

WELCOME

We are pleased to announce that the 2019 annual meeting of the **American Federation of Mineral Societies** will be affiliated with the **Midwest Federation of Mineral and Geological Societies** on March 21-24 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The meetings will be associated with the **Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society's 55th Annual Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils Show** at the Expo Center at Hawkeye Downs. Information on the show and meeting can be found at <http://cedarvalleyrockclub.org/AFMSHome.html>. (Not all information is currently available, but the web page will continue to be updated and expanded). The theme of the rock show will be "Geodes: Iowa's Mysterious State Rock," and the show (the largest Rocks and Minerals show in Iowa) will feature dealers, demonstrations, displays, educational materials, and speakers. The associated meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn of Cedar Rapids, about ½ mile from the Expo Center. We welcome all to attend the Show and Meetings, to take advantage of the many attractions in the area, and participate in some of the associated field trips.

CHAIR: Ray Anderson

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CO-CHAIR: Sharon Sonnleitner

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AFMS and MWF Officers, Delegates and Members:

As President of the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society and on behalf of our club membership, I invite you to attend the 2019 AFMS and MWF Shows and Conventions, and I extend a warm welcome to you for our show in Cedar Rapids. We are pleased to host the shows and conventions in conjunction with our 55th annual show. Every year we have a show theme to help highlight the different facets of our rock hobby. This year we are spotlighting "Geodes," which, as our State Rock, is an appropriate symbol to welcome our out-of-state guests.

Our show has many of the activities you would expect to see at a rock show of this type, including silent auction, pebble pit and many activities for kids, as we really emphasize attracting young children to the hobby. Favorite kid activities are geode cracking, gold panning, casting of fossils and a sluice where kids can pan for gemstones. Excellent talks have also been a highlight of our show, and hot food is available on site.

We typically have close to 5,000 attendees, although last year we were down to about 3,000 due to a full-blown blizzard on Saturday. Because of uncertain weather in March, we will not have any outside field trips, but we have arranged for geology tours at the nearby University of Iowa in Iowa City, and Cornell College in Mount Vernon, and have listed several attractions to check out on your own. We promote our show heavily, and it has been used as a model by many other clubs for how to put on a successful show. I would also like to note that our profits fund geology scholarships at the University of Iowa and Cornell College. We also support the Van Allen Science Teaching Center (VAST), which provides geology and other science kits that are used by Eastern Iowa schools to teach thousands of kids each year. These gifts add up to close to \$10,000 per year.

We look forward to meeting each of you this spring and wish everyone safe travel to and from our show. If you need any further assistance on anything, please feel free to contact either Ray or Sharon as noted above, or me.

Sincerely,

Marvin Houg, President
Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society
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