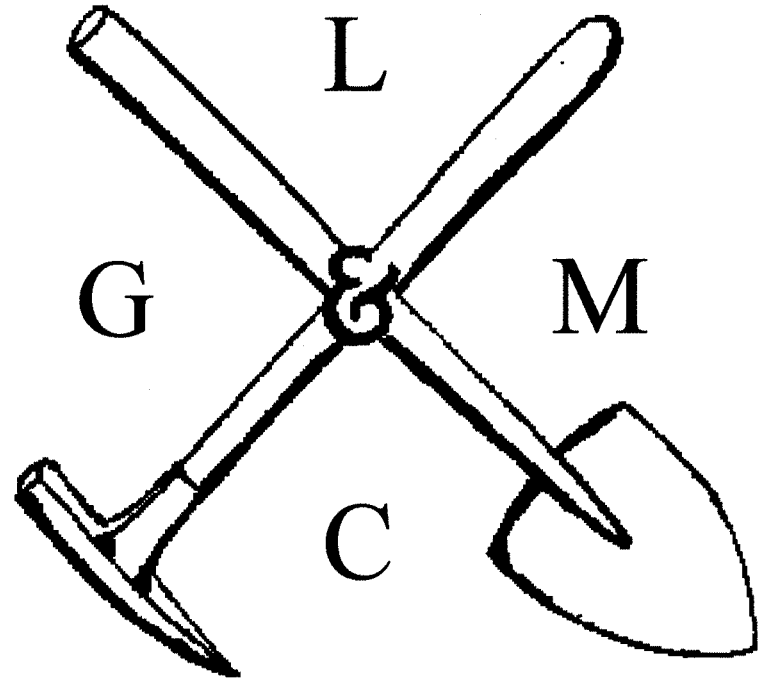
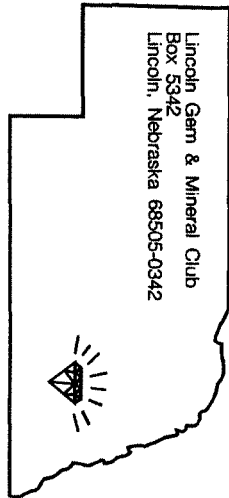
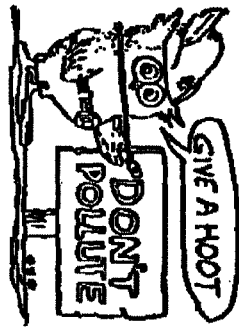


THE PICK & SHOVEL

January 2005



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



H. E. L. P.

Help Eliminate Litter Please



Associated with



HISTORY

CLUB EVENTS

Jan. 22 Swap, Antelope Park Shelter, 1-5PM. Pizza Party following SWAP, General Meeting at 7PM. (see page 8).

Feb. 2 Board Meeting, Kinko's, 48th&Vine, 7PM

13 Geology Day, Pioneers Park, 1-4 PM

24 General Mtg, Antelope Park, 7PM

Mar. 2 Board Meeting, Kinko's, 48th & Vine, 7 PM

24 General Mtg, Antelope Park, 7PM

Apr. 6 Board Meeting, Kinko's, 48th&Vine, 7 PM

9-10 LGMC Annual Show, Pershing Auditorium

28 General Mtg, Antelope Park, 7 PM

May 4 Board Meeting, Kinko's, 48th & Vine, 7PM

26 General Mtg, Antelope Park, 7 PM

July 17 Grinding Party, Pioneers Park 1-4PM

January Meeting

SWAP- See page 8

PIZZA PARTY- Following the SWAP and prior to the general meeting, we will again have pizza and fixin's delivered to the Antelope Park Shelter by Valentino's. The cost is \$5 per person. This is open to guests as well as members. Plan to forget those diets and splurge for one night!

PROGRAM- Victorian Jewelry by Bob Fixter (This is a great one folks!)

SNACKS- Anniversary Cake for celebration of the club's 50th Anniversary!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2005 and the completion of the 50th year of our club! Join us at the January meeting to celebrate our 50th Anniversary at our 51st meeting! This should be a great year with a lot of fun members with ideas and energy that will keep the club alive and active. Let's start off the year at the annual SWAP, January 22. (see p. 8). Bring in your materials and your friends. Also, come hungry to the pizza party between the SWAP and the meeting (5:30-7:30PM).

Now is the time to start planning your exhibit cases for the show in April. John Harrison is the Show Chairperson this year. He and his Subcommittee Chairpersons could use your help. Contact John to find out what you can do.

The January Board Meeting was canceled due to snowy and icy roads, therefore, there will be no minutes in this issue. The meeting minutes and financial report will be reviewed at the January meeting.

If you have an idea for a program for a meeting, please contact Davis Heffelbower for available club meeting dates.

Rock on!!

James Marburger



TIME FOR DUES! LGMC dues are payable by January 1, 2005. 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.

Are You Feeling Old?

Thirty years makes a difference...(from internet)

1975: Long hair

2005: Longing for hair

1975: KEG

2005: EKG

1975: Acid rock

2005 Acid reflux

1975: Moving to California because it's cool

2005: Moving to California because it's warm

1975: Trying to look like Liz Taylor

2005: Trying NOT to look like Liz Taylor

1975: Hoping for a BMW

2005: Hoping for a BM

1975: Going to a new, hip joint

2005: Receiving a new hip joint

1975: Rolling Stones

2005: Kidney Stones

1975: Passing the drivers' test

2005: Passing the vision test

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

by Judy Reilly



Happy New Year!

Thanks to Phyllis Parks, Vera Lyman, David Heffelbower, Susy McMahan and the Marburgers who contributed in various ways to help with this month's publication of The Pick & Shovel. I need and appreciate all the help I can get. I especially need original articles or reports from club members. I can find lots of reports from other newsletters but it's so much more fun when I can print stories or articles from our own members as well.

Unfortunately, 2004 ended on a tragic note internationally, when the Tsunami hit in SE Asia. I personally feel that despite whatever problems I have, I am so lucky to be alive and have a home and family. If anything positive came from this tragedy, it was the increased awareness of how fortunate we really are. We keep the Tsunami victims, all the servicemen and their families and all those in need in our thoughts and prayers for a better 2005.

A reminder to bring items to the SWAP for our silent auction. Proceeds will go to the LGMC Lapidary Education Fund.

Also, start thinking about Geology Day in February. This is really a great time to reach potential Junior members. Plan to bring a display or demonstration to Pioneers Park Feb. 13 for a fun afternoon.

See you January 22 at the SWAP.



Who's Who...

Notice to all club members: The *Who's Who* for 2005 is in the works. Please notify Vera Lyman, Judy Reilly or Phyllis Parks if there is any change in your name, address, phone number or email address so we can get everything correct. If you want to omit or add an email address, please contact Judy at queenbeejr2@aol.com.

Please submit any changes by our next meeting, January 22. Thank you.

Phyllis

Putting Together a Mineral (or other) Display

By Eric Fritsch

(Although LGMC's Show is three months away, I thought this article, taken from The Rear Trunk, September, 2004, would help fire us up to get our displays organized and prepared. -P&S Ed.)

The annual show is almost upon us, and once again, many of us will be putting together a display for the show. It is time to start thinking about that display and how to display it. You really shouldn't be concerned that you "don't have anything to display". I have seen displays where someone went to a local quarry and collected mediocre specimens, but put together a first rate display. I've also seen thousands of dollars worth of specimens where the display was pitiful and begged the question, "what's the point?"

First of all, you need to know the approximate size of the display case. The size of the case will determine what you put in it. You don't want the case overly crowded or overly empty. Your material should be spaced out with sufficient room between other items and labels.

Try to have a theme for your display. Are you displaying specimens from a particular locality, species or other commonality? What are you trying to say about the specimens? Display different items from year to year.

You will want to share some information about your specimens. This may involve a sign, typically displayed on the back of the display case. Each specimen should confer some information (generally as a label). Signs on your display should be concise. Consider breaking up your signs if you've got multiple things to share. Pictures, maps and diagrams convey a large amount of information. Remember to keep these items simple, so as not to distract from the display.

Labels should be large enough to read from several feet away (remember most of the people viewing your specimens will be several feet away). I recommend using a computer and printer to make labels with a font size of at least 24- the larger the better.

Labels that are consistent (all the same size, font, etc.) are less distracting from your specimens. A good labeling technique is to offset the species name from the locality. This can be accomplished with bolding, size differential or placement.

One thing to consider about hanging labels and signs is that it often gets to be about 120 degrees or more in a typical show display case. If you use tape, the adhesives can often fail after a couple hours of such conditions. You can use fine pins, staples, or mechanical devices to hold you labels and signs in place.

Keep in mind that people of different heights will be looking at your specimens. The cases often have a wooden shade (which helps shield the lights) and specimens at the back of the display case may not be totally visible to a taller viewer.

Younger viewers might have an "at level" view. Risers or blocks may help position the specimens for viewers of varying heights. Risers shouldn't distract from the display, but rather complement it. Steps of varying levels are a popular riser technique. Be creative with your risers, but don't let them distract from the display. Risers should be complementary to your specimen. You do not want a riser to be overly large or small for your specimen.

(Continued on page 4.)

(Continued from page 3.)

Larger material should be displayed in the back. A large specimen up front, might take away from smaller specimens behind it. If there is detail in a larger specimen that you want the audience to view, consider moving it to one of the sides of the case.

Position your specimen so that it displays best. You can bring things like clay, cardboard, or smaller rocks to prop up your specimen. You can do a layout of your specimens at home to get a feel for how they are going to display. Figuring out what goes where and how is like interior decorating. There are some tricks of the trade, but a lot of it comes from "feel" and knowing what looks good. I enjoy looking at the display techniques at historical museums more than I enjoy the historical items.

Laying specimens in even rows or in a grid is usually not very attractive. Specimens should be staggered. The best displays draw you in to them. Rather than grouping all your red minerals together, align them in a gentle arc up the middle or side of the case to bring the audience inwards.

I always save all those styrofoam blocks you get from packaging and they make excellent lightweight riser materials for displays. You can cut them, glue them and wrap them with fabric. Pins stick in them and leave little to know damage. Cardboard boxes also make excellent risers and pedestals.

Make sure that your background works with your specimens (ie. white minerals on a white background typically doesn't look good). Black backgrounds look good (except with dark minerals), but often show dust, lint, and other imperfections. Backgrounds like red or with patterns are often too distracting.

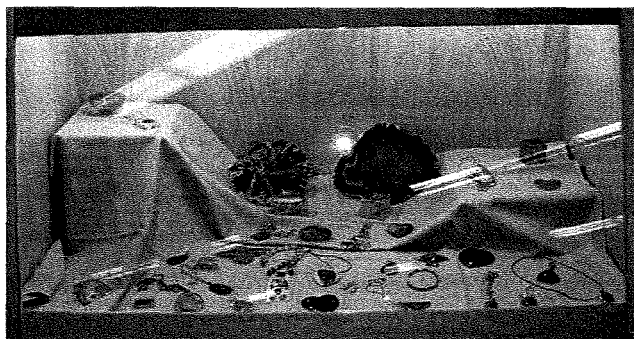
When you've finally got your display all put together, give it a small shake. Remember that lots of people will accidentally bump your display so you want to be sure your specimens will not take a tumble.

A good time-saving idea is to label the boxes that you bring your specimens in and keep the packaging material with the box. When it is time to take down your display, you know where each specimen goes.

You can even have a "display kit" with you. Pack scissors, tape, pins, clay, window cleaner, paper towels, pens, rulers, locks, staplers and any other materials you think you might need to set up your display.

The show creeps up on you quicker than you expect. Now is the time to start working on your display for this year, or even for next year. I am the first to admit that my displays have never been perfect (last year I didn't have any risers or background-only specimens with labels in a wooden box.)

Pay close attention next time you go to a museum (even a non-rock museum). What do you like about the displays? What do you dislike? Observe how the curators use the space of the display to convey the message. Look at their signs, labels and even risers to see how they've laid out their specimens. Remember there usually isn't a right way or a wrong way, but often there are *better* ways to display and show what we collect and why.



From Editor: I take note of display "tricks" each year and some I remember are: use of candlesticks to hold spheres, sphere holders for rocks and other non-sphere items, baskets for gemstone eggs, and upside down egg cartons covered with cloth (place the specimen on or between the bumps). Left: display from 2004 show. (photo by Bill White)

FEDERATION NEWS

AFMS Newsletter, December 2004/January 2005

SAFETY FIRST

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair

FROST-BITE and HYPOTHERMIA

Frost-bite is the cutting off of circulation to and possibly the destruction of superficial tissues,



especially to hands, feet, ears, and nose as well as other areas of the body exposed to cold temperatures. The wind (wind chill factor) and moisture can add to the effects of cold temperature, even when above freezing.

Symptoms of frost-bite begin as a prickly feeling on exposed areas of the skin followed by numbness and waxy looking patches. In more severe cases, these waxy patches get lumpy, redden, blister, followed by the skin dying and falling off or gangrene setting in. Severe pain is associated with advanced frost-bite.

At the first signs of frost-bite, dry the affected area and cover with cloth or in the case of hands, place into the armpits to prevent further cooling. Do not rub or apply snow to the frost-bitten area. The affected area can be placed in water a little above body temperature, but not above 104 degrees F. Do not place the affected area under hot running water, as there will not be any feeling initially, so it may become burned. As the frost-bitten area "thaws" it is normal to feel pain or a burning sensation. If blisters form, do not break and protect them with a loose dressing and seek medical attention immediately.

Hypothermia is the loss of body temperature and can be life threatening. The symptoms are initially uncontrollable shivering with pale and numb skin. The person then becomes confused and forgetful, acts tired, and wants to sit or lie down. In severe cases the person will become unconscious, have shallow breath, erratic heartbeat, and then the pulse weakens and slows.

At the first signs of hypothermia, take the victim to a warm, dry place and give them hot liquids (not alcohol). Prevent further heat loss with warm blankets, warm rocks, or a companion in bed with the victim. Get medical attention as soon as possible if the symptoms have gone beyond the shivering stage.

The best protection against frost-bite and hypothermia is to keep warm, keep moving, and keep dry. Dress in loose layers of warm, waterproof and windproof clothing that covers exposed areas. Warm gloves and a hat are essential. Up to 80% of the body's warmth can be lost through an uncovered head. The young and elderly are especially at risk, as are people who have been drinking alcohol, have diabetes, or poor circulation. People taking beta blockers to lower blood pressure are also at high risk. It is best to have someone with you in cold weather who can watch for signs of frost-bite and hypothermia.

MWF Newsletter, December, 2004

Endowment Fund Fall Report 2004

I'm very happy to report that we have reached the challenge that Neil Snapp made of the EF at the Spring MWF Convention Delegate Meeting in Cedar Rapids...at that time our funds for the EF totaled a little over \$45,000 and he made a request that we hit the \$50,000 mark by the fall meeting...well...

IT HAS HAPPENED! \$50,505.40. THANKS TO YOU, THE MEMBERS, THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT!

An update of the challenges I have out there:

Every Club \$10 Challenge- as of Oct. 20th we have had 21 clubs and one individual making donations to total \$1,765, plus donations are still coming in. **THANKS!**

OCTOBER MWF AUCTION MONTH- as of Oct. 20th we have received three club donations for \$293.25 with more arriving I hope.

Other Income- "Clean out your pockets" MWF Mtg \$101.50, Cedar Rapids Silent Auction \$793.10, Tampa Bay Coral Auction \$800, Memorials \$525, sale of saw from donation to EF \$300=\$2,519.15.

ALL TOTALED \$4,577.40...YOU HAVE DONATED TO KEEP YOUR FEDERATION ALIVE: THANK YOU!

Pamela Hecht

EF Committee Chairman

(Edited for space)

JUNIOR PAGE

Rocks and Minerals

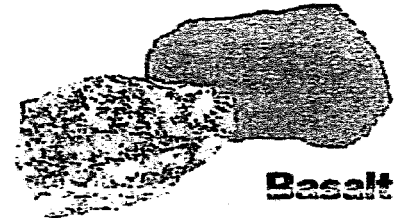
To be able to “read” the stories rocks tell us, we first need to know what rocks and minerals are.

Minerals are naturally occurring chemicals, or combinations of chemicals. Minerals are inorganic, meaning they are not formed from living things. There are over 3,500 known minerals in the world today.

Rocks are made of minerals. They can be made of a single mineral or a combination of several minerals. There are three main types of rocks:

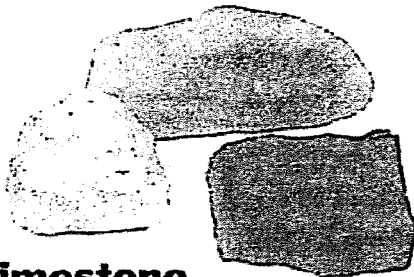
1 Igneous (IG-nee-us) rocks are formed from hot, molten rock, called magma. **Granite** and **basalt** are examples of igneous rocks.

Granite



Basalt

Sandstone

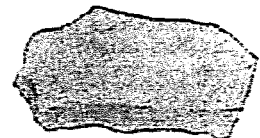


Limestone

Shale

2 Sedimentary rocks are formed from bits and pieces of rock which have broken off. These bits and pieces are called sediments. The sediments were carried by water or wind and dropped to a new location. The sediments are piled layer upon layer and pressed or cemented together to form a new kind of rock. The most common sedimentary rocks are **sandstone**, **limestone**, **shale**, and **conglomerates**.

3 Metamorphic rocks are igneous or sedimentary rocks which have been changed by heat, pressure or chemical action. Examples of metamorphic rocks are **slate** which is formed from shale, and **marble** which is formed from limestone.



Slate

(marble not shown)

Lapidary Hints and Tips

lapidaryhints@rocks4u.com.

Storing Discs: Need somewhere to store your 6" sanding and polishing discs? Use an inexpensive music CD case. They fit in the pockets perfectly, and you can label each pocket with a different grit number.

Flat Lapping Tips: For best results, use graded abrasives for lapping. We recommend 220 grit for rough grind and 600 grit for fine grind. Final Polish with Tin Oxide.

Jewelers Hints: This is a great way to keep your sterling silver jewelry from tarnishing. Tarnish is caused by sulfur gases in the air. Chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur. So place sticks of chalk (blackboard chalk) in your cases, jewelry boxes, jewelry drawer, or just around your jewelry.

Firescale is caused when you heat silver or gold and the copper alloy mixes with oxygen in the surrounding air. One way to prevent firescale is to coat the entire piece you are working on with flux. As the flux dries when you are soldering, it will create a glass that forms a barrier between the copper and the oxygen.

When making a bezel for a smaller stone, it is often very difficult. So try using a super glue to attach your stone to your metal block. This will hold your stone in place and it can be removed when you are ready for it by placing a solvent on the glue.

This method is not recommended for opals (especially doublets and triplets). *Hot Stuff* works well for this.

Places to Go, Things to Do

January 14-16, Denver, CO. Guild Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show. Lakeside Center. Joe Payne 303 783 0221, jpayne@englewoodgov.org.

January 26-30, Quartzite, AZ. Quartzite Improvement Association, 39th Annual Qia Pow Wow Gem & Mineral Show. Diane Abbott, 928 927 6357, qia@redrivemet.com, www.quartziteimprovementassoc.com.

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

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club

27th Annual

Gem and Mineral Swap

Saturday, January 22, 2005

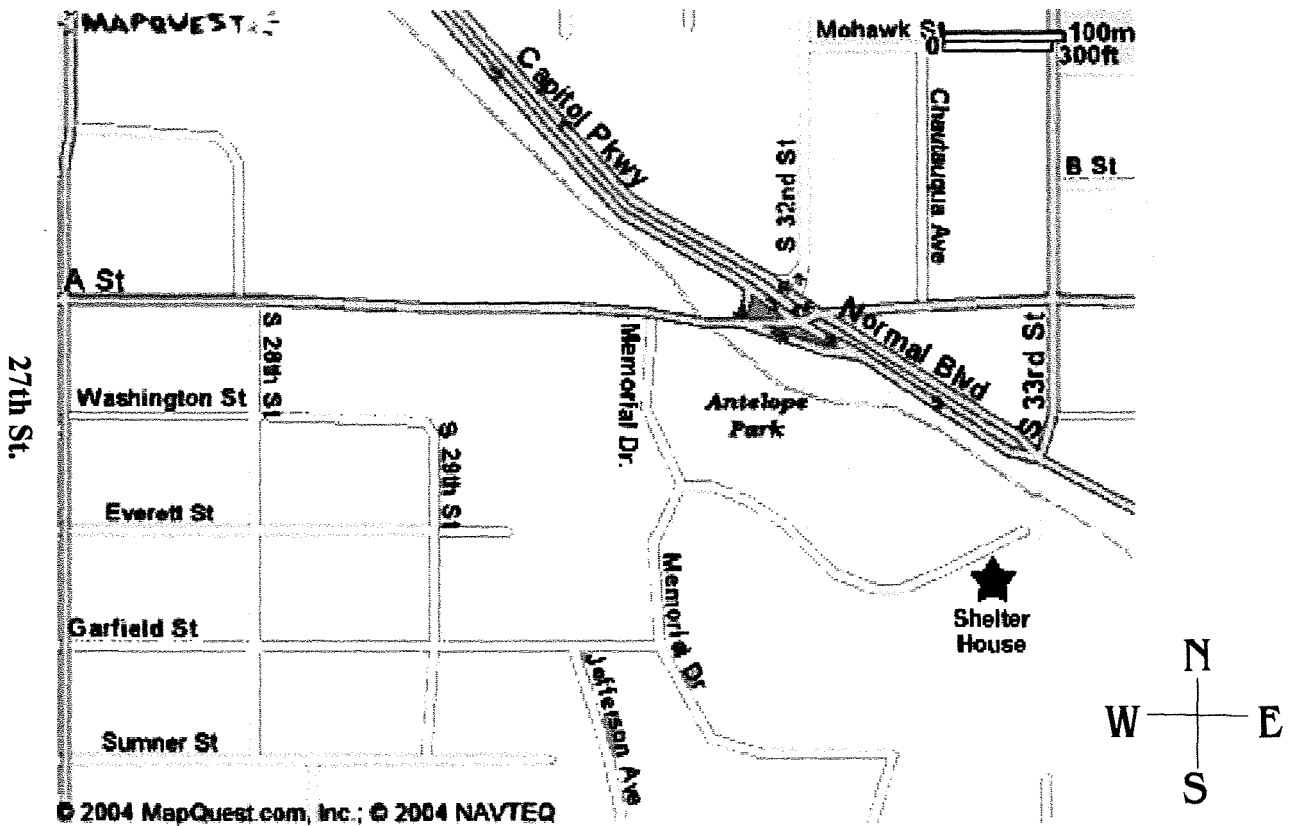
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Antelope Park Shelter House (Same place as last year)

BUY, SALE, TRADE!

**ROCKS, MINERALS,
GEMSTONES,
EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES**

Directions: From I-80 take 27th Street Exit South to 'A' Street. Turn left to Memorial Drive. Turn right and follow Memorial Drive through the park, veering left at first bend. This goes through the parking lots and will get you to the shelter. The shelter is next to a playground.



All buyers must use Swapper Bucks which are available at the door.

Admission: Swappers with tables should provide materials for silent auctions. Proceeds go to the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's Lapidary Education Fund.

The swap will be followed by a pizza party catered by Valentino's (5\$/person). The general meeting of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club will be at 7:30 p.m. This celebrates the completion of 50 years as a club!

Visitors are welcome to attend both events.

2005 ELECTED OFFICERS

President	James Marburger	332 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372 (402)	792-2348
1 st Vice Pres.	Pat Akins, Jr.	5017 N. 6 th St.	Lincoln, NE	68521	477-1322
2 nd Vice Pres.	Roger Pittard	1013 Road K	Geneva, NE	68361 (402)	759-4623
Treasurer	Vera Lyman	420 N. 56 th St.	Lincoln, NE	68504	464-6089
Secretary	Sharon Marburger	332 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372 (402)	792-2348
Board Member	James Atkins	3028 S. 35 th St.	Lincoln, NE	68506	483-1610
Board Member	John Harrison	330 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372 (402)	792-2337
Board Member	Judy Reilly	4050 Worthington Ave	Lincoln, NE	68502	421-3064
Board Member	Charles Wooldridge	10305 202 nd St.	Greenwood, NE	68366 (402)	789-8100

Nominating Committee

3 years	Susan Esquivel John E. Harrison
2 years	Mary Pittard Phyllis Parks
1 year	Amy Dexter-Guy Edward Ridge

Chairman: Immediate Past-President Susan McMahan

Long-Range Planning & By-Laws Committee

3 years	Daniel Dexter-Guy Phyllis Parks Susan Taylor Edward Ridge
2 years	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:	Sharon Marburger	Christmas Party:	Edward Ridge
Membership Record:	Edward Ridge	2005 Show:	John E. Harrison
Programs:	David Heffelbower	2006 Show:	Pat Akins, Jr.
Property:	Pat Akins, Jr. & James Marburger	2005 Swap:	Roger Pittard
Youth Activities:	New Committee in Place	2006 Swap:	David Heffelbower
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 Roger Pittard		

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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News Reporters:	All Club Members		

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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.

J. J. & L. ROCKS and MINERALS

COME SEE US FOR YOUR ROUGH NEED'S

GEMS - CABS - SLABS - MOUNTINGS
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STARTING OUR 30th YEAR

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"PROVIDING SUPPLIES FOR THE NOVICE TO THE DISCRIMINATING ROCKHOUND"
Please Call for Appointment

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB hosts our

47th 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 30th and Sumner, next to the Veterans Memorial and the children's playground.