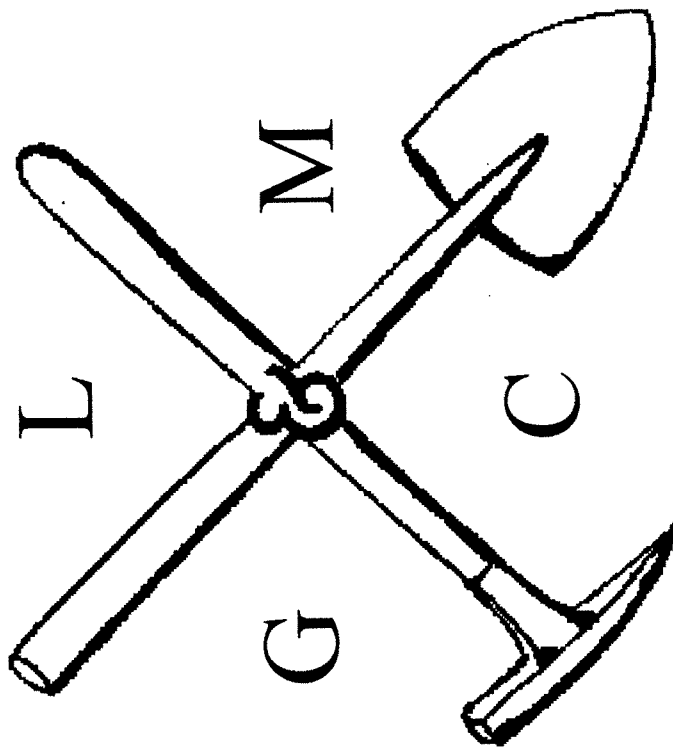


THE PICK & SHOVEL

February 2005



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

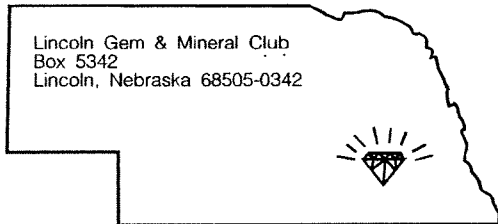
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



Mail Exchange Bulletins To:

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

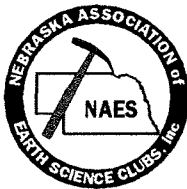


H. E. L. P.

Help Eliminate Litter Please

History Files

Associated with



The Pick & Shovel

Volume 45, Issue 6, February 2005, Page 1

Club Events

- Feb** 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

Recap January Meeting

SWAP- See page 2

PROGRAM- Victorian Jewelry by Bob Fixter. WOW! What a great program!

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

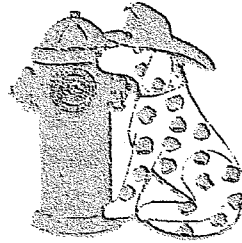
February Meeting

Program: "Minerals", by Eric Fritszch

Snacks: Judy Reilly

Display Material: Minerals, of course

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Are you planning your display case for the upcoming show in April? Plans are going well for the show as reported by **John Harrison**. **Sharon** and I have lined up some fine special displays. I would like to challenge all club members to have at least one case for the show. We have a multi-faceted hobby in which one can become engrossed in and provide insight for others with even a simple case. Remember, we have guests that range from just interested to the very discriminating. We do not need to display empty tables. If you have some large specimens that could be used as a Touch and Feel display, please consider bringing them, also. This type of display has drawn a lot of attention at other shows we have been at.

Mark your calendars for the **President's Field Trip** on July 2, 3, and 4. The trip will be to the Crawford Area and will be a reciprocal trip for **Denver Gem and Mineral Guild**. We had a great time at their claim last year, and we want to now show them what Nebraska has. If you have any favorite places to collect up there, please let me know so we can include it in the trip. More information will be provided as the time draws nearer.

Rock on.

James Marburger



Club Activities

ANNUAL SWAP, January 24,2005

A GREAT TIME

The doors opened at noon and by the time I arrived at 1 PM, SWAP Chairman, **Roger Pittard** and his crew of club members had the tables pushed into place, several swappers starting to set up for a big afternoon, coffee and lots of snacks were set out and activities were in full swing. There was a lot of activity at the 'Swapper Bucks' table and members paying dues while others kept check on the Silent Auction table. Thanks, **Roger**. Good job all day!

Nine 'Swapper' tables were set up. Many thanks to club members **Roger Pabian, Pat Akins Jr., Jim Marburger & John Harrison, Edward Ridge, David Heffelbower and Terry, Andria and Leah Anderson**. Special Thanks to **Richard & Donna Farlow and Greg & Betty Syslo & Mariah** of the Omaha Club and **Ed & Donna Anderson and daughter, Sandy** of the Grand Island Club. We missed you **Adeline, Marie & Susan Taylor, Bill & Betty White and Ray Kunc**.



Club member, **Ed Ridge** has an interested customer at the annual Swap.

Photo by James Marburger

Many of our newer club members came to visit, swap and/or bid on silent auctions and they either stayed for the pizza supper or came back for the general meeting. Several of our favorite rockhounds were in attendance, such as past NAOESCI President, **Ben Vrana**, LGMC Past President, **Fred Holbert**, relatives of current club members and a few former club members. Nobody left without a 'rock' or two.

Pizza and lasagne from Valentino's was enjoyed by nearly 20 members and friends before the business meeting. The meeting included the presentation of our Rockhound of the Year Award to a very deserving member, **Susy McMahan** for her contributions in educating the public, especially children, about our hobby. Congratulations, **Susy**.

Bob Fixer arrived with his 'program materials' in time for a piece of pizza and some visiting. Those of you who missed his presentation, "Victorian Jewelry" lost out BIG. The 'white gloves' hands-on experience with Bob's eloquent lecture made us all lose track of the time, as usual. Thank you, **Bob Fixer** for another 'Unforgettable Treat!!!'

Anniversary cake and coffee completed the day-FIFTY years of Rockhounding.

By Phyllis Parks



President, **James Marburger** presents **Susy McMahan** with the 2004 Rockhound of the Year Award

Photo by Sharon Marburger

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. – BOARD OF DIRECTORS – January 10, 2005

Kinkos, 48th and Vine

President Jim Marburger called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Board members present were Jim Marburger, Pat Akins, Roger Pittard, Sharon Marburger, Vera Lyman, John Harrison, Judy Reilly, and Jim Atkins.

The minutes of the December meeting were read by Secretary Marburger. Pat Akins moved to accept the minutes as read, Jim Atkins 2nd. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was handed out and examined. John Harrison moved to accept the report, 2nd by Roger Pittard. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Roger Pittard reported that he has contacted Channel 8 TV, the Lincoln Journal Star, and the Neighborhood Extra, requesting ads of the upcoming Swap be published.

John Harrison reported that plans for the annual show are coming right along. We are still short one dealer, but we have two possibilities.

Geology Day is planned for February 13. Jim Atkins will handle putting ads in the newspapers.

NEW BUSINESS: Judy Reilly suggested the Club make a donation to the Red Cross or other organization to assist the tsunami victims. After discussion, the Board decided not to do so. No motion was made.

Pat Akins suggested we make an effort to find and publish in the Pick & Shovel dates of as many Midwest shows as possible. Some shows are already published in the P&S.

The Club needs to set aside time to work on the trailer. Pat Akins suggested show setup day since the trailer will be inside Pershing and protected from possible freezing or inclement weather. Pat also shared that he is trying to locate better short- and long-wave lights for the fluorescent display.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. on a motion by John Harrison and 2nd by Jim Atkins.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Marburger

General Meeting, LGMC, January 24, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. after a fun day of the annual Rock Swap and pizza supper. President Marburger welcomed everyone following the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-eight members and two guests, Ed and Donna Anderson of the Grand Island club, were present.

OLD BUSINESS: The minutes of the December meeting were read aloud. John Harrison made the motion to accept the minutes as read, 2nd by Marilyn Stewart. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was read aloud. The motion by Phyllis Parks to accept the report as read was 2nd by David Heffelbower. Motion carried.

John Harrison reported that plans for the show are going along well, and asked that committee members please stay after the meeting for a short committee meeting.

Geology Day is scheduled for February 13. Jim Atkins is in charge of publicity and making sure all goes well.

Annual dues are still being accepted. They will be delinquent after January 31, and a \$5.00 reinstatement fee will be assessed after that date.

President Marburger announced the sad news that Loomis Trousdale of St. Charles, Missouri passed away in November 2004. Mr. Trousdale exhibited his fine collection of 38x52 cabochons at our 2003 show. He will be missed.

NEW BUSINESS: The GENERAL MEETING – January 22, 2005, Antelope Park Shelter

2004 Rockhound of the Year was awarded to Susy McMahan. Some of her contributions in the past year include organizing and participating in the annual Pfizer science fair; demonstrating lapidary at the Younkers Senior Days, assisted care facility, and VA Employees Association; and teaching elementary school children about rock tumbling and rock collections. In the past, Susy has served on various committees and held offices in the Club. We thank you for your dedication to the promotion of the hobby, Susy, and congratulate you on this well-deserved award.

The President's Field Trip for 2005 is being planned for the July 4 weekend at Crawford, Nebraska. President Marburger has extended an invitation to the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild to join us at Crawford in reciprocation of their hosting our 2004 trip to Bailey, Colorado. Mark your calendars, plan to attend, and invite others!

The meeting adjourned to the silent auction and program at 7:34 p.m. on the motion by Phyllis Parks and 2nd by Marilyn Stewart. Although the program by Bob Fixter was entitled "Victorian Jewelry", he included photographs, letters, postage stamps, currency and other paraphernalia of the Victorian era. Bob had some wonderful pieces to show. Thank you for sharing, Bob!

Thanks to Vera Lyman for the delicious anniversary cake. Yummy! Thanks, also, to all who participated in the Rock Swap.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Marburger

More Geology Day Photos by Judy Reilly



LGMC Treasurer's Report - January 2005

Pinnacle Checking Balance on December 31, 2004

\$ 4,795.28

January Receipts:

Membership Dues	258.00	
Member Gem Palette Subs (Suspense)	40.00	
Donation-SLCEF	32.00	
Adjustment-Cash on hand	.20	
Change from Swap (Suspense)	700.00	
Swap Bucks - 10%	92.02	
Silent Auction	78.50	
Pizza Supper (Suspense)	73.29	
Misc. Income (from Pizza supper)	<u>11.71</u>	1,285.72

January Payments:

City Parks & Rec Dept-Shelter Rent (8)	600.00	
NE Dept of Revenue-Sales Tax for 2004	328.50	
Postmaster-3 mo P&S Postage (Jan, Feb, Mar)	111.00	
Friends of Museum Dues	70.00	
MWF Dues	145.50	
Kinkos- 1/10 Board Mty	10.00	
Judy Reilly-Jan P&S Copy/Covers/Labels	74.68	
Rixstine's- 2004 Rockhound Plaque	7.76	
Pinnacle - Safe Dep Box Rent	23.00	
Change for Swap (Suspense)	700.00	
Pizza Supper (Suspense)	73.29	
Vera Lyman-Ann. cake, Wals/tip, misc food	29.15	
* Phil Rose - Show Flyers	44.33	
* Pershing Center-Bal of initial deposit	700.00	
State of NE - Corp fees	20.00	
City Parks & Rec-2% Lic Fee - Swap/SiAuc	3.41	
The Hartford-Officers Bond Ins	<u>151.00</u>	<u>3,091.62</u>

Pinnacle Checking Balance January 31, 2005

\$ 2,989.38

Geology Day, February 13, 2005

The following story appeared in the Daily Nebraskan on Monday, February, 14.

Hands-on activities make Geology Day rock

By KEVIN ZELAYA / Daily Nebraskan February 14, 2005

Some people took boxes full of rocks from their collections to have them identified, while others brought their kids along to help them start rock collections.

Members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club sponsored Geology Day, held at the Pioneers Park Nature Center, to educate about fossils, rocks and gemstones.

Roger Pabian, past president of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club and an emeritus professor in the survey division at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the purpose of the event was to bring the world of rocks and fossils to the general public through hands-on activities.

"Rock identification kits are always big for kids at this event," he said. "Lots of people bring in boxes of rocks from their collection or rocks from their yards to be identified."

Phil Rose, a club member, said a big part of the club's focus is youth involvement. "Hopefully some of our events will get kids interested in geology," he said.

Jim Atkins, another club member, said the club encompasses many different interests, such as fossils, mineralogy, lapidary (gem cutting and polishing), jewelry making and rock collecting.

Pabian said the club is an active promoter of geology in the community.

"Throughout the course of the year, the club puts on several one-day events at retirement centers, at Younkers for their Senior Day, for federal employees and for the Girl Scouts," he said. These events include demonstrations on gem cutting, polishing, and jewelry making and booths on silversmithing and rock collecting, he said.

"Every year our club provides lapidary demonstrations at the Pfizer-Lincoln Public Schools Science Fair, and we also hold demonstrations at the Nebraska State Museum at Morrill Hall," said **Susy McMahan**, past president of the club.



Rock and fossil identification by **Roger Pabian**. One child asked, "Do you know the names of EVERY rock?" Photo by Judy

Pabian said the club also helps teachers get samples of rocks and minerals they can use in class. "In addition to Geology Day, our club annually sponsors \$1,000 scholarships that we give out to graduate students and to (undergraduate) students that go to other in-state colleges other than UNL," **Pabian** said.

At Geology Day, **John Harrison**, another club member, demonstrated a rock tumbler machine he uses to smooth rocks. Harrison said the machine uses grit and silicon to grind and shape the rocks. The rocks go through a four-step process, beginning with grinding and concluding with a final polish. The final polish leaves the rock so smooth it shines, **Harrison** said.

Dave Heffelbower, program chairman for club, said glaciers from Canada deposited many valuable resources in Nebraska many years ago. "Copper from the upper peninsula is found in the eastern part of the state," he said. Iron from Minnesota has been found in Nebraska, he said, as well as diamonds from Canada, gold, silver and platinum.

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club will host their own show April 9 and 10 at the Pershing Center.

Club Activities, cont. from p. 3

More Geology Day, February 13, 2005

by Judy Reilly

This was one of the best Geology Day events I have been to. Although there were less visitors than some other years (84), most seemed to stay longer and visited with each of the club members who were displaying or demonstrating. There were lots of questions and lots of hands on participation. The event was covered by Channel 10/11 TV and The Daily Nebraskan Newspaper (see page 3).

The following club members were present to make the day a special event for the community:

-Karen and Charles Messenger, our hosts at Pioneers Park. **Karen** welcomed guests, provided treats for club members and kept a tally of visitors. **Charles** provided rides from the parking lot to the building for members, guests and ROCKS.

-Jim Atkins, Chairman of the event this year. Jim took photos for the LGMC website and displayed some of his creations.

-David Heffelbower, who displayed his beautiful opals and brought geology books to show to guests.

-Aulden Stewart, who was a great attraction with his lapidary machine and display items

-Ed Ridge, who brought five large display cases, including a Black Light display that was a hit with the visitors. He also let each visitor choose a rock .

-Susy McMahan & Judy Reilly, who allowed visitors to sort and discuss Susy's collected stones (each child picked a rock to take home) & actively promoted the April "Youth Night" Meeting (p. 8) Many visitors expressed interest in attending.

-John Harrison, who had an operating tumbler and had a huge assortment of tumbled rocks and a beautiful amethyst for display. Each visitor received a stone and a handout on how to tumble stones.

-Phyllis Parks, who handed out club information and displayed her staurolite, "Fairy Cross".

-Roger Pabian, who displayed fossils and identified entire collections for guests and also took photos.

-Phil Rose, who displayed crystals and promoted the Annual Show by distributing fliers.

-Jim Marburger, who identified specimens, provided education and photographed the event.

GOOD JOB EVERYONE!

Red "X" On Your Label?

by Phyllis Parks, Circulation Editor

If there is a red "X" on your label, it means that you did not get your 2005 dues to the Treasurer before Feb. 5 so this is your last copy of the Pick & Shovel.

We would be sorry to lose you. If this was an oversight, please bring your payment to the Feb. meeting or mail payment to club address (on inside cover). We'd enjoy seeing you at any of our activities.

We Remember

by Phyllis Parks

I received a call that another friend from our 'Rockhound Book of Memories' has gone to join her husband. Ollie Wittman, who was very active in the club in the 70's and 80's along with her husband, Wilfrid, passed away recently. The week before, it was Dwight Miller, member from the 80's and 90's who went to join that great Rockhound Club in the Sky.

Tips and Hints

ROCK TIP OF MONUMENTAL PROPORTIONS- A monument maker uses a weak solution of oxalic acid to acquire the glassy shine on granite. It is used as a polishing aid. Dissolve a little oxalic acid in water then work it into your felt buff or add to your polishing paste. Try it on agates, for it really works wonders. A piece of corduroy glued to soft rubber makes fine, inexpensive polishing material.

From Quarry Quips via The Agate Picker, 2/05.

STABILIZING POROUS STONES- If you would like to try your luck at stabilizing porous stones, such as turquoise, so that it can be cut and polished, the Silvery Colorado Rock Club offers the following advice:

Take a jar with a lid and add one pint of acetone. To this, add the complete contents of both the resin and haedener tubes of epoxy glue. Mix well and add well-dried stones. Cover the jar, and let it sit for at least four days. Remove the stones and allow a week for them to dry. They should now be ready to work. Please note that the acetone is highly flammable, so use caution.

From Pegmatite and Agate Picker via The Rear Trunk, 2/05

Federation

News

Midwest Federation Newsletter, February, 2005

Planning Workshops, Programs and Field Trips...

by John Washburn

I believe if you have good programs, invite the public to attend and keep their involvement with business at a minimum, they will join. Our local club's meetings are open to the public, but a person has to be a member to participate in a workshop or a field trip. Our enticement is our "Show and Tell" table that we have at each meeting. Visitors immediately get to see what we are collecting and crafting. They also find out what a bargain our dues are and join on the spot. We very rarely have a guest at our meeting that does not join. So that can be a test as to how you are doing on recruitment. The next test is, how do you keep them?

I. Workshops

The key to keeping members is to keep things interesting. Our local club offers three workshops in Jan., Feb., and Mar. Those we usually offer each year, I listed in my President's Message, but others we have offered are wire wrapping, fossil preparation, display case design, geode cracking, plastic specimen stand construction and gem trees. For all those requiring materials, the club furnishes them to our members at cost. We have used both demonstrating members as well as videos for instruction. The club has its own geode cracker which is used for that workshop and some member's bring their tools too. The club and some members furnish geodes for sale for those members who are just getting started. So that is where you find workshops, using member skills, and instructional videos. Can you plan three out of this group for your club?

II. Programs

So where do you find good programs to get the whole process started? We first use the excellent MWF Program Library as our failsafe and go from there. Our members usually prefer live program speakers so they can ask questions. When I was president of the local club in 1986, we started keeping a list of all our programs, workshops and field trips. The list is organized by year and month. We make copies of the updated list to have on hand at all board meetings. We often refer to it for new ideas or even to plan a rerun of a quality event. But how does one begin the search with a crib sheet?

The sources in the MWF Program Planners Manual and the MWF Directory are excellent. My local club has resources such as the Illinois State Museum (ISM) which has weekly lectures, many of which we can use. The ISM also has, from time to time, a special lectures series which we can often take advantage of. Museums are a good source for speakers. Search the internet for museums in your area or refer to the list in the MWF Directory. Can you find any in your area?

Other sources we use for live speakers include a local jeweler, a local junior college and a nearby university. The state geological survey is also a good resource for lecturers. Also many times club members will present a program.

If we can't get a live speaker, then a professionally produced video is acceptable. The club has a small video library of its own that we use for programs at our show and for a back up in case a speaker can't come at the last minute.

III. Field Trips

Your state geological survey is also a great source for field trip ideas. The survey in Illinois conducts field trips for the public on a regular basis, and at the end of each trip they stop at a spot, usually a quarry, to collect. In their guidebooks they describe the geology and have graphics of the fossils that can be found. They also list the owner's name, mailing address and phone number. The state also conducts field trips for professional meetings for which a guidebook is also produced. You can get a copy of of their list of publications and order the ones that are in your area or just go to their website and pick the ones you want.

The surveys also publish a Directory of Aggregate, or Mineral Producers, which also lists information about active mines and quarries, usually separated by county and type of products. Many of the mid-west states have such a directory, so go to their website or just search the internet. Using this method and sharing field trip sites with other clubs, we now have enough places to go that we have collecting trips monthly from March to November.

By just letting people know that we exist and letting them share the fun of good programs, workshops and field trips, we grew from 25 members to 100 without a show. When we started having a show, we were able to reach more folks and now we seem to have found our equilibrium at 250 adult members. I have used my local club as an example, because that is what I know. There are probably a lot of other ideas out there that would work equally as well. I challenge you to seek them out.

Need I say more? Let our hobby light shine, for others to find!

(John Washburn is the current MWF President. His article was edited for space.)

Federation

News

AFMS Newsletter,
February, 2005

MEET US IN ST. LOUIS

by Willis Smith



The Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc. (GSLAESC) is sponsoring the 2005 AFMS/MWF Annual Show and Convention in West St. Louis County on August 16- 21, 2005. The Headquarters Hotel is the Marriott St. Louis-West located at 660 Maryville Centre Drive, in Creve Coeur, MO. The show is at Queeny Park about 4 miles away located near the City of Ballwin.

Attractions in St. Louis include The Gateway Arch (National Historic Site), Forest Park (Site of the 1904 Worlds Fair and includes St. Louis Zoo, Science Center, Art Museum, History Museum, and Mury Opera. Other attractions in the area include Grants Farm, Six Flags Over Mid-America, Butter Fly House, Cardinals Baseball, Anheuser Busch Brewery, Shaws Gardens, The Museum of Transport., and the Lewis and Clark Historic Site.

Activities at the headquarters hotel include All AFMS and MWF meetings as well as the past Presidents Luncheon, AFMS/ MWF Awards Banquet and AFMS/MWF Editors Awards Breakfast. The Show is being held in the Greensfelder Recreation Center at Queeny Park. Show setup begins Thursday, August 18. Activities planned for Queeny Park include the MWF Council meeting, AFMS/MWF Competitive Judging, AFMS/MWF Endowment Fund Auctions, as well as the Show.

The show will feature a variety of retail dealers and we are expecting many special exhibits- including displays from the Missouri Mines Historic Site and The Mastodon Historic Site.

The Convention and Show Co-chairmen are Robert Morse, 636-462-4423 (<rrcode@nothinbut.net>) and Willis D. Smith, 314-521-8896 (<rocks-r-us@juno.com>). Robert Morse is taking care of the show activities and Willis Smith the rest of the activities.

For a complete schedule of activities, including lodging and field trip information and registration forms, visit the GSLAESC website at <http://convention.stlearthsci.org>.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Chair

Your AFMS Endowment Fund Committee has already been hard at work for several months lining up some ever-more-spectacular prizes for the 2005 AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle to be held at the 58th AFMS Convention in St. Louis, on August 20, 2005.

Your regional committee chairmen will shortly begin selling tickets so that you, too, can participate in this drawings for these great prizes offered in the annual fund-raiser to benefit the AFMS Endowment Fund. For the updated listing of who your regional chairman is, and color pictures and descriptions of all prizes being offered, Marty Hart, AFMS webmaster, assures us he will have the latest updates posted on the AFMS website at <www.amfed.org>.

As of the first of December, we already had four great prizes donated by AFMS members for the 2005 raffle. Thanks to Dee Holland (NFMS) and Shirley Leeson (CFMS), we have two more beautiful opal pendants, crafted from stones in the Endowment Fund inventory by Dee and Shirley, and set in 14k gold. We also have a gorgeous necklace of Pecos "Diamonds," from Howell Whiting, past president of RMFMS, (see picture). Howell says he wants people to know that Herkimer "Diamonds" are not the only "Diamonds" in the USA, and he wants everyone to see the western version!

Bural LaRue, of CFMS, has promised to send us another of his famous gold lost-wax casting pieces, and although we don't yet know just what this year's contribution will be, we know it will be a spectacular piece of jewelry! We will shortly be showing pictures of his gift and more in this newsletter, and on the website, and will be giving details about all the prizes as we receive them.

Our goal is to have at least one item from each of the seven regional Federations, and we'd like to invite anyone who is interested in contributing a special prize this year to contact us as soon as possible. If you or your club would be interested in sending a special prize for this worthy effort to help build the AFMS Endowment Fund, please get in touch now. We thank you all for your help.

Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair
RR #1, Box 159A
Towanda, PA 18848-9739
(570) 265-6454
csprings@epix.net

(More + pictures on page _____!)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents' Message.....	2
Honor Someone.....	2
Vice Presidents' Message.....	3
Junior Activities.....	3
AFMS Scholarship Challenge.....	3
AFMS Endowment News.....	4
Club Rockhound of the Year.....	4
Safety First.....	5
Truth and Some Consequences.....	5
Thanks For Your Support.....	5
CFMS Court Decision.....	6
Help Preserve History.....	6
Russ Trapnell.....	6
International Relations.....	6
Remembering Bob.....	7
Intarsia Project.....	8
The Darwin Awards.....	8
Regional Federation Shows.....	8

If your club has changed officers, please remember to notify the AFMS Central Office so we can send the newsletter to the correct individuals. Address and e-mail information can be found on page 7.

If you are a subscriber, be sure to check the mailing label for the expiration date of your subscription.

Thanks to those clubs, individuals and federations already have responding to our requests.

MINERALS: THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY

BE SURE TO VISIT THE AFMS WEBSITE:
<WWW.AMFED.ORG>

This is a letter from Yonis Lone Eagle, former LGMC member and avid rockhound.

Intro – 31 Dec 2004 Howdy fellow Rockhounds. Sergeant Yonis Lone Eagle from the Rocky Mountain Federation here writing to yall from Camp Virginia in Kuwait. We reported to our unit on Christmas day and left for the Middle East on the 26th of December. We are here at a staging area with over 5000 other U.S. troops and coalition forces from at least a half a dozen countries waiting for our turn for a flight north into Iraq. I'm currently assigned to the 228th Combat Support Hospital as a senior Bio-Medical Equipment Technician or BMET. The 228th is from Fort Sam Houston, Texas. I will be stationed in Tikrit, Iraq where we will set up and operate a 44 bed field hospital to support our brave troops during "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Being a very avid Rockhound for almost forty years now, I find adventure in every new field I hunt in. But to go hunting for rocks and fossils in a foreign country called Iraq during the ongoing "War on Terrorism" is something totally different. One must be very careful not to step on any old forgotten land mines and to keep your head low for all the flying bullets.

Therefore, I thought I would share my adventures with my fellow Rockhounds. I will be writing periodically on war, the geology and rock & fossils I find over here. I hope everyone will enjoy these stories and I look forward to your comments. Yall can e-mail me at rockymountainrockhounds@yahoo.com. This first report is more about the country that I will be working in for the next year. Hopefully it will give you a better idea of where I'm located.

Rock Hunting in an Iraqi Combat Zone (Rockhounding at its Extreme) PART 1 of ???

by Yonis E. Lone Eagle

With a current population of almost 25 million, Iraq is a very ancient country with its birth dating back to near the dawn of civilization almost 10,000 years ago. Some of the world's greatest ancient civilizations such as Assyria, Babylonia, and Sumer developed in the area of Iraq. It is bordered by Turkey to the north; Iran to the east; by the Persian Gulf, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia to the south; and Jordan and Syria to the west. The physical geography is made up of a combination of a arid sandy rocky desert and mountains that covers almost 170,000 square miles with a green vegetation zone between her two major rivers, the Euphrates to the west and the Tigris to the east.

The northern portion of Iraq, known as Al Jazîra, is mountainous. Near her northern border with Turkey, elevations reach around 7,000 feet above sea level; in the northeastern part of the country, near the border with Iran, there are higher peaks. The highest is Mount Ebrâhîm with an elevation of almost 12,000 feet above sea level. Farther south the country slopes downward to form a broad, central alluvial plain, which encompasses the valley of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. West of the Euphrates, the land rises gradually to meet the Syrian Desert. The extreme southeastern portion of Iraq is a low-lying, marshy area adjacent to the Persian Gulf.

There are two different types of soils in Iraq. Heavy alluvial deposits, containing a significant amount of humus and clay, make up one type and are very useful for the numerous construction projects in the region. The lighter soils, lacking in humus and clay content, contain wind-deposited nutrients. With its large quantities of water, supplied by the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, semi-rich soil has been deposited along and between the two rivers for centuries. A high saline content mars the otherwise rich composition of these deposited soils. Flood-control projects and irrigation on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers help increase the agricultural production of this area. About 50 % of the land is arable.

The natural resources of Iraq are primarily mineral. The country is well endowed with petroleum and natural gas. Petroleum is the most important natural resource of Iraq. The country is estimated to have about 10 percent of the world's supply of proved petroleum reserves. The oil fields are located in two main regions: in the north-central part of the country, near Kirkûk and Mosul, and in the southeast part of the country, just inland from the Persian Gulf, near Ar Rumaylah. There are also small deposits of various other minerals that include ores of copper, gold, iron, lead, silver, platinum, and zinc. Gypsum, salt and sulfur are fairly abundant, and seams of brown coal are numerous.

On a rockhound note... While still in Kuwait and out on a nearby weapons range to test fire our rifles, which is located out in the middle of the Kuwaiti desert, I found a good size chunk of well tumbled light gray & tan agate. About the size of a grapefruit and weighing about 5 or 6 pounds, it was very weathered and polished from the blowing desert sands. I'm looking forward to getting back to the states and having it cut open. I suspect it will be banded inside.

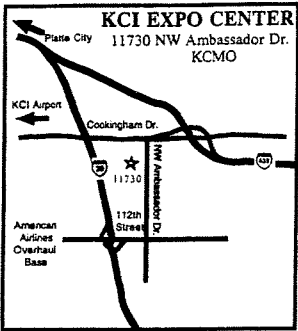
There were also several more much smaller tumbled stone that covered the entire area, evidently, an ancient riverbed. I also found a smaller, less rounded two-toned rock slightly larger than a golf ball. Half of the rock was a dark purplish-brown color and the other half was a tan color. The blowing desert sands or sandblasting too had polished it. And walking to the chow hall at our bass camp the other day, I found a small piece of tumbled Brown Moss Agate, a nice little surprise.

Well folks, I hope yall enjoyed this first report. I will be writing more once I get up north to Tikrit. Everyone take care and happy hunting.

The Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City presents it's 44th ANNUAL - 2005

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. SATURDAY, SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION, 7:00 P.M. SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 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. Jewelry Classes, Valuable Door Prizes, Auction Saturday Night, & Silent Auction Sunday, with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

NASA traveling exhibit, Making Tracks a display of trace fossils, Calcite & Aragonite from around the world, Missouri Mines State Historic Site, and Mr. Bones the walking dinosaur skeleton. School & Scout Group Rates lots of FREE PARKING

Coupon for the 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, March 11-13, 2005. Includes admission prices for adults and children, and a note that one coupon is good for the entire family or group.

Places To Go, Things To Do

- List of gem and mineral shows in various locations: Boise, ID; Mesa, AZ; Denver, CO; Kansas City, MO; San Antonio, TX; Cedar Rapids, IA; Omaha, NE; Odessa, TX; Lincoln, NE.

YOUTH NIGHT



SPECIAL PROGRAM.

ACTIVITIES, PRIZES

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB. THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2005 MEETING 7PM. PROGRAM 7:30PM ANTELOPE PARK SHELTER HOUSE CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

36th Annual Agate Days Fossils Minerals Gems Jewelry

SAT.-SUN., JULY 16-17, 2005

Co-Sponsored by the Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club and the Moose Lake Area Chamber of Commerce NEW THIS YEAR! • GOLD PANNING DISPLAY (outside)

FREE Admission Gem & Mineral Show Moose Lake High School Sat. - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Clark - Olson AGATE STAMPEDE 2:00p.m. Saturday 350 Lbs. of Agates and \$300 in quarters from the 1st National Bank, the Star-Gazette and the Lake State Federal Credit Union are added to a truck full of gravel and spread on Elm Street for a wild scramble of Finder-Keepers that everyone, young and old, can enjoy.

Moose Lake is home to the Largest Lake Superior Agate on record, 108 lbs. For More Information Contact: Gary & Jennifer Pilesco Co-Chrm. 815 N. 13th Ave. East Duluth, MN 55805 (218) 724-1884 TAILGATERS CONTACT Gene & Carol Risdon 113 Avenue C, #1 Cloquet, MN 55720 (218) 879-3968 Please Note: Sponsors are not responsible for any transactions, loss of articles or article in case of an accident. The policy for the 2005 Agate Days will allow only the tolerance of rough rock and release of the public from the event. The policy for the 2005 Agate Days will allow only the tolerance of rough rock and release of the public from the event.