

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

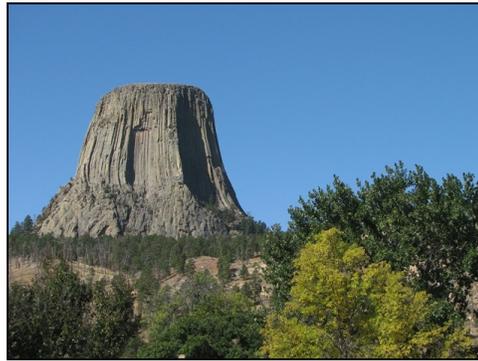
CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

OCTOBER 2011

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OCT 18TH MEETING

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society will meet on **Tuesday, Oct. 18th**, 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.)



Devils Tower and Grand Teton National Park - B. Desmarais

Dell James volunteered to host for a second consecutive month since no one else signed up.

Program: Program Chair Bill Desmarais will present the program: "Our National Park System" — Landforms and Geologic Features. It will have an audience participation part based on the question, How well do you know our park system? (*Bill's programs are always excellent and his pictures are stunning, as you will note from the pictures on the right—Ed.*)

Board Meeting: The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, November 1**, at 7:15 pm at the home of Marv and Sue Houg.

Looking Ahead to November Meeting:

Read about "Find of the Year Contest"

Read a summary of the 1811-12 New Madrid Earthquakes
Ray Anderson's program for November
Both on page 4

Save the Date
for the Club Holiday Party

December 13

Eat at 6:30

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.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

Auction Report

Treasurer Dale Stout reported the September 17-18 auction grossed \$26,649 for 1,301 lots, averaging about \$20 a lot. The club's commission was \$5,781.95, and the profit from concessions was \$234.30. Expenses were \$1925.92, so the club's net was \$4,090.33. This money helps pay for scholarships at the University of Iowa and Cornell, support for the VAST Center, and activities of the club.

Expenses:

Venue	800.00
Advertising	360.30
Mileage for picking up material	245.00
Food for workers on set-up/work day	241.86
Truck to transport lots to venue	116.54
Supplies	28.85
Sales Tax	83.37



Lots at the Auction
- S. Sonnleitner

The auction lasted from 9 :00a.m. to about 8:00 p.m. Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. to about 3:30 p.m. Sunday. There were a total of 89 bidders, most of whom came Saturday and stayed through Sunday. Since many of the bidders come pretty much every year, there was lots

of good humor in the bidding. Phil Oliver made up buttons for people to wear, as well as a t-shirt for himself, saying "I bid \$1 more than Mike." If you've been to any of the recent auctions, you know that Mike Powelka will buy just about anything, and he and Phil are often in competition for the same item.

Attesting to the quality of this year's material, few lots went for \$1, while almost 20 went for \$100 or more:

Doug DeRosear	Mammoth tusk	\$140
	Geo Survey set	\$155
Marvin/Doris Juhl	Madagascar wood	\$165
	Blue Forest wood	\$110
	Polished wood	\$110
	Union Road Agate	\$105
Tim Thye	Stalactite	\$150
	IA wood	\$105
Helen Lutz	AZ wood	\$360
	AZ wood	\$300
	Various minerals	\$250
	Malachite	\$170
	Chrysoprase	\$170
	Keswick	\$160
	20" saw blade	\$130
	Fluorite	\$110
	Diamond Ring	\$100
	Agate	\$100
	Soapstone Carving	\$100

—Sharon Sonnleitner

We've Got Mail

Marv,

Got the results of the auction yesterday. Happy with the results. Your group of workers and yourself are to be commended for a good job, well done. Ginny and I can appreciate the work of preparing for this event, and all the work of getting to the final item.

Having attended several of these auctions I do notice that it is basically the same people that do all the work. Please tell all of them for Ginny and I, THANK YOU.

—Ginny and Wes Greenfield

Dear Marv and Fellow Club Members,

Thank you for a well-run auction. We were impressed how well organized it was.

A special thanks to Tom and Dale for helping us load and unload on Friday and to those who helped Milo set up on Friday.

—Best Regards, Milo & Jean (Cervený)



FALL AUCTION REFLECTIONS



Auction in Progress - S. Sonnleitner

The September consignment auction has come and gone and can once again be considered a great success, grossing \$26,649 from the material of 11 consigners.

We heard comments of “where do you keep getting all this good stuff?” and “There’s some really good material here this year.” But we also heard some concerns from a member who had not been at the auction for several years about what happened to this being a family-friendly event, and I’d like to address that question.

As some of you know, the annual auction started out in the basement of the old History Center with about 15 club members in attendance and lasted a couple hours. The purpose was to help the widow of a former club member dispose of his collection. The club took a commission for our work and expenses. A couple years passed before another family needed help disposing of a much larger collection, so we rented a site, sent out flyers, advertised in the newspaper and attracted a few more bidders - and the annual auction took off.

The success and organization of that auction attracted other people to ask us to sell their material. Our reputation for the quality of the material, organization of the lots, prices obtained and the knowledge and integrity of the club spread a little more each year, and people contacted us from farther and farther away. Buyers also began to come from farther away until today we have bidders from Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Missouri, Illinois and across Iowa. In the process, prices have risen, which has both positive and negative consequences.

A positive is that people wanting to dispose of collections continue to contact us because they know we do a good job of attracting bidders, organizing lots, and auctioneering, which means they will get reasonable prices for their consigned material. And they know we deal fairly with everyone. Sometimes, as was the case this year, we have to turn people away or ask them to wait a year.

We are also helping people who might otherwise have to just junk their material or sell it for a pittance. The inheritors of a collection from the Quad Cities were advised by friends to haul it out to a ditch; the collection brought about \$30,000 over a 3-year sale. One of the consigners this year is in a nursing home and needs money for her care. Several members salvaged her material from her house as it was being cleaned out, spent a lot of time cleaning and

organizing the material, but, before they could intervene, saw a bunch of Lake Superior agates—and who knows what else—being thrown into a dumpster by the company cleaning the house. Her 290 lots brought \$9,347.

The quality of the material we get remains high, with some coming from areas that are now closed to

collection. This afford club members and other bidders a chance to add those specimens to their collections.

A negative is that there are few bargains any more—although one bidder who paid \$250 for a lot that most others thought should go for around \$50 said one piece in the lot was worth \$500. As the spectrum of buyers has broadened, the auction has become a serious auction. As in any auction, each lot goes to the person who is willing to bid the most, and prices have risen over the years as more serious collectors and dealers attend.

Many of the bidders come about every year; friendly rivalries have arisen; and the auctioneers know those bidders’ habits. Some of the buyers will bid on just about anything and keep bidding as far as they are willing to go. If a bidder really wants a lot, he will keep bidding until he wins it. When those buyers are in attendance, bids go high. Other bidders, including our auctioneers, have carefully considered lists with maximums and will bid on an item until they either win the lot or reach their maximum, whichever comes first. Some of the buyers who came in the early years have told us they no longer come because they are not willing to pay the prices the lots bring now. (On the other hand, a couple of those people have consigned material with us in the last few years.) When I pick out lots I’d like to have, I pretty much know that unless I am willing to go to whatever it takes, I will not get the lot.

So what happened to the auction being a family-friendly event? I think the basic answer is the auction became a huge success. Unlike our show, which was always intended to be a family event and is very successful as such, the auction was always intended to be an auction. In its infancy, when most of the bidders were club members, bargains could be had, and bidders would bow to other bidders or allow kids to buy things that would otherwise go higher. As a parent of some of those kids, I had mixed emotions—grateful the bidders supported the kids, but uneasy the seller did not get full value for the lot. Now, as in other normal auctions, buyers, including our club-member auctioneers, base their bids on their estimated value of each lot, which is more than many of us more casual buyers are willing to pay. The result is the sellers get fair money for their material. Even if I don’t win an item, I still enjoy looking at all the material, watching the action, and visiting with people we see once or twice a year.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

The History and Geology of the Legendary New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811 and 1812

By Raymond Anderson

Iowa Geological & Water Survey

(Ray will be presenting the November meeting program)



During the winter of 1811 and 1812 the central United States was subjected to one of the greatest sequences of earthquakes in world history. In this period a series of three 7.5 - 7.7 magnitude earthquakes and at least 3 magnitude 6.0-7.0 aftershocks struck the boot heel area

of Missouri. Between December 1811 and March 1812 the area was subjected to over 200 moderate to large earthquakes, ten of which were estimated greater than magnitude 6, and 100 ranging from 5.0-5.9. The quakes damaged structures over a 250,000 mi² area and the quakes were felt over a 2 million mi² area. This activity continues at much reduced scale to the modern day. Geoscientists have been investigating these events for many years and are now de-

veloping an understanding of the forces and structures that drive this activity. There have been many dire predictions of a recurrence of giant earthquakes in this area, including several related to the December 2012 "doomsday" predictions. This winter marks the 200th anniversary of the greatest of these earthquakes, and provides an appropriate occasion to review what we know about these legendary events.

Dr. Raymond Anderson has 3 degrees in geology from the University of Iowa and is currently and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Geoscience. Ray has worked as a geologist for the Iowa Geological and Water Survey for over 40 years, and in that time he has studied most aspects of the State's geology, including its major structural features such as the Midcontinent Rift System and the Manson Impact Structure. He has also investigated the structural foundation of the Midcontinent and the seismic activity in Iowa's history.



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.

Start selecting your entry/entries now and plan to attend the November meeting with it/them.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

Unveiling "Laura the Kid Dinosaur" Scale Model

2 pm on Saturday, November 5

University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, Iowa City

By "The Fossil Guy" Don Johnson

Be among the first to see the new 1:4 scale life restoration of "Laura the Kid Dinosaur" at the November 5 public unveiling at "The Fossil Guy" program for children, "Bringing 'Laura the Kid Dinosaur' Back to Life!" See and touch some of Laura's real fossil bones, too. Examine real fossil bones, teeth, claws, and even an egg from a number of different duck-billed dinosaurs including Edmontosaurus and Maiasaura.



*Joy Cummings & Delores Slade study
Laura at the September club meeting
- S. Sonnleitner*

(EIPP) sponsors. Laura may have been a male or female dinosaur. She is named after EIPP President Don Johnson's daughter.

Laura, which will be 11' long and 5' high at the hips when mounted, would have been about 4 years old and weighed about 750 pounds when alive and had only a hint of the plate-shaped head crest of the adults.

Laura was a young Hypacrosaurus, a type of crested duck-billed. Laura's fossilized bones were discovered in July 2004 on private land north of Dupuyer, Montana, in the Two Medicine Formation. David Wolf and crew of Two Girls Fossils in Houston excavated her bones during the 2004 and 2005 dig seasons.

The recovered skeleton is over 90% complete, with a skull that is about 50% complete. This makes Laura's fossil skeleton one of the most complete of all dinosaur skeletons!

Laura's fossil skeleton was brought to Eastern Iowa by the Eastern Iowa Paleontology Project

Laura's species is only one of a handful of dinosaur species that are known from eggs, nests, embryos, hatchlings, and all stages of development to adulthood.

This group of dinosaurs was so successful that they are called the "cattle of the Cretaceous"?

Special thanks goes out to Roby Braun of Cycad Productions Ltd for bringing "Laura the Kid Dinosaur" back to life in the form of the 1:4 scale life restoration. His professional fee was greatly reduced for the EIPP - in appreciation Roby and his wife Deborah are now EIPP Lifetime Donors.

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:

Justus Ivy Matteson

Box 45
Amana, IA 52203

Change of Address:

Leonard & Connie Moellers, Jr.

2010 58th St
Vinton, IA 52349
leonardmoellers@yahoo.com



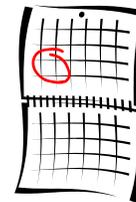
A speedy recovery is wished to **Polly Prior**, who had corrective surgery mid-September.



Thanks to all the members who helped with set-up and at the September auction—pulling lots to the front, showing lots, spotting, clerking, cashiering, running bid sheets, auctioneering—and at clean-up. The auction could not happen without so many people helping!

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Event information included here is gathered from flyers, exchange bulletins, and the internet
Please let the editor know of any that are missing



- Oct 14-16: WARREN, MI, Annual Greater Detroit Show.** Michigan Mineralogical Society. South Macomb Community College, Expo Center, Bldg P, 14500 12 Mile Rd. Fri 9:00-7:00, Sat 10:00-7:00, Sun 11:00-5:00. Contact: Carol Werner, 3401 Briarhill Rd, Hartland, MI 48353. (248) 887-3906, briarhillwerner@comcast.net
- Oct 15-16: CHICAGO HTS, IL, 42nd Annual Show.** South Suburban Earth Science Club. Prairie State College, 202 S Halsted St. Sat, Sun 10:00-5:00. Contact Jan Podbielski, PO Box 911, Peotone, IL 60450, (708) 258-3791, ssescus@yahoo.com
- Oct 15-16: DES MOINES, IA, Annual Show.** Des Moines Lapidary Society. Paulo Knapp Animal Learning Ctr Iowa State Fairgrounds, E University Av Gate. Sat 10:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00. Contact Steve Cunningham, (515) 262-4578, steverv@mchsi.com
- Oct 15-16: COTTAGE GROVE, MN, Annual Show.** Minnesota Mineral Club. National Guard Training & Community Ctr, 8180 Belden Blvd. Sat 10:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00. Contact: Sandy, info@minnesotamineralclub.org, or Rita (651) 457-4285
- Oct 15-16: CLIO, MI, 44th Annual Show.** Flint Rock & Gem Club. Carter Middle School, Rogers Lodge Dr. Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-5:00. Contact Ed Hearn, 10395 Ataberry Dr, Clio, MI 48420, (810) 687-2339, edleo324@comcast.net
- Oct 21-23: FT WAYNE, IN, 50th Annual Show.** Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society. Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd. Fri & Sat 10:00-7:00, Sun 11:00-5:00. Contact: Michele Yamanaka, 4336 Charter Ln, Ft Wayne, IN 46815, (260) 424-5070, yamanakam@cs.com
- Oct 22-23: CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH, Semi-annual Gemboree.** Akron Mineral Society & Summit Lapidary Club. Emido Expo Center, 48 E Bath Rd. 10:00-6:00. Contact Evelyn Tryon, 2028 Tallmadge Rd, Kent, OH 44240, (330) 673-9664, gemboree76@yahoo.com, lapidaryclubofohio.org
- Oct 29-30: DAVENPORT, IA, Fall Rock , Gem & Jewelry Show.** Blackhawk Gem and Mineral Club. Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W Locust St., Davenport. Sat. 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact: Craig or Kellie at (563) 445-3034.
- Nov 4-6: CLEVELAND, OH, Annual Micromineral Symposium,** Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, Fri 7:30-9:30P, Sat 8:30-5:00, Sun 9:30-3:30, Contact Dick Green, 1745 13th St, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223, (330) 929-2395, jgreen2@neo.rr.com
- Nov. 5: Public Unveiling of EIPP's 1:4 Life Restoration of Laura the Dinosaur.** UI Museum of Natural History. 2pm on Saturday, November 5. <http://www.uiowa.edu/~nathist/programs.html>
- Nov 5-6: STURTEVANT, WI, Annual Show,** Racine Geological Society. Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand Av. Sat, Sun 10:00-5:00. Contact John Lowman, 3223 Spruce St, Racine, WI 53403, (262) 554-5370
- Nov 7: BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI, Annual Auction.** Michigan Mineralogical Society. Cranbrook Institute of Science Auditorium, 39221 N Woodward Av. Mon 6:30 Viewing, 7:00 Auction. Contact: Mildred Hurt, 1211 E Maxlow, Hazel Park, MI 48030, (248) 398-6693, georgematyas@att.net
- 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.

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 mithing, wire-wrap, polishing, cutting—just about anything a person wishes.

Contact Tom at 362-0864

Largest Fossil Spider Found in Volcanic Ash

By Charles Q. Choi, LiveScience Contributor, LiveScience. Com—4/20/11

from The Agatizer, 6/11, Vol. LVI No. 6

The largest fossil spider uncovered to date once ensnared prey back in the age of dinosaurs, scientists find.

The spider, named *Nephila jurassica*, was discovered buried in ancient volcanic ash in Inner Mongolia, China. Tufts of hairlike fibers seen on its legs showed this 165-million-year-old arachnid to be the oldest known species of the largest web-weaving spiders alive today—the golden orb-weavers, or *Nephila*, which are big enough to catch birds and bats, use silk that shines like gold in the sunlight.

The fossil was about as large as its modern relatives, with a body one inch (2.5 centimeters) wide and legs that reach up to 2.5 inches (6.3 cm) long. Golden orb-weavers nowadays are mainly tropical creatures, so the ancient environment of *Nephila jurassica* probably was similarly lush.

“It would have lived, like today’s *Nephila*, in its orb web of golden silk in a clearing in a forest, or more likely, at the edge of a forest close to the lake,” researcher Paul Selden, director of the Paleontological Institute at the University of Kansas, told LiveScience. “There would have been volcanoes nearby producing the ash that forms the lake sediment it is entombed within.”

Spiders are the most numerous predators on land today, and help keep insect numbers in check. So these



findings help us “understand the evolution of the insect-spider predator-prey relationship,” Selden said, suggesting that golden orb-weavers have been ensnaring insects and influencing their evolution since the Jurassic Period. [Read: Ancient Spider Guts Revealed in 3-D]

“There were many large or medium-sized flying insects around at that time on which it would have fed indiscriminately,” Selden said.

In modern golden orb-weaver species, females are typically much larger than males. This new fossil was a female, suggesting this trend stretches back at least as far as the Middle Jurassic, Selden said—that is back before the first known bird, Archaeopteryx, or giant dinosaurs such as Brachiosaurus and Diplodocus.

Although this is the largest fossil spider known to date, it is not the oldest. Two species from Coseley, England, *Eocteniza silvicola* and *Protocteniza Britannic*, both come from about 310 million years ago.

Selden and his colleagues are now investigating other fossil spiders from China, “as well as those from elsewhere in the world—currently Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Italy and Korea,” he said.

The scientists detail their findings online April 20 in the journal *Biology Letters*.

Lapidary Tip



To identify and grind out pits in the cabochon, spray the rough cab with red enamel from an aerosol can, then grind the paint off with a light touch. Pits and lines will stand out as bright red spots, making it

unnecessary to wipe the cab to see if the pits are out. This is especially helpful when grinding freeform cabs from Fire Agate.

Tips for Silversmiths



Draw your jeweler’s saw through an old candle. It coats the blade and you can saw faster.

Wipe a piece of chalk over your jeweler’s files. It keeps metal slivers from clogging the file and you can blow them out.

Avoid scratches in silver you are working on by covering it with transparent contact paper. You can mark and saw with the paper on.

—from The Petrified Digest 1/99, via the Sooner Rockologist, via Smoke Signals 10/11

Take Care of Your Collection

By Ed Mattson

from The Vug, 3/07; via The Rock Roller, 10/08 via Breccia, via The Quarry, 10/11

Being a mineral collector, I visit the dealers and shows in our area. I also go to tag sales, flea markets, consignment and antique stores, which occasionally can have mineral specimens for sale. What I find mostly are only one or two specimens that were bought as souvenirs, gifts, or an Object D'Art for its decorative value.

Rarely, I have found an estate sale where the deceased person was a collector or a lapidary enthusiast. Our club has been given materials and collections from various past and deceased members. Others were ones who had to move and did not have room to store their collection. Past club boards have been using this material for selling at our monthly auctions and other venues. I knew many of the members from which this material came.

What saddens me is the state these collections are in. While the original collector fully intended and started a very good labeling and record keeping system, with the demands of everyday life, time, and health, many collections will ultimately degrade into a mass of confusion.

Some of the material I have sorted through in the club stock came from an early member who passed on some years ago. I had visited him a few times when he was alive and saw his collection. Even then it was in a disorganized state. While he had started to properly have code numbers on each specimen and had a corresponding card file, he was unable to keep up with it.

When the remnants of his collection had come to me, via auction & sales, I found utter chaos. There were specimens without numbers, numbered specimens without cards, missing specimens or cards. I filled three tall kitchen can trash bags full of crumbling paper, mil-dewed cardboard trays, and an assortment of grubby plastic containers that I had sorted from the minerals.

I knew that he, as well as other collectors, prized each piece he bought or collected. Each had its own story to him. I knew that many pieces came from local sites now closed. I knew I was tossing



A Collection of Brazilian Agates - D. Stout

out items with possibly some monetary or historical value. I tried to identify as much as I could, but ultimately, about 1/3 of what was there went into the "use as pretty rocks" buckets. Many hobbyist collections I see are potentially doomed to this fate.

You are asking, or should be asking, now, how can I avoid this happening to my collection? First, be very selective of what you take home if you self collect. Just because you work hard to get a 5 gallon bucket of material does not mean you have to keep it all. Ask yourself; is this the best that this site can offer? Do I really need this much? Can I trade or sell the excess? Be picky. Don't break your back hauling junk home. The other way is simple. At least once a month, devote some time to keep it in order. No "I can do that tomorrow" or "I'll do it next week" excuses. Mount every thing firmly on a base of some type. It could be anything. Styrofoam, wood, stiff cardboard or clear plastic blocks so long as you keep a uniform look. Have a short, simple label ON EACH ITEM with a corresponding hardcopy list. You can do a list on the computer, but computers crash. If you self collect and have multiples, mount a few and store the rest in a sturdy container with a label in or on it.

Your next question should be "What can I use in preserving my collection?" NO cheap folding, paperboard boxes you get from a dealer. NO shoeboxes or other cheap boxes. NO zip lock type bags or other plastic or paper bags. Both will degrade chemically and become mildew food or mouse nesting material quickly. NO plastic display cases scavenged from the dumpster behind Kohl's or Wal-Mart. NO, NO, NO deli or other food containers of any kind! Besides the fact that they will degrade

also, it is poor way to show your collection. If you have any pride in your collection, show it properly. This all goes double if you store your collection in a basement or garage. And why are you storing your collection in such a dark, damp, moldy, bug & rodent infested and inaccessible place any-way? With the Internet, one can find all sorts of good-looking and sturdy boxes, drawers, glass front display unit kits and so on. There are many more makers and dealers of container systems just for our hobby now than in decades past.

Yes, I know you are going to worry about the time & cost, so let me ask you this. Do you want your collection, which you have spent much money, time, effort on, and have fond many memories of, to be passed on as a worthwhile and educational collection to a young collector? Or do you want it to become just some fancy rocks in a rock garden or buried in a concrete patio or wind up like the collection leftovers I deal with?

Competitive Displays for AFMS Show in Minneapolis

To: The President and Club/Society Members:

After completing my term as President of the American Federation, I have agreed to once again chair the MidWest Federations Uniform Rules committee.

Several years ago I was a member of an AFMS Ad-hoc committee that had sent out a questionnaire in the MWF newsletter seeking information as to why the competitive exhibits were fading from the scene at the MWF and other conventions.

Out of what are presently 118 clubs and 7800+ members, there were only 26 replies of the survey. This indicated that either the person that received the newsletter had not passed the survey on or sadly there is a growing apathy in the MWF members to participate.

The basic purpose of this letter is for the hope that you as president of your organization will pass on to your members that the judges training classes that were held by the AFMS and hosted by the Eastern Federation have rectified the judging complaints and made judging more uniform which in turn have eliminated "picky" things, such as for an example, a finger print on the glass or a fly that happened to commit suicide in your display case are no longer counted as points off.

I would like to try to revise the competitive exhibits in the MWF, but I need everyone's help in doing so. By entering, the competitors can gain tips on their particular interest or, in some instances, teach a few to both the public and at times the judges. There are a lot of talented club members in the MWF, and they should be proud to display and share their talents and skills. The displays are also an interest to the public because they



show what they can also learn to do if they join and become members of your club.

If club individuals are somewhat reluctant, a club or society case can be put together and judged also. All of the competing rules can be obtained on the AFMS web site amfed.org—then click on Uniform Rules and pick out your individual category, that way avoiding the complete manual and only choosing what your interest is in. There is no cost to do

so.

Next year the convention will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and if you are able to attend, please consider a competitive display.

A competitive form is not available yet but should be on their website soon. The information and forms for this will also be printed in the MWF and the AFMS newsletters, which are sent to all the clubs. Ask for the person in your club that receives the newsletters.

The MWF was the first federation formed. Please help in it not being the first to cease. There needs to be a purpose for the awards banquet, and only you can help by competing and winning and receiving one of those awards.

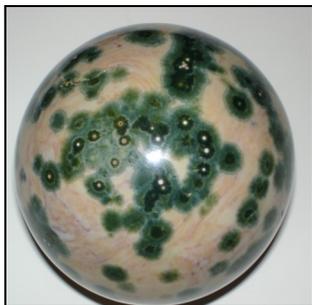
I will be anticipating and looking forward to seeing some great cases in Minnesota next year. A box of trophies was passed on to me, and they would look much better on a competitor's desk or wall than gathering dust on my storage shelf. I would truly like to give them all away.

—Sincerely, Bob Miller
KanBrock@aol.com

Ocean Jasper

By Dan Sperber

From The Rockpile, Apr 07, vol M No 4



Ocean Jasper Sphere
S. Sonnleitner

Since I started cutting Ocean Jasper, everyone asks me what it is and where it comes from. Well, I decided to do a little research, and this is what I came up with.

The recent introduction of the newest stone in the jasper family is spectacular orbicular jasper, known as Ocean Jasper. This stone, the product of one mine on

Madagascar's remote northwest coast bordering the Indian Ocean near Marovato, was only discovered after years of searching, in an area so isolated it has no roads and the only way it can be accessed is by boat. All ocean jasper mined here must be transported to a more developed area of Madagascar using the same method—by boat.

Ocean jasper can only be observed and collected at low tide. It is made up of rhyolitic spheres or orbs and comes in an astonishing array of colors and color combinations, many of which, in the gem trade, can go for a ton of money. One of the most sought-after forms of ocean jasper is the stuff that is translucent. Stones cut from this material and set into jewelry can go upwards of a hundred dollars each, or more. I found a reference to a story about the discovery of this great material from an article published in the June 2001 edition of *EC Rockhounding* by the owner of the Ocean Jasper Mine, Paul Obenich.

"Back in the 1950's, a buyer was shown a few pieces by a prospector, but the latter couldn't remember where he'd gotten the material. After some confusion, it was agreed that it came from a remote and rugged section of the coastline on the northwest side of the island. Not a very encouraging description to pinpoint the source!" "in the 1977 edition of *Grund's Mineral Encyclopedia*, there was a photograph of the mythical jasper, but its source was still unknown. The mystery remained. Then, in 1998, Paul Obenich, owner of Madagascar Minerals, spent 45 days traveling up the coast, stopping at fishing villages and asking everyone he met if they knew of this striking rock."

"He found it, but in the most bizarre locality...the mystery of why the deposit had remained hidden for so long became clear when he discovered, it was only accessible at low tide! Hence the new name...ocean jasper.

How to Make and Attach a Label to Your Specimen

By Richard Peterson

From Pick & Shovel, 6/11 vol 53 no 10

LaserJet printers produce a clear, sharp, durable number. I like to use a bold, New Courier 12 font for numbers 1-99. For numbers 100-999, 8 font is used. The numbers are punched out of the sheet of paper using a standard hand held paper. Use a punch that cuts a clean circle without leaving ragged edges. I use an acrylic finger nail sealer to secure the numbered circle to the numbered circle to the specimen. Not all sealers are created equal. Cover Girl NailSlicks ("Clear Ice") is very stable over time. This comes in a .5 fluid ounce bottle with a brush in the lid. A small, thin film of sealer is placed on the specimen and the numbered circle is set in place. Let the sealer dry a bit until tacky, then flatten the circle to the specimen. For this, use the tip of a toothpick, not your finger. A moist finger tip can lift the circle loose. Allow to dry overnight, then seal the surface and edges of the numbered circle with a thin layer of sealer.

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2011

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

Hosts: Dell James & Dale Stout

Introduction of new members or guests: Les Engles, new member and Don Johnson with guest, which was a 1/4 scale life restoration of Laura the Kid dinosaur from Eastern Iowa Paleontology Project.

Minutes of last meeting: Motion to approve as written by Julie Whitlatch, Second by AJ. Johnson. Approved

Treasurers' report by Dale Stout: Checking account total \$500.86. Motion to approve by Tom Whitlatch, second by Leonard Moellers. Approved

Monthly Program:

Earth is Rock—Showcasing the VAST center Middle School Earth History Unit presented by Erica Larson and Gine Rutenbeck. An interesting, fun, interactive explanation of where the club's donation goes in helping to educate Middle School kids regarding earth sciences. Many of the club members expressed an interest in taking the class themselves. Thank you VAST center.

Door Prize: Ann Kohl won and chose the amethyst pendant.

OLD BUSINESS:

Auction report: Dale reported over \$26,000 gross. More details to follow.

Website: Members are encouraged to peruse the website for the club activities, etc. www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org. Thanks to Sharon Sonnleitner for accepting the task.

Newsletter editor: The club currently is seeking some individual to take on the duties of the editor of our 10 month newsletter. Not published in July and August. Sharon Sonnleitner has stepped up to act as editor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Show: Recommendation from Board to designate **Geodes** as the theme for the March 2012 show. Second by AJ. Approved.

Club members are now encouraged to think of a name for the show with Geodes in mind.

Field trips:

Klein Quarry October 9
Geode Fest Hamilton, Ill 9/23 and 9/25

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mount Mercy Grotto: More work is being conducted at the Mt. Mercy grotto, and they are requesting rose quartz to add to the beauty of the grotto. Work will be done the week of October 9.

Host/Hostess: Sign up sheet for monthly host/hostess duties is available, and so far no one signed up for October, February April with seconds needed for November and January.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted, Dell James, Sec.



Board Meeting Minutes October , 2011

Present: Marv Houg, Dale Stout,,Sharon Sonnleitner, Dell James, Tom Whitlatch, Joy Cummings,
Bill Desmarais, Leonard Moellers

Call to order: 7:25 p.m. by Marv, President, at Marv's House

AUCTION SUMMARY

Dale reported the activity of the sales of the items auctioned. See p. for report. A profit of \$4090.33 was realized for the club. All in all a successful auction. Comments by various participants both positive and negative were discussed.

Suggestions for next year included such ideas as to refer to it as a "consignment auction" and check now with those who said they had material to consign next year.

SHOW

Michael Sincak will provide large display, perhaps a Cave bear and whatever else we need or decide.

The theme will be geodes as previously decided. The title of the show was discussed with various ideas discussed.

Motion made by Leonard for "Geodes—Nature's Grab Bags." 2nd by Dell, Motion passed. Recommendation will be made to the club.

Other ideas-How do we encourage more display cases? Perhaps members could gather together for a demonstration for a well set up case. Suggested that we make it a winter "field trip" perhaps to Marv's garage. More to follow.

In keeping with the display cases, the Federation is asking for and encouraging competitive cases again. Some club members have competed and done well in the past.

OTHER BUSINESS

Klein Quarry trip October 9. See newsletter for details.

Still need volunteers to sign up to host the monthly meetings.

Holiday Party: Move the date to December 13, Tuesday so as not to conflict with holidays.

Two HACAP families to be selected for food and gifts. Make the meal pot luck. Same venue as last year—Guaranty Bank, Fairfax, Hwy. 151. Dell will get reservation. Dine at 6:30 pm.

PROGRAMS

October-National Parks Features-Land forms and Geological Features. November-New Madrid Fault by Ray Anderson (see p. 4 for preview).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Slate of new officers for upcoming years to be voted on at November meeting. Marv, Pres., appointed Delores, Julie and Dell, with Dell as chair, as nominating committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Joy, second by Leonard. Meeting adjourned 9:20 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. (CHANGE FOR DEC 2011: Meeting will be December 13)

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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