



# PICK & SHOVEL

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club

Lincoln, Nebraska

## Program

### General Meetings

All general meetings will be held at the Bethany Park Shelter at 7:0 PM on the third Thursday of the month. December and January are the only exceptions.

December 9, 2007 Christmas Party  
 January 20, 2008 Annual Swap  
 February 21, 2008  
 March 20, 2008  
 April 17, 2008  
 May 15, 2008  
 June 20 thru 22, 2008 Annual & Regional LGMC Show  
 June, July, and August No meetings  
 September 18, 2008  
 October 16, 2008  
 November 20, 2008  
 December 14, 2008 Christmas Party

### Board Meetings

Gere Library - 7:00 PM Room 1

December 5, 2007  
 January 2 and 30, 2008  
 March 5, 2008  
 April 2 and 30, 2008  
 May 7, 2008

The video is named "The Secret Canyon" And it is distributed by Scientific American Frontiers PBS Home Video/ Copyright 2005 Chedd-Angier Production Co.

The best kept secret of American archeology is now revealed - an entire canyon of perfectly preserved 1,000-year-old remains. Who were these people - and where did they come from? The segment introduces Utah's Range Creek Canyon that was recently sold to the state and federal governments. The canyon held a secret that the owners had kept to themselves -- the whole place is filled with the surprisingly well-preserved remains of the Fremont people, a Native American culture that flourished in the region for about a thousand years. The Fremont are among the most enigmatic of America's ancient peoples. For some reason they built houses and storage granaries in extremely precarious and hazardous places. They were prolific creators of often mysterious rock art. And their way of life appears to have come to a sudden end around 1300 AD. We accompany archeologists as they hike up the canyon sides, to some of the most remote remains of occupied caves and villages -- some perched on the highest knife edges of rock. But the whole way of life came to an end 700 years ago, while at the same time, similar troubles affected other ancient peoples, like the Anasazi. The promise of Range Creek's thousands of undisturbed sites is that we can come to understand those momentous events. Waldo Wilcox, former owner of Range Creek Canyon, takes a helicopter ride to point out some of the favorite discoveries. He discovered what he calls the "fortress" while hunting mountain lion; it's a village on a high rock pinnacle, with what appear to be defensive fortifications and even piles of rocks ready to use to bombard intruders. Waldo issues a challenge to all of us to preserve for the future what he and his family protected in the past.

# NEMAHA MEANDERINGS

By Charles (Wooly) Wooldridge

I have been making trips to the Big and Little Nemaha Rivers in Southeast Nebraska since the early eighties. Over the past twenty five years I have seen many changes but have never failed to have a great time on the rivers. Jim Null first introduced me to the river system. I believe we went to Kinters Ford Wild Life Management Area on my first trip. I was amazed at the seeming wilderness area just a few hundred yards away from a state highway. I have been back many dozens of times since then, frequently with Jim, sometimes with other friends, and often by my self.

To hunt the Nemaha you need to first find a place to park near the river with access to the gravel bars. This is not always as easy as it sounds. There are places where you can drive right up to gravel bars, but these are subject to no trespassing laws and the laws of nature. If you were able to get land owner permission many of the trails down to the rivers are deeply rutted and impassable with the slightest bit of moisture. Most areas where you can park along the road require ascending steep dirt bluffs or traversing thick vegetation, skeeters, flies, and deep sucking mud. Remember making it down is less than half the battle. Making it back up with a load of rocks and fossils can be a real trick.

Once you have made it down to the river the fun begins. It is like being transformed to whole new world yet to be explored. You become bombarded with sensory stimuli, trying to pay attention to the individual stones in the gravel, the flow of the gravel bars, the river, the animals, and the weather all at once. Sometimes I get to looking at the ground too closely and lose track of where I am going. Other times I am so wrapped up in the environment that I lose track of where I have and

haven't searched in the gavel. There are so many things to look for! There are many types of lapidary materials including quartz, feldspar, jasper, petrified wood, and the elusive Lake Superior agates.

One can find a large variety of fossils. Many types of invertebrate fossils are aplenty. Crinoids, gastropods, brachiopods, and many others can be found loose on the gravel bars or in situ along the banks. Occasionally some spectacular vertebrate fossils from the Pleistocene are washed out of the banks by the river. I find the ice age fossils of extinct species especially interesting. I have found numerous bison teeth and once in a while a stray horse or camel tooth. There have been numerous mammoth and mastodon teeth retrieved from the river's grip. Recently Jim found an especially nice ice age beaver tooth that measures about six inches long. During the ice age most mammals were much larger than the species around today. Bears

stood eleven feet tall and beavers approached three hundred pounds!

I have not found any artifacts along the river myself but Jim has found several. The ones I have seen or have heard about have been impressive. Many are ornamental in nature and have been made from local material and some from material many hundreds of miles distant.

When the river is not too low, usually in the spring it is traversable by canoe.

(continued on page 3)



Wooly with one of two ice age bison skull caps he pulled out of the Big Nemaha River this summer.

## NEMAHA MEANDERINGS

Continued from page 2

You can see a greater area of the river that way and access bars that are hard to get to from dry land. There are Nebraska Game and Parks Wild Life Management Areas along the river that are accessible only by the river. I find myself always wanting to get out of the canoe to search the gravel bars too much to prefer this mode.

The rivers also provide excellent fishing for channel catfish. In the heat of summer they locate in the deeper holes and around snags. I like using stinky dip bait. When you feel the first tap the bait is in their lips. The second tap it is in their mouth. By the third tap they have swallowed the bait. The problem is that I get so distracted by the rocks that I forget to check my pole! Running bank poles and set lines after dark is by far my favorite way to fish the Nemaha. It is very productive and it is too dark to look for rocks. Wait a minute...I bet a black light might be productive!

Certain trips really stand out in my mind. One was "thirty two agate day". Jim found thirty two Lakers on one gravel bar. Another summer Jim and I spent several trips excavating a fourteen thousand year old bison remains. We found just about everything except the skull. This summer I have found two bison skull caps complete with horn cores. They are heavy and it takes a great deal of effort to truck them out through the mud, but they make nice display pieces when they are prepared.

I have encountered quick sand or mud many times along the river. One time Jim and I had to literally save each other as we quickly sank up to our waists. You should always walk softly and carry a big stick just in case, especially if you are alone.

I have made numerous camping trips to the area. Years ago I liked to camp at Kinter's Ford. There used to be a nice trail down to the river bank. In recent times this area has become so over grown that is hard to get to and even harder to make camp.

If you are going to the rivers take along plenty of fresh water. It is strenuous and the sun gets awfully strong on the gravel bars. I recently suffered severe cramping after a trip even though I had water with me and thought I was getting enough. You get so engrossed in the search sometimes you forget to drink or relieve your self for that matter. Bring plenty of sun block...as I said the sun seems brighter and the water and light colored gravel and sand reflect the rays. Deet is essential and a light blue shirt seems to help keep the insects at bay. Old clothes and shoes that you are not afraid to throw away are helpful. The sand and gravel will very quickly age your shoes. I always keep old shoes around just to wear down to the river.

Topographical maps may be helpful to locate gravel bars. They quickly get outdated though by the ever changing currents. Severe floods and the effects of winter ice can rather quickly wash away a gravel bar or create a new one. This fall Jim and I walked through grain fields and woods to reach a remote bar only to discover it was no longer there.

The intermittent variable reinforcement schedule of finding a prize makes searching the Nemaha Rivers addictive in nature. In other words, like other addictions such as gambling or fishing you don't get a prize every time, but, with the next pull of the lever, the next cast of the lure, or on the next gravel bar awaits the find of a life time. Enjoy!

Sunken Gardens  
Lincoln Nebraska



Photo by  
Jim Atkins

**LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. –  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
October 3, 2007, Gere Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Second Vice President Roger Pittard. Board members present were Roger Pittard, Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger, Jim Marburger, John Harrison, Charles Wooldridge, and Jim Atkins, and visitor Ed Ridge.

The minutes of the September Board meeting were distributed. John Harrison moved to accept the minutes with the correction that the meeting ended at 8:47 p.m., second by Charles Wooldridge. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report for September was distributed. Jim Marburger moved to accept the report as printed and distributed, second by Jim Atkins. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Vera Lyman made contact with Lincoln Public Schools regarding the possibility of the club using scholarship funds for students. There are three geology/science related classes. We can designate which class & school gets the money. Another option is to donate rocks for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade geosciences or earth systems classes for junior & senior. A third option is to provide rocks & minerals to district-wide 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The LPS contact will send Vera a list and more information.

**NEW BUSINESS:** One of the CDs has matured. Treasurer Lyman will allow it to roll over.

Charles Wooldridge volunteered to be Swap Chairman for 2008. The Swap will be held on January 26, 2008 at the Bethany Park Shelter.

Since the 2008 show is to be held in June, and not at its normal time in March, it was suggested that advertising begin in March. Flyers or handouts can be provided to Pershing in March and in June. Show Chairman Pabian will be notified.

No further business was discussed. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on a motion by Charles Wooldridge, second by John Harrison. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Marburger*

The Treasurer's report will be read at the General Meeting. If you want a copy please contact Treasurer Vera Lyman.

**GENERAL MEETING –**

October 18, 2007, Bethany Park Shelter

The meeting was called to order by First Vice-President Terry Anderson at 7:18 p.m. Twenty-four adult members, one junior member, and one visitor, Milly Senser.

**OLD BUSINESS –** The minutes of the September meeting were published in the electronic Pick & Shovel and read at the meeting. Roger Pittard moved to accept the minutes as read and corrected, second by Jim Marburger. Motion carried. The treasurer's report for September was published in the electronic Pick & Shovel and read at the meeting. Charles Wooldridge moved to accept the report as read, second by Al Stewart. Motion carried.

Vera Lyman received information from Lincoln Public Schools regarding scholarship monies. They would like samples for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes; 1-2 inches in size, bagged in twelves. The specimen list will be published in the Pick & Shovel. Vera will confirm the numbers and volume needed.

Nominating Committee Chairman Jim Marburger offered nominations for the slate of officers. They are:

President – Terry Anderson  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Roger Pittard  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Charles Wooldridge  
Treasurer – Vera Lyman  
Secretary – Sharon Marburger  
Board Member – Jim Atkins  
Board Member – John Harrison  
Board Member – Al Stewart  
Board Member – Jim Marburger

Roger Pabian gave the 2008 Show Report. He plans to have a show committee meeting in November. Special displays are lined up and publicity is going well.

**NEW BUSINESS –** No new business was presented or discussed.

Costumes worn at this Halloween meeting were: Leah Anderson - princess cut diamond; Jim Marburger - blue agate; and Sharon Marburger - fire opal.

The meeting adjourned to program at 7:54 p.m. on a motion by Jim Marburger, second by Andrea Anderson. Motion carried.

The program was Sedimentary and Vein Agates by Doug and Susan Moore. Thanks, Roger Pabian, for providing this MWF Program.

Thanks, also, to those who provided snacks for our enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Marburger*

## Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Chairman Jim Marburger offered nominations for the slate of officers. They are:

- President – Terry Anderson
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Roger Pittard
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Charles Wooldridge
- Treasurer – Vera Lyman
- Secretary – Sharon Marburger
- Board Member – Jim Atkins
- Board Member – John Harrison
- Board Member – Al Stewart
- Board Member – Jim Marburger

## Scholarship Grants

Vera Lyman received information from Lincoln Public Schools regarding scholarship monies. They would like samples for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes; 1-2 inches in size, bagged in twelves. The specimen list will be published in the Pick & Shovel. Vera will confirm the numbers and volume needed.

## Specimen List

1	Quartz	13	Obsidian
2	Feldspar	14	Pumice
3	Mica	15	Sandstone
4	Calcite	16	Shale
5	Halite	17	Limestone
6	Talc	18	Chalk
7	-----	19	Coal
8	Pyrite	20	Marble
9	Copper Sulfide	21	Slate
10	Sulpher	22	Quartzite
11	Granite	23	Petrified Wood
12	Basalt	24	Fossil Gastropods

## Annual Christmas Party

Please plan on attending the Annual Christmas Party at the Bethany Park shelter December 9, 2007. More information on the party will be discussed at the November General Meeting and in the next P&S.



## Happy Thanksgiving

Have a Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy the company of family, friends and the things we have to be thankful for.





## 2006 Elected Officers

President	Pat Akins Jr.	402-477-1322	<a href="mailto:pakins@neb.rr.com">pakins@neb.rr.com</a>
1st Vice President	Terry Anderson	402-826-1169	<a href="mailto:cajunbrat@neb.rr.com">cajunbrat@neb.rr.com</a>
2nd Vice president	Roger Pittard	402-759-4623	<a href="mailto:rogerp@dtmspeed.net">rogerp@dtmspeed.net</a>
Treasurer	Vera Lyman	402-464-6089	
Secretary	Sharon Marburger	402-792-2348	<a href="mailto:mamamar@alltel.net">mamamar@alltel.net</a>
Board Member	James Atkins	402-483-1610	<a href="mailto:ina@inetnebr.com">ina@inetnebr.com</a>
Board Member	John Harrison	402-792-2337	<a href="mailto:jh21923@alltel.net">jh21923@alltel.net</a>
Board Member	James Marburger	402-792-2348	<a href="mailto:jm24122@alltel.net">jm24122@alltel.net</a>
Board Member	Charles Wooldridge	402-325-8849	<a href="mailto:charles.wooldridge@hss.ne.gov">charles.wooldridge@hss.ne.gov</a>

## Nominating Committee Long range Planning & By-Laws Committee

3 Years	Vera Lyman	3 Years	Charles Wooldridge
	Edward Ridge		Phyllis Parks
2 Years	John Harrison	2 Years	Susan Taylor
	Aulden Stewart		Edward Ridge
1 Year	Mary Pittard	1 Year	Vera Lyman
	Phyllis Parks		Roger Pabian

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Education/Librarian	Roger Pabian
Field Trips	James Marburger
Historian	Sharon Marburger
Membership Record	Edward Ridge
Programs	James Marburger
Property	James Marburger
Refreshments/Door Prizes	Judy Reilly
Youth Activities	Kay Jurgens, Vera Lyman Susan McMahon, Judy Reilly
Housing Committee	Charles Wooldridge, Vera Lyman, Susan McMahon
Auditing Committee	John Harrison, Roger Pabian, James Marburger
Geology Day Coordinator	Roger Pittard
MWF Liaison	Vera Lyman
Scholarship	Vera Lyman
Christmas Party	Edward Ridge
2008 Show	Roger Pabian
2008-Swap	Charles Wooldridge

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## LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Hosts our

50th Annual Show and NAOESCI State Show along with the  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention.

At  
PERSHING CENTER  
226 Centennial Mall south  
June 20-22, 2208  
Show Chairman - Roger Pabian

Advertising by rock-hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board. The rate is 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 a 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 applicant attends at least one meeting of the Club and pays the above dues plus a \$5 registration fee.

Meetings: Third thursday, September through May except December & January. Those dates will be announced. The meetings are held at Bethany Park Indoor Shelter, at Cotner and Vine Street.

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:  
 Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club  
 P.O. box 5342  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342  
 or E-Mail Newsletters to:  
[jna@inetnebr.com](mailto:jna@inetnebr.com)

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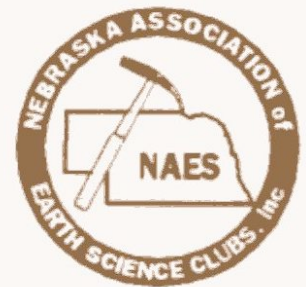
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The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences including by not necessarily limited to Geology, Paleontology and Mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose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