

CLUB EVENTS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

Here it is February, which means we're on the downside of winter! **Geology Day** was held at Pioneer Park Nature Center February 16. We had over 100 guests this year! Jim Marburger, our 2nd VP and Karen Messenger, club member and Hostess for the Park Dept., organized this event and they did a great job. (See Jim's report, p.3) **The February meeting** is on the 27th at Antelope park shelter house from 7-9pm **The Rock Swap** was a great time, as it always is. Our new location proved to be easy to find, as we had plenty of guests. Thanks to David Heffelbower for organizing this year's swap. Thanks also to Roger Pabian and Phyllis Parks for the fascinating program at the **Jan. meeting**. It was a video entitled "Harold Edgerton and His Incredible Seeing Machine." **LPS/ Pfizer Science Fair** demo is fast approaching, Tuesday, March 4 from 5-7pm at Pershing Auditorium. Anyone is welcome to come and "show what we do" at this worthwhile event. **The Kansas City Show** is March 7, 8 and 9th, at the KCI Expo Center. I have coupons for \$1 off that I will bring our February meeting. **The LGMC Show** is March 29 & 30th at Pershing Auditorium. Be prepared to sign up for display cases and polish off those favorite items for display. We'll talk more about that at the February meeting.

In the meantime, sweet rock dreams!

Susy



DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

The big red X on your newsletter is not a Valentine's kiss, nor is it a marker for buried treasure. If you have the red x on your label, it means that your dues have not been paid and this is your last Pick & Shovel. If you want to continue as a member of LGMC and receive our newsletter, please pay dues at the Feb 27th meeting or call Phyllis Parks 476-6798.

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/jna/gemclub/lgmc.htm>



February

- 25 Show committee meeting-Walt Library, Room 1- 7PM
- 27 General Meeting, Antelope Park 7-9 P.M.

March

- 4 Pfizer Science Fair (See President's Message)
- 5 Board Meeting, Kinko's 48th& Vine 7PM
- 28 Setup day for the show
- 29-30 LGMC 45h Annual Show (no general meeting)

April

- 2 Board Meeting...place to be announced
- 24 General meeting, Antelope Park 7PM

May

- 7 Board Meeting...place to be announced
- 22 General meeting, Antelope Park 7PM
- 24-26 President's field trip...Details to follow



February General Meeting

Program: "Lewis and Clark and the Geology of the Great Plains" by Robert F. Diffendal, Jr., of the Conservation and Survey Division at the University of Nebraska.

Display Material: "Identification Night" -bring in any items that you want to have identified. Roger Pabian will bring his test equipment including the refractometer and polaris cope, dichroscope, etc.

Door Prizes: Phyllis Parks & Susy McMahan

Snacks: Judy Reilly

FROM SHOW COMMITTEE:

SHOW DAYS VERY SOON!

AT THE FEB. MEETING, BE PREPARED TO TELL HOW MUCH "DISPLAY SPACE" YOU WILL NEED FOR THE SHOW AND HOW MUCH TIME YOU WILL BE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER TO "SET UP" ON FRIDAY, MARCH 28 AND TO "TEAR DOWN" ON SUNDAY, MARCH 30 AT 5PM WHEN THE SHOW CLOSES. **"IT'S OUR CLUB, OUR SHOW, OUR RESPONSIBILITY, AS WELL AS OUR FUN TIME!"**

A willing helper does not wait till he is asked.

-- Danish Proverb

YOUTH NOTES
by Kay Jurgens

Unfortunately, I can't come to the February Meeting, but Brett will be there to discuss plans for the show, that is, how you want to run the junior booth. This is always a lot of fun to plan. I'll have the prairie agates that we can look at and the juniors can pick some out.

Earth's Treasure



Displays
Fossils
Working Exhibits
Gem Dig
Door Prizes

Dealers
Programs
Minerals
Family Activities
Jewelry

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club
45th Annual Show

March 29-30, 2003

Pershing Auditorium

Between M Street and N Street on 15th,
Lincoln, NE

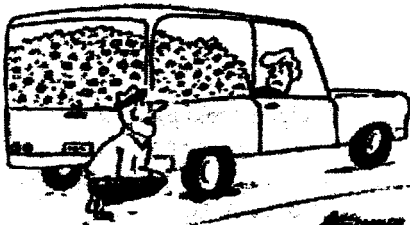
Admission: Adults- \$4.00, Children Under 12-Free with Adult
Two-Day Pass - \$6.00

Hours: Saturday, March 29, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 30, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

\$1 OFF BRING THIS COUPON OR NEWSPAPER AD.

45th Annual Show

ALL ADULT ADMISSIONS TO THE SHOW!



We'll be on our way in no time Agnes
You unload the rocks and I'll change the tire

by Bill Mittlebeeler via The Badger Diggin's 2/03 via Dust & Grit 2/00,
via Golden Spike News 4/00



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?
by Judy Reilly

I'm writing this to the background music of snow blowers growling and snow shovels scraping. Well, this is what we were all praying for, right? (Hmmm, let me think about that.) I'm not sure if the ground hog saw it's shadow or not, but I'm betting this isn't the last of the snow. Just so it's done by June when my vacation is scheduled. Everyone says we need the moisture but I was sort of hoping for 72 degrees and rain...not SNOW!

It's hard to believe, but show time is rolling around again. Your Show Committee, headed by John Harrison, has been meeting regularly to insure another great springtime show. The committee chairpersons need our help in a million ways so that everything runs smoothly. If you are not already involved in the show, see John and read the March Pick & Shovel for ideas on how you can help.

We'd like to "welcome" two new ADULT members. The grandsons of our member, Kenneth Doe have turned 16. Welcome Dan Cromer and Aaron Nelsen.

The club extends best wishes to Ken Doe for a return to good health as we miss him at our meetings.

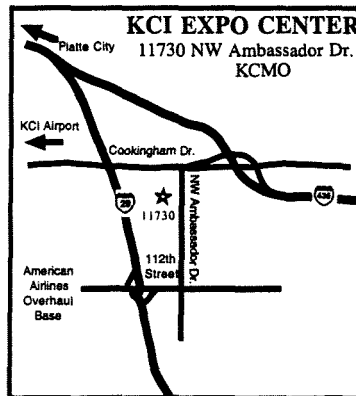
Remember to call me @ 421-3064 or send me an email at jshannonreilly@aol.com, if you have any member news or articles you would like printed. Deadline for the March Pick&Shovel is March 5.

Oh, don't forget the Kansas City Show March 7-9. It's a great one!

The Association of Earth Science Clubs
of Greater Kansas City presents it's
42nd ANNUAL - 2003

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.



Retail & Wholesale Dealers, Beads, Crystals, Fossils, Jewelry, Lapidary, Minerals, Petrified Wood, Swap Area, Special Displays for Schools, Walk Through Story Book, Flint Knappers, College Displays, Club Member Displays & Demonstrations, Lectures & Slide Presentations. Valuable Door Prizes, Auction Saturday Night, & Silent Auction Sunday, with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

The 5,854 carat salmon colored Dare Devil Cubic Zirconium, precious stones with gem crystals, and precious metals from the Houston Museum of Natural History. Minerals and Mining Artifacts from Southern Illinois, American Fluorite Museum. Mr. Bones, a walking dinosaur skeleton, will be returning.

LOTS OF FREE PARKING

Adults - \$5.00
Children Under 12 - \$2.00

\$1.00 Off with Coupon

School & Scout Group Rates
www.kcgemshow.org

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Jan. 2, 2003
(Thur) 7:00 P.M. at Phyllis Parks home - 2435 S. 19th St.

All members of the Board present for this first Meeting of the New Year! Guests were Ed Ridge, Judy Reilly, John Harrison.

The Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were approve with motion by Pat Akins, 2nd by Dave Heffelbower. Carried.

President McMahan presented the proposed budget for 2003. Members went through and discussed some changes. Motion was made by Phyllis Parks to recommend approval of proposed budget to rank & file; as printed in Pick & Shovel. 2nd by Jim Marburger. Carried.

Committee for Club 50th Anniversary will be same as Steering Committee for future MWF Show. As follows: John Harrison, Chair, Roger Pabian, Jim Marburger, Jim Atkins, Pat Akins, Phillip Rose, Phyllis Parks, Vera Lyman, Sec. Sharon Marburger.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brett Jurgens has agreed to serve as Property Chairperson.
Dave Heffelbower has agreed to serve 1 year term on Nominating committee (finishing term for his wife Billie who passed away last Nov.)

Memorial: Paul Brauch passed away Dec. 22, 2002. Memorials were approved with motion by John Harrison, 2nd by Phyllis Parks, Carried. (\$ 25. each to LPS Scholarship Foundation and Audubon Society).

Committee Reports: In March, the LPS/Pfizer demonstrations will be held again. Club volunteers are needed. It's only for a short time, and lots of students attend (last year, 900+) Details at General Meeting.

Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday Jan 14, @ 7:00 P.M. Phyllis' home.

Show Committee Meeting: Wednesday Jan. 22, @ 7:00 P.M. New Library across from Lincoln Memorial Park.

Field Trips: June, Weeping Water Days.
Labor Day Weekend - Trip to Crawford, NE for hunting.

Other Events: Geology Day - February 16
Grinding Party - July 20
GEM PALETTE - out in January
PICK & SHOVEL - Deadline February 5
Board Meeting - Wed. Feb. 5, 7:00 P.M. at Jim Atkins Home - 3028 So. 35th.

Motion to adjourn, Jim M., 2nd Pat A. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Lyman
Vera Lyman, Secretary

LGMC Treasurer's Report for January, 2003		
Pinnacle Checking Balance on Dec. 31, 2002		\$ 2,069.23
January Receipts:		
Dealer fees-2003 Show	675.00	
Membership Dues	306.00	
Donation-Spec Lap Class Fund	36.50	
Pizza Supper - Suspense	90.00	
Silent Auction	160.50	
Swap Bucks - 10%	153.15	
Pick & Shovel Ad	45.00	
Gem Palette - Suspense	28.00	
Swap Change Return	500.00	1,994.15
Transfer from Money Market		<u>1,000.00</u>
January Payments:		
City Parks & Rec.-2003 Rent	525.00	
NAOESCI Dues	73.00	
Friends of State Museum	70.00	
MWF Dues	153.50	
Security Storage-6 months	378.00	
Memorial-Paul Brauch	50.00	
Postmaster-Mail Swap flyers	14.80	
Judy Reilly-Dec P & S	74.04	
Nebr Sales Tax - 2002 Show	297.23	
Judy Reilly - Jan P & S	49.51	
Swap Change	500.00	
Safety Deposit box Rent-1 year	23.00	
Valentino's - Swap Supper	111.78	
City Parks & Rec - 2% on gross(Swap)	6.27	
Anniversary Cake	15.00	
Pershing - 2003 Contract	<u>700.00</u>	3,041.13
Pinnacle Checking Balance on Jan. 31, 2003		\$ 2,022.25

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB INC. - GENERAL MEETING - Jan. 25, 2003
Combined ANNUAL SWAP & MEETING. 49th Club Anniversary
SWAP - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM 7:30 PM Meeting Antelope Shelter House

The Annual SWAP went very well with 13 signed up for Swapping. Lots of visitors in attendance in spite of cold and snow on the ground.

Members enjoyed Pizza supper after the busy afternoon and before the Meeting.

Meeting called to order by Pres. McMahan at 7:15 PM. with 22 members present.

Minutes and Treasurer's report approved with motion by Jim Marburger and 2nd by Pat Akins. Motion carried.

The proposed Club Budget was presented. Motion for approval by Charles Wooldridge. 2nd by Pat Akins. Carried.

Treasurer, Phyllis Parks announced that contracts from Pershing Center had been received. They are as follows: 2006 - March 25,26
2007 - March 24,25 2008 - March 22,23 2009 - March 28,29
(They will keep the 4th weekend in April open for 2008 for a possible MWF Show if we wish to change to that weekend).

Motion by John Harrison and 2nd by Roger Pabian that the contracts be accepted. Motion carried.

SCHOLARSHIP: Chairperson reported that recipient would not be known when awarding to "undergraduate". Discussion followed. Members favored knowing who was receiving the Scholarship. Motion was made by Charles Wooldridge to change status back to "Graduate student" as a recipient. 2nd by John Harrison. Carried.

SHOW: Chairman John Harrison reported all committees up to date with duties. Next Committee Meeting will be Feb. 25 (Tues) 7:00 PM at Wait Library, Rm 1.

NAOESCI Pres. Ben Vrana requested someone to take care of Nebraska case at our Show. Roger will contact Ben and make arrangements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Geology Day - Feb. 16, 1-4 PM @ Pioneer Nature Center.
March 4 (Tue) Pfizer/LPS Science Fair at Ag Hall
MWF SHOW - Aug. 15-17 Cottage Grove, MN - Phyllis P. Delegate.

PROGRAM: Arranged by Roger. "Edgerton - The Incredible Seeing Machine" (Harold Edgerton "Doc") It was very fascinating and held everyone's attention. Thanks, Roger.

Door prizes awarded to: Bill Wild, Jim Marburger, Yonis LoneEagle, Brett Jurgens, Roger Pittard, Sharon Marburger.

The evening ended with everyone enjoying Anniversary Cake - 49th!

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Lyman

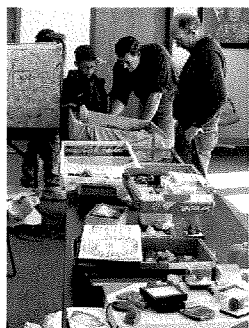
Vera Lyman, Secretary

GEOLOGY DAY, 2003



The 2003 Geology Day was held from 1-4 p.m. on February 16 at the Pioneer Park Activity Center. It was sponsored by the Lincoln City Parks & Recreation Department and hosted by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. Although there was a lot of snow and ice on the ground, the day was beautiful with a blue sky and bright sunshine.

With the bad weather of the previous couple of days, it was doubtful that many people would venture out. There were a lot of snow sleds and cross country skiers as I entered the park to set up. How many would show up to see the displays and talk about geology????

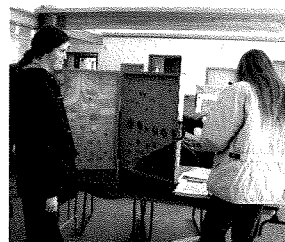
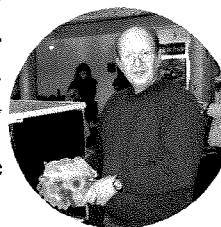


From the club we had the faithful few who provided some fine displays; Roger Pabian, David Heffelbower, Ed Ridge, Jim Aktins, Judy Reilly, and Karen and Charles Messenger. These fine souls were met with an intense crowd of more than 107 visitors. Many of the visitors were Cub Scouts from Lincoln, Beatrice, Valparaiso, Raymond, Friend, and Nebraska City. Some of the visitors brought specimens to be identified. Many questions were asked and answered, and a good time was had by all. Judging by the looks of anticipation for the upcoming Gem Show, many new members are in the making.



Thanks to all that were there. The 2004 Geology Day is set for February 15 and the Grinding Party July 18, 2004. We, as a club, need to make plans now for these events.

James Marburger, 2ND VP



Photos above and immediate left by Judy Reilly

Above photos by Roger Pabian

ROCKY RAMBLINGS BY EVEY....

THE BOLO TIE STRINGS



We were doing a show in Harlingen, Texas, when a man walked up to our booth and asked about the cost of our rayon bolo tie strings. He then told me he was a “dealer” and needed some. I thought about it and told him the price would be 50 cents each. He looked at me and said he could buy them from his friend for 25 cents each. I replied, “That’s where to buy them”. Soon he came back and said, “Well, he’s out.” I could not resist and yelled, “Hey, when I’m out, I sell them for 10 cents each!”

Well, he stood there for a little while and then came back and said, “Buddy, you got me on that one!” We both chuckled over this event, and then he asked me, “Do you have bolo tips with a ring on the end? I told him I did. He asked me how much they were. Knowing that he had tried to deal a deal before, I said, “Tell you what! What will you give me for them?”

He thought and thought, knowing the tips he was asking about sold for 50 cents a pair. For some time he thought it over and then said to me, “I’ll give you 40 cents a pair.” I, “Oh, no you are not giving me no 40 cents a pair”. All at once he looked at me and said, “I knew you would not take that for them!” I laughed and told him, “I’ll take 25 cents a pair”.

He stopped and said, “I’ll take all you got”. I asked what color – gold or silver? He said both colors. Once again, I asked, “Now do you really mean you will take all the tips I have?” “Yes”, he said, so I got them out and we counted and counted and I think I had a gross of each color. “Wow!” he exclaimed. “I didn’t know you had that many pairs of tips.” I laughed and told him I had more back in Lincoln, Nebraska, if he needed them. Well as the story goes, every year I went back to Harlingen and he came back and bought more. So watch out when someone says, “I’ll take all you got”.

Rockspectfully, Evey

Making A Bead Tree

By Terry Monagle

Making a tree from 24 gauge wire and some pretty beads is a lot of fun and can be very beautiful.

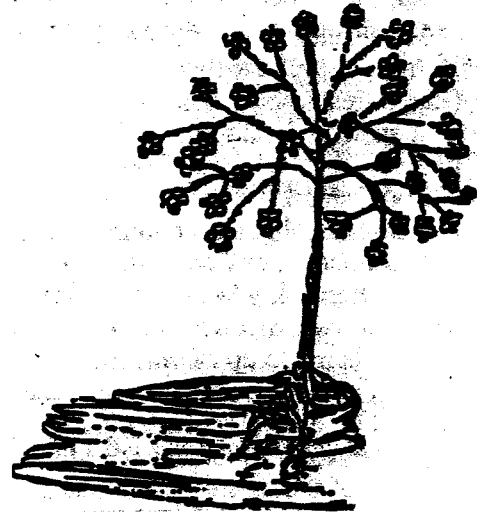
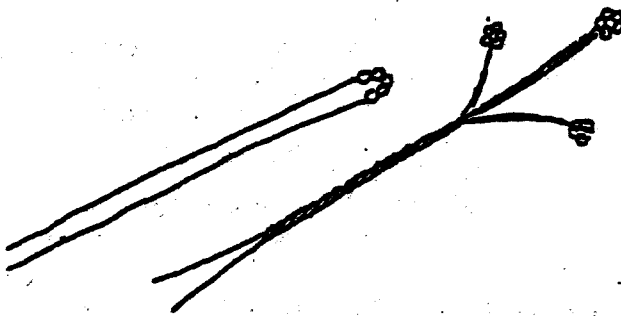
Assemble your materials:

1 pc. 24 gauge WIRE, 15 inches long

8 pcs. 24 gauge Wire, 18 inches long

125 small beads - 2 or 3mm each

A rock with a flat bottom for the base



1. Bend each wire in half but do not make a hard crease in the wire.
2. Place 5 beads in the center of the smallest wire. Make a circle of beads and twist the two parts of this wire tightly for about 1 inch below the bead circle. Make sure that the beads in this circle are not too loosely strung.
3. Repeat the same process on each of the 18 inch pieces of wire. Then, make a similar circle of beads about 1 inch from the twisted section of the wire, then twist again, making a stem which connects with the first twisted section.
4. Make a few more twists to form one stem for the three flowers.
5. When all wires are completed this far you are ready to assemble the tree. Start with the wire with only 1 flower. This will be your center branch.
6. Place two wire sections on either side of the center piece and gently twist where the branches meet and for about 1 inch below the spot where the branches meet for form the truck.
7. Now, place 3 wire branch sections to meet the truck at the bottom of the twist and twist, as before, for about 1 inch.
8. Repeat #7 but continue twisting the trunk wires until you reach the height you desire for your tree.
9. Separate the bottom wires into 4 or 5 sections and twist each section to make the root system. With wire cutters, cut off any excess wire.
10. Cement the roots of your creation securely to a rock (or other heavy object) which has been padded on its flat bottom so as not to scratch the furniture.

Variations: Bead chips may be substituted, using one or more on a loop or used in conjunction with beads. Metal or Stone leaves can be used. Flowers can be assembled on wax paper, then glued to the loops when thoroughly dry. Use your imagination. You will be surprised at the results.

FEDERATION NEWS

MWF NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2003

MWF INSURANCE COVERAGE

What does it cover?

I have had a number of questions regarding our coverage, about what is covered and what is not. I also hear about sites closing because the property owner's insurance will not let us in. I am not at all surprised by this fact. The insurance market is very soft right now, especially after the events surrounding 9/11. Many carriers are raising rates, limiting coverage and restricting their exposure. Landowners are concerned about injuries occurring on their property. We carry insurance coverage to assure the property owner that the club has coverage for potential liability issues. We do not carry coverage for our club members who may be injured. Property owners would never know if medical payments were afforded to a club member. I don't believe that collecting areas are being closed because we do not have medical payments coverage for our members. I believe that property owners do not want the potential for an injury to occur on their premises. There is a difference and we all have our own medical coverage anyway. As a matter of fact, I am not aware of any insurance company that would provide coverage for injury to our members.

Lets talk about what is covered:

First of all, each club gets a summary of coverage each year along with a certificate of insurance from our broker in Chicago. The summary is very clear- if you read these things every day! Here is what it says:

We have a "Commercial General Liability" policy. This means that we have coverage for OTHER PEOPLE AND THEIR PROPERTY if an injury or damage occurs.

As an example: let's say your club is digging for specimens in a quarry and somehow, someone's rock hammer falls into a crushing machine and disables the equipment. Our policy would provide "Property Damage Liability" coverage for repair and "down time" for up to \$1,000,000. If the operator were injured because of our hammer in his equipment, his medical treatment would be covered under our "Medical Payments" coverage up to \$10,000. If a severe injury resulted, a lawsuit could ensue requiring payments under our "Bodily injury Liability" coverage.

Lets assume we are once again in the quarry, only now we have "guests" or non- MWF members with us. These "guests" could include a Boy Scout Troop, an elementary school class on a field trip or other people we bring to the site under our direction. If one of our guests were injured by a falling rock or a flying rock shard, the guest would have coverage under our "medical Payments" coverage. (We have actually paid a claim of this type several years ago when a "guest" fell and twisted his ankle. The claim was in excess of \$5,000!)

You may have noted that I have not mentioned ANY coverage for our members who may have been injured. **OUR POLICY DOES NOT COVER ANY MEMBER FOR INJURIES**, whether accidental or not. If a member is injured in a rockslide, falling or tripping or even getting run over by a bulldozer, there is NO coverage.

Basically, we have coverage that will protect the landowner or mine owner from damage that WE may accidentally cause. (Of course there is no coverage for intentional acts of vandalism)

Our "Liability" coverage provides coverage at locations other than in our meeting places as well. The policy will provide coverage for field trips, shows and displays that may occur at other locations. Once again, protection is for the property or building owners against damage to their property and coverage for our guests.

Continued on page 6

(Continued from page 5)

Here is another example:

You have a show at the local convention center. All is going well, when a display tips over and a 200lb. piece of float copper falls on a guest's leg. Our policy would cover medical payments up to \$10,000. If the copper had fallen on the club member displaying the piece, NO COVERAGE would be afforded.

Lets go one step further and discuss another possible occurrence at this show: You step away from your display to visit with the locals and return to find your prized specimen has been stolen. Our policy DOES provide coverage of up to \$50,000 with a \$250 deductible. THIS IS THE ONLY AREA IN WHICH WE HAVE COVERAGE FOR OUR PROPERTY. Likewise, if you were on a dig and someone walked off with your JackHammer, coverage would apply here as well.

Let's summarize what is not covered:

- YOU are not covered for any injuries sustained on a field trip or dig.
- YOU are not covered for any injuries sustained at a show or convention.
- YOU are not covered for tools that you forget to pickup on a dig.

What is covered?

- Your guests for injuries on field trips and at shows
- Land owners for damage to their property
- Your specimens, equipment and displays at shows and "off-site" areas.

I recently put together one of the largest field trips that I am aware of. I coordinated with a local gravel mining operation, a school district, the local Police Department to direct traffic, and about 35 volunteers from the MN Mineral Club for site safety and security. Thank goodness! Because we were amazed when we had approximately 1400 people attend! Over 1000 of the participants were children looking for Lake Superior Agates! The "deal maker" or "deal breaker", was our insurance. Once the property owners were assured that the guests were covered, the gates were open...

We have good insurance coverage! Let's respect the rights of landowners and be careful when collecting. None of us wants to see a site close down. The gravel operation I discussed above does not allow ANY agate picking or trespassing on their property. I can't blame them, but by respecting their views, educating them about what we do and assuring them that we do have insurance coverage, we were able to have a great day for everyone involved.

Respectfully,

Jeff Theroux
Insurance Chairman

If you have questions, I can be reached at Home (952) 294-9904, Cell (612) 597-4635 or brief e-mails at work jeffrey.m.theroux@rssmb.com

2003 REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS

Combined California/AFMS June 5-8
Ventura, CA

Eastern Federation/ Oct. 17-19
Poughkeepsie, NY

Midwest Aug 15-17
Cottage Grove, MN

Northwest/ Aug 1-3
Kennewick, WA

Rocky Mountain/ July 11-13
Casper, WY

South Central/ Feb. 22-23
Pasadena, TX

Southeast
To Be Announced

Shop Safety

Some of the most unsafe places I have ever visited have been lapidary shops that have been operated by both amateurs and professionals. I have to admit that even before I began teaching the lapidary classes, there were some safety issues I would let slide. Now that I am responsible not only for the success of lapidary students, but also for their physical well-being, I have become much more adamant about safety procedures in the shop.

We can look at safety from several points of view: electrical, working condition of tools and equipment, and medical.

I have seen numerous shops in which none of the electrical circuits are properly grounded. In recent years, the ground fault interruptor (GFI) has come into use and these can prevent electrical shock. Keep in mind that in most lapidary operations, you are working around water. To make things more hazardous, some of the stones will contain electrolyte impurities that will make the water even more conductive. A properly grounded motor that is hooked into a circuit with GFIs is a must for shop safety.

Let us not stop with the motors that turn our arbors that hold the grinders and sanders that shape the stones. The electrical lighting that one uses above or alongside the grinders and sanders should also be properly grounded. For the very least, the circuitry should be far removed from the circuitry that powers the motors. Clamp on lights should not be directly overhead from the grinders or sanders, and they should never be attached directly to these units unless they are properly grounded. They can fall and you don't want them falling into wet, moving machinery that has electricity flowing into it.

Do you get any big, blue sparks and the sweet odor of

ozone when you turn on a motor? If so, the motor may have some internal short circuit that could lead to electrical shock

Did the electrician properly wire the house or shop when the circuits were being installed? Several years ago, I had an older house completely re-wired with three-prong, grounded circuits installed. It turned out that the electrician took a shortcut in installing the grounded plugs---the upper plugs were safe, but the lower plugs were not. I had made use of a circuit tester. Circuit testers are inexpensive and are available at most hardware stores or electrical suppliers. Use them!

Are there ample GFIs for the number of electrical outlets. Electrical codes in Lincoln call for one GFI for each three outlets. These codes may vary from place to place---I don't know them all and readers in other areas should check into their local codes. Keep in mind that legality does not necessarily imply safety.

Are your grinding and sanding wheels in good order? Most lapidary shops are now equipped with diamond grinders but advanced lapidaries will also have carbide and even hardwood grinders and sanders.

Carbide wheels should always be dressed such that they are flat and have no bumps in them. The bumps can cause chips to fly off of the wheel or off of the stone and fly back up at you. Carbide wheels can also break and fly into several large, dangerous objects that can cause considerable damage. The wheels should always have a solid metal splash guard on them to contain flying debris. The plastic or thin metal splash guards that are safe for sanding are not suitable for carbide grinding wheels. Always turn the carbide grinder on before supplying it with water.

Turn the water off and then turn the grinder off when shutting down the machine. Out of balance wheels are a prime cause of breakage.

Even diamond grinders that are not prone to fly apart can develop sharp burs on their sides and these can cause bad cuts. Occasionally I run a coarse salon board (sand paper on a stick) along the sides of the wheel to remove any small burs.

If you are using horizontal or vertical flat laps instead of cylindrical grinders, always have the stone in a position such that it flies away from you if it gets away. If you are demonstrating this at a show, have a clear plastic shield around the lap to keep the piece from flying into the crowd.

Pulleys and belts on equipment should always be shielded such that no one can get their fingers caught in the machinery. This is a rule I have seen violated so many times at shows, I can't count them all.

Is the rubber on the sanding drums still soft and pliable? Has the rubber developed any stiffness or has it begun to flake off? If so, the drum warrants replacement with a new one.

Maximum safe speed is a caveat that is often ignored. Most lapidary equipment operates best at a surface speed of about 2000 feet per minute for sawing, grinding, or sanding. Polishing requires much slower surface speeds. Most hobby equipment has a much slower maximum safe speed than does professional equipment. One lapidary read where commercial lapidaries turn their sanders at about 3,500 rpm so he set his hobby unit (maximum safe speed 1,725 rpm) to 3,500 rpm. The sanding drum burst on him and he spent the next two weeks looking like he had spent 15 rounds with Mohammed Ali.

Vapors from the saw oil are not safe to inhale over a

long term. It is best to wear some kind of mask to filter the air when you are sawing rocks. The same goes for grinding and sanding. If you are using a flowing coolant such as water, the fine particles are mostly being washed away before they reach the air. If you are sanding dry, always wear some breathing protection.

Always wear eye protection! Many small pieces fly off of the stones when you are grinding and sanding. The chances of a larger piece that may do immediate damage to the eye flying off of the wheel are small but the continued accumulation of small, sharp particles in the eye over a long time span can cause a great deal of eye damage.

The water from units that recycle the coolant should be changed frequently. The standing water in lapidary units can be a real breeding ground for all kinds of germs and bacteria. I drain the old water frequently and I use a non-foaming, germicidal additive in the water. Bacteria are airborne and are easily transmitted through the vapors made by the grinders.

If you use an alcohol lamp for dopping, keep it in a tray of sand such that it can't get turned over.

The above are some cardinal rules for safety in your shop. Look over your shop and find the accidents that are waiting to happen. Correct them and enjoy your lapidary pursuits.

Keep on hand the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) forms for the chemicals and coolants you use in your shop. And, finally, don't use ethylene glycol antifreeze for a coolant.

Be safe!

Roger K. Pabian

2003 ELECTED OFFICERS

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L. G. M. C. web address—courtesy of Jim Atkins:

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/jna/gemclub/lgmc.htm>

Your PICK & SHOVEL Staff

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The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences including but not necessarily limited to geology, paleontology and mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these fields to its members and the general public, especially to youth and student groups.

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Subscription to the Pick & Shovel is \$10.00 per year mailed.

Dues to Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

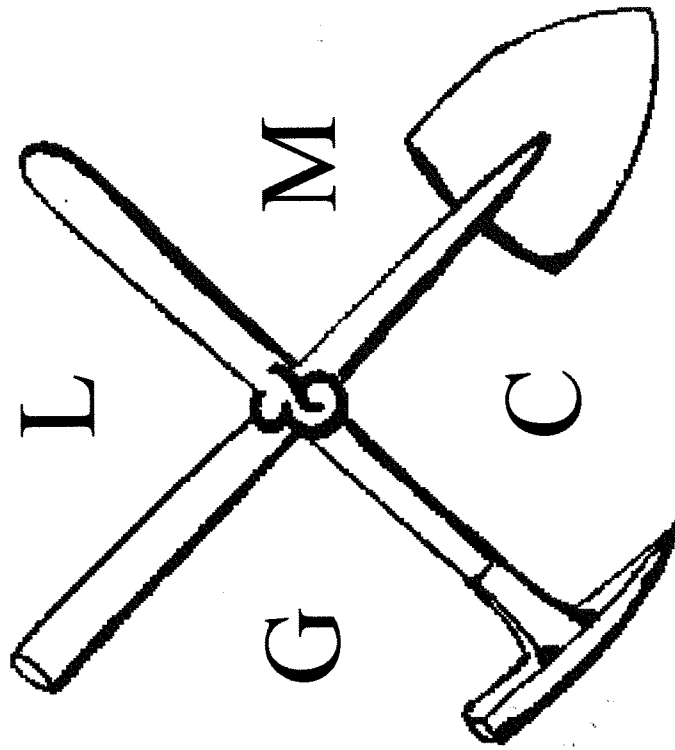
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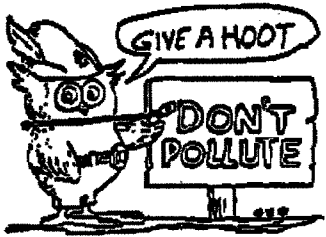
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THE PICK & SHOVEL

February 2003

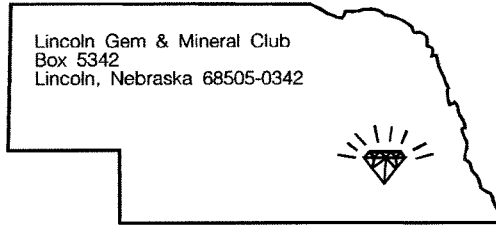


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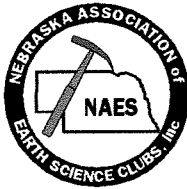
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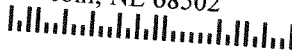
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