



CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Volume 39 Issue 1

September 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

Message From the Editor

Toby Jordan, Editor

It's strange to see the first newsletter of the year not have the President's message. Most of that is my fault since "life" happened and set me back a couple of weeks in getting this newsletter completed... I promise that his message will be in next month's edition.

Since moving here from Arizona back in '07, this summer was reminiscent of the many summers I experienced there — Hot & Dry!. This summer also touched many aspects of our lives by diminishing the number of outdoor activities that we look forward to — like collecting. Now that the cooler weather is being forecasted, let's get out and do some collecting!

Our September auction is happening this weekend and promises to be an exciting event for everyone. A lot of people devoted their personal time in order to prepare for the auction. Their work is greatly appreciated. Our goal is to make this venue as successful as possible for many reasons. Two of the reasons is that it helps our consignees cycle through their collections so they can purchase new material or equipment and at the same time it helps raise precious revenue for our club.

Our President Marv Houg has stated several times in the past that in order to support our club, he encourages everyone to attend the monthly meetings, participate in field trips, and to help in setting up or tearing down at club-sponsored events. Truthfully, the biggest benefit is the camaraderie you build with people with the same interests as you.

In This Newsletter

Fall Auction 2012.....	2
September 18th Meeting.....	2
Auction Flyer 2012.....	3
New Members & Old Friends.....	4
Board Meeting Minutes.....	4
Local Calendar of Events.....	5,6,7
Scholarship Recipient Appreciation Letter.....	8
Tips from a Jeweler's Bench.....	8
Tips From Phil Oliver.....	9,10
Calendar of Events for Sept (MWF).....	11
Submission of Articles.....	11



Please visit the website for the latest news and updates:

www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

2012 Fall Auction — September 15-16



Our annual fall auction promises to be one of the best this year. We will have the usual assortment of high grade rocks, minerals, fossils, and machinery. From the amateur rock hound to the die-hard mineralogist and collector, this is the

"one-stop-shopping" event you've been waiting for!

As in past auctions, club preparation for this event started early. Sharon Sonnleitner provided the preparation details:

Saturday, August 25, was a work day to sort and make lots out of all the auction material we have stored at Darren's warehouse, so we would have a better idea of how many lots were there. Many hands really do make light work when a group of hard-working, efficient club members get together. We started at 8:00 and were done preparing 420 lots by 11:30, which was way under the time we thought it would take. Many thanks to those who helped: Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Joy & Bob Cummings, Tom & Julie Whitlatch, Clarence Burns, Bob & Jace Roper, Jackie Patterson, Phil Oliver, Jay Vavra, Andrew Halfmann & his son, Dennis Schlicht, and Sharon Sonnleitner.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

Thank you all for your help!

This is only half of the effort needed to prepare for this event. There is still material to be moved, sorted, arranged, numbered, and setup on Friday. During the auction, help is needed to run the auction sheets, spot for the auctioneers, move lots to the front of the hall, and finally to tear down. Any help will be greatly appreciated!

Friday Sept 14 - Setup: Meet at Amana RV Park at 8:30 AM to unpack boxes, arrange, and prepare material into lots. Coffee and rolls will be available for workers in the morning. Dell will be serving another gourmet lunch for the workers at noon and the club will order pizza in the evening for all the workers. Since the public will be viewing the lots from 5 PM to 7:30 PM, some members are needed during that time. Please help if you have time off on the 14th.

Something important to keep in mind:

Because we are dealing with a large number of valuable material from our consignees, it is extremely important that all material stay in its assigned area, especially equipment!

Hoping you can spend some time helping us to prepare for this event.

Check the website for an updated list of auction items and pictures: www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

September 18th Meeting

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society will meet on **Tuesday, Sept. 18th**, at 7:15 PM at **Rockwell Collins 35th St. Plant Cafeteria**, 855 35th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA. The cafeteria entrance is located on the NE corner of the complex. The doors face 35th St.

Program Chair (and VP) Bill Desmarais will present on the dinosaur paleontology work he did this past summer with Pete Larson of the Black Hills Institute. They identified a new species of brachiosaurus, from the Waugh Quarry in Wyoming, by removing a 62-inch scapula (shoulder blade). Bill will also show pictures of Pete Larson's incredible home tucked away in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

This year Bill celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary with his wife Karen. They celebrated this milestone by traveling to Hawaii in late May and early June. Always the paleontologist, Bill will also present the wonders of our 50th state. Some examples are the world's tallest and largest mountains, an active volcano, the House of the Sun, and many cultural and historic sites and events such as Pearl Harbor. He found it amazing that there are NO sedimentary or metamorphic rocks in the whole state of Hawaii, but he will show some sedimentary rocks in the formative stage. For those of us that have not been to Hawaii, this promises to be an exciting show with lots of geology, biology, culture, and history.

The next **Board Meeting** will be held **Tuesday, October 2**, at 7:15 PM at the home of Marv and Sue Houg.

2012 Auction Venue - Amana, Iowa

The CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY Presents

A TWO-DAY ROCK and MINERAL AUCTION

Amana RV Park and Event Center, 39 38th Ave, Amana, Iowa 52203

Saturday, September 15 – 9:00 a.m. - 7 p.m.?

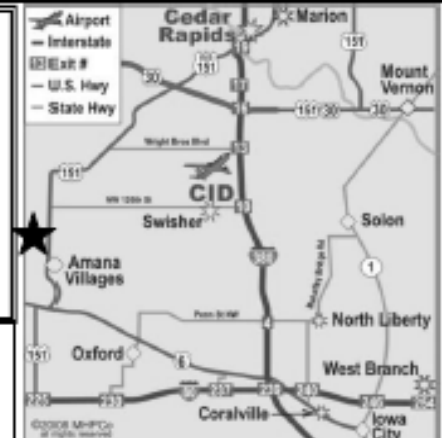
Sunday, September 16 – 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.?

Viewing Hours: Fri., Sept. 14, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.; Sat. at 7:30 a.m.; Sun at 8:30



**APPROXIMATELY
1,300 LOTS**
From Several Collections
Minerals, Rough, Fossils, Cabs,
Jewelry, Equipment, Books
Many Excellent Specimens

**HOT FOOD AVAILABLE
CAMPING AVAILABLE**
(www.amanarvpark.com)



THE FOLLOWING IS A VERY PRELIMINARY LIST OF ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED EQUIPMENT WILL SELL AT 2:00 ON SATURDAY

ROCKS & MINERALS

Agates – USA, Mexico, Argentina,
Brazil, German, Czech, China,
Poland, Lake Superior, Eye Agates,
Scotland, Scotland, Madagascar
Copper in matrix, copper sheets,
Copper crystals and halfbreeds
Crystals
Fluorescent material
Geodes
Jaspers
Keswick Agate
Old Crazy Lace Agate
Spheres – Calcite, agate, pet wood,
obsidian, coquina, dolomite, jaspers
Thumbnail Minerals (hundreds)
Thundereggs

ROUGH

Agates
Botswana
Geodes
Jade
Jasper
Obsidian
Picture Jasper, ID
Tumbling material

EQUIPMENT (will sell at 2:00 on Saturday)

Air Abrasive machine for cleaning fossils
Cabbing Machine
Centrifugal Caster
Faceting Machine
Flat Laps, 18" & 27"
Grinder
Hand Tools
Microscope
Saw Blade, 14" - New
Saws, 6" & 14"
Shelves
Steam Caster
Storage Bins
Trim Saw
Work table

GEMS & JEWELRY

Cabs
Findings
Jewelry
Mountings

BOOKS

Geology Books
Many fossil books

FOSSILS

Ammonites
Coprolite
Fossil Fish
Madagascar, Zimbabwe
Mazon Creek fossils, many already
in nice display cases
Petrified Wood – Arizona, Louisiana,
Blue Forest, Saddle Mtn, Argentina
Stromatolites
Trilobites

MISC.

"T" shirts
Display Boxes
Display boxes, 1" X 1"
Display of Mississippi River button
manufacturing from early 1900's
Hard hats

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE
FOR AN UPDATED LIST OF
AUCTION ITEMS PLUS
PICTURES**

I.D. will be required to obtain buying number. Cash or good check. Two forms of I.D. required for all checks.

No items removed until settled for on day of sale. Not responsible for accidents, theft or damage.

Announcements day of sale take precedence over advertising.

CONTACTS: Marvin Houg 319-364-2868, m_houg@yahoo.com or Sharon Sonnleitner 319-396-4016, somb@sol.com; www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

New Members and Old Friends — Welcome!

We Welcome the Following New Members:

Ed & Virginia Dunbar
205 South Westminster St
Iowa City, IA 52245-4942
(H) 319-338-0431
(W) 319-541-1721
eddunbar@msn.com
Main Interests: Gems & fossils

Frank & Amy Benac
11313 Ridgewood Rd
Milan, IL 61264
(H) 309-787-7133
(cell) 309-781-4357
benac07@gmail.com
Children: Ryan, Megan
Main Interests: Polish-
ing/lapidary, field trips/rock
collecting
Other Hobbies: Boating,
camping

Karen & Dave Sherman
35W934 Highland Ave
Elgin, IL 60123
847-741-0640
ksherman19@gmail.com
Main Interests: All — es-
pecially mazon creek fos-
sils in Braidwood
Other: Native plants &
prairie restoration

Renewals

♦ **Belinda Schlesener**
♦ **Carey L. Dixon**

Please submit news articles using the submission guideline on page 11 or via the form on the website:

www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

Board Meeting Minutes

Cedar Valley Rock and Mineral Society Monthly Board Meeting September 4, 2012

Board Meeting - September 4, 2012

Present: Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Bill Desmarais, Andrew Halfmann, Sharon Sonnleitner, Toby Jordan, Tom Whitlatch

Auction - September 15-16: Dale confirmed with Amana that we can drop off material on Thursday. Sharon will reserve a 24' truck with a lift, and Tom will drive it. Dale will help and recruit a couple others to help. The plan is to pick up the truck at 10:00 and meet at the warehouse at 10:30. After dropping the material from the warehouse, they will pick up Milo's material with the truck. Dale, Tom, Toby & Gil Norris will pick up Allyn Adam's material from the Quad Cities on September 11, arriving about noon.

Friday setup will start at 8:30. Dell James will prepare the lunch for Friday setup. Sharon will do the food for the weekend. AJ Johnson & John Powelka will be asked to do security.

Show - March 16-17 - Fantastic Fossil Finds of Iowa: Darren Cruse and Andrew will be out of town for the show. Marv has talked to Tiffany Adrain, curator of the UI paleontology repository, who will put together information on Iowa fossils for the website reference. Ray Anderson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, will help with information and securing specimens. Bill noted that Pete Larson, Black Hills Institute, will donate something for either the silent auction or a raffle, and Jack Neuzil will donate a wooden dinosaur that he will make for a raffle.

Field Trips: Marv is working on arranging a trip for October 14 and will talk to Glen Rocca about arranging a trip to Hamilton for geodes.

Bus Trip to Field Museum: is cancelled due to lack of interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Local Calendar of Events — Provided by Dale Stout

1. Thursday - Sept 13 7:00 p.m. University of Iowa Museum of Natural History **UI Explorers Seminar: Samuel James, Biology** "Earthworms from sea level to treetops: they are not all the same"
2. Friday Sept 14 - setup for CVRMS rock auction
3. Sat - Sun: Sept 15-16 CVRMS rock auction - Amana RV park
4. Tue. Sept. 18 - 7:15 September meeting of CVRMS - Rockwell Collins 35th St. Cafeteria - Bill Desmarais: Update on dinosaur dig
5. Sat. Sept .22 - BHGMS Field Trip - Peske Quarry
6. Fri- Sun Sept 28-30 - Geode Fest, Hamilton, IL
7. Sun. Oct. 7 - BMC Aggregates Annual Open House at the Quarry, Morgan Quarry, Waterloo
8. Sat. Oct.13 - 12:30- 3:00 - National Archaeology Day -Festivities - McBride Hall, U. of Iowa
9. Sun. Oct 14 - 9:00 - ? - Joint MAPS/ CVRMS field trip to Conklin Quarry, Coralville

* * * * *

1. Thursday - Sept 13 7:00 p.m. University of Iowa Museum of Natural History UI Explorers Seminar: Samuel James, Biology

"Earthworms from sea level to treetops: they are not all the same"

Samuel James' exploration of earthworm diversity has been motivated by a desire to discover the evolutionary history of earthworms, and to compare that history with the history of the landmasses on which they live. He is also interested in discovery and description of species of earthworms and has published a fair number of new species over the years. In this talk Samuel will show some of the surprising diversity of earthworm locations, lifestyles, and colors. Samuel's latest estimate of the evolutionary history of earthworms will serve as a starting point for discussion of some surprising distributions, which may eventually shed some light on land area relationships.

2. Friday Sept 14 - setup for CVRMS rock auction - 8:30 am - 7:30 pm

Come when you can. Coffee and rolls will be available for workers in the morning. Dell will be serving another gourmet lunch for the workers at noon and the club will order pizza in the evening for all the workers. Viewing for the public will be from 5 - 7:30 pm so everything needs to be in place and numbered by 5.

3. Sat - Sun: Sept 15-16 CVRMS rock auction - Amana RV park

Saturday viewing starts at 7:30 -auction runs from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.?

Sunday viewing starts at 8:30 - auction runs from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.?

Food by the Sonnleitner family girls with help from anyone that wants to volunteer. Bring lots of money and buy some treasures.

4. Tue. Sept. 18 - 7:15 September meeting of CVRMS - Rockwell Collins 35th St. Cafeteria - Bill Desmarais: Update on dinosaur dig - check newsletter or website for more details.

5. Sat. Sept. 22 - BHGMS Field Trip - BMC Aggregates, Raymond Pesky Quarry

Meeting and Departure times are currently tentative and will be confirmed in a following email.

Time (Tentative): Meet 9:15 a.m. - Sign Waiver Forms and Safety orientation and enter Quarry 9:30 a.m.

- Please note: This is a lock-in Quarry, i.e. the gate is locked behind us.

12:30 p.m. Second entry exit time. I will go out to the gate to let new arrivals in and those who wish to leave out.

(continued on page 6)

Local Calendar of Events — Continued

(continued from page 5)

4:30 p.m. approx. time we will exit the Quarry

- There are no bathrooms so plan accordingly
- Make sure you bring plenty of water to drink, and food as needed.

The Raymond Quarry is one mile east of Raymond Iowa, 6900 Dubuque Road (old Hwy 20).

To get there: Take Hwy 380/20 to Raymond Iowa; take Raymond exit and go north to the stop Sign - Dubuque Road. Turn right - east and go one mile. The quarry is on your right - South side of the road.

Please Note: Hwy 20/380 in this area has been under construction so check your maps & highway routing before leaving and plan travel time accordingly.

Items found in the past: Calcite vugs ranging in color from light to golden brown to purple to black, with some containing pyramidal and octahedral pyrite, and barite. Fluorite vugs have been found as well as an occasional fossil. We will be working the rip-rap piles so rock hammers, crack & sledge hammers are very useful, pry bars if you need to roll over a boulder & can't lift or roll it.

REQUIRED!! For This Field Trip

Hard Hat, Safety Glasses, Class II Bright Orange or Lime Green Safety Vest, Jeans, Work Boots (Steel toe even better) - NO Open Toed Shoes, sandals or floppies etc. Gloves are a good idea. You can pick up these items at Menards, Home Depot, Payless, Ace Hardware etc. Cost: Hard Hat - \$3 to \$5, Orange safety hunting/work vest - \$3 to \$5. If you have questions, don't/can't find the equipment - call me as the club does have extra hard hats, vests & safety glasses etc., but I need to know how many to bring. The Basic Materials Rock Hound Club Card must be with you at all times in the Quarry. If you just signed up and don't have it yet, then I do have a signed copy of the application as well as blank waiver forms with me that can be signed at the gate so you will be ok to go in. You must be a member in good standing with Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society or Central Iowa Mineral Society, i.e. your dues paid for this year(can be paid at the gate). If You Do Not Have All The Above Items, Call Me because You Do NOT GO IN Without Them!

6. Fri- Sun Sept 28-30 - Geode Fest, Hamilton, IL

Geode Fest - Hamilton, Illinois (Across the river from Keokuk, Iowa):

8th Annual Geode Fest
September 28-29-30, 2012
Chaney Creek Boat Access
HWY 96 North, Hamilton, IL

Registration Information:

The \$20.00 registration fee (single person) or \$30.00 family fee entitles you to 2 - hunts per day on Friday and Saturday, and 1 - hunt on Sunday morning. Some of these guided hunts are on private property, not normally open to the general public for geode hunting at any other time.

For more information and the registration forms please go to the following link:

<http://www.firstcrackgeodes.com/>

More Information, Registration Forms, Dining, Lodging, and Tools needed can be found at the following link:

<http://www.firstcrackgeodes.com/GeodeFest.html>

If you have not already done so: Please get the forms filled out and your fees sent in as soon as possible - **Don't wait!**

(continued on page 7)

Local Calendar of Events — Continued

(continued from page 6)

7. Sun. Oct. 7 - BMC Aggregates Annual Open House at the Quarry, Morgan Quarry

BMC Aggregates Annual Open House Sunday at the Quarry, Morgan Quarry, Oct 7th

Sunday At the Quarry program for 2012, to be held on October 7, 2012, at the BMC Aggregates Morgan Quarry located on East Donald Road (west of Dewar, IA) and just east of the intersection of Elk Run Road and East Donald Road.

The event is open from 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, 10/7/12.

The Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society will be assisting with Collecting Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils - Lots Of Volunteers needed - it is a LOT of fun.

Youth Groups, the General Public, and everyone interested in learning more about the Earth Sciences is invited to this Event.

We will need lots of club volunteers so please mark your calendar and reply back letting me know what times you have available. One hour, two, all day, we will use what you have. We will set up between 9:00 & 10:00 a.m. Needed will be people to setup and man our club display table; distribution of flyers and materials; hand out of hard hats, glasses, and hammers; rock pile supervision and assisting children and adults collecting minerals and fossils; crowd and traffic control. In the past we have helped with parking; loading of the tour bus into the quarry; safety and guidance (keeping people away from walls etc.) down in the quarry; as well as a number of other activities.

Please reply back letting us know the time you can volunteer.

Thank You,

Glen Rocca

BHGMS Field Trip Coordinator

319-269-8168

8. Sat. Oct.13 - 12:30- 3:00 - National Archaeology Day -Festivities - McBride Hall, U. of Iowa

National Archaeology Day Festivities with the Office of the State Archaeologist and Department of Anthropology

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~nathist/programs.html>

9. Sun. Oct 14 - 9:00 - ? - Joint MAPS/ CVRMS field trip to Conklin Quarry, Coralville

FIELD TRIP TO CONKLIN QUARRY SUNDAY, Oct.14

Meet at the main entrance to Conklin at 8:45 to sign in and get safety instructions. Enter the quarry at 9:00. This is a lock-in quarry; that is, the gate is locked behind us and no one can enter or leave (except in an emergency) until noon, when a group will be let out. Others can come in at that time if they are waiting at the gate. The rest of the group will leave at about 4:00.

This is a "hard-rock" working quarry. All field trippers should have the appropriate safety equipment, such as hard hat, eye protection and steel-toed or other sturdy shoes. All children should be closely supervised. Possible finds include: millerite, coral heads, horn corals, brachiopods, bryozoans, trilobites, crinoids and maybe cephalopods, fish parts, and blastoids. Useful tools include: rock hammers, cold chisels, sledges and pry bars. Bring your own water and lunch.

You must be a member of CVRMS or MAPS to attend this field trip but you can join at the gate.

To save time, download and fill out the club liability waiver at www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

Travel to I-80 in Iowa City/Coralville. The quarry entrance is just north of I-80 at exit #242 (1st Ave), across the street from the Hampton Inn parking lot. Contact Marv with questions: m_houg@yahoo.com

Scholarship Recipient Appreciation Letter

Dale Stout,

I would like to humbly thank you and the rest of the Cedar Valley Gem and Mineral Society for providing me with a scholarship to help with the expenses of the field course this summer. I am honored to be chosen as a recipient of that award, as I know very few before me have shared the experience. I was in Field Analysis, which is the last, and most challenging, portion of our field work around Dillon, Montana. However, this not to say the second half of our field work was mundane or uninformative; I shared quite a few laughs with my fellow students along the way, and learned many valuable skills tackling challenging problems in the future. Overall, my favorite part of the trip was the afternoon Dr. David Peate, Dr. Ingrid Peate, and Dr. Mark Reagan took us to a volcanic sequence, and walked us through each section in great detail. I think the reason I liked this part so much was because the professors were having just as much fun as I was, and as a student, it's nice to know I can have just as much fun decades from now as I had that day. Although I did well in the course, receiving this award was a great surprise, and a wonderful way to close out the summer and jump-start my fall semester. I look forward to presenting to you and the other Society members, and will be sure to email you with an official date for that presentation, once the semester begins. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share in this wonderful gift, and thanks for giving back to a profession that will continue to amaze and inspire for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Christian Haas

Tips from a Jeweler's Bench By Brad Smith

PICKLE PROBLEMS

Dropping a hot item into the pickle after soldering causes a hiss that sends small droplets of the acid pickle into the air. This will rust your nearby tools and can't be all that good to breathe either. My solution is to use a coffee cup of water next to my solder block to quench the piece before dropping it in the pickle.

Also, a hot pickle pot gives off fumes that bother me in my home workshop. I get around that by using my pickle cold. I mix it a little stronger than with a hot pot so that it works about as quickly. I keep it in a large-mouth peanut butter bottle and cap it off whenever I'm done using it.

MODIFY TOOLS FOR PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount avoid slipping by grinding a groove in the face of your prong pusher or one jaw of your flat-nose pliers. Easiest way to cut the slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to cut the slot on your pliers is with a cutoff wheel in the Foredom.

USE A SPRAY BOTTLE

Those little spray bottles you can find at the drug store are great for firescale preventors and debubbling solutions. A quick firescale preventor is liquid flux, and a homemade debubbling solution is a little Dawn liquid in rubbing alcohol.

BROKEN DRILLS

Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, you can usually dissolve the steel in a solution of alum. Alum is typically available from a food store or a drug store. Use about a teaspoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole.

Tips from Phil Oliver

COPPER CLEANING

When I take a piece of shiny copper to a show; most people pick it up and ask "how did you clean it?". They are not interested in buying it. The following are cleaning instructions given by Keweenaw Gem and Gift:

- 1, Take a piece of shiny Remove to any unwanted rock by picking and hammering the specimen. Use a wire brush to remove loose, soft material. Wash with high pressure water.
 - 2, Soak copper in dilute muriatic acid (hydrochloride) for approximately 1 hour. If lots of green oxidation is present, use a longer acid dip. Sometimes toilet bowl cleaners contain this acid. Muriatic acid is available at your local hardware store. Dilute about 4 parts water and 1 part acid; **ALWAYS** add acid to the water.
 - 3, Rinse well and brush the copper and rock again to remove any further loose rock material. Wash with high pressure water. Use a final rinse with distilled water.
 - 4, Dip the copper in dilute nitric acid (30 seconds to 1 minute **MAXIMUM**). This is a very strong acid, so be prepared. Wear goggles, rubber gloves, and use only in a well ventilated area — **OUTDOORS ONLY!!** Keep running water nearby to rinse spills, splashes on the ground or clothing. Dilute 70% nitric acid with 6 parts water and 1 part acid. 70% nitric acid is available over the internet through ebay.
- Rinse the copper many times until no acid remains on or in the copper specimen (15-30 minutes). Rinse one last time with distilled hot water prior to using the Copper Dip.
- 5, Dip copper into solution of copper dip about 5 to 10 seconds. Copper dip is available from Keweenaw Gem and Gift. Any liquid brass/copper cleaner that contains chromium (very toxic) will work.

RINSE, RINSE, RINSE (1-2 hours if needed).

Rinse until no yellowish coloration remains in the rinse water. Dry with a towel, hair dryer or fan.

- 6, Spray with clear acrylic lacquer one day after copper has been cleaned and dried. If the copper tarnishes, redo the process. Too weak acids/or not enough rinses are the primary problems that causes tarnishing.

Precautions

Always wear goggles, rubber gloves and an apron.

Keep running water close by to dilute and rinse spills.

Use well-labeled plastic containers. Cover when not in use.

All acid work must be done outdoors away from children and animals.

Dilute all solutions with lots of water before disposable. Follow recommendations of local state and federal regulations for disposal.

(continued on page 10)

Tips from Phil Oliver — Continued

(continued from page 9)

LAKE SUPERIOR AGATE — WHAT IT'S WORTH

The current wholesale market starts from about 50¢ per pound for tumbling grade up to over \$ 1000 per pound for the better agates. One needs a method to figure their value. I use 7 different categories; assign a number value to each number and then calculate their product. The following are the different categories and methods for assigning values.

1. Weight in ounces (larger agates are worth more so the bigger ones are given bonus points)

- ◇ Over 6 oz = the weight + 2
- ◇ 12 oz = the weight + 4
- ◇ 16 oz = the weight + 8
- ◇ 32 oz = the weight + 16
- ◇ 48 oz = the weight + 32
- ◇ 64 oz = the weight +64

2. Contrast in color

- ◇ None = 0.125
- ◇ Poor = 0.250
- ◇ Ave. = 0.5
- ◇ Good = 1.00
- ◇ Super = 2.0

3. Surface condition

- ◇ Cut & polished = 0.5
- ◇ Tumble polished = 0.75
- ◇ Face polished = 1.0
- ◇ No polish = 1.5

4. Quartz

- ◇ >75 % = 0.25
- ◇ >50% = 0.5
- ◇ >25% = 0.75
- ◇ Trace = 1.5
- ◇ None = 2.5

5. Fractures

- ◇ Many = 0.125
- ◇ Few = 0.5
- ◇ Few none in pattern = 1
- ◇ none = 2.5

6. Color

- ◇ Light (gray/white/tan) = 0.25
- ◇ Dark = 0.25
- ◇ Paint (single color) = 0.75
- ◇ Multi colored = 1.5
- ◇ Red & white = 3.0

7. Patterns

- ◇ Cloud = 0.125
- ◇ Moss = 0.25
- ◇ Ruin/breccia = 0.75
- ◇ Irregular plumes = 1.0
- ◇ Tubes (diapiratic) = 1.0
- ◇ Plumes = 1.5
- ◇ Vermicular (worm like tubes) = 1.5
- ◇ Vein (straight bands) = 2.0
- ◇ Circular bands = 2.0
- ◇ Tubes = 2.0
- ◇ Water level = 2.0
- ◇ Fortification = 3.0
- ◇ Eye = 5.0

Practice Using the Lake Superior Rating System

Take the following 8.4 oz laker depicted on the right:

- ◇ Weight = 8.4 + 2 = 10.4
- ◇ Contrast = good = 1.0
- ◇ Surface condition = face polished = 1.0
- ◇ Quartz = none = 2.5
- ◇ Fractures = few = 0.5
- ◇ Color = multi-colored = 1.5
- ◇ Pattern = circular bands = 2.0
- ◇ Product = $10.4 \times 1 \times 1 \times 2.5 \times 0.5 \times 1.5 \times 2 = 39$



A reasonable price for this agate would be about \$40.00

Calendar of Events for September — Courtesy of MWF

14-16: HOLLAND, MI. Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club's Annual Show; Holland Civic Center, 150 W. 8th St.; Fri. 9-8, Sat. 9-7, Sun. 11-5; CONTACT: Ralland Malone, 616.820.5458, rallandm@aol.com.

14-16: LINCOLN, MO. Mozarkite Society of Lincoln, Inc.'s 53rd Annual Show & Swap; Lincoln City Park, Shelter House; Fri.-Sun. 8-5; CONTACT: Ted Bolich, 1201 S. 7th, Clinton, MO 64735, 660.890.4983.

=====

15-16: CLUB AUCTION — Amana RV Park & Event Center. See the flyer on page 3 of the Newsletter for details.

=====

15: ROCKFORD, IL. 2nd Annual Rock and Mineral Swap, Odd Fellows Hall; 6219 Forest Hills Road, Rockford, IL; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Public free. Swap spaces of 10'x10' - \$20 space donation. Rain or shine. Sponsored by Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society; Contact Bill Horschke, 815-544-2073, whorschke@earthlink.net

22: HARPER WOODS, MI. Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society's Super-Mega Garage Sale & Swap; Amvets Post #57, 19730 Harper Ave.; Sat. 10-4; CONTACT: Sue Jansen, 313.527.7001 or Ron Rolfe, 586.726.1578, yrrdfe2@wowway.com.

22-23: COLUMBUS, NE. Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society's Annual Show; Knights of Columbus Hall, 3115 6th St., CONTACT: Steve Hurt, 2405 13th St., 402.910.4576, sphurt@yahoo.com.

22-23: HOWELL, MI. Livingston Gem & Mineral Society's Annual Show; Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 Highland Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Chuck Amberger, 20815 Dixboro, South Lyon, MI 48178, 248.278.6586, camber459@gmail.com.

28-30: JOPLIN, MO. Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society's Rock-A-Thon; CONTACT: Joplin Museum Complex, 504 Schifferdecker Ave., 417.623.1180, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net.

29-30: TRAVERSE CITY, MI. Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show; History Center of Traverse City, 322 Sixth St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; CONTACT: Lauren Vaughn, maple2b@aol.com, 235.276.6150.

29-30: OSHKOSH, WI. Oshkosh Earth Science Club's 41st Annual Show; Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Road Y; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Ann Voges, 615 Monroe St., Neenah, WI 54956, 920.725.1640, hankemps@milwpe.com.

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.

Looking forward to receiving an article from you!

TOBY JORDAN, EDITOR

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

September 2012

Postage
Required

2012 Mineral Auction
Amana RV Park and Event Center
39 38th Ave, Amana, IA 52203
Saturday, Sept. 15 — 9 AM to 7 PM
Sunday, Sept. 16 — 10 AM to 4 PM



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.