



CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Volume 38 Issue 7

June 2012

President

Marv Houg
(319) 364-2868
m_houg@yahoo.com

Vice President

Bill Desmarais
(319) 365-0612
desmarais_3@msn.com

Treasurer

Dale Stout
(319) 365-7798
dhstout55@aol.com

Secretary

Dell James
(319) 446-7591
cycladelics@netins.net

Editor

Toby Jordan
(319) 360-2762
rejordan79@msn.com

Liaison

Joy Cummings
(319) 981-2482

Imm. Past President

Sharon Sonnleitner
(319) 396-4016
sonnb@aol.com

Director 2012

Leonard Moellers
(319) 721-1650
leonardmoellers@yahoo.com

Director 2013

Andrew Halfmann

Director 2014

Tom Whitlatch
(319) 362-0684
whitlatcht@gmail.com

Historian

Leslie Blin
(319) 377-3339
bser505@gmail.com

Sunshine

Dolores Slade
(319) 351-5559
dslade733@aol.com

Hospitality

Jeff Kahl
(319) 455-2201

Webmaster

Sharon Sonnleitner
(319) 396-4016
sonnb@aol.com

From the Editor

Hello everyone. I would like to introduce myself as the new editor for the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society. About 3 years ago, I accompanied my son to George Washington High School so he could get extra class credit by attending a fossil festival. I immediately joined this society after seeing native rocks, minerals, native American artifacts, and trilobites that I thought only originated in the south west or from exotic and traditional locations like Morocco. Boy, was I wrong. As a member, my son and I became eligible for the field trip to the Conklin quarry the next day! Needless to say, beginner's luck was with me that day after finding a couple of trilobites — a phacops and a proetus. I considered Marv's preparation of both specimens equal to pieces I have seen in museums. Their detail was absolutely stunning. Even though my attention was drawn to the bigger phacops, Marv assured me that the smaller proetus was the rarest of the two, especially in Iowa.

This newsletter will evolve as I get into the routine of this position and get to know the member community a little better. Please check the Submission of Articles section for details on submitting articles and related material. Let's ROCK!

Picnic Season Is Upon Us!

Summer is just around the corner, which of course means **PICNIC SEASON!** For new members who might not know, in the summer months instead of regular meetings at Rockwell Collins, we have potluck picnics at local parks. Each month's picnic includes a different activity! Don't miss these picnics! We have a great time at each and every one and of course the food is always wonderful! The pavilions are reserved from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM - we start eating at **6:30 pm sharp**. All picnics are potluck, so make sure to bring something to share, your own table setting, and drinks.

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Please visit the website for the latest news and updates:

www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

Picnic Schedule

Reminder — We start eating at 6:30 pm sharp!

All are potluck, so bring something to share, drinks, and dinnerware.

Please check the website for any last minute updates at: www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

June 19th - Thomas Park, Marion IA — Green Pavilion

Thomas Park - intersection of Marion Blvd and Blairs Ferry Road NE. (1st Ave. in Cedar Rapids becomes Marion Blvd. at its north end when it goes through Marion - also called 7th Ave and Business 151).

The June picnic is a chance for people to bring something to polish. Marv is going to bring calcite samples because it is relatively soft and easy to polish. Friends are welcome, too. The more, the merrier.

July 17th - Squaw Creek Park, Marion, IA - Meadowlark Shelter

Meadowlark Shelter is one of the bigger ones in the park. From Cedar Rapids, take Hwy 100 (Marion By-pass) out towards Hwy 13. It's the last right turn before Hwy 13 - Banner Drive. Once in the park, follow the signs.

Geodes are like hickory nuts, if you don't strike or crack them correctly, you will end up with many many pieces. If you can relate to this... then this picnic is for you. There will be several geode crackers at the picnic so bring some geodes for cracking. If you don't have any, I'm sure there will be some extra geodes there for possible sale or just to be given away.

August 21st - Morgan Creek, Cedar Rapids, IA - Pavilion

This park is located on the western edge of Cedar Rapids on Worcester Road. **On Hwy. 30** (from the west, south and east) - take the 80th Street Exit, north to 16th Ave., then east on 16th to Stoney Point Road; north on Stoney Point Road to Worcester Road; west on Worcester Road, the park is on your left. **From north Cedar Rapids** - take Hwy 94 to Stoney Point Road; south on Stoney Point Road to Worcester Road; right (west) on Worcester Road, the park is on your left.

The August picnic will be our Rock Bingo night when we play bingo for prizes. The club provides some nice prizes so come and have a lot of fun playing many games of bingo. This is one of the most fun events of all, so our new members are highly encouraged to attend.

Humor

The Iowa Department of Employment, Division of Labor Standards, claimed a small rancher was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an agent out to investigate him.

GOV'T AGENT: "I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them."

RANCHER: "Well, there's my hired hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$200 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the mentally challenged guy. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night so he can cope with life.

GOV'T AGENT: "That's the guy I want to talk to - the mentally challenged one."

RANCHER: "That would be me."

*Cedar Valley Rock and Mineral Society Monthly Meeting
May 15, 2012*

Dell and Dale hosts

Call to order: 7:20 p.m. by Marv Houg, President.

Introduction of new members or guests- none

Minutes of last meeting

Reviewed. Motion to approve as written by Toby, second by Tom. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report by Dale — Checking account total \$10,877.45. Motion to approve treasurer's report made by John P. Second by Tom. Motion approved.

**Monthly Program
Eric Fritzsich
South Dakota Black Hills area minerals**

Door Prize — Pappe Phillips, Sr,

Old Business

Scholarships. Dale reported our budget and board recommends that the club maintain the same scholarship donations as we have in the past.

University of Iowa \$2500.00
Cornell College \$2000
VAST center \$2000

Second to approve by Julie. Approved.

New Business

Newsletter editor. There were three volunteers who stepped up and offered to be editor- Toby Jordan, Paul Stults and Phil Oliver. The board recommends approval of Toby Jordan to be elected editor. No nominations from the floor. Second the recommendation by Julie. All approved. In conjunction with Toby, Paul and Phil have agreed to assist by writing articles etc. Toby's email if you have anything to offer is rejordan79@msn.com.

Picnics

June 19th Thomas Park, Marion

Theme will be lapidary and urge anyone who can to bring a Genie or flat lap or something to polish stones. Goal is to take a stone from rough to polish with education of the process. Bring some stones too.

July 17 Squaw Creek Park, Marion. Meadowlark Shelter

Geode cracking time. Bring that bucket of uncracked geodes. Club provides the crackers.

August 21 Morgan Creek Pavilion

Rock Bingo. One of the most fun events of all.

All are pot luck and feeding time is at 6:30. Bring your own drinks and dinner ware.

Other business

Theme for next year's club show. Board recommends "**Fossils from Iowa**" as the emphasis for our next show. There are many possibilities for programs, pamphlets etc that will be available for the show. Seconded made y Julie. Motion passed.

Title for show. Bill suggested off the top of his head "**Fantastic Fossil Finds of Iowa**". Motions made by Julie second by Tom. Motion approved.

Monthly Meeting Minutes — continued

The Midwest Federation show is in Milwaukee on July 26-29. Joy and Bob agreed to attend as our representative. Motion made by Tom, second by AJ to provide \$100 for miscellaneous expenses. Approved.

Tiffany from U of I is asking for volunteers to guide kid tours of the Devonian Fossil Gorge. Tom volunteered and will check with Tiffany for details.

Field trips

Marv reported that the last trip into Conklin Quarry was successful with trilobites being found. Also reported that it is getting more and more difficult to find rock hunting spots.

AJ asked about the possibility of getting back into Palo. Marv will check.

Adjournment

Motion made by AJ, second by Glenn. Meeting adjourned 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dell James, Sec.

Board Meeting Minutes (June 5, 2012)

No board meeting minutes were recorded because of Dell's absence. Here is an abbreviated summary:

Members Present: Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Sharon Sonnleitner, Leonard Moellers, Joy Cummings, Toby Jordan

Discussed 2012 auction lots. Cardboard flats of various sizes are needed for upcoming actions.

Summer picnics and activities.

Megalodon jaw and photo opportunities at the next show.

Discussed the possibility of displaying mammoth bones from the Oskaloosa discovery by an Iowan farmer.

Calendar of Events (Courtesy of Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies)

JUNE 2012

16-17: OZARK, MO. Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society's Gem Fair; Finley River Park; CONTACT: Eddie Maples, 417.725.3001.

22-24: BLOOMINGTON, IN. Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc.'s 47th Annual Show & Swap; Monroe County Fairgrounds, Airport Rd. & Hwy. 45; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Dave Treffinger, 13101 E. 250 N., Loogootee, IN 47553, 812.295.3463.

June 23: OSSEO, MN. Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Rock Swap & Sale; United Methodist Church Parking Lot, 2nd Ave. & 2nd St. SE; Sat. 10-2; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016, 651.459.0343, info@rock-biz.biz.

Calendar of Events — continued

June 24: COLUMBUS, NE. Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society's Swap; Isaac Walton Cabin, Junction Hwys. 81 & 30; Sun. 9-5; CONTACT: Mary Wemhoff, P.O. Box 257, Platte Center, NE 68653, 402.246.3955, wemhoffconst@plattevalley.net.

June 30 — July 1: OSAGE BEACH, MO. Osage Rock & Mineral Club's 11th Annual Show; The Inn at Grand Glaize, 5142 Hwy 54; Sat. & Sun. 11-5; CONTACT: Roger Varvel, 14354 Hwy. 64, Lebanon, MO 65536; Recorded Info 417.532.4367, orm-c2012show@centurylink.net.

JULY 2012

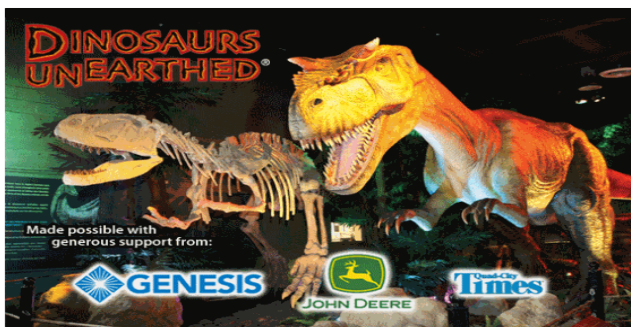
8: LINCOLN, NE; Grinding Party, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc, Pioneer Park, Prairie Life Center, Coddington & West A, Sun 1:00-4:00, Contact Karen Messenger, 129 County Rd 1200, Dorchester, NE 68343, 402-946-2281 kamessenger@hotmail, www.lincolngemmineralclub.org

20-21: MINOCQUA, WI; 44th Annual Show, Lakeland Gem Club, Lakeland Union High School, 9573 State Hwy 70, Wayne Sukow, renowned "Agate" expert will be the keynote speaker. Bill Reardon, local, amateur archaeologist, will talk about Copper Culture Artifacts from Wisconsin Kids Store, Gems, Beads, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Speakers, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Demonstrations Northwoods Wildlife Center will promote wildlife education Northwoods Children's Museum will have children activities FREE FOR ALL Fri 10:00-6:00, Sat 9:00-5:00, Contact Pattie Hartmann, PO Box 125, Eagle River, WI 54521, 715-477-2519, gypsy1120@coslink.net

21-22: MOOSE LAKE, MN; Annual Agate Days, Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club, Moose Lake High School, 413 Birch Ave, Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 9:00-4:00, Contact Gary Pitoscia, 815 N 13th Ave, Duluth, MN 55805, 218-724-1894, pito-sciajg@charter.net

26-29: MINNETONKA, MN, "Celebration of Agates" AFMS/MWF Annual Convention with Minnesota Mineral Club, Hopkins High School, Agate Seminar Thur 8:00-5:00, Show Fri Noon-7:00, Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00, Info www.minnesotamineralclub.org and sign up for e-mail alerts or info using the survey link.

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2012 — The 2012 Auction will be held in the Morton Building at the Amana RV Park, Amana, IA. About 1200 lots will be auctioned. Contact anyone on the Board or check the website (www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org) for more information.



You're invited to travel back more than 65 million years and discover dinosaurs like you've never seen them before at *Dinosaurs Unearthed!*

Did you know? Some dinosaurs had feathers! *Dinosaurs Unearthed* is the world's first exhibition to present life-size animatronic models of feathered dinosaurs. The exhibition will present 14 life-like animatronic dinosaurs, including two feathered dinosaurs, along with 22 fossil replicas, and two complete life-size articulated skeletons. Special touch kiosks allow visitors to control dinosaur movements and learn about dinosaur skin and bones, digestion and sounds. Of course, no dinosaur exhibition is complete without a dinosaur dig-pit!

Contact the following hotels for *Dinosaurs Unearthed* hotel packages:



Now on Exhibit!

Call 563-324-1933 ext. 242 or [click here](#) to get your tickets today!

Member Pricing:
Adult: \$9
Senior/Student/Military: \$8
Youth (3-12 year olds): \$6.50

Non-member Pricing*:
Adult: \$17
Senior/Student/Military: \$15
Youth (3-12 year olds): \$12.50

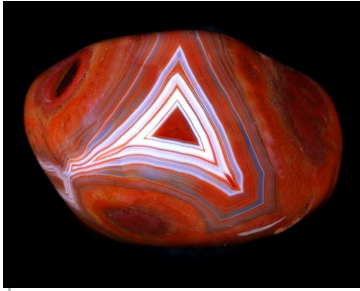
*Prices include general Museum Admission.

*Become a Member - General Admission free!

Purchase the perfect Dino-Combo with *Dinosaurs Unearthed* and *Flying Monsters 3D!*



Dinosaurs Unearthed exhibition now on display at the Putnam Museum in Davenport, IL, from March 3 through July 8. The special exhibit is the world's first exhibition to present life-size animatronic models of feathered dinosaurs. The exhibition will present 14 life-like animatronic dinosaurs, including two feathered dinosaurs, along with 22 fossil replicas, and two complete life-size articulated skeletons.



A Celebration of Agates

July 26 to 29, 2012

Seminars on Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Event hours: Friday, noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Lindbergh Center at Hopkins High School
2400 Lindbergh Drive
Minnetonka, Minnesota**

The Minnesota Mineral Club is hosting a four-day agate show, in conjunction with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

Sign up for more information at www.minnesotamineralclub.org

- *Celebrate agates!*
- *Celebrate collectors!*
- *Celebrate rockhounds!*
- *Celebrate Minnesota!*
- *Celebrate dealers!*
- *Celebrate kids and families!*

A Celebration of Agates News

May 2012

International speakers lined up for seminar day, July 26

A full slate of international speakers are on tap for Thursday, July 26, the first day of the agate show, which will be held July 26 to 29 at Lindbergh Center at Hopkins High School, located in Minnetonka, Minnesota. The seminar registration form and other forms are available on the Minnesota Mineral Club website: www.minnesotamineralclub.org

Speakers include:

- **Doug Moore** – The Beautiful and Mysterious
- **Tarun Adlakha** - Indian Dendritic Agates
- **Thom Lane** - Plume Agates of California, Oregon
- **John Stockwell** - Thunderegg Agates East of
- **Gene Mueller** - Agate Cave Discovery in Oregon
- **Dietrich Mayer** - Moroccan Agates
- **Karen Bryz** - The Story of Silica
- **John Hobart** - Overview of Lake Superior Agates
- **Karen Bryz** - The Story of Silica
- **Klaus Schaefer** - Why is the monkey in the
- **Brad Cross** - Mexican Agates
- **John Marshall** - The Other Lake Superior Agate
- **Wayne Sukow** - Iris Agate
- **Marco Campos-Venuti** - Jaspers and Agates
- **Roger Clark** - Bounty of the Black Hills - Fair-
- **Dr. Jens Goetze** - Between legend and science: the mystery of agate formation

A Celebration of Agates speaker profile: John Hobart



Jack Hobart of Los Angeles, Calif., developed an interest in Lake Superior agates while growing up in Richfield, Minn. After undergraduate studies in physics at the University of Minnesota, he moved to California to continue his studies and work in the aerospace industry. Physics led to a lifelong interest in the patterns found in nature, such as the exceptional diversity of Lake Superior agates. This led to another interest: high-speed photography and video that freezes the form of mudpot and unusual geyser eruptions throughout the world. He plans to produce e-books, books and videos from his extensive collection of images.

"I wanted to see complete agate patterns, however, most have been broken open by glaciers, so the biggest and best can rarely be pried from the clutches of eager collectors, especially from 2,000 miles away," Hobart said. "Therefore, I began to collect whole agate nodules, especially the small to miniscule ones that no one wants. Most important, they provide no hint of what lies within."

Hobart cuts agates to reveal their incredible patterns, then polishes and images them by placing them on a scanner bed. After computer processing, they are entered into a database along with many descriptive parameters to enable sorting and rapidly retrieving agates by feature.

Nearly 16,000 agate pairs have been cataloged, including more than 5,000 nodules from the Keeweenaw copper mines. Many previously unrecognized types of Lake Superior agates have been identified and named. The copper agates are so highly mineralized that eyes and unique features are the norm, rather than the exception. Tiny agates are a special interest, with cut and scanned pairs down to 3 or 4 mm in diameter.

Hobart will set up a 30-inch high-resolution monitor at the A Celebration of Agates show to continuously show thousands of images, including real-time requests for any form of Lake Superior agate. One display of special interest already includes nearly 300 identical-sized crops of exceptional copper agates, which will be shown at 60 to 100x magnification in a pan and zoom format. Most of the agate features revealed have not been seen before.

Hobart said he hopes that this activity will spur interest in "virtual agate collections" on the computer for the sharing and museum display of personal collections in the future.

Check out the hotel information for discounted rates

Two hotels near the agate show site have special deals for 2012 A Celebration of Agates attendees. Call the Marriott Minneapolis West, 9960 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park, at (952) 544-4400 (www.marriott.com/mspsp) and ask for the "Celebration of Agates" discounted rate of \$79/night. Spring Hill Suites by Marriott, 5901 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park, also offers a \$79 discounted rate. Call the hotel directly at (952) 738-7300 to ask for the "Celebration of Agates" discount. Information about other Twin Cities metropolitan area hotels, motels, campgrounds and other tourism information has been added to the Minnesota Mineral Club website: www.minnesotamineralclub.org.

Agate of the month: Dryhead Agate



The Dryhead Agate can be found in the Bighorn Canyon area of Montana. The area was used as hunting ground for Native Americans, who used the cliffs to drive buffalo to their deaths. The tribes stacked the buffalo heads to dry in the sun. These stacks of bleached skulls gave the area its famous name - dryhead. Dryhead agates are characterized by their broad, richly colored bands. The bands' predominant colors are yellow, orange, and white, though pink, purple, and blue can also be seen. Photo by Doug Moore

Trips

Bus Trip to Chicago Field Museum Proposed for Oct 20

Sat., Oct 20, is proposed for a bus trip to Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History

- Minimum of 20 required.
- Cost will be between \$56 and \$70, depending on the number going.
- Leave about 5:00 a.m. Return about 10:00 p.m.

Email Bill Desmarais if you are interested at: desmarais_3@msn.com

Field Trips

No field trips are currently planned. Please check the website often for updated information. Dale Stout will also send out e-mails as reminders to the members.

Submission of Articles

Please send submissions for publication in the *Cedar Valley Gem* newsletter to the Editor no later than the first day of the previous month. For example, August 1 for the September issue. Advance items are appreciated.

Material may be e-mailed to Toby Jordan at rejordan79@msn.com, or submitted via the U.S. Mail:

Toby Jordan
1827 Oak Knolls Court SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Acceptable e-mail formats include:

Microsoft Word (.DOC & DOCX), Adobe (.PDF), rich text format (.RTF), or plain text (.TXT). Pictures must be in png, jpg, tiff, or gif format. If e-mailing an article, it may be included within the body of the e-mail message or sent as an attachment.

No issue is normally published during July or August.

**Looking forward to receiving an
article from you!**

Iowa farmer makes mammoth discovery ... of a mammoth!

Reported by

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR

**A nearly complete skeleton of a 12,000-year-old mammoth has been found buried on a farm in Oskaloosa, Iowa,
OSKALOOSA, IOWA**

Scientists are excited about the discovery of a nearly complete mammoth skeleton that was found buried on an Oskaloosa farm, saying such finds are rare and can yield clues about life in the area thousands of years ago.

The bones found about 60 miles southwest of Des Moines were largely undisturbed, which has allowed scientists to gather evidence that could help show what the area was like more than 12,000 years ago when the animal died. Those excavating the site have already collected pollen grains, seeds, a spruce pine needle and other plant material from the site.

"A find of this size is quite rare because it looks like we have a lot of the animal rather than just a single bone here and there," said Sarah Horgen, education coordinator for the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, which is overseeing the excavation.

"What's important to the university is looking at the environmental context that we can recover as part of this excavation, looking at what Iowa was like at the end of the last ice age," she said.

A number of tests for carbon, nitrogen and oxygen isotopes can reveal such details as when the animal died, its diet, and even the temperature of the water it was drinking, said Holmes Semken, a retired paleontologist and professor emeritus at the University of Iowa's Department of Geoscience.

He said the site includes an abundance of material valuable to scientific study.

It appears the mammoth died and decayed on the surface because some of the bones have rodent gnaw marks and a rib shows gnawing by a fairly large carnivore.



In this frame grab provided by the television station WOI-DT, a man carries a mammoth bone on Saturday that was found on his rural farm near Oskaloosa, Iowa. The find is rare because it appears that much of the animal's skeleton is undisturbed

Mammoth discovery — continued

Excavating such a site is a slow process. The discoveries so far have been located after about six feet of digging. The site goes as deep as 30 to 40 feet, Semken said.

Excavation will continue throughout the summer. The next dig is scheduled for June 16.

A group of scientists plans to scan the area with ground penetrating radar on Friday to see if they can determine how much of the mammoth remains underground. It's an experiment by the geology department to see if the radar can detect bone underground, Semken said.

Semken said the landowner and his sons discovered the bones two years ago. They saw what turned out to be a 4-foot-long leg bone protruding from a creek bed. The bone at the knee joint was about the size of a soccer ball, and further digging revealed bones from the animal's foot and neck.

He said the landowner asked not to be identified in order to keep the site's location confidential.

"The geological location for this thing is just ideal," Semken said. "He's very excited about the kind of science we'll get out of it and he fully realizes the value of what we have."

The site also has become an invaluable teaching tool, said Mahaska County Conservation Board Naturalist Laura DeCook.

She teaches about nature and the outdoors in schools throughout the county and has assisted at the dig site.

"Information I learn from the people coordinating the dig can be used in the classroom and in providing classroom materials for us eventually," DeCook said.

She said the local teachers and students also have been invited to help dig at the site.

DeCook said digging is like putting together pieces of a puzzle.

"Piece by piece we can put together the whole picture of what life was like thousands of years ago," she said. "To find something that has existed this long is fascinating. It gives us clues to what the ecosystem was like at the time our own state. It's a neat history that doesn't come from a book, it's hands on."

Flat Boxes Needed for the 2012 Auction

Besides Styrofoam egg cartons, please be on the lookout for flat boxes for the club. They will be used for the upcoming Auction at the Amana RV Park. We are looking for all sizes and as many as you can get your hands on. Marv has offered to store them, so let's not disappoint him. Thank you!

Reminder — 2012 Auction

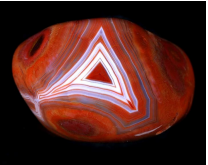
The 2012 Auction will be held September 15th — 16th in the Morton Building at the Amana RV Park, Amana, IA. About 1200 lots will be auctioned. It promises to be a hugely successful event. Attend and enjoy the spirited bidding action and the slightly-competitive camaraderie. See you there!

TOBY JORDAN, EDITOR
Cedar Valley Gems
1827 Oak Knolls Ct SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

June 2012

Postage
Required

Happy Father's Day!



A Celebration of Agates
July 26-29, 2012



See you at the picnics!
Have a great summer!

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society was organized for the purpose of studying the sciences of mineralogy, geology, and the arts of lapidary gemology. We are members of the Midwest (MWF) and American (AFMS) Federations. Membership is open to anyone who professes an interest in rocks and minerals.

Dues are \$15.00 per family per calendar year and can be sent to:

Dale Stout
2237 Meadowbrook Dr. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403.

Visit us on the web at:
www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

The club meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September through November and from January through May at 7:15 PM at the Rockwell Collins 35th St. Plant Cafeteria, Cedar Rapids, IA. The December meeting is a Christmas dinner held on the usual meeting night. June, July, and August meetings are potlucks held at 6:30 PM at area parks on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The Summer Board Meetings will be held on each of the following evenings at the home of Marv and Sue Houg.
Tuesday, July 3rd at 7:15pm Tuesday, Aug 7th at 7:15pm Tuesday, Sept 4th at 7:15pm