

NEWS RELEASE

**Contact: Sharon Sonnleitner, Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society—396-4016
February 13, 2011**

EVENT: Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society **47th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show: *Treasures for Iowa's Ice Age; Featuring Ice Age Fossils and Lake Superior Agates***

DATES: March 19-20, 2011

PLACE: Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th St SW, Cedar Rapids

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

ADMISSION: Requested donations for admission are:

Adults \$2.00

Students (12-18) \$1.00

Children (under 12 with adult) and Youth Groups (with adult) Free. Children must be supervised by an adult.

BENEFITS: Proceeds are used for scholarships for geology students at the University of Iowa and Cornell College.

SHOW THEME FEATURES:

Special Exhibits: Stegodon, Ground Sloth, Saber-Tooth Cat and Woolly Rhinoceros skeletons, courtesy of Michael & Barbara Sincak, Hollsopple, PA, and Lake Superior Agates.

PROGRAMS:

Raymond Anderson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the University of Iowa Geology Department:

“The Glacial History of Iowa” – 1:30 Sat. and 12:00 Sun.

David Brenzel, former curator at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and co-principle investigator on the Tarkio Valley Sloth Project:

“Things to do with a Leftover Sloth: Recipes for Research and Fun with Iowa's Unique Ice Age Discovery” – 10:00 Sat. and 2:30 Sun.

Paul Garvin, Cornell College Professor Emeritus:

"Thunder Eggs, Banded Agates, and Geodes" – 11:30 Sat.

Thomas Marshall, Iowa Department of Natural Resources:

“Ice-Age Mammals of Iowa” - 3:00 Sat. and 10:30 Sun.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:

Making Dinosaur Footprint Casts

A Pebble Pit with special low-priced specimens

Fossil Hunt

OTHER FEATURES:

Additional exhibits include gem, minerals, fossils, agates, petrified wood, and lapidary arts.

Demonstrations of rock polishing, geode cracking, flint knapping, glass bead making, silversmithing, faceting, cabbing, wire wrapping, and beading.

Petrified bone hunt courtesy of Michael and Barbara Sincak, Hollsopple, PA.

Gem Flume for sluicing for gems.

The show also includes many items available from dealers, a silent auction, and frequent door prize drawings.

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society is a non-profit corporation organized exclusively for the purpose of studying the sciences of mineralogy, geology, and paleontology and the arts of lapidary and gemology.

INFO ON MICHAEL & BARBARA SINCAK

Geologist Michael Sincak and his wife and business partner Barbara have traveled the world in search of the finest specimens and have made exacting casts of famous one-of-a-kind fossils from the classic museums of Europe, Asia, and the United States. The Sincaks own and operate Treasures of the Earth Ltd., near Johnstown, Pa. The company deals in fossils, minerals, architectural pieces, petrified wood, shells, meteorites, statues and carvings from more than 60 countries. They are bringing an exhibit of four large Ice-Age mammal skeletons free of charge to the club: Stegodon, an elephant-like creature, Ground Sloth, Saber-Tooth Cat, and Woolly Rhinoceros

Contact for further information:

Michael Sincak, Hollsopple, PA, 814-479-7661, treasure@universaltreasure.com

INFO ON DON JOHNSON

Don is an amateur paleontologist from Fairfax, Iowa, with a special interest in fossil vertebrates. He has a large collection of fossils and fossil replicas, and he has experience collecting fossils in Iowa and other states out West. Using his self-given nickname "The Fossil Guy," he has taught numerous programs since 2002, mostly at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and the Cedar Rapids Science Station. In 2005, Don organized (and is currently President of) the Eastern Iowa Paleontology Project (EIPP) in order to establish exhibits and promote science education through the wonder of paleontology using the motto "Bringing Dinosaurs to Iowa!" The group purchased and is preparing "Laura, the Kid Dinosaur."

Contact for further information: Don Johnson, 319-213-1390, donald-johnson@mchsi.com