

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

SEPTEMBER 2011

VOL. 38, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 20TH MEETING

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society will meet on **Tuesday, Sept. 20th**, 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.) This month's hosts are Dell James and Dale Stout.




Program Chair Bill Desmarais reports the **program will be: "Earth is Rock: Showcasing the VAST Center Middle School Earth History Unit,"** presented

by Gina Rutenbeck (College CSD 7th Grade Science Educator) and Erica D. Larson (GWAEA VAST Consultant).

Erica and Gina will introduce you to the VAST Center's Earth History Unit by featuring elements of an investigation titled: Earth is Rock. In this investigation you will gain an overall perspective of the Grand Canyon using a Flyover Video created in Google Earth; then proceed to learn about Powell's River Trip emulating his observation techniques using images and rock samples from Mile 20 and Mile 52. You then will use your observations of the properties of the rock samples to correlate the rock columns from each location as geologists do when recreating the story of the history of the formation of the layers of rock exposed in the Grand Canyon. (*Sounds like fun!*)

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, another summer is almost behind us, which in some respects is almost welcome. While we may have not done much collecting, we can take consolation  in the fact that much of the summer seemed too hot to do any collecting. Hopefully this fall will be more favorable temperature-wise to get out and do some collecting.

To get our fall started we will have our September auction, which has become a very successful event with a lot of people anxious to sell their collections or part of their collections. Hopefully you will receive this newsletter before this coming weekend and our auction. We can always use more help from club members. This is always a fun event and a good way to pick up some new items for your collection, but it does take a lot of work. It's also a great way for new club members to become involved in the club.

I would also like to encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings. Last year Bill Desmarais lined up some great programs, but unfortunately some meetings had a very disappointing turnout. Please plan on attending some meetings as a way of supporting our club. We try to provide different activities for people to participate in, and this includes our monthly meetings.

The most important thing is to have fun. This is a hobby for most of us and as such should be something that is fun and can be used as a way to relax and meet people with similar interests. I look forward to seeing you on a field trip, at the auction, or at a meeting. Also, we are already in the planning stages for next year's big show, and will be focusing more on this after the auction is over.

—Marv Houg, President

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!



Bob Roper has resigned as Newsletter Editor because it was "getting to be a drag." I am filling in until we can find a replacement. We are looking for a permanent replacement for this elected position. The job requires a good command of sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation, attending most of the regular and board meetings - each held monthly, reporting club news, and planning and collecting original or public domain material to fill each issue (articles from exchange issues can be used with proper credit). You'll gain a lot of rock-related knowledge in return. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please let someone on the board know.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

FALL AUCTION SEPTEMBER 17-18

Your Help is Needed!



Are you ready for two big days of auctioning rocks, minerals, fossils, and machinery on September 17th & 18th at Amana RV Park Morton Building? The building is at the corner of Central & 7th St. in the park. This promises to be a good — and probably long — auction. **See the auction flyer at the back of the newsletter for details, and check our website for pictures of some of the material for sale.**

We all like to *ooh* and *aah* over specimens and hopefully end up with some choice ones, but before the auction takes place, much help is needed to move the material and get it sorted and arranged into lots and get numbers on the lots during Friday's setup. During the auction itself, help is needed to run auction sheets, spot for the auctioneers, move lots to the front of the hall, and finally to tear down. Please help if you can!

Friday, September 16, Setup: Meet at Amana RV Park at 8:30 a.m. to unpack boxes and arrange material into lots. Bring flats, gloves and your energy. It is extremely important to keep each person's material together. **Because we are dealing with a large number of consignees, it is extremely important to be very careful not to move material away from its assigned area, especially equipment!**

If you don't know what to do, just start working with somebody who looks like they know what they're doing. If you are unsure about how to make lots, just use your best judgment to get started. It is tremendously helpful to have all the material laid out in approximate lots, even if they have to be refined later. Darren Cruse, Jeff Groff, Marv Houg, Dale Stout, and others who are experienced judges of lots will look over all the lots and rearrange them if necessary. Lots of like material will be arranged so that some will sell each day. When all lots are properly arranged, a number will be put on each one. All this has to be done by 5:00 for viewing.

Some members are needed during viewing until 7:30, so if you have time off on the 16th, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Set-Up Day Meals: The club will furnish lunch at noon - Dell James always has great food planned. There will also be rolls and coffee/pop in the morning. We will order pizza for supper during viewing.

So come spend a couple hours or stay the whole day. **WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU!**

—Sharon Sonnleitner

FIELD TRIP TO KLEIN QUARRY—OCT 9



A joint field trip with MAPS to Klein Quarry, Coralville, has been scheduled for Sunday, October 9. Meet at the main entrance to Klein 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 12:15, 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. Participants must have their Personal Protective Equipment, i.e. a Hard Hat, Sturdy Shoes and Safety Glasses & Safety Vest. Adults are responsible for their minor children at all times! **Stay Away From The High Walls at the Bottom and at the top - this will be Strictly Enforced! Please Note: If you come with jelly shoes, sandals, etc. - you Will NOT go in - Closed Toe Sturdy Footwear is REQUIRED!**

Possible finds include: coral heads, horn corals, brachiopods, bryozoans, trilobites, crinoids and maybe cephalopods, fish parts, and blastoids; millerite, calcite, pyrite, sphalerite. Useful tools include: rock hammers, cold chisels, sledges and pry bars. Bring your own water and lunch.

To save time, download and fill out the club **liability waiver** at www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org (all lower case).

Directions: From I-80, take Exit #240 (Coral Ridge Ave.), go south to Hwy 6 (at the T intersection & light), go right .4 mile to Deer Creek Rd., go left .6 mile on Deer Creek to the quarry entrance on the right. Check our website for a map and safety rules—www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

HERE AND THERE WITH OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
 Please Send News Items via the Form on our Website
 Or call Delores Slade, Sunshine Chair, at 319-351-5559



We Welcome New Members:

Lester J Engler
 2534 29th St. SW
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
 Engler@netscape.com
 H: 319-395-3615
 C: 319-213-3615

Keith Robitschek
 601 S Vista Dr
 Algonquin IL 60102
 (H) 847-854-9420
 (W) 847-304-3227
 Krobits@sbcglobal.net
 Interested in fossils.

Ken Hunt
 703 18th Ave Apt.3A
 Coralville, IA 52241
 319-354-1079
 kenhuntiowa@yahoo.com
 Interested in trilobites.
 Also interested in Iowa
 Outdoor Unlimited and
 Iowa City Bird Club.

Change of Address:

Patricia & George Deishl
 PMB-103
 150 S. Hwy. 160 Ste. #8
 Pahump, NV. 89048



Our sympathy to **Joy and Bob Cummings** on the death of Joy's mother.



Leonard & Connie Moellers were hit by the high winds that blew through Vinton in July. They lost out-buildings and trees and had damage to the roof of their house.



John & Roxanna Peterson, who bring material to our annual auction, have been flooded out of their home in South Dakota since June.

Dale Stout, Tom & Julie Whitlatch, Jeff Groff, Dean Young, Joy & Bob Cummings, Jeff Kahl, Jay Vavra and Margaret ? helped rescue and clean **Helen Lutz's** rocks for the auction on July 15 &16, two really hot days. Helen and the late Skinny had been long-time members. Helen is in a care facility after breaking a hip.



Marv Houg, Tom & Julie Whitlatch, Jackie Patterson, Clarence Burns, Sharon Sonnleitner, Doug DeRosear, Karl Stuekerjuergen, AJ Johnson, and Dale Stout organized and selected 200 lots for the auction from Helen Lutz's rocks between 8:30-3:00 on August 13.

Dale Stout, Tom Whitlatch, AJ & Michelle Johnson, new member **Les Engler**, and **Sharon Sonnleitner** traveled to Sperry, Iowa, on a 96° day August 24 to select, clean, sort and transport 200 lots of material for the September auction.

Congratulations to **Bill Bunker & Brian Witzke**, who recently retired after many years at the Geological Survey of Iowa!

REVISED WEBSITE—PICTURES WANTED



The club website has been redesigned and now has room for lots of pictures. We're looking for pictures of members working at a favorite aspect of their hobby or holding a favorite specimen, historical pictures such as Phil Curie's or Pete Larson's visits to Cedar Rapids, and pictures from field trips. It would also be nice to have pictures of specimens found at the various quarries we go to. Send to sonnb@aol.com.

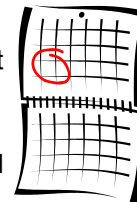
It is now easy to send your news to the editor, webmaster, sunshine chair and Dale Stout in one shot by filling in the News Form accessible from the home page. Please let us know about marriages, deaths, graduations, illnesses, etc., as well as any rock-related announcements.

The newsletters are now posted on the website, too, so if you're looking for information and can't find your newsletter, check the website.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Event information included here is gathered from flyers, Exchange Bulletins, and the Internet
Please let me know of any that are missing



Sep 16-18: HOLLAND, MI, Annual Show. Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, Holland Civic Center, 150 W 8th St. Fri 9:00-8:00, Sat 9:00-7:00, Sun 11:00-5:00. Contact Patti Valentine, 3880 M-40, Holland, MI 49423. (616) 836-1945
valentineoak@hotmail.com

Sep 16-18: LINCOLN, MO, 52nd Annual Show & Swap. Mozarkite Society of Lincoln, Inc., Lincoln City Park, Shelter House. Fri, Sun 8:00-5:00. Contact Robin Kimber, 209 S Ohio, Sedalia, MO 65301. (660) 829-1100

Sep 17-18 CLUB AUCTION – Amana RV Park & Event Center – see end of Newsletter for details.

Sep 17-18: HOWELL, MI, Annual Show. Livingston Gem & Mineral Society, Hartland Consolidated School, 9525 Highland Rd. Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun 10:00-4:00. Contact Marv Martin, PO Box 143, Webberville, MI 48892, (517) 521-3135

Sept. 23-25: Geode Fest - Hamilton, Illinois. <http://www.firstcrackgeodes.com/GeodeFest.html>

Sep 24-25: COLUMBUS, NE, Annual Show. Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Knights of Columbus Hall. Contact Ben Vrana, 3576 Linden Dr, Columbus, NE 68209. (402) 563-3265, bvrana@cableone.com or Mlempke68601@yahoo.com

Oct 1-2 OMAHA, NEBRASKA: 56th annual show. Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club. Westside Community Center, 108th and Grover St. Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5.
Contact: Tim Kautsch (402) 397-9606 www.nerockgem.us

Oct. 2: Basic Materials Aggregates Open House Raymond, Iowa, Quarry. 11a.m. - 4 p.m. See information on p. 5.

Oct 1-2: ROSEVILLE, MN, Fall Show. Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club. Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling. Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun Noon-5:00. Contact Martha Miss, 8445 Gramge Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016. (651) 459-0343, info@rock-biz.biz

Oct 1-2: JACKSONVILLE, AR, 39th Annual Show. Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society, Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Dr, Sat, Sun 9:00 -5:00, Contact David Murray, 218 Old Hwy 11 S, Hazen, AR 72064, (870) 255-3679, davidmur99@hotmail.com

Oct 1-2: SPRINGFIELD, IL, Annual Show. Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society. Illinois Bldg, Illinois State Fair Grounds. Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun 10:00-5:00. Contact John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Rd, Rochester, IL 62563, (217) 498-7713, jrwashburn3@att.net

Oct 14-16: WARREN, MI, Annual Greater Detroit Show. Michigan Mineralogical Society. South Macomb Community College, Expo Center, Bldg P, 14500 12 Mile Rd. Fri 9:00-7:00, Sat 10:00-7:00, Sun 11:00-5:00. Contact: Carol Werner, 3401 Briarhill Rd, Hartland, MI 48353. (248) 887-3906, briarhill-werner@comcast.net

Oct 15-16: CHICAGO HTS, IL, 42nd Annual Show. South Suburban Earth Science Club. Prairie State College, 202 S Halsted St. Sat, Sun 10:00-5:00. Contact Jan Podbielski, PO Box 911, Peotone, IL 60450, (708) 258-3791, ssescus@yahoo.com

Oct 15-16: DES MOINES, IA, Annual Show. Des Moines Lapidary Society. Paulo Knapp Animal Learning Ctr Iowa State Fairgrounds, E University Av Gate. Sat 10:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00. Contact Steve Cunningham, (515) 262-4578, steverv@mchsi.com

Oct 15-16: COTTAGE GROVE, MN, Annual Show. Minnesota Mineral Club. National Guard Training & Community Ctr, 8180 Belden Blvd. Sat 10:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00. Contact: Sandy, info@minnesotamineralclub.org, or Rita (651) 457-4285

Basic Materials Aggregates Open House.

Sunday at the Quarry, Earth Science Week 2011

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. October 2



Basic Materials Aggregates will hold an open house at Raymond Quarry, Raymond, Iowa, again this year. **The public is invited to attend this very**

unique event for a day of Earth Science adventure. The Theme this year is: "Our Changing Earth." Please make plans to attend and spread the word!!

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

Directions: 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.

1. There are several excellent programs and activities for everyone.
 - a) Collecting Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils with the Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club.
 - b) Changes in the Earth by studying the Geology of the Quarry, with UNI Earth Science Dept.
 - c) Youth Activities with UNI Earth Science De-

- partment (Find a Fossil and other Activities).
- d) IOWA LEARNING FARMS DEMONSTRATION, ENERGY, SOILS AND CROPS.
- e) Iowa Geological Survey: Changes in the landscapes: shaping Iowa throughout Geological History.
- f) Black Hawk County Soil and Water District; Changes in the Watershed: plant a seed and watch it grow.
- g) USGS (United States Geological Survey) Displays and programs for Changes in the Earth.

2. Area Teachers may acquire an Earth Science Week Tool Kit with materials produced by American Geophysical Institute free from BMC Aggregates by contacting BMC Aggregates at 235-6583.
3. Youth Groups, the General Public, and everyone interested in learning more about the Earth Sciences are invited to this Event.
4. Mark the date, October 2nd, 2011, from 11 AM to 4 PM on your Calendar. BMC Aggregates, Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society, UNI Earth Science Department, Black Hawk County Soil and Water District and all the program presenters are looking forward to seeing you!

—Glen Rocca

ENTER "FIND OF THE YEAR CONTEST" AT NOVEMBER MEETING



Join the fun of this new activity! Bring your best rock find or creation for this year to the November club meeting for a chance to win best of the year. Categories will include **Artifact, Cabochon, Cutting Material, Faceting, Fossil, Jewelry, Lake Superior Agate, Mineral, and Open Lapidary**. Kids' categories will include **Fossil, Rock or Mineral, and Miscellaneous**.

You must be a Cedar Valley club member. All specimens/creations must be found/made by the entrant in 2011. Enter more than one item per category, but you can only win one prize per category. Fill out a card at the meeting indicating what the specimen/creation is and, if appropriate, where it was found, and put your name on the back of the card. Look for more information next month.

Start selecting your entry/entries now and plan to attend the November meeting with it/them.

—Sharon Sonnleitner

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK IS OCTOBER 9TH TO 15TH

The American Geological Institute News Release



Earth Science Week is an annual event sponsored by AGI to expand public understanding and appreciation for the earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth. This year's Earth Science Week will be October 9-15. To learn more about Earth Science Week, visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org>.

The American Geological Institute is a nonprofit federation of 50 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.

Earth Science Week Kicks Off with International EarthCache Day

Alexandria, VA – Earth Science Week 2011 will kick-off with the fifth annual International EarthCache Day on Sunday, October 9th. The public is invited to join the Geological Society of America (GSA), organizer of the global EarthCache program, and the American Geological Institute (AGI), Earth Science Week coordinators, in exploring this exciting and educational earth science experience.

International EarthCache Day is a time when EarthCachers around the globe organize small gatherings where people can learn something about the Earth. An EarthCache is a place that people locate with a GPS device while participating in a "treasure hunt" called geocaching.

"The treasure you find at an EarthCache is a lesson about the Earth itself," says EarthCaching Program Director Gary Lewis of GSA, a longtime Earth Science Week partner. "Each EarthCache site will teach you something about the science of our dynamic planet - you actually have to do a task to prove that you have been observing and learning from your EarthCache visit."

EarthCache events are being held around the world this October 9th. To view the locations for EarthCaching events, go to <http://www.earthcache.org>. (141 sites are listed in Iowa—Editor)

In 2004 Lewis developed the world's first EarthCache on an Australian headland, which features geologic evidence of an ancient ice age. Since that time, more than 11,200 EarthCaches have been established by geocachers around the globe, and some 1,250,000 people have visited the sites. More EarthCaches are added daily.

As Earth Science Week approaches, stay tuned for more details on the international gathering of EarthCachers scheduled to take place in September 2012 in Portland, Maine. For more information, contact Lewis, Senior Director of GSA Education and Outreach, at 720-201-8132.

National Fossil Day is October 12

My name is Eva Lyon and I am working with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, American Geological Institute and other partners to organize and coordinate the 2011 National Fossil Day. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in this year's National Fossil Day, which will take place on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. This event is in conjunction with Earth Science Week, as sponsored by the American Geological Institute.

As part of the Paleontological Resources Act of 2009, U.S. federal agencies have been mandated to promote public understanding of the importance of our nation's fossil resources. The National Park Service and its partners believe that one of the best ways to accomplish this is through National Fossil Day.

This is only our second year for National Fossil Day, so we hope to build upon the success of our last event and make this year even better. This is where you come in; we are seeking to bring on board new partners from across the country to join in our efforts to promote public appreciation and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater understanding of their scientific and educational values. Many of our other partners have organized their own events for the day including presentations, mock digs and fossil identification games, among other educational opportunities for children and the public.

In order to get a better idea of what we do, I encourage you to visit our website at: <http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm> We hope you will join us for this year's event so that we might reach an even greater number of fossil enthusiasts! If you are interested in joining our team, please reply to this email so that we can begin putting together a plan of action.

Thank you,
Eva Lyon
National Fossil Day 2011 Coordinator
GeoCorps America Guest Scientist
National Park Service
Phone: (703) 379-2480 ext. 249

COLLECTING KEOKUK GEODES

By Jim Ericson

From *The Rock Rustler's News*, May 2011, Zoma Olson, publisher

While cracking geodes with my daughter at the club's Demonstration Night in March, many members asked where to go to find geodes. If I responded somewhat cryptically, I apologize—there are numerous places to go, but it's difficult to explain without taking the time to write down phone numbers, addresses, directions, etc. I thought I would put my thoughts and recommendations down in writing for anyone that may be interested in searching for the famous Keokuk

Why the fascination? For me, it started as a child when I was given a very hollow quartz crystal-lined geode. It was beautiful, but never did I dream of finding one myself. It was not until a few years ago, after becoming acquainted with people on an online rock and mineral collecting forum, that I learned that not only *could* I find a geode, but also that they were even plentiful—if you knew where to look. To suggest I was “giddy” when I went out on my first geode hunt is a bit of an understatement. Despite having gone on dozens of expeditions, collecting thousands of geodes and appearing in *Rock and Gem* magazine, I am not an expert—I just know where to find them.



geode is defined to be hollow, but in my experience, the solid varieties are much more abundant. Technically speaking, if it's solid, it is a “nodule.” Call me a rebel, but I refer to the solid ones as geodes, too.

So where are they, specifically?

Keokuk Geodes can be found weathering out of hillsides, creeks and river banks from the lower Warsaw Formation. Sometimes they are in soft soils close to the surface, but often they are embedded in the harder shale-like layers many feet below the surface. While they can be found in creeks and rivers, I avoid searching in these areas unless I have the express permission of the adjacent property owners. One might argue that the navigable waterways are public—which they may be—but when a property owner wields a shotgun, it wouldn't seem smart to argue one's right to be there. So I stick to designated private property “mines,” such as the following:

Jacob's Geodes

823 E. Co Rd 1220, Hamilton, IL
217-847-3509

Stevenson's Geodes

625 S 18th St, Hamilton, IL
217-847-2952 or 309-337-3089

Larry Evans' Geodes

251 N 7th St, Hamilton, IL
217-551-0035 or 217-357-5384

Hill Top Mud Bogg

Highway 27, St. Francisville, MO
660-754-6361

Scheffler's Geodes

Highway 27, Alexandria, MO
660-754-1134

Where can they be found? It is written that Keokuk geodes can be found within a 35 to 70 mile radius of Keokuk, Iowa, a town located on the Mississippi River in the very southeast corner of the state. This area is referred to as the Tri-state area, with Illinois just across the Mississippi River to the east and Missouri on the other side of the Des Moines River to the south. While I have found geodes in all three states, some of the best geode locations are found in Hamilton, Illinois, just across the Mississippi River from Keokuk. The “Keokuk” name of the geode is a bit of a misnomer since a person will not likely find a geode within the Keokuk city limits unless he or she happens upon the wonderful Bevard collection on display at the Keokuk Holiday Inn Express on Main Street!

How do they form? Apparently, this question cannot be answered with any certainty—geologists do not agree nor is there a universally held theory on the forces that caused the creation of the geode, aside from its being a sedimentary process, as opposed to the volcanic forces that formed thunder-eggs. According to most geological references, a

Fire Agate

Author Unknown

From *Geode*, May 1972

Ed. Note: There will be lots of fire agate at our auction September 17-18

Fire agate is a chalcedony that has been deposited in layers. The fire comes from a thin coating of limonite deposited between the layers at the time of formation. Usually there is a large amount of matrix on the specimen, so soak it in water for at least ten minutes. This will help to determine which area of fire you want to bring out.



Choose a portion that has a solid layer of chalcedony overlaying the dark fire area. Fire agates aren't much to look at in the rough and are passed by, but when ground and polished properly, it exhibits sparkling red and green fire.

Trim the sides and bottom, cutting the matrix with a trim saw. Carefully, start grinding on the sides to the shape you want it. Use 120 grit. Be careful not to overheat the stone. Mount the stone on a dop

stick. Using 220 grit, work the top portion of the agate toward a high crown. As you grind down the top and sides, watch for fire.

A stone can be ruined at this point. If it is ground too far and into the limonite layer, the fire can be lost. Dop the stone close to the fire layer. Wet sanding can be used successfully, starting on 220 grit paper and finishing on 320 grit. Be sure not to overheat. Cerium oxide mixed with water to a thick paste and applied to a felt wheel for polishing, will give you the best results.

Four important points to remember are: Choosing the area of the stone with the chalcedony overlaying the limonite area, grinding carefully, not grinding into the limonite area and not overheating the stone.

Tips from a Jeweler's Bench

By Brad Smith

From *Agatizer*, South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Aug. 2011, Vol LVI No 8
via *The RearTrunk*, Aug. 2011, Vol 63, Issue 8, Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club,

Soldering Prongs

I often use prongs to hold an irregular cab or other object on rings and pendants. But they're a little tricky to solder. You have to find some way to hold them upright while soldering, and what looks like a strong joint sometimes turns out to be a fake. There's nothing worse than having a prong break off when you're setting the stone, *#~*!

I solved both problems with one little trick. Locate and centerpunch the location for each prong. Then drill holes just a little smaller than your prong wire. Sand a small taper on the ends of your prong wires and insert them in the holes. The wires support themselves, soldering is easy, and the joint is stronger because of the increased soldering area.

Twisting Wire

Twisting wires together can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Dremel or Foredom should do well. Just make a little hook out of coat

hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Fasten the ends of the wires in a vice and slip the other ends on your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with a variable speed control.

Smoothing Earwires

Any time you make your own earwires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is not fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy or fast.



Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES — JUNE 7 , 2011

Present: Marv Houg, Tom Whitlatch, Dale Stout, Sharon Sonnleitner, Dell James, Andy Halfman, Leonard Moellers
Call to order: 7:25 p.m. by Marv, President

Auction: Dates September 17, 18. At the Amana RV Park.

We now have over 1200 lots. A new contributor came forth and has a great collection of various items. A discussion regarding the logistics of picking up, and cleaning the items for auction. Volunteers will be needed and a plan made. More to follow at the first picnic.

Contracts need to be in with a list of items to Sharon. Flyers need to go out.

Friday lunch- Dell. Food for Saturday and Sunday is still undecided.

Rules of sale will be reviewed and placed on the order of sale. Dell will work on this.

Next Show

Discussion regarding the theme for next year's show. Motion made by Dale to make Geodes the theme for 2012. 2nd by Leonard. Approved. Recommendation will be presented at next club meeting.

Field Trip

Marv reported the field trip to Independence was a warm dig. A few fossils were found.

MSHA training: Discussion regarding the possibility that John McArdle from ZRS fossils can come here a day before the show and provide the necessary training for certification. The club would pay for the instructor expenses plus any motel fees that will be incurred. Marv will talk more with John about this. It is becoming more evident that this training may be a requirement before anyone can enter a quarry to dig.

Website: Marv will talk to Andie.

Hoover Fest August 6: Leonard made a motion to pass on participating in the Hoover Fest this year. 2nd by Tom. Discussion-Too many other things to take care of before the auction and lack of interested people to help. Approved.

Motion to adjourn by Dale, 2nd by Dell Adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dell James, Sec.

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Squaw Creek Park — June 21 , 2011**

Call to order: 7:40 p.m. by Marv Houg, President

New Business: Club approval needed for expenditures over \$100.00. The board received a bid from Tom Whitlatch to clean out the shed and property located at Wiley and Rogers Lane for \$450.00 before July 31, which was our lowest bid. The other two bids ranged from \$500 - \$700. Motion made by Jeff Groff to authorize payment to Tom for \$450.00 for cleanup and demolition of the property listed. 2nd by Jackie. Motion approved.

A neighbor of the Lutz property allowed the club use of their water for the day. Motion made by Julie, 2nd by Dell, to authorize payment of \$25.00 for water usage. Motion approved.

Dale reported about library meeting place and discussion tabled until next board meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Tom. 2nd by Julie. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted, Dell James, Sec.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES — JULY 5, 2011**

Present: Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Tom Whitlatch, Dell James, Sharon Sonnleitner, Bill Desmarais
Call to order: 7:25 p.m. by Marv, President

Auction: Dates September 17, 18, at the Amana RV Park

Dale reported that the club still owns a shed located on the Lutz's property at Wiley and Rogers Blvd. Due to circumstances, we need to have shed removed with contents by the end of July. Sharon has received two bids ranging from \$500 to \$700 to pay someone to remove and destroy contents and shed. In addition there is rock and rock related articles in the house which would be appropriate for the auction. Tom volunteered to take a look and make his bid to the club. Perhaps a work party can be formed to help clean and save the contents.

Another work party will be needed for the stuff located in Sperry, IA. Needs to be cleaned and hauled and stored for the auction. Date decided will be Saturday, August 27.

With these additional items, we have a full two-day auction in store. Lists are still needed for Sharon to design the flyers.

Auction Food: Sue Houg and Michelle are thinking about doing the food for the auction. They need to check out the site first.

Website: Sharon volunteered to redesign the Website. Motion to approve Sharon to redesign the Website made by Dell, second by Dale. Approved.

Newsletter: Bob Roper has resigned as the newsletter editor. Sharon volunteered to write the newsletter until someone would like to take over the job. Motion made by Dell to allow Sharon to be the interim newsletter editor until

BOARD MEETING MINUTES — JULY 5, 2011*(continued)*

someone else takes over the task. Second by Dale. Discussion to recruit someone for the job. Motion approved.

Miscellaneous: Dale received notice from the Cedar Rapids library regarding the use of a community room for our meetings. The advantages would be that the space lends itself to speakers and presentation better than the current location. Also, maybe more people would take advantage of the programs we have. Location would be easier to find. Dale will check to see about closing the mall at 9:00 and if that affects us. More to follow.

A thank you letter from University of Iowa for our scholarship donation was read.

In the past, the club always donated \$25.00 in memoriam when a member passed away. We made donations to Indian Creek for example. Those donations have not been made in a number of years. The question: should we research our membership data and catch up? Dale and Sharon will look into this.

2012 Show: A letter from Hawkeye Downs shows that the rental for the space has increased. There seems to be some discrepancies. Sharon and Dale will check.

Next general meeting will be at Squaw Creek Park for picnic.

Motion to adjourn by Dale, 2nd by Tom. Meeting adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dell James, Sec. 

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**Squaw Creek Park — July 19, 2011**

Call to order: 7:40 p.m. by Marv Houg, President

New Business: Club approval needed for expenditures over \$100.00. The board received a bid from Tom Whitlatch to clean out the shed and property located at Wiley and Rogers Lane for \$450.00 before July 31, which was our lowest bid. The other two bids ranged from \$500 - \$700. Motion made by Jeff Groff to authorize payment to Tom for \$450.00 for cleanup and demolition of the property listed. 2nd by Jackie. Motion approved.

A neighbor of the Wiley and Rogers Lane property allowed the club use of their water for the day. Motion made by Julie, 2nd by Dell, to authorize payment of \$25.00 for water usage. Motion approved.

Dale reported about library meeting place and discussion tabled until next board meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Tom. 2nd by Julie. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted, Dell James, Sec. 

AUGUST BOARD & REGULAR MEETINGS

No Quorum at Board Meeting
No Business at Regular Meeting

BOARD MEETING MINUTES**SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

Present: Marv Houg, Dale Stout, Tom Whitlatch, Bill Desmarais, Andrew Halfmann, Joy Cummings, Dell James, Sharon Sonnleitner

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

Announcements: The Iowa Geological Survey hosted a retirement party for Bill Bunker and Brian Witzke. They will be added to our mailing list.

Field trip planned for this Sunday to Klein Quarry. September 11, 2011.


Auction: Dates September 17-18 at the Amana RV Park. Marv brought up questions. Should reserves be allowed on auction items? Agreement that reserves could be set on only a couple items. An item with a reserve will be announced prior to the sale of that item. The amount will not be announced. Rules will be included on the order of sale bill. Auctioneers and helpers will be allowed to bid.

We can get into the building on Thursday evening to unload items. The club will rent a truck. Sharon will reserve a 24 ft. Friday 8:30 a.m. help needed to set up for show the next day. Lunch provided. Concessions and Saturday meal will be provided by the club.

Show: Recommended theme is geodes, which needs to be brought to the club for approval. Michael Sincak may provide Cave Bear for exhibit. Details still to be worked out. Contracts need to go out. Sharon will notify Darren to mail contracts. This will include TJ, too. Tom made motion to maintain rates for vendors the same as last year. 2nd by Joy. Approved.

Other Business: Sharon has revised the website. www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org. It is superb. You can view pictures and samples of what will be auctioned. Sharon is also doing the newsletter until another person steps up.

Motion by Andrew, 2nd by Joy to adjourn. Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dell James, Secretary 

2011 Auction Venue – Amana, Iowa

The CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY Presents

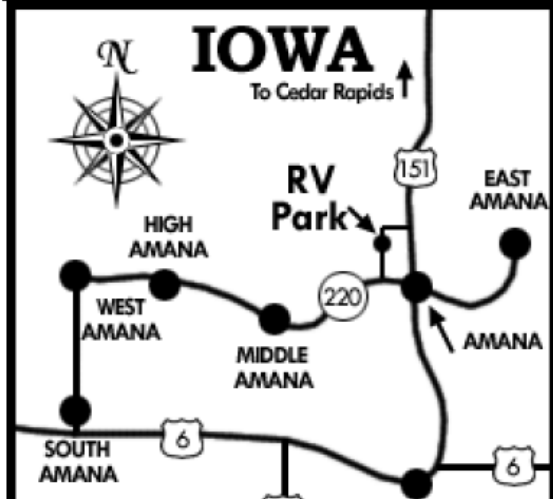
A TWO-DAY ROCK and MINERAL AUCTION

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

Saturday, September 17 – 9:00 a.m. - 7 p.m.?

Sunday, September 18 – 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.?

Viewing Hours: Fri., Sept. 16, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.; Sat. at 7:30 a.m.; Sun at 8:30



**APPROXIMATELY
1,200 LOTS**
From Several Collections
Minerals, Rough, Fossils, Cabs,
Faceted Gems, Jewelry,
Findings, Equipment, Books
Many Excellent Specimens

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



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

ROCKS & MINERALS

Actinolite
Agates from many places
Amethyst
Antigorite
Chrysoprase
Copper
Cubic Zirconia
Fluorite
Geodes – Keokuk
Malachite
Montana Moss Agate Rough – 200 lbs
Obsidian
Opal
Peridot
Polished Tumbled Stones - 50 lbs
Quartz – crystals; drusy
Rhodenite
Smithsonite
Thundereggs
Tiger Eye
Tourmaline
Turquoise
Willemite (fluorescent)
Wolfenite

ROUGH

Facet Grade Rough Material
Fluorite
Jasper from Washington State – 200 lbs
Moonstone
Mixed cuttings
Rhodochrosite

EQUIPMENT (will sell at 2:00 on Saturday)

Diamond Saw Blades – 8", 10" & 20"
Expando Drums – 2 8"
Faceting Machine – Graves, with dop sticks
Flat Lap
Grinder
Grits & Polish
Microscopes – Binocular (2)
Ring Sizer
Rock Saws - 10" & 6"
Silicon and diamond lapping discs
Soldering Machine
Sphere Machine
Turn table – large & small

GEMS & JEWELRY

Beads
Belt Buckle and Bolo Tie Findings
Cabochons – incl 20 lots fire agate
Earrings
Faceted Gems
Necklaces
Rings with Stones (many with fire agate)

BOOKS

Iowa Geological Society—complete set minus 1
The Fabulous Keokuk Geodes
Many Other Books

FOSSILS

Ammonites
Arizona Wood – some large, incl 2 large
rounds
Blue Forest Wood
Dakota Wood – 100 lbs
Fish
Hampton Butte Wood
Iowa Wood – 2 large
Madagascar Wood
Saddle Mtn Wood
Stromatolites
Trilobites
Wyoming Wood – 100 lbs
Zimbabwe Wood

MISC.

Artifacts – a few
Carvings – Chinese soapstone (many)
Carvings – onyx
Mining Drill Bit
Perky Boxes
Printer's Drawers (4 lots)
T-shirts
Spheres – several
Stalactite – Ige
Table Covers

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 Sonleitner 319-396-4016, sonnb@aol.com; www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

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
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Liaison	Joy Cummings	396-4647
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Director '12	Leonard Moellers <LJMoellers@mchsi.com>	373-1508
Director '13	Andrew Halfmann	
Historian	Leslie Blin <bblin@bser.com>	377-3339
Sunshine	Dolores Slade <dslade733@aol.com>	351-5559
Hospitality	Bob & Joy Cummings	396-4647
Webmaster	Andie Burns <carter1266@gmail.com>	

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.

Fall Auction is
 September 17-18



Sharon Sonnleitner, Interim Editor
 4800 Sunset Dr. SW
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52404