

Smoke Signals



Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

May 2009

Volume 54

Number 4

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	Deb Totemeier	(536) 359-3345
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

Club Information. 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. Formal meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, September through May at 6:00 p.m. in the Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island, IL. Annual Dues: Individual Membership: \$15.00, Senior Couples: \$12.00, Senior Individual: \$10.00, Family: \$20.00.



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Next Meeting -- May 21, 2009

Our next meeting is Thursday May 21st, 6 p.m., at the Hauberg Civic Center in Rock Island. This meeting will be presided over by Club President, Vickie Pearson. The agenda for this meeting is:

- ❖ Member vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and By-laws as discussed in the April 2009 Newsletter.
- ❖ Plans for summer field trips and picnics that are in the works.
- ❖ Creating a club lending library.
- ❖ Possible purchase of a geode cracker and faceting equipment for club use.

The silent auction will have several nice specimens this month, with one really exceptional piece of petrified wood up for grabs. Don't miss this one!

Welcome to New Members --

Wendy Easton & Family
Darcy Stewart
Angela Vennes & Family
Al & Debi Cox
Marie Randol

Robert Bergeson & Family
Svitlana Shevela
Mitch & Melba White
Dennis Sievers & Family
Anita Mickelson

Spring Rock Show

Another big success thanks to all those members who worked so hard to make it possible. Club Treasurer, Connie Huber, reports that final numbers aren't in yet but estimates our profit from the show will exceed \$650.00. Thanks everyone!!!

May Field Trips --

May 17, Collinson Quarry, 560 E. 10th Avenue, Milan, IL. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

From Rock Island, take Hwy 67 South through Milan. At the intersection of 10th Avenue and Hwy. 67 (Hy-Vee will be on the right hand side) make a left turn on 10th Avenue. The quarry entrance is approximately 3/10 of a mile on the right hand side; the entrance is marked by several large boulders. In the event of heavy rain, this trip may be cancelled.



Richard Van Iseghem 309-798-5472

May 23, Geode Hunt, Hamilton, IL. 10 a.m. - until?

Meet in the Dairy Queen parking lot, 1820 Keokuk Street, Hamilton, IL at 9 a.m. and we will caravan to the site. Take Hwy. 67 South to Hwy. 136 West into Hamilton, IL; the Dairy Queen is the left side of the road. Cost is \$16.00 per 5 gallon bucket (you must supply your own buckets). Estimated travel time from the Quad Cities is 2 ½ to 3 hrs.



Linda Maro 309-235-5576

Field Trip Reminders --

Quarries and many other collecting sites require safety equipment for your protection and theirs. Each member of your party **must** have the following personal protective items on all Club sponsored quarry trips:

- ❖ Hard Hat
- ❖ Safety Glasses or Goggles
- ❖ Sturdy leather shoes/boots (safety shoes or boots preferred)

Field Trip Reminders (cont)

Depending on the nature of the field trip, you may also want to bring along:

- ❖ Reflective safety vest
- ❖ Bottled Water
- ❖ Gloves
- ❖ Knee pads or kneeling cushion
- ❖ Hammer or rock pick
- ❖ Buckets, backpacks, sturdy bags
- ❖ Rain Slicker
- ❖ Roll of masking tape (to secure broken specimens)
- ❖ Hat and sun block for skin protection
- ❖ Insect spray & first aide kit
- ❖ Cooler and lunch

Other Club News --

Rock and Gem Hobby Day. Craig and Kellie have come up with a great plan to have a Hobby Day each month. These get-togethers are for any member that enjoys cab cutting, beading, wire wrapping, gem trees, or any other related hobbies. If you have a rock related hobby bring your tools and let's get together. Don't have a related hobby? Come anyway and learn a new one. Craig and Kellie are hosting the first event in their home on Sunday, May 31st, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Sorry, there will be no silver smithing at this event.

Directions. From US Hwy 61 in Davenport, turn West at 65th Street exit (Thunder Bay Grill will be on the East side of the intersection). Continue traveling West on 65th Street until you reach Franklin Ave, which is the next to the last street. Turn left (South) and they are the 3rd house on the right (blue in color). The address is 718 Franklin Avenue, Davenport. Contact either Craig or Kellie at 563-445-3034 if you need additional information.

Other Club News (cont)

Newsletter Hiatus. Just a reminder that this is the last newsletter until September (we don't publish in June, July, or August). The club has several activities in the works for the summer months and we will be sending out notices by mail once plans are finalized.

Club Library. The club library is undergoing a face-lift. If you have books, publications, or other reference materials that other rockhounds would find valuable, please consider donating them to the club. Contact the Club President, Vickie Pearson, at 309-762-7605. We're also looking for a volunteer to take charge of the library and act as the Club Librarian.

Classes Now Available

Craig and Kellie teach classes to individuals upon request. If you would like to learn any of the following things please contact them at 563-445-3034.

Cab Cutting. Learn to cut a cab to wrap, set, or just admire. Bring your own slabs or we can provide something for you to cut and go home with a small cut cab ready to be set. No jade or garnet please.

Beading. Learn to make jewelry (earrings, necklace, or bracelet) and take home one or two completed items. There is a \$5 fee for materials.

Wire Wrapping. Learn to wrap a cab, a tumbled stone, or some other workable shape you would like to make into a wearable pendant. Tumbled stone can be provided. Finish a piece to take home in one class. If you have any tools – please bring them as well.

Classes Now Available (cont)

Gem Trees. Learn to make a tree dressed with stones. This is a lengthy craft so plan on an entire afternoon, but you will take home a finished tree. If you have stones you would like to use please bring them. There is a \$5 fee for materials.

Silver Smithing. Learn to use a torch and make a silver ring. This is a lengthy process so plan on an entire afternoon but you will take home a completed ring. There is a \$20 fee for materials.

Mark Your Calendar --

May 23 - 24, Wheaton, IL

Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association Gem, Jewelry, Fossil & Mineral Show & Sale. Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W Manchester Rd. Nationally known dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, special displays, silent auction, "Kids Korner". For more information contact 630-377-0197 or visit the club's website at www.chicagolandgemshow.org

Jun (Date to be Determined), Illinois City, IL

Club field trip and creek crawl for geodes.

13, Fairfield, IA

Sac & Fox Lapidary Club Rock Swap at Howard Park (3 blocks North of town square). 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. For additional information contact Florence Stevens 641-470-1517 or email her at flostevens@lisco.com

Mark Your Calendar (cont)

Jun 26 - 28, Hamilton, IL

Worthern Earth Searchers of Hancock County, 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 visit their web sites:
www.firstcrackgeodes.com & www.hamiltonillinois.org

Jul (Date to be Determined) Taylor Ridge, IL

Club picnic at Richard Van Iseghem's. Learn flint knapping and enjoy a potluck picnic.

18 - 19, Moose Lake, MN

Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club, Annual Agate Days. Moose Lake High School, 418 Birch Ave. For more information contact Terry Anderson 218-879-4970 or visit their website at:
www.minnesotabound.com/visit/MooseLake/AgateDays

Aug (Date to be Determined), Hamilton, IL

Club picnic at Mike Shumate's. Hunt for geodes and enjoy a potluck picnic.

15 - 17, St. Louis, IL

Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc. 33rd Annual Rock & Gem Show. Dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, special displays, silent auction, and much more. Admission charged. For more information visit the club's website at www.stlearthsci.org/index.html

15 - 16, Elmhurst, IL

Midwest Faceters' Guild Seminar at the Abbey, 407 W. St. Charles Road, Elmhurst, IL. For additional info visit their website at www.midwestfacetersguild.org

Summer Fun --

The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL

Don't miss the permanent exhibits in the Earth Science Hall, including rocks, minerals, jades, gem stones, fossils, and many other items too numerous to list here. A really top notch display. Visit their web site for additional information. www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibits/permnature4_exhib.htm#rocks_fossil

Fossil and Prairie Park, Rockford, IA

Located not far from Mason City, Iowa, the Park and Center are one of the few places open to the public to hunt fossils. The 400 acre park has an interpretive center with museum quality exhibits, fossil quarry, 60 acres native prairie, miles of hiking trails, historic beehive kilns, re-created log cabin, picnic shelter, and more! Check out their website for additional information. www.fossilcenter.com

Crystal Lake Cave, Dubuque, IA

Have fun and stay cool in the longest show cave in the state of Iowa. Visit their website for more information. www.crystallakecave.com/

Funk Gem & Mineral Museum, Shirley, IL

The restored 1864 residence of Illinois State Senator, Lafayette Funk, includes a Gem & Mineral Museum features the Hall of Gems & Minerals with its dazzling display of many rare and beautiful stones and the Indian artifact room with early examples of Native American culture. Reservations required. For more information, phone 309-827-6792 or visit their web site www.illinoisadventuretv.org/index.asp?page=st&site=1009

Do you know of more hidden gems in the region? Share your secrets with other club members. Send your suggestions to the Editor via email to DLTotemeier@gmail.com and we'll get them published in a summer update.

Ready...Set...Dop!

By Paul Heuer.

Well, maybe not. When I bought my Genie machine for shaping, grinding, and polishing cabs I was informed I needed to learn to dop my stones so I could handle them. And so I did. I bought the wax, an electric wax melter and made some short pieces of wood dowels. I followed the directions and had some stones dopped in a short time.

I started the shaping process but in a few minutes the stone simply dropped off the wax. So I did the process over and continued on. Again, after a few minutes the stone dropped off. I finally figured out my problem. The water flushing the wheel and stone was too cold. The cold water chilled the wax and the stone simply wasn't being held and dropped off. Using slightly warm water worked for a while but it to became cold and chilled the wax.

Back to the beginning. Did I really need to dop the stones? I started hand holding the stones beginning with 30 X 40 mm ones. Guess what, no problem. The wheels really won't do much to your fingers, but will "trim" your finger nails quickly. Be careful! I found I could easily take my stones thru the whole process with success. If you try this you might want to wear rubber or nitrile gloves until you get used to the process.

I no longer dop any stone I cut. I have no problem with cabs down to 18 X 13mm. Smaller than that a dinged finger nail might happen from time to time. Now this free-hand process is only for cabs. If you are going to facet stones you really must dop the stones. If you cut cabs, give the free-hand method a try and see if it works for you.

Affiliations. Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies www.amfed.org/mwf/ and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies <http://www.gaminal.org/afms.htm>

Newsletter Contributions. Submissions (announcements, photo-graphs, notes, letters, articles, etc.) are actively solicited from BHGMC members and friends.

- Submissions will 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; all submissions become the property of the Club unless previous arrangements have been made. 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.
- Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month. Late or unused entries may be published in later issues.
- 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.
- Free reciprocal exchanges for the bulletins of other gem and mineral clubs are welcomed. Please send all exchange bulletins to the Editor.
- 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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New Editor