



PICK & SHOVEL

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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2013 Meeting Dates

Board

Meetings held at
Gere Library

Wed., November 6

Wed., November 27

General

Halloween Party

Thurs., October 17

Thurs., November 21

Sunday, December 1
(Christmas Party)

Regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House. Youth activities begin at 6:00 p.m. Summer activities will be announced as they are planned.

Halloween Party!

Come dressed as your favorite hobby-related item!

General Meeting

Thursday,
October 17, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Program: *History of Nebraska Archeology* by Rob Bozell

Bring your artifacts for
Rob to identify

Mineral Monkeys

Thursday,
October 17, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Seniors' Lesson: Reviewing
achievements in FRA

Juniors' Lesson: 3 rock types,
and the state rock and mineral



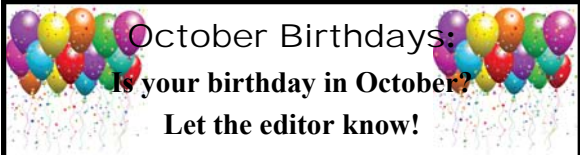
October Rock Party

*Wooly & Jackie invite us to their residence
for a fun evening of Roasting Wieners
and Rock activities!*

Saturday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m.

*BRING SIDES
and desserts,
and don't forget
YOUR HOBBY PROJECTS!*

6115 Huntington



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Member

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by James Marburger, President

If you missed the Highway clean-up, it was a great day with breezy sunshine. Four Mineral Monkeys helped a lot. Little trash made it easy to clean, with about one-half of the amount that was picked up in April. The clean-up took less than two hours to complete. We had a good party afterwards, with many ideas and a little rock cutting. Wooly brought a tusk section about 30 inches long, which he had found just days before.



We will have a Halloween party at our upcoming general meeting. Come dressed as your favorite rock, gem, mineral, fossil, or something from the new category, geologic term or feature. There will be prizes for the best costume. Adults and Mineral Monkeys are eligible for prizes. If a guest comes dressed as his or her favorite hobby-related item, they, too, will be eligible to receive a prize. Come one, come all, to the party!

The year is coming to an end and elections will be held at the November Meeting (see the slate on page 7). These people have accepted nominations to serve in an office, and to direct the club in 2014. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor at the November General Meeting, and will be added to the slate. If you want to nominate someone, please check with them first to see if they will accept the nomination. To serve on the Board, a nominee is required to have been a member of the club for at least 12 months. The nominee for President shall have served on the Board of Directors for a period of at least one year. The newly elected Board and officers will be installed at the December meeting.

We will be using a public address system at the meeting so everyone can hear and participate in the meeting. This will entail some changes in how we conduct the meetings. If a person has something to say for the good of the club, wait to be recognized by the President, then come to the front of the meeting to use the microphone. If one is unable to come to the front, the President shall repeat the acknowledged person's question, statement, or motion for all to hear. With a little help, this will help everyone, including guests, to understand what is happening. After the meeting, the PA system will be available for use, if needed, for the program. Thank you for your patience in trying this new procedure.

Remember the Mid-Winter Swap will be held on January 25. Richard Peterson will be asking for help with, and materials for, the silent auction. Start planning now on how you can assist.

CORRECTION

The Crawford Field Trip article in the September issue mentioned club members Ken and Sharon Jensen, and incorrectly stated that they live near Crawford, Nebraska. They live in St. Libory, Nebraska, which is in Central Nebraska. Sorry Ken and Sharon!

REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

Oct 17:	Jayne Beer, Wendy Braden	Bar Cookies
Nov 21:	Mark Awakuni-Swetland, Ed Ridge	Undetermined
Dec. 1:	Everyone - Potluck Supper	Hot/Cold Dish
Jan. 25, 2014:	Everyone - Snacks for Mid-Winter Swap	(Pizza Supper follows with Anniversary Cake!)

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board meeting minutes are not available. The September and October minutes will be published next month.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2013, Bethany Park Shelter House

Respectfully submitted by Mark Awakuni-Swetland, Secretary

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jim Marburger.
- Members present: 21 adults and 5 or 6 guests.
- Roll call of the 11 Mineral Monkeys present. Each "Monkey" was called forward to receive a nice specimen rock from the President.
- Wooly moved to accept minutes of the May 16, 2013 General Meeting as printed in the P&S. Second by Brad Nielsen, motion carried.
- Two Treasurer's Reports were given by Vera Lyman, for the month of May, and for the 3 month period of June-August. Pat Dvorak moved to accept both reports, 2nd by Richard Peterson, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Marburger reminded members to consult the P&S for descriptions of upcoming rock shows and field trips around the region, including Omaha, Topeka, and Des Moines.
- Reminder of the Adopt-a-Highway clean-up day Saturday, September 28 from 1-4 p.m., followed by a Rock Grinding Party at the Marburgers' home in Hickman.

OLD BUSINESS

- Vera reported the final 2013 show financial outcome was a profit of \$360.00. The Mineral Monkey auctions netted \$343.00.

2014 SHOW PLANNING

- Wooly reported the immediate need for advertising items (flyer, postcard, & billboard). He requested Mark A-S, Jim Atkins, Sharon M., and Jim M. join him at his home on Sunday to work on the images for these documents. The invitation was extended to any club member interested in this work.
- The Show dates are April 5 and 6, 2014. This year's theme is Pleistocene artifacts and fossils, which is captured in the Show subtitle, "Stones and Bones."

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jbeer60070@aol.com

- Wooly reported that the "Mother of all Garage Sales" is again scheduled for our Show weekend. Nine hundred new parking spaces will be available on the east side of the garage sale building and visitors for that event will be directed to that lot. This should minimize the parking problems we experienced in 2013.

SUMMER FIELD TRIP REPORTS

- Many members brought their summer field trip finds to show and tell.
- Susy McMahan reported on the Crawford field trip with satisfaction. Other members commented on the productive rock hounding and the warm western hospitality extended to all of the visitors.
- Jim M. reported on the Club's Fairbury field trip that retraced the 2013 Show sites. Various fossils were found by all participants. Carolyn Ashmore displayed the Mosasaur's tooth found alongside of a gravel road. Ammonites and shells were plentiful. A clay pit yielded other fossils, as well as fish tail selenite.

(Continued on page 4)

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - CONT'D

(Continued from page 3)

- The Marburgers and the Grimits made a quick visit to the Burden quarry east of Union, NE. Several interesting fossils and rocks were displayed. A spring field trip is in the planning stage.
- Jim M. displayed a nice specimen of rutilated smoky quartz. He reported finding it sitting on Road 614, approximately 2 miles east of Burchard Lake, going through glacial till. The existence of rutilated quartz in Southeast Nebraska was reported in Roger Pabian's book, "Gemstones of Nebraska."

NEW BUSINESS

- Richard Peterson reported on the work of the Nominating Committee. He noted there were two 3-year term vacancies on this committee. Nominations from the floor were tendered. Bob Grit and Sharon Marburger agreed to being nominated. Richard read the list of nominees for 2014 officers and Board members, as printed in the P&S. The current slate includes President-Ed Dvorak; 1st Vice President-Richard Peterson; 2nd Vice President-Jayne Beer; Treasurer-Vera Lyman; Secretary-Mark Awakuni-Swetland; Four Board Members - Carolyn Ashmore, Aulden Stewart, Robert 'Rowdy' Cropp, and Charles 'Wooly' Wooldridge. Members were invited to make additional nominations prior to the November 21 elections.
- Susy McMahan reported on legislative news. The Game and Parks Commission recently announced plans to close to vehicle entry a number of state parks and recreation areas due to overdue maintenance needs coupled with revenue shortfalls. Susy recommended people check with Game and Parks regarding rock hounding activities on NGPC lands. Jim M. extended this recommendation to include state forest lands, and all types of federal lands.
- Richard circulated a sign-up sheet for the upcoming Saturday 9-28 Adopt-a-Highway clean-up. Sixteen volunteers are needed to permit teams of two to cover one-half mile each. The evening's program will include viewing the Nebraska Department of Roads safety video. The clean-up will be followed by a pizza party at the Marburgers'. Since the clean-up is a Club service event, Wooly moved to have the club treasury pay for the pizza. 2nd by Vera, motion carried.

- The request for continued consideration about acquiring a functional public address system was brought forward. Jayne Beer provided a corded microphone and speaker/amp for this evening's meeting. Members were asked to come to the front of the room to use the microphone throughout the meeting.
- Jayne Beer reported that Rob Bozell, Highway Archaeology Manager, NSHS, will provide the October meeting program. He will talk about the history of Nebraska archaeology. Rob will also assist in identifying found artifacts of members.
- Pat Dvorak reported finding a 99¢ elementary grade level app on rocks and minerals and had brought it to the meeting for members to look at.
- Jim M. closed the meeting by making the request that members come to the October meeting dressed in rock and mineral-type Halloween costumes, with prizes to be awarded.
- Motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. by Wooly, 2nd by Ed Dvorak, motion carried.
- Snacks and NDOR video followed.



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THE WINDMILL

by Charles Wooldridge

photo by Sharon Marburger

Prologue:

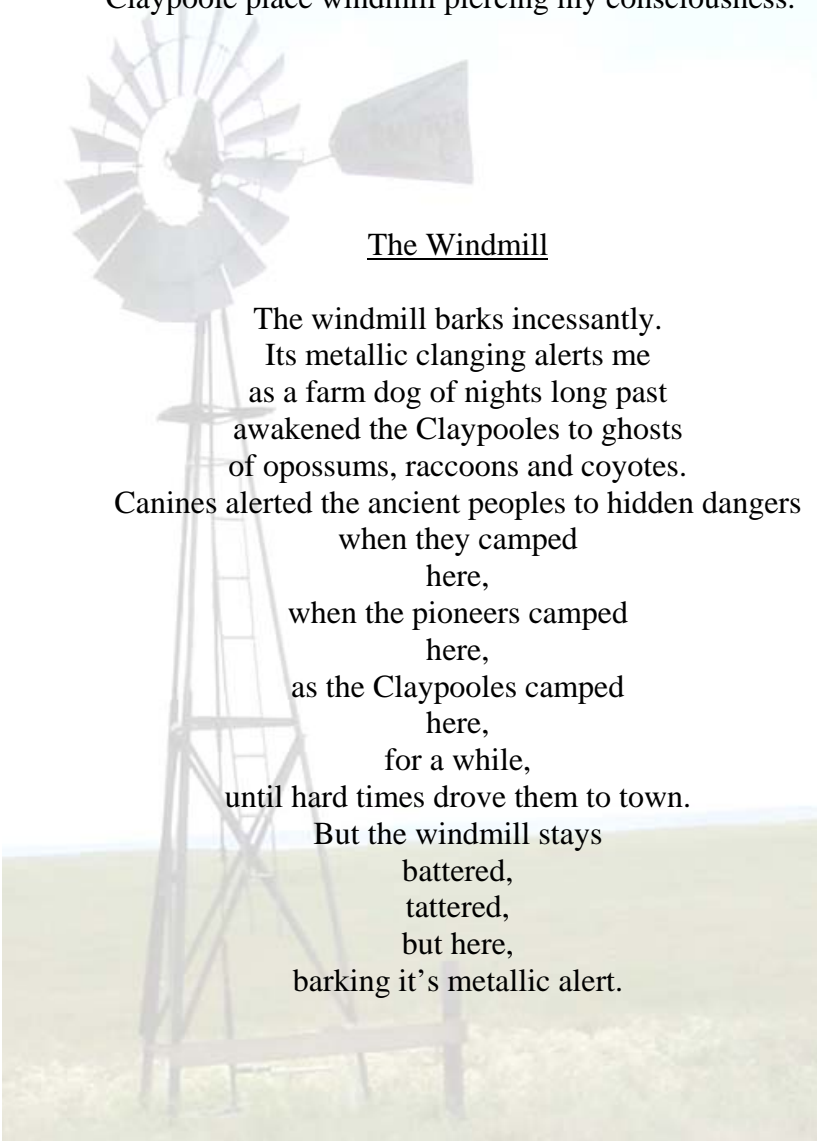
During the mid-seventies, I tenant farmed my way through college east of the village of Williamsville, Illinois. The land I worked was up to thirty feet of windblown loess sitting atop immense beds of coal.

During the land rushes of the early 1800s, prospective farmers passed over this land because the prairie grasses were too thick to plow. It is interesting to think of how some of these grasses had roots so deep, they probably touched remnants of plants from millions of years ago in the coal beds ... in a way connecting life through many ancient ages. The soil was black and rich. John Deere invented the steel plow in the village of Grand Detour, Illinois, allowing pioneers to “tame” the prairie and inflict agriculture on the land.

Located on the seven hundred contiguous acres we farmed were remnants of old farms that went under during tough economic times. Some were visible only as bricks, old nails, and horseshoes scattered about. The Claypoole place was typical except it still had an old Chicago Aero Motor Co. windmill. As I drove the tractor, tilling the soil, I would keep my eyes open for any rocks. Because it was windblown loess, any rocks would have been carried there. Scanning the hills and stream beds I would imagine what the land had been like 10,000 years ago. Where would there be places that had a good view yet were sheltered from the cold northern winds? Where would water be close by? These areas would be searched especially carefully. In one particular area, I found a 12,000-year-old chert knife. Fifteen feet away, I found an 18th century British six-pence. This location had served as a campsite for thousands of years.

The poem arose as I was cultivating the soil on an old John Deere 40-20, contemplating the land through time, with the intermittent metallic barking of the old Claypoole place windmill piercing my consciousness.

The Windmill



The windmill barks incessantly.
Its metallic clanging alerts me
as a farm dog of nights long past
awakened the Claypooles to ghosts
of opossums, raccoons and coyotes.
Canines alerted the ancient peoples to hidden dangers
when they camped
here,
when the pioneers camped
here,
as the Claypooles camped
here,
for a while,
until hard times drove them to town.
But the windmill stays
battered,
tattered,
but here,
barking it's metallic alert.

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Excerpt from the July to September, 2013, issue of the ALAA Newsletter provided by Tom Noe

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Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor: 926 P St., Lincoln, NE 68508
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Changes to Yosemite Would Affect Most Park Visitors

By Katy Grimes

(July 12, 2013) This week I interviewed Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif. He said the National Park Service has been pushing to radically alter the purpose, nature and use of Yosemite National Park in order to remove most visitors. . . .

“Ninety-five percent of the park is already in wilderness,” McClintock explained. “Yet the overwhelming majority of park visitors come to that five percent where amenities are available for public recreation. . . .

“The National Park Service proposal would remove longstanding tourist facilities from Yosemite Valley, including bicycle and raft rentals, snack facilities, gift shops, horseback riding, the ice-skating rink at Curry Village, the art center, the grocery store, swimming pools, and even the valley’s iconic and historic stone bridges,” McClintock told me. “These facilities date back generations and provide visitors with a wide range of amenities to enhance their stay at—and their enjoyment of—this world-renowned national park.”

--Excerpted from the July to Sept., 2013, ALAA Newsletter (Originally posted on CalWatchdog)

WORDS COUNT

by Sharon Marburger

Way back when I worked for the State, employees were required to take a class on workplace language and humor. The class focused on awareness of how one’s words can be offensive or hurtful to others, even when spoken in jest. We all joke around and have a good time. It is fun to do. However, we should be conscious of how others may interpret our joking. Whether the joke is about ethnicity, hair color, religion, or something else, there is a possibility of unintentionally offending or hurting someone. Although I love a good joke about almost any subject, I become very uncomfortable when I think someone within hearing might not enjoy it as I do.

When we have no idea we are being offensive or hurtful, it becomes the injured party’s responsibility to calmly explain their objection. This will promote awareness and, hopefully, heal hurt feelings.

Wherever we are, we need to be aware of our words. Consideration and communication are key.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

Elections are coming! The annual election of the Board of Directors will be held at the November 21, 2013 General Meeting. Below are the current nominations for the Board.

President	Ed Dvorak
1st Vice-President	Richard Peterson
2nd Vice-President	Jayne Beer
Secretary	Mark Awakuni-Swetland
Treasurer	Vera Lyman
Board Members (vote for 4)	Charles Wooldridge Robert Cropp Aulden Stewart Carolyn Ashmore

Further nominations will be accepted from the floor immediately prior to elections at the Annual Meeting / November General Meeting. If you want to be a part of the decision-making process, let it be known that you would like to be nominated.

OUTREACH

by Susy McMahan

LPS

Ian's teacher asked me if we could do a fossil presentation for all three third grade classes at Pershing Elementary School next quarter. Naturally, I said of course. I have some fossils, but I will be asking members to pitch in so we can send each kid home with a crinoid stem or some other fossil of interest. More details to come.

Villa Marie School

On September 24, I was invited to review and help teach Mrs. Lohmeier's class at Villa Marie School in Waverly,

OUTREACH - CONT'D

Nebraska. The school is a private parochial school that teaches kids with developmental disabilities.

We were studying Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic Rocks. It was back to the books again for a review (for me), gathering samples from each group, and a throwing in a few of my favorites that always make for good stories. The duffel bag was loaded!

We talked about each rock group, everyone checked out the samples, and then we had a very good question-and-answer session. Mrs. Lohmeier talked to the kids about starting a rock collection using egg cartons and cotton, and explained how to keep track of the names of the rocks.

I received thank-you notes from Mrs. Lohmeier and Sister Peggy Kucera, but the best notes were from the students!! Here are some of their comments:

"I liked the rock that had little stones in it. I learned that if I want to see a rock I would polish it to make it shiny." Sasha

"I love the Tiger Eye, why do they call it Tiger Eye? I hope you can come again." Joe

"I liked the Bloodstone, I liked the Sandstone." Rachael

"My favorite rock is Lava Rock. I love Lava Rock because it was from Hawaii." Zoe

"Thank-you Mrs. Susy McMahan for bringing your rocks it was really cool. I really liked the big chunk of Quartz and Obsidian." Creighton

At the end of the class, each student took a tumbled rock which I identified for them, to start their collection. We had a great time!

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Contact Betty for class information.

MINERAL MONKEYS

by Carolyn Ashmore

Wow! What a wonderful start to our September meeting! We had 11 young people in attendance and a lot of new faces who will be joining our club soon. All the juniors were excited to show and tell about their summer finds, field trips, favorite rocks, and just getting to see one another again.

We opened the box from the Shawnee, Oklahoma club, and we divided up the contents among the kids. There was a lot of awesome stuff from their club that you can only get there (Red Oklahoma Mudballs), and some cool Bolie Agates. We will be sending a thank you card to them for the box of goodies they sent us.

I want to give a big thank you to Marcia Eddy-Hamilton and Jayden Eno for all their help in making identification labels and bagging up the rocks for the new juniors.

When the regular meeting started, President Jim Marburger called each junior by name to the front of the room, and gave them yet another gift to put in their collections. It was like Christmas in September! Some of the new kids looked surprised that he knew their names, and a few were even speechless. It was a fun time for all of us.

At the October 17th meeting, there will be a Halloween Costume contest with a rock related theme; come as your favorite gemstone or mineral.



ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP & ROCK PARTY

by Sharon Marburger

September 28 started out as a gloomy, rainy-looking day. By the time the group met at the Hickman rest area, the sun was shining and there were very few clouds remaining in the gorgeous blue sky. The temperature was perfect for walking around in the sun and the stiff breeze cooled any sweat that formed. The group, pictured below in the photograph taken by Jim Marburger, was eager to begin the clean-up. Richard Peterson and Jim M. ferried the eight teams to their assigned clean-up starting points. Before we knew it, we were done! Sixteen to 20 bags of trash were collected, along with tires, tire treads, wooden boxes, and an assortment of oversized pieces of wood and metal. I did not hear of any significant finds, although I'm sure Mark A-S was happy to collect from the raccoon carcass that Vera found. Because we had done such a fine job of cleaning in April, we were able to finish this time in a little over an hour.

After running some personal errands, most of the cleaning crew met at the Marburgers' for food and more fun.



Wooly cutting a stone with the Genie & the stone.



PIZZA!!!

photos by Sharon & Jim Marburger

OUR CRAWFORD EXPERIENCE

by Carolyn Ashmore

A friend once told me that rockhounds are a breed of people that love what they do; love helping and educating others, as well as some of the warmest and friendliest people you ever what to meet. I found this very true in Crawford, Nebraska, as well as in my home club here in Lincoln.

During the four days of the Labor Day weekend, the Crawford club, Northwest Nebraska Rock Club (NNRC), provided us with three days of field trips, led by Pete and Nancy Moore, Donny Larson, and Wade Beins. Although they were very busy leaders, they were never too busy to take questions or give us answers about the elusive Fairburn agates.

While it was some of the hottest weather to go rockhounding in, afterwards we could relax and enjoy their beautiful, shaded park. There were many vendors from everywhere that gathered there, and depending on how early or late one arrived, one could enjoy a nice homemade breakfast or lunch while under a shade tree.

After the field trip on Saturday, we walked through the vendor area. I managed to meet John Hurst, author of the book DRYHEAD AGATE. He signed my copy, and all the while I was thinking of a quiet place in the park to read it. Later in the afternoon, we all gathered in an enclosed building where both John Hurst and Roger Clark, authors of the three Fairburn agate books, had displays and talked about their books, the agates themselves, and where to find them. We had a chance to see and touch some of the most perfect of Fairburn and Dryhead agates I've ever seen. I had a chance to talk to Roger Clark and I told him I had purchased his last book earlier in the

year in South Dakota and that I loved it. I asked if he had any suggestions on how I could find either of his other books. He went outside and brought in his second book and gave it to me. I was overjoyed! (By the way, I have now finished reading them both.)

At 6:00, it was a BBQ supper and an auction that followed, lasting until about 9:30 because everyone was having such fun.

Back at the motel, exhausted, but not too tired, we broke out our club's fluorescent light to see which of our daily finds illuminated and what colors they showed us.

Sunday was our rest day, so we visited Toadstool Park, the Hudson-Meng buffalo kill site, then back to Crawford for more fun in the shade. After breakfast, Monday morning was spent swapping e-mail addresses and phone numbers; saying our good-byes; telling Valerie, President of the NNRC, how wonderful they all made us feel and what a blast it was to be included in their festivities; then off to Fort Robinson for the rest of the day.

In closing I would like to thank all members of the NNRC who showed me what an extension of a rockhound family looks like.

photo provided by Jayne Beer



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MAYAN AMBER AND MODERN DAY COPAL - PART I

by Richard "Pete" Peterson

INTRODUCTION

The Mayan civilization dominated southern Mexico and northern Central America for over 800 years. Amber and copal were used by the Maya as personal adornment, in trade and barter negotiations, in religious ceremonies and as a symbolic offering in burials.

Amber is an organic rock, the fossilized resin of extinct deciduous or coniferous trees. It is found in sedimentary deposits in many sites around the world and occurs as irregular nodules, rods or in other shapes. In some localities, as in the Baltic region, the source is off shore and after storms nodules are washed up on the beach. Amber varies in color from transparent to translucent in shades of yellow with nuances of orange, brown, and, rarely, red. Many species of small animals and plants, trapped in the once sticky resin, were fossilized intact. Hundreds of different prehistoric organisms have been identified. The primary source for the amber used by the Maya was rediscovered in 1952 in the state of Chiapas, Mexico near the town of Simojovel.

Copal is another hardened (but not fossilized) resin that was used in the past and is still used today by the Maya as incense in public and private religious ceremonies. Copal is obtained from three genera of plants, including a modern day representative of the same genus from which Mayan amber originated.

To a botanist, there is a difference between plant resin and plant sap, the latter term more correctly identifies both amber and copal. For the purpose of this article, I will refer to them both as resins. Amber and copal are inextricably entwined into the complex religious world of the Maya.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Mayan civilization in southern Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras (termed Mesoamerica) was at its peak from 300 - 900 AD; for 600 years. Called the Classic Period, it encompassed large scale temple construction, urbanization, recording of astronomical and hierarchal events on monuments (stelae), and a high level of intellectual and artistic development. Intensive agriculture led to a series of powerful city-state empires.

The Maya area is frequently divided into the highlands and the lowlands, based more or less on topography and trade routes. Highland archeological sites include Palenque (in the state of Chiapas, Mexico), Tikal (in Guatemala), and Copan (in Honduras). Lowland sites include Chichen Itza, Uxmal, and Tulum all in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, and many other important sites in both regions.

Mayan settlements were densely populated and the culture produced one of the most dynamic societies in the world. The Mayan influence was felt prior to and after the Classic Period, and continues to influence the indigenous peoples lives. Amber was used by the ancient Maya for adornment, worship, barter and in lavish burial offerings. By the time the Spaniards arrived in the 1500s, the Aztecs, who lived in central Mexico, were the dominant society in the region.

The first mention of amber in Chiapas was made by several Spanish bishops who traveled through southern Mexico in the mid-1500s, not long after the Spanish arrived. The amber was being used in nose, ear and lip plugs as a sign of status and prestige. In the neighboring Mexican state of Oaxaca, amber necklaces were found in burials at Monte Alban. The latter was a Zapotec monumental civic and ceremonial center (100 BC - 200 AD). Some sources indicate that the Olmec civilization (800 - 500 BC) on the Gulf coast of Mexico were mining and using amber in their society by ca 3,000 BC. The source of all this amber remained secret to outsiders until the 1950s.

Frans Blom (b 1893 - d 1963) was a Danish archeologist and adventurer; which led him to Mexico in 1919. He made a number of contributions to Mesoamerican archeology including the discovery of the magnificent Mayan site at Uaxactun, Guatemala in 1924. He and his wife Gertrude, a Swiss photographer, later bought a home in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas where they semi-retired. It was in 1952 that Blom found a major source for the amber used by the Maya. Blom wrote to colleagues, "There are quite a few amber locations in this state (Chiapas). I have seen pieces from the Ocosingo region, Finca Encanto, Ostuacan, and Simojovel. The most productive area was around Simojovel". In 1953, he elaborated and described, "deposits of amber in a belt of Oligocene and Miocene sandy limestone stretching through central Chiapas from Finca Dolores on the Rio Naranjo, in the east to Ostuacan on the Mexicalpa River in the west." The sediments were laid down near the coastline as it existed during late Oligocene and early Miocene times (25-35 million years ago). A review of this period of geologic time is in order.

TO BE CONTINUED
NEXT MONTH



RARE AMBER FROM CHIAPAS

picture from
amber.mexicogemstones.com

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- Adults (age 16 and over) - \$15 per year or \$25 per couple (within the same household)
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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.

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