

Smoke Signals



Blackhawk Gem &
Mineral Club, Inc.

Established 1955

November 2009

2009 Officers and Directors

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| President | Vicki 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 | Vacant | (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.

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



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Next Meeting --

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 19th, 6 p.m., at the Hauberg Civic Center in Rock Island. Agenda:

- ❖ Linda Maro will be discussing turquoise.
- ❖ Making Christmas tree ornaments for the Hauberg Christmas tree
- ❖ Silent Auction.

Board Meeting Highlights from October 4th --

No board meeting this month.

Member Meeting Highlights from October 15th --

- ❖ The Hauberg Center has asked the club decorate a rock themed Christmas tree by December 4th.
- ❖ The club will have a booth at John Hauberg's 140th birthday celebration on Sunday, November 15th, from 2 - 4 pm. We need volunteers to help promote the club at this event. If you can help please contact Vicki.



Vicki Pearson 309-762-7605

- ❖ Kellie Moore was elected to the position of 3-Year Director.
- ❖ The club workshop in the basement of the Hauberg Center is still undergoing renovation. A few pieces of equipment are awaiting parts for repair. We're hoping to have it ready for general member use by winter.

Club Activities for November --

November 7 - 8 (Saturday and Sunday), Missouri Druzy Hunt, Leadington, MO.

Kellie and Craig Moore have organized a Druzy hunt in Leadington, Missouri. This is about a 6 hour drive from the Quad Cities. They will be staying at Rosner's in Park Hills, MO.

We will be meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Hardees in Leadington, Missouri. This is right off of the U.S. 67 ramp. If you only plan to join us on Sunday, we will be meeting at the same Hardees Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. (See map on next page.)

For this field trip & hunt, each member of your group **must** have the following:

- ❖ Orange hat (generally knit)
- ❖ Orange safety vest

The collecting area is wooded and hilly and the following items are recommended:

- ❖ Buckets, backpacks, etc.
- ❖ Digging tools (e.g. rock hammer, picks)
- ❖ A sled, skid, or some means of transporting your rocks.
- ❖ Gloves, sturdy shoes, safety glasses, and long sleeves and trousers.
- ❖ Drinking water.
- ❖ First aid kit.

We need to know who will be joining us on this trip. Please contact Craig or Kellie if you are planning to go.



Craig and Kellie Moore
563-445-3034.



Hardees
Leadington, MO

**November Field Trip --
Missouri Druzy Hunt, Leadington, MO.**



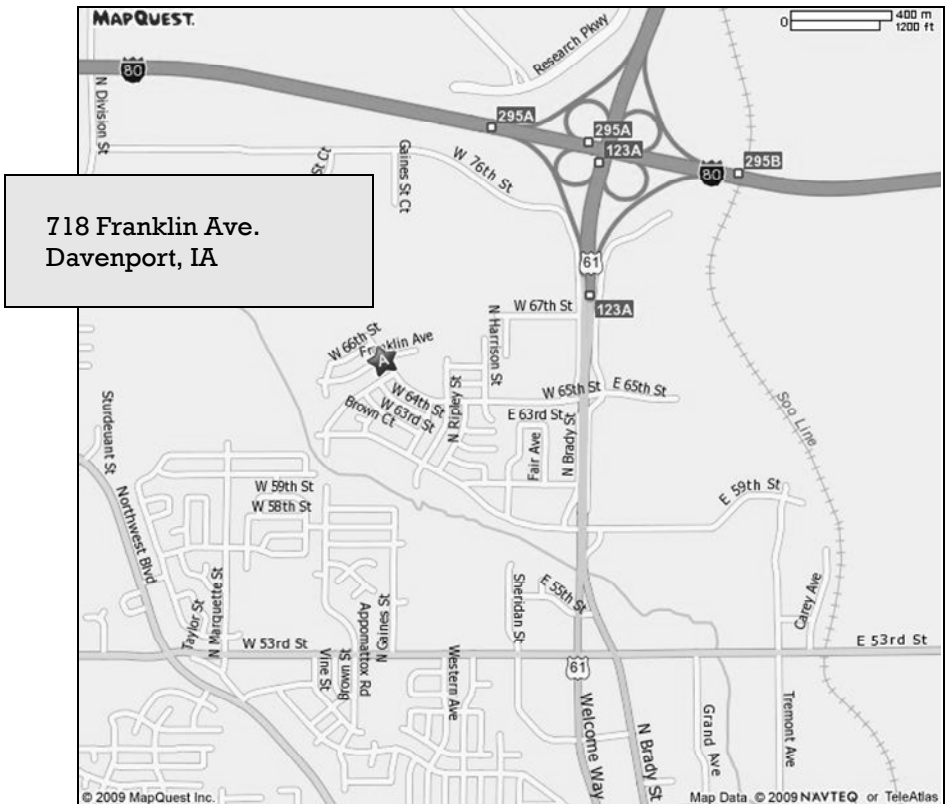
Club Activities for November (cont) --

Sunday, November 22, Hobby Day.

Kellie and Craig Moore are hosting craft & hobby day at their home. Everyone is welcome - please bring your projects, tools, and supplies along. Interested in learning a new hobby? Bring a snack to share and enjoy the afternoon!



Craig and Kellie Moore
563-445-3034.

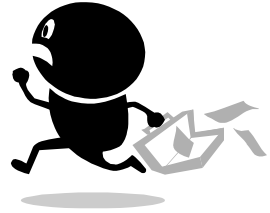


Dues are Due --

Membership dues for 2010 are due; If you have joined the club September or later this year your dues are already paid. Otherwise, please mail your check to:

Connie Huber, Treasurer,
2903 Woodland Ct., Davenport, IA 52803-2142

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



Mark Your Calendar --

Nov 1, Board Meeting

6 p.m. at the Village Inn Restaurant, Bettendorf.

15, 140th Birthday Celebration of John Hauberg

Blackhawk State Historic Site, 2 - 4 pm. Entertainment and refreshments available. Free. For additional information phone 309-788-9536 or visit their web site at www.blackhawkpark.org/events.htm

17, The Leonid Meteor Shower Peaks

19, Club Meeting at the Hauberg Center, 6 p.m.

21 - 22, Madison, WI, The 46th Annual Madison Gem and Mineral Show

Held at Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Ninety tables available. Contact Show Chairman Nevin Franke for early information at 608-251-2601. For additional information visit their website at:

<http://www.madison.com/communities/madisonrockclub>

Mark Your Calendar (cont) --

Nov 26, Happy Thanksgiving !!!

Dec 17, Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club Holiday Potluck.

Bring a dish to share and join our holiday potluck at the regular monthly meeting at the Hauberg Center in Rock Island.

Jan 3, Board Meeting

21, Club Meeting at the Hauberg Center, 6 p.m.



Don't stop here. See the entire list of events for the Midwest Region at:

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

Just a Reminder...

We are trying hard to get the Club Newsletter to members earlier in the month. To do that we need all articles, notices, and postings **no later than the 20th of each month.**

Contact the Editor...

By regular mail: 2438 E. Columbia Avenue,
Davenport, IA, 52803-2212

By email: DLTotemeier@gmail.com

By phone: 563-359-3345

Interested in Receiving the Newsletter Via Email?

Send a current email address (along with your full name) to the Editor.

November and Topaz --

Topaz is the ancient - or traditional - birth gemstone for November and has been used for centuries in jewelry. Its golden brown to yellow color is classic and often confused with the less valuable citrine. (Citrine is sometimes wrongly sold under the name topaz.)

If you were born in November topaz is the traditional choice of gemstone. However, should you closely following zodiacal signs, topaz is the birthstone for Sagittarius (born on November 21st through December 21st) and beryl is the birthstone for Scorpio (born on October 23rd to November 20th).

With a hardness factor of 8, topaz is the hardest silicate mineral. It can be split with a single blow, a trait it shares with diamonds. It may be colorless, yellow, orange, red, blue and green. Crystals can reach an incredible size and weigh several hundred pounds.

The blue topaz (often confused with aquamarine) is rarely natural and is produced by irradiating and then heating clear crystals. The most valuable color for topaz is untreated pink and red. Light brown topaz is quite often heated to show a pink color. Therefore, exercise caution when paying top dollar for pink topaz and query the seller as to the gemstone being natural or treated. Ask to see the lab document and assume the stone has been treated if there is no lab documentation.

Topaz in History and Lore ~

The name topaz comes from an island in the Red Sea. The Egyptians said that topaz was colored with the golden glow of the mighty sun god Ra. The Romans associated topaz with Jupiter, who also is the god of the sun.

November and Topaz (cont) --

November's birthstone was worn to protect against evil, to strengthen intellect, and prevent bad dreams. The ancient Greeks believed that it had the power to increase strength and make its wearer invisible in times of emergency. Topaz was also said to change color in the presence of poisoned food or drink. Medically, topaz was believed to cure asthma, insomnia and burns. In the 19th century pink topaz was discovered in Russia. This gemstone was so coveted that only the Czar, his family, and those he gave it to were allowed ownership.

Fun Stuff --

The Nature of Diamonds, The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Through March 28, 2010. Prized by many cultures throughout the ages as a symbol of strength, wealth, and love, diamonds have inspired scientists, writers, and artisans for thousands of years. See nearly 800 exquisite objects, including some of the world's most stunning gemstones that tell the story of our fascination with the beauty and power of this "King of Gems." Feast your eyes on the 128.54-carat Tiffany Diamond—one of the world's largest and finest fancy yellow diamonds—and the Incomparable Diamond—weighing in at 407.48 carats as the largest flawless diamond ever graded by the GIA and the third largest cut diamond ever recorded!

Learn more by visiting their web site:

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/diamonds/>

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| <p>DON'T DROP OFF THE MAILING LIST !!!</p> |
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| <p>Please notify the Editor of any change to your mailing address.</p> |
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Newsletter Contributions. Submissions (announcements, photographs, 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. Submit articles or information to the Editor via email to -- DLTotemeier@gmail.com
- 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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