



# Cedar Valley Gems

## Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society

### Cedar Rapids, Iowa

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

MARCH 2015

VOL. 41, ISSUE 3

## Club Speaker and Treasures Beneath Our Feet, Presentation Our 51st Rock Show

Dr. Rhawn Dennison and several of his students from Cornell College are scheduled to speak at the Tuesday, March 17, club meeting. They will be discussing the field work that they have accomplished in the Bahamas and New Zealand with assistance from CVRMS field work grants. Connie Moellers and Carol Sindt are hosting.

### Reserve Your Spot for MSHA Safety Training Class



**MARCH 26: LADD LIBRARY, 3750 WILLIAMS BLVD. SW, CEDAR RAPIDS (SITE OF THE OLD TARGET STORE) COST \$10**

CVRMS is paying expenses for John McArdle, from Minneapolis, to come a day early for our March show and teach two MSHA-certified safety classes on March 26, the Thursday before our show.

Cost is \$10 and reservations are required for the two classes—2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Each class lasts two hours and concludes with a test required for certification. If renewing certification, remember to **bring your certificate and book to class.**

The countdown is on for our 2015 Show on March 28th-29th at Hawkeye Downs, Cedar Rapids. Hours are 8:30 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday; 9:30 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday. The theme for our 51st show is "Treasures Beneath our Feet." Set up will be Friday, the 27th, starting at 8:30. We hope you are planning to help!

**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** of material for the Pebble Pit.

**Cases:** Again 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.

**Raffle:** New this year, we are holding a raffle. So far we have two wooden "dinosaurs" made by Jack Neuzel; Jack is donating one and Bill Desmarais is donating the other. We are looking for a few other items to make the raffle attractive to people with a variety of interests. Ticket purchasers will put their tickets in the container(s) of the prize(s) they want to win. The drawing will be Sunday at 5:00. Winners do not need to be present.

**Next Meeting: March 17 @  
7 p.m. Rockwell Cafeteria**

## CVRMS Board Meeting

Board Minutes - March 10, 2015

Members Present: Marv Houg, Dell James, Sharon Sonnleitner, Ray Anderson, Jeff Kahl, Jay Vavra

Call to order: 7:22 p.m. by Marv, President at Marv Houg's house

### ROCK SHOW UPDATE:

General discussion regarding the status of the show led by Marv.

1. Various raffle prizes discussed. Some choice items have been donated.
2. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. A second chance drawing will also be held.
3. Catered meal on Saturday night \$13.00 each. Sign up with Marv since he must order the day before. Desserts will be furnished by the club. Let Dell know what you will bring. Dinner will be followed with the Saturday evening program conducted by Ray Anderson.
4. Work has progressed on the Sidewalk Chalk art project done by Mary Campbell.
5. Lunch for workers on Friday by Dell. Pot luck Friday night for the dealers and members. Bring your best dish.
6. Egg cartons have been completed by Sharon and small crew.
7. Signup sheet reviewed. If members have not signed up for chores, they still may volunteer anytime. All help appreciated.
8. Posters created by Ray Anderson admired. Would be wise to have them laminated.
9. We need flyers or ads of some kind to distribute at the show for the fall auction.

Motion made to adjourn by Ray and second by Jeff.  
Meeting adjourned for refreshments at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
*Dell James, Secretary*



### Jones County, Iowa Ice Path

The last two glaciers didn't extend as far south as Jones County in eastern Iowa. It has been an estimated 500,000 years since ice covered Jones County.

Undulating hills that Grant

Wood loved to paint were sculpted during the periods of glaciation in which the action of massive ice flows shaped the land. Jones County—it's a nice place to find erratics in fields

## Show Countdown Duties

### SET-UP DAY FRIDAY—THINGS TO DO AT SET-UP

Starts at 8:30 a.m. March 27 (pop, rolls, coffee & free lunch for workers)

Come whenever you can!

Set chairs in the booths

Put ribbons on Name Tags

Clean display-case glass inside and outside with Windex

Spray inside of display cases with Fabreze, if smelly

Straighten out cloth for case liners

Cover tables when set-up has been checked and electric cords laid out appropriately

Use wide paper for skirt & narrow for top OR the opposite – somebody try it and see which is best - Leave 2" toe-hole at bottom of skirt

Help carry material to pebble pit & silent auction areas

Help set up Bone dig area

Help Dealers move in

### POTLUCK FRIDAY NIGHT AT 6:30

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.

### CATERED DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT AT 6:15, FOLLOWED BY A 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; with dessert and drinks furnished by the club. Cost is \$13.00. Let Marv know if you are planning to attend the dinner (364-2868). Reservations are required. Following dinner, either Mike Lace (Iowa's Coldwater Cave) or Ray Anderson (Iowa's Basement Rocks) will present a program. Both programs will be presented at the show, so this is an opportunity to attend if you are otherwise occupied at the show.

**WANTED: VOLUNTEERS TO BRING DESSERTS:** To hold down the cost of the catered dinner, we are looking for a few members who can't help in other ways during the show or who just like to cook to bring desserts. We expect 80-100 for the dinner, so 6-8 people bringing a dessert should cover it. Contact Dell James (cycladelics@msn.com; 319-446-7591) if you can help.

### PICK UP YOUR 2015 CVRMS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AT THE SHOW!

# February Club Meeting Minutes

President Marv Houg called the meeting to order. The Secretary's report was approved. Treasurer Dale Stout reported \$10,312.96 in checking. The treasurer's report was filed.

**PROGRAM:** We broke for a program by Ray Anderson on "The Rich History of Gypsum Mining in Iowa." The program was followed by refreshments.

Marv passed around sign-up sheets for show displays and committees and also for the catered dinner Saturday night at the show.

**MSHA TRAINING:** MSHA training is scheduled for March 26 at 2:00 and 6:00 at the Cedar Rapids Ladd Library. Cost is \$10 and reservations are required.

**SHOW:** We will again have a HyVee-catered dinner on Saturday night: roast beef and chicken, party potatoes, green bean casserole, seven-layer salad; with dessert and drinks furnished by the club. Cost is \$13.

Ray Anderson has put together several large posters for the show. Members who are putting in displays are asked to send what they are displaying and where the material is from (ex. Agates from Iowa) to Sharon Sonnleitner, who will create signs for the cases all formatted the same, such as "Agates Beneath our Feet in Iowa."

Set-up will start at 8:30 a.m., Friday, March 27. Material is needed for the pebble pit, silent auction, and egg cartons. Egg carton day is February 22 at 2:00 at Sharon's. A potluck

is scheduled for 6:30 Friday night, followed by a program by either Ray Anderson on Iowa's Basement Rocks or Mike Lace on Iowa's Largest Coldwater Cave. Local artist, Mary Campbell will create a 3-D chalk drawing of a "hole" through Iowa's bedrock showing minerals and fossils found in the different layers. A raffle will be held this year. Two wooden dinosaurs made by Jack Neuzil -, one donated by Jack, the other by Bill Desmarais - will be prizes, and we are still looking for a few other items.

**AUCTION:** Marv and Dale looked at Zobacs' and Bill Mitchell's rocks - about 150 lots from each. They also need to look at Juhls' rocks.

**MISC:** Tom Whitlatch announced the Midwest Federation Youth Poster contest. Joy Cummings won the door prize. New member Scott asked for a club display for the River City Show at the Muscatine Mall, the week before our show. AJ Johnson will set up a table and Ray will make a poster to advertise our show. Tom announced the MWF 75<sup>th</sup> convention May 23-4 at the DuPage Fairgrounds near Wheaton, Illinois. We need a delegate.

**SCIENCE FAIR:** The Science Fair is March 21. Tom made a motion to give \$200 to the Fair: 2 \$50 1<sup>st</sup> prizes, 2 \$30 second prizes, and \$40 to support the Fair. Jeff Kahl seconded.

AJ motioned to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Tom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Sonnleitner, Acting Secretary

## Midwest Federation 2015 Youth Poster Contest

*Sponsored by Summit Lapidary Club*

**Theme:** The official state gem, mineral, rock or fossil of the state you live in.

**Eligibility:** Any student 1st through 8th grade.

**Prizes:** Each grade will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded 1st through 4th place. 1st through 3rd place will also receive a prize.

**CONTEST RULES:** All entries must be presented on paper 12"x18". Include name, address, age and school grade of participant on BACK of entry. No three dimensional posters accepted. The title may be on front or back. List your state and why you chose the gem, mineral, rock or fossil. All entries become the property of the MWF and Summit Lapidary Club.

**SCALE OF POINTS:** Originality and art work - 30 points. Design - 25 points. Title - 25 points. Listing of state gem, mineral, rock or fossil and reason for your choice - 20 points

**ARTWORK:** Artwork on posters can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint or any other artist's medium

**DEADLINE:** Entries must be postmarked by **May 1, 2015**

**SEND TO:** Jennifer Fike  
P.O. Box 26276  
Akron, Ohio 44319



**QUESTIONS:** Contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email [SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com](mailto:SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com). Contest information on MWF website at [www.amfed.org/mwf/](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/)

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society  
Presents its  
**2015**

**GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW**  
Iowa's Largest & Among Midwest's Largest

Saturday March 28 - 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 29 - 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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



**OUR 51ST SHOW:  
TREASURES BENEATH OUR FEET**

**PROGRAMS**

Programs on Various Topics  
Call ahead or check our  
web site for Speakers & Times.

**DEMONSTRATIONS**

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

**PEBBLE PIT FOR KIDS**

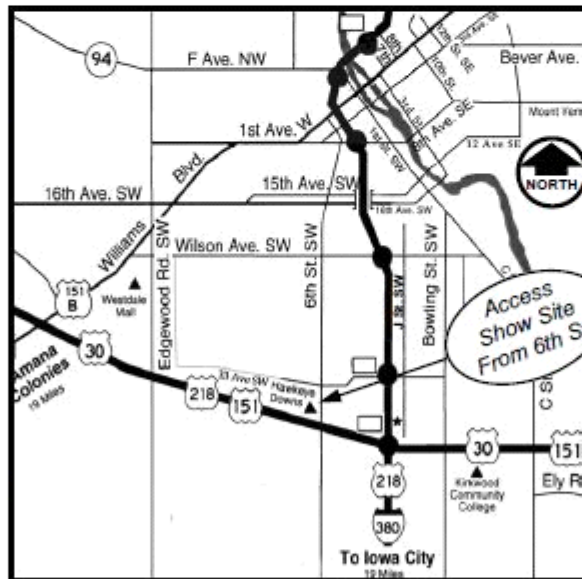
1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, & 50¢ Items  
\$1 Rock & Mineral Kits

**SILENT AUCTION**

Geodes, Minerals, Crystals, etc.

**HOT FOOD**

**PROFITS GO TO  
SCHOLARSHIPS**



**DISPLAYS**

- Agates
- Minerals
- Crystals
- Fossils
- Amethyst
- Petrified Wood
- Polished Stones
- Artifacts
- Spheres, Geodes

**NOT RESPONSIBLE  
FOR ACCIDENTS**

**DONATIONS  
REQUESTED**

Adults .....\$3.00  
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, sonnba@aol.com); Tom Whitlatch (319-362-0684, whitlatcht@gmail.com)**

**For program, dealer, and show updates, check: [www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org](http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org)**

**CHILDREN MUST BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

## Spotlight Gemstone: Amber



**Amber** is fossilized tree resin (not sap), which has been appreciated for its color and natural beauty since Neolithic times. Much valued from antiquity to the present as a gemstone, amber is made into a variety of decorative objects. Amber is used as an ingredient in perfumes, as a healing agent in folk medicine, and as jewelry. There are five classes of amber, defined on the basis of their chemical constituents. Because it originates as a soft, sticky tree resin, amber sometimes contains animal and plant material as inclusions. Amber occurring in coal seams is also called **resinite**, and the term **ambrite** is applied to that found specifically within New Zealand coal seams

Amber is noted in metaphysics to give a soothing, light energy that is both calming and energizing at the same time. It is said to help manifest desires and heighten intellectual abilities, clarity of thought, and wisdom. It is reputed to cleanse its environment by drawing out negativity, and to relieve physical pain the same way. It is used mystically to bring the energies of patience, protection, psychic shielding, romantic love, sensuality, purification, balance, healing and calmness to those who wear or carry it. It is considered a good luck charm for love and marriage. Amber is excellent in crystal healing for inner child work and past life work.

Amber is associated with the solar plexus chakra and sometimes the sacral chakra. Mystical lore says that amber is beneficial for purifying the body, headaches, bone problems, heart problems, circulation, ears, hearing problems, endocrine system, fibromyalgia, intestinal/digestive disorders, kidney, bladder, lungs, and general healing purposes.

*Edited from Wikipedia and Gem Institute of America websites.*

## EVENTS

**March 28-29:** Cedar Rapids, IA—Annual show; Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, Hawkeye Downs; 400 6th St. SW; Sat. 8:30-6, Sun. 9:30-5; adults \$3, students \$1, children and groups with adult leader free; educational programs, silent auctions, demonstrations, displays, door prizes, kids' activities, gem sluice, dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, tools, equipment, lapidary supplies; contact Marv Houg, (319) 364-2868; e-mail: m\_houg@yahoo.com

**April 5-6:** Columbus, OH. Stark County Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show.

### MAPS EXPO APRIL 10-12;

### PRESHOW APRIL 8-10

Sharpless Auctions Facility, I-80, Exit 249, Iowa City.

midamericapaleontology.org.  
Paleotom234@comcast.net

Apr 8-10 MAPS pre-show at Travel Lodge, Iowa City.

**April 25-26:** Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club Spring Rock, Gem and Jewelry Show, Clarion Hotel 5202 Brady St, Davenport, IA 52806 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The show features rocks, minerals, fossils, agates, geodes, tumbled stones, beads, silver and beaded jewelry, carved stones, spheres, and arrowheads. Demonstrations on Glass bead making, faceting, and flint knapping. Learn to make arrowheads and/or crack your own geodes. Free admission. Call (563) 445-3034.

**April 25-26:** Fort Dodge annual show; River Valley Rockhounds Inc, Iowa Central Community College East Campus; 2031 Quail Ave., east edge of Fort Dodge; Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Sun. 11 am-4 pm; Adults \$1, \$2 family; contact Robert Wolf, (515) 955-2818; e-mail: midnightwriter@frontiernet.net

**May 3-4:** Cincinnati, OH. GEOFAIR 2015

**May 23-24:** Wheaton, IL—MWF (Federation Show)

**June 12-15:** Lodi, CA—CFMS (Federation Show)

**July 16-18:** Cody, WY—RMFM (Federation Show)

## Historic Hurst Lime Works Idled for 95 Years

Admit it. You pass a certain location about a zillion times using the same path. By altering the route just a bit, you can often discover things you never knew. Such was the case with the personal discovery of the remnants of lime producing kilns just north of Maquoketa, Iowa.

A few years ago we drove the usual route from Cedar Rapids to Maquoketa. The town and area are widely known for the Maquoketa Caves State Park, the county fairgrounds, antique shops and a few restaurants. It is also a stop off point from Cedar Rapids to eastern Iowa's Mississippi River towns. But veering for just a mile or so on State Highway 61 north of Maquoketa brings you to the tiny town of Hurstville. There along the highway are four limestone furnaces that produced lime mortar as late as 95 years ago.

Alfred Hurst designed and built these four kilns over a period of years starting around 1870. The kilns were used to produce lime from local stone quarries. Lime mortar was used for building foundations, plaster work and as a finishing coat. About 1,000 barrels of lime were produced weekly during peak operation.

Many families traded wood with the Hurst Lime Company for extra income, lime or goods. About 100 cords of wood were burned a day during peak production.

Hurstville Lime Works ceased operation after 1920 when Portland cement became popular. The Hurstville area was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1979.



*The Hurst Lime Kilns are located a mile north of Maquoketa, Iowa on Highway 61. Four kilns heated limestone quarried in the immediate area to produce construction grade lime and plaster. The kilns are listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Photo taken on March 8, 2015.*

The kilns were restored in the early 1980s by volunteers throughout the community.

Since 1980 the Jackson County Historical Society maintains the site and has built a picnic shelter near a creek to host visitors. Traveling back roads does not automatically mean that you'll discover something unfamiliar.

## NE Iowa's High Quality Frac Sand Update

Recent U of I analyses of the St. Peter sandstone formation in northeast Winneshiek County indicate the sand is highly suitable for use as frac sand. That does not mean industrial frac sand mining of the St. Peter is certain to occur in Winneshiek county. Much depends on the future market for frac sand and the costs of mining and transportation.

In June of 2013, Iowa's Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors established an 18-month moratorium on frac-sand mining that was to have expired Dec. 3, 2014. At the end of September, the Board extended the moratorium to Oct. 15 to allow the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities enough time to finish and compile the results of their studies.

The Initiative for Sustainable Communities will be conducting a study of the county's infrastructure, including roads and bridges, to determine the impact concentrated truck traffic would have if one or more industrial silica sand mines were developed in the northeast part of the county. The final report from the Sustainable Communities Initiative, including the result of economic and engineering studies, will be presented to the community in early in May

*Edited from the Decorah Newspapers*

# ASK A GEOLOGIST

by Ray Anderson, CVR&MS Vice President

## Millerite's Nickel Content—Where does it Come From?

**Ask a Geologist** is a monthly column that gives CVRMS members an opportunity to learn more about a geologic topic. If you have a question that you would like addressed, please send it to [rockdoc.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:rockdoc.anderson@gmail.com), and every month I will answer one in this column. Please let me know if you would like me to identify you with the question. I will also try to respond to all email requests with answers to your questions, regardless of if it is chosen for the column.

**Rona Bradshaw** asked "You mentioned that clusters of millerite are sometimes found in cavities in limestone and in geodes in eastern Iowa. Millerite is a nickel mineral, so in a sequence of marine sedimentary rocks, where does the nickel come from?"

Wikipedia says that "Millerite is a nickel sulfide mineral, NiS. It is brassy in color and has an acicular (needle-like) habit, often forming radiating masses and furry aggregates. It is a common metamorphic mineral replacing pentlandite within serpentinite ultramafics, formed by removal of sulfur from pentlandite or other nickeliferous sulfide minerals during metamorphism or metasomatism. Millerite is also formed from sulfur poor olivine cumulates by nucleation".

But then it goes on to say, "It is commonly found as radiating clusters of acicular crystals in cavities in sulfide rich limestone and dolomite or in geodes." Wow! How does a metamorphic mineral end up in limestone and geodes, neither of which are metamorphic around here. In fact, there hasn't been any metamorphism in Iowa for a billion years! Where does the nickel come from? No one seems to really know.

Wikipedia goes on to mention that millerite "is also found in nickel-iron meteorites," which has led some to suggest that the nickel comes from space. Micrometeorites are constantly burning up in the Earth's atmosphere and falling as dust. It is estimated that about 20,000 tons of meteoritic dust falls to Earth every year. Every year about 0.5 grams of meteorite dust falls on every acre, and that dust averages about 1.3% nickel. Not much nickel, and the dust falls everywhere, why isn't millerite everywhere?

It has also been suggested that nickel was concentrated by seaweed and other marine plants. Others suggest that it leached out of the widespread and very "nasty" Pennsylvanian black shales that once covered most of the Midcontinent. Again, millerite should be more widespread if



Figure 1. A cluster of millerite crystals in quartz.

either was the source. Maybe a better suggestion is that the nickel was associated with the mineralizing event that brought us the Upper Mississippi Valley Zinc-Lead deposits, presumably mineral-rich brines flushed out of the Illinois Basin about 300 million years ago. But that has yet to be proven. For now, the source of the nickel that formed the millerite crystals found around eastern Iowa remains a geologic mystery, one of many.

### WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

#### [jurassiccoast.org](http://jurassiccoast.org)

England's Jurassic Coast is that country's first natural World Heritage Site in the southwest portion of the island. Covering 95 miles of coastline from East Devon to Dorset, the geologic area displays 185 million years of the Earth's history.

World Heritage status was achieved because the Jurassic Coast provides a unique insight into Earth Sciences. It shows a geological 'walk through time' spanning the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.

Jurassic Coast web site offers extraordinary views of the site, travels tips to the region and news. The site also has extensive data on the region's rocks and fossils.

## Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs

President.....	Marv Houg (m_houg@yahoo.com).....	364-2868
Vice President. ...	Ray Anderson (rockdoc.anderson@gmail.com) .....	337-2798
Treasurer .....	Dale Stout (dhstout55@aol.com) .....	365-7798
Secretary .....	Dell James (cycladelics@netins.net) .....	446-7591
Editor .....	Dave Chase (djchase@infionline.net) .....	360-9367
Liaison .....	Joy Cummings .....	981-2482
Imm. Past Pres. ...	Sharon Sonnleitner (sonnb@aol.com) .....	396-4016
Director '15.....	Jeff Kahl .....	455-2201
Director '16 .....	Dave Roush (daroush1@gmail.com).....	363-7842
Director '17.....	Jay Vavra (pending).....	pending
Sunshine .....	Dolores Slade (doloresdslade@aol.com) .....	351-5559
Hospitality .....	Jeff Kahl.....	455-2201
Webmaster .....	Sharon Sonnleitner (sonnb@aol.com) .....	396-4016

Club meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September through November and from January through May at 7:00 p.m. at the Rockwell Collins 35th Street Plant Cafeteria, 855 35th St NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The December meeting is a Christmas dinner held on the usual meeting night. June, July, and August meetings are potlucks held at 6:30 p.m. at area parks on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

### CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERAL SOCIETY

CVRMS 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.

**Annual dues are \$15.00 per family per calendar year. Dues can be sent to:**

**Dale Stout  
2237 Meadowbrook Dr. SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403**

CVRMS website:  
[cedarvalleyrockclub.org](http://cedarvalleyrockclub.org)

March Meeting:  
Rockwell Collins 35th St. Cafeteria  
MARCH 17 @ 7 P.M.  
Program Dr. Rhawn Dennison  
Latest Field Work



David Chase, Editor  
2077 Sunland Dr SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403