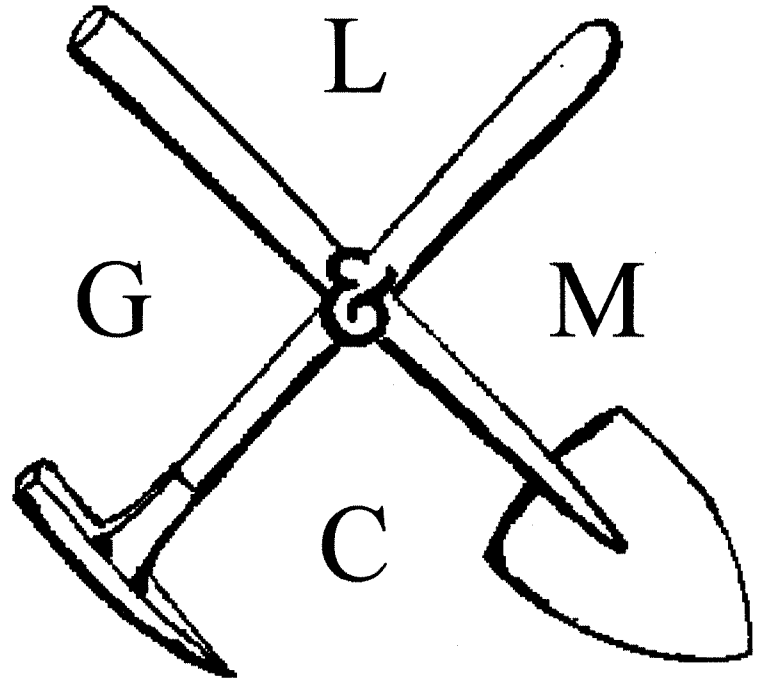


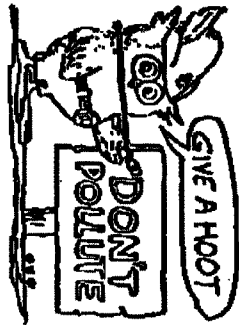
# THE PICK & SHOVEL

November 2004



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

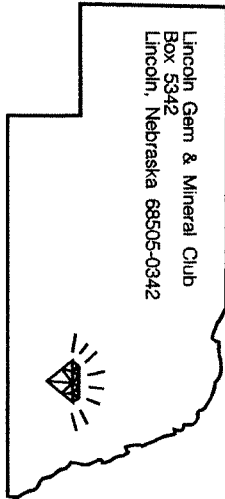


## H.E.L.P.

Help Eliminate Litter Please

Mail Exchange Bulletins To:

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club  
Box 5342  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342



*Historian*



Associated with



## CLUB EVENTS

**Nov. 18** General Meeting & Election of Officers, Antelope Park Shelter-7PM

**Dec. 1** Board Meeting, Kinko's 48th&Vine, 7 PM.

**5** Christmas Party/ Meeting, Antelope Park Shelter, 5-9 PM

**Jan. 22** Swap, Antelope Park Shelter, 1-5PM. Pizza Party following SWAP, General Meeting at 7PM.

### Recap of October Meeting

The Reunion/ Halloween Party was a great time. Some old friends attended and we had several guests. **Sharon Marburger** provided prizes for costumes worn by: **Judy Reilly** (Picasso Stone), **Phyllis Parks** (The Old Fossil), **Betty White** (Beautiful Crystal), **Susy McMahan** (Star Sapphire), and **Leah Anderson** (Rock Girl).

A secret benefactor (guess who?) donated the BBQ pork sandwiches for dinner and the club members brought a wide variety of side dishes and desserts.

Eric Fritsch gave a very informative presentation entitled "Minerals Of Canada." Thank you Eric.

The Silent Auction contributions were wonderful this year...the money was split evening between LGMC Lapidary Fund and the Midwest Federation Endowment Fund. Thanks to all who participated.

Many thanks to **David Heffelbower** for the beautiful door prize contributions.

### November Meeting

**Program** "Lecheguilla Cave" Film Presentation by **David Heffelbower**

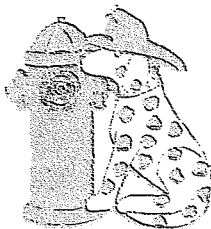
**Election of 2004 Officers:** Nominations accepted from the floor.

**Treats:** The finger foods worked out well last time...let's try that again!

**Door Prizes:** Donated by **Susy McMahan**

### December Meeting

**Christmas Party- See Page 2**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! After cooking for three days for the Halloween/Reunion party, I would like to thank **Sharon** for her hard work. I won't take credit for the pork BBQ. We had a full roaster in the back of the car when I had a sinking feeling – would we have enough? Then we pulled into the park – WOW!! Lincoln busses shuttling people to the Club meeting. Where will we park? Panic!! Then I realized we were being invaded by Boo at the Zoo.

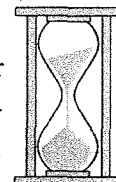
The Club had good attendance for our meeting and we had many guests. Six new membership applications were filled out and turned in. Thanks to everyone who helped make our reunion meeting a great experience.

Rock ON!

James Marburger

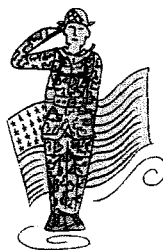
## TIME FOR DUES AGAIN

It's that time again! LGMC dues are payable by January 1, 2004. Dues will be accepted at any meeting prior to January 31 or by mail. Payment can be sent to: Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, PO Box 5342, Lincoln, NE. 68505. Dues are \$10 per adult( age 16 and over), \$2 per junior (age 12-16), and \$22 per family (husband,wife & resident children under age 16). Cost of Gem Palette, the State Association Publication ( four issues/ year) is \$5 per household. Any member not paying 2004 dues before January 31 will be assessed a \$5 reinstatement fee. Don't let your membership lapse! We are all needed to make the club a success!



## VOTE VOTE VOTE

Elections will be at the meeting Thursday, November 18 at Antelope Park Shelter. Please be there to nominate anyone of your choice and VOTE!



Veteran's Day, Nov. 11



Thanksgiving Nov. 25

**Regional Federation Shows****Southeast**

December 10-12, 2004, Norcross, GA.

**California**

June 10-12, 2005, Roseville, CA.

**Rocky Mountain**

June, 2005, Colorado Springs, CO.

**Eastern**

March 19-20, 2005, Athens, PA.

**Northwest**

August 5-7, 2005, Albany, Oregon

**Midwest/ AFMS**

August 16-21, 2005, St. Louis, MO.

**WHAT'S THE BUZZ?**by **Judy Reilly**

My apologies for being late with the newsletter this month. I was confused (forgot about Thanksgiving pushing the meeting up) and I still don't do well sitting so my computer time is diminished.

Please welcome the following new members (all attended the Oct 28th meeting) to the club:

**Lonnie and Susan Esquivel** 6933 Burlington, Lincoln 68507, 466-4465, cell 416-2764. Lonnie & Susan are interested in tumbling and cutting rocks, geology, field trips, fossils, rock swaps, minerals and artifacts. They also enjoy photography and antiquing. They are willing to serve on a committee and displaying materials.

**John and Patricia Hardesty** 14530 N 3rd, Raymond, NE. 68428, 402 783 2776 cell 432 5373. John & Patricia tumbling, cutting and carving rocks, field trips, fossils and rock swaps.

**Richard Peterson** 2720 South 74th St. 68506, 489-2996. Richard is retired from UNL. He enjoys tumbling and cutting rocks, geology, field trips, fossils, minerals and agates.

**Don Ward** 1275 Wilderness, Crete, NE. 68333, 402 826 4254. Don is interested in faceting and owns his own faceting machine.

Congratulations to new Granny, **Susy McMahan!** Susy's daughter, Rose gave birth to a baby boy, Ian Lee Williams, Nov. 9. Ian was 7#3oz., 19 1/2 inches long and, according to his unbiased grandmother, is the most beautiful baby in the world. Both mother and baby are fine (though granny was a little bit of a wreck...)

**Fossil Cleaning Tip**

Clean limestone fossils with a little Sani-flush in a pail of water. After the fizzing stops, drain and repeat as necessary. Rinse thoroughly when finished. As with any chemical, use caution and protect your eyes.

Stoney Statements via The Trilobite, November 2002

**LGMC Christmas Party**

Sunday, Dec. 5, the LGMC will have our annual Christmas Buffet at Antelope Park Shelter. Doors open at 5PM and we will eat at 6PM. As always, the club will provide the meats and beverage. Each member is asked to bring a hot dish, salad or dessert and their own table service. Also, we hope everyone participates in the gift exchange. Bring a wrapped, hobby-related gift of approximately \$5 value for exchange. The new officers and Board of Directors will be introduced at the meeting. Please come and bring a guest or two for a great celebration.

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. – BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

October 4, 2004, Kinko's, 48th and Vine

President Jim Marburger called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Board members present were Jim Marburger, Pat Akins, Roger Pabian, Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger, Jim Atkins, and John Harrison. Ed Ridge was the only guest.

The minutes of the previous meeting were handed out. John Harrison made the motion to accept the minutes as printed, 2nd by Pat Akins. Motion carried. Pat Akins moved to accept the Treasurer's report, 2nd by Jim Atkins. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion of the October reunion meeting. Pork for sandwiches will be donated to the Club. Pat Akins moved that the Club purchase buns, salads, and beverages for the meal, Jim Atkins 2nd. Motion carried. Program will be provided by Eric Fritsch. Members will be asked to bring self-collected or made items for display. Invitations will be mailed to all current Club members and past members who are still in the area. Community service ads will be placed in the newspapers by the Secretary. Mr. President will look through the historical files to locate pictures and items of interest.

Pat Akins again mentioned the possibility of Club members attending a Mining Safety Class. This class is required for anyone who wishes to hunt at rock quarries/sand pits. He will get more information and present it at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The Rock and Minerals gift subscription to UNL is due for renewal. Roger Pabian moved to continue the subscription for two years, 2nd by Pat Akins, motion carried.

An application for membership from Jerry Moore was brought before the Board. Jim Atkins made the motion to accept Mr. Moore's application, 2nd by John Harrison. Motion carried.

Started planning the Christmas party. It will be held on December 5, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Antelope Park Shelter. As in the past, the Club will provide the meat; members will supply the hot dishes, salads and desserts. Hobby related gift exchange, not to exceed \$5.00.

Vera Lyman will make arrangements to reserve the Shelter for the January 22 Rock Swap, which will be held from 1:00-5:00. Last year's pizza supper was such a success, it will be repeated this year. An anniversary cake will be provided. Need items for silent auction.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, November 3 at Kinko's. December Board meeting will be Wednesday, December 1 at Kinko's.

Motion by Jim Atkins to adjourn; second by Pat Akins. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Marburger*

LGMC'S Treasurer's Report for October 2004

Pinnacle Checking Balance on September 29, 2004		\$ 3,664.69
<b>October Receipts:</b>		
Four 2005 Show Dealers @ 450.00	1,800.00	
Silent Auction - 10/28 Meeting	172.50	
2 MWF Dir. copies (Suspense)	5.50	
Name badges-Anderson Fam. (Suspense)	28.73	
NEW Members (5) & Regis fees	65.00	
Membership Dues-2005 (4)	40.00	2,111.73
<b>October Payments:</b>		
Kinkos - 10/4 Board Mtg	10.00	
Heldref Pub - UNL Libraries	145.60	
2-yr subs "Rocks & Minerals		
MWF Endowment Fund-Evry Club Challenge	10.00	
City Parks & Rec Dep- Jan 2005 Reserv	165.00	
Ideal Grocery-Food 10/28 Mtg.	33.04	
Vera Lyman-Food, plates etc. 10/28 Mtg	31.81	
City Parks & Rec Dep-.02% on Swap Lic.	3.45	398.90
Pinnacle Bank Checking Balance October 31, 2004		\$ 5,377.52

GENERAL MEETING – October 28, 2004, Antelope Park Shelter

The Halloween/Reunion meeting was called to order by President Jim Marburger at 7:35 p.m. Twenty-six members and eight guests were present for the meeting.

Phyllis Parks moved to accept the minutes of the May meeting as printed, 2nd by Pat Akins. Motion carried. The motion to accept the treasurer's report was received by Phyllis Parks, 2nd by Pat Akins. Motion carried. The 2005 show budget was brought before the membership. Phyllis Parks moved to accept it, 2nd by Pat Akins. Motion carried.

Treasurer Lyman reported that the checks written to the AFMS scholarship were never cashed, so they were written back into the account. Discussion ensued regarding trying to give the money again. Phyllis Parks moved that the club give 400%, 2nd by Marilyn Stewart.

Judy Reilly reported that Suzy McMahan and Vera Lyman have jointed her on the juniors steering committee. They are accepting ideas for activities to attract and keep young club members. Please phone any of them with suggestions.

Anyone who has requested or would like a copy of the Midwest Federation directory, please see Vera Lyman.

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following as officers: President – Jim Marburger; First Vice President – Pat Akins; Second Vice President – Roger Pittard; Secretary – Sharon Marburger; Treasurer – Vera Lyman; and Jim Atkins, Judy Reilly, John Harrison, David Heffelbower, Suzy McMahan, and Charles Wooldridge for Board Members.

Prizes were awarded to the best costumes. Judy Reilly won best prize, dressed as Picasso stone. Phyllis Parks was a "tired old fossil", Betty White a beautiful crystal, Suzy McMahan a blue star sapphire, and Leah Anderson a rock girl.

As there was no new business, the meeting adjourned to the program at 7:58 p.m. on the motion by Pat Akins and 2nd by Judy Reilly.

Eric Fritsch presented the program Minerals of Canada. Thank you, Eric.

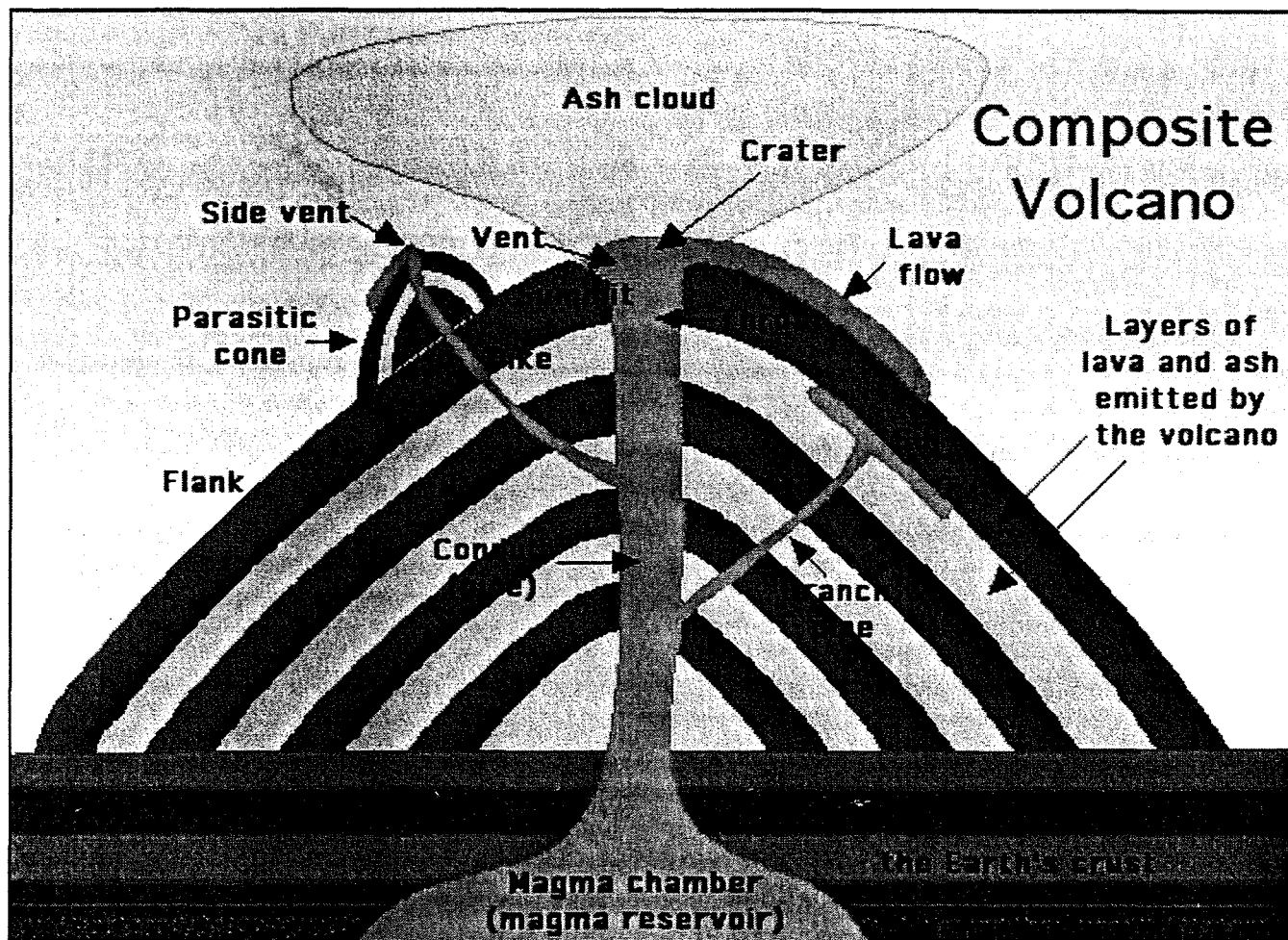
After the meeting, two more members and two guests arrived.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Marburger

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## For Juniors

From Quarry Quips, October 2004



A volcano is a place on the Earth's surface (or any other planet's or moon's surface) where molten rock, gases and pyroclastic debris erupt through the earth's crust. Volcanoes vary quite a bit in their structure - some are cracks in the earth's crust where lava erupts, and some are domes, shields, or mountain-like structures with a crater at the summit.

Magma is molten rock within the Earth's crust. When **magma** erupts through the earth's surface it is called **lava**. Lava can be thick and slow-moving or thin and fast-moving. Rock also comes from volcanoes in other forms, including ash (finely powdered rock that looks like dark smoke coming from the volcano), cinders (bits of fragmented lava), and **pumice** (light-weight rock that is full of air bubbles and is formed in explosive volcanic eruptions - this type of rock can float on water).

Volcanic eruptions can cause great damage and the loss of life and property.

#### The Word Volcano:

The word volcano comes from the Roman god of fire, Vulcan. Vulcan was said to have had a forge (a place to melt and shape iron) on Vulcano, an active volcano on the Lipari Islands in Italy.

#### Extreme Volcanoes:

The largest volcano on **Earth** is **Hawaii's** Mauna Loa. Mauna Loa is about 6 miles (10 km) tall from the sea floor to its summit (it rises about 4 km above sea level). It also has the greatest volume of any volcano, 10,200 cubic miles (42,500 cubic kilometers). The most active volcano in the continental USA is Mt. St. Helens (located in western **Washington** state).

The largest volcano in our **Solar System** is perhaps Olympus Mons on the planet **Mars**. This enormous volcano is 17 miles (27 km) tall and over 320 miles (520 km) across.

Enchanted Learning, <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/volcano/>, 2001

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATE STONES?

by Dolores E. Rose, club member

At the MWF convention banquet, in April of 2004, we played a game of "Rockhound Jeopardy." One of the categories was "State Stones." Everyone groaned when we all learned this was a category. It seems we were all a little bit "rusty" on this subject. As a result, not many points were scored in this category, except for the few questions that were asked to members that were present from those states. I decided research was in order to find out what the state stones were. I discovered that it was quite intimidating trying to remember all this information. I decided to break it down into more digestible bites by learning the state stones from each federation, starting of course, with my own federation, the Midwest Federation

**The Midwest Federation** consists of eleven states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska (eastern portion of state), North Dakota (eastern portion of state), Ohio, South Dakota (eastern portion of state), and Wisconsin.

**Illinois** has no state rock, only a state mineral, which is **Fluorite**. **Indiana** has a state rock, which is **Limestone**. **Iowa** has a state rock, the (Keokuk) **Geode**. **Michigan** has a state rock, the **Petoskey Stone** and a state gemstone, **Chlorastrolite** (also known as **Greenstone** or **Isle Royal Greenstone**). **Minnesota's** state gemstone is the **Lake Superior Agate**, and they do not have a state rock. **Nebraska's** state rock is the **Prairie Agate**, and their state gemstone is the **Nebraska Blue Agate** (also known as **Blue Chalcedony**). **North Dakota** has no state rock or gemstone, only a state fossil, **Teredo Petrified Wood**. **Ohio** has only a state gemstone, **Ohio Flint**. **South Dakota** has a state gemstone, the **Fairburn Agate**, and a state mineral, **Rose Quartz**, but no state rock. **Wisconsin** has a state rock, **Red Granite**, and a state gemstone, **Ruby**.

**The Rocky Mountain Federation** consists of ten states: Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska (Western portion of state), New Mexico, North Dakota (Western portion of state), Oklahoma, South Dakota (Western portion of state) Utah, and Wyoming. We already learned the state stones of Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota, as they were learned in the MWF section. That leaves seven new state stones to learn from this federation.

**Arizona** has no state rock but a state gemstone of **Turquoise** and a state mineral of **Fire Agate**. **Colorado's** state rock is **Yule Marble**, a state gemstone of **Rhodochrosite**, and a state mineral of **Aquamarine**. **Kansas** has no state stone, mineral or gemstone. **New Mexico's** state gemstone is **Turquoise** but has no state rock. **Oklahoma** has a state rock, the **Barite "Rose"**. **Utah's** state rock is **Coal**, its state gemstone is **Topaz**, and its state mineral is **Copper**. **Wyoming** has a state gemstone, which is **Nephrite Jade**, but no state rock or mineral.

**The Northwest Federation** consists of five states: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. **Alaska** has a state gemstone of **Jade**, a state mineral of **Gold**, but no state rock. **Idaho** only has a state gemstone, which is **Star Garnet**. **Montana** has two state gemstones, **Montana Agate** and **Yogo Sapphire**, and no state rock. **Oregon** has only a state gemstone, which is **Sunstone**. **Washington** has only a state gemstone, **Petrified Wood**.

**The California Federation** consists of three states: California, Hawaii, and Nevada. **California's** state rock is **Serpentine**, its state mineral is **Native Gold**, and its state gemstone is **Benitoite**. **Hawaii** has only a state gemstone, which is **Black Coral**. **Nevada** has **Sandstone** as its state rock. It has several state gemstones: **Nevada Turquoise**, **Peridot**, and **Virgin Valley Opal**. Its state mineral is **Silver**.

Cont. on pg. 5

The **South Central Federation** consists of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. **Arkansas** has a state stone, which is **Bauxite**, a state gemstone, which is **Diamond**, and a state mineral, which is **Quartz**. **Louisiana** has only a state gemstone, the **Louisiana Banded Agate**. **Texas** has a state stone, **Petrified Palmwood**, and a state gemstone, **Blue Topaz**.

The **Southeast Federation** consists of seven states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. **Alabama's** state stone is **Marble**. Its state gemstone is **Star Blue Quartz**, and its state mineral is **Hematite**. **Florida's** state stone is **Agatized Coral**, and its state gemstone is **Moonstone**. **Georgia** has no state stone, but has a state gemstone, **Quartz**, and a state mineral, **Staurolite**. **Mississippi's** state stone is **Petrified Wood**. **North Carolina's** state stone is **Granite**, and its state gemstone is **Emerald**. **South Carolina's** state stone is **Blue Granite**. The state gemstone is **Amethyst**. **Tennessee** has two state stones, the **Agate** and **Tennessee Limestone**. It also has a state gemstone, the **Tennessee Pearl**.

The largest federation of all is the **Eastern Federation**, which consists of fourteen states: Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. The District of Columbia is also included in the Eastern Federation, but is not considered a state, and therefore, has no state stone. **Connecticut** does not have a state rock, only a state gemstone, **Garnet**. **Delaware's** state rock is **Sillimanite**. **Kentucky** has a state stone, which is the **Kentucky Agate**, and a state mineral, **Coal**, as well as a state gemstone, **Freshwater Pearl**. **Maine** has only a state gemstone, **Tourmaline**. **Maryland** has no state stone, gemstone, or mineral. **Massachusetts** has a state stone, **Roxbury Pudding Stone (Jasper)**, a state gemstone, **Rhodonite**, and a state mineral, **Babingtonite**. **New Hampshire's** state stone is **Conway Granite**, its state gemstone is **Smokey Quartz**; and its state mineral is **Beryl**. **New Jersey** has no state stone, gemstone or mineral. **New York** has no state rock but has listed several state gemstones: **Garnet**, **Button Tourmaline**, and **Moonstone**. It has a state mineral, **Hematite**. **Pennsylvania** has no state stone, gemstone, or mineral. **Rhode Island** has a state rock **Cumberlandite**, and a state mineral, **Bowenite**. **Vermont** has several state stones listed: **Marble**, **Slate** and **Granite**. It also has a state gemstone, **Grossular Garnet**; and a state mineral, **Talc**. **Virginia** has no state stone, gemstone, or mineral. **West Virginia** has only a state gemstone, **Lithostrotionella**.

The learning experience of discovering state stones also led me to a better understanding of the layout of all the federations; a twofold lesson. I discovered that it was much easier to study by taking them in the smaller groups and digesting all the information in small bites. We have two federations with only three states, the South Central and California. All that information will be easier to memorize. The Rocky Mountain Federation has one state with no state stone, gemstone, or mineral, and that is Kansas. Remembering all the Eastern Federation state stones will be a greater challenge; however, the Eastern Federation has Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia that have no state stone, gemstone, or mineral. That brings the total states to learn down to only nine instead of fourteen, a much easier bite to digest. I feel much more confident now if a game of Rockhound Jeopardy is played with the category of "State Stones."

*References:* <http://www.amfed.org>  
[http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors\\_corner/offmin.htm](http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/offmin.htm)  
<http://www.jewelrystore.com/stategems.html>

**Officers:****From The AFMS Newsletter, Nov. 2004**

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**AFMS Scholarship Foundation Report**

*from Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President*

I have been reading with interest early AFMS Newsletters. In one, dated Jan/Feb 1968 there was an obituary on Harry L. Woodruff. It states that the idea "to establish the American Federation Scholarship Foundation was his idea.

The idea was first presented for consideration in 1958 and a committee was appointed to study it. When Harry Woodruff presented the report of the committee at the annual meeting of the AFMS, held in Portland, Oregon, September 4, 1959, it was enthusiastically received. Instructions were, to begin solicitation of funds immediately. Mr. Woodruff announced he already had a pledge of \$100. from the Gemcrafters of Miami, Florida, the first society to contribute. Mr Howell Lovell of California presented \$20. the first individual to contribute; and the Foundation was on it's way."

The AFMS Scholarship operated as a committee from 1959 until March 18, 1964 when it became a separate corporation, incorporated in the state of Minnesota. The people who signed the corporation papers were: William H. deNeui, Richard Burnham and Mrs. Elsie Kane White. The Foundation has operated as such, with it's own officers and committees since that time. The AFMS Scholarship Foundation is not a chair under the AFMS, it is a separate entity.

The 1974 Scholarship Foundation received word that the Betty Crocker Coupon program would come to an end. Started by Bernice Rixin, AFMS President from Midwest, the program generated \$19,940. over the ten years that clubs and individuals could send in coupons clipped from Betty Crocker products which were redeemed by the company. It also added greatly to increasing participation by our members.

As we mentioned in recent newsletters a number of clubs have been very generous in their contributions. Recently we have received the following from our regional scholarship chairmen:

From the Rocky Mountain Scholarship chairman, Sandy Cannedy:

Chaparral Rockhounds  
Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society  
Wichita Gem & Mineral Society  
Enid Gem & Mineral Society

From the Midwest Scholarship chairman, Nellie Claxton:

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society  
Norm & Joyce Hanschu  
Des Plaines Valley Geological Society  
Alan & Sandra Hukill

We thank all the clubs and individuals for their contributions and urge you and your club to continue with support of the Scholarship Foundation.

From The Gemrock, Oct. 2004

## It seemed like a good idea...

*David Reed*

This is a cautionary tale, only slightly associated with a trip report. I had been shamed into taking my Dad out on a trip, and had agreed as one or both of us was not long for this world, and he had never been beyond Topeka. His interests were the Wild West, gold panning and animals (scouting for hunting).

Unfortunately, his history came from '50s television, he had never panned for gold, and it's hard to seek prey while chain smoking and using a cane to walk. I was undismayed, though allergic to cigarettes, and went into the trip with minimal preparation. It proved to be a mistake.

I collected my Dad at his place, and spent 20 minutes loading and 20 minutes negotiating the reduction of the gear load (he had wanted to drive, but chronic alcoholism made that an unsafe proposition). We spent a few days getting to Lake Kanopolis, hitting the Museums along the way and learning that he did not do well with night travel, and was morally opposed to motels as a waste of money. This did not bode well for his arthritis, as camping would get colder and colder as the elevation rose. He is, of course, far more stubborn than I am, and will inflict great amounts of pain on himself.

It was shortly after stopping at Fort Harker that the first of my errors became apparent. A sound, much like that of a flat tire, arose. On stopping, it was seen that it wasn't a flat, but a strange diagonal bulge across the base of the tire. Dad felt we should replace it before it blew out, so we went back to Salina. On replacing the tire, we were told there was a broken strut. We slowly returned to Kansas City.

At the garage, it was determined the car was merely out of alignment, and that another tire had a broken cord in it. This was replaced, and we went back out, having lost two days of the trip.

We had an enjoyable few days before and during the Denver show, where gold panning equipment was obtained, and leads as to where to pan. The only difficulty was that there are no campgrounds, so unfortunately we tried the Rocky Mountain National Forest to try and camp. How was I to know that on the last weekend of no snow in Colorado, every campsite would be taken? We drove through the entirety of the park, at night, and as we came into a resort town for skiers, the joyful sound that brakes make after the pad has left the car joined us. I thought Bertha Pass without functioning brakes was more fun than I wanted without sleeping first, so we

stopped at a motel. Let me suggest that the price of a tow down to Denver is more than I ever wish to pay again, but was worth it to prevent complete communion with the rock and/or other vehicles.

Two days and new front brakes later, we found ourselves near Lake George, where we camped in the snow and frost for three days. I then had to call a halt to the fun, as I was to help my Sister and her family move into their new house. Twelve hours and a shower later, I left Independence with a two-wheeler to start the move.

Dad looked seven years younger, I may have aged that much.....



## HYPOTHERMIA

Many rockhounds from our area go south or remain indoors once the weather gets cold. Some, however, find it an excellent time to be outdoors. The leaves are gone, exposing eroded banks and cliff areas to examine for various fossils, rocks (minerals), and other interesting things that were hidden by the canopy of leaves and undergrowth. It's a great time to enjoy a sunny afternoon, out of the wind, looking for that special treasure that was overlooked by the warm weather adventurer. We need to remember that there are dangers at these times, too.

Hypothermia occurs when your body's core temperature begins to drop below its normal 98.6 F temperature. As the body temperature approaches 95 F we begin to experience signs of hypothermia. This is normally a slow change and often not noticed until we start to shiver uncontrollably (the bodies attempt to warm up by increasing muscle activity). At the first sign of a problem return to a warm environment.

During the enjoyment of the hunt we need to kept in mind that kneeling, setting on the wet ground slipping in a stream, or excessive exercise allows our clothing to become wet and reduces the our insulating factors. When we leave our protected sunny area, clouds block the sun, or evening approaches, we may be some

From The Chip & Lick, Jan. 2004

## THE WORLD'S GREATEST ROCK

By Sam Shapiro

One of the greatest treasures of the British Museum, where I spent two days during my first trip to Europe in 1957, is an eight-foot-high basalt slab located in a room of its own next to the courtyard containing the Elgin Marbles. Basalt is a very common, dense, dark gray or black, fine-grained, low-silica igneous rock. It occurs in the mid-ocean ridges, where it wells up as molten material and spreads out in both directions at a rate of a few inches a year—about the same rate as the growth of our fingernails. Enormous plateaus of basalt cover large areas in the states of California, Washington and Oregon, the Parana Basin of South America, and the Deccan Traps of India (200,000 square miles!). The shield volcanoes of Hawaii—Mauna Loa, Kilauea and Mauna Kea—are made up of basalt, some of it still molten and erupting. Devil's Tower in Wyoming, the Palisades along the Hudson River, and the Giant's Causeway in northwest Ireland are congealed columnar masses of basalt. The dark marias ("seas") on the Moon are meteoric impact basins that were flooded by basaltic lava about four billion years ago, when the Earth and its satellite were still young.

Because it is so common, ordinary basalt is worth only a few dollars a ton. Why is the British Museum's slab so famous, valuable and historically important? Because—almost 4,000 years ago—Hammurabi, the sixth king (1792-1750 BC) of Babylon, ordered a law code of 282 articles chiseled in cuneiform on its face. Containing one of the most famous law codes of the ancient world, this stele is the ancestor of the Ten Commandments handed down to Moses on Mount Sinai (also engraved on stone tablets), of Roman Law, of Justinian's Code in Byzantium, the Koran, the Magna Carta and the American Constitution of 1787 (which I spent 30 years explaining to undergraduates).

At the top of the stone is a relief showing the king with Shameth, the Babylonian sun-god and god of justice. The introduction says that future kings should "give heed to the words that I have inscribed upon my stele." The laws give us an insight into Babylonian society of the time. Civil matters which are dealt with cover marriage, divorce, inheritance, debt and slavery. Criminal laws are exceedingly

harsh, based on principle of the *lex talionis* (an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth). Here are a few of the items in the code:

1. "If any one ensnare another . . . (he) shall be put to death."

6. "If any one steal the property of a temple or of the court, he shall be put to death."

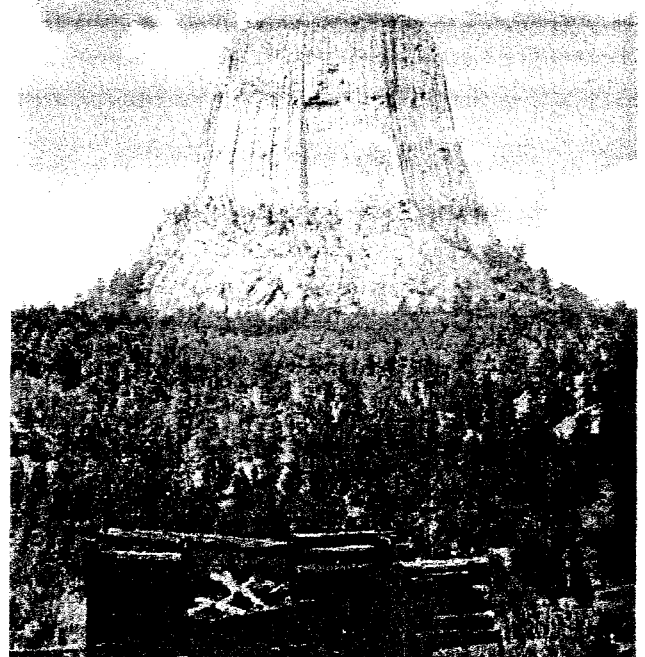
14. "If any one steal the minor son of another, he shall be put to death."

21. "If any one break a hole into a house to steal, he shall be put to death."

Today a doctor found guilty of malpractice must pay his patient monetary damages, but in Hammurabi's time, if he caused the loss of an eye, he could expect to lose his own.

When the Elamites conquered Babylon, they carried off the great stele as a war trophy. When the British occupied Mesopotamia thousands of years later, they did the same. The British Empire is gone, but some of the loot remains in London.

From The Rockfinder, Oct. 2004



Devil's Tower, Wyoming

## 2004 ELECTED OFFICERS

President	James Marburger	332 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	792-2348
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Pat Akins, Jr.	5017 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> St.	Lincoln, NE	68521	477-1322
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Roger K. Pabian	5301 X Street	Lincoln, NE	68504	465-0144
Treasurer	Vera Lyman	420 N. 56 <sup>th</sup> St.	Lincoln, NE	68504	464-6089
Secretary	Sharon Marburger	332 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	792-2348
Board Member	David Heffelbower	1819 Washington St.	Lincoln, NE	68502 cell	890-2794
Board Member	James Atkins	3028 S. 35 <sup>th</sup> St.	Lincoln, NE	68506	483-1610
Board Member	John Harrison	330 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	792-2337
Board Member	Judy Reilly	4050 Worthington Ave	Lincoln, NE	68502	421-3064

### Nominating Committee

3 years	Mary Pittard Phyllis N Parks
2 years	Amy Dexter-Guy Edward Ridge
1 year	John Harrison Aulden Stewart

Chairman: Immediate Past-President Susan McMahan

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2 years	Susan Taylor Edward Ridge
1 year	Vera M. Lyman Roger K. Pabian

### Standing Committees

Education /Librarian:	Roger Pabian	MWF Liaison:	Vera Lyman
Field Trips:	Pat Akins, Coordinator	Scholarship:	Vera Lyman
Historian:	Susy McMahan	Christmas Party:	Edward Ridge
Membership Record:	Edward Ridge	2005 Show:	John E. Harrison
Programs:	David Heffelbower	2004 Show:	Roger Pabian
Property:	Pat Akins, Jr. & James Marburger	2005 Swap:	Roger Pittard
Youth Activities:	Kay Jurgens & Susy McMahan	2004 Swap:	Pat Akins, Jr.
Refreshments/Door Prizes:	Judy Reilly		
Housing Committee:	Susy McMahan, Pat Akins, Charles Wooldridge & Vera Lyman		
Auditing Committee:	John Harrison, Roger Pabian & James Marburger		
Geology Day Coordinator:	2nd Vice President		

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

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

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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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hosts our

47<sup>th</sup> Annual Show  
 at

PERSHING CENTER  
 226 Centennial Mall South

\*\*\* April 9 - 10, 2005 \*\*\*

Note: Dates changed due to Easter.

Show Chairman - John Harrison

Advertising by rock-hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board. The rate now set at \$15.00 per full page; \$7.50 per 1/2 page; \$5.00 per 1/3 page; and \$3.75 per 1/4 page (min) per issue, paid in advance. These ads will be placed through the bulletin as space permits.

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

Dues to Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

Adults (age 16 and over) \$10 per year Juniors (age 12 to 16) \$2 per year

Family Membership (Couple, resident children under age 16) \$22 per year

New memberships must be approved by the Board, after the applicant attends at least one meeting of the club and pays the above dues plus a \$5 registration fee.

Meetings: Fourth Thursday, Sept. through May except December & January to be announced. Held at Antelope Park Indoor Shelter, near 30<sup>th</sup> and Sumner, next to the Veterans Memorial and the children's playground.