



# Smoke Signals



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**Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club**

**January 2010**

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## Club Activities for January --

**Sunday, 3rd. Board Meeting.** 4 p.m. at the Village Inn, Bettendorf.

**Thursday, 21st. Club Meeting.** 6 p.m. at the Hauberg Center, Rock Island.

**Sunday, 31st, Club Hobby Day.** 12 - 5 p.m. at the Bead Supply, 1559 28th Avenue, Moline, IL. Bring your tools, materials and supplies; the club is providing tables. The Bead Supply will have beads available for sale. *See map inset on back cover for directions.*



Contact -  
Vicki Pearson, Club President  
309-762-7605

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## December Board Meeting Highlights --

- ❖ Discussions on the 2010 club budget.
- ❖ Kellie Moore, Show Chairman, requested authorization to print 2000 fliers for the spring show and 400 for the fall show.
- ❖ Kellie and Craig Moore and Connie Huber are traveling to the Chicago trade show and requested authority to purchase up to \$200.00 in supplies and materials for club shows.
- ❖ Kellie Moore initiated a discussion on ways to make club shows more profitable. Also discussed ways to improve coordination of volunteers and other preparations for shows.

## December Club Meeting Highlights --

The club holiday potluck dinner was held on Thursday, December 17th, at the Hauberg and there was no regular business meeting this month. Club members were treated to a tour and history lesson of this historic home decked out in fabulous holiday finery.

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## Mark Your Calendar --

**Jan 3, Board Meeting,** 4 p.m. at the Village Inn, Bettendorf.

**21, Club Meeting.** 6 p.m. at the Hauberg Center, Rock Island.

**31, Club Hobby Day.** 12 - 5 p.m. at the Bead Supply, 1559 28th Avenue, Moline, IL

**Feb 7, Board Meeting,** 4 p.m.

**12, Silent Auction, South Suburban Earth Science Club, Park Forest, IL.** Freedom Hall, 410 Lakewood Blvd, Sun 1:00-4:00, Contact Helen Funk, PO Box 235, Park Forest, IL 60466  
[ssescus@yahoo.com](mailto:ssescus@yahoo.com)

**18, Club Meeting.** 6 p.m. at the Hauberg Center, Rock Island.



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**Mark Your Calendar (cont) --****Mar 13 - 14 The 30th Annual Show, Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc., Macomb, IL**

Western Illinois University, Sat. 10 a.m. - 6p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry and Equipment. Silent Auction; Rock, Mineral, Fossil & Artifact Identification. Door Prizes, Live and Recorded Programs, Demonstrations, Earth Science Displays, Fluorescent Display, and Geode Cracking. For more information contact Dennis Bomke (217) 546-4096 [dbomke@comcast.net](mailto:dbomke@comcast.net)

**20 - 21, Annual Show, Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, Cedar Rapids, IA** Teamsters Union Hall, 500 J St SW, Sat 8:30-6:00, Sun 9:30-5:00, Contact: Marv Houg, 1820 30<sup>th</sup> St Dr SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403, (319) 364-2868,

**26 - 28, The Mid-American Paleontology Society's National Fossil Exposition XXXII, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL**

The topic for this expo is "The Ordovician Period of Geologic Time". Hours are 8am - 5pm Friday & Saturday, 8am - 12pm Sunday. Live Auction Saturday, March 27th at 7:30pm. For additional information, visit their web site at: <http://www.midamericapaleo.org/content/expo32.php>

Visit the Midwest Federation's homepage for a complete list of events:

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

**Newsletter Contributions & Club News**

Club news, articles, photos, and other material intended for publication need to be submitted to the editor no later than the 20th of the month to be included in the next newsletter.

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**Fun Stuff --****Rock Island County Extension YOUiversity: 4-H ROCKS Wednesday, January 20—March 3**

From the tallest mountains to the ocean floor, our earth is made of rock. Thousands of different types of rocks and minerals have been identified by scientists. If you want to learn more about our fascinating planet, join us for this in-depth, hands-on science class and you will: Grow crystals · Discover treasures inside geodes · Start a rock collection · ID fossils, and much more! (Ages 9 and up) \$35 For additional information, phone 309-756-9978 or visit the website.

[web.extension.uiuc.edu/rockisland/](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/rockisland/)

**The US Geological Service** website has a real time earthquake hazard map ... you may be surprised at now how near we are to some recordable quakes.

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/index.php>

And when the cold settles in, visit the **NOAA web site** and view satellite and web cam images of volcanoes in the US and around the world. Now that should warm you up.

<http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/VAAC/cams.html>

**2010 Officers and Directors**

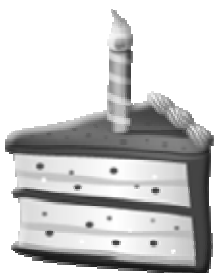
President	Vicki Pearson	(309) 762-7605
Vice President	Bret Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Treasurer	Connie Huber	(563) 355-7131
Secretary	Deb Totemeier	(563) 359-3345
Director (3-year)	Linda Maro	(309) 797-3275
Director (2-year)	Craig Moore	(563) 445-3034
Director (1-year)	Delores Bates	(309) 796-0616
Director (1-year)	Kellie Moore	(563) 445-3034

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## January Birthstone, Garnet --

The word garnet originates from the Greek and Latin words "granatum" or "granatus", meaning "seed" - or more specifically, "pomegranate seed". which have a similar appearance in both shape and color of the crystals. Garnets have been found in Bronze Age burial sites dated at 3000 BCE and were believed to have protected the wearer in the afterlife.



Garnets were first mined Sri Lanka over 2,500 years ago. Today, they are also found in Africa, Australia, India, Russia, and in several countries in South America. The US is the largest producer of garnets, with Arizona and Idaho being the largest producers. But not all garnet is of gem quality. Lesser quality stone is also a very effective abrasive and is used commercially for grinding and polishing.

Garnets occur in every color except blue and have a Moh's hardness factor of between 6.5 and 7.5. Although deep ruby red is the color most commonly associated with the gemstone, any color is acceptable as a birthstone. Major categories are:

Pyrope	- Deep red to nearly black
Almandine	- Deep red to reddish-brown
Spessartine	- Brown, orange, and pink
Grossular	- Colorless, white, green, yellow, pink, brown, orange and orange-red
Andradite	- Red, green, yellow, brown, black
Uvarovite	- Emerald-green

In ancient times, peoples believed that the red garnet had healing properties and they were commonly used to stop bleeding. Many early cultures believed that red garnets were useful in preventing and curing blood disorders and infections. Garnets were also believed to possess magical powers to heal, provide security and protection, and to unlock memories of past lives.

Garnet is also the birthstone for Capricorn (December 22 - January 21).

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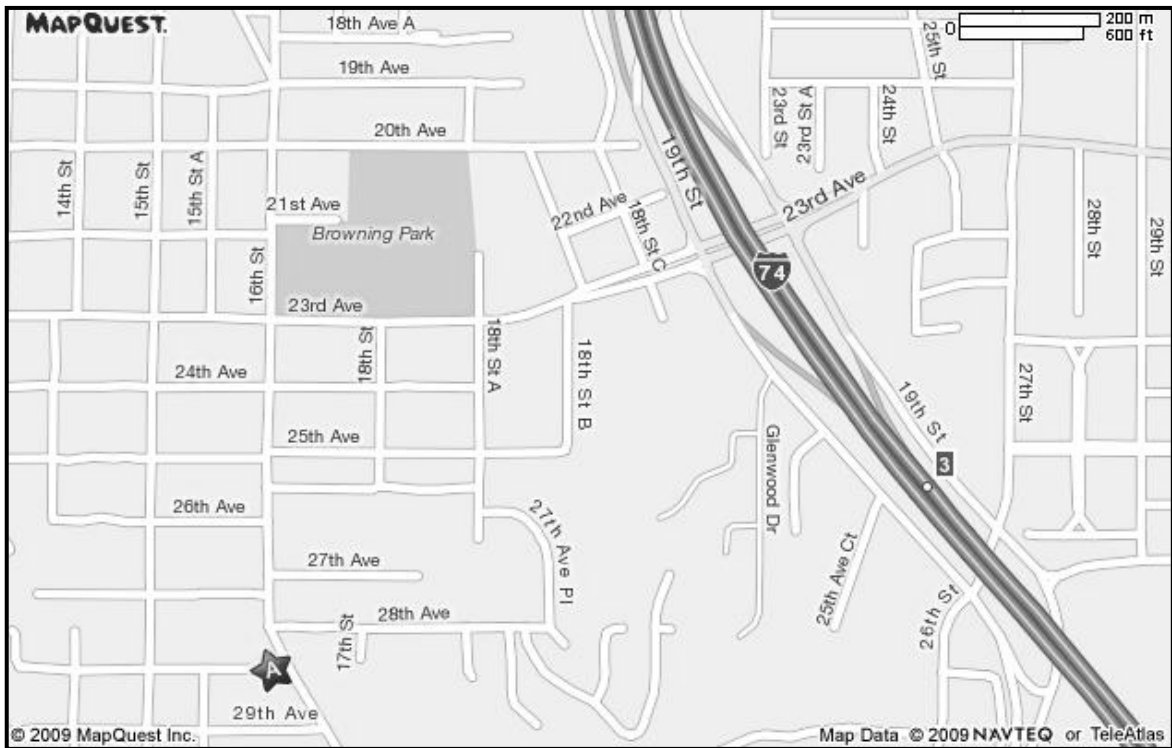
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## More Fun Stuff --

### Mineral Identification Find the Following Words

acid	apatite	beryl
calcite	cleavage	color
crystal	diamond	fluorescence
fluorite	form	fracture
gravity	gypsum	habit
hardness	heft	luster
mohs	specific	streak
system	talc	topaz

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f r a c t u r e y s e l d l f a s t f v
o g c y a s q e b d a m x z d o x f y a
s h e j z l p n c t v f m e t s y s z p
x a m o d t d i s k l l g m t u y t d q
m r q a z k f y r u v x u v u o u d m c
j d z j t i r a o f y c j s l s p w v a
m n h u c c p r l t s f l u t c t a z l
m e l e y a e u o s f r w e i e m c z c
o s p n t s o q c x s e q e a q r i f i
h s h i c r e l x n s i h m f v y h k t
s b t e i z b y y c l a t a b g a d z e
z e n t d n o m a i d y i p u c m g v a
b c e m s x l y r e b v b f t g a b e v
e f d t k m t b q e c h a v z r w e h f
p e t q p r n m p m v r h k q a x r t n
v w m d j e k u o b r g g r a v i t y w
u i d u i m k s h i j o j h j e n t e k
g r s e j c y p c g k p f c k t r v y y
o z t z h s a y v m a g g i l u r t f u
w a j v h b x g e s m a w w t g o l s m
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**- Club Hobby Day Location -**  
The Bead Supply, 1559 28th  
Avenue, Moline, IL

## *Smoke Signals*

### **Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club**

Deb Totemeier, Editor  
2438 E. Columbia Avenue  
Davenport, IA 52803-2212

