



# PICK & SHOVEL

May 2015, Volume 57, Issue 9

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., Sep 2 (Gere Library)

Wed., Sep 30 (Oct) (Gere)

Wed., Nov 4

Wed., Dec 2

### General

Thurs., May 21

Summer Break from Business

Thurs., Sep. 17

Thurs., Oct 15  
(Halloween Party)

Thurs., Nov 19

Dec 6 General Meeting,  
Christmas Party, Awards  
Ceremony

### Activities

Rock Party - May 16 (Wooly)

Grinding Party - Jul 12  
(Pioneers Park Nature Center)

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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, May 21, 2015

Program: Knapping  
Scott Reichart

## MINERAL MONKEYS

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Lesson: Stone Age Tools &  
Art - Final Lesson



## MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Brian Suhr

Noah Van Butsel

# May Rock Party

## Picnic at the Woolys

## 6115 Huntington

## Saturday, May 16

## 5:00 p.m.



Bring your projects.  
Bring your picnic food items.  
Wooly is firing up the grill!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ed20649@windstream.net

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### Board Member

Sharon Marburger, 402.792.2348  
lgmc.editor@windstream.net

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ed Dvorak

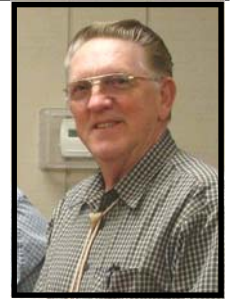
Greetings everyone! Did you get what you wanted in your May basket, or did you JUST get rocks?

I want to thank everyone for the great turnout at the roadside clean-up. Another job well done by our club! After the clean-up, we had a nice gathering at the Hickman U-Stop for Godfather's Pizza while discussing the trip to Crescent, Iowa scheduled for the following day. It sounded like a great opportunity to meet new people and explore a new area. Several Lincoln club members went to the quarry at Crescent, and we had a fine, muddy time.

The May Rock Party is scheduled for May 16, hosted by Wooly and Jackie. See the announcement in this Pick & Shovel.

Take care, everyone, and do not overdo it. There will be more nice days ahead to get your yard work done.

Everyone be safe and stay happy!!



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2014 General Meeting  
Bethany Park Shelter  
Submitted by Pat Dvorak, Secretary

- Meeting called to order by President Ed Dvorak at 7:00 p.m.
- 19 adults and 5 juniors present

### OLD BUSINESS

- Karen Messenger moved and Charlie Messenger seconded to approve the March minutes as published in the Pick & Shovel. Carried.
- Vera Lyman read the treasurer's report. Karen moved and Charlie seconded to approve the report. Carried.
- Roadside clean-up and rock party canceled for April 18 due to weather and illness.

### NEW BUSINESS

- New date for roadside clean-up is May 2 at 1 p.m. No rock party after.
- Carolyn Ashmore and Jayne Beer will have a gem dig at the Wild Adventure Day on April 25.
- Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club \$300 scholarship goes to Samantha Teton from Johnson Brock High School.

### SHOW BUSINESS

- Vera estimated a \$500 profit from the Show after all the bills are paid.
- Fred McVay moved and Jim Atkins seconded to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.
- No program.

## APRIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2015 Board Meeting  
Vera Lyman Home  
Submitted by Pat Dvorak, Secretary

- Meeting called to order by President Ed Dvorak at 6:30 p.m.
- 8 board members and 1 guest present

### NEW BUSINESS

- No board minutes for February and March were passed out. Secretary will pass out next month.
- Vera Lyman passed out the treasurer's report. Wooly moved to approved and Carolyn Ashmore seconded. Motion carried.
- Jim Marburger made a presentation to a scout troop on Wednesday, March 25.
- The Club bought some equipment for the lapidary class.
- Carolyn Ashmore, Jayne Beer, and some juniors will have a gem dig for Wild Adventure Day on April 25 at the Chet Ager Center.

### SHOW BUSINESS

- Everything is ready for the Show. It's a go.
- Motion by Wooly and seconded by Sharon Marburger to adjourn at 7:30. Carried.

## OUTREACH

by Sharon Marburger

On March 12, I received a personal message from Jennifer Pribil, through the club's Facebook page, requesting that someone speak to her den of cub scouts about geology. The boys were working on their geology pin that month.

Jim and I met with the group on Wednesday, March 25 at Cavett Elementary in Lincoln. Jim presented while I took pictures. We took a bunch of specimens for the boys to look at and touch, including agates, petrified wood, a bison skull, a mammoth tooth, and some fluorescent material. Jim provided specimens of uncut and cut garnets, rose quartz, calcite, apache tears, quartz, petrified wood, fluorite, agate, halite, and some others, for the boys' personal collections.

Many of the boys brought specimens from home for show and tell. There were calcite roses, Mexican crazy lace, conglomerates, muscovite/tourmaline, and some others I can't recall. The boys were very excited about specimen identification and they were all very eager to share what they had.

We gave handouts on geology, rocks, and minerals. We tested the various specimens to see if they would fluoresce, and under which wavelength of light. It was deemed "cool" that some of the specimens fluoresced different colors under different wavelengths. It was also "cool" that the specimens fluoresced with beauty and they looked plain under daylight and incandescent lighting.

Mrs. Pribil later contacted me to say how pleased they were with the event. I believe some of them made it to the Show!



## J J & L Rocks & Minerals

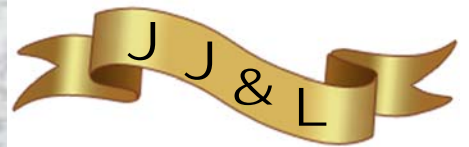
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37 years

# GEOLOGY DAY PICTURES



# 2015 SHOW



Corey & Jayne salt the Nebraska Gem Dig as General Excavating dumps river rock outside of the Show entrance



Corey & Jim figure out how to put the Rock Race together



Judith, Jayne, Carrie, and several others cover tables during Show setup



Corey's case of Lakers



Nebraska Archaeology Society

## 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 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)**

### 2015 SHOW - CONTINUED



Knapping Lessons



Youth Booth



Roger & Ed man the fluorescent display



Mia's First Arrowhead



There wasn't as much food donated to the Food Bank as in past years, but every little bit helps. Total: 133 pounds



Brooklyn's First Arrowhead



Just a specimen I thought was cool Manganoan Calcite after Barite

## MINERAL MONKEYS' ARTWORK ON DISPLAY AT THE SHOW



## ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

by Jim Marburger

The Roadside Clean-up was delayed a couple of weeks because of forecasted bad weather that canceled the April Rock Party and postponed the clean-up.

The group of 16 club members, including 5 Mineral Monkeys, met at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2. There was a little rain the night before and some sprinkles that morning, but the sun came out, bringing some wind which helped to keep the bugs away.

Vests were handed out and sign-in sheets were completed, and a lesson on how to put on the vest in a 25 mile per hour wind was learned by all. I gave a pep talk and went over safety items before handing out assignments.

Our two mile stretch of Highway 77 was pretty clean, but still there were 23 large orange trash bags, 4 tires, a large sheet of plate steel, chunks of wood, car parts, a few deer, and other small items collected and assembled for Department of Roads maintenance crews to pick up for disposal.

This Spring clean-up took about 1½ hours, from putting up the signs to taking them down again. Please plan to attend our Fall clean-up (not yet scheduled); Sharon and I will plan to have a Rock Party afterwards.



## HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SECOND DIRTIEST JOB IN LAPIDARY

by Jim Marburger

In my opinion, the second dirtiest job in the lapidary shop is cleaning up the rocks and tumbler barrel when tumble polishing gemstones. This process will make or break a good polish.

As we all know, the sludge should not be put down a sink drain and into the sewer since it will fill the traps with a concrete gunk. I have tried many ways to deal with this messy stuff. It gets on everything near it.

Begin with a colander from the kitchen. It works great; just make sure it is a plastic one since an aluminum one will leave silver marks all over the stones. When you dump your tumbler contents into the colander, what do you drain it into where there is still water available to rinse off the rocks? Most of the time it will be out in the yard or garden, using a hose as a water source. When the muck is hit with water from the hose, it will splatter all over. One has to do a balancing act with the barrel, colander, hose, and rocks, and then avoid the dirty water that sprays all over. There has to be a better way!

Here is what I discovered works the best for me when changing multiple tumbler barrels. First, get three five-gallon pails or buckets filled about half full with water. In the first bucket, add a small amount of IVORY dish soap. Put a 36-inch by 36-inch sheet of fiberglass window screen replacement cloth over this

bucket. Poke it down into the soapy water with the corners up and out of the bucket. Now pour the entire contents of the tumbler into the pouch in the bucket. Grasp the corners and pick it up and down in the water, swishing it around by touching the bottom of the bucket to also aid in the movement of the rocks. After thoroughly swishing, pull out of the soapy water and let it drain, then into the next bucket for more swishing. If you hold two corners in each hand, you can roll the rocks within the window screen bag. Next, do the same in the third bucket. The rocks should now be clean and can be set aside.

Depending on the size of tumbler barrel and lid, they can be rinsed and scrubbed in each of the buckets.

For a final wash of the rocks, put them back into the now clean tumbler and fill with water to 1 inch above the rocks. In a 12-pound tumbler barrel, add a ¼ bar of IVORY bar soap and let the tumbler roll overnight. Do another wash-rinse with the three buckets containing NEW water. Now the stones and barrels are ready for the next grit or polish.

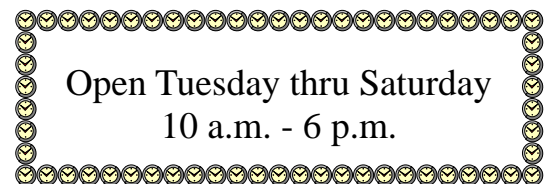
I have used this method of cleaning the stones and barrel for years and I get a great polish on most things tumbled. I use the same barrels for grit and polish so the clean-up is critical for good results.

## LINCOLN CURIOS ROCK SHOP

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- ◆ Polished stone items for interior décor
- ◆ Great selection of tumble-polished stones


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

**Please remember to send articles, features, poetry,  
reports, and photos of events to the editor!  
The Pick & Shovel needs YOU!**

## ALAA EXCERPT BY TOM NOE

This is April's ALAA excerpt, but it's not from the ALAA Newsletter. It comes from the newsletter of the Eastern Federation. Still, it's news that people in the MWF need to hear about, so I'm sending it around. I think the lessons are clear enough. Sometimes we're our own worst enemies.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TWO PENNSYLVANIA COLLECTING SITES CLOSED

Excerpted from: Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Newsletter (March, 2015)  
By Scott Peters

First, Rossville malachite/azurite location in northern York County, Pennsylvania, well-known to collectors and well-advertised in books and articles, has become dangerous due to overcollecting. IF ANYONE IS SEEN AT THE SITE, THE OWNERS WILL NOTIFY PROPER AUTHORITIES.

Second, the St. Clair, Pennsylvania fern fossil location is now closed to collecting. A representative for the owners said "overzealous collectors began bringing in power tools to collect, posting their trips and selling the fossils via the internet." The owners will prosecute any individuals they find collecting on their property.

Please do not attempt to collect at these locations unless you receive express (current written) permission from the owners of these properties. You will risk prosecution and may cause the loss of any possibility of reopening these sites.

If you know of any other collecting sites that have been closed, or are in danger of closing, or any laws that may restrict our collecting activities, please email me at: [slipgapdms@aol.com](mailto:slipgapdms@aol.com). I will pass the information on in future EFMLS Newsletters and also via ALAA website, [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org), and Facebook, [www.facebook.com/American-Lands-Access-Association](http://www.facebook.com/American-Lands-Access-Association).

(Scott Peters is the new ALAA Representative for Pennsylvania.)



LGMC is a proud member  
of ALAA

## MINERAL MONKEYS

by Carolyn Ashmore

Hello again, Juniors.

This last meeting before summer break will be on Unit 14.1, Stone Age Tools. This last lesson completes our Stone Age Tools and Art unit. We'll take a closer look at certain rocks and how they were used by stone age cultures for survival. Scott Reichart will be our guest speaker; he's a known knapper and has demonstrated knapping at our local shows. Several of you have shown interest in knapping, and Scott will be able to answer any questions you might have about this hobby.

With field trip season coming up, and with a lot more new junior members this year, I want to talk about field safety and, of course, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics. Both are important to remember when you're in the field. For those of you that don't have rock folders yet, I will be bringing folders and handouts to give to you about these topics.

Don't forget to bring your completed clay necklace to this class; the beads you all made were awesome, and I can't wait to see them put together!!!!

I'll be seeing you all on field trips this summer, as well as monthly Rock Parties. Don't forget the Grinding Party in July at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Have a wonderful summer and be safe out there.

This is what happens when you go collecting at a quarry, following a significant rain event! We all were several inches taller by the time we finished.



## YOU'RE A ROCKHOUND, SO THINK SAFETY FIRST!

by Ellis Bray (published in The Lake Rocker Newsletter, March 2015, Osage Rock & Mineral Club, Missouri)

I'm a rockhound. How can I hurt myself today? Let me count the ways.

**Since most rocks I want to gather are found "outside", I could get hurt while:**

- driving to gather rocks, and bringing them home;
- falling, tripping, slipping, getting cut, bruised or mashed (my whole self, or just parts),
- climbing, digging, sorting, loading and unloading rocks;
- lifting improperly, &/or moving too heavy a load;
- using tools unwisely (hammers, picks, chisels, rakes, knives . . .).

An injury can ruin even (what would have been) the best field trip!

**So, what field-trip type injuries should I protect myself from, and how do I do it?**

- prepare appropriately for the weather and terrain: clothing, water, 1st-aid kit, etc.
- eye & head injuries - always wear safety glasses, and a hard hat as needed.
- hand injuries - wear heavy gloves.
- foot injuries - wear boots or sturdy shoes, with good traction.
- muscle strains - avoid climbing; use a rake to pull rocks closer; spray 'em with water before digging; use a back-support belt, and if you're old, smaller buckets!

**Now I've got 'em home, what about shop-type hazards? Good question!**

- breathing dust, fibers or other particles - use a particle mask.
- breathing fumes - use an appropriate mask. Google "MSDS" for information, then get a Material Safety Data Sheet from the supplier of any hazardous material you buy. Also, install and work under an exhaust hood to vent dust and fumes to the outside.
- skin damage to hands, arms, or face from sawing/grinding dust and shards, cuts, too! Use plastic gloves as needed, whether thin latex or thick "kitchen" type.
- skin exposure to toxic substances like solvents or epoxy. I'm sensitized to epoxies! So, before

handling them, I coat my hands and forearms with soft soap, wear latex gloves, for a double layer of protection, and use disposable tools. Don't let solvents touch your skin. Bad advice from an old R&G article: "Epoxy can be . . .cautiously cleaned from your fingers with a tissue dampened with acetone." NO!

- skin exposure to heavy metals, while cabbng. I poisoned myself while cabbng rhodonite, which had arsenic, lead and cadmium in it, in addition to the gold, silver and copper that made it special. Use latex gloves while cabbng any suspect materials such as malachite, rhodonite, or gangue material from any metal mine.

Remember: Your skin is a wonderful barrier to the entrance of toxic powders or liquids. Thus: never lick a rock! Water paves the way for toxic dust (due to tiny particle size to get through your skin - hands or tongue - and directly into your bloodstream.

A final note: Since toxins can enter your blood stream through the skin, they can also exit the same way. Think: ionic-exchange footbath. Story! Recently, after cutting a bunch of rhodonite cabs, from a chunk of gangue rock from the famous Sunnyside mine in Colorado, I felt punky. A blood test showed I had abnormally high levels of heavy metals. After footbath treatments, a follow-up blood test confirmed that I'm "back to normal". Yeah, right!

EMB - 2/26/15

### CRESCENT, IOWA FIELD TRIP



**STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN**

|                            |                                               |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Audit                      | Ed Dvorak<br>James Marburger<br>Roger Pittard |
| Christmas Party            | Edward Ridge                                  |
| Education / Librarian      | Charles Wooldridge<br>Judy 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—2016                  | Ed Dvorak                                     |
| Swap—2016                  | Jayne Beer                                    |
| Website                    | Jim & Sharon Marburger                        |
| Youth Activities           | Carolyn Ashmore<br>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.

**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 |

**2016 SHOW COMMITTEE**

- Chairman: ..... Ed Dvorak
- Breakfast:..... Vera Lyman
- Dealers:..... Charles Wooldridge
- 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: ..... 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:..... Andrew Tiedje
- Special Features:.....
- Web Master: ..... Jim & Sharon Marburger
- Youth Activities:..... Carolyn Ashmore  
Susy McMahan



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# PICK & SHOVEL

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