



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

2014 Meetings and Activities

Board

Wed., Jan 8 (Lyman's' home)

Wed., Feb 5 (Lyman's' home)

Wed., Mar 5 (GereLibrary)

Wed., Apr 2 (Lyman's' home)

Wed., Apr 30 (GereLibrary)

Wed., Sep 3 (GereLibrary)

Wed., Oct 1 (GereLibrary)

Wed., Nov 5 (GereLibrary)

Wed., Dec. 3 (GereLibrary)

General

Sat., Jan 25

Mid-Winter Swap & meeting

Thurs., Feb 20

Thurs., Mar 20

Thurs., Apr 17

Thurs., May 15

Thurs., Sep 18

Thurs., Oct 16

Thurs., Nov 20

Sun., Dec 7

Activities

Sun, Feb 9 - Geology Day

Thurs., Mar 20 - Science Fair

Apr 4-6 - Setup and Show

Sun., Jul 13 - Grinding 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

Saturday,

January 25, 2014

Following Mid-Winter Swap and

Pizza Supper

7:00 p.m.

Program: None (due to Swap)

Mineral Monkeys

Saturday,

January 25, 2014

Following Mid-Winter Swap

and Pizza Supper

Lesson: Attend the Swap for credit towards earning badges!! Work on Poster.

December Birthdays:

Philip Paul Ashmore

Jim Atkins

Mia Eno

Ivy Guenter

Al Stewart

Janette Van Butsel

Honor Their Memory!

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

lgmc.editor@windstream.net



December Rock Party



*Hosts will provide
Pulled Pork
Sandwiches*

Saturday, December 14

5:00 p.m.

Marburgers' Home

334 Locust, Hickman

*Bring a
potluck item
of your choice*

Bring your projects and equipment. Two Genie grinding & polishing units will be available. All members and members-to-be are welcome.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

James Marburger, 402.792.2348
jm24122@windstream.net

1st Vice-President

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

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
rowdyrc@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

Thank you for a wonderful, fun year as your president. The club has earned a vast amount of recognition from its surrounding communities. We have presented a fantastic show, swap, geology day, grinding party, demonstrations at many venues, expansion of our Mineral Monkeys, fun field trips, and many pot luck rock parties. Our Pick and Shovel and an article by Richard Peterson won First Place for Large Bulletin and Adult Article 2013, respectively, by the AFMS. All of these activities and accomplishments depend on you. Sharing our hobby and knowledge with each other and the community will strengthen the hobby for the future.



I hope to have some field trips in the spring. Take time now to sharpen your tools and arrange a field pack so it will be ready when the time comes. If you have anything you would like to collect, make sure to tell me and maybe it can be incorporated in a field trip.

We had a great Christmas party with awards presented to our members for participation in educational endeavors, articles, drawings, publications, and a very surprised Roger and Mary Pittard for being our Rockhounds of the Year. Rock Bingo was great fun for everyone.

The January Indoor Rock Swap is our next big gathering. Please lend a hand and bring specimens for the Silent Auction. The pizza meal will be before the General Meeting at 7 p.m. Please plan to spend the afternoon at the Swap, eat supper, and celebrate our club's birthday with cake made by Vera.

Thanks again for your help. I now pass the New Year to Ed Dvorak.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The November and December General Meeting minutes will be published in the January P&S. November minutes had not been published, due to the Christmas Party and December meeting being held so early in the month.

It is time to pay your club dues!

Send your dues to Treasurer Lyman no later than January 31, 2014. Dues received after January 31 will be considered delinquent and subject to a \$5 reinstatement fee.

**Individual Adults (ages 16 and over) - \$15 per year
Couple living within the same household - \$25 per year
Juniors - \$2 per year (with a responsible adult)**

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB'S
35th ANNUAL ROCK SWAP
Saturday JANUARY 25, 2014 1:00PM - 5:00PM

Family Friendly

Silent Auction

BETHANY PARK SHELTER
64TH & VINE STREET LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
FREE ADMISSION
BUY - SELL - TRADE - ROCKS - MINERALS
FOSSILS - JEWELRY - EQUIPMENT

Dealer Tables - 1/2 Table \$10, Full Table \$20 - Doors Open to Dealers at 12 Noon

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

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

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 2013, Gere Library

Respectfully submitted by Mark Awakuni-Swetland

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jim Marburger. Board Members present: Jim Marburger, Ed Dvorak, Vera Lyman, Mark Awakuni-Swetland, Richard Peterson, Charles 'Wooly' Wooldridge, Aulden Stewart, and Robert 'Rowdy' Cropp.
- Visitors: Ed Ridge, Pat Dvorak, Sharon Marburger, Susy McMahan, Carolyn Ashmore.
- Minutes of the May 1, 2013 Board meeting were distributed. Richard moved to accept the minutes as read, second by Ed D., motion carried.
- Two Treasurer's reports were distributed by Vera Lyman - May 2013, and June-August 2013. Ed D. moved to accept the May report, 2nd by Rowdy, motion carried. Richard moved to accept the June-August report, 2nd by Wooly, motion carried.
- Discussion about the Treasurer's show report followed. Since the club had a small profit from the show, Wooly moved to donate \$100 to the MWF endowment fund, 2nd by Vera, motion carried.
- After further discussion, President Jim directed Vera to put money back into a CD.
- Vera indicated that the club books were ready for the regularly scheduled audit.

OLD BUSINESS

- NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Richard inquired if current board members and officers were willing to be nominated for the 2014 term. After discussion about what responsibilities came with the office, the following initial 2014 slate was proposed:

President, Ed Dvorak; 1st Vice President, Richard Peterson; 2nd Vice President, Jayne Beer; Treasurer, Vera Lyman; Secretary, Mark Awakuni-Swetland; Board Members (4): Charles 'Wooly' Wooldridge, Robert 'Rowdy' Cropp, Aulden Stewart, Carolyn Ashmore.

- Richard inquired how the Rockhound of the Year was selected if all Board members are not kept in the loop. One consideration is how to handle a nomination of a board member while keeping the ensuing discussion and vote a secret. A discussion about procedures followed with the recommendation that a description of award criteria and call for nominees be published in the P&S. Names would be forwarded to the President (who is exempt from being nominated). The President would alert the Board and seek a consensus approval.
- Susy inquired as to the request for a portable P.A. system being available for general meetings and other activities. Ideally, it would include a cordless microphone that could be passed around the room for members to use so that all could hear more clearly. Everyone thought it was a good idea, but the cost was an issue. Richard recounted the prices of new units he had researched. Jayne offered to bring an amp with attached microphone to the September meeting. Wooly volunteered to donate an amp. Mark will also bring an amp with attached microphone to try. Everyone was encouraged to seek possible P.A. system online and locally. Mark will check local pawn shops. Carolyn suggested that moving the general meeting tables into an open circle pattern could facilitate hearing the discussion better. Sharon suggested urging all members to sit together at the front of the room instead of the current dispersed arrangement.
- Wooly updated the board about the invitation to participate in the Missouri River Outdoor Expo

(Continued on page 4)

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syslo@msn.com

Contact Betty for class information.



SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES - CONT'D

(Continued from page 3)

scheduled at Ponca State Park. After the initial communication the MROE director left that organization. Wooly got confirmation that the LGMC invitation to have a booth is still open. However the promise of lodging for the multi-day event was no longer available. With various regional activities scheduled that same weekend it was speculated that open lodging would be too far away to be economical. Wooly told the MROE contact person that we would defer participating in 2013 but requested to be considered for the next year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Richard distributed a page from the Wachishka Audubon Society newsletter containing a list of public office and officials. He suggested the P&S include such a list as a regular item. Discussion about how members become more active in policy-making by government agencies. Susy referred to the American Land Access Association issues as an example of policy directly affecting rock hounds.
- Richard reported that the LGMC fall clean-up on Highway 77 south of Lincoln will be Saturday, September 28th followed by a grinding party potluck. To make this event more successful we would need at least 16 volunteers. Each person would only have to walk ½ mile instead of the full mile everyone walked in the spring. Richard asked that the DOR safety video be shown at the September general meeting. Audlen inquired if the club had separated out the aluminum cans as a cash source in spring. There were mixed feelings about doing that and no consensus reached.
- Sharon reported that Haven Manor (an assisted living facility) in Hickman is interested in the LGMC providing a short program for its residents. The general consensus was to accept this invitation.
- Rowdy reported that the non-faceting lapidary class will begin October 12th at SECC. It will run 6 weeks and cost \$59.00. Donations of materials for students to use are welcome. The P&S could publish a class announcement and link to SECC. <https://www.southeast.edu/assets/0/74/87/285/612/61c47878-9232-4dc7-86a4-3607a9aee6ea.pdf> and scroll down to catalog page 16.
- The program for the September general meeting will be a summertime rockhounding show and tell, followed by the DOR safety video. Discussion about how to shorten the business meeting and lengthen the program portion ensued. Carolyn suggested starting the Mineral Monkey class one-half hour earlier at 6:00 p.m. Vera confirmed that the club has the building from 6-10 p.m. Starting the youth activities earlier will just mean that someone (Vera) would have to arrive earlier to open the building.
- Jim reported that Andrew T. has stepped down from working with the Juniors.
- Jim inquired about having a Halloween costume contest at the October general meeting. A contest with prizes could be an incentive for members to participate.
- Vera reported that the MWF was soliciting LGMC input on a list of nominees for an upcoming vote. Each position but one had a single candidate. The position with several names for only 2 slots was discussed and the board gave a consensus decision.
- Jim reported on potential future field trips. Jim & Sharon M. and Bob & Pat Grimmet had recently visited the Burden Quarry east of Union, Nebraska. They found fossils. A spring trip could be arranged. A fall trip would be too dangerous as the area is used by deer hunters.
- Susy mentioned a possible field trip site near Weeping Water and 84th Street.
- Jim reported that a spring trip could be organized to a farm near Fort Dodge, Iowa. A local farmer is seeking help in removing stones from a plow field. Jim reports that geodes and Lake Superior agates are often found there.
- Jim read an e-mail from a landowner in southwestern Wyoming informing us of an opportunity to lease some land for rock hounding activities, May 1st to September 31st with permission to take out anything that is found. The property is in the Wind River Formation that is known for its fossil fish. Jim will seek further details.
- Jim reported having the opportunity to personally purchase a new Genie™ lapidary tool with a trim saw attachment. He asked the board to consider the idea of creating a lending program for members. Perhaps our Mineral Monkeys could benefit from having the ability to check out the machine with parental supervision. The machine could be reserved for a few days up to a one month period. Perhaps a per-day rental fee could help pay for upkeep needs. One dollar per day was a preliminary suggested amount. New users, Mineral

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2013 (October meeting), Gere Library

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Marburger (Mark Awakuni-Swetland was out of town)

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jim Marburger. Board members in attendance, in addition to the President, were Ed Dvorak, Vera Lyman, Jayne Beer, Richard Peterson, and Charles Wooldridge. Others in attendance were Carolyn Ashmore, Sharon Marburger, Ed Ridge, and Pat Dvorak.
- The Minutes of the September Board meeting were not available. They will be addressed next month.
- The Treasurer's Report was distributed. Ed Dvorak moved to accept the report, second by Jayne Beer. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Richard Peterson reported on the Roadside Clean-up. With eight teams, it went very well, it was easy, and it was fun.
- It was decided that the Club will use the PA system provided by the Beers. Anyone wishing to speak must be recognized by the President and proceed to the front of the room to use the microphone. If unable to go to the front, the President will repeat what was spoken so all can hear. Jayne suggested putting the speaker on the counter so the sound travels above our heads. Purchase of a new system is tabled until after the Midwinter Swap. We will use the Beers' system; if it doesn't work, purchasing a new system will be revisited. Additionally, if this doesn't work at the Swap, Jayne has volunteered to use her Boze system, which will work fabulously.
- Members will be encouraged to dress as a favorite

hobby-related item for the Halloween Party. There will be prizes for first, second, and third place winners in both adult and junior categories.

- The Midwest Federation Fall Meeting will be held October 19 at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The Marburgers and Ed Dvorak plan to attend. Sharon will pick up the awards given out at the AFMS show in Jacksonville, Florida last month. MWF Secretary, Donna Moore, thoughtfully collected the awards on behalf of Sharon.
- Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to elections.
- Consideration of auctioning off some of the library literature at monthly meetings was discussed. As time allows, selected books will be brought to the meetings.

(Continued on page 6)

SEP BOARD MTG MINUTES - CONT'D

(Continued from page 4)

Monkeys and parents, or other members would need to receive safety and use training. The club would want to have some sort of liability clause in place.

- Jim reported on an invitation to the LGMC from UNL's School of Natural Sciences to participate with a table at their upcoming NaturePalooza event. The public event will be held on September 24th, an LPS early release day, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Hardin Hall (33rd and Holdrege) on east campus. Board members wondered if the single table being offered was sufficient space. Jim will inquire if additional table space is available.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Ed D.

J J & L Rocks & Minerals

**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@jilrocksandminerals.com
www.jilrocksandminerals.com
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OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES - CONT'D

(Continued from page 5)

SHOW COMMITTEE

- Advertising: The Show flyers are done. Jim Marburger is to order the postcards and contact editors of publications. Jim Atkins needs to make a couple of tweaks to finalize the billboard ads.
- Wooly is in the process of lining up another speaker for the Show.

NEW BUSINESS

- An awards ceremony is being planned to take place at the Christmas Party. Awards include MWF, AFMS, Mineral Monkeys, and club sponsored.

- Discussion about the new Genie purchased by Jim Marburger, on behalf of the juniors, ensued. Should it be made available at club functions? Liability? Signed waivers? The subject was tabled until November.
- Wooly will host the October Rock Party at his home on October 19.
- Jayne has arranged for the October program. History of Nebraska Archaeology by Rob Bozell. Rob will identify specimens brought to the meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. on a motion by Vera Lyman, second by Ed Dvorak. Carried.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2013 (November Meeting) Gere Library
Respectfully submitted by Mark Awakuni-Swetland, Secretary

- Meeting called to order at ~6:30 p.m. by President Jim Marburger. Board Members present: Jim Marburger, Ed Dvorak, Vera Lyman, Mark Awakuni-Swetland, Richard Peterson, Charles 'Wooly' Wooldridge, Jayne Beer, Robert 'Rowdy' Cropp.
- Visitors: Ed Ridge, Pat Dvorak, Sharon Marburger, Susy McMahan, Carolyn Ashmore.
- Minutes of the September and October Board meetings were not available. Mark will locate the wayward documents and distribute them at the November 27th Board meeting.
- Treasurer's Report distributed by Vera Lyman. Jayne B. moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, 2nd by Ed D., motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion about the Club's interest in a Genie polishing machine recently acquired by a member. In previous meetings some ideas about this opportunity included purchasing it and making it available for the Mineral Monkeys and other members without a machine. Charging a nominal rental for a limited time period was suggested to help maintain the equipment and replace worn wheels. This raised questions about liability, parental consent for Juniors, and the need for a tutorial for first-time users.

- The suggestion that Rowdy might be able to use the machine at the SCC lapidary class was discussed, leading to questions about minimum age requirements for enrolling at SCC, and for operating equipment under SCC, Lincoln City Government, and OSHA guidelines. Wooly and others recalled varying interpretations of OSHA equipment operation guidelines. In another context, the question was raised about any legal issues with our current practice of allowing Mineral Monkeys to operate equipment at Club functions (regular meetings, grinding parties, at the April show, and the January rock swap). Vera L. moved to charge Rowdy with investigating the various policies and ordinances of SCC enrollment and age requirements for equipment operation and report to the Board with his findings. 2nd by Ed D., motion carried. Further discussion on the Genie was tabled pending Rowdy's report.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jayne B. announced the November Rock Grinding Party will be hosted at the Jewelry Connection on November 16th. The time is TBA, pending until the Saturday Nebraska football game time is announced. The food theme is 'Soups' with members invited to provide side dishes and bring along projects to work on.
- Vera L. announced the application for membership from Sharon and Bianca Burden, recommended by Bob Gritit. This is the family that owns a quarry along the

(Continued on page 7)

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES - CONT'D

(Continued from page 6)

Missouri River near Union, Nebraska recently visited by the Grimits and Marburgers. Richard P. moved to accept their application, 2nd by Rowdy, motion carried.

- Vera L. reported that various versions of the Club's application are being circulated, copied, and submitted. She requested that the Webmaster Jim Atkins be directed to track down and delete all older versions.
- Jim M. read an e-mail received from Mark Harris, Associate Director of the UN State Museum. It described the discovery that the Club had an annual family membership for the museum (\$50) and the Ashfall Fossil Beds (\$20). Apparently the Club members were under the impression that showing an LGMC membership card would allow free admission as part of the "family membership." The Club was informed that this arrangement would cease. Individual members are encouraged to purchase family memberships under their own names. President Jim will announce this situation at the next general meeting. Discussion suggested the continuation of the Club purchasing a family membership as a donation to the Museum and Ashfall. A suggestion was made to consider using the yearly family membership as an award similar to the Rockhound of the Year. A member's name could be selected as part of an award or by lottery to be listed on the membership card.
- Jim M. reminded the Board of an invitation by the UNL School of Natural Resources to participate in a program headed by Matt Joeckel November 19th (Tuesday) from 6-7 p.m. at Hardin Hall (33rd and Holdrege). The rock-themed presentation will be preceded by the opportunity to have rocks identified by LGMC members. Discussion followed regarding the Club's interest in also providing demonstrations on equipment and distributing show/swap/club information brochures.
- Sharon M. reported on a request from MWF David Rich seeking the Club's help in organizing a youth poster competition. The LGMC would pick the theme of the posters and provide prizes for several age groups. Because the competition would be posted on the web, poster entries could conceivably come from anywhere in the world. Rich and two others in the MWF would judge the entries. Discussion weighed the pros and cons of the Club taking on this project. No action was taken.
- Richard P. distributed the January 2014 Rock Swap flyer. He requested volunteers to run the silent auction. Mark A-S and Carolyn A. volunteered.

- Susy M. circulated a document outlining the goals and methods of "Teaching the LGMC Juniors (Mineral Monkeys)" compiled by Carolyn A. and herself. Susy described some of the joys and challenges of their interaction with our Juniors. A recent round of Pershing Elementary School 3rd grade fossil presentations resulted in a collection of student 'thank you' posters she displayed. The procedures for acquiring donated resources from members was discussed. It was suggested that the Mineral Monkeys regularly provide a list of future needs for the P&S at least one month prior so members can act.
- Susy mentioned that Corey would graduate from the Mineral Monkeys in the spring, which was confirmed by Jayne B. Wooly urged the Board to think about how the Club can keep Corey and others of that age to remain engaged in these Junior-to-adult transitional years.
- Vera reported that the Club Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner is scheduled for December 1st from 5-9 p.m. Supper will be at 6 p.m. The Club will provide chicken and beverages. Members are asked to provide side

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thru

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Jay Beer 402-890-3307

Janice Bay 402-423-7058

or e-mail

jbeer60070@aol.com

Winter Break,
Classes will begin
again in January.

NOV BOARD MTG MINUTES - CONT'D

(Continued from page 7)

dishes. There will be a gift exchange (\$5-10) and rock bingo. Donated prizes are needed for the bingo winners.

SHOW REPORT

- Wooly and Jim M. reported on publicity issues and progress as that is the most important focus at this stage. Wooly described a plan to use the corner of the Mineral Monkey's area to set up a lithic demonstration (flintknapping) area. How this placement might impact the other youth activities was discussed. The safety needs for visitors viewing the lithic demonstrations would include having safety glasses available. The Club may already have some glasses in storage. Wooly asked members begin donating Nebraska rocks & minerals for the outside gem dig. This activity was quite popular at the 2013 show.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Wooly, 2nd by Richard P., motion carried.

For Sale

Large mineral and fossil collection with display cabinet. Make offer. Must see to appreciate. Call or e-mail for appointment.

**Robert Stock
402.435.5313
rdstock2@hotmail.com**



representative sample

OUTREACH ACTIVITY

by Susy McMahan

In November, I visited Mr. McMahan's class at Northeast High School in Lincoln, to teach rocks and the rock cycle. (And yes, Mr. "Mac" is my son.)

I talked with his class about igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, then they looked at several rocks I brought. We had a hearty discussion about the different specimens, and each student took a tumbled rock home. Tiger-eye in gold, red, and blue seemed to be the favorite of the day. Thanks to Carolyn Ashmore for donating the tumbled tiger-eye.

Some students are planning to attend our show in April so they can see more rocks, and buy some geodes for cracking.

On Thursday, December 4, Carolyn Ashmore and I left Lincoln early and headed for David City, Nebraska. We were on our way to teach the rock cycle to Sister Karen Marie's 7th grade students (and some 8th graders who came early just to see the rocks) at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School. Since we had 60+ students, we found a you-tube video, "Bill Nye the Science Guy, Rocks and Soil," which covered the explanation of the igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks and more. We had placed rocks and specimens on three tables and the kids were eager to look at them after I gave a quick explanation of certain rocks. They went from table to table and checked out the specimens. The class ended with kids looking at tumbled rocks (some nice Lake Superior Agates) and choosing one to take for their collections. Judging by all the excitement when looking at the specimens, I'd say everyone had a good time. Carolyn and I provided the rocks for displaying and tumbled stones for sharing. Thanks to Marcia Eddy-Hamilton for helping with labeling and packing all of the rocks and specimens.

Our next invitation is to teach fossils to over 100 third graders stretched over a three-day period at Huntington Elementary School in February. Anyone who wants to join in and go with us is more than welcome. It really is a lot of fun, and an ongoing learning experience for the presenters.



Photo by Carolyn Ashmore

MINERAL MONKEYS

by Susy McMahan

On December 1, 2013, we had our annual Christmas Party. This was a special party because, for the first time, our junior members received badges and pins for the Future Rockhounds of America units they had completed during monthly meetings, field trips, community outreach, and work done during the show. The kids had a blast at the party; the food was great, and they each received a gift of an Orthoceras and chunky Crinoid stem from Carolyn and me.

I am really proud of all the kids; they have worked hard, learned a lot, and made new friends. We all look forward to the upcoming year and learning new things about rocks, fossils and minerals, growing their personal collections, and going on field trips together. Club members have been great, stepping up and donating specimens, their talents, and just supporting and encouraging our kids and us!!

Thanks to Carolyn Ashmore, my co-teacher, and all those working behind the scenes. Sharon Marburger, thanks for your help with badges, answering our questions, and waiting ... for our articles.

On January 25, 2014, from 1-5 p.m., we will have our annual Mid-Winter Rock Swap. All juniors are encouraged to attend all or part of the Swap, the pizza party, and the meeting after that. We will be working on a poster to display at the LPS Science fair and our annual show. So be thinking about your favorite part of the club, and we will use pictures and short stories on the poster.

Lincoln
Northeast High
students pose
with Susy.
Photo provided
by Susy
McMahan.



ALAA EXCERPT

How the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Works (very short version)

By Joanne Spivack, New Mexico

The managers of national forests are not allowed to just close roads and trails by claiming it's because of the Travel Management Rule. They still have to follow NEPA regulations, which require that closure decisions must be based on a rational and complete analysis which is fully disclosed to the public. That analysis is presented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or in the shorter version, an Environmental Assessment (EA). They can't just do this analysis any old way they please. The details of how the EIS or EA must be done are in the Code of Federal Regulations, and these have the force of law. When members of the public sue the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or Forest Service, they are usually claiming that the federal agency violated one or more of these regulations, which means they are breaking the law.

Knowledge is power: When you understand how these pieces fit together, you'll have the tools to make the Forest Service and BLM follow their own rules and federal laws. You will NEVER hear the Forest Service or BLM explain any of this in a public meeting. When the public doesn't understand how to fight back, the agencies are free to break the laws and do whatever they want. Unfortunately, the buck stops on our desk: NEPA puts the burden of watchdog on the public. There is no internal governmental review or congressional oversight that prevents the agencies from breaking these laws. If we don't make them behave, no one else will. You will find that most local Forest Service and staff do not understand the federal rules and laws that govern what they do.

Excerpted from the Jan. to Mar., 2013, ALAA Newsletter. The full article, available at www.amlands.org, gives examples of land managers distorting facts in the plans they submit for public review. **PROVIDED BY TOM NOE.**

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NOVEMBER ROCK PARTY

by Sharon Marburger

The November Rock Party was held on the 16th at The Jewelry Connection. Thanks to Jayne Beer and Judith Bay for hosting the party.

As usual, there was a delicious assortment of food, with soups being the main fare.

Approximately 11 club members attended. Corey and Ed R. worked on some lapidary items; Ed. D. and Marcia wire wrapped; Susy sorted beads; Mark sorted, examined, and identified specimens; the Marburgers assisted Jayne with identifying and sorting slabs purchased at an auction; and Judith and Brian floated from station to station, helping out where they could.

It was a fun evening!



wrapped by
Ed Dvorak



wrapped by Marcia
Eddy-Hamilton



wrapped by
Ed Dvorak



photos by Susy McMahan
collage by Sharon

CHRISTMAS PARTY / AWARDS

by Sharon Marburger

We gathered on December 1 to celebrate Christmas with one another. In addition to good food and fellowship, there was an awards ceremony, a gift exchange, and a few rousing games of Rock Bingo! Prizes for Rock Bingo were donated by various members of the club. Everyone went home a winner.

All of the Mineral Monkeys were awarded certificates of completion for lessons in the Future Rockhounds of America program. All of the Monkeys will receive a badge for each completed lesson. The club has had such an influx of new Monkeys, it is hard to keep up with them, so not everyone received their badges!! We should all be proud of their accomplishments. Below lists the lessons and those who have completed them:

- Rocks & Minerals: Brooklyn, Corey, Ian, Ivy, Jayden, Leahh, Mia, Sarah, and Taylor.
- Earth Resources: Corey, Ellie, Ian, Ivy, Jayden, and Leahh.
- Fossils: Corey, Ian, Ivy, Jayden, and Leahh.
- Lapidary Arts: Corey and Leahh.
- Collecting: Ian, Ivy, Jayden, and Leahh.
- Showmanship: Leahh.
- Field Trips: Corey, Ian, Ivy, Jayden, and Leahh.
- Earth Processes: Leahh.
- Stone Age Tools & Art: Leahh.
- Reaching Across Generations: Leahh.
- Maps: Leahh.

Richard Peterson received a 1st Place in the American Federation for Adult Articles. He received a plaque, a name badge, and a certificate.

The club newsletter received a 1st Place in Large Bulletins from the American Federation.

The club's All American Yearbook received a gold medal from the American Federation.

Andrew Tiedje's drawn entry received a 1st Place in the Midwest Federation and a 4th Place in the American Federation.

Congratulations to everyone!

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	Susy McMahan
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	Carolyn Ashmore Susy McMahan

**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.

ROCKHOUDS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Roger and Mary Pittard for receiving the club's Rockhounds of the Year!

Roger and Mary have given local presentations on rocks and other hobby items, they work tirelessly at the annual show where Roger has recently been the Floor Committee Chairman, they host at least one monthly rock party each year, care for and house the club's inventory trailer, drive quite a distance to attend club meetings and events (towing the trailer when needed), and Mary is responsible for arranging snacks at each meeting. This couple really rocks!!

President Jim Marburger presents the Rockhounds of the Year to Roger & Mary Pittard



photo by Susy McMahan

**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



PICK & SHOVEL

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YOUR PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:

PUBLISHER: LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.,
 P.O. BOX 5342, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
 68505-0342

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

CIRCULATION: VERA LYMAN, 402-464-6089

REPORTERS: ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
 SUBMIT FEATURES, ARTICLES, POETRY,
 OR DRAWINGS.

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