



# PICK & SHOVEL

P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342, [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://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 27

#### General

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.

### General Meeting

Thursday,  
November 21, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

**Program: Video**

### Mineral Monkeys

Thursday,  
November 21, 2013  
\*\*\*6:00 p.m.\*\*\*

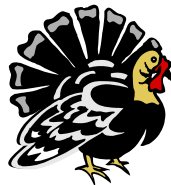
Junior Monkeys: Earth's Resources  
Senior Monkeys: Specimen Care & Storage

## UPCOMING OUTREACH ACTIVITY

Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
University of Nebraska School of Natural Resources  
Hardin Hall, East Campus, 33rd & Holdrege

Gem and mineral identification precedes a presentation by  
Professor Matt Joeckel on rocks and minerals.

Participants are invited to stay for Professor Joeckel's talk, which begins at 7:00 p.m.



**Don't forget to bring your  
project and equipment!**

Main course: Soup  
Bring your potluck foods!



### LGMC Christmas Party

Sunday, December 1, 2013  
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Meeting at 5:00 p.m.  
Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Club will provide fried chicken and coffee/tea.  
Bring your potluck dishes.  
Rock Bingo to follow! Prizes!!  
Gift Exchange - \$5-10 limit

**Rock Party**  
**November 16, 2013**  
**The Jewelry Connection**  
**Indian Village Shopping Ctr.**  
**13th & Arapahoe, Lincoln**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

James Marburger, 402.792.2348  
jm24122@windstream.net

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

Ed Dvorak, 402.946.3041  
ed20649@windstream.net

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

Aulden Stewart, 402.483.1044  
mmstewart@inebraska.com

**Treasurer**

Vera Lyman, 402.464.6089

**Secretary**

Mark Awakuni-Swetland, 402.770.3521  
mawakuni-swetland2@unl.edu

**Board Member**

Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307  
JBeer60070@aol.com

**Board Member**

Robert Cropp, 402.440.0863  
rowdycr@hotmail.com

**Board Member**

Richard Peterson, 402.489.2996  
padr20@yahoo.com

**Board Member**

Charles Wooldridge, 402.416.3233  
charles.wooldridge@nebraska.gov

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

by James Marburger, President



Elections are here. It is important that you nominate and vote, to insure the club goes in a good direction. In order to get this done, one needs to attend this meeting and vote. Be ready to say "YES!" when asked to lead or to serve on a committee or other jobs in the club. Please help us continue to support the juniors, educational opportunities for the club, club sponsored events, and the sharing of the hobby with each other and to new members.

Our club is a unique blend of many. Please plan to attend or host a grinding party.

November is a fine month to spend with family. On Thanksgiving, with the smells of turkey, potatoes, ham, yams, bread, and many other flavors spicing our lives, please remember to include a prayer for our troops that protect our freedoms. After the big meal and maybe a football game, take a minute to enjoy our hobby. Cut a stone, polish, wire wrap, rearrange, dust, sort, stack, tumble, facet, plan an outing, or better yet, find a "LAKER" walking off some the meal.

Looking back at last month, thank you all for participating at the club meeting and dressing up for Halloween; we had the best turnout ever, and fun with many prizes given.

I have received mail from some other clubs (from Georgia and other places) on how to get their club interested in the hobby, share with each others, and getting the Old members involved the younger members. This tells me that they have found our web site and the Pick and Shovel. We must be doing things right to have these questions arise. Thanks to everyone for writing articles and making the fun work for us.

Start planning now for our Christmas Party next month, the Mid-Winter Indoor Swap in January, and the upcoming Show in April.

**REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE**

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!)

**ELECTIONS THIS MONTH!!**

Elections are here! The annual election of the Board of Directors will be held at the November 21, 2013 General Meeting.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor immediately prior to voting. One of the Board Member nominees has asked to be removed from the slate. If you want to be a part of the decision-making process, let it be known that you would like to be nominated.

The nominees at this time are:

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

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### October 17, 2013, Bethany Park Shelter House

Respectfully submitted by Mark Awakuni-Swetland, Secretary

### MEETING AND HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jim Marburger.
- Members present: 25 adults, 8 Juniors, and 1 guest (Rob Bozell, NSHS).
- Jim M. had posted a note in the recent P&S about the use of the public address system. He reminded members to come to the front of the room to use the microphone throughout the meeting.
- Wooly moved to accept the minutes of the September 2013 General Meeting as printed in the P&S. Second by Ed Dvorak, motion carried.
- Treasurer report given by Vera Lyman with the caveat that \$5,000 had been set aside for the April 2014 show expenses. Bob Gruit moved to accept the report, 2nd by Karen Messenger, motion carried.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Marburger reminded members of the Ft. Wayne, Indiana show and MWF Fall meeting on the 20th and 21st.
- Another upcoming show is in Des Moines, Iowa at the fairgrounds.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Jayne Beer reminded members that club t-shirts are still available at \$10 each.
- The wayward State Gem Stone Display Case was found and is currently in Rowdy Cropp's possession. There is

a need for someone to volunteer to store the case between shows.

### 2014 SHOW PLANNING

- Wooly circulated the proposed 2014 show budget and read off the main expenses. Vera requested a new line item expense of \$400 to pay hired help to load the trailer after the show. This followed the post-2013 show discussion suggesting to have Two Men and a Truck or equivalent do the heavy lifting after the show to relieve the senior members from this burdensome (and potentially dangerous) physical task. Ed Dvorak made a motion to accept the amended budget, second by Sharon M., motion carried.
- Wooly announced that Richard Peterson had stepped down as the Demonstrator Chairman. There is a call for another volunteer.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Sharon Marburger issued a call for the Club to write about their memories of recently deceased members Phyllis Parks and John Harrison, Jr. These will be published in the All American Club yearbook. Deadline for submissions is early January.
- Karen Messenger reported receiving an invitation for the Club to participate in a UNL event Tuesday, November 19 at Hardin Hall on East Campus. Matt Joeckel, Geologist from the School of Natural Resources and the Conservation and Survey Division will lead a public seminar entitled "Everything You Wanted to Know About Rocks but Were Afraid to Ask". Secretary Mark went online to confirm the time of this event: 7-8 p.m.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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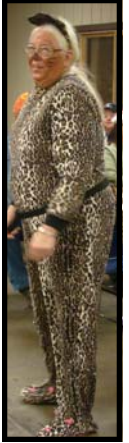
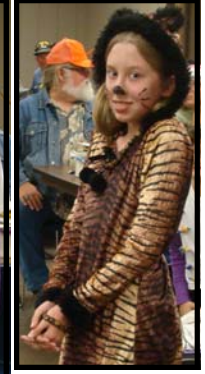
## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - CONT'D

*(Continued from page 3)*

- Jim M. announced that the new membership application of Bill Ray of Hickman had been approved at the recent board meeting.
- Susy McMahan reported that she and Carolyn Ashmore will be visiting the 3rd grade at Pershing Elementary School. They will show fossils to the 48 students and each will receive a crinoid stem to take home.
- Susy announced that the Club's juniors will be studying fossils in the near future. Jim M. suggested that a call for donated materials for the Mineral Monkeys or outreach programs be made at least one month ahead of the need so members can respond.
- Susy reported that a school in David City, NE (50 miles northwest of Lincoln) is seeking a possible presentation. She will continue to monitor this event's planning.
- Mary Pittard announced having a sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide snacks for next year's general meetings.
- Gene Mulinex presented a copy of the 1980 Big Show program and flyer to the Club's historian, Sharon Marburger.

### HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

- Jim M. started the Halloween costume contest by posing three gem and mineral word play ideas using common office paper, index cards, and a small box (BOX+ITE=BAUXITE). Then each member in costume stood and posed while the audience tried to guess what gem or mineral was being represented. By consensus response, three adults and three Mineral Monkeys were selected as winners and each received a mystery box prize. Youth winners were Bubble Gum Agate, Apache Tears, and Tiger Eye. Adult winners were Peridot, Leopard Skin Jasper, and Mexican Crazy Lace. Thanks to all who dressed up!
- Motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. by Wooly, second by Ed Dvorak, motion carried. Snacks and program followed.
- Rob Bozell, Highway Archaeology Manager, NSHS, gave an interesting PowerPoint program about the history of Nebraska archaeology. Rob also assisted in identifying artifacts brought in by Club members.



## LAPIDARY CLASS

by Rowdy Cropp

It has come to my attention that many members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club (LGMC) do not know about the lapidary class and how it works. I took over as instructor of the class after Roger Pabian's unfortunate and untimely death three years ago.

The class is sponsored by Southeast Community College, which is in charge of advertising, scheduling classes, and paying the instructor fees. That is as far as they go insofar as financial support. They pay for actual class time only, which is 18 hours per session. The City supplies the building (Auld Center in Antelope Park), electricity, and water. They also do the snow removal, etc. for the building.

The class is a very important part of our club. All adult club members are eligible to take the class. I currently am waiting for an answer to the question brought up at Board meeting regarding the minimum age of a student. I hope to have that answer available at the General meeting.

LGMC pays for some of the needed supplies, such as saw blades, grinding wheels, polishing pads, and such. The last few items purchased were paid for by donations from students in the class. For example, Carmen Perzinsky donated a substantial amount of money in her Father's

*(Continued on page 5)*

## LAPIDARY CLASS - CONT'D

(Continued from page 4)

name for the last batch of polishing pads, sanding belts, and other items. Another student donated \$50 last session. The rest of the items come from my personal inventory, or are purchased using the money Southeast Community College pays me for teaching.

I have spent countless hours cleaning and updating the very old equipment (a lot of which is over 40 years old), and have made most of it much safer. I would guess I have spent close to 80 hours fixing, cleaning, and tweaking the equipment and lighting.

If anyone in the club has any equipment, lapidary materials, parts, motors, etc. that I might be able to use for the class or maintenance of machinery, a donation would be greatly appreciated. Most of the rock available to the students right now is not the best lapidary material to use for teaching. I supply material to keep the class going, or to just give students something different to work with. Donations from fellow rockhounds would be fantastic!

Hopefully this clears up some of the "mystery" of the class. Contact me if you would like to donate any material or equipment for the good of the class – and the hobby.

## MINERAL MONKEYS

by Carolyn Ashmore, Junior Mineral Monkey Leader

The October meeting proved to be another spooktacular time with both the juniors and adults dressing up for the occasion. Our theme was rock, mineral, or gemstone, and we had everything from Indiana Jones to Crazy Lace Agate, Apache Tears to Tiger Eye, and a cabochon to a cute Bubble Gum Agate who was handing out bubble gum to the juniors for their enjoyment. Everyone had a fun time.

The junior Mineral Monkeys learned the three rock types as well as our state rock and gemstone. Samples of each were handed out, thanks to donations from Ed Ridge and me.

At the November meeting, we will be looking at Earth Resources, the everyday uses of rocks and minerals, as well as minerals in the home and careers in the earth sciences. We will have a lot of samples to show this lesson, and some handouts too, so bring your rock folders with you.

## MORE MINERAL MONKEYS

by Susy McMahan, Senior Mineral Monkeys Leader

At the October meeting, the senior Mineral Monkeys, costumes and all, worked on their lapidary projects. While some of them are accomplished at making cabs, for this project we sanded down polished stones and glued on bell-caps, and sent each junior home with a leather necklace for their slides. They used a Dremel to sand off the shine the part of the stone where the bell-cap was then carefully glued on, then stood the finished slide upright in a container of kitty litter (sand works also) to dry. Using the Dremel was a new experience for most.

We then enjoyed the great treats brought in, and Halloween was off with a sugar blast!

Thanks to Betty Selby-Syslo for the findings and Susy McMahan for the tumbled stones we used for the project!

At the November meeting the senior Mineral Monkeys will be looking at how to store their collections, presenting different ideas of how that can be accomplished. Any member is welcome to bring an example of how they store their collections; bring a picture of home storage, a case, a spreadsheet program, notebook, labels, etc.

**Please send your memories of  
Phyllis Parks and John Harrison  
to Historian Sharon Marburger  
for inclusion in the 2013  
All American Yearbook.**

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB'S  
**35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROCK SWAP**  
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## MAYAN AMBER AND MODERN DAY COPAL - PART 2

by Richard "Pete" Peterson

The Oligocene and Miocene Epochs followed the Eocene Epoch and the three made up a major division of geologic time called the Tertiary Period (65 - 2 million years ago). In North America, primitive horses were evolving, and pigs and peccaries first appeared in the Eocene. South America was separated from Central and North America. Oligocene climates were by and large temperate, with many regions enjoying subtropical conditions. Grasslands expanded and forests were less widespread. Throughout the epoch, modern groups of carnivores became diverse and abundant. The Miocene mammalian fauna was becoming essentially modern, fully half of the modern families of mammals we know today were present. South America was still isolated from North America. Horse evolution in North America continued, and early ancestors of the dog, bear, antelope and deer appeared. The fossil record of terrestrial life is extensive and varied. Uplifting and erosion resulted in sediments, producing the sandstone, siltstone, clay, limestone, and gravel deposits we recognize today.

The primary interest in the Mayan amber was for what was trapped inside; the animal and plant life. The amber contained prehistoric ancestors of such recognizable insects as cockroaches, termites, ants, crickets, moths, beetles, mosquitos, wasps, and bees. The list of fossilized organisms is extensive.

Copal, the modern day hardened resin used in contemporary Mayan life, has also been recovered from archeological sites. Included are samples collected from the sacred well at Chichen Itza, in the Yucatan of Mexico. Chichen Itza (450 - 1200 AD) was a Post-Classic Mayan site and there the copal was painted greenish blue and embedded with worked green jade beads and discs. Painting copal the color of jade recalls the burial practice of jade being placed in the corpse's mouth. This is believed to symbolize maize (corn) as food for the soul departed, while copal was food for the gods. Copal has also been recovered from the murals on the walls at Bonampak (ca 800 AD), a Late Classic Mayan site in Chiapas. There it was used as a binder for pigment used in the paint that was then applied to the plaster walls. The murals at Bonampak are some of the most colorful and detailed in the Mayan world.

### AMBER

The word *amber* stems from the Arabic word *ambergris*, an oily, perfumed substance secreted by the sperm whale. After the term passed through Middle English, Old French and Medieval Latin the word amber became the name for fossil resin. The Greek word for

amber was *electron* and was associated with the Sun God. The sun was an integral part of the Mayan belief system.

The world's largest deposit of amber is in Poland, on the peninsula of Samland (aka Sambia) near the town of Palmnicken (aka Palmniki or Yantarny). The area was formerly in eastern Prussia. Note: this region has been occupied by various countries over the centuries and each gave a name (either in Polish, German or the Russian language) to the places depending on who was in control. There are large reserves on the seabed of the Baltic Sea (Baltic amber is also called Succinite), and after heavy storms amber nodules are found washed up on the beach and in the shallow waters of the bordering countries. Other amber sources are in the Dominican Republic (the world's second largest source after the Baltic), Sicily (where it is called Simitite), Romania (called Rumanite), Burma (Burmite), Canada (Chemawinite), Mexico (Retinite), and other locations.

The general specifications for amber are as follows:

Fracture: conchoidal

Luster: resinous

Crystal System: Amorphous

Hardness: 2-3 Moh's scale

Streak: white, colorless, gray

Index of Refraction: 1.54-1.55

Fluorescence: bluish to yellow-green

Insoluble in water, but partially soluble in ether, chloroform, and acetone.

Amber is easily faked. You do not want to spend a lot of money for even the most convincing looking plastic. Real amber does not melt, some say it gives off a sweetish, pleasant, exotic odor when exposed to the flame of a match or lighter. Some would say the odor is quite unpleasant. A red hot needle pressed into an inconspicuous spot on the back of a specimen may be less damaging. Both these methods will probably be impossible in a market setting or at a gem and mineral show. The bottom line is to get acquainted with real amber beforehand and purchase with an educated eye.

Amber from Chiapas is the resin from an extinct plant in the genus *Hymenaea*. This same genus is related to 14 living species, all but one of which are native to the American tropics. The genus *Hymenaea* belongs to the larger plant family *Fabaceae* which includes such diverse plants as alfalfa, the garden pea, peanuts, and the many varieties of the locust tree. The extinct species *Hymenaea protera* is the source of the Dominican Republic amber.

(Continued on page 7)

## MAYAN AMBER - CONT'D

(Continued from page 6)

Today, amber is worn by the Mayan descendants as amulets and as parts of necklaces, which some say relieves stress and is a natural remedy for a variety of ailments, including stress reduction.

### COPAL

A distant relative of amber, even though separated by a few million years, is the plant resin called *copal*. The word is derived from the Aztec language, the Nahuatl word *capalli* meaning "incense". Due to regional differences in naming and usage, different trees and their resin share the name copal.

Copal is a hardened, but not fossilized, tree resin. It is in an intermediate stage of molecular polymerization. In other words, between the original viscous, sticky resin from the plant and the fossilized amber. The transition from copal to amber is not linear, but instead, the transition is driven by heat and pressure over many years. The principle copal sources in the Americas are from the plant genera *Bursera*, *Protium* and *Hymenaea*. Remember, an extinct species of *Hymenaea* was the source for the Mayan amber.

Groves of *Protium copal* trees were reported in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico at the time of the Spanish conquest in the 1500s. It was no doubt traded outside the area and perhaps shipped in maize-husk containers. There was, and still is, a symbolic connection between copal and maize (corn).

Collection and preparation of copal for use varies but, broadly speaking, the resin is collected much as rubber is tapped. Shallow, diagonal cuts are made in the trunk of the tree. The resin (sap) flows along the path of the cut and drips into a cup made from a waxy leaf, then into half a gourd or other container. The gum is then boiled and either shaped into pellets (ready for a brazier, i.e. an incense

burner), shaped into a sphere and stored in two halves of a dried gourd, or rolled into "sticks" and wrapped in corn husks.

Early Mayan archeologists exploring and writing of their discoveries and experiences had a nice way of writing; very 19th century and very refreshing. One wrote, "I could visualize the priest-astronomer, anxious to check his theories on the length of the solar year or the lunar month, threading his way from stela to stela to see what his predecessors had recorded in the then distant past, or I could conjure up the acrid, sooty smoke of copal incense rising from clay braziers to a sky then fully visible from the great (ceremonial center) court." Copal was described by one writer as so holy that it was the, "odour of the center of heaven."

In words from the Catholic Encyclopedia, "Incense, with its sweet smelling perfume and high-ascending smoke, is typical of the good Christian's prayer, which, enkindled in the heart by the fire of God's love and exhaling the odour of Christ, rises up a pleasing offering in His sight."

Today, Catholic priests in remote areas of southern Mexico and Guatemala slowly swing a censor that burns, not the incense found in traditional Catholic churches, but pellets of the resin copal. Copal and other combustible aromatics can still be found in most Mexican markets today.

### SIMOJOVEL

Simojovel (pronounced, See-mo-ho-vel) is a municipality, a county in our terms. The town of Simojovel de Allende (founded in 1620) is the administrative center. The town serves in a similar capacity as that of a county seat in the U.S. The municipality of Simojovel is approximately 660m (2,165 feet) above sea level and located 17.12° N, 92.43° W. It is situated in the oak and

(Continued on page 8)

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Contact Betty for class information.



## MAYAN AMBER - CONT'D

*(Continued from page 7)*

pine forest community of the highlands of Chiapas. Simojovel de Allende (population 9,562 in 2005) is 130 km (approximately 80 miles) northeast of Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of Chiapas. Chiapas is bordered by the Pacific Ocean, Guatemala and the Mexican states of Oaxaca, Vera Cruz, and Tabasco.

Today, one of the descendant groups of the Maya, the Tzotzil, live in and around Simojovel. In fact, they live over a wide area in the central highlands of Chiapas. The largest Tzotzil municipalities are Chamula and Zinacantan. The Tzotzil were long exploited by Europeans as laborers on the area's coffee and sugar plantations. When prices declined, the Tzotzil moved on to other economic activities. Today, they sell their artisan goods in the towns of San Cristobal de las Casas, Comitán, and Simojovel.

The amber mined around Simojovel is sold in the town market to small dealers, artisans or tourists. The majority, however, is sold on contract to dealers. It can be purchased in raw nodules, cleaned and roughly polished or carved and shaped by local craftsmen. My family and I were living in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas during 1981-1984 and were approached at work and at our home by people selling amber from the highlands of Chiapas.

### **THE TRIP**

In July 1983 I made a trip to one of the amber mining slopes near Simojovel. A colleague and friend of mine from work arranged to travel together. He had contacts from the area and she made the arrangements for our safe passage.

Safe passage needs some explanation. As already alluded to, the highlands of Chiapas are home to thousands of subsistence farmers that have and continue to be exploited on a number of levels. Issues of social justice and integration into the larger Mexican society continue. Many of the enlistees in the guerrilla Zapatista Army of Liberation are from the Chiapas highlands. Without connections, I would never have been able to visit the mines. One restriction was put on us, we were not to try to buy specimens from the miners. Nothing was said about not taking a camera.

The mines were regulated in local terms. Land ownership in Chiapas has been an issue since the Mexican land reforms of 1915. Who owned the mines, I do not know, but different groups claimed the rights to the amber. Straying into another digging area was cause for confrontation. It has gotten worse since I was there over 25 years ago. My recollection of that day are somewhat

conflicted, except that I remember it was blazingly (is that a word?) hot and dry ... that I will never forget.

We left our drop-off point just outside of Simojovel and started out. We came prepared to make a day of it. We both packed our survival and collecting gear; both of us were entomologists in the real world. We hiked for at least a couple hours, up and down and along ridges. No heavy climbing, mainly along trails forged by people and animals. The sun was directly overhead and had both of us wondering why we had not started our trek at the break of dawn. The vegetation was sparse, mainly scrub trees and dry grass, no real shade, everything looked about a couple months past thirsty. The views, however, over the highlands of Chiapas were spectacular, even through the heavy mid-summer haze. We eventually were following a ridge top, pretty level walking that seemed to never end. It was becoming one of those, "are we there yet" kind of adventures. Our water was low and we knew what that meant. Did I mention it was hot? Then we started down a gently sloping grade with the ridge top disappearing behind us. Abruptly, we made a hairpin turn and were walking along an even narrower path that snaked in and out along the contours of the hillside. We could see the trail ahead and every five yards or so on our left was a hole into the hillside, large enough for a person of small stature to crawl or back into. To our right, the hill sloped away from us down the dusty hillside. Outside each hole and across the path, then extending down the hill was a fan of debris, chunks of unwanted matrix; it appeared to be small to medium size pieces of limestone. The holes turned out to be the openings to the mines. They were nothing more than hollow cavities of various sizes dug into the hillside.

The holes initially showed no signs of life; in fact, we had not seen or heard much of anything for what seemed like hours. Even the birds' voices sounded mute in the oppressive, dusty heat. Then, up ahead we spotted a hole, then another, outside of which on a branch hung some clothing and what looked like a sheathed machete and a container for water. At last, a miner.

The miner turned out to be a child; I would bet he had not reached puberty. As we approached, he stuck his exhausted, dust covered face out the hole to see what was up, then retreated. He continued to work after we had exchanged fleeting but polite greetings. At a couple holes down the line we saw a shallow box-like contraption being pushed out one of the holes. This warranted a closer look. Close behind was kid who sat up and began sorting in the sunlight. The box (probably 18 x 12 x 6") resembled a screen bottomed sifter without the screen; it was a box on skids. Tools seemed to consist of a simple pick, shovel and

*(Continued on page 9)*

## MAYAN AMBER - CONT'D

(Continued from page 8)

a short pry bar. Outside the hole was the place to scrutinize the chunks of matrix, the bits he had found inside with potential "gold."

We probably spent an hour walking along the hillside, observing and taking a few pictures. We were friendly to the workers, but not overly chummy (you know how Americans tend to be); the miners returned our greetings, then disappeared into their dim lit world; we kept moving. Remember, we had to walk back to Simojovel, something we were both painfully aware. Now was crunch time, our water had run out and we were both very thirsty, I was the worse off. With the town now within our reach we both looked for the first kiosk or tienda that sold anything wet.

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## ALAA EXCERPT

### We Have Enough "Quiet Recreation" Areas Already

By Amy Granat, Board Member, ALAA

"Quiet Recreation." Upon first hearing this term, one could imagine a pastoral setting, with birds chirping and the sound of wind rustling through the trees. But "Quiet Recreation" has quite a different meaning when it comes to land-use planning by federal agencies. Ten years ago, this term did not exist. There was an understanding among land managers that public land should be dedicated to a myriad of uses, and some of those uses involved machinery--whether a chainsaw, a 4WD vehicle or a dirt bike. It was understood that public land was working land. After all, mining and timber harvesting were part of the reason public land was codified, to make sure the benefits from public land would be available to all Americans.

But "Quiet Recreation" has recently become common terminology among land-use managers because anti-access groups have introduced it. It has become a reason to limit or deny recreational access to anyone using a motor.

The vast majority of people who use public lands engage in motorized activities like driving, mining, hunting with game carts and mountain bike riding. Because of new wilderness restrictions, we, the public, find ourselves sharing a smaller and smaller percentage of public land. Now we are the target of further assaults by calls for more "Quiet Recreation." I think we already have enough areas set aside for "Quiet Recreation." For example, there are now 14.1 million acres of respite and silence built into wilderness areas spread throughout the State of California. These are areas where no motors can be used. Do we really need more?

Excerpted from the April-May-June, 2013, ALAA Newsletter  
(Original article published in CORVA Newsletter, May, 2013)

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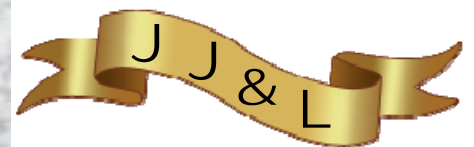
P.O. Box 68  
Hickman, NE 68372

Lee Harrison  
Eric Harrison  
402.792.2337

330 Locust  
Hickman, NE 68372

James Marburger  
Sharon Marburger  
402.792.2348

[jimandjohn@jllrocksandminerals.com](mailto:jimandjohn@jllrocksandminerals.com)  
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## YOUTH OUTREACH

by Susy McMahan, Youth Co-leader

In October, Carolyn Ashmore and I were invited to teach about fossils to three classes, on three different days, to third graders at Pershing Elementary School. Getting ready was half the fun! Gathering fossils, studying different fossils online just to “make sure”, and gathering crinoid stems with a little illustration of the actual creature to hand out to the kids. Thanks Jim Marburger for the donation!

We talked about and passed around fossils that are common to Nebraska, talked about the shallow ocean, were given permission to say dinosaur poop at school (after copralite). Each class had fewer than 20 students, and we had an hour, so we had a great time! Sea creatures, animal bones, plant fossils!! We ended each class with You-Tube videos of today’s relative of crinoids (most stemless). What fun!

Thanks to Corey for the bison horn and teeth, and prime trilobite specimen. The kids loved to hear stories of field trips. Ian (one of our juniors and a third grader) was given permission to be at all three classes with us, and he told some firsthand tales about field trips and hunting for fossils.

We received the absolutely coolest thank-you notes, with personal messages and drawings by each one of the students!!

Anyone interested in helping when these request come in, let us know and you can tag along or go it alone! We have requests from Northeast and Huntington schools already!!



Photos courtesy of Carolyn Ashmore



## Silversmithing classes

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

**Tuesdays**

**October 8, 2013**

**thru**

**November 26, 2013**

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

## OCTOBER ROCK PARTY

Photos courtesy of Jayne Beer



(Above) It must have been a nippy evening for Philip Paul!

(Above right) Host Wooly

(Right) Gene, Eddie, and Susy enjoying their meals



### STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN

Audit	Ed Dvorak James Marburger Roger Pittard
Christmas Party	Edward Ridge
Education / Librarian	Charles Wooldridge Judy Leick-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—2014	Charles Wooldridge
Swap—2014	Richard Peterson
Website	Jim Atkins
Youth Activities	Andrew Tiedje Susy McMahan Kay Jurgens

### 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.

### OCTOBER ROCK PARTY - CONT'D



Eddie working with a couple of young members

photos courtesy of Jayne Beer



Jayne strikes again with photos of the auction for Stella Thiessen's collection



### LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Richard Peterson, Chairman

1 year:	Charles Wooldridge Sharon Marburger
2 years:	Vera Lyman Ed Dvorak
3 years:	Edward Ridge Robert Cropp

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Richard Peterson, Chairman

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

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:  
 Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 5342  
 Lincoln, NE 68505-0342  
 Or e-mail newsletters to:  
 lgmc.editor@windstream.net



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**YOUR PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:**

**PUBLISHER:** LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.,  
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 68505-0342

**EDITOR:** SHARON MARBURGER, P.O. BOX 64,  
 HICKMAN, NEBRASKA 68372, E-MAIL:  
 LGMC.EDITOR@WINDSTREAM.NET

**CIRCULATION:** VERA LYMAN, 402-464-6089

**REPORTERS:** ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO  
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