huge impact on our hobby.

Who wins if this proposed legislation is passed? Not the general public. Not collectors and hobbyists. What are we going to do about it? What are **you** going to do? Write letters to our congressional representatives or sit back and do nothing? If we do nothing, when the hammer falls so to speak, we will have no justification or reason to cry about, because it will be our own fault. Think about it!

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM Sunday Science Lecture Series

The New Jersey State Museum is excited to offer the inaugural season of the Sunday Science Lecture Series, sponsored in part 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 fields of paleontology, paleo-artistry, and archaeology.

Arrive early to tour the Fossil Mysteries exhibit in the Auditorium galleries and meet the Museum's paleontologists. Following each lecture, guests will have the opportunity to ask questions, share their own experiences and ideas, and meet the featured lecturer while enjoying light refreshments.

February 10: Dr. Ted Daeschler Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia "Fossil Exploration in the Devonian of Pennsylvania and the Canadian Arctic: Ancient Fishes and the Earliest Limbed Vertebrates"

March 9: Dr. Richard Veit Professor of Anthropology, Monmouth University "Digging New Jersey's Past: An Archaeological View of Historic New Jersey."

Space is limited. Reserve your seats early! WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Free Admission Free Parking Museum Auditorium Doors open at 4pm. Each lecture begins at 5pm. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, or to make reservations, please call (609) 292-6740.

Saturday, March 1, 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday March 2, 11 am - 5 pm

Delaware Mineralogical Society Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show at Delaware Technical & Community College, 400 Stanton / Christiana Rd, Newark, Delaware 19713

<http://www.delminsociety.net/marchshow.htm>

Saturday and Sunday, March 8th & 9th, 10 am - 5 pm Clifton Gem and Mineral Show, Clifton, NJ

Saturday, March 29th and Sunday, March 30th The Delaware Valley Paleontological Society along with the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society present the 2008 Fossil Fair and Mineral Show at the Lulu Temple in Plymouth Meeting, PA. There will be many exhibits to see, fossils and minerals to buy, and a children's "sandbox" with lots of fossil for kids to find and take home. Don't miss the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society's Sales Table with many fossils and related articles to buy.

Saturday, April 26, 9 am - 4:30 pm and Sunday, April 27, 10 am - 5 pm

36th Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem and Mineral Show, Franklin School, 50 Washington Ave., Franklin, NJ

2008 National Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, Convention Sept 24-28, 2008 Show Sept 26-28, 2008, Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, TX 77338
Contacts: (281) 446-4140 <http://www.amfed.org>

UPCOMING DVESS MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2008 - METEORITES with Bob Summerfield

WEDNESDAY, April 9, 2008 - TBA

WEDNESDAY, May 5, 2008 - TBA

WEDNESDAY, June 6, 2008 - TBA

No meetings July and August

DIG THIS! _____ from DVPS
Newsletter V 31 I 5

Self-taught Tracker Finds Dino Prints in
D.C. Suburbs By Sarah Karush 01/09/08

Ray Stanford pulls into the lot of a fast-food restaurant on a suburban commercial strip and parks at the back. Wearing high rubber boots and carrying a backpack, he makes his way through the brush and down to a stream bank littered with wrappers and cups. He's come to track dinosaurs. Stanford, a 69-year-old Texan, has been combing Maryland stream beds for evidence of dinosaurs for the past 13 years.

The result is an unprecedented collection of footprints that were left behind 112 million years ago — found in an area where none had been reported before. Stanford is about the furthest thing possible from a conventional scientist, and his lack of formal training — he has a high school diploma — is just the start.

His first passion, one he still pursues, is UFOs; “anomalous aerial objects” is the term he prefers. Dinosaur tracking was just something he happened on. As it turned out, he has a knack for it. Stanford has found hundreds of tracks in the suburbs of Washington and Baltimore. They reveal an extraordinary diversity of animals living in one place during the early Cretaceous period — about twice the

variety previously seen from that geological period. And he has found the fossilized remains of what he and a Johns Hopkins University paleontologist believe is a previously unknown species, a discovery he lovingly refers to as “Cretaceous roadkill.”

“I just find things. I don't know why,” Stanford says. The discoveries have earned Stanford the respect of the scientific establishment, despite his unusual background. He has collaborated with Ph.D.-holders on papers and is working with the Smithsonian Institution to find a permanent home there for his collection. Matthew T. Carrano, curator of dinosaurs at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, is used to getting calls from people who believe they've found dinosaur footprints or eggs. More often than not, they're mistaken.

Stanford was different. “He didn't show me anything that I didn't think was a footprint,” Carrano says. Stanford made his first dinosaur discovery in 1994, while looking for Indian artifacts with his then-teenage children. Having read a bit about dinosaurs, he spotted something that looked remarkably like a track. A few weeks later, he saw something similar. At first he assumed they were just random patterns that looked like tracks. But he kept thinking about them. “Ray, how hardheaded can you be?” he recalls

thinking one day as he sat in his easy chair. "Those are iguanodon tracks!" David Weishampel, a Johns Hopkins paleontologist who plans to publish a paper with Stanford on the new species of dinosaur he found, says the sheer number of tracks Stanford has found is mind-boggling. "It's like, why didn't we see it before?" Weishampel says. Stanford chalks it up to "the birder phenomenon." A person who badly wants to spot a particular rare bird may be unsuccessful for years. But "once they spot it, they will then see it many times thereafter," Stanford says. "It has to do with an openness in the mind that says, 'Yes, it is here. Yes, I can see it,'" he adds. "There's nothing strange about seeing more UFOs after you've seen one — and likewise dinosaur tracks." There is one outside factor that has made tracks easier to spot in recent decades: the region's building boom. Rapid development has led to more runoff into the region's streams. That, in turn, speeds up the erosion that allows underlying rocks where the footprints are embedded to become dislodged. Picking up the fragments as they're pushed downstream is a "rescue mission," Stanford says. "Once these things get into the Potomac (River), there's nobody's chance of finding them." Stanford impresses paleontologists not just with his ability to spot tracks, but with his ability to identify and interpret them as well. As he shows a visitor around his living room, which is crammed with fossils arranged in mounds on the reinforced floor, he launches into vivid stories about each track he picks up. He points out clues indicating what kind of dinosaur made the track and with which foot. He'll note if the animal was running, skidding or crouching, and often he'll venture a guess about the circumstances. "This guy was running," he says, picking up a fragment bearing two different footprints. "Now, we don't know that this was at the same time, but here is a larger, (flesh-eating) dinosaur. ... You could almost think that he might be running after this guy." "In

many cases he's probably right," Weishampel says of Stanford's narratives, "but he has a good imagination as well, which is one of the other tools dinosaur paleontologists definitely need." Stanford insists he's a skeptic at heart. Though fascinated by UFOs since age 9, he insists he's no "UFO buff." His goal, he says, is to apply scientific methods to learn about such phenomena. With backing from some wealthy patrons, he set up Project Starlight International in the 1960s and set about gathering evidence. Over time, the center began using sophisticated equipment like spectrum cameras and magnetometers. Though Stanford broke with the organization in the 1980s, he continues the research. He expresses disdain for UFO conspiracy theorists who are always "begging the government to tell them the truth about these things." "That's a scientific cop-out. If you want real data, you go out with real instruments and attempt to get it. And if you do get it, you analyze it and publish it under peer review," he said. Stanford regrets that his UFO research, which he considers "an order of magnitude more important" than the dinosaur work, hasn't been accepted by the mainstream. But he's undeterred. When Stanford's wife retires from her job at NASA, the couple plans to move back to Texas, where Stanford will again devote himself to UFOs. As for the dinosaurs, Stanford wants to transfer his track collection to the Smithsonian before he leaves the Washington area. His hope is that the highlights, particularly the "roadkill," will be on exhibit at the natural history museum.

Carrano likes the idea and has proposed an exhibit highlighting "that this was found right here — and this is someone who literally found dinosaur fossils in his backyard," he says. Stanford hopes that by sharing his discoveries he might encourage youngsters to look up from their computer screens. "They don't realize," he laments, "that **this world** is a lot more interesting than any electronic game."

Above article from DVPS Newsletter — DVPS Meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Philadelphia, PA

Website – www.dvps.org

MURPHY'S LESSER KNOWN LAWS (by B. Jay Bowman in the Feb. 2008 issue of the AFMS Newsletter)

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50- 50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
7. The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

DVESS MEETING LOCATION : On the 2nd floor of Westby Hall at Rowan University, on Rt 322. There are 2 handicap parking spaces in front of the building and an elevator, entrance at the rear of the building. Members and guests may park in the big lot next to the building. The front door of Westby Bldg. faces Rt 322.

Directions: From Rt 55, exit at Mullica Hill/Glassboro Rt 322; head East toward Glassboro. At the first traffic light, go straight, cross the railroad tracks, make the first left into the parking lot. Westby Hall is adjacent to the parking lot. Enter front of the building and go up the stairs.

Directions: From Delsea Drive, Rt 47, go West on Rt 322 toward Mullica Hill. As you go through the college campus, notice the buildings on your right. Westby Hall is the last building on the right before the railroad tracks. Pass in front of Westby Hall then turn right into the parking lot. See above for entry directions.

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

\$10.00 for Rowan University Students with College ID

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 from September through June, at Rowan University, Westby Hall, 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.

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.

PUZZLES:

<u>RADAR</u> FLYING	HE AD	William February William March William June William May
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What famous New Jersey person was born on our meeting day in 1847?

Who was actually born on Feb. 12, 1809 but the US gov decided to change it for society's benefit?

Which President was born in NJ, when, when was his (so far only men as Pres) term.

What is the New Jersey state a) bird b) flower c) tree d) dinosaur ???

When was our state admitted to the new Union. It became which number in the Union?

Answers at the meeting, See you there.

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

2008 Club Officers and Valued Helpers

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Treasurer Program Chair Membership Chair Gary Weinstein 856-234-0708 - home 856-795-5077 - work garyskyrock@comcast.net	Recording Secretary Grant Elliott 856-728-1731 gle@verizon.net	Website Coordinator Terry Wilson 609-714-1309 terry@dvess.org
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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>

After this Newsletter we will attempt to send future newsletters via e-mail, this will save the club printing and postage costs. Please advise either decuzzic@comcast.net or DVESS Website: <http://www.dvess.org> if email is not available to you and you wish to stay on the mailing list.
Thank you editor.

Dino saurs

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 EUHELOPUS
 INGENIA
 ISSASAURUS

KHAAN
 LABOCANIA
 LAORNIS
 LIGOMASAURUS
 MAIASAURA
 MINMI
 NUTHETES
 ORCOMIMUS
 POLYONAX
 RAHONA
 RAJASAURUS

SALTOPUS
 SCIPIONYX
 TANIUS
 TIMIMUS
 TOMODON
 TYLOSTEUS
 TYRANNOSAURUS
 UNENLAGIA
 WALKERIA
 WYLEYIA

D V E S S
W O R D # 9 P U Z Z L E
 b y E d L o v o i a n d

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08/19

AMORPHOUS	CALEDONITE
ANALCITE	CALAVERITE
ANATASE	CARNOTITE
ANTLERITE	CERARGYRITE
ARGENTITE	CERUSSITE
ATACAMITE	CHRYSOBERYL
BERYLLONITE	COAL
BIOTITE	CRISTOBALITE
BISMUTHINITE	CROCOITE
BIXBYITE	CUPRITE
BORAX	
BORONITE	
BROMYRITE	
BROOKITE	
BRUCITE	
CHALCANTHITE	

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

