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“Delaware Rocks!” Highlights State’s Geologic History *DMNH unveils new outdoor mineral display*

Wilmington, DE – Can rocks ring like a bell? How did Limestone Road get its name? What rock was once used as an ingredient to make chocolate? Visitors to the Delaware Museum of Natural History can learn the answers to these questions and more in a new outdoor display titled *Delaware Rocks!*

Located under a canopy of Willow Oaks between the upper and middle parking lots of the Museum, *Delaware Rocks!* showcases 14 large boulders – all from Delaware – within a garden-like setting of perennial groundcovers, grasses, ferns and flowers. Interpretive panels highlight the formation and historic significance of these geologic time capsules.

“Come explore the many types of rocks that can be found right here in Delaware,” said Executive Director Halsey Spruance. “Not sure about what’s here, when and how they were formed, or what the difference is between a rock and a mineral? This is the place to find out.”

Delaware Rocks! is the culmination of more than a year of planning, design, and development between Museum staff and local experts from the Delaware Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Geological Survey. The display includes:

- Sillimanite (Delaware’s state mineral)
- Pegmatite
- Gabbro
- Brandywine Blue Gneiss
- Barley Mill Gneiss
- Baltimore Gneiss
- Iron Hill Ore and Chert (2)
- Cockeysville Marble (2)
- Ringing Quartzite (2)
- Quartzite (2)

At each interpretive panel, facts about the rocks provide context and background. Baltimore gneiss, for example, is the oldest rock in Delaware and underlies all of the other rocks. At over 1.2 billion years old, it was part of the ancient continent existing before the Appalachian Mountains began to form.

Delaware Rocks! is made possible through the generous support of the Borkee Hagley Foundation, Ederic Foundation, and New Castle County. Mineral expertise was provided by Tom Pankratz of the Delaware Mineralogical Society and William “Sandy” Schenck of the Delaware Geological Survey. In addition, Meredith Doby of Meredith Doby Design Studios contributed her graphic and visual talents, and local landscape designer Susan Rivenbark developed a layout for the display.

Delaware Rocks! will be officially unveiled at a special ceremony on Monday, May 11, from 5-6 p.m.

WHAT: *Delaware Rocks! Opening Reception*

WHERE: Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807

DATE: Monday, May 11, 2015

HOURS: 5-6 p.m.

ADMISSION: FREE

MORE INFO: Visit www.delmnh.org or call (302) 658-9111

About the Delaware Museum of Natural History

As the only natural history museum in the state, the Delaware Museum of Natural History opened its doors in 1972 to excite and inform people about the natural world through exploration and discovery. The Museum houses Delaware's only permanent dinosaur display, surrounded by exhibits of mammals, shells, and other specimens from around the world. The Museum cares for world-renowned scientific collections of mollusks and birds, including one of the top-fifteen mollusk collections in the United States.

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