

Smoke Signals



Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

September 2009

Volume 54

Number 5

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 --

Our next meeting is Thursday, September 17th, 6 p.m., at the Hauberg Civic Center in Rock Island. The agenda for this meeting is:

- ❖ Presentation on Mineralogy by, Henry Stauffenberg. For those of you who may have missed the award presentation, Henry is our 2009 scholarship recipient from Augustana College. At this meeting Henry will be discussing testing techniques that aid in mineral identification, and crystal symmetry and its importance in identification.
- ❖ Plans 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 --

The monthly meeting of the Board was held on Sunday, September 6th. 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: 10-24-2008 - 10-25-2008

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 25 and 10 am-3:30 pm on Sunday, October 26. 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

Club Activities for September --**Sunday, September 27th, Bead Day, 12 - 5 p.m.**

Vicki Pearson is hosting a Bead Day at her home. Everyone is welcome - please bring any tools and/or beading supplies you have. New to beading? This day is the perfect starting point to learn a new hobby. Join us to learn a new skill or build on skills you already have. 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 --**Sep 12 - 13, Fairfield, IA, Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
Annual Show**

Arts & Convention Center, 200 N Main St, Sat 9:00-6:00,
Sun 10:00 -5:00. Contact: Betty Morris, 618 N Lincoln
St, Mt Pleasant, IA, (319) 385-9584, or email
emorris@lisco.com

22, 4:18 p.m. Fall Equinox

**Sep 25 - 27, Hamilton, IL, Geodefest 2009, Wortheren
Earth Searchers.**

Montebello Access Area, Riverfront, Fri-Sun, Contact:
Merlin Tobias, 1765 E Co Rd 900, Carthage, IL 62321,
(573) 518-4739, lstrackgeodes.com

**26 - 27, Amana, IA, Cedar Valley Fall Rock and
Mineral Auction.**

Over 1400 lots of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils,
publications, equipment, and related items. See the
club flier for more information.

[http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org/2009AuctionFlyer.
pdf](http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org/2009AuctionFlyer.pdf)

**Oct 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

**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

Mark Your Calendar (cont) --

Oct 24 - 25, Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club Fall Show
Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust St.,
Davenport, IA. 52804

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>.



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

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

September Sapphires --

Sapphire is perhaps the toughest and most durable gemstone available. With a hardness of 9 on the Mohs scale, sapphire is harder than any other gem but diamond and it has no cleavage plane so it cannot be cut with a single blow like a diamond. So hard in fact, that synthetic sapphire is used for scratch-resistant watch crystals, optical scanners, and other instruments because its durability can be trusted.

The most valuable sapphires have a medium intense, vivid blue color. The best sapphires hold the brightness of their color under all different types of lighting. Any black, gray, or green overtones mixed in with the blue will reduce a stone's value. In general, a more pastel

September Sapphires (cont) --

blue would be less preferred than a vivid blue but would be priced higher than an over dark blackish blue color.

Ancient lists also name sapphire as the gemstone for the sign of Taurus and birthstone for April. Today Sapphire is the stone associated with the month of September. The stone was used by the Greeks to stimulate the opening of the third eye and to tap into the subconscious and super conscious over mind. Clear sapphires, like diamonds, are the guardians of love. In ancient times, it was used to banish envy and jealousy.



Sapphire has long symbolized truth, sincerity, and faithfulness. Because sapphires represent divine favor, they were the gemstone of choice for kings and high priests. The British Crown Jewels are full of large blue sapphires, the symbol of pure and wise rulers.

Fun Stuff --

September 19, 2 p.m.

University of Iowa Geology Museum, McBride Hall Auditorium (2nd Floor)

The Fossil Guy

***Tyrannosaurus rex*: Big Bully of the Cretaceous**

Learn about one of the most famous of dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus rex! T. rex was the largest land carnivore of its time, earning it the nickname "Big Bully of the Cretaceous." Was T. rex a scavenger, active hunter, or both? Was T. rex smart or stupid? What do the fossils tell us about the T. rex, and what is merely speculation? What was the correct posture of T. rex, and how did it

Fun Stuff (cont) --

balance on two legs? For what did T. rex use its tiny arms? What made its teeth special? Get answers to these questions and more during this educational program.

Those in attendance will see a full-size replica of the "Peck's Rex" T. rex skull, touch real T. rex fossils including a T. rex tooth and claw, and learn about the tremendous teenage growth spurt of T. rex. Don will share his experiences hunting for T. rex fossils in the badlands of South Dakota and Montana.

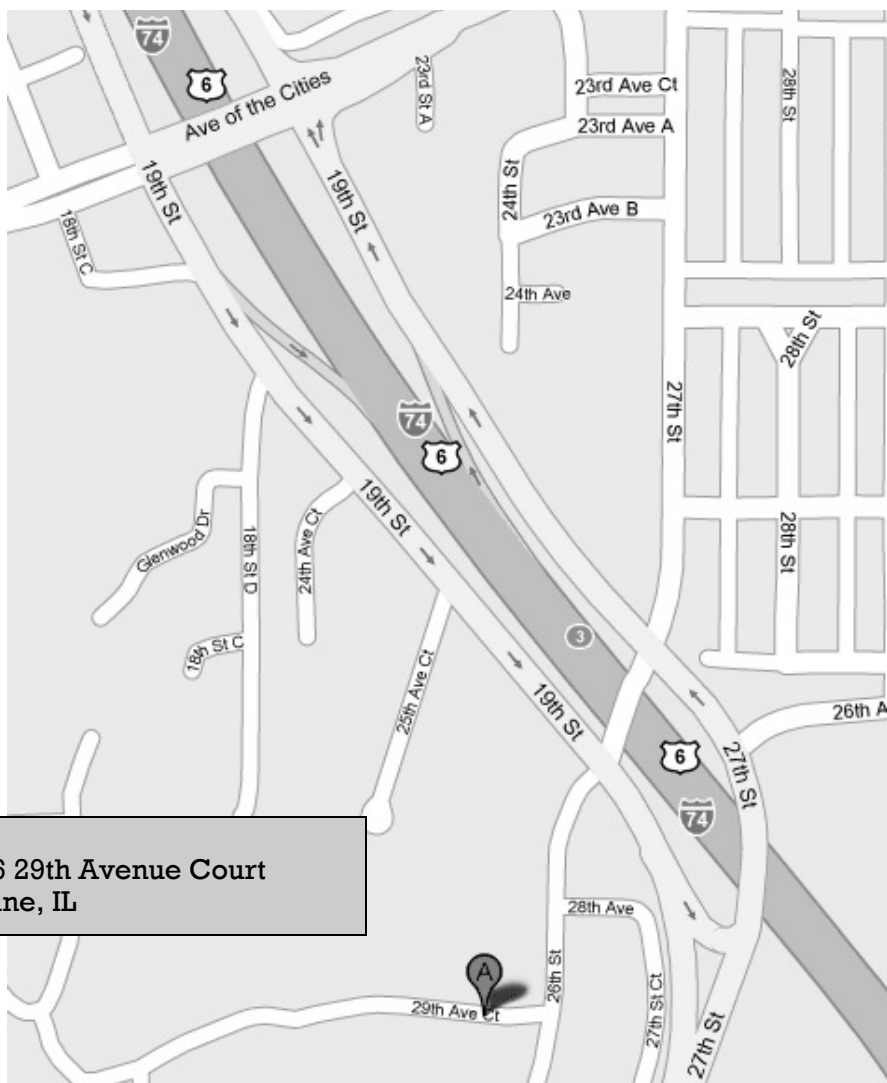
September 26, 2 p.m.

**University of Iowa Geology Museum, McBride Hall
Auditorium (2nd Floor)**

The Fossil Guy:

When Giant Ground Sloths Roamed Iowa

Learn about animals lived during the Ice Age in Iowa. A special focus will be placed on the recovery of Ice Age remains of an adult and two juvenile giant ground sloths (*Megalonyx jeffersoni*), excavated in southwestern Iowa by crews from the UIMNH. Learn about new evidence for the existence of another ground sloth, *Paramylodon harlani*, during the Ice Age in Iowa! See and touch real fossils of Ice Age creatures that would have roamed Iowa including mammoths, mastodons, horses, bison, and deer. How were the shape and structure of the teeth of various Ice Age mammals specially adapted to their diets? Is there any evidence that the great saber-toothed cat *Smilodon* roamed Iowa? A full-sized replica of the skull of *Smilodon* will be used to demonstrate how it might have killed and eaten its prey. What Ice Age carnivores did leave evidence of their existence in Iowa? Finally, artifacts of Paleolithic man will help us answer the question "What caused the extinction of many of the large Ice Age mammals?"



2536 29th Avenue Court
Moline, IL

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, photographs, notes, letters, articles, etc.) are actively solicited from BHGMC members and friends.

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- 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