



PICK & SHOVEL

February 2015, Volume 57, Issue 6

Editor: Sharon Marburger

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.

2015 Meetings and Activities

Board

Wed., Mar. 4 (Gere)

Wed., Apr. 1 (Gere)

Wed., May 6 (Gere)

General

Thurs., Feb. 19

Thurs., Mar. 19

Thurs., Apr. 16

Thurs., May 21

Activities

Science Fair - Mar. 3

Geology Day - Mar. 8

Show Setup - Apr. 3

Show - Apr. 4 & 5

Show Teardown - Apr. 5

Grinding Party - Jul 12

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Regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House. Youth activities begin at 6:00 p.m.

## GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Program: "What's Under That Rock?"  
by UNL Herpetologist/Professor,  
Dennis Ferraro

## MINERAL MONKEYS

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Lesson: Stone Age Tools  
and Art

## REFRESHMENTS

**Feb. 2015: Carolyn Ashmore & Vera Lyman**

Vera has a sign-up sheet for refreshments. Please pick a month for which you would be willing to bring goodies, and sign up for it. There will be two families per month to bring refreshments.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

**Ed Dvorak  
Charles Wooldridge**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ed20649@windstream.net

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JBeer60070@aol.com

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ed Dvorak

WOW!! Did Mother Nature forget what month it is? February did come in like a lion! Lets hope it goes out like a lamb. The weather is very unpredictable just like some of the field trips I have taken. You have to be like a Boy Scout - always prepared. Some things are easy to prevent and others impossible. Just be alert and do not get distracted because of a GREAT find. It is like doing something stupid; after you do it, you look around to see if anyone saw you! After a great FIND, step back and take in your surroundings, reflect on the great job you did, then do the happy dance!!



Don't forget to attend the Rock Party being hosted at The Jewelry Connection. You can find details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Remember the Science Fair. See the ad below. Also, get your displays and freebies ready for Geology Day, March 8th, at the Pioneers Park Nature Center.

Pat and I are taking a road trip, so we will not be at the Club meeting in February. There are some very capable people to take our places, and we thank them.

See you in March!

**for 20 YEARS**

**Thursday**  
**March 5, 2015**  
**5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lancaster County**  
**Event Center**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Dues are now delinquent!**  
**If you have not yet paid**  
**your dues, the price will**  
**include a \$5 reinstatement**  
**fee. Please pay**  
**Treasurer Vera Lyman so**  
**you don't miss out on**  
**any of the fun!**

**Donations for LGMC Juniors!**  
**Tumble your lapidary scraps and**  
**other small stones, and donate**  
**them to the Juniors for the**  
**1,000 grab bags currently in**  
**production by our**  
**volunteers. Other**  
**needed items include**  
**small fossils and**  
**minerals, and small,**  
**inexpensive trinkets.**  
**Carolyn Ashmore and**  
**Susy McMahan send**  
**their heartfelt thanks,**  
**as do the Juniors!**

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2015 General Meeting & Rock Swap  
Bethany Park Shelter House  
Submitted by Pat Dvorak, Secretary

- ◆ Meeting called to order by President Ed Dvorak at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ◆ There were 28 adults and 6 Mineral Monkeys in attendance. 2 guests

### OLD BUSINESS

- ◆ Wooly moved that the December minutes be approved as printed in the Pick & Shovel. Karen Messenger seconded. Carried.
- ◆ Vera presented the Treasurer's Report. Jim Marburger moved to accept them and Carolyn Ashmore seconded. Carried.
- ◆ Carolyn presented award to Ellie Lyman & Ivy Guenter who were not at the December meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ The budget for 2015 was passed around & was discussed. According to the budget, we will have a loss of \$1,936 if all the estimates are correct. The reason is that interest rates are low, expenses are higher, and the Show might not make a big profit because of being on Easter weekend. Some suggestions were made on how to save some money, but nothing was settled. Jim moved to accept the budget and Carolyn seconded. Carried.
- ◆ The February Rock Party will be at The Jewelry Connection on February 21 at 5:00 p.m., hosted by Jayne Beer and Judith Bay.
- ◆ Susy talked about the Science Fair for the Juniors on March 5 at the Lancaster Event Center. Wooly

moved to spend \$50 for the gem dig for the LPS Science Fair and seconded by Fred McVay. Carried.

- ◆ Carolyn said she needs more cloth to make grab bags and material to put in them.
- ◆ Wooly commented that we need material for the Nebraska Gem Dig at the Show.
- ◆ Geology Day is March 8 at the Pioneers Park Nature Center.
- ◆ Show Breakfast is April 5 from 7-9 a.m. at the 84th & Holdredge HyVee.
- ◆ No decision was made for the Roadside Pick-up. It will be in April or May, followed by a Rock Party hosted by the Marburgers.
- ◆ Wooly gave info about Rock Show & possible programs for the monthly meetings.
- ◆ Wooly moved to adjourn and Carolyn seconded. Carried.

**Don't forget Geology Day  
Sunday, March 8**



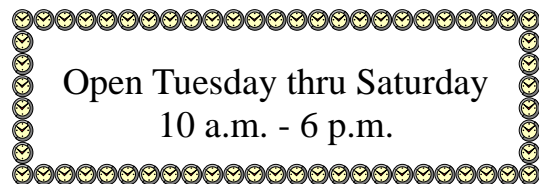
## LINCOLN CURIOS ROCK SHOP

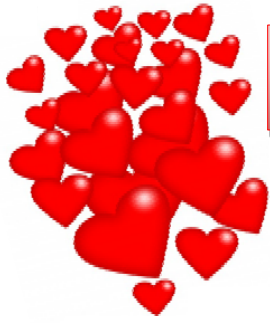
6625 Burlington - Lincoln, NE 68507 [Park in alley]  
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- ◆ Polished stone items for interior décor
- ◆ Great selection of tumble-polished stones

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# February Rock Party

Hosted by

The Jewelry Connection

13th & Arapahoe

5:00 p.m.

February 21, 2015



**Bring your favorite potluck food and plan to have a fun and educational time!**

**Bring your portable equipment and projects. Some equipment will be available to use.**

## ALAA EXCERPT AND NEWS BY TOM NOE

### RECREATIONAL LAND USE VERSUS GOVERNMENT/ACADEMIC EXTREMISM

By Jim Urbaniak, President, Oregon Agate and Mineral Society

(In the complete article, Jim voices his concerns about the dramatic increase in public-lands management in recent years and gives suggestions for private and public sectors working together. One suggestion is to invite professors and land managers to our club meetings.)

Because of my work in the federal services and my networking with professional and academic earth science people (in an effort to secure monthly lecturers for the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society), I have gotten to know many academics, fish and wildlife professionals, BLM and Forestry Service representatives. The old school folks “get” the whole thing about balancing environmental stewardship with recreational land use. What is a disturbing trend, though, is the number of new college graduates entering these services who are being taught that ALL recreational use is bad and ALL public lands should be closed off for any use whatsoever. . . .

I am a conservationist, (but) this new mentality on the part of over-exuberant environmentalists and public servants does not reflect balance at all.

One of the ways our local earth sciences club has approached this has been to bring the geology professors (and their students) and public servants into

our meetings to give presentations. The benefit has been that they have discovered we are not a bunch of dumb hillbillies but knowledgeable and conscientious earth science enthusiasts with a real concern for lands stewardship. Here in Oregon we are really beginning to develop some high-level academic and government support through dialog and a growing mutual respect. I believe that this extremism mentality can be overcome through the amateur and academic communities engaging in building shared interest in each other’s activities. We, the amateurs, learn from the academics, and they in turn realize that we are also stewards of the land and students who can be taught in the field instead of a lecture room.

Excerpted from ALAA Newsletter (Oct.-Dec., 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



## MID-WINTER ROCK SWAP

by Sharon Marburger

The Mid-Winter Rock Swap took place the afternoon of January 24, 2015 at the Bethany Park Shelter House. Approximately 13 swappers spent the afternoon sharing their love of the hobby with the lower-than-usual number of attendees. The smaller crowd was attributed to the very nice January weather. People were apparently spending the nice day in preparation for the big snow storm that was predicted to come - and it did come! However, the public who chose to visit the swap purchased many swapper-bucks and spent those same bucks with our swappers. It appeared to be a successful event.

Several rounds of Silent Auction were run in conjunction with the Swap. Many donations were received from club members and some of the swappers. One friend of the club, Nate, provided many cabochons to be auctioned off. As always, we thank him for his generosity. Carolyn Ashmore did a fantastic job of running the Silent Auction table, with help from Jim Marburger and Sharon Schleiger, throughout the event.

As usual, Vera Lyman greeted visitors at the door, asking them to sign our guest book and selling them swapper bucks. I helped with these duties, and also handled the Silent Auction sales. Several Mineral Monkeys made sure the snack table stayed stocked with the abundance of treats brought in by club members. Thanks to Jayden for heading this group. The swappers and club members did a swell job of setting up and taking down tables and chairs; many thanks to those folks. Everyone worked well together to contribute to a successful day.

*(Continued on page 6)*



Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge talks with a customer



Swappers Brad Nielsen and Rowdy Cropp exchanging "fish" stories.



Oooooo! Look at that!



Charlie & Karen Messenger "Decisions, decisions."



Connie McCartney takes a break from whittling.

### J J & L Rocks & Minerals

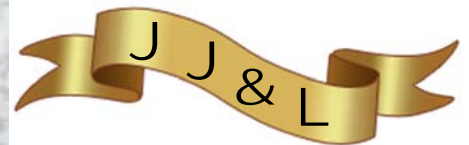
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Proudly serving  
the hobby for  
37 years

### MINERAL MONKEYS

by Carolyn Ashmore

Hello Again Juniors:

WOW! Two snow days in one week! That's awesome! I hope you all had a chance to enjoy your extra time out of school and have fun in the fluffy white stuff.

Our February meeting will be on unit #14, Stone Age Tools and Art. We will be starting our Navajo Sand Art project this month, so bring your cardboard drawings back, and remember the colors we will be using are red, blue, green, and yellow, with the white background. We will finish, seal, and frame them at our March meeting, so we can have them ready to display at our booth at the show.

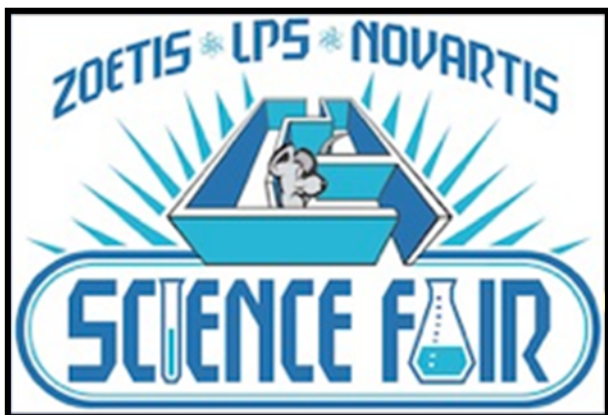
For those of you who just forgot, or I just gave you the papers at the last meeting, bring your reports back on the Famous Craters, and the paper on identifying our Solar System so we can finish up this unit.

### JUST A REMINDER

Thursday, March 5th is Science Fair. We need to be there at 4:00 to set up. I will take everything we need to do our gem dig. We're usually there only 4 hours. I want to say thank you to the juniors and their parents and grandparents for volunteering again this year. What a great way to reach out in our community, and share our hobby with others.

Susy will be having shoulder surgery this month, so she won't be with us at this month's meeting, or the Science Fair. We all will miss her, and we want to wish her a speedy recovery!!!!

ROCK ON MY SNOWY FRIENDS!



### ROCK SWAP - CONT'D



Swapper Dick Farlow takes a break from swapping and places some bids at the Silent Auction. Wife Donna looks on with anticipation. Paul Ashmore watches to ensure there are no "bid hoggers."

Sharon Schleiger assists Silent Auction chairman Carolyn Ashmore by setting out new items for auction.



photo by Judy Anson

Many thanks to Swap Chairman, Jayne Beer, and Treasurer, Vera Lyman, without whom there would have been no swap!



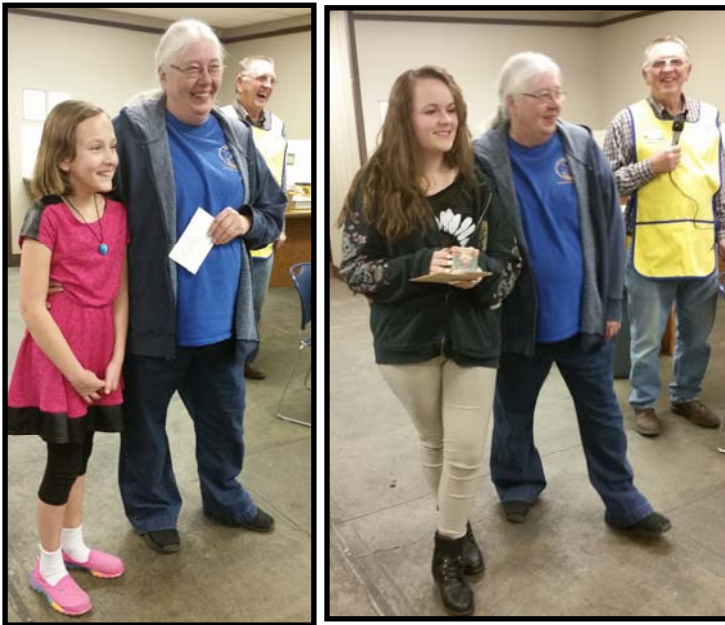
Happy Birthday LGMC

## POST ROCK SWAP

Following the Mid-Winter Swap, LGMC members and invitees shared in fun and a meal of pizza, lasagna, breadsticks, and salad. Cinnamon breadsticks, along with Anniversary Cake, compliments of Vera Lyman, rounded out the meal. In addition, there were some goodies left over from the swap, and they topped off the evening and the stomachs.

After the meal, the Mineral Monkeys jumped into their lesson for the evening while the old-timers sat and visited. Promptly at 7:00, the January General Meeting began.

This year, two Mineral Monkeys who did not receive their awards at the Christmas Party, were recognized during a special segment of the meeting. Ivy and Ellie received the Future Rockhounds of America patches earned during the past year. Congratulations, girls!



**Yummy!**

## ALAA ANNUAL MEETING

by Martin Dougherty

It was Friday evening, January 23rd, 7:00 p.m. at the Quartzsite Alliance Church. A standing room only group of Rockhounds, Miners, and OHV enthusiasts, counted at 300 plus, assembled. We were there to listen to John McDonald, Field Representative for the Bureau of Land Management in Yuma, Arizona. John came to speak to the concerns of those present and to answer questions that were given in advance, in writing, by rockhounds, concerning road and route closures in the La Posa Travel Management Plan in Arizona.

All of us were ready to hear his explanation of the BLM's plan to close some routes and leave others open, and others with limited access. He commented that the BLM wasn't closing large tracts of Public Lands; access is still available by foot or animal in the wilderness areas. That comment received a lot of groans from the audience. John also said he would not be taking questions, which led to a few people walking out of the building and others openly upset. It was definitely a contentious evening.

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Silversmithing classes

Tuesday Evenings

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

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

**Tuition: \$120 plus \$30 supply deposit**

Session 1: Jan 6 - Feb 24

Session 2: Mar 3 - Apr 21

Session 3: Apr 28 - Jun 16

**\*\* Summer Break \*\***

Session 4: Aug 11 - Sep 29

Session 5: Oct 6 - Nov 24

Contact:

Jayne Beer 402-890-3307

Judith Bay 402-423-7058

or e-mail

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

## FIELD TRIPS AT LINCOLN CURIOS

by Nancy Akins

On Wednesday, November 5, 2014, a group of 10 enthusiastic students from the Papillion-LaVista School District, High-Ability Learner (HAL) program and their leader, Jaime Bizal, enjoyed a field trip to Lincoln Curio Rock Shop. They represented seven different elementary schools and have chosen to study Geology-related subjects as research projects for their Gifted Education Plans. **WHAT A GREAT GROUP!** As part of the program, they split shale in a search for trilobites and had stories for me about the first discovery of trilobites in Utah. There were many different interests in the group; the first was a question about quartz, so we took a look. Then there was a question about which specimen was most interesting, galena or float copper. Float copper won out. They enjoyed the hunt for different specimens and their identification.

There were questions about obsidian, so we had a brief discussion about its origin and its past and present uses. Several of the students enjoyed the hands-on demonstration of fluorescent rocks. The time went very quickly and we had a wonderful time.



by Nancy Akins

On Saturday, November 22, 2014, the Webelos Den, Pack 59, took part in a field trip to Lincoln Curios Rock Shop to fulfill their geologist requirements and earn their Geology Belt Loop. We discussed several different geologic specimens that have important uses, including gypsum for sheet rock, galena for fishing weighs, etc. Each Webelo received a copy of the Mohs Scale of Mineral Hardness and we experimented with the scratch test; fingernail scratches talc, penny scratches calcite, knife scratches fluorite, etc. We had a brief discussion about the formation of mountains. The three different rock categories were demonstrated by Mr. Lava Igneous (a hunk of lava), Mrs. Marble Metamorphic (a hunk of marble), and Miss Sandstone Sedimentary (a hunk of sandstone), all with eyes and mouth. Mr. Lava Igneous is always popular because he is accompanied by the eruption of the vinegar and baking soda volcano. Christopher Akins gave them a demonstration of how polishing a piece of horn coral reveals so many details that are not visible before it is polished. He also reminded them that it is a Nebraska Fossil. They all had a list of the requirements they needed to fulfill and a pencil to take notes. And just in case they weren't listening to every word I said, their leader, Shawn Huenick, had a list of questions and answers to take home. They were a well-mannered group, and it is always nice when family members also join the group. We closed our trip with a hunt for their own specimens in the driveway.



photos provided by Nancy Akins

## ALAA ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 7)



After Mr. McDonald was done providing the BLM's position, the Mayor of Quartzsite, Ed Foster, stepped up to the microphone and explained to the group the economic effect the closures would have on the city, one of which would cause the annual influx of Snowbirds to look elsewhere for off-road recreation. He stated that several western states have taken, or are in the process of taking, back management of Federal Public Lands, claiming they can do a better job managing the needs of their state lands that were in their trust before the federal government stepped in causing economic hardship.

The Mayor will be going to Phoenix to advocate the state of Arizona to join the group of western states who are petitioning Washington to take back public lands, minus National Parks, monuments, and wilderness, and to maintain them within their own states.

Next up was Harry Baker, President of California Off-Road Vehicle Association ("CORVA"), to speak on the concerns of the off-road group which has had a successful track record fighting the government's proposed land use for military training and getting some concessions in reduction of acreage taken in the Johnson Valley OHV Area. He commented that letters written to the government agency involved has made a huge impact,

and if you don't speak up you can't be heard.

Steve Hunt is a local gold miner in the La Posa Travel Plan area, with a valid commercial mining claim. He has been unable to operate his claim for over three years because of the slow permit renewing processing time of the BLM. The routes to his claim have been closed to all, even though he holds a valid claim with the government.

The issues with the La Posa Management Travel Plan in Arizona is one of many changes to the western deserts the BLM has on the table. In California, Senator Diane Feinstein has proposed to convert public lands to wilderness areas, fundamentally making them inaccessible to our historic collecting sites while giving access to the renewable energy consortium.

You may walk in or learn how to use a pack mule as open access routes will be a mile or more from places we used to drive to. Really, how far can most of us carry 25 pounds of rock?

On Sunday, January 25th, 14 of us rockhounds met at the Tom Wells Road in Arizona off Interstate 10, for the third annual roadside cleanup, with the assistance of the four gentlemen from the BLM.



**The Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Proudly Presents**

**57th Annual Gem & Mineral Show**

*Discover the Beauty of Rocks*

**Saturday**

**April 4, 2015**

**9 am - 6 pm**

**Sunday**

**April 5, 2015**

**10 am - 5 pm**

**Lancaster Event Center**  
84th & Havelock, Lincoln, Nebraska



Support the Lincoln Food Bank!  
Bring any non-perishable item for the  
Food Bank and receive \$1 off admission!

- Dealers, Demos, Displays**
- Children's Activities**
- Educational Programs**
- Rough & Uncut Gems**
- Agates, Gemstones, Minerals**
- Fossils, Petrified Wood**
- Equipment, Supplies, Tools**
- Gifts and FUN!!**

**Adults: \$5**

**Adult 2-day pass: \$9**

**Children 11 and under  
free with paid adult**

**<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org>**

**STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN**

|                            |                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Audit                      | Ed Dvorak<br>James Marburger<br>Roger Pittard  |
| Christmas Party            | Edward Ridge                                   |
| Education / Librarian      | Charles Wooldridge<br>Judy (Leick-Cropp) Anson |
| Facebook                   | Andrew Tiedje                                  |
| Field Trips                | James Marburger                                |
| Geology Day Coordinator    | Charles Wooldridge                             |
| Grinding Party Coordinator | Charles Wooldridge                             |
| 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 | Vera Lyman                                     |
| Roadside Clean-up          | James Marburger                                |
| Scholarship                | Vera Lyman                                     |
| Show—2015                  | Ed Dvorak                                      |
| Swap—2015                  | Jayne Beer                                     |
| Website                    | Jim & Sharon Marburger                         |
| Youth Activities           | Carolyn Ashmore<br>Susy McMahan                |

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

Jim Marburger, Chairman

|          |                                        |
|----------|----------------------------------------|
| 1 year:  | Vera Lyman<br>Ed Dvorak                |
| 2 years: | Edward Ridge<br>Robert Cropp           |
| 3 years: | Charles Wooldridge<br>Sharon Marburger |

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Jim Marburger, Chairman

|          |                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1 year:  | Brad Nielsen<br>Roger Pittard      |
| 2 years: | Vera Lyman<br>Edward Ridge         |
| 3 years: | Robert Gritmit<br>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:                | Charles Wooldridge              |
| Demonstrators:          | Carrie Burkhardt                |
| Displays:               | Jayne Beer, Ed Ridge            |
| Event Center Liaison    | Vera Lyman                      |
| Finance & Ticket Sales: | Jim Atkins, Vera Lyman          |
| Floor Chairman:         | Dvorak/Wooldridge               |
| Forms                   | Sharon Marburger                |
| LGMC Club Booth:        | Bob Gritmit                     |
| Nebraska Gem Dig:       | Charles Wooldridge              |
| Plants:                 | Ed Ridge                        |
| Printed Program:        | Sharon Marburger                |
| Publicity & Promotion:  | Jim Marburger                   |
| Ribbons & Recognitions: | Sharon Marburger                |
| Security:               | Vera Lyman                      |
| Show Flyer:             | Sharon Marburger                |
| Silent Auction:         | Carrie Burkhardt                |
| Special Features:       |                                 |
| Web Master:             | Jim & Sharon Marburger          |
| Youth Activities:       | Carolyn Ashmore<br>Susy McMahan |

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

Or e-mail newsletters to:  
lgmc.editor@windstream.net

Lincoln, NE 68505-0342  
P.O. Box 5342  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:



# PICK & SHOVEL

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

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

## LGMC is a member of:



This Editor is a member of Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors

