

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2014, Bethany Park Shelter House  
Respectfully submitted by Sharon Marburger

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Ed Dvorak.
- ◆ 24 Adult members, 9 Mineral Monkeys, 1 guest (Andy Zarins)
- ◆ Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- ◆ The minutes of the April meeting were published in the *Pick & Shovel*. Jim Marburger moved to accept the minutes as printed, second by Bob Gritmit, carried.
- ◆ The Treasurer's Report was read by President Dvorak in the absence of Treasurer Lyman. Charlie Messenger moved to accept the report as read, second by Karen Messenger, carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

- ◆ The Joint Field Trip with the Fort Dodge, Iowa club will be May 24. We will meet in Fort Dodge and travel to Jesup, Iowa for collecting geodes.
- ◆ The Roadside Clean-up will be done on May 31. Chairman Jim Marburger asked members to sign up so he could assign road sections.
- ◆ The April Rock Party was outstanding! Thanks to Ed Ridge for the Easter egg hunt and all the wonderful specimens he provided.

### NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ Rowdy Cropp volunteered to host the June Rock Party at the Lapidary Class location, Auld Center, on June 21 at 4:00 p.m. He plans to provide sandwich makings for the potluck.
- ◆ Bruce Sturges plans to have an all day Rock Party event in July. Details to come later.
- ◆ Bruce commented on the Sole's rock sale advertisement. He viewed the collection and says it contains great specimens.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. on a motion by Bob Gritmit and second by Karen Messenger, to the Department of Roads' clean-up video and the video "How to Find Agates" by Karen Brzys, Gitche Gume Museum.

## JESUP, IOWA FIELD TRIP

by Jim Marburger, Field Trip Chairman

On the morning of May 24, 2014, while Sharon was filling the car up with gas in Fort Dodge, Iowa, what did she hear? "Hey SHARON!" Yes, it was the Beers driving by on the way to find rock landscaping for Corey and Brian to hunt near the meeting point for the field trip with the River Valley Rockhounds of Fort Dodge. After fueling, we met up with President and field trip leader, Robert Wolf. As participants assembled for the trip, Robert passed out samples of gypsum and selenite that was found in the area.

It was about a two-hour drive from Fort Dodge to Jesup. At the halfway point, there was a truck stop where we stretched our legs and purchased lunch and snack items. The truck stop was very busy. Oh yeah, there was landscape material there also and the Laker hunters were out in force. The group continued on to Jesup without four cars because the humans were agate licking and talking. When we realized we were left behind, we jumped into the cars and tried to catch up with the group.

We were 15 to 20 minutes behind the leaders, but I had directions to the site with me. I was doing well until we missed a sign to the county road we were to take. A backtrack of a couple of miles put us further behind, but we were close. There was some concern about whether we were on the correct road because the "gravel road" we were supposed to be on was actually paved.

When our group finally arrived at the collection site, there were 10 rock pups, 25 people from Iowa, and 10 members along with two new Mineral Monkeys from the Lincoln club, ready to dig geodes.



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# JESUP, IOWA FIELD TRIP - CONT'D

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The pit where the geodes were found was on private property. It was a barrow pit that was an easy walk into. There were shovels, picks,

hammers, and buckets everywhere, and the soundS of digging filled the air. The limestone had to be peeled back to reveal the geodes as small walnut size bumps to a few that were near 10 inches in size. Calcite crystals having a secondary growth of brown calcite made them look purple when first pulled out of the ground and opened.

The day was beautiful with cool sunshine and no bugs. After about three hours of digging, most people started leaving for the return trip home with a good number of geodes. They left with not only geodes, but stories of the fun had on a great day in Iowa.



This is what made it home with the Marburgers.

I forgot to mention that we were told no Lakers could be found in the Fort Dodge/Jesup area. Of course, our very own Laker-hound, Corey, found several Lakers in the landscape rock, both in Fort Dodge and at the truck stop. To Sharon's frustration and aggravation, Corey picked up a Laker she had just stepped over! Darned "pretty rock syndrome!" When he showed the River Valley Rockhounds members what he had found in the landscaping, he received the exclamation, "WOW! Where DID you find those?!!"

Thank you, LGMC members who attended. A gigantic thank you to the Fort Dodge club for hosting the dig. We are hosting a reciprocal field trip to Royal, Nebraska to visit the Ashfall State Historical Park on June 21, 2014, followed by a hunt at a gravel pit in the area as a thank you to the River Valley Rockhounds. Please see the article on page 5 in this *Pick and Shovel* for more information. I hope to see you there.



By the way, if you have questions about fossils, Robert Wolf is the man to talk to. He has written two field guides on the fossils of Iowa. You can find comprehensive coverage of more than 150 sites in Iowa and the adjacent areas of Minnesota and Nebraska, with the types of fossils found and precise directions, at <http://www.robertcharleswolf.net/works.htm>.



photos by Jim & Sharon Marburger

New members, the Kempers, searched with exuberance!



If you are ever in need of a nametag, take note of President Ed's impromptu nametag.