

THE GEOGRAM

SEPTEMBER 2004

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY



"OMNEM MOVERE LAPIDEM"

INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE
JULY 26th, 1960

DELAWARE STATE

MINERAL:
SILLIMANITE

FOSSIL:
BELEMNITE

DELAWARE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Diana C. Volcheck, Editor

1046 General Allen Lane

West Chester PA 19382-8030

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FIRST CLASS



Member Dues are DUE !!!

THE DELAWARE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2004

September 2004 - August 2005

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President - Karissa Hendershot

Vice Presidents:

Programs - Eric Meier

Field Trips - Bob Asreen

Secretary - Marty Mackereth

Junior Chair - Fran Poniecki

Treasurer - Wendy Sbriglia

Dir.-at-Large - Guy Sbriglia

Dir.-at-Large - Scott Peters

Webmaster -

Historian, Curator & Librarian - Carl Muendel

Membership dues and address changes:

Bob Ehrlich, 1424 Carson Road

Wilm., DE 19803

Hospitality - Marion Smith

Mineral & Lapidary Lab Director:

Marjie Marshall -

Show Chair - Alex Kane

Show Assistant - Wayne Urion

Junior Booth:

Minerals: Wendy & Guy Sbriglia

Fossils: Sophie Homsey

Send news items & exchange bulletins to Diana Volcheck, Editor
1046 General Allen Lane, West Chester PA 19382-8030
or Email to:

MEETINGS: SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE GREENBANK MILL
ROUTE 41 & KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



DMS is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. DMS is a non-profit corporation of people interested in minerals, fossils, gems, lapidary arts and related areas. Membership is open to all ages, regardless of experience.



MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$20 adult, \$25 family, \$7 junior (see above)

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, September 13th, 7:30 pm setup
Greenbank Mill

Come hear Doug & George Rambo show us
Hands-on "Micro Mounting"

Refreshments: Marion Smith

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President's Corner

Another club year is here. As many of you know this summer has been a tumultuous time for the board members. Our President, **Keith Robertson**, accepted a job offer with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Protection (NCDEP) just weeks into the summer. He called an emergency board meeting in July to step down as president. During the meeting, I stepped down as VP of Field Trips and **Bob Asreen** stepped down as the newly elected Board Member At-Large. I stepped into Keith's position as President, Bob stepped in to fill my shoes as VP of Field Trips and **Scott Peters** accepted the position of Board Member At-Large. In addition, **Alex Kane** stepped down as 2005 Show Chairman due to family issues. **Wayne Urion** assumed the leadership of the show and Alex is helping out as the Assistant Chair.

Our filing for Non-Profit Tax Exempt status is progressing, albeit slowly, none-the-less the process is moving forward. All paper work is in the hands of the government and we are now waiting for their decision. Hopefully we will have an answer before the Holidays.

The Show Committee has already met once and everyone is working hard on their projects.

Bob Asreen as the new Field Trip Coordinator, has a great schedule already lined up for September and he is working hard to get the club into some quarries we have not been in for a long time. **Eric Meier**, VP of Programs also has a great lineup for the Fall. Stay tuned for more on both fronts.

We have a great year ahead of us. Come out and participate in all aspects of the club. Please welcome your new board members and let us know about your thoughts and suggestions for the club.

Last but not least, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Keith Robertson on behalf of DMS for his years of service to the club as an active member and leader. DMS is a stronger club because of Keith's leadership, knowledge of geology, his easy going manner, his willingness to share his knowledge with others and much more.

Well, I hope to see you all at the September meeting on the 13th. [**Karissa Hendershot**]

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

Remember ALL memberships in the DMS expired at the end of August! Since you won't want to miss all the fun and learning in our group, make one of your Fall to-do items to send in your \$20 (or other) dues to our faithful Membership Chairman, Robert Ehrlich. Make the check payable to the Delaware Mineralogical Society and send it in with the form on page 8.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Dennis and Jennifer Smith** on the birth of their daughter, Anastasiya Minuet, 5/22/04.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The regular election of officers took place at the June main meeting; but, almost immediately afterwards, our newly re-elected President, Keith Robertson, resigned and moved to a new job in North Carolina. To deal with this resignation, the

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board met and appointed a new president and re-aligned the other offices accordingly.

So, listed below is the new set officers for the **September 2004 - August 2005** club year:

President--**Karissa Hendershot**
Vice President, Field Trips--**Bob Asreen**
Vice President, Programs--**Eric Meier**
Recording Secretary--**Marty Mackereth**
Treasurer--**Wendy Sbriglia**
Director-at-large--**Guy Sbriglia**
Director-at-large--**Scott Peters**

The following members of the DMS board have been appointed by the President:

Show Chair--**Wayne Urion**
Juniors Program--**Fran Poniecki**
Lab Director--**Marjorie Marshall**
Newsletter Editor--**Diana Volcheck**

The final (of twelve) board members is:

Immediate Past President--**vacant**

Some other significant positions you need to know are:

Hospitality--**Marion Smith**
Membership Chairman--**Bob Ehrlich**

All these folks, and a few other volunteers, are listed on page 2 of each issue, with contact information. [**Diana Volcheck**]

SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

The program for this month will be a hands-on,

how-to program on "**Micro Mounting**". So come and learn what micro-mounts are, how to prepare them and everything else you ever wanted to know about them from our own **George and Doug Rambo**.

JUNIOR GROUP

Bring a friend (all ages welcome), at 7 PM; and "Let's Talk About Crystals!" with **Fran Poniecki**.

JUNE'S MEETING

DMS held its annual Spring Picnic on the 7th, amidst the thunderstorms. Attendance was thirty-something. Thank you to everyone who made it. I think everyone had a nice time.

A special thanks to **Alex Kane**, our chef, and **Charles Shain** and **Teddi Silver**, our Portobello connoisseurs!

Hope you had a nice summer! [**Keith Robertson**]

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The DMS sponsors and/or participates in several field trips per month visiting mineral and fossil collecting sites in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina.

All field trips are weather dependent and require at least an average level of physical fitness! Several of the trips are physically demanding! **Required for all quarry trips:** hardhat, safety glasses/goggles and steel-toed boots. **Recommended equipment includes:** rock hammers, chisels, pry-bars, screens for sifting, collecting boxes, packing material (newspaper is

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good), etc. Always bring water, drinks and snacks for the day. Wear appropriate clothing / footwear.

Members of DMS are also eligible to participate in field trips hosted by the members of the North East Field Trip Alliance. **To reserve a place on a NEFTA field trip, you must contact me at least 3 weeks prior to the trip.**

To **sign up** for scheduled trips, or suggest other possible trips, leave a message at **PPP-PPP-PPPP**, send email to _____ or see me during DMS meetings. Directions to each field trip will be emailed and/or discussed over the phone with those who sign up to attend. **[Bob Asreen]**

Sep 11, Saturday: *Kibblehouse Quarry, Perkiomenville, PA* (NEFTA trip sponsored by the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County). Minerals found include: zeolites (stilbite and stellarite), pyrite and calcite. To reserve a place, contact Bob **by Sep 8th**,

Sep 25 & 26, Saturday & Sunday: *Red Hill & possibly Swoops Pit, North-Central PA*. (Sponsored by MGS). **Sign Up by Wednesday, September 15th**. Fossils include Devonian invertebrates, fish, amphibians and plants. Collect by hammer and chisel, almost exclusively.

Sep 26, Sunday: *Meckley Quarry, Mandata, PA*: Annual collectors *Open House* from noon - 5 PM. The quarry's known for blue celestite crystals, white and golden calcite and strontianite. Website: <http://www.meckleys.com/rockhound.htm>

NOTE: Eastern Industries (quarry owners) will NOT have an "Open House" this year at either

Winfield or Shamokin. [ed]

Trips in the planning stage or with unknown dates:

Medford Quarry, Westminster, MD
Sykesville, MD
Silver Hill, PA
JT Dyer, Gibraltar, PA
Binkley-Ober Quarry, East Petersburg, PA
Martin Limestone's Kurtz Quarry, Denver, PA.
Big Brook, NJ
Lee Creek Mine, Aurora, NC
Liverpool Point (Purse State Park), MD
Deer Lake & St. Clair, PA
Inversand Mine, Sewell, NJ
Arundel Quarry, Havre de Grace, MD
Brookdale Mine, Phoenixville, PA
Gap Nickel Mine, Lancaster Co, PA
Dillsburg Iron Mines, York Co., PA
Teeter, Valley & Fairfield Quarries, Gettysburg, PA

N.E.F.T.A FIELDTRIPS

Sep 11 - Wayne County, *Spring Creek, Alden, NY*. Limey Devonian shales containing pyritized fossils – cephalopods and gastropods.

Sep 11 - Capital District, *Stoddard Mine, NH*. Old mine tailings for fluorite (green, purple, clear), barite and quartz.

Sep 12 - Fulton County, *Benson Mine, Star Lake, NY*. Huge, old iron mine with associated minerals.

Sep 18 - Worcester Mineral Club, *VAG Mine, Eden Mills, VT*. Vesuvianite, garnet, diopside and serpentine.

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Sep 19 - Keene Mineral Club, *Globe Mine Pegmatite, Springfield, NH*. Asterated quartz, schorl and other pegmatite minerals.

Sep 25 - Fulton County, *Whitton Prospect near Harrisville, NY*. Quartz, hematite, barite, and limonite after siderite/ankerite. Small donation (\$2) requested.

Sep 26 - Connecticut Valley Mineral Club, *Green Farm, Roxbury, CT*. Garnets.

Oct 2 - Danbury Mineralogical Society, *Case Quarry, Portland, CT*. Beryl, columbite/tantalite, schorl, autumite, et al.

Oct 15 - Danbury Mineralogical Society, *Herkimer, NY*. Herkimer diamond weekend.

Oct 16 - Saco Mineral Club, *Harvard Mine, Greenwood, ME & Pearl Lake, Lisbon, NH*

Oct 23 - Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, *Doylestown, PA*. Calcite, dolomite, pyrite, barite, fluorite, and micros.

Oct 31 - Connecticut Valley Mineral Club, *Hardwick, MA*. Epidote & babingtonite.

INSPIRATION: Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching. Live like it's Heaven on Earth. Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. anon.

EVENTS

Sep 18-19: 39th Central PA Rock/Min Show,

Zembo Shrine, Harrisburg, PA

Sep 18, 10-3, **New Bolton Center** of Veterinary Medicine Open House. Free and no reservations needed. For details call 610-444-5800.

Sep 26, 12:45 PM, "**The Possible Return of the American Chestnut**", Soc of Natural History of Delaware (SNHD). Tour at 648 Oak Hill RD, Townsend DE, reservations, call 302-239-5383.

Oct 9, 2 PM, "**New Trail & Fungal Foray**" - campus woods at Del State University, N. of Dover, with SNHD, reservations, 302-239-5383.

Oct 2: PESA **Autumn Mineral Fest**, Macungie PA, email: mineralfest@aol.com, or contact Ed Richards, 610-641-8010.

Oct 8-10: **Annual Micromount Symposium**, Baltimore Mineral Soc, call Cal Pierson, 410-472-9406, for further details.

Nov 6-7: Tuscarora 35th **GEMORAMA!**

Micromounts and Micromineral Collecting

Most well-known collecting sites yield interesting micro minerals of some type. Professional prospectors usually leave micro specimens behind because they aren't worth much money. This leaves you with the chance to find some attractive micros, even in heavily-collected areas. Micro mineral specimens can be found in many common igneous and metamorphic rock environments, sometimes even in sedimentary environments.

Areas that are "barren" of larger specimens can still yield good microminerals; some areas are famous just for these. Consider Sugar Grove, Pendleton County, West Virginia, well-known among micromineral hobbyists for its fine zeolites and

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"wire" pyrite crystals.

The average micro specimen costs between 1 and 5 dollars (USA) if you buy it from a dealer or at a show, while some exceptional or very rare piece may cost up to \$20 or more. However, don't overlook rummaging through the fifty-cent box at shows to add unusual specimens to your collection for very little cost.

If you collect your "micros" in the field, then specimen cost is irrelevant. In that case, your primary expense will be for supplies: about 25 to 35 cents for each plastic box, a few cents for the "post", dab of glue, and box liner or coating of paint. Add on to this the cost of a good precision loupe of about 10x magnification: between \$15 and \$75 (depending on brand name).

If you're serious about the hobby, you should consider purchasing a stereo microscope. These range from about \$200 for a good, usable 'scope to more than \$7000 for a high-end setup. The latter type is completely unnecessary for most hobbyists - you absolutely don't need to spend 4 figures get a scope that's more than adequate for microminerals.

Another item that is often purchased is a good microscope camera to make it easier to share your finds with others. GVG

Haiku

Staurolite, garnet
Afloat in micaceous sea
Dark eyed intruders.

[by **Diana Volcheck**]

A look at the blue rock that built old Wilmington

By Kent Steinriede, NJ Staff reporter

The Wilmington Blue Rocks have a pedigree that goes deep in Delaware history. The minor-league baseball team that plays in Frawley Stadium was named after another minor-league team from the 1940s and '50s whose players were quarrymen.

"They said that they were as tough as the rocks they quarried," says William Schenck, geologist with the Delaware Geological Survey. "It's one of the hardest rocks in the Appalachian [chain]."

The blue rock, known to geologists as Brandywine blue gneiss, is a metamorphic rock found throughout Brandywine Hundred and under downtown Wilmington. It's commonly called Brandywine granite, but it's not granite, Schenck says.

The blue rock was pushed through the Earth's crust by the collision of the North American, European and African tectonic plates, which created the Appalachian Mountains between 250 million and 570 million years ago.

"The rocks most similar to the rocks in the Delaware piedmont are in Scotland," Schenck says.

The stone was quarried to build old Wilmington. Many of the buildings, bridges and walls in Brandywine Park and Brandywine Village are made from blue rocks, as are cobblestones in the park.

On the Web: **Delaware Geological Survey**,
www.udel.edu/dgs/Education/bluerocks.html

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The 2004-2005 membership year starts on **September 1st**. Please pay your dues promptly to insure uninterrupted **Geogram** mailings. Check your **mailing label** to see if you are paid up through the coming year. Also check the mailing label for **accuracy** and make any necessary changes.. Dues remain:

Individual Adult \$20.00 Family \$25.00 Junior \$7.00

Please make your checks payable to: **Delaware Mineralogical Society**

Mail to: **Robert S. Ehrlich**, Membership Chairman
1424 Carson Rd
Wilmington DE 19803

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

PHONE # (if changed): _____ E-MAIL: _____