



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., Apr 30 (Gere Library)

Wed., Sep 3 (Gere Library)

Wed., Oct 1 (Gere Library)

Wed., Nov 5 (Gere Library)

Wed., Dec. 3 (Gere Library)

General

Thurs., Apr 17

Thurs., May 15

Thurs., Sep 18

Thurs., Oct 16

Thurs., Nov 20

Sun., Dec 7

Activities

**Sat., Apr 19 - Rock Party
(see p. 7 for details)**

Sun., Jul 13 - Grinding Party

Sat., May 24 - Jesup, IA Field Trip

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

April 17, 2014
7:00 p.m.

**Program: Video
"The Secret Canyon"**

Mineral Monkeys

April 17, 2014
6:00 p.m.

**Lesson: Fossils
(as a follow-up to the show theme)**

REGIONAL SHOWS

**April
26-27**

DECATUR, IL. Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club's 63rd Annual Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show; Macon County Fairgrounds, 3700 Westlawn Ave.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Tony Kapta, 309.830.6516, cigmc@comcast.net.

MEMBER NEWS

- Please continue to keep Mark Awakuni-Swetland in your thoughts and prayers as he continues his battle with cancer. Chemotherapy is very rough. On a more pleasant note, happy birthday, Mark!
- Keep the Pittards in your thoughts and prayers. While on vacation, Mary became ill and had emergency surgery. At last report, she was not doing well and was in a chemical-induced coma. Hang in there, Roger, and happy birthday!

April Birthdays:

Corey Beer

Judy Anson

Roger Pittard

Mark Awakuni-Swetland

**Thanks to everyone who dove in
and helped with the annual show.**

Success happens when we work as a team!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Member

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ed Dvorak, President

Our 56th annual Show is over. Time to take a rest, but not for long. We need to think about what improvements or changes we can make to our next show, to make it even better. It will be easier to brainstorm now while everything is still fresh in our minds.

I want to thank all of our club members for a GREAT JOB on our show. We had some problems and a few kinks, but our great club members pulled together to solve them without difficulty! THANK YOU! You made my job easier.

Take a little time during your day to reflect on those who could not make it to our show due to health or any other reasons. We missed their presence at the show.



SCIENCE FAIR

by Susy McMahan

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club again was invited to participate in the Novartis, LPS, Zoetis Science Fair as a special attraction for over 600 kids while they waited for their exhibits to be judged.

This year we included our juniors as volunteers, and they kept the gem dig running, while at the same time earning skills toward badges in the Lifetime Rockhound project. The kids did a great job (kids mentoring kids!). One of our juniors, Corey, demonstrated his lapidary skills, as did his mom, Jayne, and Aulden Stewart. Ed Ridge brought cases with some really cool rocks identified, and rocks to pass out to kids. We all got t-shirts, supper, and other goodies.

Thanks to juniors Corey, Jayden, Mia, Ivy, Sarah, Taylor, and Ian, and adults Carolyn Ashmore, Paul Ashmore, Sharon Schleiger, Linda Guenter, Breanna Suhr, Jayne Beer, Brian Beer, Aulden Stewart, Ed Ridge, and Susy McMahan for another great year demonstrating our beloved hobby to 5-8th grade science fair kids, their siblings, and their families.

REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

Apr 17: Breanna Suhr & Sharon Schleiger
May 15: Grimits & Richard Peterson
Sep 18: Carrie Burkhart & Sharon Marburger
Oct 16: Sara Burden & Sharon Marburger
Nov 20: Carolyn Ashmore & Vera Lyman

MULTI-FEDERATION FIELD TRIP

WHEN: July 31 - August 4, 2014

WHERE: Terry, Montana

- ◆ Numerous trips to the Gravel Bars on the Yellowstone River, hunting for Montana agates, Jasper, Petrified Wood, fossil coral, stromatolites, and numerous other "oddities."
- ◆ Numerous trips to the Pierre and Bear Paw formation areas, to collect ammonites, baculites, scaphites, natiloids, and many other shells.
- ◆ Working on trips to several areas to collect dinosaur fossils from the Hell Creek Formation.
- ◆ Take a guided tour through the Eastern Montana Badlands - a once in a lifetime opportunity.
- ◆ For more information contact Doug True, Fieldtrip Chair, (406) 670-0506, or e-mail dtruefossils12@yahoo.com.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2014 General Meeting, Bethany Park Shelter House
Respectfully submitted by Sharon Marburger

- Due to the Science Fair, there was not a quorum until 8:13 p.m.
- There was informal discussion of the show, mostly rehashing what had previously been discussed at official meetings.
- Ed Dvorak sent a letter to the State Historical Society, letting them know they were misidentifying rocks for sale. A response to the letter was received. Ed checked the Capitol Gift Shop earlier in the day and discovered the offending items had been removed.
- At 8:13 p.m., a quorum of membership was achieved. The meeting was called to order at that time by President Ed Dvorak.
- 20 adult members, 4 Mineral Monkeys
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Minutes of the February meeting were published in the Pick & Shovel. Charles Wooldridge moved to accept the minutes as published, second by Carolyn Ashmore. Motion carried.
- The Treasurer's Report was read by Vera Lyman. Motion to approve the report by Pat Dvorak, second by Jayne Beer. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- No Rock Party in March, due to Show planning.
- Geology Day was very successful. Over 500 attended.
- The Science Fair had lots of kids and there was a lot of excitement.

NEW BUSINESS

- Roadside Cleanup: Richard Peterson resigned as chairman of this committee. We are looking for a new Chairman.

FIELD TRIPS

- Field Trip Chairman Jim Marburger is making arrangements for the club to participate in a joint field trip in May with the Ft. Dodge, Iowa club. Geode collecting, walnut- to grapefruit-sized, similar to Keokuk geodes. The trip will be at Jesup, Iowa, exact date to be determined, and there will be a \$5.00 per person fee. Jesup is approximately a 5-hour drive from Lincoln.
- There are multi-federation field trips in Montana in July.
- The MWF will have at least one field trip at the annual show and convention in October.
- Meeting adjourned to snacks and program at 8:54 p.m. on a motion by Jim Marburger, second by Andrew Tiedje. Motion carried.
- The program was a live auction of select library books, which generated some nice income for the club. Results: "Banded Agates" was won by Paul Ashmore (\$25); "Gem Cutting Shop Helps" was won by Ed Dvorak (\$7); "Minerals and Gemstones" was won by Carolyn Ashmore (\$8); "Exploring the World of Fossils" was won by Carolyn Ashmore (\$3); "Gemstones of North America" was won by Jim Marburger (\$10); and after a lively volley of bids, Roger Pabian's GIA book was won by Rowdy Cropp (\$112). Thank you to everyone who placed a bid.

J J & L Rocks & Minerals

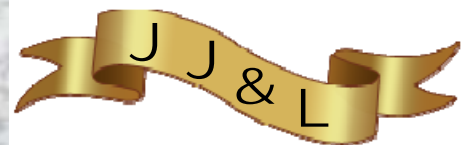
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the hobby for
36 years

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2014 Board Meeting, Gere Library

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Marburger

- Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Ed Dvorak. Board Members present: Richard Peterson, Jayne Beer, Vera Lyman, Charles Wooldridge, Susy McMahan, Carolyn Ashmore, and Sharon Marburger. Visitors: Pat Dvorak, Jim Marburger, and Ed Ridge.
- Minutes of the February Board meeting were distributed. One correction was made. Richard Peterson was not in attendance at the February meeting, so Jayne Beer ran the meeting. Carolyn moved to accept the minutes as corrected, second by Jayne. Motion carried.
- The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Vera Lyman. Motion to approve the report by Wooly, second by Richard. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Vera will contact Erma Pharoah regarding NAES membership.
- Jayne ordered more T-shirts. She will pick them up tomorrow.
- Geology Day is March 9 from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Pioneers Park Nature Center, Chet Ager Building. Setup is at noon.
- Ed Dvorak is sending a letter to the state gift shops regarding the misrepresentation of rocks being sold.

NEW BUSINESS

- There will be no Rock Party in March due to the show preparation and all the other activities scheduled for the month.
- Ed Ridge has volunteered to host the April Rock Party. Date to be determined.
- Sharon will contact Robert Cropp about hosting the May Rock Party.
- Library books will be auctioned off at various club meetings.
- Vera nominated Jim Marburger to receive a Life Membership in the club. Second by Carolyn Ashmore. Jim is currently the "oldest" member, having the longest continuous membership. Jim joined the club in 1970 and has been very active, holding numerous committee and chair positions, along with being a club director and board member.

- Richard asked the Board to appoint a Steering Committee to address the procedures for determining Rockhound of the Year. He moved that the past three presidents be on said committee to work out the process, then present it to the Board for tweaking. Second by Vera. Carried.

SHOW REPORT

- Carolyn asked that the Mineral Monkeys sponsor a rock raffle at the show. Two "Easter baskets" will be filled with rock specimens and raffled off at \$1.00 per ticket. The winning tickets will be drawn; if winner is not present, baskets will be mailed. Donations are welcomed.
- Advertising is done.
- Members are asked to bring donations to salt the Nebraska Gem Dig.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. on a motion by Richard, second by Carolyn. Motion carried.

Silversmithing classes

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

Tuesdays

April 29, 2014

thru

June 17, 2014

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

ALAA EXCERPT FROM TOM NOE

ACCESS PROBLEMS FOR FAIRBURN AGATES IN NATIONAL GRASSLANDS -- AGAIN!

By Jan Baumeister, South Dakota Rep for RMFMS and ALAA member

Since 1980, we rock club members, later joined by cattlemen and other organizations of people who use our public lands, started fighting to keep total wilderness designation out of the most scenic areas of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, namely Indian Creek, Red Shirt and the original Fairburn agate beds east of Hermosa. These areas are highly desired areas for hunting our State Agate, the Fairburn. The original Fairburn Agate allotment east of Hermosa became instant wilderness a while back when the Forest Service closed all vehicle access except for a trail that goes one mile into the grasslands to a turnaround. Pro-wilderness groups have been trying to turn this beautiful area into a land prison, to keep out everyone except those who can hike on foot for miles or can afford the luxury of owning or renting horses to enjoy agate hunting, photography and other activities enjoyed by families.

There is now a proposed draft being drawn up for a Conservation Management Area Designation bill for these areas. This was tried before in 2010, with the backing of over 50 pro-wilderness organizations, but the bill never came to vote. The only difference between a wilderness bill and the proposed Conservation Management Plan is the emphasis on meeting the land's dominant uses--just livestock grazing and primitive recreation allowed, but still no motorized vehicle use, which includes atv's the ranchers use! . . .

No matter what state you live in, you can help preserve the future of our major Fairburn agate beds! Outdoor organizations and rock clubs can provide information to their members, pass the word to outdoor groups and their headquarters via their newsletters or in local newspapers. Urge them to write/call/e-mail our SD representatives asking them NOT to allow proposed wilderness bills for the

Indian Creek and Red Shirt areas of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. Contact: SD Senator Tim Johnson 800-537-0025; SD Senator Tom Thune 800-850-3855; SD State Representative Kristi Noem 855-225-2801.

Edited and excerpted from the ALAA Newsletter (Jan-Mar, 2014)

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.



[LGMC is a proud member of ALAA](#)

A side story from Tom Noe

The excerpt this month is about the area where I've stopped many times to hunt Fairburn agates east of the Black Hills. The last time I was there, I was surprised to find that all the two-track trails had been closed to vehicles except the one Jan mentions in the excerpt—a one-mile track that leads you to a turnaround. You now have to walk the rest of the way across this great expanse of prairie—unless you have a horse.

One day back when these roads were still open, I had driven out on the prairie to spend the day hunting agates and was on my way back to civilization. I came across an elderly fellow who was hiking back to his car. The creek was high that morning and he'd parked at the picnic grounds, waded across the creek and then walked out to hunt agates for the day. Maybe he didn't have enough water or something, but he was a hurtin' cowboy at the end of the day when I pulled up beside him. He was a little bit embarrassed to ask for help, but he told me, "I don't know if I can get back to my car." I gave him a ride back to the picnic grounds and he was very grateful. If the roads stay closed like they are now, you can imagine this happening more and more, as people have to hike for miles in the summer heat.

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

MINERAL MONKEYS

by Susy McMahan

The 56th Annual LGMC show, "Stones & Bones," was another great show! The Kids Activities booth had a tremendous year!! This year our juniors worked accepting money, giving change, replenishing supplies on the gem dig and having a lot of fun. This is the first year they were required to work, and boy, did they!! Many of the kids were there most of the day, both days! They are learning skills toward badges in the Lifetime Rockhound project.

Another new attraction was the raffle which included a prize for each day - a basket full of rocks, minerals, and goodies for the winners. The kids did a good job mentioning the raffle while selling spots at the gem dig, rolling rock race, and spin the wheel. They also had a chance to shop for themselves and look at other booths at the show.

Thanks to everyone who donated items to the Youth Activity Booth to help it become a great success this year. And a special thanks to juniors Leahh, Brooklyn, Jayden, Mia, Ivy, Sarah, Taylor, Ian, and his cousin Elayna, who is soon to be a member! Thanks to adults Carolyn and Paul Ashmore, Sharon Schleiger, Linda Guenter, Marcia Eddy-Hamilton, Susy McMahan, Breanna Suhr, and friends, family, and other club members who helped with planning, set-up, and tear-down.

We are proud to announce that Corey Beer has graduated from the juniors. He won't be far away, as he has agreed to help us as an official "mentor" to the younger members, something he has already proven to excel at. We are glad he will continue to be a part of the group! Congratulations Corey!!



photo by Jayne Beer

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<http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov/electedofficials.asp>

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor: 926 P St., Lincoln, NE 68508
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UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

by Jim Marburger

A field trip has been set up for May 24, 2014 to collect "Iowa Geodes" near Jesup, Iowa. This will be a joint field trip with the River Valley Rockhounds of Fort Dodge, Iowa. The geodes are similar to the Keokuk geodes but are somewhat nicer with a wider variety of crystals included in the geodes. Most of the geodes are from walnut- to grapefruit-sized. The hunt is in a small abandoned quarry on private land with a \$5.00 per person entrance fee. All that is needed to dig for the geodes is a small shovel, rock hammer, small rake, and a bucket to carry them in. Do not forget the usual items; water, tick repellent, food, first aid kit, gloves, boots, coat (depending on weather), hat, and cell phone. You may have other items you like to include; feel free to bring those, too. Camping spots and motels are in the area.

Jesup, Iowa is east of Waterloo, Iowa. It is about 330 miles or a 5 hour drive from Lincoln.

Let's Go Geode Collecting with River Valley Rockhounds!

- Saturday, May 24: Meet at the Fort Dodge Fort Museum on Business Highway 20 east of U.S. Highway 169 on the west edge of Fort Dodge.
- **Depart at 9:30 a.m.** Take U.S Highway 20 east to the Grundy Center Plaza at the junction of U.S. Highway 20 and Iowa Highway 14, exit 208.
- 11 a.m. Arrival at the plaza.
- 11:15 p.m. Continue east on Highway 20 to the Jesup exit 245.
- Noon arrival at Jesup, take County Road V-62 (paved) north for 4 miles to County Road D-16 (gravel). (If people need a pit stop the Cutshall Area is about a mile north of the intersection.)
- Go east for one mile to the Jim Smith farm on the north side of the road. Stop at the house and pay \$5 per person. Continue on 0.1 mile north past the house on the lane leading to the small abandoned quarry on the right.
- Lunch on your own.
- Stay as long as you want.

At this time, reserve June 21 for a field trip to Royal, Nebraska to the Ashfall State Park, following with a gravel pit visit to Verdigre, Nebraska, along with possible collecting near the Elkhorn River area. This will be a reciprocal field trip with the River Valley Rockhounds coming to Nebraska. More to come next month.

There will be a field trip at the MWF Show and Convention in Des Moines, Iowa in October. More to come later.

April Rock Party

Hosted by Ed Ridge

2507 A Street

Saturday

April 19

5:00 p.m.



Sandwiches!

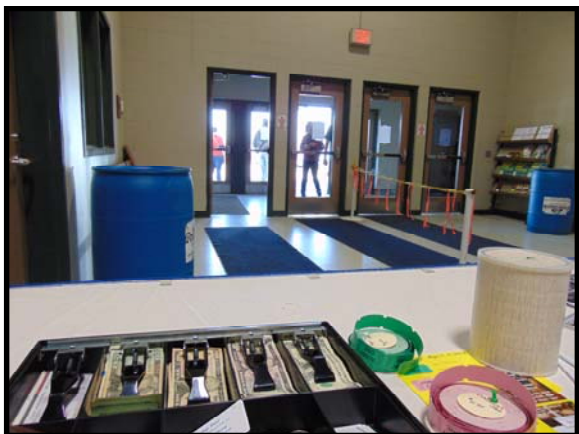
Bring your picnic food to this month's Rock Party!

Remember to bring your equipment, supplies, and projects. Now is the time to start working on your cases for the 2015 Gem & Mineral Show. Show Chairman, Ed Dvorak, has determined the show theme to be "**Discover the Beauty of Rocks.**" Let's have some beautiful rock displays!

2014 SHOW - STONES & BONES

by Sharon Marburger

What a great show we had! There were over 1,600 paid admissions! The show was dedicated to Karen & Charlie Messenger, in recognition of their years of tireless service to the club and various outreach activities. They were surprised and “tickled pink” over the honor. I spent most of the show in the Programs room, helping out our speakers, so I didn’t get the chance to wander around much. I am hoping to receive some short articles from other members at the show. Each person has his or her own perspective, according to what job they were doing. I look forward to printing those perspectives in next month’s Pick & Shovel. Brett Jurgens was the “official” photographer at the show, and I hope to have pictures of our honored guests, The Nebraska Archaeological Society, for the May newsletter. For now, we will just have pictures from Jayne Beer, Jim Marburger, and me.



The view from the entrance booth
photo by Sharon Marburger



Jim Atkins, preparing to greet the next visitor
photo by Sharon Marburger



Saturday morning, just as it was starting to get busy
photo by Jayne Beer



Sunday morning, as the show opened
photo by Sharon Marburger



Program given by Andy Zariens
photo by Sharon Marburger



A couple of specimens for sale by vendors
photo by Sharon Marburger

2014 SHOW - STONES & BONES - CONT'D



A view of the demonstration area
photo by Jayne Beer



Judith Bay speaking with a vendor
photo by Jayne Beer



Flintknappers demonstrating their talents in the lithic area
photo by Jayne Beer



Corey's cabochons completed during the show
photo by Jayne Beer



A beautiful piece of variscite that Jayne mounted in silver, as part of her silversmithing demonstration
photo by Jayne Beer



photo by Jayne Beer

The live auction Sunday afternoon where some donated specimens and select library books were sold
photo by Jayne Beer



2014 SHOW - STONES & BONES - CONT'D



The show breakfast was nicely attended. More people were arriving as we were leaving. The all-you-can-eat buffet contained scrambled eggs, scrambled egg casserole, bacon, sausage, hash browns, fried potatoes, French toast, waffles, biscuits, gravy, mixed fruit, popovers, coffee, and orange juice. The food was delicious!



photo by Jim & Sharon Marburger

President Ed Dvorak and 2nd Vice President Jayne Beer. Jayne shared her bacon with me.

Thank you, Jayne. 😊



Yup. There is one in every crowd.



Gene Mulinex waiting for the next load
photo by Jayne Beer

STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN

Audit	Ed Dvorak James Marburger Roger Pittard
Christmas Party	Edward Ridge
Education / Librarian	Charles Wooldridge Judy (Leick-Cropp) Anson
Facebook	Andrew Tiedje
Field Trips	James Marburger
Geology Day Coordinator	Jayne Beer
Grinding Party	Jayne Beer
Historian	Sharon Marburger
Legislative Liaison	Susy McMahan
Membership Record	Edward Ridge
MWF Liaison	Vera Lyman
Programs	Jayne Beer/Judy Anson
Property	James Marburger
Refreshments / Door Prizes	Mary Pittard
Scholarship	Vera Lyman
Show—2015	Ed Dvorak
Swap—2015	
Website	Jim Atkins
Youth Activities	Carolyn Ashmore Susy McMahan

LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Jim Marburger, Chairman

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jim Marburger, Chairman

1 year:	Brad Nielsen Roger Pittard
2 years:	Vera Lyman Edward Ridge
3 years:	Robert Gruit Sharon Marburger

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.

2015 SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Ed Dvorak
Breakfast:	Vera Lyman
Dealers:	
Demonstrators:	
Displays:	Jayne Beer, Ed Ridge
Event Center Liaison:	Vera Lyman
Finance & Ticket Sales:	Jim Atkins, Vera Lyman
Floor Chairman:	
Forms:	Sharon Marburger
LGMC Club Booth:	
Nebraska Gem Dig:	
Plants:	Ed Ridge
Printed Program:	Sharon Marburger
Programs & Speakers:	
Publicity & Promotion:	Jim Marburger
Ribbons & Recognitions:	Sharon Marburger
Security:	Vera Lyman
Show Flyer:	
Silent Auction:	
Special Features:	
Web Master:	Jim Atkins
Youth Activities:	Carolyn Ashmore Susy McMahan

Above is the preliminary committee for the 2015 Show. If there is something you would like to do for the Show or to help with planning of the Show, let Ed Dvorak know.



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PICK & SHOVEL

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 SUBMIT FEATURES, ARTICLES, POETRY,
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