

PICK & SHOVEL



Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Lincoln, Nebraska
www.lincolngemmineralclub.org

General Meetings / Activities

All general meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter, unless otherwise noted.

- August 29-30, 2009
Field Trip to Colorado
(See announcement/details on page 2)
- September 17, 2009
- October 15, 2009
- November 19, 2009
Annual Business Meeting
- December 13, 2009
Annual Christmas Party
(Details to come later)

Board Meetings

All board meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at Gere Library, meeting room 1, unless otherwise noted.

- September 2, 2009
- September 30, 2009 (October meeting)
- November 4, 2009
- December 2, 2009

The Passing of a Friend

Adeline Nolde, 92, formerly of Sutton, died in her home July 3, 2009. Many of you only knew Adeline as the lady who sat at the entrance booth at the shows, asking people to put their name and address on labels so a show reminder could be mailed to them the next year. Adeline loved to visit with people, and she bent many an ear over the years. She was a fascinating and intelligent lady, and she will be missed.

President's Message

by Terry Anderson

I received an interesting invitation from Deb Buck of the Prairie Hill Learning Center.

The summer camp session at the Learning Center recently ended. Ms. Buck did a program with the kids, starting with minerals and all the wonderful and beautiful things they can create: crystals, gems, stalactites and stalagmites, and geodes, then talked about minerals' relationship to rocks, including the three kinds of rocks and fossils. The program was presented through fun, hands-on experiments. She now has about 60 children loving minerals and rocks.



Ms. Buck has invited LGMC to participate in the Learning Center's Annual Children's Country Fair on Saturday, August 22 from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Club members are invited to bring exhibits of gems, minerals, and rocks. Grinding and polishing demonstrations would be especially welcomed. Fossil "excavation", or demonstrations of fossils being "dug out" would be very exciting, too. The children would love to meet people who, just like them, are passionate about minerals and rocks.

Setup begins at 10:30. You may contact Ms. Buck at debbiebuck@hotmail.com.

Needed: Field Trip Wagonmaster

Due to some unforeseen bad luck, Wooly may not be able to lead us on the August 29 field trip. At the time of this publication, he is still searching for way to go. Contact him if you have any suggestions, or want to volunteer to lead the group. See page 2 for trip details.

August Field Trip

by Charles Wooldridge

The field trip is planned for the last weekend in August. We will be traveling to the Spruce Grove Campground along the Tarryall River in Colorado. Spruce Grove is north of Lake George on Colorado 77. It is a quiet, secluded area near well-known Topaz claims. There are 27 campsites that accommodate tents and campers up to 16 feet. Toilets and water are available.

I have arranged for us to visit the Topaz Mountain mine on the 29th and Amazonite claims on the 30th. We will get first shot at the turned over Topaz ore. We will be expected to purchase one salted bag of ore per family at \$40.00. I am very excited. More information about the mine and claims can be found at <http://www.pinnacle5minerals.com>. Other collectibles in the area include smoky quartz, fossils, petrified wood, goethite, and gold. The trip should be a good one for both the physically fit and those of us not in the best of condition. Local activities include horseback riding, climbing, hiking, museums, rock shops, historical sites, fishing, camping, birding, scenic sites and, of course, rock hounding.

For those of you wanting more information, the following information for Spruce Grove Campground is published at www.forestcamping.com/dow/rockymtn/pikecmp.htm#sprucegrove.

DIRECTIONS: From Florissant, CO, take US Rt. 24 west 5.6 miles to Tarryall sign (County Rt. 77). Turn right at sign onto Rt. 77 and go 13.7 miles to a tent symbol sign. Turn right onto a dirt road into campground.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The elevation is 8,600 ft. The campground is composed of a single loop with long, level parking aprons and little or no shade. There is a single spur of walk-in tent sites (in the shade) among magnificent mature spruce and awesome boulders. Tarryall Creek runs past the walk-in sites and some of the combined. The campground is very attractive and close enough to Lost Creek Wilderness to make it ideal for hikers.

RATE AND MAXIMUM STAY PERMITTED

Rate: \$12 per day; \$20 per day - "buddy" sites; Maximum Stay Permitted: 14 days

RV INFORMATION

Hookups: None

RV Pull Thrus: 5

Waste Station: No

Parking Apron Size: 15' X 53'; the parking aprons are gravel.

FACILITIES

Vaults: Yes; not wheelchair accessible

Flush Toilets: No

Hot Showers: No

Water Spigots (non-site): 2

The water spigots are hand pumps.

Faceting Workshop

by Roger Pabian

Several members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club have expressed an interest in learning to facet gems, me included. Some time back, I inherited a very fine faceting unit. Several other people have come across faceting units that they would like to learn to use. My unit came without an operator's manual and I have, on occasion, experimented with the unit and produced a few less-than-satisfactory stones. The manufacturer and several of the dealers for that manufacturer would not provide an operator's manual, probably because I did not directly buy the unit from one of them.

Happily, the heirs of Tom Gates, from whom I inherited the machine, recently found the operator's manual and a lot of things about the machine are beginning to make some sense. I now know the scales in which the mast and dials are calibrated, and what the hammer-shaped attachment does. In addition, I learned the machine is a left-handed unit.

I would like to start a faceters work study group where together, we can learn how to shape and finish faceted gemstones. I propose the group gather once or twice a month, allowing us the opportunity to work on similar projects and to critique individual projects.

One requirement: participants must have their own faceting unit, or have access to one, which can be brought to each group meeting. Please call me at 465-0144 or e-mail me at qslqsl@windstream.net for further details.

Upcoming Events

August 15-17: St. Louis, MO. The Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs' 16th Annual Show; Machinist Hall Auditorium, West St. Louis County, MO; Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; CONTACT: Robert Morse, Show Chairman (636) 462-4423.

September 12-13: Fairfield, IA. Sac & Fox Lapidary Club's Annual Show; Arts & Convention Center, 200 N. Main St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun 10-5; CONTACT: Betty Morris, 618 N. Lincoln St., Mt. Pleasant, IA, (319) 385-9584, emorris@lisco.com. **This is also the fall meeting for the MWF.**

September 16-18: Lincoln, MO. Mozarkite Society of Lincoln, Inc.'s 50th Annual Show & Swap; Lincoln City Park Shelter House; 8-5 daily; CONTACT: Linville Harms, 1804 E. 14th St., Sedalia, MO 65301, (660) 827-4143.

September 19-20: Columbus, NE. Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.'s Annual Show; Knights of Columbus Hall, 3115 6th St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Scott Lindstrom, 815 Apache St., Columbus, NE 68601, (402) 564-7660.

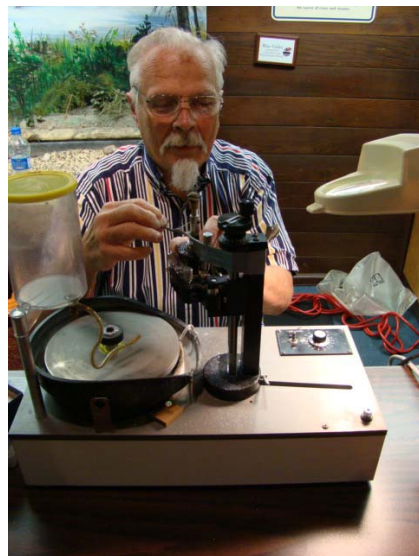
Grinding Party

We had a fantastic turnout at the Grinding Party on Sunday, July 12. Al Stewart, Ed Ridge, Charles Wooldridge, and Roger Pabian entertained the over 200 visitors with demonstrations in stone cutting and grinding, tumbling, and faceting. As did those demonstrating, Jim Marburger and Jim Atkins shared their knowledge of the hobby by answering a plethora of questions. Free stones were handed out to anyone who wanted a specimen. Ed Dvorak wire-wrapped the stones for those who wanted to wear their specimen as a pendant. Pat Dvorak provided moral support to our hard-working volunteers while Sharon Marburger assisted our hosts by manning the "clickers" to keep a tally of visitors to the Nature Center.

Charlie and Karen Messenger acted as hosts to this Parks and Recreation sponsored activity. The club appreciates the Messengers' dedication to this activity and offers its heartfelt thanks.

In addition to the hobby-related fun, live birds and reptiles were offered to touch and view. The snakes were a big hit as always, with interest and revulsion playing tug-of-war with many of the visitors.

Club members and visitors alike had a good time.



All photos courtesy of Jim and Sharon Marburger.

A Matter of History

Reprinted in part from
The Pick & Shovel, February 1963

An Interview with Adeline Nolde

When I was a child, Mother found my pockets were always stuffed with stones which I collected but never seriously saved. The Gibsons, who were in my jewelry class, interested me in going to a show. I went to my first gem and mineral show, which was our club's 1959 show, and became interested in stones. I started my present collection in September of 1959.

Maurice Tracy was my first lapidary instructor and John Lewis, my second instructor. I do not have a favorite stone. Anything that is beautiful pleases me. Being a slow cutter and polisher, I'm not experienced in cutting a variety of material. At present, my favorite cutting material is Montana Agate which takes such a high polish and for its durability. I have never cracked a stone from overheating and believe in our friend Guy Miller's advice, "Perhaps it took millions of years for the stone to form, so why be in a hurry to polish it?"

My favorite pieces were my silver pendant with fused silver scraps mounted on a silver back-plate and my silver pendant with the bird of paradise agate mounted on it. However, I have since made some fused silver pendants and ascot tie studs, tooled and hammered silver cuff links, an enameled pendant, earrings and bracelet set with fused silver trim and a silver necklace with an emerald mounted on the pendant which I believe are well designed and can rate with the two pendants which were my favorites. Silver work and copper enameling are more interesting to me than the lapidary work because of the flexibility of the materials, and because it permits me to express artistic ability. Some form of art expression has always been a habit with me since I was about 3 or 4 years old.

In designing jewelry, let the design compliment the shape of the stone or the design patterns in the stone. Avoid the use of beaded bezels or twisted wire around the bezel which tend to give a commercial appearance. Be different.

A Tale of Two Field Trips

by Roger Pabian

Most field trips are memorable for the things you found. Some are memorable for not only what you may have discovered, but perhaps for a nice restaurant you found after the day's work, or for simply a nice day out. Some recent news stories brought to mind a couple of strange events that happened on field trips to essentially the same locality, but about 10 years apart.

The first took place in the late summer of 1985 when Fred Holbert and I were in search of agates in Richardson County. We were looking at glacial deposits in road ditches and enjoying some success. Then we heard the chopping noises of several helicopters. These were big, military-style helicopters and they were converging on a central point from several different directions. Since it was the height of the marijuana season, and the lowlands nearby were great habitat for the weed, we figured the Drug Enforcement Administration had made a big bust. We were really surprised late that Sunday night when, on the late news, the story of the raid of a survivalist camp near Rulo had taken place. Two bodies, one of which was a small boy, had been unearthed and a number of people were arrested. The news broadcast painted a grisly picture of events that had taken place "just down the road a piece" from where we had been collecting. At any rate, we were both pretty happy that the DEA arrived there shortly before us.

Approximately ten years later, about a mile north of the earlier location, I was showing several graduate students from the University of Nebraska some examples of freshwater limestone and paleosols (fossil soil horizons) in the Eskridge Shale. A large airplane flew low overhead, slightly tilted toward us and about 300 yards away. The airplane then made a second pass at about the same altitude, attitude and distance. A couple of minutes later, here the airplane came again, and on the third pass, I noticed the little bright red dots popping up on the rocks and students. It was a military gunship, probably out of Fort Riley, on a training mission, with the laser guns to simulate the 50-caliber machine guns that are used in real combat. The next time around, I waved at the plane as if mocking them: "Ha-ha, you missed!" The airplane then went on to other targets. I'm glad they weren't using live ammunition that day.

Pebble Pups



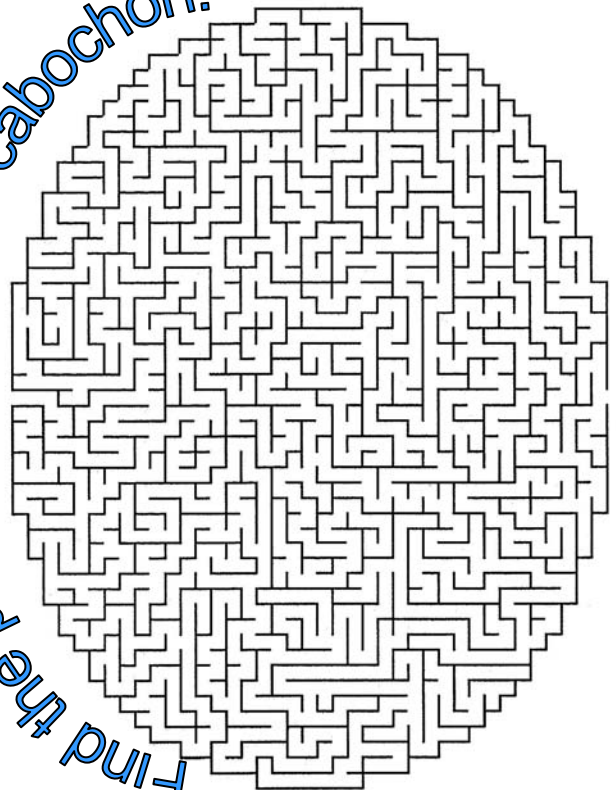
Hey Pups! This month's puzzle is the third of four "state" puzzles. We have previously searched for state gemstones and state minerals; this month, let's look for state rocks.

Next month we will search for state fossils. Sharpen your pencils because that puzzle will be MAMMOTH!



S R P E T O S K E Y S T O N E E E O K
 P G H T A P A V L N V R Z S N T A L M
 P E T I I U K Y B A D O H P I A R B O
 G E O D E E T I R G U P F E T G S L Z
 L O F N A O R C O A L E S T N A D U A
 P L B A U X I T E T O T N I E Y O E R
 R P P L O S L P N I O R O N P K T G K
 A E P R O S I E T Z I I S A R C A R I
 I N I E B P S P A E I F C R E U L A T
 R O X B U R Y P U D D I N G S T O N E
 I T G M I U K Y B C D E I D E N O I O
 E S F U N M F H R O Y D A E S E B T I
 A D O C E T I N A R G W O R U K C E N
 G N T U D I T A D A U O Y B O D I J I
 A A D C O O R N X L F O I A I B N D E
 T S I D E U K T H U N D E R E G G X M
 E U V Y G O D M W A M P L L Q S T Y Q
 H Q D O O W M L A P D E I F I R T E P
 Y U L E M A R B L E L B R A M W Y H L

Find the path through the cabochon.



- AGATIZED CORAL - Florida
- BAUXITE - Arkansas
- BLUE GRANITE - South Carolina
- COAL - Utah
- CUMBERLANDITE - Rhode Island
- GEODE - Iowa
- GRANITE - New Hampshire, North Carolina, Vermont
- KENTUCKY AGATE - Kentucky
- MARBLE - Alabama, Vermont
- MOZARKITE - Missouri
- PETOSKEY STONE - Michigan
- PETRIFIED PALM WOOD - Texas
- PETRIFIED WOOD - Mississippi
- PRAIRIE AGATE - Nebraska
- RED GRANITE - Wisconsin
- ROXBURY PUDDINGSTONE - Massachusetts
- SANDSTONE - Nevada
- SERPENTINE - California
- SLATE - Vermont
- THUNDER-EGG - Oregon
- YULE MARBLE - Colorado

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402-826-0480
cajunbrat@neb.rr.com

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402-416-3233
charles.wooldridge@nebraska.gov

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rogerp@dtnspeed.net

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Answer to puzzle on page 5.

S	R	P	E	T	O	S	K	E	Y	S	T	O	N	E	E	E	O	K
P	G	H	T	A	P	A	V	L	N	V	R	Z	S	N	T	A	L	M
P	E	T	I	I	U	K	Y	B	A	D	O	H	P	I	A	R	B	O
G	E	O	D	E	E	T	I	R	G	U	P	F	E	T	G	S	L	Z
L	O	F	N	A	O	R	C	O	A	L	E	S	T	N	A	D	U	A
P	L	B	A	U	X	I	T	E	T	O	T	N	I	E	Y	O	E	R
R	P	P	L	O	S	L	P	N	I	O	R	O	N	P	K	T	G	K
A	E	P	R	O	S	I	E	T	Z	I	I	S	A	R	C	A	R	I
I	N	I	E	B	P	S	P	A	E	I	F	C	R	E	U	L	A	T
R	O	X	B	U	R	Y	P	U	D	D	I	N	G	S	T	O	N	E
I	T	G	M	I	U	K	Y	B	C	D	E	I	D	E	N	O	I	O
E	S	F	U	N	M	F	H	R	O	Y	D	A	E	S	E	B	T	I
A	D	O	C	E	T	I	N	A	R	G	W	O	R	U	K	C	E	N
G	N	T	U	D	I	T	A	D	A	U	O	Y	B	O	D	I	J	I
A	A	D	C	O	O	R	N	X	L	F	O	I	A	I	B	N	D	E
T	S	I	D	E	U	K	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	E	G	G	X	M
E	U	V	Y	G	O	D	M	W	A	M	P	L	L	Q	S	T	Y	Q
H	Q	D	O	O	W	M	L	A	P	D	E	I	F	I	R	T	E	P
Y	U	L	E	M	A	R	B	L	E	L	B	R	A	M	W	Y	H	L

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

Membership dues for the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

Adults (age 16 and over) - \$10 per year

Juniors (age 12-16) - \$2 per year (with a responsible adult)

Couples - \$20

Family membership (with children under age 12 years) - \$22 per year

Applications for new membership must be approved by the Board of Directors after applicant attends at least one meeting of the Club. Dues will be payable to the Treasurer following Board approval, with an additional, one-time \$5 registration fee.

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Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 5342
Lincoln, NE 68505-0342
Or e-mail newsletters to:
lgmcsecretary@yahoo.com

PICK & SHOVEL

LGMC web address courtesy of James Atkins.
<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org>

Your PICK & SHOVEL staff:

Publisher: Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., P.O. Box 5342,
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342

Editor: Sharon Marburger, P.O. Box 64, Hickman, Nebraska
68372, E-mail: lgmcsecretary@yahoo.com

Circulation: Vera Lyman, 402-464-6089

News Reporters: All 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.