

Smoke Signals



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

Jan/Feb 2009

Volume 54

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
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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
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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: February 19th

The next meeting will be February 19th at Hauberg Civic Center in Rock Island. We will be having **potluck** and Connie will be showing us the rocks she gathered on her latest trip to Texas. We will start the meeting with **board nominations** for this year's board, then on to the fun stuff.

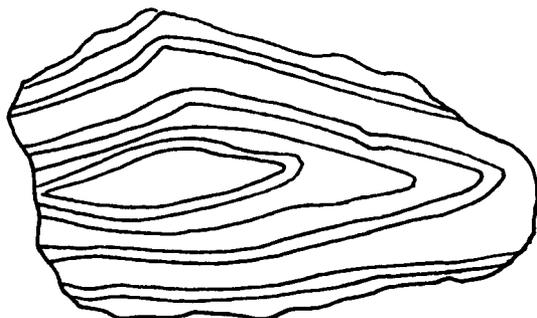
March meeting will be held **March 19th at Augustana's Fryxell Museum** starting at 6pm. Augustana students and Professors would like to welcome the club to attend the meeting starting at 6:30pm. Students will be able to identify any rocks or minerals you may have unidentified in your collection. Please bring them along. We will also be awarding our annual scholarship to a student that night.

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Upcoming Events

<p>Mar 14&15</p>	<p>Macomb, IL: The Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc. Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5. Western Illinois University Student Union Ball Room, Murray St. Contact: Show chair - Steve Holley (309)231-8861, Dealer Chair - Jim Travis (309)645-3609.</p>
<p>Mar 14</p>	<p>Chicago, IL: Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society Show. Rocks, fossils, handmade jewelry and lapidary treasures. Lots of variety. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free admission, refreshments served. 5:30 - 10 p.m. Silent Auction with opening bid at 5:45 p.m. Salvation Army-Irving Park Corps, 4056 N. Pulaski. Chicago. Contact Jeanine N. Mielecki at (773) 774-2054 or jaynine9@aol.com</p>

<p>Mar 20&21</p>	<p>Cedar Rapids, IA: Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society Annual Show, Teamsters, Union Hall, 500 J. St. SW. Saturday 8:30-6:00, Sunday 9:30 -5:00.</p>
<p>Mar 28&29</p>	<p>Monroe, WI: Badger Lapidary & Geological Society Inc. 39th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. Theme: Driftless Treasures of the Badger State, Monroe Senior High School 1600 26th St. Hours: 9am-5pm both days. FREE will donation at the door, and FREE parking. Food: Full Menu Onsite. Contact: David Zimmerman 608-921-0206, David@showchair.com Description: 5 Excellent Speakers, as well as 3 museum displays complimenting our theme, including a display from the Milwaukee Public Museum. This will be a collection of some of the best specimens from the SW WI region shown in years. Many club displays, numerous kids activities, as well as a club sales table area, hourly door prizes, roaming rock wizard, fossil casting for kids, and educational films. This is a show that a family with \$10 can come in and have a whole day of fun.</p>
<p>Apr 3&4</p>	<p>Macomb, IL: Mid American Paleontology Society (MAPS) National Fossil Exposition XXXI. Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-5, Sunday 8-12noon. Western Hall Western Illinois University. Contacts: Tom Williams (815)223-9638, Steve Holley (309)231-8861.</p>
<p>Apr 18&19</p>	<p>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.</p>



LLANITE

By Connie Huber

During our travels in January, we went to Marble Falls, Texas. We had heard they were draining the lake by nine feet. In doing so, the "marble falls" would be exposed again. After building a series of dams, the falls had been covered for years. With the lake lowered rock hunters were finding all kinds of rocks and minerals at the bottom of the dam. When we arrived the falls were exposed and there were a few brave kids on the rocks slipping and sliding around. We decided we would look for easier places to go.

A mile outside of town was Granite Mountain. It is a solid dome of pink granite (pink granite is also known as Sunset Red) rising over 860 feet. Since quarry operations began in the late 1800s, the distinctive pink-red colored rock has been used in the construction of the capital building in Austin, Texas, and also for the construction of the seawall in Galveston. The granite formed pink sand in the creeks where it has crumbled. We picked up a few samples from the creek to bring home.

Nearby was Enchanted Rock, the second largest granite dome in the U. S. About one mile square in area, the main dome is, like the tip of an iceberg, the exposed portion of the Enchanted Rock Batholith which is over one hundred square miles in area and is the hard core around which the land mass of Texas formed. It is some of the oldest rock on earth.

Next we went to Llano to check out the Llanite mentioned in the visitors guide. The guide said it was granite with crystals of sky-blue quartz. We were told to go ten miles out of town to an outcropping on the side of the road. What we found was a rusty-pink colored rock with blue crystals in it. With chisel and hammer we started. After an hour of whacking, chopping and a bloody thumb, we gave up. There was no way we could get a decent sample of Llanite, so we went back to Llano to buy a piece. No one in town knew anything about the rock. We went to the Badu House to check out a piece that was on display, but the house was closed for remodeling. The visitors' center had a small polished piece. We were surprised by the color. It was a pretty red with blue crystals.

The next day we went to Longhorn Cavern which had a very nice display of rocks. The naturalist hadn't heard of Llanite and checked it out on **Wikipedia**, the internet encyclopedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llanite>). This is what we found: "**Llanite** is a hypabyssally intruded rhyolite with phenocrysts of microcline and euhedral quartz. The quartz crystals are blue hexagonal bipyramids. The unusual blue coloration of the quartz is thought to be due to ilmenite inclusions (Zolensky, et al. 1988). It is named after Llano County, Texas, the only place where it is found. Llanite is very strong with a crushing strength of 37,800 lb. per sq. inch or 26,577,180 kg per sq. m (Barnes, 1988). The largest piece of polished Llanite in the world can be found at the Badu House, a historic bed and breakfast in Llano, Texas."

After reading the above, Dave decided to take his sledge hammer on our next rock hunt.

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Dues!

For those of you who may not have paid your dues yet for this year please do so now. If dues are not paid this will be your last newsletter. We have indicated if our records show you have not paid this year's dues by placing a star on the cover. **If you have a star we have not received your dues.** If you believe this to be an error please let us know. For those of you who have already paid your dues - Thank you. We look forward to another year with you. We hope you enjoy what we have in store for you.

If mailing, please send dues to:
 Connie Huber
 2903 Woodland Ct
 Davenport, IA 52803

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

A Light in the Sky

by Judith Washburn, *Geology Chair*

Residents in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada, witnessed a huge fireball that lit up the night sky over the three provinces on November 20th. Many reported hearing sonic boom rumblings and said the fiery flash was as bright as the sun.

University of Calgary scientist Alan Hildebrand, who also coordinates meteor sightings with the Canadian Space Agency, estimated the flash, a meteor, could have been seen from as far as 434 miles away, into the northern United States.

Widely broadcast video images of the meteor showed what appeared to be a speeding fireball that became larger and brighter before disappearing as it neared the ground. The meteor contained about one-tenth of a kiloton of energy when it entered the earth's atmosphere, roughly the equivalent of 100 tons of the chemical explosive TNT.

"It would be something like a billion-watt light bulb," said Hildebrand. The meteor has captured the imagination of sky watchers around the world. People telephoned the CBC newsrooms in Edmonton and Calgary to talk about what they saw. "It was a really big flash, lit up the sky, and there was this huge, flaming fireball falling from the sky," said Rowyn Windsor, 12, who lives on the Canadian Forces base in Cold Lake, Alberta, about 350 kilometers northeast of Edmonton.

"This huge light in our kitchen window lit up our whole kitchen," said Sabrina Schneider, who lives just outside Lloydminster on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border. "It kinda flashed a couple of times. It was really bright. It was a different light than lightning. We weren't really sure what happened ... got up to look out the window, and all of a sudden, we heard this rumbling."

Schneider said her sister saw the meteor while she was driving past North Battleford, Saskatchewan.



Hildebrand and a graduate student, Ellen Milley, have recently found several meteor fragments near the Battle River along the rural barren land, with few inhabitants.

- Adapted from various newspaper articles and Internet sites -
Via *MWF Newsletter* 1/09

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Dopping Methods

By Roger K. Pabian, MWF Lapidary Chair - *MWF Newsletter* 2/09

Dopping is that first problem area. Why doesn't the stone stick to the stick?

The Stick:

Hardwood sticks work best. They don't absorb water quickly. If you use a pine dowel, paint it to slow down water absorption. If the stone comes off of a stick, go to a new, dry stick, as the old one will still have some water in it, and it will pick up some water when the stone pops off. The stick needs not be any longer than the width of the palm of your hand. **Think of the stick as an extension of the stone.** Hold the stick up high such that your fingers come in contact with the stone. That minimizes vibrations and bouncing by the stone, and the stone will be less likely to fall off of the stick.

The dop stick doesn't have to be round. If you are shaping a stone that has a large length to width ratio (greater than about 2:1, such as in a marquis), cut a stick from a lath or rectangular slat of wood such that the stick extends almost to the tips of the stone. There will be no great pressure on the ends of the stone, and that will help prevent the stone from coming off of the stick.

The Wax:

Most lapidary wax is now the 140 degree wax; that is, it melts at 140 degrees, and it is usually dark green. You have to get the wax hot enough that it readily flows, but not runs. Heat the stone, as well as the wax, and the stick. There are fancy dop pots that are available from lapidary supply houses, but I use an old slow cooker base that I picked up at a Goodwill store for \$1.00. I heat the stone on the cooker base. I usually start the wax beforehand to give it time to melt. Heat the stone slowly, dip the end of the stick in the wax, apply the stick to the stone, lift off, and form the wax around the stick with moistened fingers to prevent the wax from sticking to you and burning you. If you use the 170 degree wax, you have to heat it up to 170 degrees otherwise it will not stick any better than the cooler 140 degree wax. Keep in mind that wax for dopping cabochons will not work for dopping stones that are to be faceted.

Super Glue and Roofing Nails:

If you are dopping small stones, an easier method than using wax, is to use super glue and roofing nails. Set the stone in a base of modeling clay, and get it level. Put a drop of super glue on the back of the stone and then attach a roofing nail to it. Hold the stone in a pin vise. To remove the stone, heat the nail with your alcohol lamp. It will drop off in a couple of minutes.

Message from MWF -

Hi Kellie,

I am looking for someone from your club that could act as an Illinois Assistant State Director. All they need to do is send me some club news from time to time or when I ask a question. This can all be accomplished via e-mail. They can be more involved than that if they wish.

Cheers,
John Washburn

If anyone is interested in this position, please contact me! Thanks. Kellie Moore

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Newsletter Committee:

So far we have three volunteers to help make the newsletters each month. We would like to have a couple more help out. That would make it so that we would only need to be responsible for 1 page a month. Easy enough. Also we will be adding a newsletter submit button to our website that would allow you to submit an article for the newsletter any time you wish. Making it even easier to participate.

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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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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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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your 2009 dues are due*