



Smoke Signals



Gem & Mineral Club

July 2011

Club Activities –

Bead Day – Sunday July 17th Noon-5 at Readmore Book World and Rock Shop. 1518 15th St Moline, IL 61265. This day will be for beading only. So if you have been waiting to learn beading, now is your chance. For information contact Vickie at 309-764-2653 or 309-235-6128.

Workshop Day – Saturday July 23rd Noon to 4. Craig and Kellie's house. We will have workshops on making earrings and cabachon cutting. However, if you know how to use the equipment you may do other things. Learn something new or practice what you know. If you are new to the hobby and want to join us please come. We urge your participation in this event. You may bring your own materials and tools but do not worry if you do not have any. Some materials can be provided for free or for a minimal charge if needed.

Bring a show and tell item, or just hang out and eat snacks. It's all ok.

Address – 718 Franklin Ave – Davenport

Directions – Coming out Brady turn left on 65th St by Thunder Bay Grill. Continue on 65th St until you reach Franklin Ave – next to the last street – turn Left.

Coming from I80 – Take Brady street exit. Turn right at the first intersection by the Shell Gas station. Continue on 65th St until you reach Franklin Ave – next to the last street – turn Left.

We are the 3rd house on the right – our house is Blue.

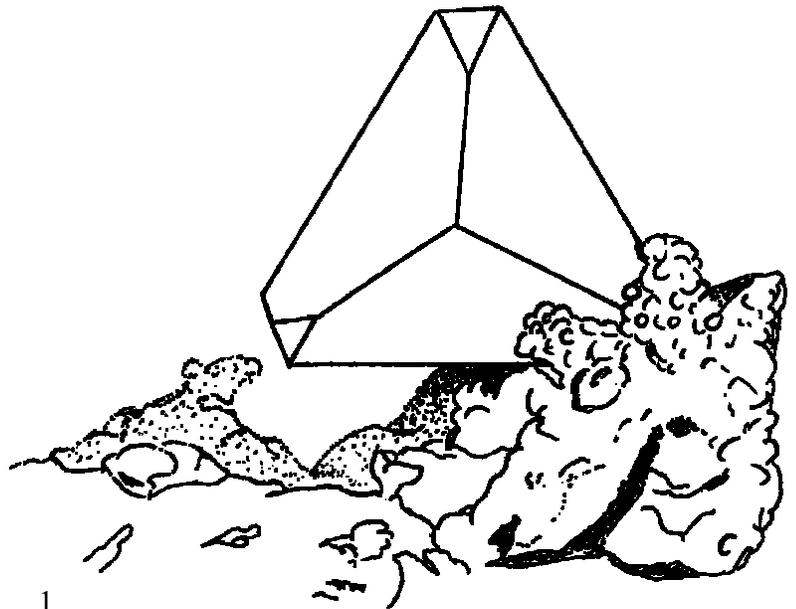
July Picnic – Sunday July 24th Noon to 3. At Loud Thunder park past Andalusia, IL. We will be at the Lone Cedar Picnic Area. We have reserved the shelter. Come join us at this beautiful location – There are lots of trees for shade and we will be near the lake which also features a dock. There is a playground half way down the road. You will see it when you are coming in. Please bring a dish to share.

There will also be flint knapping so if you have tools please bring them. If you do not you will still have the opportunity to learn or knap along with the others.

Directions: Coming from IA – cross the Centennial Bridge. Take the first exit (92) off the Bridge. When the road splits stay right. You will be turning left at the light. Stay on 92. It is 5.4mil until you come to an intersection at Andalusia Rd. Turn Right. Drive another 10.5 miles until you see the Loud Thunder Forest Reserve sign on the right. Turn right on the first road after the sign. A ½ mile turn left on the 1st drive – sign says Lone Cedar Picnic Area. Keep going straight until you reach the shelter at the end.

Upcoming events:

Aug 27-28th. Peoria Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Grand Hotel 4400 N Brandywine Dr. Peoria, IL 61614. Sat 10-5, Sun 11-5. Come enjoy this family show. For more information contact: Jim Travis 309-645-3609, boatnik@aol.com



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

SOLDERING EARPOSTS

I don't solder enough earposts to develop the dexterity for holding the wire by hand. So I modified a set of locking tweezers to help with the job. It's quick and easy.

Use a triangular file to make a notch at the tweezer tip to keep the wire from moving around, and file a groove in the tweezer body to rest the tweezers on a stand that keeps the earpost wire at the right angle. The stand is just soldered up from scrap copper or nickel.

This way the tweezers act like a see-saw that's weighted just a little bit more on the soldering end. I felt that if the tweezers put too much pressure on the earpost wire, it could buckle when the wire gets up to soldering temperature.

SOLDERING PRONGS

I often use prongs to hold an irregular cab or other object on rings and pendants. But they're a little tricky to solder. You have to find some way to hold them all upright while soldering, and what looks like a strong joint sometimes turns out to be a fake. There's nothing worse than having a prong break off when you're setting the stone *#~*!

I solved both problems with one little trick. Locate and centerpunch the location for each prong. Then drill holes just a little smaller than your prong wire. Sand a small taper on the ends of your prong wires and insert them in the holes. The wires support themselves, soldering is easy, and the joint is stronger because of the increased soldering area.

TWISTING WIRE

Twisting wires together can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Dremel or Foredom should do well. Just make a little hook out of coat hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Fasten the ends of the wires in a vice and slip the other ends on your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist.

Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with a variable speed control.

SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time you make your own earwires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy or fast.

Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip.

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Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/
or
facebook.com/BenchTips

Bench Tips mission:

In every field the top pros always have their favorite ways of approaching common problems. These bench tips allow them to get quality results in a minimum of time. As a studio jeweler and more recently a classroom instructor I hope to use this list to share tips for jewelry fabrication, goldsmithing, soldering, forging, silversmithing, casting, and many other areas.

Please feel free to share your favorite bench tips as well. With a good dialog we'll all be able to improve our inventory of skills.





**Beads,
Findings,
Loops,**

and

Oh My!

by Mary Boesdorfer

Beads, beads, and more beads. That was the dilemma I was faced with when I arrived at **Kathy Anane's** earring making workshop. Before we could start the class we had to decide what beads we liked and design our earrings. That was the problem, there were just too many pretty beads to choose from. Stone and glass beads in every shape, size, and color. To help make the decision a little easier we used the head pins, which look like a large pin made of flexible wire, from our kits to try different combinations to see what looked good together. After sorting through the beads, I decided on some teardrop shaped tiger's eye beads for one pair of my earrings. The other pair, each consisting of three small sodalite spheres, I made to match a bracelet I have. The first thing Kathy did was tell us a little bit about the tools we would be using. We each had a cutter, a pair of round nosed pliers and a flat nosed pliers. We were going to learn how to make two different types of loops, the simple loop and the wrapped loop. Luckily, Kathy gave us extra head pins to practice on before we did our actual earrings and we went through quite a few of them. To make the simple loop, the head pin is bent around the round nosed pliers making, hopefully round, a loop. After making sure the loop was shaped properly, the excess wire was cut off as close to the bottom of the loop as possible. This is so the wire wouldn't scratch when the earrings were worn. After finishing my simple loops, the assistant said she was so impressed with how round my loops were that she was going to start calling me "loopy". My mom, who was sitting next to me, said that she has been calling me that for years. Very funny, Mom. After the loops were done, we had to put the findings on. Most people used ear wires, but I don't have pierced ears, so I used clips. There is a small ring on the findings with a cut in it and, using the flat nosed pliers, I spread it apart. After slipping the loop over the ring, the pliers were used to bend the ring back into position. The

wrapped loop was a little harder to make because, instead of just cutting the wire off after making the loop, the end of then head pin was wrapped around the base of the loop. I enjoyed making my earrings so much that I purchased earrings made by Mary during the workshop, another kit from Kathy and made two more pairs.



For one pair, I used tear-dropped shaped pieces of jasper (I think) and stacked them, putting the large ends together. The last pair I made consisted of spheres of snowflake obsidian, silver and black flower beads, and black glass beads. I just want to thank Kathy Anane for giving this class and teaching us how to make beautiful earrings. Everyone who took the class had a lot of fun, maybe too much fun.



Simple loop



Wrapped loop

Via – March 2011, Volume XXV, No 3 Loess bulletin.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES - CRYSTAL HABIT

Written by Michele Yamanaka, former MWF junior activities chairman (as published in the 2010 junior activities handbook)

When we talk about the crystal system, we mean the shape a perfect crystal has because of the way the atoms are arranged inside. This pattern of atoms is like the "skeleton" of the crystal. But a perfect crystal cannot exist without perfect conditions, and most of the time, temperature, pressure and the amount of each element in the mineral in the solution make the crystal grow a little differently (remember: crystals start out as very hot liquids! Example - salt is sodium and chloride mixed.) However, each crystal usually ends up in certain final shapes, growing with others of its kind. So crystal habit is how the crystal or group of crystals (aggregates) grows acicular (looks like needles) ex: rutile, natrolite bladed (skinny, long crystals growing tightly together) ex: actinolite granular (mineral looks like lots of grains or sand cemented together) ex. Glauconite



TABULAR (THICK SOMEWHAT RECTANGULAR CRYSTALS GROWING AGAINST EACH OTHER) EX: BARITE, SELENITE



FOLIATED (THIN SHEETS OF MINERALS EASILY SEPARATED EX: MICA



COLUMNAR (LOOKS LIKE COLUMNS LEANING ON EACH OTHER) EX: RHODONITE



BOTRYOIDAL (BUNCH OF GRAPES) EX: HEMATITE



ACICULAR (LOOKS LIKE NEEDLES) EX: RUTILE, NATROLITE



MAMILATED (LARGER AND MORE ROUNDED THAN BOTRYOIDAL) EX: PYROPHYLITE



BLADED (SKINNY, LONG CRYSTALS GROWING TIGHTLY TOGETHER) EX: ACTINOLITE



DENDRITIC (LOOKS LIKE TREE BRANCHES) EX: NATIVE COPPER



GRANULAR (MINERAL LOOKS LIKE LOTS OF GRAINS OR SAND CEMENTED TOGETHER) EX. GLAUCONITE



FIBROUS (SKINNY NEEDLES SIDE BY SIDE, MAY EVEN PEEL OFF) EX: SERPENTINE

Crystal habit is an important tool for identifying crystals because each mineral will have only certain habits in which it normally is found. An example is mica, which is foliated. You may find it in little pieces or big pieces, but you can know it's mica by the sheets of thin crystals that peel off and bend without breaking. Gypsum has three habits it may be found in: massive or granular (common gypsum, or alabaster when the grains are very fine), tabular (selenite), or fibrous (satin spar).

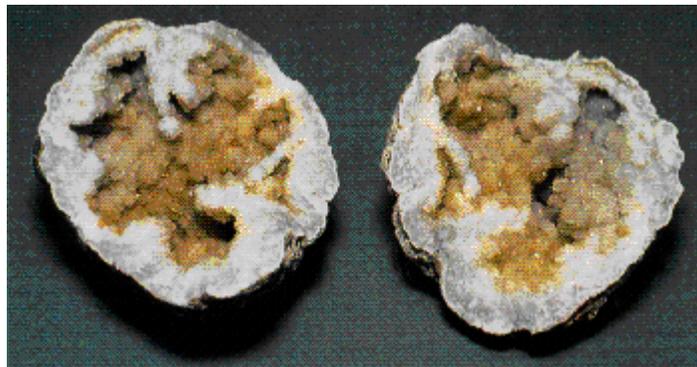
When you check a rock book for a description of a mineral, it may say a particular habit or use a word that refers to a group of habits:

Prismatic means the crystal grows especially long in one direction. However, this is not one particular habit, but refers to any of several possible habits: columnar, acicular, fibrous, bladed, etc. Granular describes any kind of massive habit, whether fine or big grained. Lamellar means that the crystal grows especially short in one direction: tabular, foliated, featherlike, etc.

So how does habit help you identify the mineral? Often, but not always, the mineral will have a special habit. If you think you have gypsum, and it is forming a lot of nice little cubes instead of being fibrous, massive or tabular, you don't have gypsum. You would then look for a mineral that usually forms cubes, such as fluorite.

Via April 2011, Issue No. 501 *MWF News*

PARK HILLS ROCK SHOW



If you do not make it to this annual event (first weekend in June) you are missing a good time.

The show is held at an old lead mine that has been turned into a museum. There are old pictures and machinery in the museum.

There are a lot of vendors (about 60 this year) in the show. You can find just about everything here. They have vendors with lapidary equipment, beads, cabochons, mineral specimens, jewelry, cutting and tumbling rough, stone carvings, fossils, slabs, geodes, and more.

The show is outdoors in the parking lot of the museum. Free parking, and free admission.

Park hills is below St. Louis. It is about a five and a half hour drive from our home in North Davenport, Iowa.

There are several hotels near the show. We stay at Rosenors Inn on highway 67. Rosenors gives a discount to rock show people, it cost me and my wife \$50.00 a night to stay there. They have a pool, cable TV, and a restaurant on site with a breakfast buffet. The hotel owner has a nice arrowhead and artifact collection on display on the back wall in the restaurant that he has collected. Check out the show next year, its fun.

By Craig Moore

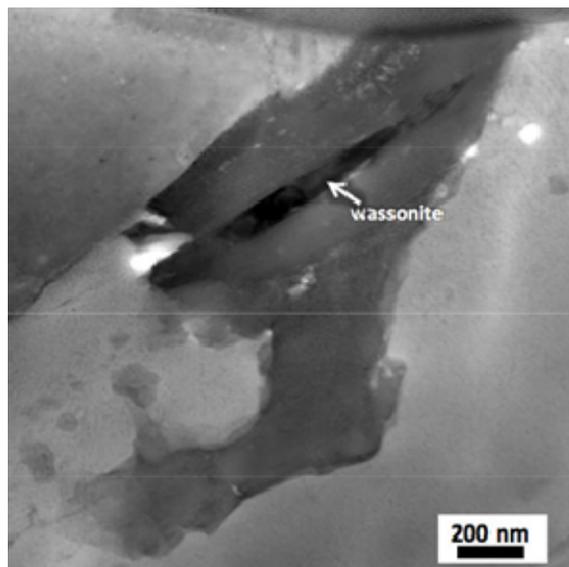
A Brand New Mineral Wassonite

In 1969 (when Diamond Dan was only 7 years old!) Japanese scientists collected samples of meteorites on the Yamato mountains in Antarctica. The specimens they collected were a type of meteorite called chondrites. These meteorites are about 4.5 billion years old and came from an asteroid that orbited the sun between Mars and Jupiter. The specific meteorite specimen in which the new mineral was found is names Yamato 691.

It is important to know the different names of these rocks that travel through space. An asteroid is a small body of rock and/or ice and metal that orbits the sun in the inner solar system (which means no further out from the sun than the planet Jupiter). A meteor is a fragment or piece of an asteroid that travels through space. When a meteor of any size hits the earth's surface, it is called a meteorite.

The new mineral discovered in Yamato 691 was given the name Wassonite. it is named in honor of John T. Wasson who is a meteorite scientist. He specializes in meteorites and meteorite impacts on earth. He is a professor at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). This new mineral was officially announced on April 5, 2011. It is composed of two elements, sulfur and titanium.

if you are hoping to have a Wassonite crystal in your collection you are going to be very disappointed. First, it is very, very rare. Second it is very, very, very small – about 100 times smaller than the width of a human hair. Pluck a single hair out of your head. Now, [imagine] using a magnifying glass and a knife, [and] try to slice your hair into 100 equal pieces!! OK, we all know it can't be done. This is how small (MICROSCOPIC) Wassonite specimens are.



Here is a picture of the Wassonite specimen. The picture was provided by NASA. It is so small, a very special microscope called a transition electron microscope is needed to see the specimen.

To read a little more about Wassonite, visit this website: <http://www.livescience.com/13581-antarctic-meteorite-mineral-wassonite.html>

Via www.diamonddanpublications.net
Via May 2011, Volume XXV, No. 5 Loess bulletin

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E-newsletters

Many of you have already begun to go greener. Thirty six of our members already enjoy receiving their e-newsletters rather than paper. This option allows them to receive their newsletters up to one week earlier and they are full of color pictures to enjoy. The Board is even looking at offering a lower priced membership in 2012 for members who choose this option. So – ask yourself – would you like to receive your newsletters sooner and in color? If you think this may be the thing for you please let me know. You can do so by logging onto the club website – www.blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com and clicking on contact us. Just give me your name and email and say you want to switch to e-newsletters. I will hook you up.

Talk to you soon,
Kellie Moore – Club President

2011 Officers and Directors

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| President | Kellie Moore | (563) 445-3034 |
| Vice President | Bret Henderson | (309) 626-0107 |
| Treasurer | Teresa Falk | (309) 786-4196 |
| Secretary | Diane Preslar | (309) 786-1523 |
| Director (3-year) | Craig Moore | (563) 445-3034 |
| Director (2-year) | Vickie Pearson | (309) 762-7605 |
| Director (1-year) | Linda Maro | (309) 797-3275 |

Committee Chairpersons

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Membership | Kellie Moore | (563) 445-3034 |
| Publicity | Craig Moore | (563) 445-3034 |
| Youth Group | Vacant | |
| 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 | Kellie Moore | (563) 445-3034 |
| Property | Board of Directors | (563) 445-3034 |
| Ways and Means | Board of Directors | (563) 445-3034 |
| Historian | Vacant | |
| MWF Liaison | Vacant | |

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 Tuesday 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.

Contributions: Submissions (announcements, photographs, notes, letters, articles, etc.) are actively solicited from BHGMC members. 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. 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.

Editor: Kellie Moore 718 Franklin Ave, Davenport, IA 52806.

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.

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www.blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com

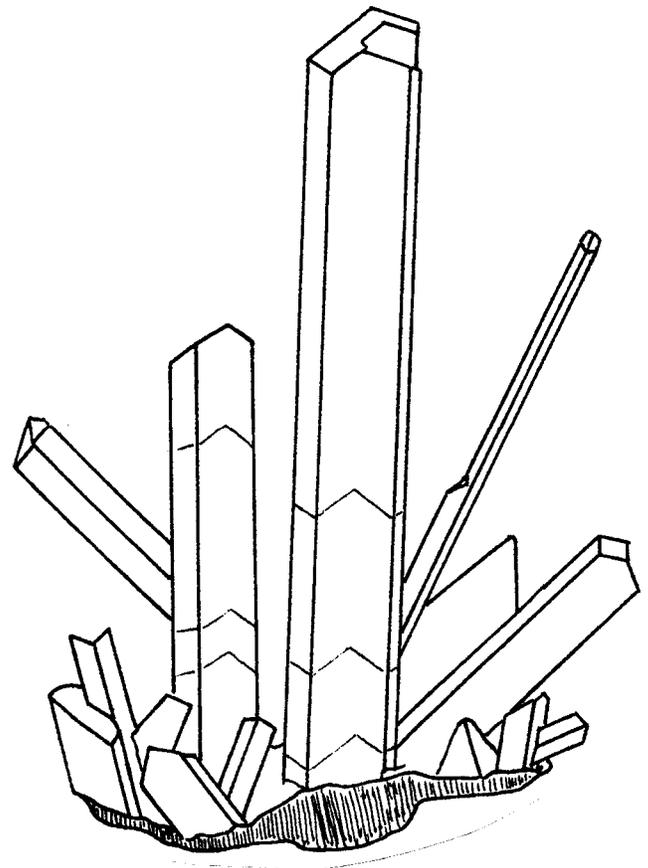
Affiliations

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

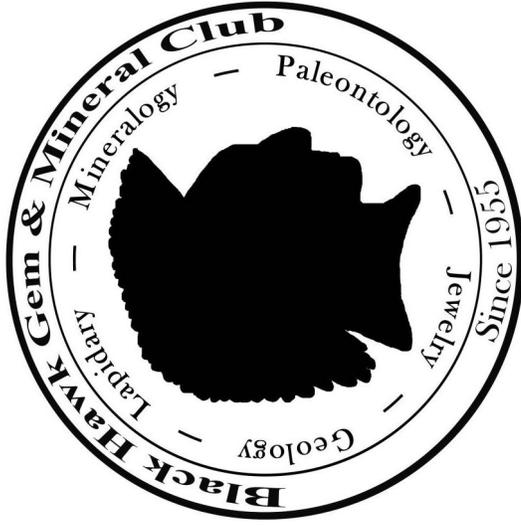
<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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



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