



PICK & SHOVEL

P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342, www.lincolngemmineralclub.org

Volume 54, Issue 12
August 2012

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.



SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to:

Rowdy Cropp
Karen Messenger
Andrew Tiedje

Some of our members placed in the Midwest Federation and American Federation Editors' Awards competition. Come to the September meeting to find out who.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar of 2012 Meeting Dates

Board

Sep. 5

Oct. 3

Nov. 1

Nov. 28

General

Sep. 20

Oct. 18

Nov. 15

Dec. 2

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 first 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.



August Rock Party

Saturday, August 11

5:00 p.m.

**@ The Jewelry Connection
13th & Arapahoe**

**The Beer Family will provide
makings for tacos at this
South-of-the-Border themed party.
Bring your accompanying dishes
and be prepared to have
a magnificente time!**

**Don't forget
your projects
and equipment!**

SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING FOLLOWING THE MEAL.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Richard Peterson, 402-489-2996
padr20@yahoo.com

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Ed Dvorak, 402-946-3041
ed20649@windstream.net

2nd Vice-President

Aulden Stewart, 402-483-1044
mmstewart@inebraska.com

Treasurer

Vera Lyman, 402-464-6089

Secretary

Sharon Marburger, 402-792-2348
lgmc.editor@windstream.net
new address

Board Member

Robert Cropp, 402-465-8432
rowdycr@hotmail.com

Board Member

James Marburger, 402-792-2348,
jm24122@windstream.net

Board Member

Edward Ridge, 402-477-8469

Board Member

Charles Wooldridge, 402-416-3233
charles.wooldridge@nebraska.gov

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Peterson

The Celebration of Agates show in Minneapolis was spectacular! It took the Minnesota Mineral Club five years of planning to put it all together. The seminars, special exhibits and dealers were all top notch.



I want to remind everyone about the special event at our upcoming September general meeting. We will be raising funds (thru silent and live auctions) to upgrade and improve our show signage. That includes the club booth sign, fluorescent display, and those signs in the youth activities area. The signs for these areas have long since served their usefulness. Many are no more than magic marker on paper. We plan to freshen up and sharpen our show image.

Members are encouraged to bring items for the silent and live auctions. Items can include rocks, minerals, fossils, books, and baked goods such as fresh made pies and cookies. Let the bidding begin!

REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

Sep. 20:	Marburgers/Messengers	Pie
Oct. 18:	Charles Wooldridge/AnneMarie Frierichs	
Nov. 20:	Al Stewart/Jim Atkins	

MONTHLY ROCK PARTY SCHEDULE

August	Aug. 11, 5:00 p.m.	The Jewelry Connection
September	AVAILABLE	
October	AVAILABLE	
November	AVAILABLE	
December	date & time TBA	Marburgers

It's fun to host a party! Volunteer at the September meeting!

REGIONAL EVENTS

Aug. BRIDGETON, MO. Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs' 20th Annual Show; Machinists 17-19 Hall Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Rd. (at I-270); Fri. 3-8, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5; CONTACT: Robert Morse, 135 Knox St, Troy, MO 63379-1343, 636.462.4423, rmorse@centurytel.net, www.stlearthsci.org.

Aug. PEORIA, IL. Peoria Academy of Science Geology Club's Annual Show; Grand Hotel, 4400 N. Brandywine Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Jim Travis, 2812 N. Peoria Ave., 309.645.3609, boatnik@aol.com.

Sep. FAIRFIELD, IA. The Sac & Fox Lapidary Club's Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show; Fairfield Arts & 7-9 Convention Center, Main & Briggs; Fri. 6-10; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Betty Morris, 641.233.1300, betmor74@iowatelecom.net.

GRINDING PARTY & PICNIC IN THE PARK

by Sharon Marburger

The group of Al Stewart; Brian, Jayne, and Corey Beer; Ed and Pat Dvorak; Richard Peterson; Ed Ridge; Charlie and Karen Messenger; and Jim and Sharon Marburger met at the Pioneer Park Nature Center, Chet Ager Building, on July 8, 2012, for the annual Grinding Party sponsored by Lincoln Parks and Recreation.

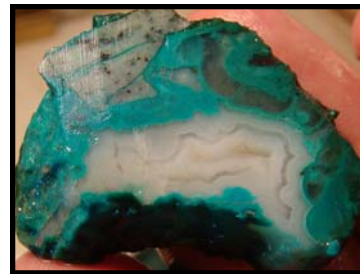
Charlie and Karen Messenger acted as hosts for the party. Children and their parents arrived to check out the variety of animals on display, and to learn a little about rocks and minerals. Although it was a lovely day, attendance was fairly good; 139 adults and 95 children.

Visitors selected tumbled stones from a tub provided by the Marburgers, then waited patiently in line for Ed Dvorak to wire wrap their beauties as a pendant.



Ed and Pat kept those waiting in line entertained with stories and explanations of how to arrive at a finished project, whether it be wire wrapping or gem trees.

Al Stewart, Jayne Beer, and Corey Beer brought their different types of grinding equipment and demonstrated different lapidary techniques.



Regardless of the technique, the finished products are the same - beautiful specimens to look at or create jewelry.

J J & L Rocks & Minerals

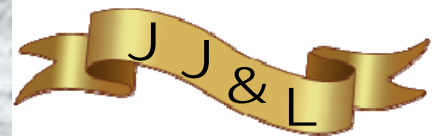
P.O. Box 68
Hickman, NE 68372

330 Locust
Hickman, NE 68372

John Harrison
Lee Harrison
402.792.2337

James Marburger
Sharon Marburger
402.792.2348

jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com
www.jjlrocksandminerals.com
jjlrocksmin - Ebay Username



Proudly serving
the hobby for
36 years

HOW TO GET GOOD PUBLICITY

by Delane Cox, President, Rocky Mountain Federation, from Rocky Mountain Federation News, Feb/March 2012 via the A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Volume 65, Number 7, June-July 2012

How much publicity has your rock club been getting lately? Not much, you say? Well, I have a few suggestions for your publicity chair to help get your club noticed.

First, you need a list of all the media in your area: radio, TV, newspapers, magazines. Then, you need the address of each, and a contact person in the organization. Two easy ways to get this is to go online and check their website or call to them on the phone. You are looking for the Editor, or Features Editor, along with their email address. Media prefer email to written submissions or phone calls. Put it on your computer where you will have access to names and addresses when you need them.

Then, you need something newsworthy about someone or something that is about your club and is in the local area.

One of the easiest things to publicize is an award someone in your club has won; yet another reason for your club to enter the Federation contests! If no winners (maybe next year?), go for someone in your club who has excelled at a lapidary skill. Do you have someone who makes beads from shells or someone who makes knife handles from beautiful stones? That could be interesting (ensure the person is approachable by the media). If they are not, let your club publicity chair gather the information and write it up. You need to get a picture of that person and their lapidary work, then email it to the local media.

Note: Don't make the information write-up too long. If the media is interested, they will contact you for more information.

Don't be shy; send it to all of the media. After all, you may not get selected by any of them. If not, keep on trying. Or, as an alternative, send it to your members' favorite media. Which paper do they read? Which TV station do they watch, etc. Are there neighborhood newspapers available to your members?

Be sure your story and your central character are local, live around the area, work locally, and do their lapidary work locally. Your story must be about something in your club's immediate area.

Perhaps your club has a jewelry expert as a speaker for a meeting. Invite the media to come and take pictures, do an interview. But, you **MUST** have any interview appointment set up ahead of time, **NO** surprises. Clear this with your speaker.

For this interview, you need to do a bit of legwork. You need a Media Kit. A "Media Kit" is simply a paper that has the name of your organization (spelled correctly), your interviewee's name (spelled correctly), and a contact person's name, phone, and email to get back in touch. A bit of the guest's history or a bio, primarily what makes them an expert on the topic they are presenting to your club.

Make sure the Media Kit has a paragraph about your club. Basically, you want: "The XYZ Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit. The public is invited to come to the meetings, see if this is of interest, and join our organization." Don't over do this explanatory paragraph. The media reporter will ask for any other information they want.

Still need an idea? What about an unusual field trip, or a member who is 100 years old and still making cabs, or a 6-year-old junior club member who is making beautiful cabs. What about your Show? Is there a vendor who has something of particular interest? What about a Kid's Dig where a very special stone has been planted, you tell the press about it, and they can come and take pictures of the kids digging for the diamond (or whatever).

The Big Idea of all this is to let people know your club exists. Don't you get a bit put off when you are talking to someone in your area, and they say they did not know there was a rock club around there? You need publicity. Good publicity. Good enough to get people interested in your club, your

(Continued on page 5)

SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING #4

by Sharon Marburger

Those who attended the July Rock Party at the Pittards' compared notes to determine what still needs to be done regarding displays, programs, and meetings. Because this was an informal (and unofficial) meeting, not much was done. We compared notes regarding invitations extended and replies received.

- Two field trips have been confirmed by their respective leaders.
- Regrets from Matt Joeckel. He will not be available to give a program because he will be out of state.

Those who have volunteered to contact individuals or institutions should plan to report on their progress at the next Show Committee meeting. No response? Keep after your target until an answer is received.

PUBLICITY - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

show, or your exhibit in the local library. Good publicity will get new people into your club. I really doubt there is a club that could not use new members.

Do you have other ideas? I'm sure there are many, many others that you, or you and a couple of club members, could come up with. Give it a try. Then, let me know about your effort and the results. I am confident you can do this, and it will be good for your club.



This is E. Bear. He gets auctioned off several times a year, and the money is donated to the Endowment Fund (Fund). Clubs or individuals may bid. The bidding was hot between the Marburgers and David Rich (on behalf of his club),

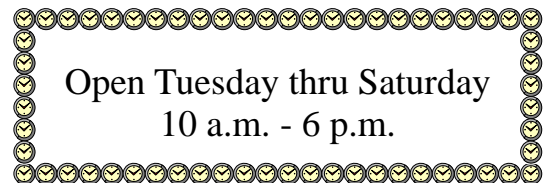
but the Marburgers prevailed, winning the auction at the MWF Convention with a bid of \$225. Mr. Rich was so disappointed, we allowed him an afternoon play date with E. Bear, for a donation of \$150 to the Fund. It was a good afternoon for the Fund, and a lot of fun for Mr. Rich and the Marburgers. You, too, may arrange a play date with E. Bear for a nominal donation to the Fund. See Sharon Marburger for info.

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



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. The question is, what do you use to elevate the cab?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now I think there is a better solution, especially for use in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then, when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose. In any case, I now prefer pieces of plastic sheet to boost up my stones. Pieces are readily available from product packaging or from old credit cards. I just cut a piece to loosely fit the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.

TIP FOR A TRANSPARENT CAB

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I worry that the silver will tarnish under the stone and will destroy the brilliance of its color & pattern. So I take one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish.

Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or, in a pinch, from a party balloon supplier. You may want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e., diffraction pattern) under some stones.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or
facebook.com/BenchTips

MWF FALL MEETING

by Sharon Marburger

The MWF fall meeting will be held at the Springfield, Illinois Show on October 6-7, 2012. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. Find out what is happening in the

A U.S. FOREST TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN MAY BE COMING SOON

by Shirley Leeson , ALAA, From A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Volume 65, Number 7, June-July 2012

Do live in an area that has National Forests or National Grasslands in your "backyard"? Most states in the U.S., including those in the east, do have National Forest land within their boundaries.

A few years back, our U.S. Congress mandated that the Agriculture Department create a travel management plan for each individual forest. The first plans were initiated in the far west and now, are beginning to show up in other national forest areas as well.

The American Lands Access Association (ALAA), with the help of some very knowledgeable friends are in the process of creating a primer to help you understand your role in coping with all the government red tape and mundane rules and regulations associated with these plans. It is our hope that you will get involved so that you have a voice in the formulation of these plans.

The primer will take you into the world of government where acronyms are a way of life and also, in some cases, a possible form of intimidation.

The primer will be on the ALAA website <www.amlands.org> shortly.

If you haven't had a chance to visit the ALAA website, please take a few minutes and do so. It's full of useful information about YOUR public lands!

Federation and attend a fabulous show while you are at it!

Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society's Annual Show
 Illinois Bldg., Illinois State Fairgrounds

Sat. 10:00-6:00

Sun. 10:00-5:00

Contact: John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Rd,

Rochester, IL 62563, 217-498-7713,

jrwashburn3@att.net

JULY ROCK PARTY

By Sharon Marburger

The Rock Party at the Pittards' went off without a hitch. The day was quite warm, but low humidity and a nice breeze kept us comfortable most of the afternoon.

Members Jim and Sharon Marburger, Andrew Tiedje, Ed Dvorak, Richard Peterson, and Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge enjoyed Roger's and Mary's hospitality. The group formerly known as "The Twenty-Niners" provided the entertainment, giving us such hits as "How Much is that Doggie in the Window" and "She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain," peppered with some Johnny Cash hits and other country/western songs.

Pete and I started a game of horseshoes, but I had to drop out and allow Andrew to take over because the horseshoes were too heavy and the distance too far.

Around 3:00, Roger determined the day had cooled off too much, so he lit the bonfire for dogs to be hotted and marshmallows to be toasted and/or smooshed into s'mores. Additionally, there were pork & beans, chips and puffed corn, pickled cucumbers, pasta salad, ratatouille, ginger snaps, pie, and root beer floats!

After eating, the group enjoyed more music and singing while Wooly, Sharon, and Andrew worked on cabochons and Ed wire-wrapped.

The party broke up early, around 6:00.

A big thank you to Roger and Mary for hosting the July party. I think we all had a great time.



Our hosts



Sharon's partially finished mozarkite end cut cab



The entertainment



Wooly working on a cabochon of Willow Creek Jasper that Sharon offered to him



Pete, Andrew, and Jim enjoyed the music while Ed wire wrapped a stone



Ed demonstrating wire wrapping

ROCK NIBBLER

by Jim Marburger

If you are a rock cutter, you probably have your own name for a common problem when slabbing that occurs when nearing the end of a cut. I call it the break off, maybe the knife edge, or the x!?!##. This problem shows up when the rock breaks at or near the end of the cut. All saws produce these protrusions of very sharp edge chips that have to be dealt with so your hands do not get cut.



The break-off: a lot of material to grind away.

Depending on the saw and the material being cut, the break-offs vary in size and sharpness. As for the slab saw, feed rate, blade condition, type of coolant, and alignment are the top four conditions that determine the size of break-offs. If the feed rate is too fast, the cutting action will splinter the end of the cut. With the blade condition, this includes sharpness, type of blade, straightness, or if the blade is dished. Some types of coolant also can build up excessive temperatures in the cut which can cause a break-off. Alignment of the saw is critical to the proper cutting. If the saw carriage and blade are not in alignment, it will cause a sideways stress or twist on the material being cut. These conditions can multiply each other, such as a dished blade moving to the left and the alignment shifted to the right can put extreme stress on the material being cut and will make the break-off quite large. As for the material being cut, the hardness, type of rock, internal fractures, and crystal structure influence the size and sharpness of the break-offs. Oh yeah, I almost forgot the dreaded rock slippage in the vice that will twist and snap a lot of things.

When I have collected a five gallon bucket of slabs to deal with, the break-offs can be overwhelming.



Nibbler pliers (common pliers)

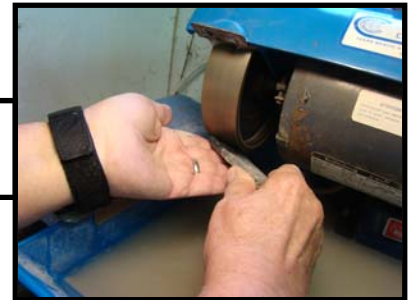
The amount of grinding time can be monumental, not to mention the cost of the grinding wheel. The way to get around the grinding is to use a nibbler. The simplest nibbler I use is the common pliers. By using this method, the amount of grinding is reduced to a minimum, not to mention the time and grinding wheel savings.

Position the pliers and apply pressure.



With luck, the break-off will be removed.

A little grinding will remove the rough edge.



Removed and ready for use without the sharp edge.

Looks good!



MINERAL MONKEYS

by Sharon Marburger



Hi Monkeys!

I would like you to submit some articles, poetry, or original drawings, related to our hobby, for publication in the Pick & Shovel. The items can then be submitted in the Editors' competition at the Midwest Federation and American Federation. I look forward to receiving your entries.

LAPIDARY WORD SEARCH

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| ALCOHOL LAMP | CABOCHON | FLAT LAP | LAPIDARY | POLISH | SHAPING | TEMPLATE |
| BEADMILL | DOPWAX | GRINDER | LOUP | ROCKS | SLAB | TRIM SAW |
| BUFF | FACETING | KITTY LITTER | OILDRI | SANDING | SPHERE | TUMBLER |

T	W	U	P	N	A	G	N	M	L	S	M	R	T	M	L	J	M	R
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M	R	E	D	N	I	R	G	M	E	A	N	A	E	M	E	R	N	A
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Puzzle manually created by Sharon Marburger.

WHAT HAPPENED IN MINNETONKA?

by Sharon Marburger

The 2012 American Federation (AFMS) and Midwest Federation (MWF or Federation) Convention and Show was hosted by the Minnesota Mineral Club in Minnetonka, Minnesota during the last week of July. Richard Peterson was LGMC's delegate at the meeting, but I forgot to ask him to write a report, so here I am again.

The delegates' meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on July 28. There were 25 delegates and 28 executive committee members present.

It was reported that member clubs were up by one this year, making 120 paid club memberships. However, overall membership is down.

We have lost 45 hobbyists since the spring meeting. We honored them by the reading of memorials.

Shirley Leeson of American Lands Access Association (ALAA) spoke about issues concerning sage grouse. She urged us to review the article on page 6 of the ALAA newsletter and contact our representatives accordingly.

Lincoln, Nebraska will host the 2013 Show and Convention; Des Moines, Iowa will host the 2014 Show and Convention; and the Federation is hoping to hold the 2015 Show and Convention in the Chicago area as that is where the Federation began 75 years ago.

Executives are in the process of getting membership paperwork streamlined, combining the information needed for the directory, membership application, and insurance. There will be only one form to complete next year.

Election ballots will be mailed during the first week of August.

Due to rising insurance costs, it was voted to increase the insurance premium to \$3.75 per person. In 2012, the cost of insurance exceeding the income from members, and the Federation picked up the extra amount. June Young, past Insurance Chair, spent a significant amount of time going over insurance coverages. I do not want to

attempt to report on that for fear of getting it wrong. Questions may be directed to the new Insurance Chair. I will provide that person's name after it is reported in the Convention minutes.

There is a youth poster contest for grades 1 - 8, "Fossils of the World." Prizes will be awarded. I will try to get more information soon for our Mineral Monkeys.

The AFMS would like to see more competitive exhibits. Only one person competed in 2012. Let's show them what Lincolmites are made of and have several competitive exhibits in 2013! I plan to have at least one case; please don't make me compete alone. All rules, updates, and explanations can be found at <http://www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm>.

Kevin Ponzio is Chair of the new Special Committee of Thumbnails. Making this a Permanent Committee will be voted on at a future meeting, since it requires a change in the by-laws.

SILVERSMITHING CLASSES

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

Tuesdays

August 14, 2012

thru

October 2, 2012

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

Tuition: \$120 plus \$30 supply deposit

Contact:

Jayne Beer 402-890-3307

Judith Bay 402-423-7058

or e-mail

jbeer60070@aol.com

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN

Audit	John Harrison
	James Marburger
	Ed Dvorak
Christmas Party	Edward Ridge
Education / Librarian	Charles Wooldridge
	Judy Cropp
Facebook	Andrew Tiedje
Field Trips	James Marburger
Geology Day Coordinator	Aulden Stewart
Grinding Party	Aulden Stewart
Historian	Sharon Marburger
Legislative Liaison	Robert Cropp
Membership Record	Edward Ridge
MWF Liaison	Vera Lyman
Programs	Jayne Beer/Judy Cropp
Property	James Marburger
Refreshments / Door Prizes	Mary Pittard
Scholarship	Vera Lyman
Show—2013	Charles Wooldridge
Swap—2013	Richard Peterson
Website	Jim Atkins
Youth Activities	Stella Thiessen
	Andrew Tiedje

**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 or \$25 per couple (within the same household)

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

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.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING &
BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

1 year	Edward Ridge
	Robert Cropp
2 years	Charles Wooldridge
	Sharon Marburger
3 years	Vera Lyman
	John Harrison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

3 years	Brad Nielsen
	Roger Pittard
2 years	Robert Cropp
	Judy Cropp
1 year	Vera Lyman
	Edward Ridge

2013 SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Charles Wooldridge
Breakfast:	Vera Lyman
Dealers:	Charles Wooldridge
Demonstrators:	Richard Peterson
Displays:	Ed Ridge
Event Center Liaison	Vera Lyman
Finance & Ticket Sales:	Vera Lyman, Jim Atkins
Floor Chairman:	John Harrison
Forms	Sharon Marburger
Host Hotel	Sharon Marburger
LGMC Club Booth:	
MWF Coordination	Sharon Marburger, Vera Lyman
Plants:	Ed Ridge
Pre-Registration	Richard Peterson
Printed Program:	Sharon Marburger
Programs & Speakers:	
Publicity & Promotion:	Jim Marburger, Wooly
Ribbons & Recognitions:	Al & Marilyn Stewart
Security:	Vera Lyman
Silent Auction:	Stella Thiessen
Special Features:	
Web Master:	Jim Atkins
Youth Activities:	Kay Jurgens

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PICK & SHOVEL

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CIRCULATION: VERA LYMAN, 402-464-6089

REPORTERS: ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
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CONTRIBUTORS: JAYNE BEER, JIM MARBURGER,
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