

# CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

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JANUARY 2014

VOL. 40, ISSUE 1

## JANUARY 21 MEETING — 7:15

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 21st**, 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:**

**Board Meeting:** The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, February 4** at 7:15 pm at the home of Marv and Sue Houg.

**Program:** The program will be on the gold industry by Dr. Bill McClelland from the U of I

## SHOW COMING UP MARCH 15-16

The 2014 Show will be held March 15th-16th, 2014, at Hawkeye Downs, Cedar Rapids. Hours are 8:30am to 6:00pm on Saturday; 9:30am to 5:00pm on Sunday. This is our 50th show. The theme is "All That Glitters ...," The show also featuring a juvenile T-rex, compliments of Michael and Barbara Sincek. Set up will be Friday, the 14th. Mark your calendars and plan to be there. Sign-up sheets for committees and displays will be available at the January meeting.

### **The Return of Iowa's Bald Eagles** **Prairiewoods, 120 E Boyson Rd in Hiawatha** **February 3, Monday, 7:30 pm**

Award-winning photographer Ty Smedes presents a program on the return of Iowa's Bald Eagles. In 1977, Iowa recorded its first bald eagle nest in 72 years and, amazingly, just a little more than 3 decades later, 253 young were reared across 88 counties. This program chronicles the conservation success story. A joint program with Cedar Rapids Audubon Society and Prairiewoods Spirituality Center. The 2nd edition of Ty's book: The Return of Iowa's Bald Eagles will be available for signing. This program is free.



**Dues were due in December:** Check your mailing label to see when your dues expire. (If you joined in the last half of 2013, your dues should not expire before Dec. 2014). Dues are \$15 per family. Please pay at a meeting or send dues to Dale Stout. His address is on the back. If your dues are not paid by April 1, your membership will lapse.

## GEODE CRACKER HORIZONTAL MOUNT by John Oostenryk

I find this to be very easy way to use a Soil Pipe Cutter for opening geodes. This is a single person operation!

Use thick ¾" or 1" material for mounting to carrier board for rigidity. That base is then screwed to a tabletop OR simply braced against a wall/backstop.

This works super for fieldwork on the tailgate of a pickup with a length of board set into the gap between tailgate and box, acting as the backstop!

Because the upper arm is rigidly mounted to the carrier board, all you have to do is lean into the moving lower arm. It is VERY easy to apply force gently and avoid crushing really fragile (thin/light)geodes.

Very ergonomic too- no stooping to get chain, no stretching to pull arm down like in a vertical setup... Also allows one hand to rest on geode to retain top(it may fly off if popped, of course bottom is retained by carrier board.)

### Couple notes on setup.

I switched to a **knob** for tensioner. (Get rid of that stupid toggle!) This is for taking up slack/adding a little more space. When a geode is just a little bit bigger or smaller, so you don't have to switch to a different Link in chain.

Note that white blocks are all same thickness- to space GC off of board so that you can center geode in splitting chain.

The small block is attached to end of chain only(not board) **this is to prevent droop in chain** and binding when trying to lock dogs(the knubs) into jaw.

The right hand long block is only attached by an upper screw through an OVERSIZE drilled hole in BLOCK. This is so the block can **pivot** as the arm is worked. The reason is the moving geometry of the attaching bolts- to best support front of GC- block is where it needs to be far forward. but bolts would cause bind as they protrude... Some pics to follow showing position of that block and changing bolt location...



Full closed—left

Full open—right

See difference in position of center jaw bolt and the bolt that attaches jaw to handle. They move –relative to block- as block pivots? It sounds complicated to write- very very simple in function! Just attach that block relative to knob as in above pic.

**Leave room to turn knob!** ...Run screw through pre-drilled block... Done!

### Side view

See how chain has a droop? I curl the slack around on that block- while I am cracking, to keep slack out of way. I turn it that direction while cracking so it doesn't uncoil between rock switches...

(In picture-That wire with red wire nut ends- above the setup- has a purpose... :)



Then when done, I coil the chain the opposite way(it fits better) and use that wire to secure loop to knob or frame, so it does not uncoil/dangle when storing.

I use another piece to secure pivot handle to rigid other arm- no flopping:)



### Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs

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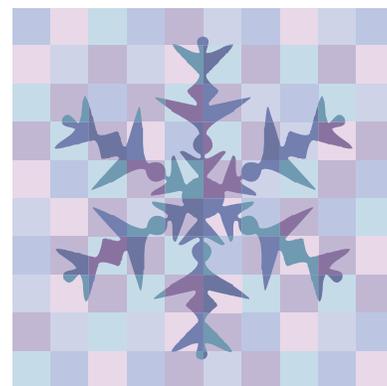
Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society was organized for the purpose of studying the sciences of mineralogy, geology, and paleontology and the arts of lapidary and gemology. We are members of the Midwest (MWF) and American (AFMS) Federations. Membership is open to anyone who professes an interest in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

January Meeting  
 Jan. 21 at 7:15



Sharon Sonnleitner,  
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