

Cedar Valley Gems

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

OCTOBER 2014

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President's Message

I hope everyone had a great summer and were able to get those collecting trips in that you had planned. With school having started and past our summer picnics, it is time to get into our regular meeting schedule with some interesting programs to come.

While we may not want to think about it, Christmas is not that far away and only a few months after the start of the new year we will be having our annual March show. We have already started planning for the show but the planning process will get more intense.

The dates for our next show are March 28-29, 2015. Please keep these dates open so you can help with the show. We can always use help the day of set-up and the actual two days of the show. Hopefully you will be able to participate in other club sponsored events with the goal being to have fun.

Marv Houg, President

2014 Auction – A Success

Our 2014 Auction was another success with the usual amount of bidding suspense on many of the items. Also as usual, there were bargains to be had and items where people were saying they spent too much on an item, but such is the case when you want something bad enough.

There were 1,286 lots sold from 14 consignors and the club which sold for a total \$26,744 for an average of \$20.80 per lot. The club also had some items which were donated to the club from club members. Of the consignors nine were club members for which we charge 20% and five were non club members for which we charge 25%.

As an extra note, to be able to receive the 20% rate you have to have been a member of the club for at least two years or a long standing member of the club in the past. Always of interest is what the top selling item was. The honor goes to Ott and Gladys Zobac for a Lake Superior agate that sold for \$325.00. However at least 22 items that sold for \$100 or more.

As usual we had help from club members, although we can always use more help. Although there had been much activity behind the scenes, the main activity started Thursday night with picking up some of the material and transporting to the site. The work continued Friday with set-up, placing numbers on the lots, and viewing by the public.

While it may not be fair to single one person out who helps at the auction it has become obvious that Sharon has her hands full for three days from setting up the lots on Friday to organizing and printing the numbers for the lots and the order of sale, which has been huge help since we started doing this, to setting up and running the lunch counter plus the dinner she prepares for Saturday night.

Thus I applaud and thank Sharon and everyone else who helped at the auction this year. It was another great year and we already have some great collections lined up for 2015.

By Marv Houg, President

Next Club Presentation - The Minerals of Australia

Keeping with our recent Australia theme, Eric Fritzsich will provide a talk on the minerals of Australia during the club next meeting. The presentation will be like his previous Minerals of Canada talk, where he will bring the audience on a verbal and visual trip around the country, looking at specific mineral occurrences, and highlighting mineral species that one might commonly come across in collections or museums. Eric will stop at locations like Rum Jungle, Malbunka, Wolfram Camp, Crocoite mines, Broken Hill, and the famous gold and opal fields. Australia is a large continent. Eric will cover as many locations as possible in a hour presentation.

CVRMS October Board Minutes

October 7, 2014

Present: Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Bill Desmarais, Dave Roush, Sharon Sonnleitner, Dell James, Tom Whitlatch

Meeting called to order 7:25 p.m. at Marv Houg's home

Auction Report

Successful auction. Report and discussion followed regarding items sold, the popular items and quality of some items. Plans already under way for next year's auction with interested parties already requesting lots. Show 2015.

Theme for next year's show was discussed. Unanimous decision "Treasures Beneath Our Feet" In Iowa? Need a larger eye catching display since we no longer have the large dinosaur display. Suggestions from club members appreciated. Large crystals from River Products suggested. Flyers need to be designed, printed and distributed. Contracts need to go out to vendors. Possible additional vendors were discussed.

Fluorescent display case needs help. Marv, Dale, Tom, Dave will get the case from the trailer and bring to Sharon's. Through a combined effort the display will be redone or saved. Volunteers are welcome.

Annual Election

one directorship, the one that Tom Whitlatch currently holds, is due for reelection. Tom expressed interest in continuing as director. Other prospects may make

themselves known to the board. The Vice President position with Bill Desmarais retiring needs to be filled. Some potential candidates considered. this position is primarily responsible for providing and arranging for the monthly programs. Board agreed that Bill has done a tremendous job and leaves big shoes to be filled.

Christmas Party

December 16-Tuesday. Dell will check for the availability of the Guaranty Bank, Fairfax community room. As usual, the club will provide the meat and drink. Members will provide pot luck dishes to share. Dell and crew will cook meat and decorate the room. Anyone with a game or activity to share will be welcomed. Hours 6 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Eat at 6:30 p.m. Door prizes to be donated by club members.

Pass the hat donation will be collected that evening. We will not do the food baskets this year but give cash to charities of our choice. Bring your own place settings. Families welcome and encouraged to attend for a fun Christmas party.

Tom reminded us that the Des Moines show will be this month, October 18-19, with the Midwest Federation Show. Our club still needs to send a delegate to the delegates meeting. Looking for a volunteer. Anyone interested should let Marv know.

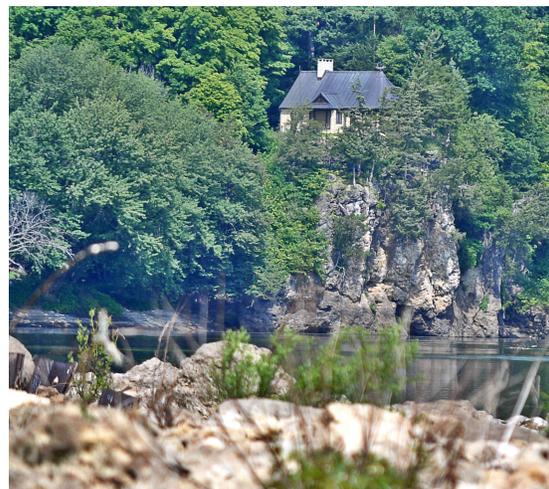
Motion to adjourn by Sharon, 2nd by Dave.
Meeting adjourned 9:30 p.m.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

New to rockhounding or can't get enough solid news from the world of rock collecting and geology? Fret not.

Bob's Rock Shop at www.rockhounds.com is an A to Z resource to get the latest rock news, learn some field tips when searching for your next specimen, or how to turn your find into jewelry and other forms of works of art.

At the bottom of his home page there is a link to Table of Contents. Click on that to find everything a rockhound needs in terms of information, supplies and advice. There's even rock news from Mars where NASA has robotic landers on the martian ground doing what we do here on Earth—examining the rocks!



A private residence house sits on a dolomite cliff just across the Cedar River from Palisades— Kepler State Park, near Mount Vernon, Iowa.

CVRMS September Meeting Minutes

Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society monthly meeting was held September 16, 2014 at the Rockwell Collins cafeteria, 34th Street NE, Cedar Rapids location.

Call to order: 7:20 p.m. by Marv Houg, President.

- Introduction of new members or guests- Jeff and Susie Stutterheim,
- Minutes reviewed. Motion to approve as published by Julie, second by Tom.
- Treasurer's report by Dale. Checking account balance \$8627.78 . Report filed.
- Correspondence: Card being passed around for longtime member, Milo Cervený

Monthly Program

- Presented program about storms that blow wind and rain. Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons. Anyone not there missed an informative and educational program.
- Door Prize Winner-Pappy Phillips

New Business

- Still need suggestions for our show theme for the next show in 2015. Suggestions so far include mining in Iowa, what's beneath our feet? Need more. Since we won't have the large dinosaur display, there will be room for another vendor More will be discussed at board level.
- Marv has arranged for a Field trip to Klein Quarry. He has a sign up sheet and it will be limited to the first 60 who sign up/ If you sign up, please be sure to let him know if you can not make it. It is the first time in years that we have been allowed into Klein Quarry. All safety precautions will be enforced. Check the web site for more info or call Marv.
- Geode Fest will be held in Hamilton, Illinois the weekend of Sept. 26, 27, 28.

Old Business

- Auction is this weekend. Buttons are available. Made by Phil Oliver.
- General review of what is ready and what is needed for Auction. Approximately 1,200 lots.
- Summer picnics were successful with geodes being a big hit. The weather cooperated nicely.

Other Business

- Tom reminded everyone that the Midwest Federation show is in Des Moines on October 18th.
- Bill Demarais is resigning from Vice President post which is responsible for the programs presented at our monthly meeting. Keep any candidates in mind for the November annual meeting when officers are reelected.
- Monthly meetings will now be held at the Rockwell Collins cafeteria since the Science Center is being relocated.
- Compliments to Dave Chase for the newsletter. You may submit articles, photos or article ideas to him anytime.

Adjournment: Motion made by A.J., second by Tom. Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Dell James, Secretary



What makes a good railroad bed base? Pink quartzite. That's what the Union Pacific uses for its rail lines here in eastern Iowa. The transcontinental railroad hauls thousands of tons of freight everyday over these east-west lines. Quartzite is typically used but sometimes crushed granite also can be found on the railroad beds around Cedar Rapids. Also known as ballast, the quartzite bed helps to lock down the wooden ties, helps to drain water away from the ties and generally protects the rail path against organic growth, such as weeds. These particular lines are located just west of Mount Vernon, Iowa.

My Affair with Richter Has Ended

Article by Dell James

I lived in Southern California for 50 years and when I moved here to Iowa I thought that Charles Richter, earthquakes and I had gone our separate ways. Some of the bigger ones that I remember and felt included the Hector Mine Quake in 1999 (7.1), Northridge 1994 (6.7), Landers 1992 (7.3).

These were measured by the Richter scale and now I learn that the earthquakes experienced by Southern California region are considered shallow. All of these years I thought Californians were living in the land of fruits and nuts but now I learn they are also described as shallow (at least the earthquakes are).

The two earthquakes, Hector Mine and Landers, were located in the middle of the desert and even though we felt them many miles away, there was little damage and few lives lost. An old gold mine collapsed, I remember, a bowling alley and a rock shop in Joshua Tree had severe damage.

If that earthquake were to occur in a highly populated area with high rise buildings, the outcome would be more catastrophic. Enter the Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw) which does some mathematical stuff and can figure magnitude by the size of the area erupting. That is the general idea. Good bye, Charles.

So I go to San Francisco Bay area and experience the South Napa Earthquake registering a 6.0 on the Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw). Yippee! I woke up about 3:30 a.m., August 24, with the sensation of being in one of those bouncy houses.

There was some rattling and in this particular home there is a cabinet with mugs stored in it and every time you walk by, it rattles. Drives me crazy! It was rattling a little. All I could hope for was that this cabinet with every mug and glass shelf would tip over smashing it all to smithereens. It didn't.

Naturally, one would wonder what are the chances of an earthquake occurring here in Cedar Rapids. Since I seem to be an earthquake magnet, you should consider it. Generally, the Midwest is considered seismically stable

however, the New Madrid Fault is creating some problems and growing concerns center around what would happen if... ?

It had a major problem in 1811-1812 when the "Mississippi flowed backwards." Could it happen again? You betcha.

Here we experience global rebound earthquakes. Imagine a bowling ball dropped on the foam and the foam slowly comes back up or rebounds. That is what the earth is doing from having the megatons of glacial ice melted way and leaving a recovery phase if you will.

Southern California did not suffer the glaciers just sand and water therefore the shallowness and a wavy eruption rather than a slam bang like we would experience here. Oh! Charles, how I miss you. Local Californians knew what a 5.5. versus a 7.2. earthquake felt like. We even made bets to see how close we were to the epicenter and what the Richter scale read.

Just for the fun of it, I looked up some Wikipedia stuff and found some information to share.

The Moment Magnitude Scale

Moment Magnitude is the measure of total energy released by an earthquake. Moment magnitude is the measurement and term generally preferred by scientists and seismologists to the Richter scale because moment magnitude is more precise.

Earthquake	Richter Scale	Moment Magnitude
New Madrid, MO 1812	8.7	8.1
San Francisco, CA 1906	8.3	7.7
Prince William, AK 1964	8.4	9.2
Northridge, CA 1994	6.4	6.7

Moment Magnitude is **not** based on instrumental recordings of a quake, but on the area of the fault that ruptured in the quake. This means that the moment magnitude describes something physical about an earthquake. Moment Magnitude is calculated in part by multiplying the area of the fault's rupture surface by the distance the earth moves along the fault. The Moment Magnitude scale now supersedes the Richter scale.

(continued on page 5)

(from page 4)

Our fault line is the Plum River Fault line and runs somewhere from south of Cedar Rapids to Rockford, Illinois. Our own Ray Anderson published the recent topographical map of Iowa in which he describes the various faults. Certainly, more scientific and detailed than this article.

This is a copy from an older University of Illinois study. Gives a rough idea of where it is.

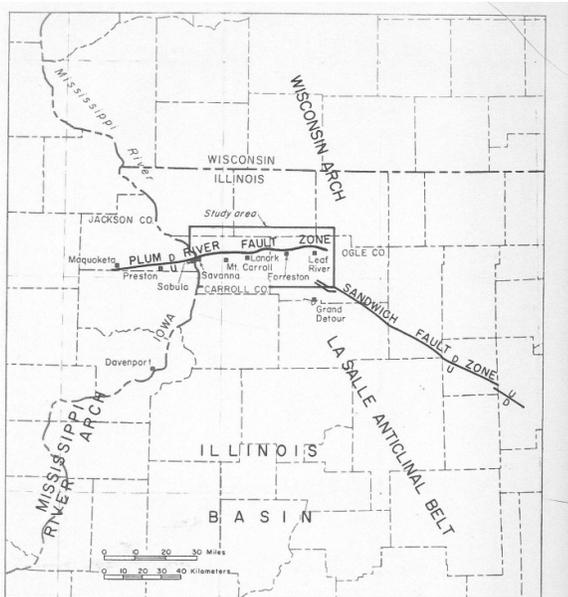


Fig. 1 - Upper Mississippi Valley region showing prominent structural features and location of study area.

The Iowa-Illinois Plum River fault zone is now known to stretch west to just south of the I-380 rest stop between Swisher and Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Personally, I will rely on the home owner's "dinger" measurement of earthquakes. I will explain this highly scientific method. On the fireplace is a temple bell with a dinger. This last earthquake, the South Napa, was a 6.0 (Mw) but it was a one dinger on his measurement scale. A two dinger may be a 7.0 (Mw). You get the picture.

So, good bye Charles Richter, welcome Mw, hello dinger scale and hope that the New Madrid behaves itself. Midwesterners may be geared for tornadoes but not for a high magnitude earthquake.

Just remember though that anything over a three dinger would be catastrophic and maybe the cup cupboard would go down.

The Search for Precious Metals in Iowa's Basement

Much of Iowa's surface and shallow depth rock beds are composed of sedimentary limestone, gypsum, sandstone, coal along with some ancient quartzite and other native stone. But what else is down there, buried below the ancient glacial deposits, thousands of feet below the corn and soybean fields? Geologists are figuring that one out.

During the past two years an aerial study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey has collected data and is slowly analyzing the results concerning the Northeast Iowa Igneous Intrusive Complex – essentially the mid-continent rift that runs from Lake Superior to portions of Iowa and Kansas. The survey maps the nature of basement rock while looking for strategic metals.

Dr. Ray Anderson, who recently retired from a long career with the Iowa Geological Survey, told a group in Decorah that the survey doesn't appear to have hit the jackpot, but he didn't rule out deep mining for metals entering the area at a future date.

USGS is looking to answer what is the future of strategic metals, what the needs of the country, where are the deposits, and how deep the strategic metals are located. Aerial explorers are searching for deposits of nickel, copper, titanium, vanadium, gold, and silver. Who knows, maybe you should brush up on your property's mineral rights if titanium is discovered 1500 feet below.

Article by David Chase

Save the Date for CVRMS 2014 Holiday Potluck

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 16 for the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society holiday potluck dinner. The fun begins at 6 p.m. with the dinner commencing at 6:30 p.m. The celebration continues until 10 p.m.

The location of the potluck is the Guaranty Bank in Fairfax, Iowa (same location as the past few years.)

Dell and her crew will prepare the turkey - which the club will pay for. Everyone else should bring a dish to share.

Julie will have some games as will Dell - if past performances hold true. Dell also usually makes sure that everyone gets a small gift. If you would like to contribute to the gift pile - bring some small gift and contribute to her arsenal.

SHOWS & CONVENTIONS

OCT 18-19: DES MOINES, IA Annual Show & Midwest Federation Show, Des Moines Lapidary Society in participation with the Central Iowa Mineral Society, Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Saturday 10 - 5, Sunday 10-4 Paul R Knapp Animal Learning Center, Iowa State Fairgrounds, East University Ave. Gate Contact: Karen Leibold, 515-205-8875 leibolddsm@mchsi.com; Steven Cunningham, (515) 262-4578; steverw90@gmail.com

OCT 18-19: COTTAGE GROVE, MN Minnesota Mineral Club Annual Show, Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4, National Guard Training & Community Center, 8180 Beldon Blvd. Contact Phil at (763) 717-1641; info@minnesotamineralclub.org

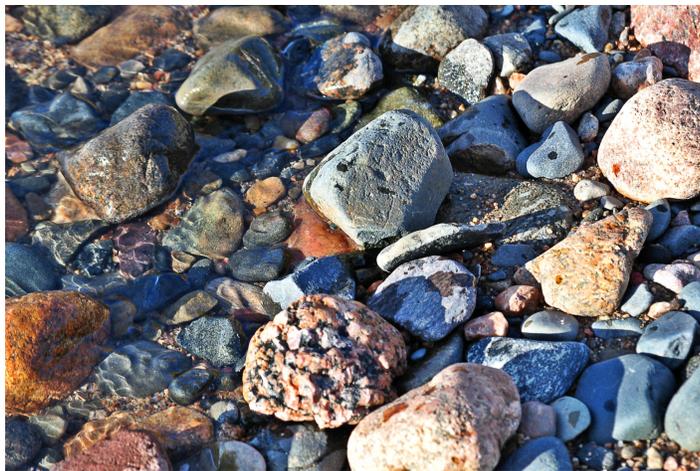
OCT 25-26: DAVENPORT, IA Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club Fall rock, gem and jewelry show, Sat 10-6; Sun 10-3:30. Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W Locust St. The show will feature rocks, minerals, fossils, agates, geodes, tumbled stones, carved stones, beads, silver and beaded jewelry, spheres, arrowheads and much more. There will be demonstrations on flint knapping. Learn to make arrowheads. Crack Geodes. Admission is \$1 for adults, Kids 17 and under are free. Contact Kellie or Craig Moore, (563) 445-3034; kalsinean@gmail.com

NOV 1-2: STURTEVANT, WI Racine Geological Society Annual Show, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand Ave (Hwy 11), Sturtevant. Contact John Lowman, (262) 554-5370, lowman.john.sbcglobal.net, rgs-wi.tripod.com

NOV 8-9: FREEPORT, IL Northwest Illinois Rock Club Annual Show, Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 10am-4pm, Student/Conference Center Highland Community College 2998 W Pearl City Rd Freeport, IL 61032 Midwest dealers will showcase a variety of beautiful gemstones, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads and gifts for holiday shopping. Contact Brian Green at (815) 745-2228 or email at bgreen57@hotmail.com.

NOV 22-23: MADISON, WI Madison Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-5. Exhibition Hall at Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Hwy, Madison. Contact Nevin Franke, (608) 251-2601,

Lure of Rockhounding Through the Years



Leech Lake, Minnesota beach material can vary wildly from smooth sandy patches to shores made of rocks and pebbles.

During the last week in September I traveled to Leech Lake, Minnesota to join my siblings and father on a fishing trip near Whipholt. Leech is the second largest inland lake in Minnesota and generally regarded as a championship fishing lake. While the walleye fishing was poor due to changing weather factors including a few seconds of snow, the fall scenery and placid lake views were outstanding as usual.

In late afternoon on September 29, the lake was crystal clear and mirror smooth. At a beach near where my parents once owned a summer home, I went to see what had changed since I last visited the lake two years ago. The mix media beach contained a fair amount of sand but also is composed of small pebbles to large rocks on the south shoreline of the huge lake.

With the sun angle low I photographed close-ups of the shore interface mostly due to the availability and variety of shapes and colors. The coarse granite rock (black and pinkish) near the middle bottom of the photo is now in my collection. It is about the size of a tennis ball as a reference.

Many of us got into rock collecting because its fairly easy to find interesting rocks almost anywhere. Whether your interest was spurred by your parents or a teacher or by your own discovery, its something that stays with you for a long time. And whether you pursue it as a hobby or professionally or both, it is an inner force that pulls on you throughout the years to pick up another rock, identify it and figure out how it was made and how it got there. Now go out and add another find to your collection. *Article by David Chase.*

Grasslands Wilderness—A Dire Warning

By: Name withheld by author's request

As a former federal land manager and avid rockhouser I am deeply alarmed by efforts to turn National Grasslands into wilderness areas.

This effort is being driven by the special interest of a selfish group of do-gooders. Unfortunately, once these efforts begin to gain momentum they are all but unstoppable. Unless rockhounding clubs stand together with a common voice against this effort there will be little chance of being heard by decision-makers.

May I suggest that clubs focus attention on their legislative representatives to get this move stopped dead in its tracks. If folks think they are going to get anywhere with the Forest Service they are dead wrong. The Forest Service will ramrod

this designation unless stopped by Congress.

I know, I have been there and seen it done and it is most likely that the decision in favor of wilderness has already been made internally within the Forest Service. They can accomplish off-road vehicle management without a wilderness designation, and I believe this to be the real issue driving this effort.

Again, to stop this it must be accomplished through legislative intervention. You will be wasting your time trying to talk sense to the Forest Service!

-Article excerpted from the *ALAA Newsletter* (April-June, 2014). ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

Spotlight Gemstone: Tanzanite Found Only in One Place on the Planet

Tanzanite is mined in only one place on planet Earth – in the African country of Tanzania. For whatever the reason this dark blue and purple-ish gemstone is found only there, having been discovered as recently as 1967. It is highly sought today due to its deep intense color and rarity.

Tanzanite is a blue variety of the gemstone zoisite. It consists of calcium aluminum silicate and is not particularly hard, having a value of 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale.

The gem should always be worn carefully and never placed in an ultrasonic bath for cleaning or brought into contact with acids.

Scientists think this is how the gem was formed. Millions of years ago, metamorphic schists, gneisses and quartzites formed impressive, flat-topped inselbergs on a vast plain in the shadow of Kilimanjaro. The precious crystals grew in deposits on the inside of these unusual elevations.

For a long, long time they were hidden until one day passing Masai shepherds noticed some sparkling crystals lying in the sun and took them along with them.

In Merelani today, the search is carried on for the coveted crystals in several, smallish mines, in some cases using modern methods.

As a rule, only small grains are found, but now and again the mineworkers succeed in securing a larger crystal.

When the first tanzanites were offered to the jewelry company, Tiffany's a short time after their discovery, they sparked an enthusiastic reaction.

Tiffany did make a recommendation to give the stone another name, since the gemmologically correct name blue zoisite was felt to be too close to the words 'blue suicide'.

So Tiffany's proposed the name 'tanzanite', after the place where the stone had been found - a name which

quickly came into general use in the trade. And it was Tiffany's who, two years after its discovery, presented the exclusive gemstone to the general public with a broad-based advertising campaign—You can only find Tanzanite in two places, Tanzania and Tiffany's.

Edited from several sources including Gemstone.com website.



Tanzanite is a versatile gemstone that comes in a variety of sizes and cutting styles. Although once considered only as an alternative to sapphire, it has quickly established itself as one of the premier gemstones in the world.

Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs

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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.

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

**Dale Stout
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52403**

CVRMS website:
cedarvalleyrockclub.org

Meeting Place:
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PLANT CAFETERIA



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