

Smoke Signals



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

January 2008

Volume 53

Number 1

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2008 Officers and Directors

President	Kellie Moore	(563) 445-3034
Vice President	Bret Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Treasurer	Connie Huber	(563) 355-7131
Secretary	Shelly Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Director (3-year)	Craig Moore	(563) 445-3034
Director (2-year)	Delores Bates	(309) 796-0616
Director (1-year)	Lori Johnson	(563)-441-0149

Committee Chairpersons

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 January 17th Hauberg Civic Center

Thursday January 17th Hauberg Civic Center - Scholarship student Elizabeth will be speaking on her summer project at Duck Creek Park and possibly her travels abroad at 6:30pm. Some people have volunteered to help clean up the workshop and get things working again. We will be scheduling this soon on an off meeting night.



Upcoming Events

Jan 26	LINCOLN, NE: Annual Indoor Swap, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc, Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner & Vine Sts, Sat 1:00-5:00, Contact Pat Akins, Jr, 5017 NW 6th St, Lincoln, NE 68521, (402) 477-1322
Jan - Feb	MT CLEMENS, MI: 3rd Annual Rock & Mineral Workshop, Mt Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society, Classes to assist students grades 3-6 in Science Olympiad Competition, Contact: Richard Brzozowski, 40217 Spitz Dr, Sterling Hts, MI 48313, (586) 264-5576

<p>Feb 10</p>	<p>PARK FOREST, IL: South Suburban Earth Science Club Annual Silent Auction. 1:00 to 4:00. Freedom Hall, 410 Lakewood Blvd. See Pg 8 for more info.</p>
<p>March 8-9</p>	<p>MACOMB, IL: Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc 28th Annual Show, WIU Student Union, Murray St, Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact: Steve Holley, 30795 N Norris Blacktop, Farmington, IL 61531, (309) 647-8864, ifossil@hotmail.com</p>
<p>March 8</p>	<p>CHICAGO, IL: Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society Annual Silent Auction! Open to the public, no admission fee. The first tables close at 5:45 P.M., with viewing beginning at 5:30 P.M. The auction is expected to last until approximately 10 P.M. Salvation Army, 4056 N. Pulaski Avenue. That is 2 blocks east on Irving after exiting the Kennedy at Irving Park Road.</p>
<p>March 14-17</p>	<p>CEDAR RAPIDS, IA: Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society Annual Show, Teamsters Union Hall, 500 J St SW, Sat 8:30-6:00, Sun 9:30-5:00, Contact: Marv Houg, 1820 30th St Dr SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403, (319) 364-2868, m_houg@yahoo.com</p>
<p>March 29-30</p>	<p>MONROE, WI: The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society 38th Annual Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show; Monroe High School, 1600 - 26th St. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Dealers, Speaker, Education Exhibits, Gold Panning, Fluorescent Mineral Tent Demonstrations, Hourly Door Prizes, Videos and a "Fish Pond" for the kids</p>



Dues!

Dues are now due for the year of 2008. Some of you have already paid within the past couple of months. If you have not please remember to take the time to send in your yearly dues, or bring them with you to the next meeting.

Starting next month, those who have not yet paid will receive a star on their newsletters as a reminder. Those who joined since September are already paid through next year.

Individual - \$15.00
Family - \$20.00
Senior Couple - \$12.00
Senior Single - \$10.00

Please mail to your payment to :
Connie Huber
2903 Woodland Ct
Davenport, IA 52803

Future Meetings:

We are working on having our February meeting at Augustana College. We will let you know when the plans are set. I do believe this will be on our usual meeting night.

Member update:

Shirley Coven - Shirley suffered a stroke in December of last year. Since then she has been moved from the hospital to the Rosewood Care Center in Moline. She is doing better and is recovering well. Are prayers and wishes are with her for a full recovery.

Thelma Smith - Thelma had been moved from Good Samaritan to her son's house in Moline for a brief time. She is now staying with friends in Davenport. Glad to hear she is doing better.

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This year's club shows

Contracts will be going out soon for the Spring and Fall shows.

We had discussed previously about needing someone to make one of the new kid's games. Larry Twing volunteered to make the pogo game for us. Thank you, Larry.

We still need Egg Cartons and material for rock collections and grab bags. Please save them up and bring them to a meeting. We will be making some collections at our March meeting.

New Website!!

www.blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com

Our club website is now up and running. Come visit the site and see what you think! Here is what it has to offer:

- ❖ **Upcoming events** - tells of events that are coming up for our club as soon as you enter the site.
- ❖ **Newsletters** - Members you now have the option to start receiving your newsletters online instead of waiting for them in the mail. Delivery may be up to a week sooner. To sign up just go to the site and click on the contact us button. From there you can e-mail me to add you to the list. Then each month as soon as the newsletter is posted to the site you will receive an e-mail to let you know it is there for you to view. We hope many of you will take advantage of this new option and benefit from it.
- ❖ **Kids Corner** - This page is for kids of all ages. There is a crossword puzzle, and several rock related games to play. There are also links to more fun. Enjoy!
- ❖ **Membership applications** - allows non-members who visit the site the opportunity to join.
- ❖ **Links** - There are numerous links to other rock related sites.

Agates

No gemstone is more creatively striped by nature than agate, chalcedony quartz that forms in concentric layers in a wide variety of colors and textures. Each individual agate forms by filling a cavity in host rock. As a result, agate often is found as a round nodule, with concentric bands like the rings of a tree trunk. The bands sometimes look like eyes, sometimes fanciful scallops, or even a landscape with dendrite trees. Agate was a highly valued as a talisman or amulet in ancient times. It was said to quench thirst and protect from fevers. Persian magicians used agate to divert storms. A collection of two to four thousand agate bowls which was accumulated by Mithradates, king of Pontus, shows the enthusiasm with which agate was regarded. Agate bowls were also popular in Byzantine Empire. Collecting bowls became common among European royalty during the Renaissance and many museums in Europe, including the Louver, have spectacular examples. The mining of agate in the Nahe River valley in Germany which was already documented in 1497 gave rise to the cutting center of Idar-Oberstein. Originally, the river was used to power the grinding wheels. When the Nahe agate deposit was exhausted in the nineteenth century, Idar cutters started to develop the agate deposits of Brazil, which also sparked exploration and discovery of Brazil's rich deposits of amethyst, citrine, tourmaline, topaz, and other gemstones. Although the small town of Idar-Oberstein is still known for the finest agate carving in the world for cutting and carving in Germany and Asia. Cameo master carvers and modern lapidary artists flourish along with rough dealers who scour the world for the latest gem discoveries for export. And the entire industry sprung from the taste for agate bowls and ornaments during the Renaissance! Maybe agate is also a powerful talisman for success in international trade.

Via Cedar Valley Gems

Tech Talk #14

By Val Carver, MMC Member Via The Rock Rustler's News, Nov 2006

This Months Article: Rotary Flat Laps Vs. Wheels for grinding, shaping and polishing rocks.

There are two basic types of machines available to shape, grind, sand and polish rocks. These are the vertical type wheel machines or the horizontal disc type of machines.

Regardless of the type of grinding/sanding agent being used, that being silicon carbide or diamonds, the following discussion applies equally to both of them.

The basic configuration of a wheeled arbor is that of one or several grinding or sanding wheels are lined up in a row shaping a common arbor shaft and driven by a common power source. Perhaps the most common name brand of this type of machine is the Diamond Pacific Genie. This type machine usually has several hard grind wheels for shaping the rock, one or several soft wheels for sanding and usually a vertical disc for polishing.

A rotary flat lap consists of a single interchangeable rotating horizontal disk. The disks have different sized abrasives bonded to the top of the discs. The abrasives come in a variation of sizes from course to very ultra fine with the polishing being done on a disc charged with some type of polish compound. Currently the most popular of this type of machines is the Hi-Tech "All You Need" or the Ameritool "H.D. Universal". The shaping/sanding/polishing of the rock is done on the flat spinning disc surface with the disk being changed from abrasive grade to abrasive grade. Both type of machines you must constantly drip water onto the work surface.

The Wheel Machines are great for production work. Usually if you have a multi wheel machine you can move from grinding to sanding to polishing without stopping to change wheels. Please note, it is very hard to polish a true flat on a wheeled machine. Also wheeled machines are strictly limited to the size of rock you can work on. Also note the wheels are usually very close together and more likely than not when operating a wheeled machine you will trim your fingernails. Last, wheeled machines are bigger, heavier and cost more than an equivalent Rotary Flat Lap.

A small 6" diameter 2 wheeled silicon carbide machine can be had for about \$450.00, a 6" – 6 wheel all diamond Genie about \$2,045.00 with an 8" – 6 wheeled all diamond machine going in the range of \$2,100.00 up to \$3,200.00.

The Rotary Flat Lap is great for single piece work. They allow for true flat work as well as shape of contour work (I cut cabs on mine all the time). Rotary Flat Laps allow for much larger work to be done on them than an equal diameter Wheeled Arbor type machine. Current Rotary Flat Laps are much more compact and lighter than an equal sized wheel machine. Cost wise a complete 8" diameter all diamond Rotary Flat Lap can be had for \$579.00.

I guess my recommendation is that if you want to do production work, get a Wheeled Machine. If you want to do ones or twos, or do true flat work, get a Rotary Flat Lap.

SOUTH SUBURBAN EARTH SCIENCE CLUB ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, **February 10**, 2008. Time: 1:00 to 4:00

Gemstones, Jewelry, Lapidary Supplies, Findings, Slabs,
Rocks, Minerals, Thornton Quarry and Mazon Creek
Fossils, Books, Magazines and more.
Something for Everyone, Children table for ages 4 - 14

Refreshments Served - Everyone Welcome - Free
Admission

Come early for the best buys.

Join us at:

Freedom Hall
410 Lakewood Blvd
Park Forest, IL.

Directions: Take 57 to Lincoln Highway (RT30), Go East to North Orchard Drive (stop light) turn South. To Lakewood Blvd. (Stop light) by the Park Forest Library. Turn right and it is the building next to the Library.

For more information call (708)747-0580
or email SSESCUS@YAHOO.COM

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

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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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Affiliations

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

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

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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

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Note: NEW Address!