

Smoke Signals



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

April 2009

Volume 54

Number 3

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2009 Officers and Directors

President	Vickie 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

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) 299-5516
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 16th

Our next meeting is Thursday April 16th at Hauberg Civic Center in Rock Island. This meeting will be presided over by our new President - Vickie Pearson. We will be making displays for the show as well as making grab bags, and hauling out for our Spring show which is that weekend. We are looking for a volunteer for making the labels for the displays. They can be done with either nice handwriting or on the computer. These will be needed by the next day at the latest. There will be people available to identify the contents of each display so that is not a requirement for the label making.

May meeting will be held at Hauberg Civic Center in Rock Island on Thursday May 21st at 6pm. We will be voting on the proposed Constitution and By-law changes stated in this newsletter.

*** >oo\<WELCOME>/oo< ***

Welcome New Members:

Sherry Scheckel

Marta Hawotte

Jimmie Gross

And Henry Stauffenberg IV (our 2009 Scholarship recipient)

A belated welcome to our new board members:

Vickie Pearson - President

Deb Totemeier - Secretary - and potential newsletter editor

Linda Maro - 3 Year Director

For a complete list of this years board please refer to the inside cover of your newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Apr 18&19	Davenport, IA: Our Spring 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.
May 9&10	Hanna City, IL: Wildlife Prairie State Park Rock and Reptile Show. 3826 N. Taylor Rd. Join us for Displays, Demonstrations & Exhibits. General Admission rates apply. Contact: (309) 676-0998 www.wildlifeprairiestatepark.org
May 23&24	Wheaton, IL: Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association 33 rd Annual Gem, Jewelry, Fossil & Mineral Show & Sale. Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W Manchester Rd. Nationally known dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, special displays, silent auction, "Kids Korner". Adults \$5, Seniors & Students \$3, Under 13 Free. Free parking - Food available - Camping available (Call) More info: www.chicagolandgemshow.org email: CGMA@sbcglobal.net or call (630) 377-0197
June 26-28	Hamilton IL: Worthern Earth Searchers of Hancock County present Hard Rock Geode Dig. Montebello access area. Just off Hwy 136 before crossing the Mississippi river bridge (watch for signs). Guided hunts - 2 Fri, 2 Sat, 1 Sun. Swap & vendor areas - displays - geode cracking - speakers - identification - on site breakfast & lunch. Contact: Mike Shumate (573) 518-4739 or geodefest@hotmail.com www.firstcrackgeodes.com www.hamiltonillinois.org

*Special Thank you to Larry and Marsha Twing!
Both have been working diligently on the
basement workshop at Hauberg. We are looking
forward to putting it into production!*

Minutes of the March 2009 Member Meeting

The Augustana College Geology Department hosted the March meeting at the Fryxell Geology Museum. Members brought in various specimens for identification and discussion with department staff and students. Read up on all the Fryxell has to offer at their website:

<http://www.augustana.edu/academics/geology/department/fryxell.htm>

- The Blackhawk Gem and Mineral Club awarded their annual scholarship of \$400 to Henry Stauffenberg IV. Henry is currently enrolled in the Geology Department at Augustana and has taken classes in geology through Scott Community College. Mineralogy is a particular passion for Henry, but his interests in the field are so wide ranging that he hasn't made a decision on his major field of study as yet. Henry lives in Bettendorf and enjoys rock collecting. Welcome to the club Henry! We have included his application essay on page 6.
- Lonnie Griffin gave club members a quick overview of Griffin's Museum in Preemption, Illinois. The museum contains a varied selection of gems, minerals, fossils, and Native American artifacts. The museum is open by appointment only by contacting Lonnie or Chris at (309) 593-2434.

Minutes of the April 2009 Board of Directors Meeting

The April 2009 meeting of Officers and Directors was held at 5 pm, April 4th, at the Village Inn Restaurant, Bettendorf. Main topics of discussion were:

Changes to By-Laws. The following updates to the existing club by-laws were discussed.

- **Article II - Finances - Section 1:** Discussion on a member proposal to change the way in which membership dues are calculated. The proposal was to make membership effective for 12 months from the date when dues are paid. For example, if

membership dues are paid in April, membership would remain active through March of the following year. **After lengthy discussion it was decided that no change would be made to current membership rules. The club currently does not have the staffing that would be required to track membership anniversary dates for each member.**

- **Amended Constitution - Article II - Membership:** Discussion on a proposal of drop the membership type referred to as "Youth Group" as shown in the Club Constitution Article II - Membership. There is currently no active Youth Group member within the club. Due to liabilities we do not foresee having young members joining without a parent or guardian. Currently young members are part of the club thru the "Family membership" option. This proposal was accepted to be put before the members.

- **Amended Constitution - Article II - Membership:** The following membership categories and definitions were discussed to be made:

Type	Proposed definition additions
Individual	Individuals 18 to 59 years of age.
Family	Couples and families with children under 18 years of age
Honorary	Known as a friend to the club, voted on by club to be given an Honorary membership. E.g. Geologists, Professors, Our annual Scholarship student.
Lifetime	Individuals with 15 or more years of active club membership. Active being defined as a person who has assisted the club by serving on the board and/or volunteering at the club shows.

This proposal was accepted to be put before the members.

- **By-Laws - Article III - Duties of Officers - Sec. 5:** Proposal to allow the Rock Show Chairman to write checks upon board approval; currently only the President and Vice President have this authority. This proposal was accepted to be put before the members.

Spring Rock Show. Kellie Moore, Rock Show Chairperson, initiated discussion on several areas that need to be finalized prior to the 2009 rock show at the Putnam Museum. Major areas of discussion were:

- Kellie and Craig Moore were authorized by the board to acquire an additional 25 signs for the show. Craig will be coordinating with various business and land owners in the Iowa Quad Cities to place signs advertising the show. There are currently no plans to post signs in the Illinois Quad Cities, but several officers expressed an interest in assisting with this effort. We would appreciate any help with contacting potential sign location land owners to gain permission to put signs on their property for the week of the show.
- Club members planning to help with show set up need to be at the Putnam by 8:30 a.m. on April 17th. Volunteers are being sought to assist with transporting displays and other club property to the Putnam. Contact Kellie Moore at 563-445-3034 if you can help with transport and set up.
- Connie Huber will be responsible for club sales and staffing.
- Delores Bates will be responsible for the admissions table and staffing.

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Donation

A rock collection and various equipment were donated to the club by Kris Leinicke, wife of past member Will Leinicke. Craig Moore will be sorting and transporting the donated items to club facilities at the Hauberg. Some, if not all, of the equipment will be saved for club use in the workshop.

The following is the scholarship application essay submitted by this year's scholarship winner:

Dear Mineral Club Associates,

My name is Henry Stauffenberg IV and I am a local from Bettendorf Iowa. My interest for geology started when I was very young. I received my first mineral, hematite, and was immediately drawn to and fascinated with that mineral. After that point, I started to collect various rocks and minerals for my own personal collection. Only after my first geology class at Scott Community College did I find my calling. I loved everything about the application and processes involved in geology. The class was something I enjoyed; it was something that I could relate to my enjoyment and respect of nature, my curiosity about the earth, and my environmental values. Also, the science was creative with “the big picture” thinking. Geology became personal to my values and my character. The dormant flame within, started by my collection, suddenly set fire and then I knew my direction I wanted to take in life. In short, geology just clicked with me.

My goals are broad and simple. I want to learn as much as I can and become the best geologist of my abilities. That is why I chose Augustana. I want to make an impact with the environment, or at least understand the environment more to help push for a sustainable future. I want to be in a career that I enjoy, that has some meaning to me and the community. My goals expand as I progress through Augustana. My main goal, as of now, is to graduate Augustana prepared and confident for a world of geology.

Thank you for your time.

The Vibratory Tumbler

by Paul Heuer

In Feb 2008 I bought a vibratory tumbler. It was a Model MT-45V made by Diamond Pacific. In this tumbler there are no moving parts, only an electro magnet. This results in about 3,600 vibrations per minute. The hopper holds about 4 lbs of rock. The on-off control knob also serves as an adjustment for the intensity of the action. If you buy this or a similar tumbler, READ THE OWNER'S MANUEL very carefully. This simple act will save you a lot of trouble.

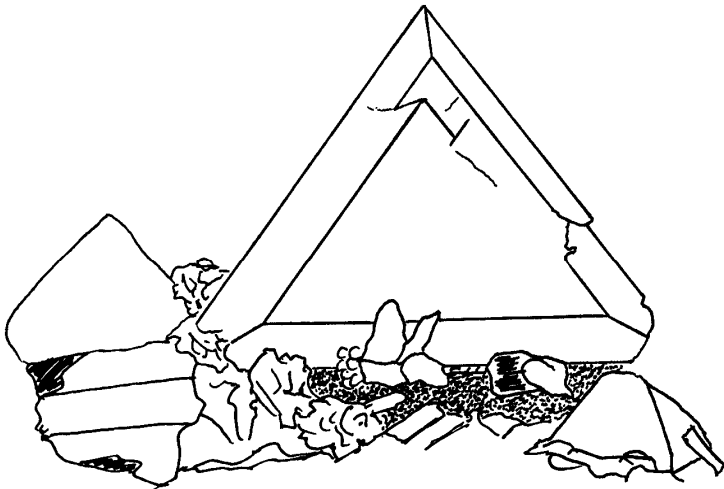
A vibratory tumbler cuts down the batch processing time a lot, but what it won't do is round-off or remove a lot of matrix from your rocks. I use my rotary tumbler to put my batches thru the 80- and 220 grit. This will shape and round - off your rocks. When these coarse grits have done their job I move my rocks to the vibratory tumbler for the 600 grit. This stage is mainly to get your rocks ready for a polish and the vibratory tumbler will do this in just a few days. Again, read the owner's manual! Make no mistake, the vibratory tumbler can be a bit of a problem. Not enough rock in the hopper and it won't work, too much water and it won't work, too little water and it won't work either. The point is, if you get everything right you're in business. I followed the manual very closely for the first few batches, had success and just went from there.

One of my real problems was finishing Apache Tears in the rotary tumbler. So I took my pre-finished tears (up thru 220 grit) and loaded them in the vibratory tumbler with 600 grit and some larger plastic beads. The small beads I use in the rotary tumbler are too small and light weight and just won't do in the vibratory tumbler. I start the tumble and use a spray bottle to add just enough water to get everything moving. You must check the hopper 3 or 4 times every day. As the grit

works it causes the resulting sludge to thicken and you must add just enough water to keep everything moving smoothly. In a few days you will wash the tears and beads. Save these beads for your next batch with 600 grit. Put your washed tears, new beads and polish in the hopper. Add just enough water and you are off and running. I figure a week for the polish cycle. I start with Raybrite A or micro-washing off the polish. After 4 or 5 days I add some tin oxide to finish off the batch. After washing off the polish, I burnish the tears with new beads and clean water for 1 or 2 hours. The tears come out with a bright, mirror finish. For burnishing you can use a few drops of Dawn dishwashing liquid.

I have processed many kinds of rock in my vibratory tumbler with excellent results. But then nothing can beat experience. So get yourself a vibratory tumbler and get that experience for yourself.

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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

www.blackhawkgemandmineralclub.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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Affiliations

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

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

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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

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