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**For Immediate Release
August 6, 2009**

Museum exhibit opens this weekend

A world class collection of recently donated agates, gems, fossils, petrified wood and meteorites is featured in ***Nature's Kaleidoscope: Treasures from Earth and Beyond*** opening this weekend at the Sioux City Public Museum.

Dr. James Hartje donated the valuable range of specimens to the Sioux City Public Museum this spring after assembling the collection through extensive research and collecting efforts.

"Dr. Hartje's collection reflects his fondness for naturally beautiful treasures and we are extremely grateful to be able to display these outstanding pieces," said Steve Hansen, Museum director. "While this is a temporary display of the collection, its inclusion at our new site will make it the envy of many museums."

Among the highlights of exhibit are a large amethyst cathedral, dinosaur, fish, and mammal fossils; and a selection of ancient human stone tools. Many of the rock formations were created through volcanic activity or through intense heat and pressure within the Earth's crust. The rocks and crystal formations are unique for their array of colors and textures.

Educational programs to be held in conjunction with the exhibit will be announced at a later date.

Nature's Kaleidoscope: Treasures from Earth and Beyond will be on display through November 1, 2009. The Sioux City Public Museum is housed in the historic John Peirce Mansion at 2901 Jackson Street in Sioux City. Regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 712-279-6174 or visit www.siouxcitymuseum.org.