

Smoke Signals



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

March 2008

Volume 53

Number 3

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.



Smoke Signals

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

March 2008

Next Meeting March 20th Hauberg Civic Center

This months meeting will be held on Thursday March 20th at Hauberg Civic Center at 6pm. We will be having a silent auction in the basement followed by preparation for our Spring show. We will be making egg carton collections. Hopefully everyone has been saving cartons this winter. I have several. If you have any rocks to contribute for the collections these are welcome too. Hope to see you there.

Upcoming Events

March 29-30	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
April 5-6	MARION, IL: Southern Illinois Earth Science 2008 Free Gem & Mineral Show at a New Location - Williamson County Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Drive (behind Illinois Centre Mall). Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5.
April 12-13	DES PLAINES, IL: Des Plaines Valley Geological Society 43rd Annual Show, Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 222 Birch St. Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-4. Jewelry, gem, fossil, rock, and mineral dealers. Live lapidary arts demonstrations, silent auction, educational exhibits, kids' room, raffles and door prizes. Contacts: Lois Zima, 847-298-4653 or Jeanine N. Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com.

<p>April 19&20</p>	<p>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. From more info, see page 5.</p>
<p>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>



Our Website:

If you have not yet visited our website please check it out. We are open to ideas on how we can make it better - as well as letting us know what you like about it. Visit our site at: www.blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com .

If you would like to start **receiving your newsletter by e-mail** please let me know by going to the Contact Us button on the site. The newsletters will be sent to you in PDF format and are generally one Meg or less in size depending on what images they may contain. Receiving your newsletter this way can mean getting your newsletter up to a week earlier.

Tumbling - Part 2 of 3

Getting Started

Submitted by Paul Heuer

One of my purchases at the auction was about 60 lbs of Lake Superior Agates. The wear-worn frosted surface kept me from seeing what might be on the inside.

Following the directions that came with my 2 - 6lb barrel tumbler I loaded in some of the agates, the necessary water, #80 grit and 1/2 cup of plastic pellets per barrel. On the tumbler they went. For good measure I oil any moving parts once each week to reduce wear on those parts. Well worth the effort.

The books tell you the normal time to run each grit is 7-10 days. I tried it. Not enough time on hard rocks like agates. I tried 2 weeks and that was just fine. By the way, the grit tends to "wear-out", that is, to wear down the sharp points and edges and become less effective in grinding the agates in about 1 week. So, at the end of a week I washed the barrels and the agates, reloaded the agates into the barrels, put in fresh grit and continued on for the second week.

At the end of 2 weeks I pressure washed the agates and barrels. **DO A GOOD JOB OF WASHING BETWEEN GRITS!** I reloaded the barrels, added water, #220 grit and a bit more plastic pellets to make up for lost volume from grinding down the agates.

Two weeks later, wash good and on to #600 grit. Again, a bit more plastic pellets to make up for further lost volume.

At the end of this 2 week period do an especially good, careful wash to completely eliminate any grit that might interfere with the polish stage. Reload the barrels, add water, polishing agents and plastic pellets. I used a polish mix of 1/2 tin oxide and 1/2 cerium oxide. The results were a bright finish on the Lakers.

Some things to remember:

1. NEVER carry the same plastic pellets over from one grit to another. I kept large zip-top plastic bags, each marked with a grit size. After washing the pellets used with 80 grit, they were put in the 80 grit bag to be reused when I did an 80 grit grind on other stones.
2. LISTEN to your tumbler barrels as they run. If they sound "noisy", the rocks are probably hitting each other too hard. Add some more plastic pellets. Experience will be your best guide.
3. The grind and polish mix I suggested here were especially for agates. I've used this schedule on Botswana, Montana and Mexican lace agates with the same good results.

Next time: Apache Tears; really nothing to cry about.



Spring Rock & Jewelry Show

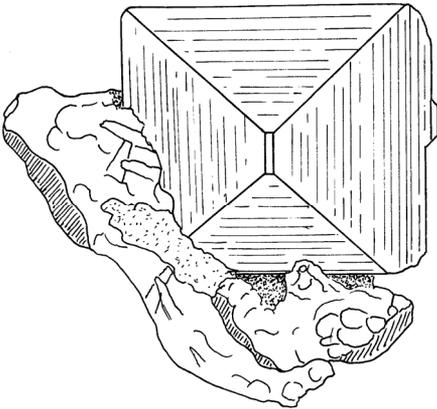
**Featuring: Rocks, Minerals,
Fossils, Silver & Beaded
Jewelry, Arrowheads & Beads**

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:

Delores Bates (309) 796-0616

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

Jane the Mystery Dinosaur

by Mary Bertram

In the Hell Creek Formation of the Montana Badlands, is a once lush area, now barren and inhospitable. The Burpee Museum crew working the area had started out using hand tools, but ended by using a backhoe and digging down twelve feet to the bone layer they sought. When they finally reached that level, they went back to using picks and awls. Their camp, "Need More," was an hour away in the Custer National Forest where they examined and prepared some of the fossils found in the bone layer at Hell Creek. Great care was taken to move the animal's remains, and bones were treated with fixatives, layered with foil, wrapped in burlap, and then secured with wood framing. Some were jacketed and moved separately for their safety. Unsure of what they had found, the crew named their find "Nanotyrannus," right there in the field. They call her "Jane," after a Museum benefactor. Jane has turned out to be a world class discovery from the late Cretaceous, and it is a nearly complete skeleton. Debate arose over whether or not she might be a young Tyrannosaurus rex. When a "finger bone" turned up, it was discovered that it was a toe bone instead. Reproductions were made to use for study, saving the actual bones from harm. When Jane died, she was covered rapidly, her bones articulating in the death pose with head and tail meeting in a circle. The rapid cover saved her from being torn apart and scattered by carrion eaters. Her bones became fossilized and remained to be discovered millions of years later, one of the most intact

dinosaur fossils ever found. To discover the kind of environment she lived in, plant leaves were identified from a layer she was lying on in the lush Cretaceous period, which is now a barren wasteland in Southeast Montana. Earth had been struck by a large asteroid, one of the largest ever known to strike our planet. Dinosaur bones were present only below the asteroid layer, but not above it, leading to the conclusion that the fallout must have led to the death of the dinosaurs. The site was determined to be 66 million years old! In their world of "eat or perish," Jane's kind were ferocious predators and would gang up on others, such as a triceratops, and attack. Feasting on their fallen prey, they all would have to leave when a larger, fiercer T-Rex arrived. Jane's scapular shoulder blade is broader than that of a T-Rex. Was she a different dinosaur or instead a juvenile T-Rex? Researchers had to cut into a bone to count the microscopic growth rings, much as a dendrochronologist determines the age of a tree. They discovered Jane to have been 11 or 12 years old at the time of her death. A CT scan showed an abnormal bump on a toe bone to be an infection. This may have contributed to her death. Jane is now the property of the Burpee Museum of Natural History, founded in 1941 in Rockford, Illinois. For more information on the museum call or check out their website at: www.burpee.org or go directly to the Jane page at: www.visitjane.com

Via The Loess Bulletin 2/08

Tips and Hints

- Fire obsidian - did you know a chunk of black obsidian you have, just might have gold sheen, fire, or moon glow in it if you just orient it correctly. Take it out into the sunshine and try to locate a spot that shows something more than just black. If yours has a rind or film on it, take a small chip off here and there. Then wet the piece and turn it slowly in all directions so the sun will reflect any unusual coloring. If you are fortunate enough to find color, orient it by using a single light bulb over your head so the light just grazes your forehead. Mark your piece and saw it. Check before sawing each time to make sure you are keeping the color on top, fire obsidian can be so colorful that you will think you are looking at black opal.

(Source: *The Mountain Gem* 8-06)



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.**

Editor: Lori Johnson c/o Kellie Moore 718 Franklin Ave, Davenport, IA 52806.

Email – SmokeSignals@hotmail.com

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

Copyright © 2003 by the Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. With the exception of items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other clubs may use material published in *Smoke Signals* as long as proper credit is given and the meaning or sense of the material is not changed.

Affiliations

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

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

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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

Smoke Signals

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Lori Johnson - Editor

c/o Kellie Moore

718 Franklin Ave

Davenport, IA 52806

SmokeSignals@hotmail.com

Note: NEW Address!