

THE PICK & SHOVEL

Volume 49 Issue 5 January 2007

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club - Lincoln Nebraska

General Meetings & Board Meetings

Board Meetings

Gere Library - 7 PM room 1
January 3 and 31, 2007
February 28, 2007
April 4, 2007
May 2, 2007
September 5, 2007
October 3, 2007
November 7, 2007
December 5, 2007

General Meetings

All general meetings will be held at the Antelope Park Shelter at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of the month. December and January are the only exceptions.

January 27, 2007
February 15, 2007
March 15, 2007
Annual Show March 24-25, 2007
April 19, 2007
May 17, 2007
June, July August 2007 - No Meetings
September 20, 2007
October 18, 2007
November 15, 2007
December 9, 2007

State Director's Report Rock Club News from Nebraska

By Ben Vranna

We had four club shows in 2006 - the Omaha and Lincoln shows were the largest, but the smaller shows have the advantage of offering field trips to local gravel pits. The four clubs swaps (except for the Lincoln's club swap in January) were held in parks. The largest is the Labor Day weekend swap in Crawford, in northeast NE, which attracts over 70 swappers from NE, SD, WY,CO,MT, and many other states. It is billed as a Fairburn agate convention, and many swappers find Fairburns while hunting on the nearby national grasslands. The largest Fairburn ever reported weighted 15 pounds.

Nebraska is a state of volunteers. We volunteer at Ashfall State Park - now designated a "National Natural Landmark" by the National Park Service - where we help scientists preserve complete skeletons of fossil rhinos, horses, camels, etc. I (Ben) have helped the University of Nebraska Vertebrate Paleo Dept. uncover and preserve plesiosaur skeletons at Center and Ponca, NE. We also spent days digging out and preserving a *Gillicus*, a Cretaceous (Niobrara Chalk Fm.) fossil fish at Ponca State Park.

Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson State Park in northeast NE, boasts a one-of-a-kind fossil. Two bull mammoths died together while fighting for herd supremacy about 14,000 years ago. Their skeletons are on display at Trailside, their tusks still locked together in death. Under one mammoth, was a skeleton of a coyote (possibly an unlucky "Wily Coyote"), who had hoped for a gigantic meal!

For information about show and swap dates for 2007, you may contact Nebraska MWF State Director Ben Vranna bybbv5521@intergate.com or call him at (402) 352-5531.

Dues are Due!

Taken from the MWF News January 2007 Issue No. 458 page 7.

GENERAL MEETING

December 10, 2006, Antelope Park Shelter

The meeting was called to order by First-Vice President Pat Akins at 7:00 p.m. Twenty-one adult members were present. One guest, Ellie Lyman, was present.

OLD BUSINESS - The minutes and Treasurer's Report for November will be published in the Pick & Shovel. We will address them at the January meeting.

The Rock Swap will be held on January 27 at Bethany Park Shelter. Bethany Park, located at Cotner & Vine, has a larger facility than Antelope Park. See the flier published in the Pick & Shovel. Please make copies from that for distribution. The swap will follow the usual rules, with setup at noon. The Swap is open from 1:00-5:00. Club members may participate in a pizza supper for a nominal fee of \$5.00. The general meeting will follow the supper.

Marie Taylor was in the hospital, but is now at Milder Manor. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marie.

Jim Atkins reminds us that he needs articles for the Pick & Shovel. Anything from one paragraph to one page would be welcomed.

In President Marburger's absence, Pat Akins presented the information received regarding the upgrade of the fluorescent lights. The cost will be about \$1,400, which includes upgrading each lamp to 240 watts. Charles Wooldridge moved to accept the expenditure, second by Phyllis Parks; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: It is DUES time again! \$10 individual, \$20 for family.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. on a motion by Marilyn Stewart, second by Shirley Rockel. Motion carried.

We proceeded to the gift exchange and Rock Bingo. We all had a great time. Bingo!!

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Marburger

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 6, 2006, Gere Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Marburger. Board members present were James Marburger, Pat Akins, Roger Pittard, Charles Wooldridge, Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger, John Harrison, and Jim Atkins. Ed Ridge attended.

The minutes of the November Board meeting were distributed. Vera Lyman moved to accept the minutes, second by Jim Atkins. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report for November was distributed. John Harrison moved to accept the report, second by Roger Pittard. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim Marburger has contacted the David Heffelbower Estate regarding the television/VCR. The TV has been located and should be returned to the club after probate.

Jim Marburger obtained information on upgrading the fluorescent lights. Upgrading each lamp to 120 watts would cost \$502; upgrading to 240 watts would cost \$642. Vera Lyman moved to take the 240 watt upgrade to the rank and file, with Board approval, second by John Harrison. Motion carried.

Vera Lyman has received the contracts from Pershing regarding 2010, 2011, 2012 show date reservations. Vera has also submitted requested reservation dates for library meeting rooms for 2007. The dates of Board meeting are January 3; January 31; February 28; April 4; May 2; September 5; October 3; November 7.

Bethany Park Shelter has been reserved for the January Swap.

NEW BUSINESS: Pat Akins nominated Charles Wooldridge as Program Chairman, John Harrison second. Wooly accepted the nomination and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. on a motion by Sharon Marburger, second by Pat Akins. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Marburger

LGMC Treasurer's Report December 2006

Pinnacle Checking Balance November 30, 2006 \$4846.27

Receipts:

Meat sales @ Christmas Party	15.50	
2007 Membership Dues—(5)	50.00	
Robert & Patricia Gemit –Donation/SLCEF	<u>2.00</u>	67.50

Payments:

Pershing Center-Deposits 2010,11,12 Shows	600.00	
FedEx-Kinko's-Dec P&S Inserts	16.48	
Postmaster/Return Contracts-Pershing	4.20	
Vera Lyman-Christmas Party supplies	14.26	
Super Saver-Christmas Party supplies-Chicken	43.44	
Schwarz Printing Co.—Dec P&S Print	92.02	
PO Box Rent—2007	72.00	
Vera Lyman-Sugar/Equal-Club socials	<u>5.94</u>	848.34

Pinnacle Checking Balance December 31, 2006 \$4065.43



Flaming Fish Dune Vacation

By Charles A. Wooldridge II

This August my nineteen year old son Emerson and I took a rewarding yet relatively inexpensive vacation to western Nebraska, Idaho, and Utah. The first day we drove from Lincoln to Cheyenne, Wyoming where we spent the night with old friends. We shared old stories, fried chicken and a beautiful Wyoming sunset.

The next day we drove to Kemmerer, Wyoming. We had planned to camp at the town campground, but it turned out to nothing more than a unkempt parking lot along the highway. We chose to stay at a very low rent motel in town. The room was small and old, but the linen was clean and the showers hot. The owner had just returned from fishing with a limit of trout and was eager to show us his catch and tell us where to catch them. He even volunteered to take us there. Emerson and I had a different sort of fish on our minds. The next day we were scheduled to mine fossil fish in the old Severns quarry.

It was decided we should go visit the Fossil Buttes National Monument to prepare ourselves. The Museum is free and houses excellent displays of some of the very best examples of species mined from the numerous quarries operating in the area. The displays ranged from kill plates of *Knightsia*, a small sardine type fish, and the Wyoming state fossil, to a very large crocodile, birds, palm fronds, etc.. The museum is a great way to gain information and develop a sense of history and geology of the surrounding area. Following our trip to the museum Emerson and I decided to take the path and climb Fossil Butte. The trail doesn't get too steep until the very end. I was able to make the two and a half mile round trip trek with two bad knees. It was a struggle but well worth the effort. From that location you can see many other mine sights on the surrounding hills and buttes.

We woke early in the morning, rendezvoused with our mining hosts and headed out for the mine sight. We had to be ferried up to the sight in a four by four do to the rugged steep trail. At the quarry we were given a quick lesson on how to dig blocks of limestone out of the quarry wall and use chisels to split them to search for fossils. He showed us which horizons were the most prolific, which he referred to as "candy". We were soon totally focused on finding fish fossils. Like agate hunting, mushroom hunting, or real live fishing the activity is as addicting as a one armed bandit! We had to force ourselves to stop and drink water and eat lunch. Every once in awhile you would come upon a "keeper" more often you would find partial fossils. Many times I broke a really nice specimen in my haste to free it from it's limestone prison. The deal is, if you find a really rare specimen you need to turn it over to the mine owners, otherwise, you can keep what you want. A person next to me found a fossil bone from a bird. Five hours of hard work

later Emerson and I left with several crates of fossils and instructions as to preserve them. We arrived back at our motel room covered with limestone dust. We headed south after two long needed showers.

Several hours later we were at Flaming Gorge, Utah. What a breathtaking sight! Following a well maintained road through numerous grades and switch backs you arrive upon an overlook into vividly colored red and gold striated canyons surrounding beautiful blue Flaming Gorge Lake. Nearby I found numerous small geodes. We met up with my girlfriend, Jackie, and her family at the Red Canyon Lodge. We stayed in modern log cabins that were located on a quiet mountain lake. The price was very reasonable. The Lodge offers a full menu restaurant, horse trail rides, fishing, boat rentals, and of course incredible views over the canyon rim.

There are many nearby attractions including a geologic driving loop that takes you winding through the canyon area. There are signs that indicate as you pass through many different formations such as the Dakota Formation and Morrison Formation, and explain the nature and age of each geologic formation. It is both awe inspiring and educational. Just south is Vernal, Utah, known for it's dinosaur fossils and museum.

I decided to go exploring on my own one day and took back roads to the east over Diamond Mountain. I took my little rental car where no car should ever go and had an exciting day. I found red agate deposits up near the top. It was a bright red seam agate that I was able to spot from the road. As I searched the area I found fairly large quantities, but since my car was small and already loaded with rocks and fossils I could only bring back about twenty pounds or so. In alluvial deposits of tumbled aggregate below the Morrison Formation I was able to find a couple of pieces of dinosaur bone. In the bottom of dry draws I found intricately banded water worn quartzite's that look great next to my pond at home.

Several days later we headed to Idaho where we visited my oldest son Randy and granddaughter Elizabeth for a week. We had several geologic adventures in Idaho. One day was spent relaxing in the hot pools at Lava Hot Springs. We went spelunking in a large natural cavern another day. The last day Randy wanted to show Emerson and I how he spends his free time in the summer. We loaded his dirt bike on a trailer, along with a couple of four wheel atv's, and headed for the sand dunes. The dunes are seven miles wide and thirty five miles long southeast of Yellowstone and east of the Tetons. My expectation was we would be riding trails through the dunes....not so. (Continued on page 7)

Gems on Stamps

By Richard "Pete" Peterson

Want to expand your hobby horizons? Start collecting postage stamps that depict rocks and minerals. Here is a list of countries and Scott Stamp Catalog numbers for recently issued postage stamps that depict gems, minerals & jewelry. This list was compiled from the magazine, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, February 2006 to January 2007.

Antigua, 2877-2878;
 Belgium, 2095, 2096, 2096a;
 Belize, 1198;
 Brazil, 2915, 2965a;
 Chad, 943J;
 Chile, 1447;
 Colombia, 1266h;
 Cuba, 4544-4549;
 France, 3190;
 French Southern & Antarctic Territories, 362;
 Greece, 2175-2179;
 Guinea, 2213-2214;
 Hungary, 3978a;
 Israel, 1617;
 Italy, 2730;
 Jordan, 1798;
 Kazakhstan, 486-487;
 Laos, 1663-1664;
 Macao, 1182c;
 Mexico, 2474;
 Morocco, 993;
 Nepal, 767;
 New Zealand, 2069f, 2082-2087;
 Norway, 1464;
 Peru, 1482;
 Russia, 6985;
 South Africa, 1335f
 Sri Lanka, 1497;
 St. Helena, 908;
 St. Thomas & Prince Islands, 1449c, 1469-1470,
 1473-1474, 1511-1512;
 Thailand, 2178-2178f;
 United States, 3749A, 3749B;
 Yemen, 815c;
 Zaire, 1549;

If collecting all the stamps seems a bit much, you can focus on those from a single country (U.S., Mexico, Zaire, etc.), those that depict specific gems (agate, jade, sapphire, etc.), or your own favorite category (royal jewelry, minerals in the rough, etc.).

The American Topical Association (ATA), dedicated to stamp collectors that collect specific subjects depicted on stamps, sells lists of all the stamps ever issued on a wide variety of subjects. Search out their web site for more information. Don't forget eBay for buying stamps online. Locally, the Lincoln Stamp Show, LIN-PEX'07, will be held February 24-25, 2007.



(Continued from [page 6])

The land marks of the "land" quickly disappear once you enter the dunes. There are no trails...just sand. Tall sand. The dunes must be several hundred feet high with large sink holes between them. You have to drive wide open around and around the dunes spiraling upwards until you reach the zenith...and then...well you have no idea what is on the other side. There may be another dune or there may be a drop off. I rolled my atv at the top of one of the dunes. Fortunately I just broke off my flag and was not injured. Nine people had died on the dunes so far this year. It was one of those experiences that I am glad I did (and survived) but would never do again.

I had several days off work to relax and recuperate when we got home before I had to go in the hospital for knee replacement. This was one of the best vacations I have ever taken. I highly recommend Flaming Gorge, Fossil Butte National Monument, and Lava Hot Springs, but I would stay away from the sand dunes unless you have really good insurance.

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

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

Proudly presents its

49th Annual Show

"Gems around US"

March 24-25, 2007

Saturday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Pershing Center, 226 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska

Mineral Specimens, Cut and Polished Rocks, Meteorites, Fossils, Bead and Gemstone Jewelry of all Styles, Displays and MUCH MORE!

Enjoy a fun, educational day with friends and family learning about the wonders of the natural world.

Featuring: 14 Dealers, Working Demonstrations, Information Booth, Silent Auction, Youth Activities all day Saturday and Sunday, Free Educational Programs, and Door Prizes.

Admission - \$5.00/Adult, Children under 12 FREE with Adult admission.

Two day pass \$9.00.

Concessions available on site.



President's Message

Sorry no President's message this month. I am sure that Pat Akins wishes everyone a Happy prosperous New Year.

There will be several activities coming up this year. The annual January Swap (see ad in this newsletter), Geology Day at Pioneer Park on February 11, 2007 from 1 to 4 PM at the Nature Center, and the annual club show in March (see flyer in this news letter) and the Grinding Party at the Nature Center at Pioneer Park in July to mention a few. Please make plans to attend or help at these functions.

Jim Atkins—Editor.



January Swap—2006



2006 Elected Officers

President	Pat Akins Jr.	5017 N. 6 th St.	Lincoln, NE	68521	402-477-1322
1 st Vice Pres.	Terry Anderson	1113 Co. Rd. 2500	Wilber, NE	68465	402-826-1169
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	402-464-6089
Secretary	Sharon Marburger	332 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	402-792-2348
Board Member	James Atkins	3028 S. 35 th St.	Lincoln, NE	68506	402-483-1610
Board Member	John Harrison	330 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	402-792-2337
Board Member	James Marburger	332 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	402-792-2348
Board Member	Charles Wooldridge	6115 Huntington St.	Lincoln, NE	68507	402-325-8849

Nominating Committee

3 years	Vera Lyman
	Edward Ridge
2 years	John Harrison
	Aulden Stewart
1 year	Mary Pittard
	Phyllis Parks

**Long-Range Planning
& By-Laws Committee**

3 years	Charles Wooldridge
	Phyllis Parks
2 years	Susan Taylor
	Edward Ridge
1 year	Vera Lyman
	Roger Pabian

Chairman: Immediate Past-President Susan McMahan

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	2007 Show:	James Marburger
Programs:	David Heffelbower	2008 Show:	Roger Pabian
Property:	Pat Akins, Jr. James Marburger	2007 Swap:	Roger Pabian
Refreshments/Door Prizes:	Judy Reilly	2008 Swap:	
Youth Activities:	Kay Jurgens, Judy Reilly, Vera Lyman, Susan McMahan		
Housing Committee:	Susan McMahan, Pat Akins, Jr., Charles Wooldridge, Vera Lyman		
Auditing Committee:	John Harrison, Roger Pabian, James Marburger		
Geology Day Coordinator:	2 nd Vice President Roger Pittard		

L. G. M. C. web address—courtesy of Jim Atkins:
<http://incolornetnebr.com/jna/gemclub/lgmc.htm>

Your PICK & SHOVEL Staff

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

J. J. & L. ROCKS and MINERALS

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LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Hosts our
49th Annual Show

At
PERSHING CENTER

226 Centennial Mall South

*** March 24 - March 26, 2007***

Show Chairman - Jim Marburger

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

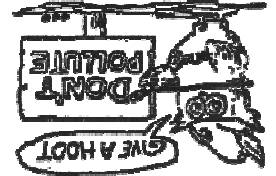
year

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: Third 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 east of the children's playground.



H. E. L. P.
Help Eliminate Litter Please



E-Mail Newsletters to: jna@inetr.com

OR

Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342

P O Box 5342

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club
proudly presents

28th Annual Mid-Winter
ROCK SWAP

New Location
Bethany Park Shelter House
Saturday, January 27, 2007
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM