

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

FEBRUARY 2012

VOL. 38, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 21 MEETING — 7:15

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.)

Hosts: No one is signed up. We all like to eat; please take a turn in providing refreshments. Please email or call Dell James: cycladelics@msn.com, 319-446-7591 if you can bring refreshments.

Program: America's First Energy Crisis: The lost history of peat mining in Iowa by David Brenzel, former curator at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, and his wife Lynette Brenzel, a research assistant.

David's Abstract: Iowans were the first to face vast expanses of grasslands and the prospect of settling there without wood for fuel. Several, including an enterprising group of Linn County Quakers turned to peat for the answer in the middle of the 19th century. The enterprise created both scoundrels and heroes, fortunes were won and lost, and the lessons learned had national implications.



Board Meeting: The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 5**, at 7:15 pm at the home of Marv and Sue Houg.

Since the office of editor is vacant, an abbreviated newsletter will be sent with show information in February and March. If you would like to take on the position of Newsletter Editor, please contact a board member. This is a board position, which involves reporting club news and collecting public domain articles for publication ten months of the year. Member articles from exchange bulletins can be used with acknowledgement. A good command of sentence structure and grammar is required. This could be a shared position.



Dues were due in December: Check your mailing label to see when your dues expire. Dues are \$15 per family. Please pay at a meeting or send dues to Dale Stout. His address is on p. 4.



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Jean Schnepf, on the death of her mother Millie Smouse on Dec. 7.

Alberta Cray on the death of her brother Norman Hammond on Jan 10.

Darren Cruse and Melissa Halfmann, on the death of Darren's mother Donna Cruse on Jan. 31.

Both Millie and Donna were a long-time club members.

ROCK SHOW MARCH 17-18 GEODES—NATURE'S GRAB BAGS Also featuring Stegodon and Cave Bear Skeletons

Courtesy of Michael & Barbara Sincak,
from Pennsylvania

Hawkeye Downs, Cedar Rapids
Set-up Saturday Mar 16 starting at 8:30
Potluck Saturday night

Hours:
8:30 - 6:00 Sat
9:30 - 5:00 Sun

See p. 2 for details; p. 3 for flyer

OUR 38TH SHOW IS MARCH 17-18

The countdown is on for our show featuring **Geodes** and a special exhibit of **Stegodon and Cave Bear Skeletons** (courtesy of Michael & Barbara Sincak, Pennsylvania) the weekend of March 17 and 18, with set-up on the 16th. If you haven't already done so, sign up to work or chair a committee and/or bring an exhibit by contacting Marv Houg: m_houg@yahoo.com 364-2868.

Door Prizes & Silent Auction: We give out many door prizes each day, and the silent auction runs throughout the show, so we need **LOTS** of rock-related items for both. If you have something to donate, but don't know which is the best place for it, bring it in and the chairs of the those committees will decide.

Pebble Pit: The Pebble Pit for the children is always a very popular place. If you can go through your collection and do some high-grading, please set aside those specimens which don't quite measure up to your standards. We need **LOTS and LOTS** of material for the Pebble Pit.

Raffle: New this year will be a raffle, running 14 days and ending on Sunday. We expect to have a very large geode, an autographed book from Phil Currie, and perhaps some other items.

Set-up Day: We'll need lots of help setting up and covering tables, etc., on Friday, starting at 8:30! Dell James will prepare lunch, provided by the club. **THINGS TO DO AT SET-UP:** Set chairs in the booths, Put ribbons on Name Tags, Clean glass inside and outside display cases, Spray insides of display cases with Febreze, Straighten out cloth for case liners, Cover tables when set-up has been checked, Help carry material to pebble pit & silent auction areas, Help dealers move in.

Pot Luck: Friday night we invite our dealers to be our guests at a pot luck at 6:30. Because we will have extra people eating, plan to bring a large dish or two to share. Drinks will be provided. Our members and dealers always rave about our great pot lucks, so we have a reputation to uphold every year.

Concessions: Hawkeye Downs does the concessions for the show.

Catered Dinner followed by Program: HyVee will cater a dinner right after the show closes Saturday. The menu will include beef and chicken, party potatoes, green bean casserole, seven-layer salad; dessert and drinks furnished by the club. Cost is \$11.00. **Please let Marv know if you are planning to attend the dinner (364-2868). Reservations are required. Ray Anderson will present a program after the dinner.** Ray's programs are always outstanding, so plan to attend.

Cases: If you are bringing a display and/or need a club case, **please let Marv know soon. If you know the size of your case, that will be helpful in our planning.** New this year, we are offering a "community case" - if you don't have enough items to fill a display case, bring a specimen or two (mineral, fossil, jewelry, etc.) with a label and your name and we will put it with others to make a full case.



MSHA SAFETY TRAINING CLASS MARCH 15

**CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY AT WESTDALE MALL, LOWER LEVEL NEAR PENNEYS
REGISTER BY MARCH 1**



The club is paying expenses for John McArdle, Minneapolis, to come a day early for our March show and teach two MSHA-certified safety classes on March 15, the Thursday before our show. Choose either a 2:00 or 6:00 class. Each class lasts 2 hours, ends with a test required for certification, and costs **\$20 per person for those new to the course; \$10 for those who are renewing and have the book (must bring certificate and book to class)**. John says if you pay attention in class, you will be able to pass the test easily.

As quarries tighten admittance for rock hounds, MSHA (Mine Safety & Health Administration) safety training has enabled some people to access quarries that would not otherwise have let them in. We may require the training for some of our field trips in the future, or some of the quarries may require it. Certification is good for 1 year. We are encouraging members to get the certification.

If you plan to take the class, please let Marv know and send Name, Phone, Email, Class Time, and Payment (payable to CVRMS) by March 1 to:

Marv Houg
1820 30th St Dr
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
364-2868; m_houg@yahoo.com

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society

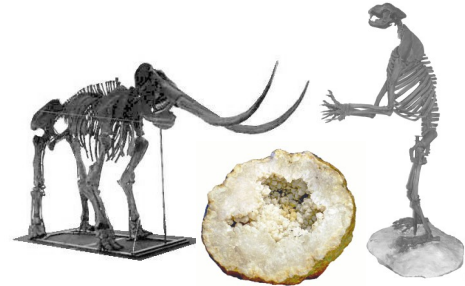
Presents its

2012

GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW

Saturday March 17 - 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday, March 18 - 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hawkeye Downs Expo Center
 4400 6th Street SW
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa



GEODES—NATURE'S GRAB BAGS

ALSO FEATURING CAVE BEAR & STEGODON SKELETONS

COURTESY OF MICHAEL & BARBARA SINCAK, TREASURES OF THE EARTH

PROGRAMS

Programs on Geodes and other aspects of the theme.

Call ahead or check our web site for Speakers & Times.

DEMONSTRATIONS

- Tumbling, Faceting
- Glass Bead Making
- Cabbing, Beading
- Silversmithing
- Flint Knapping
- Geode Cracking

PEBBLE PIT FOR KIDS

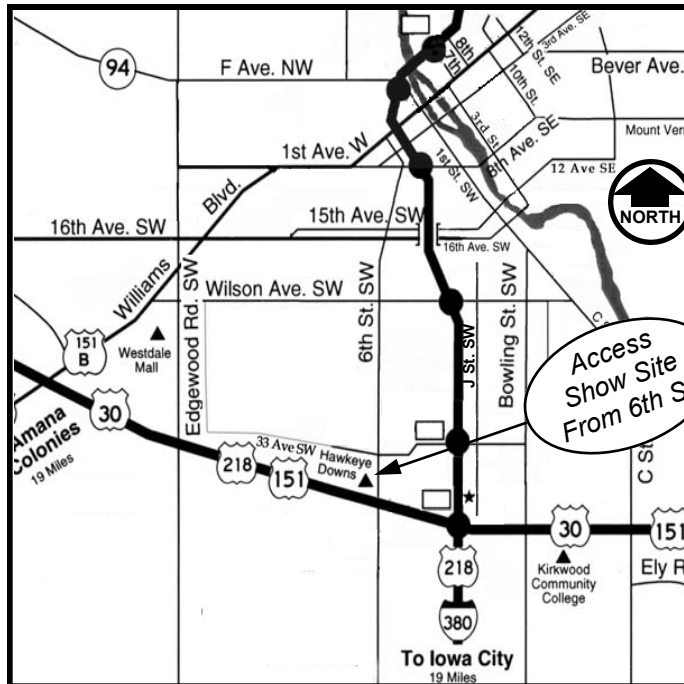
1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, & 50¢ Items
 \$1 Rock & Mineral Kits

SILENT AUCTION

Geodes, Minerals, Crystals, etc.

HOT FOOD

PROFITS GO TO SCHOLARSHIPS



DISPLAYS

- Geodes
- Stegodon & Short-Faced Bear
- Agates
- Fossils
- Minerals
- Amethyst
- Petrified Wood
- Polished Stones
- Artifacts
- Spheres

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS

DONATIONS

- Adults.....\$2.00
- Students\$1.00 (12-18)
- Children Free (Under 12)
- Youth Groups Free (w/adult)

SLUICE FOR GEMS

MANY ITEMS FOR SALE, INCLUDING:

- | | | | | |
|-------|---------|----------|------------|------------------|
| Books | Fossils | Jewelry | Minerals | Book Ends |
| Opal | Agates | Carvings | Seashells | Petrified Wood |
| Slabs | Geodes | Crystals | Tumblers | Lapidary Equip. |
| Gems | Beads | Spheres | Meteorites | Jewelry Findings |

For Additional Information. Contact:

Marvin Houg (319-364-2868, m_houg@yahoo.com);

Sharon Sonnleitner (319-396-4016, sonnbl@aol.com); Tom Whitlatch (319-362-0684, whitlatcht@gmail.com)

For program, dealer, and show updates, check: www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

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
Editor	Vacant	
Liaison	Joy Cummings	.....981-2482
Imm. Past Pres.	Sharon Sonnleitner <sonnb@aol.com>	.....396-4016
Director '12	Leonard Moellers <leonardmoellers@yahoo.com>	721-1650
Director '13	Andrew Halfmann	
Director '14	Tom Whitlatch <Whitlatcht@gmail.com>	.....362-0684
Historian.....	Leslie Blin <bblin@bser.com>	.....377-3339
Sunshine.....	Dolores Slade<dslade733@aol.com>	.....351-5559
Hospitality	Jeff Kahl.....	.....455-2201
Webmaster	Sharon Sonnleitner <sonnb@aol.com>	.....396-4016

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,
 4800 Sunset Dr. SW
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52404