

Smoke Signals



Blackhawk Gem &
Mineral Club, Inc.

Established 1955

October 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, October 15th, 6 p.m., at the Hauberg Civic Center in Rock Island. The agenda for this meeting is:

- ❖ Final preparations for the fall rock show. Includes the assembly of children's rock collections. Donations of minerals and fossils for these collections are still being sought from members for these collections. Samples should be small enough to fit into an egg carton compartment.

- ❖ Silent auction.

Board Meeting Highlights from September 6th --

Editor's Note: Beginning this month, meeting notes from the Board and Member meetings will be published for the preceding month. This means that beginning in October, I will be publishing notes from the September Board and Member meetings. This will help get the Newsletter out earlier in the month...As always, your thoughts and suggestions are welcome.

The focus of this meeting was the fall show, which is planned for October 24 - 25.

- ❖ Volunteers are still needed for the following:
 - Staffing the admissions table and other activities
 - Construction of display cases
 - Loading, unloading, and transporting material & equipment

Board Meeting Highlights (cont)--

- ❖ Mineral, fossil, and other related donations are still needed for the following. Please provide the identification (name) of any rock, mineral, or fossil donation you contribute.

- Silent auction
- Children's rock collections
- Club sales table

- ❖ Connie Huber provided the ad for the fall show.

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Fall Rock & Jewelry Show

Date: 10-24-2009 - 10-25-2009

Time(s): 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Saturday

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Sunday

Organized by the Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club, this semi-annual show features tables filled with all different kinds of rocks, fossils, carved stones, arrowheads, agates, geodes, minerals, and quartz. There will be jewelry made from different stones, along with silver, gold, and beads. There will be demonstrations on sphere making, flint knapping arrowheads, geode cracking, children's games, and a silent auction. Proceeds go toward the Scholarship Fund. The hours are 10 am-6 pm on Saturday, October 24 and 10 am-3:30 pm on Sunday, October 25. The Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club is a non-profit organization actively promoting interest in collecting, studying, and working with gems, minerals and fossils. Organized in 1955, this member-based group meets monthly and organizes one show in April and other in October. For more information visit

www.blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com

Admission: \$1.00 adults, 17 and under Free

Venue: Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds

2815 W. Locust St., Davenport, IA. 52804

Call 563-445-3034 for more information

Board Meeting Highlights (cont)--

- ❖ Can you volunteer to help staff the show (just an hour or two)...or contribute/donate specimens or related materials? If so, please contact ~



Kellie Moore, Show Chairperson
563-445-3034

Member Meeting Highlights from September 17th --

- ❖ Henry Stauffenberg gave a fabulous presentation on the different techniques used to identify minerals. Lots of useful information for the amateur and professional collector. Henry also offered to help identify any specimen you may have...bring it to the next meeting and watch him work!
- ❖ The Bead Supply on 16th Street in Moline is open once again...and under new management. Hours are 12 - 6 pm Tuesday through Saturday.
- ❖ The Hauberg Center has asked the club to donate and decorate a themed Christmas tree by December 4th. We are asking each member to look through your rock & mineral goodie bag and donate 4 or 5 related items that could be used - or - attend the November meeting and we can create ornaments together. Connie Huber has a tree we may be able to use.
- ❖ The club has also been asked to participate in the 140th birthday celebration of John Hauberg on Sunday, November 15th, from 2 - 4 pm. The club will be preparing materials and a exhibit table; volunteers are needed.



Kellie Moore 563-445-3034

Member Meeting Highlights (cont) --

- ❖ 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 October --

Sunday, October 25th, Club Craft & Hobby Day, 12 - 5 p.m.

Vicki Pearson is hosting craft & hobby day at her home. Everyone is welcome - please bring your projects, tools, and supplies along. Interested in learning a new hobby? This day is the perfect time to do it. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the afternoon!

Directions: From I-74, exit at Avenue of the Cities. Cross Avenue of the Cities to 19th Street South. At the next light turn right onto 26th Street. Take the first right onto 29th Avenue Court. It is the 5th house on the left.

Address: 2536 29th Avenue Ct. *See map inset on pg. 8.*



Vicki Pearson 309-762-7605

Mark Your Calendar --

Oct 3, No Board Meeting in preparation for the fall show.

3 - 4, Springfield, IL, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society Annual Show

Illinois Bldg, Illinois State Fair Grounds, Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Rd, Rochester, IL 62563, (217) 498-7713, or email jrwashburn2@msn.com

Mark Your Calendar (cont) --**Oct 15, Club Meeting at the Hauberg Center****17 - 18, Des Moines Lapidary Society, Annual Gem & Mineral Show**

Iowa State Fairgrounds, Knapp Animal Learning Center.
Enter through the E. University Avenue Gate, Des Moines, IA. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily.

17 - 18, Chicago Heights, IL, 40th Annual Show, South Suburban Earth Science Club

Prairie State College 202 S Halsted St, Sat 10:00-5:00,
Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact Jan Podbielski, PO Box 911,
Peotone, IL 60450

24, First Annual Fossil Fest of Iowa, Cedar Valley Rock and Minerals Society.

Washington High School, Cedar Rapids, IA Includes fossil related displays, vendors, and childrens activities. Theme for this event is "Fossil Treasures from the Age of Dinosaurs." Keynote speaker, Mike Henderson, Curator of Earth Sciences, Burpee Museum of Natural History. Contact Donald Johnson 319-213-1390 for additional info.

24 - 25, Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club Fall Show

Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust St., Davenport, IA. 52804

Nov 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

Mark Your Calendar (cont) --

Nov 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>.

Dec (date to be determined) Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club Holiday Potluck.



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

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

October Opals --

October's birthstone treats the eye to an explosion of shimmering colors and is often compared to a rainbow. This effect is due it's unique ability to refract and reflect specific wave lengths of light.

The name, Opal, originates from the Latin word "opalus," which means precious jewel, and ancient myth says the gem fell from heaven in a flash of fiery lightning. Ancient monarchs treasured Opals, both for their beauty and for their presumed protective powers. They were set into crowns and worn in necklaces to ward off evil and to protect the eyesight. These gemstones were also ground and ingested for their healing properties and to ward off nightmares.

October Opals (cont) --

The Opal dates back to prehistoric times. It is a non-crystallized silica, which is a mineral found near the earth's surface in areas where ancient geothermal hot springs once existed. As the hot springs dried up, layers of the silica, combined with water, were deposited into the cracks and cavities of the bedrock, forming Opal. This gemstone actually contains up to 30% water, so it must be protected from heat or harsh chemicals, both of which will cause drying and may lead to cracking and loss of iridescence. Opal must also be guarded from blows, since it is relatively soft and breaks easily.

Most of the world's Opal deposits are found in Southern Australia. Other sources of this gemstone are Brazil, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and Nevada. Quality Opal is very expensive, made more so by the caution that must be exercised in cutting, polishing and setting it into jewelry.

Alternate Birthstone

An alternate birthstone for October, Pink Tourmaline has the seemingly magical property of pyroelectricity. Scientifically speaking, this means that when heated, the gem takes on a static electric charge, making it capable of attracting lightweight objects. No wonder this gemstone was revered for its mystical properties centuries ago! Considered the "stone of the muse," it was believed to stimulate the creative process of its wearer. Pink varieties of Tourmaline range in color from pastel pink to ruby red and are mined in Brazil, Afghanistan, Burma, and India. A gift of this stone is symbolic of hope.

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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