



# PICK & SHOVEL

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Lincoln, Nebraska

[www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org)



Volume 53, Issue 4  
December 2010

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

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### Board Member

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### Board Member

Richard Peterson, 402-489-2996  
[padr20@yahoo.com](mailto:padr20@yahoo.com)

### Board Member

Edward Ridge, 402-477-8469

## GENERAL MEETINGS / ACTIVITIES

Regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House on the third Thursday of the month: Sep., Oct., Nov., Feb., Mar., Apr., and May; the second Sunday in December; and the fourth Saturday in January. Youth activities begin at 6:30 p.m. on the same dates. Summer meetings and other activities will be announced as they are planned.

**Christmas Party**  
**Potluck Supper, Gift Exchange,**  
**Rock Bingo**  
**Sunday, December 12, 2010**  
**5:00 p.m., Supper at 6:00 p.m.**



**Pebble Pups**  
**Activity: No special activity**  
**Christmas Party with Rock Bingo!**

**Monthly Rock Party**  
**No December party due to the holidays.**  
**January 29, 2010**  
**Hosted by the Marburgers in Hickman.**  
**Details in your January Pick & Shovel.**

## BOARD MEETINGS

**Gere Library, Meeting Room 1, 6:30 p.m.**

January 5, 2011

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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Wooldridge



With the end of the year at hand, my thoughts are focused on what an incredible year it has been. Monthly meetings, rock parties, geology day, the annual grinding party, science fair, the annual swap, field trips, board meetings, and the Big Show have made for a busy year.

I look forward to Richard Peterson's leadership as he assumes the office of President for next year. I think we elected an exceptional slate of officers and board members to propel our club into the future. It takes more than officers and board members to be successful. It takes all of us doing our part and the rewards are self-evident. As we bring to fruition our PURPOSE (see the bottom of page one), we end up with much more than Education – we have fun and develop social relationships with persons of varied and diverse lives who have a similar interest. I believe it is this diversity that has made the relationships I have established more meaningful to me. Thanks to each of you as you have enriched my life. I look forward to all of us doing our part to make 2011 even better than 2010.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Wooly

## 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Richard Peterson
1st Vice President:	Aulden Stewart
2nd Vice President:	Ed Dvorak
Treasurer:	Vera Lyman
Secretary:	Sharon Marburger
Board:	Robert Cropp
	Jim Marburger
	Ed Ridge
	Charles Wooldridge

## IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN!

Dues are due January 1  
and  
delinquent January 31

Individual - \$15  
Family - \$25 plus \$2 per junior  
Juniors - \$2

**Dues received after January 31  
will have an additional  
mandatory \$5 late fee.  
No exceptions!**

## Silversmithing classes

**The Jewelry Connection Ltd.  
Indian Village Shopping Ctr.  
13th & Arapahoe, Lincoln**

**Tuesdays**

**January 11, 2011**

**thru**

**March 1, 2011**

**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**Tuition: \$100 plus \$25 supply deposit**

**Contact:**

**Jayne Beer 402-890-3307**

**Judith Bay 402-423-7058**

**or e-mail**

**[jbeer60070@aol.com](mailto:jbeer60070@aol.com)**

## PETE'S NOTES

Written for the *Pick & Shovel* by Richard Peterson, LGMC Board Member

### WHO OWNS THE RIVERS? Part IV - RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

The words “responsible” and “non-destructive” seems to have eluded many people. I doubt whether the words have been legally defined; perhaps they should be. One person’s “responsible” quest for a mineral buried in a hillside or river bank is another person’s “irresponsible” act that threatens the site for future collectors.

Human beings are an integral part, not owners, of the natural world. As such we should enter that world with deep appreciation. We, as collectors of what has been formed over millions of years, should leave our collecting areas with minimal damage. Our responsibility is to take with us only what we need for personal use and leave the rest for others to enjoy another day. This may be easy for me to say as what I hand carry off a gravel bar once a week or so in the summer does not, in my mind at least, damage others’ future enjoyment of the gravel bars.

Collecting for resale, or exploiting a resource for export, is another issue. We have all been to shows where imported minerals and fossils from other countries are sold. Ever wonder under what circumstances these specimens were collected? Was it exploiting a resource for the benefit of a few? How many people were put at risk for a specimen to reach a gem and mineral show. Some would say it is the countries involved that determine what is acceptable. If we buy these specimens, we are encouraging the continuation of whatever practices were involved.

The older I get the more convinced I am of a belief that gelled some forty years ago: 80% of us fall into either a “me” or “we” mind-set. This mind-set is true for a person’s personal choices, their politics, and yes, even rock collecting.

### LITTLE ANNOYANCES - Part IV.

Nebraska’s venomous snakes - The average Nebraskan will probably never in their lifetime come face to face with a poisonous snake. Field collectors of gem and minerals, however, are at increased risk. There are snakes to avoid in Nebraska and it is prudent

to be informed. Remember, snakes are cold blooded and their bodies need to warm before they are fully prepared to begin their daily routine. On cool mornings they are usually encountered resting on sun-warmed surfaces such as exposed rocks, paths, concrete or other heat absorbing surfaces. Remember, not all venomous snakes have “rattles” to signal danger. The venomous snakes you might encounter while collecting in Nebraska are the following:

*Prairie rattlesnake.* This rattlesnake lives in grassland areas of the Great Plains which includes the western two-thirds of Nebraska. This snake can be up to 35-45" long. They prefer habitats such as prairies, pastures, prairie dog towns, and rock outcrops. This snake is often out and about in the daytime.

*Western massasauga.* This snake is found in both prairie and grassland areas, often in marshy or wet habitats (like river bottoms), or on rock outcrops. It is 20-30" long and is the smallest of Nebraska’s rattlers. The name *massasauga* is a Native American term meaning “swamp dweller”.

*Timber rattlesnake.* Primarily a species of the eastern U.S., its range extends into the wooded areas of southeastern Nebraska. They prefer forested areas with rock outcrops or ledges, but they may venture into adjacent sites. This one can be 36-55" long and may be active day or night. This snake may retreat when approached or lie motionless.

*Copperhead* (aka the Osage Copperhead). This 24-36" snake is known to occur in Gage and Richardson counties, and along the Missouri River bluffs south of the Platte River. These snakes prefer wooded areas with rock outcrops, but use a variety of habitats such as abandoned wood piles and farm buildings, and grassy areas near rotting logs or debris. These are usually quiet snakes and prefer to avoid places where people (but not rock collectors) normally visit. This is not a rattlesnake, hence they have no “rattle” to signal their presence.

AND THE WORD IS...? I’m easing up on you. I know most of you answered, “What is SPHALERITE”? This month’s mineral is a nickel sulfide, with small amounts of cobalt, iron and copper. It was named after W. H. Miller (1801-1880), an English mineralogist. What is ... ?

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### **November 18, 2010, Bethany Park Shelter**

The LGMC Annual Business Meeting was called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by President Charles Wooldridge. Thirty adult members and two juniors were present.

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The November Rock Party will be at Roger Pabian's house on Saturday the 20th at 6:00 p.m. Bring your potluck supper items and hobby project to work on.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The minutes of the October meeting were published in the Pick & Shovel. Shirley Rockel moved to accept the minutes as printed, second by Jim Atkins. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Lyman. John Harrison moved to accept the report as read, second by Roger Pittard. Motion carried.

Wooly reminded the group that demonstrations for the Alzheimer patients outreach project are scheduled for Friday, November 19 at 1:00 p.m. See Al Stewart if you are interested in participating.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

It was suggested to the Board that a new standing committee be created to address legislative issues. President Wooldridge created the Legislative Liaison Committee and named Richard Peterson as chairman. Anyone wanting to assist Pete in this endeavor, please contact him.

Jim Atkins was asked to update links on the website, to include a link to the American Lands Access Association ("ALAA").

The Christmas Party will be held at the Bethany Park Shelter House on Sunday, December 12 at 5 p.m. The club will provide picnicware, fried chicken and beverages. Bring a hot and cold dish to pass. For entertainment, ROCK BINGO!! Let's donate lots of prizes for Bingo. Also, those wishing to participate may bring a \$5-\$10 gift for the gift exchange. Please indicate whether it is a male or female gift.

The Mid-Winter Swap is scheduled for January 22, 2011. Although reservations cannot be confirmed until

January 1, Bethany Park Shelter House is the planned location. Flyers for the Swap will be published in the Pick & Shovel. Feel free to copy and distribute as needed.

### **SHOW REPORT:**

Notice was received from NAOESCI secretary, Erma Pharoah, that Lincoln is responsible for hosting the 2011 State show. That notification was subsequently rescinded when it was concluded that the Norfolk club should be the 2011 host. The Norfolk club then determined its show is not big enough to host the State show, thus handing the hosting duties back to Lincoln. The show flyer has been updated to reflect the 2011 show is also the State show. Stating everything is going smoothly and is on schedule, Show Chairman Ed Dvorak had nothing further to report.

### **PEBBLE PUPS:**

The Pups had a lesson on diamonds. In addition to the lesson, they had a diamond puzzle to solve in the Pick & Shovel. Corey Beer brought several specimens of assorted materials to share with the group.

### **ELECTIONS:**

As presented at last month's meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee met regarding amendments to the By-Laws. The Board had recommended accepting the Committee's suggestions and the proposed amendments were published in the Pick & Shovel. A clarification correction was made regarding individual membership. The word "individual" was added to differentiate it from family membership. Pat Dvorak moved to accept the proposed By-Laws changes, second by Robert Cropp. Motion carried.

Nominations for each Board position were called for, three times each, and no further Board nominations were received. Two 3-year positions on the Nominating Committee needed to be filled. Brad Nielsen and Roger Pittard were nominated. No other nominations for Nominating Committee were received. Jim Marburger moved to close the nominations, second by Charlie Messenger.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED

*continued from page 4*

Completion of the ballots was circumvented by a motion from Karen Messenger that the slate be accepted by acclamation, second by Roger Pabian. Motion carried. Your 2011 Officers and Board Members are:

President:	Richard Peterson
1st Vice President:	Aulden Stewart
2nd Vice President:	Ed Dvorak
Treasurer:	Vera Lyman
Secretary:	Sharon Marburger
Board Members:	Robert Cropp
	Jim Marburger
	Ed Ridge
	Charles Wooldridge

The meeting adjourned to refreshments and program at 7:26 p.m. on a motion by Shirley Rockel, second by Pat Dvorak. Motion carried. The program was a PowerPoint presentation by Roger Pabian about the rocks of Nebraska. It was an entertaining program. Thanks for sharing, Roger!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sharon Marburger*



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

LGMC Board Meeting, November 3, 2010, Gere Library

The November meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Charles Wooldridge. Board members present were Charles Wooldridge, Roger Pittard, Al Stewart, Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger, Ed Dvorak, Jim Marburger, Richard Peterson and Ed Ridge.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes of the October meeting were distributed. Richard Peterson moved to accept the minutes, second by Al Stewart. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was distributed. Ed Dvorak moved to accept the report, second by Roger Pittard. Motion carried.

Treasurer Lyman purchased "Forever Stamps" for the Pick & Shovel at the current postal rate, in anticipation of the rate increase.

A note was received from NAOSCE secretary, Erma Pharoah, stating the Norfolk club has relinquished its right to host the 2011 State show. Lincoln will now be the hosts.

Sharon Marburger suggested that a new standing committee be created to track legislative matters that could affect collecting areas. After some discussion, President Wooldridge created the Legislative Liaison

Committee and appointed Richard Peterson as Chairman.

Al Stewart reported he had spoken with the charge staff of the Alzheimer care facility where a group is to give demonstrations. The visit was set up for November 19 at 1:00 p.m.

### NEW BUSINESS:

The November Rock / Grinding Party will be held at the home of Roger Pabian on November 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Plans were discussed for the Christmas Party. It will be held December 12 at 5:00 p.m. at Bethany Park Shelter House. The club will provide plates and utensils, scrumptious fried chicken, and beverages. Members will be asked to bring a hot and a cold dish to pass. Rock Bingo for entertainment and a \$5-\$10 gift exchange for those who wish to participate.

Program for the general meeting will be a PowerPoint presentation by Roger Pabian on "Nebraska's Little Treasures".

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Ed Ridge, second by Richard Peterson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sharon Marburger*

# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Written for the *Pick & Shovel* by Richard Peterson, LGMC  
Legislative Liaison Committee Chair

At the November Board meeting, it was decided that a Legislative Liaison Committee be formed to help club members keep track of pending federal, state and local legislation that may impact our hobby. As information is obtained on upcoming issues, the committee will pass them along at our general meetings or in the form of periodic "alerts" published in the *Pick & Shovel*.

The American Land Access Association (ALAA) at [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org), of which our club is a member, is active primarily in changes in land access to Federal managed lands. Since Nebraska has very little land under federal stewardship, there will be few ALAA alerts that directly affect collecting areas in our state. States to the west of us, however, have a much higher proportion of their land under federal management, hence our collecting activities may be affected.

As mentioned, the committee will keep an eye on legislation before the Nebraska state legislature as well. The committee will direct members to places (usually online sites) where they can learn more. Then, club members can read and decide for themselves where they stand on the issues. When we contact our elected officials, we should have read the pros and cons of the legislation and how it might affect our hobby. Be politely vocal, but with an understanding of the ramifications of the legislation.

Sharon Marburger, who wears a number of hats within our club, is also the Editor of the Midwest















Federation newsletter. She recently received news of an article by Jan Baumeister that appeared in the South Dakota Public Land News concerning proposed federal legislation. The article says, "This concerns the Senate Bill #3310 - Cheyenne River Tony Dean Conservation Act of 2010 that will put 48,000 acres of Buffalo Gap Grassland in Wilderness". Reduced access to Fairburn agate collecting sites in southwestern South Dakota is the issue for rock hounds. The e-mail refers to the proposed action as a "terrible land grabbing bill." To learn more, search online using keywords from the information provided. Contact your elected representatives and express an informed opinion.



## REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE



Vera Lyman will provide  
ANNIVERSARY CAKE  
at the January 2011 meeting.



Happy 56th Anniversary, LGMC!



## SUNSHINE

































 If you have any news for our SUNSHINE
 



 corner, please let the editor know.
 


 Jim Marburger is scheduled to have a
 


 second knee surgery on December 20. Please
 


 keep him in your thoughts and prayers.
 

<h1>J J &amp; L Rocks &amp; Minerals</h1>		
<p>P.O. Box 68 Hickman, NE 68372</p> <p><b>John Harrison</b> <b>Lee Harrison</b> <b>402.792.2337</b></p>	<p>330 Locust Hickman, NE 68372</p> <p><b>James Marburger</b> <b>Sharon Marburger</b> <b>402.792.2348</b></p>	
<p><a href="mailto:jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com">jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com</a>  <a href="http://www.jjlrocksandminerals.com">www.jjlrocksandminerals.com</a>          jjlrocksmin - Ebay Username</p>		<p>Proudly serving the hobby for 34 years</p>

# LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB'S 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ROCK SWAP

JANUARY 22, 2011 1:00<sup>PM</sup> - 5:00<sup>PM</sup>



**BETHANY PARK SHELTER**  
64TH & VINE STREET LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**BUY - SELL - TRADE - ROCKS - MINERALS -**  
**FOSSILS - JEWELRY - EQUIPMENT**

CASH SALES MUST BE COMPLETED USING SWAPPER DOLLARS. SWAPPER DOLLARS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CLUB TREASURER AT A 10% SURCHARGE, PAYABLE BY THE BUYER.

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB BOX 5342 LINCOLN NE 68505-0342  
CONTACT RICHARD PETERSON (402) 489-2996

## PEBBLE PUPS

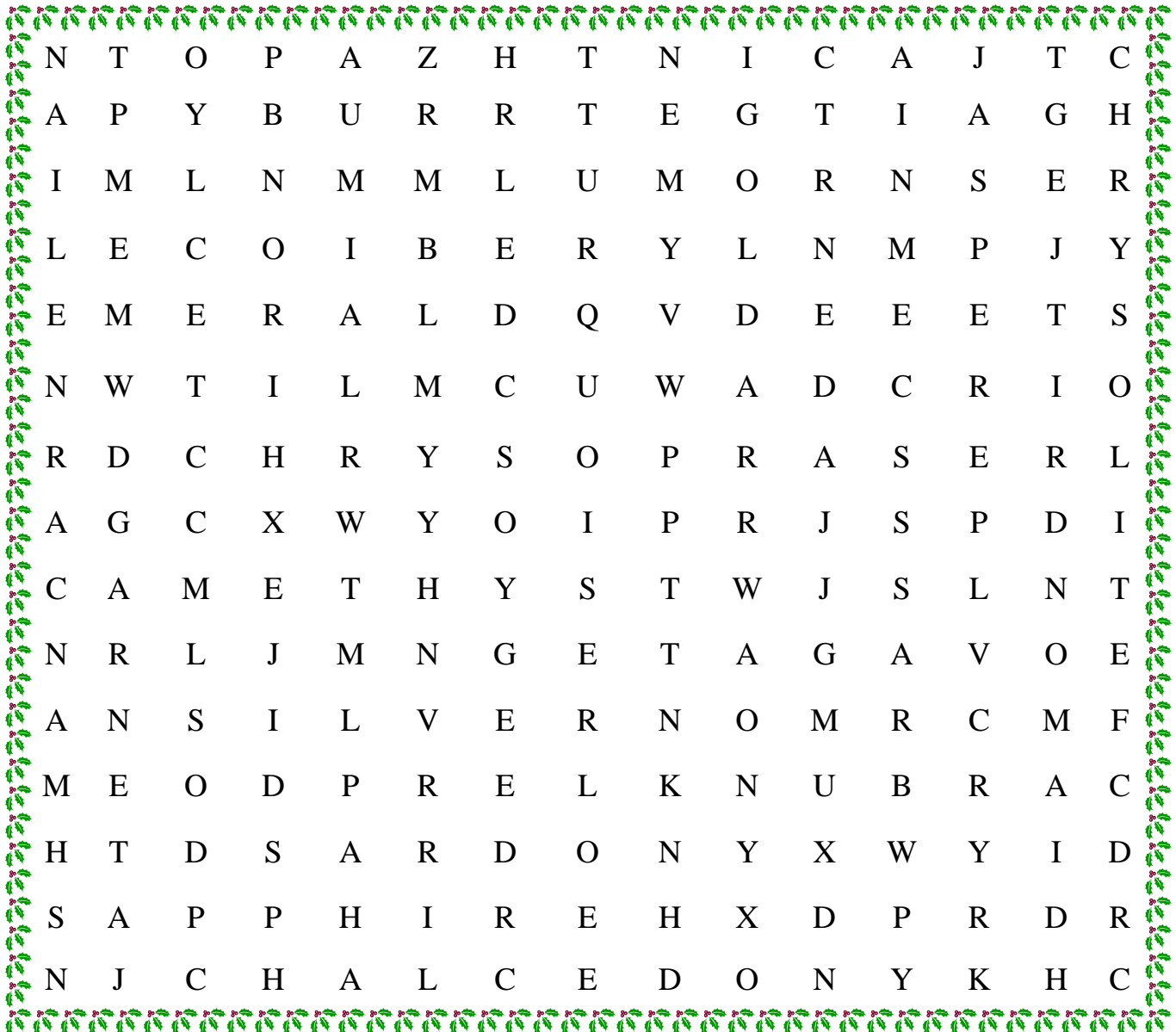


Hello Pups! December is when we celebrate Christmas, so this month we have a puzzle featuring stones of the Bible. Bring your solved puzzle to the meeting and select a prize. Happy solving!



Answers on page 10

AGATE	CHALCEDONY	GOLD	RUBY
AMETHYST	CHRYSOLITE	IRON	SAPPHIRE
BERYL	CHRYSOPRASE	JACINTH	SARDONYX
BRASS	DIAMOND	JADE	SILVER
CARBUNKLE	EMERALD	JASPER	TOPAZ
CARNELIAN	GARNET	ONYX	TURQUOISE



*Puzzle manually created by Sharon Marburger.*



# Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show



## *“Wonders of the Earth”*

held in conjunction with the  
Nebraska Association of Earth Sciences Clubs' Annual Show

April 2 & 3, 2011

Saturday,  
April 2

9:00 - 6:00

Lancaster Event Center  
84th and Havelock  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Sunday,  
April 3

10:00 - 5:00

www.lincolngemmineralclub.org

**Featuring Dealers, Gemstones, Minerals,  
Agates, Fossils, Jasper, Petrified Wood,  
Jewelry, Beads, Gem and Jewelry Making  
Equipment and Supplies, Demonstrations,  
Educational Programs, Rough and Uncut  
Gems, Children's Activities, and much  
more.**

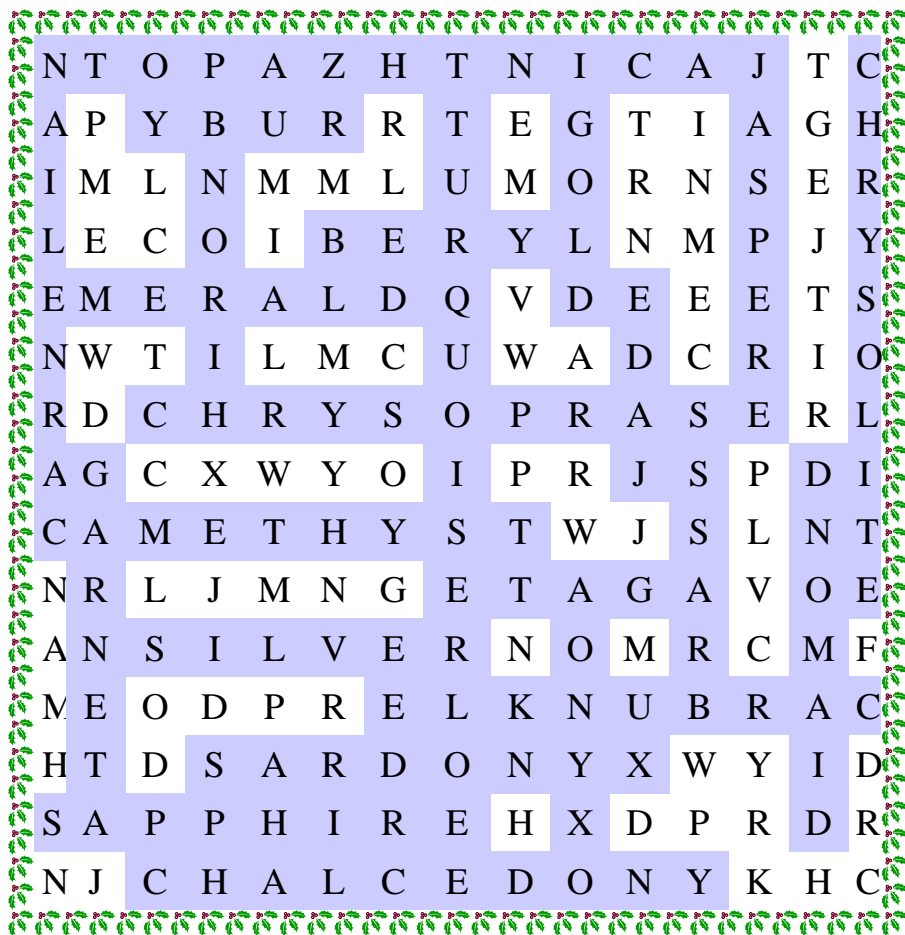
*Fun for the whole family*



Admission:  
\$5 per adult  
children 11 and under free with paid adult  
\$9 for a 2-day pass  
Bring this coupon for \$1 off admission for  
each adult in party



Answers to Pebble Pups puzzle



**NOVEMBER ROCK PARTY**

by Sharon Marburger

The group gathered at the home of Roger Pabian on November 20 for an evening of Husker football, food, and hobby activities. There was an overabundance of great food; most of the attendees must have been craving Mexican food as that was the majority of dishes.

A portion of the group shared hobby related ideas and specimens during breaks of the Husker game while another portion headed for the basement to use the equipment. Activities included cabochon making, silversmithing, rock cutting, discussion about the differences of faceting machines, work on the club library, and lots of visiting.

Those who shared their evening were Roger Pabian; Charles Wooldridge; Brian, Jayne and Corey Beer; Ed Ridge; Linda Guenther; Jim and Sharon Marburger; Al Stewart; Andrew Tiedje and Kathleen Medcalf; Robert Cropp; and Richard Peterson.

Because of the plethora of holiday activities, it was decided to not hold a Rock Party in December. The fun will pick up again on January 29 at the Marburgers' home in Hickman. Hope to see you there!



Would you like to have your Pick & Shovel in color? It is available in full color on the club's website.

[www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org)

You may also request to receive the P&S via e-mail. Just send your e-mail address to the editor at

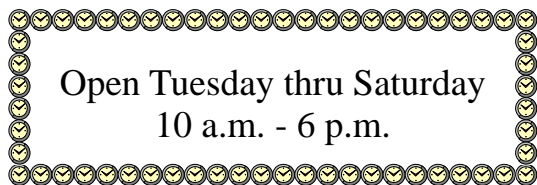
[lgmsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:lgmsecretary@yahoo.com).

**LINCOLN CURIOS ROCK SHOP**

6625 Burlington - Lincoln, NE 68507 [Park in alley]  
(402) 310-3307

► **SPECIALIZING IN ARIZONA PETRIFIED WOOD** ◀

- ◆ Rough stones and fossils for the hobbyist
- ◆ Polished stone items for interior décor
- ◆ Great selection of tumble-polished stones
- ◆ Natural petrified wood for landscaping



Open Tuesday thru Saturday  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN

Audit	John Harrison James Marburger Roger Pabian
Christmas Party	Edward Ridge
Education / Librarian	Charles Wooldridge Judy Cropp
Field Trips	James Marburger
Geology Day Coordinator	Aulden Stewart
Grinding Party	Aulden Stewart
Historian	Sharon Marburger
Legislative Liaison	Richard Peterson
Membership Record	Edward Ridge
MWF Liaison	Vera Lyman
Programs	Richard Peterson
Property	James Marburger
Refreshments / Door Prizes	Mary Pittard
Scholarship	Vera Lyman
Show—2011	Ed Dvorak
Swap—2011	Richard Peterson
Website	Jim Atkins
Youth Activities	Stella Thiessen Vera Lyman Dan Cromer Kay Jurgens

## LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

<b>1 year</b>	Vera Lyman Roger Pabian
<b>2 years</b>	Edward Ridge Robert Cropp
<b>3 years</b>	Charles Wooldridge Phyllis Parks

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

3 years	Robert Cropp Judy Cropp
2 years	Vera Lyman Edward Ridge
1 year	John Harrison Aulden Stewart

## ADVERTISING, SUBSCRIPTION, AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Advertising by rock / hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board of Directors. Contact the Editor with your proposed ad. The rate is set at \$20.00 per full page; \$10.00 per 1/2 page; \$5.00 per 1/4 page (minimum) per issue, paid in advance to the Club treasurer. Ads will be placed throughout the newsletter as space permits.

Subscription to the Pick & Shovel is \$15.00 per year for mailed copy.

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

Adults (age 16 and over) - \$15 per year

Juniors (age 12-15) - \$2 per year (with a responsible adult)

Couples - \$25

Family membership (with children 15 years and under) - \$25 + \$2 per junior per year

All new memberships must be accompanied by a written application. Prospective members must gain Board approval and attend one regular meeting before being approved for membership.

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

# PICK & SHOVEL

The *PICK & SHOVEL* is the official publication of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska. Articles and items appearing within may be reproduced in other club bulletins, provided proper credit is given to the *PICK & SHOVEL* and the author, and that a reprint of the article is sent to the editor of the *PICK & SHOVEL*.

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**A special thanks to this month's contributors:**  
Charles Wooldridge, Richard Peterson, Vera Lyman, Ed Dvorak, and Sharon Marburger.

