

# Smoke Signals



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

**March 2009**

**Volume 54**

**Number 2**

# Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

## 2009 Officers and Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Vickie Pearson</b>	<b>(309) 762-7605</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bret Henderson</b>	<b>(309) 626-0107</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Connie Huber</b>	<b>(563) 355-7131</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Deb Totemeier</b>	<b>(563) 359-3345</b>
<b>Director (3-year)</b>	<b>Linda Maro</b>	<b>(309) 797-3275</b>
<b>Director (2-year)</b>	<b>Craig Moore</b>	<b>(563) 445-3034</b>
<b>Director (1-year)</b>	<b>Delores Bates</b>	<b>(309) 796-0616</b>
<b>Director (1-year)</b>	<b>Kellie Moore</b>	<b>(563) 445-3034</b>

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Membership</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>(563) 445-3034</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Craig Moore</b>	<b>(563) 445-3034</b>
<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>Joelle Henderson</b>	<b>(309) 626-0107</b>
<b>Field Trips</b>	<b>Bret Henderson</b>	<b>(309) 626-0107</b>
<b>Displays</b>	<b>Bret Henderson</b>	<b>(309) 626-0107</b>
<b>Rock Show</b>	<b>Kellie Moore</b>	<b>(563) 445-3034</b>
<b>Scholarship</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>(563) 445-3034</b>
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	<b>Lori Johnson</b>	<b>(563) 299-5516</b>
<b>Property</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>(563) 445-3034</b>
<b>Ways and Means</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>(563) 445-3034</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Delores Bates</b>	<b>(309) 796-0616</b>
<b>MWF Liaison</b>	<b>Shirley Coven</b>	<b>(309) 743-2653</b>

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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Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Mar 2009

## Next Meeting: March 19<sup>th</sup>

Our next meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup> at the **Fryxell Geology Museum** from 5:30 P.M. until 6:45 P.M. We will be awarding our annual Scholarship. Following the event the students will be attending a second event, *Crosscurrents: Ethanol, Oil, and Water in Western Illinois*, at the Olin Auditorium, 733 35th Street, Rock Island, IL. It starts 7:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M. We are welcome to join them for this event. It is free and open to the public. See Page 2 for more information.

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## Upcoming Events

<b>Mar 20&amp;21</b>	<b>Cedar Rapids, IA:</b> 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.
<b>Mar 28&amp;29</b>	<b>Monroe, WI:</b> Badger Lapidary & Geological Society Inc. 39 <sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. Theme: Driftless Treasures of the Badger State, Monroe Senior High School 1600 26 <sup>th</sup> St. Hours: 9am-5pm both days. FREE will donation at the door, and FREE parking. Food: Full Menu Onsite. <b>Contact:</b> David Zimmerman 608-921-0206, <a href="mailto:David@showchair.com">David@showchair.com</a> 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><b>Apr 3&amp;4</b></p>	<p><b>Macomb, IL:</b> Mid American Paleontology Society (MAPS) National Fossil Exposition XXXI. Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-5, Sunday 8-12noon. Western Hall Western Illinois University. <b>Contacts:</b> Tom Williams (815)223-9638, Steve Holley (309)231-8861.</p>
<p><b>Apr 18&amp;19</b></p>	<p><b>Davenport, IA: Our Spring Show</b> - Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club Spring Rock &amp; Jewelry Show. Putnam Museum and IMAX Theatre Lecture Hall, 1717 W. 12th St. Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun 11AM-4PM. Free Admission. <b>See our flier on Page 7.</b></p>

## ***Crosscurrents: Ethanol, Oil, and Water in Western Illinois***

Ethanol shows promise as a replacement for fossil fuels, yet requires significant water and land resources to produce. What is the promise of ethanol and what are its limitations? How does producing ethanol influence the supply and demand for water?

***Crosscurrents*** will examine the environmental and ethical questions involved in increased ethanol production.

### **Panelists:**

- **Lance Factor, Ph.D.** - George Appleton Lawrence Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy, Departments of Philosophy and Environmental Studies, Knox College
- **Christopher Lant, Ph.D.** - Professor, UCOWR Executive Director, Environmental Resources and Policy Co-director, Department of Geography and Environmental Resources, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- **Jim Purlee** - Farmer
- **Sabina L. Shaikh, Ph.D.** - Lecturer, Public Policy and Program on Global Environment, University of Chicago Senior Research Economist, RCF Economic Consulting (moderator)

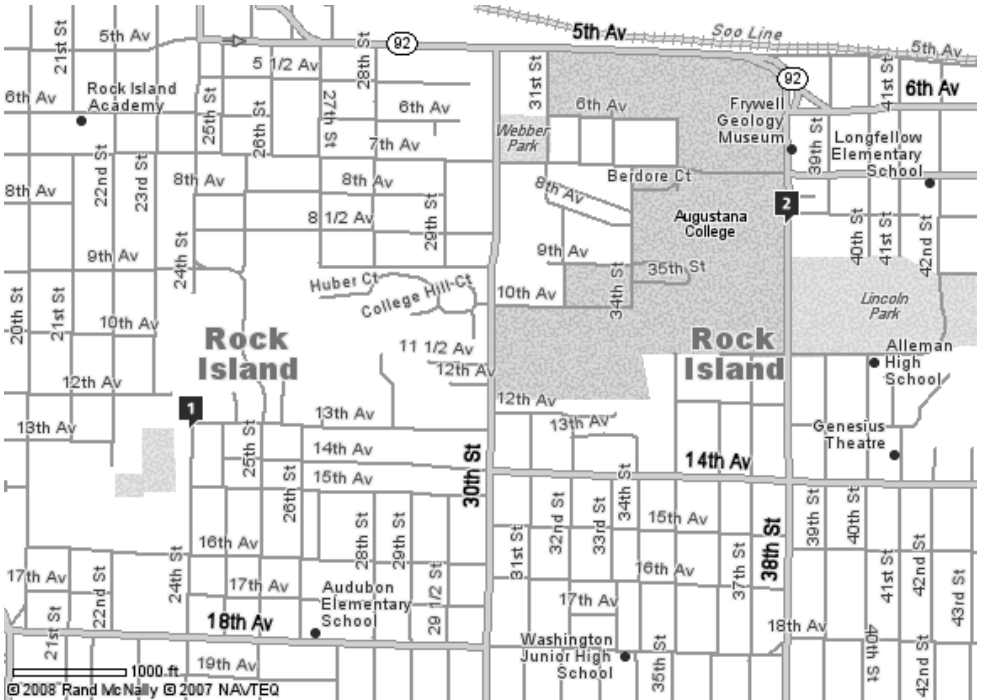
For more information, call (312) 422-5580.

We are deeply saddened to announce that Professor Emeritus Dr. Richard C. Anderson, a longtime member of the Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club, passed away earlier this year. Please join us for a memorial service to celebrate his life at 3 pm Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at the Ascension Chapel, Augustana College.

Reception immediately following in the Fryxell Geology Museum.

### Fryxell Geology Museum

This is a map from Hauberg Civic Center (marked by the 1 in a square) to the Fryxell Geology Museum (marked 2).



# *Sneak Peak:*

## **Coming this year... A year of fun!**

Here is what we are looking to do this year:

**April meeting** will be preparing for our Spring show. We will need people to make grab bags, Some to help put together some displays, and help hauling out show supplies for the weekend show.

**May** - Trip to Collinson Quarry to collect fossils and calcite.

**May meeting** - Vickie is offering to have a meeting of beading. She will be instructing those who are interested in making some jewelry items with stone beads.

**Memorial Day Weekend** - Linda Maro is working on a field trip for that Saturday to geode hunt in Southern IL. This is about a 2 1/2 hr drive.

**June** - A creek crawl for Geodes approximately 40min away near Illinois City.

**July** - Picnic at Richard's. Learn to Flint knapping (make arrowheads). Potluck.

**August** - Picnic at Mike Shumate's in Hamilton, IL. Potluck and Geode hunting.

**September** - Meeting is open for ideas

**October Meeting** - Nominations for 2010 Board and Preparing for the October show - hauling out.



# Which Gems are of Organic Origin?

By Patricia Roebuck

Pearl, Coral, Amber, and Jet are the four organic gems. Although they contain calcium carbonate, a mineral substance, pearls are the product of certain mollusks whose secretions allay the discomfort of an irritation caused by disease, a parasite, or a foreign particle. The results is the "Queen of Gems" formed inside the protective mantle that surrounds the soft parts of the animal's body within the shell.

Coral is the accumulated skeletal material of tiny marine animals called polyps, which live in branching colonies. Extracting calcium carbonate from the water, they deposit it in their tissues and build their framework of hollow tubes, which remain after their death.

Whereas pearl and coral are of animal origin, amber and jet are derived from plants. Amber is the fossil resin of ancient coniferous trees. These trees flourished during the Oligocene Epoch of the Tertiary Period - nearly 40 million years ago, and were species of pine (*Pines Succinifer*). Most properly speaking, amber is a fossil resin containing Succinic acid. Hundreds of species of insects and other invertebrates of the Oligocene Age are found beautifully preserved in amber, caught in the sticky sap as it dripped down the bark of trees.

Jet is a compact black variety of lignite coal. Lignite is the lowest grade of coal, having been least changed. The best quality of jet is velvety black. All coal has a plant ancestry, having formed from the remains of ancient vegetation. During many centuries vegetation thrived and died. Progressive changes of heat and pressure carried these plants through peat, then to lignite, which we know as jet. Jet was most popular during the Victorian Era and was mainly used as mourning jewelry.

The above information was taken from "1001 Questions Answered About the Mineral Kingdom" by Richard M. Pearl and "Precious Stones" by Bauer. From *Rollin' Rock*, 10/03, via *Pueblo Rockhounds*, 11/04, via *Show-Me Rockhounds* Newsletter 2/09.





# Spring Rock & Jewelry Show

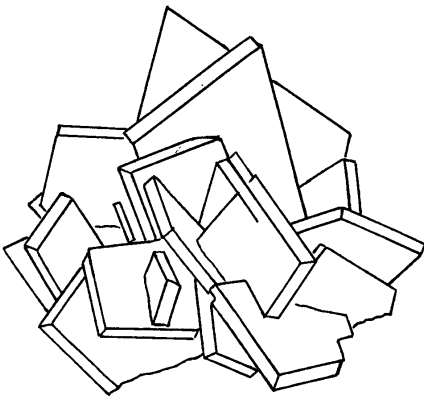
**Featuring: Rocks, Minerals,  
Fossils, Silver & Beaded  
Jewelry, Arrowheads & Beads**

**Show Hours:** Saturday April 18, 2009 10AM-5PM  
Sunday April 19, 2009 11AM-4PM

**Admission to Rock Show: Free!**

Putnam Museum and IMAX® Theatre Lecture Hall  
1717 W. 12<sup>th</sup> 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 (563) 445-3034

Kalsinean1@aol.com

# Wanted: Events photographer!

We need people to take pictures of our events. E.g. Spring Show, Fall Show, Field trips, Summer picnics, etc. These pictures would need to be given to the club in either hard copy or on disk for display on our website and in our newsletters. We can return them once they are loaded into the computer if you wish. Let us know if you are the person for the job!

Thanks,  
Kellie Moore

P.S. - Can't get to a meeting to give your digital pictures to us? You can even **Email** them in! Just please don't send like 50 meg worth of pics all at once! If it is more than a couple of meg, check with me first and I can give you my personal email address. It has higher limits than our club hotmail account. I can handle decent amounts at once, since I have high speed internet, just give me fair warning in case several of you want to send us files at the same time.

- Lori Johnson

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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](mailto:kalsinean1@aol.com)

[www.blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com](http://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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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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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Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

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*If a star appears here,  
your 2009 dues are due*