

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

NOVEMBER 2011

VOL. 38, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 15 MEETING—ANNUAL MEETING, RESUMED

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society will meet on **Tuesday, Nov. 15th**, at 7:15 pm at **Rockwell Collins 35th St Plant Cafeteria**, 855 35th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA. (The cafeteria entrance is at the inside corner of the complex, and the doors face 35th St.)

Election of officers will be held. The Nominating Committee, Dell James, Delores Slade and Julie Whitlatch, reported the following slate of officers. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Anyone nominated must have consented to be nominated.

- PresidentMarv Houg
- Vice Pres.Bill Desmarais
- TreasurerDale Stout
- SecretaryDell James
- EditorNEEDED
- LiaisonJoy Cummings
- Director '14Tom Whitlatch
- HistorianLeslie Blin
- SunshineDolores Slade
- HospitalityBob & Joy Cummings
- WebmasterAndie Burns

Hosts for the meeting are Julie Whitlatch and Jeff Kahl.

Program: Program Chair Bill Desmarais reports the November program will be a presentation by Ray Anderson about the 1811-12 New Madrid Earthquakes. See the summary in the October newsletter. (*Ray's programs are always excellent. —ed*)

Find of the Year competition: Bring your entries. See details on page 2.

Board Meeting: The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, December 6**, at 7:15 pm at the home of Marv and Sue Houg.



Club Holiday Party on December 13
Potluck—Eat at 6:30

Dell James is brining turkey; the club will furnish drinks. Bring a dish or two to share and your own table service.

Guaranty Bank
300 80th Street Court, Fairfax, access from 151
From Cedar Rapids, take 151 toward Fairfax, about
3 miles from Westdale Mall
If you get to the Casey's, you've gone too far.

Christmas Baskets
Our club is supplying Christmas baskets for 2 HA-
CAP families, but we do not yet have the info.
Check the website or look for an email.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!



Bob Roper has resigned as Newsletter Editor because it was "getting to be a drag." I am filling in until we can find a replacement. We are looking for a permanent replacement for this elected position. The job requires a good command of sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation, attending most of the regular and board meetings - each held monthly, reporting club news, and planning and collecting original or public domain material to fill each issue (articles from exchange issues can be used with proper credit). You'll gain a lot of rock-related knowledge in return. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please let someone on the board know.

I am filling in through December only, after which there will be no newsletter if we don't have an editor.
—Sharon Sonneleitner



ENTER "FIND OF THE YEAR CONTEST" AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Join the fun of this new activity! Bring your best rock find or creation for this year to the November club meeting for a chance to win best of the year. Categories will include

Artifact— Judged on Material, Age, Condition

Cabochon—Judged on Quality of Material, Workmanship, Design, and Composition

Cutting Material—Judged on Quality of Material, Size and Rarity

Faceting—Judged on Quality of Material, Perfection of Facet Meets, and Quality of Polish

Fossil—Judged on Rarity, Perfection and Preparation

Hand Wrought Jewelry—Workmanship and Design

Lake Superior Agate—Judged on Size, Color and Pattern

Mineral—Judged on Size, Rarity and Perfection

Open Class— various materials and designs such as spheres, eggs, intarsia, glass, bookends—Judged on Quality of Material, Design and Workmanship

Kids' categories will include **Fossil** (Rarity, Perfection, Preparation), **Rock or Mineral** (Size, Rarity, Perfection, Color and Pattern), and **Miscellaneous** (Quality, Size, Rarity) .

You must be a Cedar Valley club member. All specimens/creations must be found/made by the entrant in 2011. Enter more than one item per category, but you can only win one prize per category. Fill out a card at the meeting indicating what the specimen/creation is and, if appropriate, where it was found, and put your name on the back of the card.

Bring your items to the November meeting. Winners will be awarded ribbons.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

"FOSSIL GUY" EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

UI Museum of Natural History (UIMNH) and the Science Station

Sent by Don Johnson

"Fossil Guy" Don Johnson returns to the UIMNH and the Cedar Rapids Science Station on the first three weekends in November for a series of free educational programs using items from his extensive fossil collection. Although popular with grade-schoolers and their families, programs are open to paleontology enthusiasts of all ages! Programs are 30-minute talks followed by 30 minutes of question & answer and hands-on interactive time. All programs start at 2:00pm and are repeated at each location. The schedule is below.

UI Museum of Natural History – Auditorium in Macbride Hall on the Pentacrest in Iowa City

- Saturday, November 12: "Feathered Dinosaurs Yesterday and Today"
- Saturday, November 19: "Chewing Up the Ice Age"

Science Station – Lower Level Education Center at Lindale Mall in Cedar Rapids

- Sunday, November 13: "Feathered Dinosaurs Yesterday and Today"
- Sunday, November 20: "Chewing Up the Ice Age"

Please email mary@sciencestation.org with the number attending if you're planning on coming to a program(s) at Lindale Mall. While at Lindale Mall, visit the Science Station's exhibit space on the main floor and experience their new temporary exhibit, "Take Flight!" Visit their web site at www.sciencestation.org for more details.

Don's programs on the first weekend of November will include the public unveilings of the new spectacular 1:4 scale life restoration (sculpture) of "Laura the Kid Dinosaur" by Roby Braun of Cycad Productions Ltd! Much of Laura's fossil skeleton will also be on display at the programs that weekend. Visit the web site of the Eastern Iowa Paleontology Project at www.paleoproject.org for more information about the November "Fossil Guy" programs and about "Laura the Kid Dinosaur" including photos of Roby Braun's new sculpture!



Field Trip To St. Francisville, Missouri, for Geodes And possibly Fox River site, Depending on Conditions—Nov. 19

By Glen Rocca



Please RSVP – email or call and let me know if you are going.

Cost for Geodes dug: Flat \$.50 cents a pound whether it fits in a bucket or not – this is a special rate for this dig only. Normally it is \$25.00 per 5 gallon bucket and if it (geode) doesn't fit in a five gallon bucket it is \$1.50/pound. Geode size can range from baseball to 300 pounds. Typical size range is baseball to basketball and they contain white quartz, a few diamond dewdrop have been found, calcite columns & pillars, octahedral calcites, Sphalerite and a few other mineral inclusions and colors. The geodes will be weighed onsite before removal and all monies will go to the land owner.

This will be a joint club trip with CVRMS and possibly others joining us (BHGMS) on the dig. To participate you need to be a member of one of the clubs – BHGMS, CVRMS, etc. We plan to be onsite at 9:00 A.M. and will likely be there till 4:30 P.M. unless we go to the Fox River site.

Next we will stop at The Jet/The Salem Stub Truck Stop located at the Salem turn off at the Hwy 27/Hwy 125 (J-20) intersection; approximately 14 miles south of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; to take a quick break, pick up more people, and then head for the dig.

Approximate Time Table:

- 4:50 a.m. – Leave Shell Rock for Cedar Rapids
- 6:30 a.m. – Rendezvous with CVRMS club in rest stop just south of Cedar Rapids
- 6:45 a.m. – Leave for next stop south of Mt. Pleasant
- 8:00 a.m. – The Jet/The Salem Stub truck stop (approx.. 11 mi south of Mt. Pleasant, IA) – Rendezvous & quick break
- 8:15 a.m. – Leave for St Francisville
- 9:00 a.m. – St. Francisville Geode Dig Site

Please remember the times above are approximate, so be early because if you are late, we won't wait.

There are no bathroom facilities at the dig site. You will need to step behind a tree or go several miles down the road to the truck stop south of the dig site.

Make sure you bring a lunch and plenty to drink.

We will be digging in hard clay/mud and layered limestone, as well as hard limestone and in some areas hard rock shale.

Tools to bring: Pick, pick mattock/miners pick, Arkansas digging bars (sharp pointed pry bar), regular pry bars, chisels, crack hammers, sledge hammer, shovel, pike pointed rock hammer, and hoe. No specific safety equipment is required, but a very good idea to have safety glasses/eye protection.

Driving Directions:

From: North of Cedar Falls/Waterloo, Iowa.

- 1) Merge onto I-380 S/US-20 E via the ramp to Cedar Rapids/Dubuque. Continue to follow I-380 S to Cedar Rapids
- 2) Continue onto IA-27 S/US-218 S
- 3) Continue onto IA-27 S/State Hwy 394; Continue to follow IA-27 S, Entering Missouri
- 4) Continue onto MO-27 South (0.6 Mi)
- 5) When you cross the Iowa/Missouri border which is the center of the Des Moines River, you continue south about 0.6 mi and take the First Right.

Turn Right (West) toward State Hwy B South/Old St. Francisville Road North.

Turn Right (Go North) on Old St. Francisville Rd. (It parallels Hwy 27)

You will notice there is a drive going up a hill to a house - Do Not take this drive.

Just a few feet further north is a second drive that has an access off it going north into a grassy field that goes north/south and parallels the highway.

We will park in this grassy field toward the north end as that is the location for the entry to the geode mine. We will walk to the mine from the north end of the grass field. The land owner will be available to help haul tools in and geodes out with their 4x4 gators.

Drive Times (Approximate):

From Evansdale, Iowa: 2 Hours & 40 mins.

From Cedar Rapids Iowa: 2 Hours

If you have questions please call me or Marv Houg

Glen Rocca
BHGMS
319-269-8168 (C)
319-885-6737 (H)
glenr@forbin.net

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

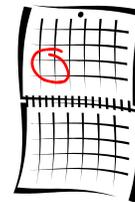
RE: Questions on rain and weather

We will go if it rains the night before – which is possible; if it is a light sprinkle or light rain on Saturday we will also go. If it is a heavy rain or thunder/lightning we will not go. It does get really sloppy, slippery and muddy at the dig site and the parking area if it is wet. The clay mud will suck the boots off your feet and leave you standing there trying to get one foot back in the boot without falling over. If you are on the rock surface it isn't so bad, just sloppy when raining. You may want to bring something to put on your car seats and also a spare change of clothing if it is muddy.

Please make sure your club dues are up to date with your respective club, if not; you can pay Marv (CVRMS) or me (BHGMS) at the dig site.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Event information included here is gathered from flyers, Exchange Bulletins, and the Internet
Please let me know of any that are missing



Nov 12-13: FREEPORT, IL, Annual Show. Northwest Illinois Rock Club. Highland Community College Student Ctr., 2998 W. Pearl City Rd Freeport, IL. Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00. Contact Brian Green, PO Box 396, Warren, IL 61087, (815) 745-2228, bgreen57@hotmail.com.

Nov 18-20: ST. LOUIS, MO, Mineral, Fossil, and Gem Show. St. Louis Mineral and Gem Society. NEW VENUE! Affton Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123. Friday 4 - 8 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 7 PM, Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM. Info: StLRockClub.com, Melissa Perucca show chairman, PeruccaM@aol.com.

Mar 17-18: CEDAR RAPIDS, IA. Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society. Hawkeye Downs, 4400 6th St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. 8:30am to 6:00pm on Saturday; 9:30am to 5:00pm on Sunday. Info: www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org. Marv Houg: m_houg@yahoo.com.

Classes Offered Locally

Tom Whitlatch is offering classes on Thursdays from 6 to around 8 or so. The classes will range from all sorts of techniques to information. Included will be cabbing, silver smithing, wire-wrap, polishing, cutting—just about anything a person wishes. Contact Tom at 362-0864

HERE AND THERE WITH OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Please Send News Items via the Form on our Website
Or call Delores Slade, Sunshine Chair, at 319-351-5559



We Welcome New Members:

Mike Shumate

709 E Co Rd 1720
Nauvoo, IL 62354
573-518-4739
Interested in rocks & minerals.

Michael Kirchnmeier

838 12th St
Windom, MN 56101
507-831-1829
Michaelkirchnmeier@yahoo.com
Interested in trilobites. Also interested in history.

Theresa Widmer & Kim Brockway

260 S Cordova Ave
LeCenter, MN 56057
507-357-6422
C: 507-340-5879

Calvin Krauss

2815 Roosevelt St
Clinton, IA 52732
5633-242-0122
cdKrauss2009@yahoo.com
Interested in everything.

Jason Eccles & Tawnya Stiles

Ryan Stiles, Kayla Koon
9410 New Liberty Rd
Maysville, IA 52773
563-449-6849
W: 563-340-4878
JSNCCLS@gmail.com
Interested in fossil hunting.



Our deepest sympathy to Jeff & Ilse Groff and Fran Overett and families on the death of Jeff & Fran's mother, Priscilla, on October 9th.



A speedy recovery to **Allyn Adams**, who fell and injured his knee on September 9. After about 6 weeks in rehab, he is now home and continuing to rehab.

Cutting Abrasives, DIAMOND v. SILICON CARBIDE

By Val Carver

From *The Rock Rustler's News* . Minnesota Mineral Club, Inc. Dec 2006. Marilyn Westman, publisher.

O.K. you have the equipment you need to cut and polish rocks. What do you use to grind, sand or polish them. In this article I will talk about grinding and sanding...

First of all, please not, when working rocks with very few and special exceptions you **SHOULD NOT** be using aluminum oxide based abrasives to grind or sand rocks. The reason for this is that aluminum oxide particles will dull when in contact with ceramic (rock) materials. This then builds up excessive heat which will damage the rock.

Now, how to choose between silicon carbide or diamond abrasives.

The first thing to note is that the cut achieved from a given silicon carbide mesh size does not match the cut you get from a diamond product. In fact, as a rule of thumb, a 600 mesh Silicon Carbide sanding belt will give you the same finish as a 1,800 mesh diamond sanding belt.

Also note, grinding is usually considered to be done with a "HARD" wheel, usually of 60 mesh up to 220 mesh.

Regardless of the type of abrasive being used, the finish obtained from say a 220 mesh grinding wheel (hard wheel) is about the same as that obtained from a 100 mesh sanding (soft) wheel.

Silicon carbide grinding wheels and sanding belts cost much less per wheel/belt than a diamond wheel or belt. However, a diamond wheel or belt will outlast a silicon carbide belt by a factor of 10 to 100 times longer. Even though the initial purchase cost of diamond products is much higher, the cost per rock is much lower.



Diamond wheels and belts cut much faster with less heat generation and need less change-out than silicon carbide belts.

Silicon carbide particle size allows wheels and belts with a maximum mesh size of about 800. This means that you will be forced to use some type of polish compound to obtain the final finish on

your rocks. Almost all polish compounds are white or light colored. This material can be deposited in the pits of the rocks, leaving white spots on the well-polished surface of the rock. Diamond abrasives used on wheels and belts are available up to 100,000 mesh, which allows diamond products to be used all the way up to a very high luster polish. Using the current generation of bonded diamond belts, a high luster finish can be obtained on almost any rock or stone with **NONE** of the "white" pitting found when using a conventional polish.

A typical sequence for silicon carbide grinding and sanding is 100 and 220 mesh hard grinding wheels, followed by a 100, 220, 400, 600 and 800 mesh sanding with a final polish stip.

A typical sequence for diamond abrasives is 100 and 220 mesh grinding followed by a 280, 600, 1,800, 3,000 and 8,000 mesh sanding with a 14,000 mesh polish.

My suggestion, if you **only** want to polish a handful of rocks in your life, think about setting up with silicon carbide abrasives. If you plan to do more than a handful of rocks in your **LIFE**, set up with **DIAMOND ABRASIVES**.

The Great Agate and Mineral Locator

By Jim Marburger

From *Pick & Shovel*. Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. vol 53, iss 11. July 2011. Sharon Marburger, ed.

What is up with this picture? How is this item used in the rock hobby?

The most obvious use for this sprayer is to wet rocks. But did you know you could also use it to wash off light dirt from them to expose the colors and other clues as to what they are? Most agates and other stones reveal themselves in bright sunlight and a wet condition. I have found the 1- to 2-gallon sized sprayer to be the best size to carry to the agate beds or sand bars. When deciding what size to take, remember that a gallon of water weighs 8.5 pounds. The weight will limit how far you can, or want, to carry it. Yes, it is going to get lighter with use, but your pockets or rock bag will hopefully be getting heavier with treasures found.

I use the sprayer wand with a sweeping motion in front of me. I try to limit the motion to a 3 to 4 foot sweep. This sweeping motion helps to train the eyes to do a systematic sweep of the area. Combining this with walking towards the sun to utilize all available light reflections really helps. Many times, 1 gallon of water will provide 1 to 2 hours of collecting time, depending on use. A trip back to the car to empty the collection bag or to get lunch is a good time to reload the sprayer with water.



If collecting on or near a river and the water in the river is fairly clean, it can be used. If silt is present in the water, it could clog the adjustable sprayer tip. The tip on this type of sprayer can be taken apart, and a light squirt will usually dislodge the plug. Reinstall the tip and continue collecting.

For safety's sake, mark the sprayer as a rock washer or agate locator so it is not accidentally used for chemicals.

This sprayer also works great when digging crystals like the hourglass selenite near Jet, Oklahoma. This location requires more water than does agate hunting, so one will want to carry extra water and some additional equipment. A wagon to carry the extra equipment such as a shovel, boxes for laying out crystals, food and drink cooler, tarps, and sun screen, is almost a necessity.

With the hole dug, it is time to start washing the sand away to expose crystals. And now the agate and mineral locator is a crystal locator as well!

Good luck and have fun with this new hobby tool. May this common sprayer help you to bring home the big ones!

Regular Meeting Minutes—October 18, 2011

Call to order: 7:35 p.m. by Marv Houg, President

Hosts: Leonard and Connie Moellers

Introduction of new members or guests Ryker and Brix Young with Dad

Minutes of last meeting

Motion to approve as written by Dean Young, Second by Jeff Kahl. Approved

Treasurer's report by Marv-Checking account total \$4364.30. Motion to approve by Tom, second by Jeff Kahl. Approved. Auction net-\$4079.05

The food concession which was operated by Sharon and Granddaughter netted \$234.30. Question and discussion about Sharon keeping the earnings. Motion made by Julie to allow Sharon to keep money earned, second by AJ. Motion passed.

Question by Tom: Should the contract include language that would allow club to deduct expenses incurred in getting individual's auction material be deducted from the individual's auction earnings? Julie made a motion that board should discuss a contract that includes clearer language regarding this issue. Second by Dean. Motion passed. Board will discuss at next board meeting.

Monthly Program

Bill Desmarais presented an entertaining and educational program regarding the National Park System showing a variety of slides taken by him during his many travels.

Door Prize

Tom Whittlatch won and Ryker was awarded his choice.

Correspondence

Email notification regarding rock swap was shared. Marv will call to get more information and share at next meeting.

New Business

Recommendation by the board to make "Geodes-Nature's Grab Bag" the title of the show for 2012. Second by AJ. Motion passed.

Christmas Party-**Date- Tuesday December 13.** Note that this is a change from the regular meeting date. Pot luck. Club will provide drinks. Turkey will be by Dell. Club members asked to donate door prizes. Place will be the Guaranty Bank in Fairfax, the same venue as previous years. **Eat at 6:30 pm**

Club will sponsor two HACAP families this year.

Still need members to volunteer to host meetings. Next month, Julie Whitlatch and Jeff Kahl. Marv will look into the possibilities of having another field trip before winter.

Sharon reminded everyone of the contest that will be held next month at the regular meeting. See newsletter for more details.

Adjournment

Motion made by AJ, second by Tom. Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Dell James, Secretary 

Board Meeting Minutes November 1 , 2011

Present: Marv Houg, Sharon Sonnleitner, Dell James, Tom Whitlatch, Bill Desmarais, Leonard Moellers
Call to order: 7:25 p.m. by Marv, President, at Marv's House

AUCTION SUMMARY

Tentative plans discussed for next year's auction. Some possible consigners identified. Per recommendation from club member, the existing contract was reviewed and the language that includes charging expenses such as mileage to the consigner already exists. Enforcement needs to be consistent however. The question of mileage charges will be explored by Dell from old club minutes.

SHOW 2012 March 17-18

Theme will be geodes with title of "Geodes—Nature's Grab Bags." There have been many inquiries by various vendors requesting permission to be included in our show. Currently, there are no openings. Contracts have been mailed. Marv will follow up with Michael Sincak regarding potential displays.

Possible program speakers were discussed. Nothing definite was decided.

Marv will contact the Wickiup people for a display about Geodes for next year's show and maybe presenting a program for show.

NEXT MEETING

Dr. Ray Anderson will present his program on the New Madrid Earthquake. Information is in newsletter and on website. Dell will also place an announcement in the Gazette.

Also will have the contest with the information provided in newsletter. Tom will check into ribbons as awards for the nine categories listed.

OTHER BUSINESS**Christmas Party**

Reservation has been made for December 13, 6:30 p.m., at the Guaranty Bank in Fairfax. Pot luck and bring your own table service. Some door prizes will be provided by club members, and Dell will see about some creative games or something. Turkey and drinks will be provided with the rest being pot luck. Bill will put together a slide show similar to last year's presentation.

FIELD TRIPS

Getting too late and the quarries are closing down. Marv will talk to Glen Rocca about a possible St. Francisville trip.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

One directorship and all other offices are up for reelection. The newsletter editorship is currently being done by Sharon; however, as of January 1, 2012, she will no longer be the editor. Various aspects of making the job more appealing to potential candidates were discussed including decreasing the frequency of the newsletter. Instead of a monthly publications, maybe a quarterly? Or email and website availability? Also, perhaps it could be made shorter in length? The cost of publishing and mailing was also considered. All agreed that it is a time consuming job the way it is currently designed. Board agreed to take it to the club meeting and invite suggestions from the club. Anyone interested in assuming the duties of editor should notify one of the board members or nominating committee soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Leonard, second by Tom. Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Dell James/Secretary 

Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs

President.....	Marv Houg <m_houg@yahoo.com>	.....364-2868
Vice Pres.	Bill Desmarais <Desmarais_3@msn.com>	.....365-0612
Treasurer	Dale Stout <dhstout55@aol.com>	.....365-7798
Secretary	Dell James <cycladelics@netins.net>	.....446-7591
Interim Editor ...	Sharon Sonnleitner <sonnb@aol.com>	.....396-4016
Liaison	Joy Cummings.....	.....396-4647
Imm. Past Pres.	Sharon Sonnleitner <sonnb@aol.com>	.....396-4016
Director '11	Tom Whitlatch <Whitlatcht@gmail.com>	.....362-0684
Director '12	Leonard Moellers <leonardmoellers@yahoo.com>	373-1508
Director '13	Andrew Halfmann	
Historian.....	Leslie Blin <bblin@bser.com>	.....377-3339
Sunshine.....	Dolores Slade<dslade733@aol.com>	.....351-5559
Hospitality	Bob & Joy Cummings .....	.....396-4647
Webmaster	Andie Burns <carter1266@gmail.com>	.....

Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society was organized for the purpose of studying the sciences of mineralogy, geology, and paleontology and the arts of lapidary and 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 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 7:15pm 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 6:30pm at area parks on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.



Sharon Sonnleitner, Interim Editor
 4800 Sunset Dr. SW
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52404