

Smoke Signals



**Black Hawk
Gem and Mineral
Club, Inc.**

April 2008

Volume 53

Number 4

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

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President	Kellie Moore	(563) 445-3034
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Secretary	Shelly Henderson	(309) 626-0107
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Director (2-year)	Delores Bates	(309) 796-0616
Director (1-year)	Lori Johnson	(563)-441-0149

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Membership	TBA	(563) 445-3034
Publicity	Craig Moore	(563) 445-3034
Youth Group	Joelle Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Field Trips	Bret Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Displays	Bret Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Rock Show	Kellie Moore	(563) 445-3034
Scholarship	Board of Directors	(563) 445-3034
Bulletin Editor	Lori Johnson	(563) 441-0149
Property	Board of Directors	(563) 445-3034
Ways and Means	Board of Directors	(563) 445-3034
Historian	Delores Bates	(309) 796-0616
MWF Liaison	Shirley Coven	(309) 743-2653

The purpose of this non-profit organization is to promote interest in collecting, studying and working with gems and minerals and fossils. Organized in 1955, the Black Hawk Club joined the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies in 1959. It is also a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, September through May at 6:00P.M. in the Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island, IL. Picnics are held at various locations during June, July, and August. Annual Dues: Individual Membership: \$15.00, Senior Couples: \$12.00, Senior Individual: \$10.00, Family: \$20.00.



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Next Meeting April 17th Hauberg Civic Center

This month's meeting will be held on Thursday April 17th at Hauberg Civic Center at 6pm. We will be having a silent auction in the basement followed by preparation for our Spring show.

Upcoming Events

April 19&20	DAVENPORT, IA: OUR SHOW!!! Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club Spring Rock & Jewelry Show. Putnam Museum and IMAX Theatre Lecture Hall, 1717 W. 12th St. Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun 11AM-4PM. Free Admission. For more information, see pg 3.
April 26	ST. Joseph, MI: Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society, Swap 'N Sell. Rocks, minerals, fossils. St. Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave. 10 am-4 pm, Free Admission. To reserve space and for more info contact: Nancy Wolff, (269) 983-4900 or blossomlandgemandmineral@yahoo.com
April 26-27	Cuyahoga Falls, OH: Akron Mineral Society & Lapidary Club Semi-Annual Show, Emidio & Sons Expo Ctr., 48 E. Bath Rd. Contact Warren Salchak, 242 Monroe Ave., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221, (330) 929-3789
April 26&27	Troy, OH: Brukner Gem and Mineral Club 25th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show, Miami County Fairgrounds, County Road 25-A. Theme: "Our Earth Offers Over 400 Minerals." Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Adults \$1, children free. CONTACT: Tom Dilworth, (937) 323-6482, or Louise, dllouiseb@aol.com.

<p style="text-align: center;">May 24&25</p>	<p>WHEATON, IL: Chicagoland Gems and Mineral Association (CGMA) 32ND ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Road. Sat. & Sun., 10-6 (Memorial Day Weekend). This year's theme: "A Gem of a Show." This show is the joint effort of 10 rock clubs, including Calumet Gem & Mineral Society, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society, Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, Duneland Rock Club, Elgin Rock & Mineral Society, Fox Valley Rock Club, Greater Oak Lawn Diggers, South Suburban Earth Science Club, and West Suburban Lapidary Club. There will be dealers, demonstrations, children's rock area, educational exhibits, programs, lapidary arts, jewelry exhibits, faceting, cabochon cutting, polishing gemstones, silversmithing, beading, wire wrapping, special youth activities and programs. Admission: Adults \$5, Students (13-17) \$3, Seniors \$3, Children (under 13) FREE. FREE parking. Go to the show web site, www.chicagolandgemshow.org, for additional information. CONTACT: John Good (630) 483-2363, cgma@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 10-13</p>	<p>Menasha, WI: Wonderful World of Agates 2008 - Weis Earth Science Museum - University of Wisconsin Fox Valley, 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha, WI 54952. Visit www.weismuseum.org and click on Agate Show 2008 for show updates and information. Our special display area will contain items rarely seen and of great value-even the Smithsonian will be there! More than 30 dealers will have all things agate for sale. Contact: Gary (920) 832-2925 or e-mail garold.richards@uwc.edu.</p>

Congrats to this years Scholarship winner:

Kristopher (Toph) Orton.

We look forward to our year together!



Spring Rock & Jewelry Show

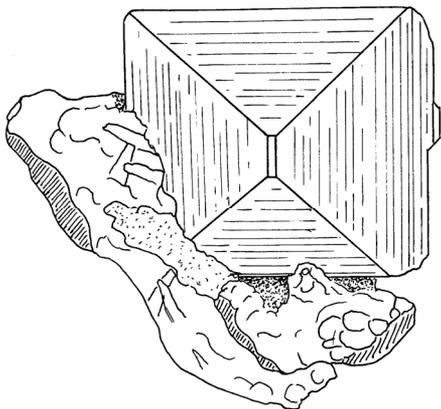
**Featuring: Rocks, Minerals,
Fossils, Silver & Beaded
Jewelry, Arrowheads & Beads**

Show Hours: Saturday April 19, 2008 10AM-5PM
Sunday April 20, 2008 11AM-4PM

Admission to Rock Show: Free!

Putnam Museum and IMAX® Theatre Lecture Hall
1717 W. 12th St., Davenport, IA

Demonstrations on Sphere Making, Making Arrowheads with our Flint Knappers, Various other Displays, Silver & Beaded jewelry, Wire wrapping, Minerals, Fossils, Agates, Geodes, Tumbled Stones, Carved Stone, Spheres, And much more...



**Fun for the whole
family!**

Proceeds go toward Scholarship Fund
Not Responsible for Accidents

Contacts:

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Kellie Moore (President) (563) 445-3034
Kalsinean1@aol.com

PaleoFest 2008

By Linda Eshbaugh

Homer & I just got back from Rockford, Illinois, where we had the pleasure of attending the 10th Annual PaleoFest at the Burpee Museum of Natural History. From the interesting lectures to visiting with our "Fossil Friends" to a little antiquing, we had a wonderful time!

In case you don't know about PaleoFest, it all got started when a team of paleontologists from the Burpee went out to the Hell Creek Formation and stumbled on a Tyrannosaur skeleton. But not just any Tyrannosaur. "Jane," as she came to be called, created quite a stir which only calmed down within the past couple of years. Was she a "Nanno Tyrannosaurus?" A juvenile Tyrannosaurus? Or something else?

Over the years, 70+ distinguished paleontologists have presented lectures at PaleoFest, including Jack Horner, Phil Currie and Bob Bakker. The lectures didn't always focus on Jane, and there were many other paleontological topics covered. One of my favorites was a lecture by Karen Chin, a specialist in coprolites. She really has the "poop" on this field. She is able to take scrapings from a specimen, run them through a gas spectrometer and determine if the remains were animal or vegetable. From that, she can determine if the dung was from a meat eater or vegetarian! The location of the find can also help to determine the species!

But, back to Jane. Now, most of the experts concur that Jane is a juvenile T-Rex, although a few still say otherwise. With the controversy at a low simmer, the Burpee was able to focus on it's most recent find, a Triceratops (actually they think that have bones from at least 3!). They have named this brute, "Homer" (no relation to this author's spouse!) And, this year they unveiled Homer's head! Awesome!! The Burpee

group is going back to the Hell Creek Formation for more pieces of Homer this season.

Some of the highlights of PaleoFest 2008 included talks by Philip J. Currie, University of Alberta, on "A New Theropod, and an Old One, from Southern China;" Eva Koppelhus, University of Alberta, on Fossil Plants and Spores: Palynology and Paleobotany of the Upper Cretaceous Dinosaur Park Formation, Alberta, Canada" and Matthew F. Bonnan, Western Illinois University, on "Building a Bigger Bronto: Tracing the Origins of Gigantism in Sauropod Dinosaurs."

Peter Mackovicky, Field Museum of Natural History, addressed "Raptors: Fangs, Feathers and Footprints, Clues to the Biology of Sickie-Clawed Dinosaurs" and Jean-Bernard Caron, Royal Ontario Museum, presented "The Burgess Shale Revisited." Jim Kirkland, State Paleontologist of Utah spoke on "The Dawn of the Cretaceous in Utah" and John Foster, Museum of Western Colorado addressed "Taphonomy of the Mygatt-Moore Quarry, A Large Dinosaur Bonebed in the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation of Western Colorado."

"Terrestrial Vertebrates From the Lower Permian Cave Deposits Near Richards Spur, Oklahoma with Emphasis on Recent Discoveries" was presented by Robert Reisz, University of Toronto at Mississauga and "Giant Carcharodontosaurids of Argentina" was presented by Philip J. Currie, University of Alberta. "Dragons of the Air: New Information on Pterosaur Wings and Muscles" was the topic of S. Christopher Bennett, Fort Hays State University.

Josh Mathews, Burpee Museum of Natural History and Northern Illinois spoke on "Homer and the Gang: Investigating the Homer Site" and Scott Williams, Burpee Museum of Natural History entitled his lecture "My Summer Vacation," which expounded on the discovery of the Homer Site.

One of the most thought-provoking lectures was presented by John R. Horner, Museum of the Rockies, who addressed

Tumbling - Part 3 of 3

Apache Tears

Submitted by Paul Heuer

When talking to other tumblers the word is always that tumbling apache tears is difficult. Well, I had about 30 lbs of apache tears and a tumbler and was determined to learn how to do a good job of turning out a nicely polished tear. What do we know? Apache tears are really a form of glass as are all obsidians. They are very brittle and chip easily. If you are going to tumble them successfully you must provide a cushioning element to prevent this chipping. My basic setup was the liberal use of thick corn syrup as a thickening agent and plastic pellets as a cushioning agent. Apache Tears no more than 1" long are fairly easy. Their mass is low enough so banging into each other is not much of a problem in the tumbler. The large tears are a real problem with their much higher mass. With the large tears I introduced ground walnut shells into the mix.

The first load in the tumbler uses 220 grit, NOT 80 grit. In a 6 lb tub I put in the tears, about 1 cup corn syrup, a small amount of water, 220 grit and 1 cup of plastic pellets.

Wash after 1 week and repeat the 220 grit if you think you need to further round the angles on the tears (I usually do).

Wash after the 2nd week and move to 600 grit and more pellets to make up for lost volume of the tears. One week with 600 grit is usually enough.

Wash very well and move to polish. I use $\frac{1}{2}$ tin oxide and $\frac{1}{2}$ cerium oxide. Yes, you will need corn syrup and plastic pellets here too. Check after one week. If you like the polish, wash and dry. If not, return to the tumbler for the 2nd week. The 2 weeks on polish is usually enough. If not, return for more time on the tumbler. I've gone as long as 6 weeks to get the shine I

was looking for on large tears. Of course, I had a lot of cushioning material in that batch. Keep good notes and keep experimenting until you get the results you want.

Early in 2008 I bought a mini-sonic vibratory tumbler especially to help finish difficult stones. I'll let you know down the road how this turns out. So far I have had some excellent results.

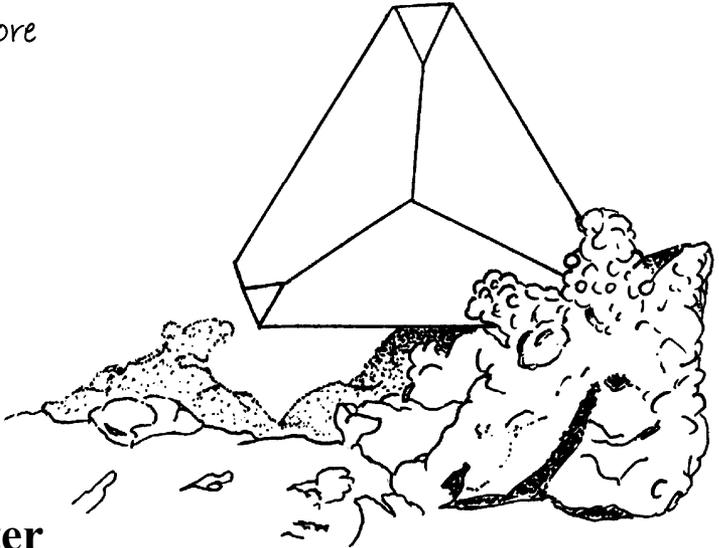
I'm sure many of you have your own stories to tell about finishing "pretty rocks". How about writing a story for all of us to read? I'm sure everyone would like to read about your adventures in this hobby we all share.

Keep on tumbling.



Thank you Paul for another great article! We have enjoyed reading them and have learned some new tricks that could come in handy.

Kellie Moore



Newsletter

If you have an article you would like to see published let us know! You can e-mail the President at:

kalsinean1@aol.com

Contributions: Submissions (announcements, photographs, notes, letters, articles, etc.) are actively solicited from BHGMC members. Submissions from non-members may be included at the discretion of the Editor. Copyrighted material submitted for publication must be accompanied by a written release from the copyright holder. All material submitted is subject to editing. Unless previously arranged, all submissions become property of the Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. When requested, original and personally-written articles will be published with a copyright notice in the author's name, otherwise all submissions will be published without individual copyright. No anonymous submissions will be considered; however, the submitter's name will be withheld or a pseudonym may be used at the submitter's request.

Please send all submissions to the editor.

Deadline: The deadline for all submitted work is the 20th of the month before it is to be published. Late and/or unused entries may be published in later issue.

Disclaimer: The conclusions and opinions expressed in *Smoke Signals* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Officers, Editor, or members of the club.

Exchanges: Free reciprocal exchanges for the bulletins of other gem and mineral clubs are welcomed. **Please send all exchange bulletins to the Editor.**

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Smoke Signals is published monthly and is sent to all members of the Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. as part of their membership.

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Affiliations

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.gaminal.org/afms.htm>

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Membership!!!
Enclosed!!!