



# PICK & SHOVEL

May 2017, Volume 59, Issue 9

Editor: Sharon Marburger

The *Pick & Shovel* is the official publication of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska. Articles and items appearing within may be reproduced in other club bulletins, provided proper credit is given to the *Pick & Shovel* and the author.

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.

## 2017 MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

### General Meetings:

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

May 18	November 16
September 21	December 3
October 19	

### Board Meetings:

Board Meetings, unless otherwise stated, begin at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, at the home of Vera Lyman.

Sep: September 6	Nov: November 1
Oct: October 4	Dec: November 29

### Activities:

#### **Roadside Clean-up and Rock Party**

May 20 at the Marburgers  
Meet at Hickman Rest Area at 1:00 p.m.  
Rock Party will follow the clean-up.

#### **Summer Field Trips:**

Watch your June P&S for more information!

#### **Special Silent Auction at meeting**

September 21, 2017  
A special donation to the club was received at the Show. We would like to give members the first opportunity to bid on these items.

#### **Wild Fall Festival at Pioneers Park Nature Center**

September 22 from 5:00—8:00 p.m.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jayne Beer

Hello LGMC members! I would like to send a hearty welcome to all of our new members! We are so happy to have you join us!

We are still trying to organize a field trip; watch your e-mail this summer. I'm hoping Field Trip Chairman Jim Marburger will have something to report at the meeting.



Remember that May 20th is the roadside clean-up. This sounds like work, but seriously, if we get at least 16 people to participate, it goes so fast and easy and then we get to move on to the fun of the grinding party at the Marburgers' in Hickman. Don't miss this fun day with club members.

Let me tell you a little about our adventure to Brainerd, Minnesota. For months we thought that we wouldn't be able to go. Then a couple days before the show, we just decided that we were GOING. Let me tell you, it was a BLAST! We went agate picking on Friday. We didn't find much but it was still so fun to go out. Saturday and Sunday were both gem show days. There were so many vendors there. MANY, MANY, MANY LAKERS; Corey was in Heaven! We went to the Midwest Federation meeting on Saturday, joining LGMC members Jim and Sharon Marburger and Wooly. It was interesting to see how Robert's Rules are supposed to work in meetings. After the show closed on Sunday, we drove all night and got home a little before 5 a.m., TIRED AND HAPPY! It was SO worth it. If you get a chance to attend this show in the future, I would recommend it. Let me share a few pics with you.



It was fun to hear, "Laker!!" sound across the fields—not just once, but multiple times. Photo by Jayne Beer.

## May Birthdays

Noah VanButsel

*Happy Birthday!*

# Roadside Clean-up and May Rock Party

Saturday, May 20, 2017  
Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the  
Hickman Rest Area.  
After roadside clean-up,  
gather at the Marburgers  
for burgers and dogs.



Bring your favorite side dishes  
and your appetites!  
Don't forget to bring your  
lapidary equipment, other tools,  
and hobby projects.

## Silversmithing classes

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

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

Tuition: \$130 plus \$30 supply deposit

Session 3: Apr 25 - Jun 13, 2017

Session 4: Aug 8 - Sep 26, 2017

Session 5: Oct 3 - Nov 28, 2017

Contact:

Jayne Beer 402-890-3307

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or e-mail

jbeer60070@aol.com

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

By Sharon Marburger, Substitute Secretary

**Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.  
General Meeting, April 20, 2017  
Bethany Park Shelter**

Meeting called to order by President Jayne Beer at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Club attendance—21 Adult Members present  
5 Mineral Monkeys

Guests: Mike and Cris Gittens; Lea Provence.

- ◆ Minutes of the last meeting were published in the Pick & Shovel. Motion to accept by Ed Dvorak, second by Andrew Tiedje. Passed.
- ◆ Treasurer Report was read. Motion by Sharon Marburger to accept, second by Corey Beer. Passed.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- ◆ April 23 will be Rock Party at Wooly's. Gather at 4:00, eat at 5:30.
- ◆ April 29 will be Wild Adventure Day. The Beers and Ashmores plan to attend.
- ◆ May 7 will be the event at the Children's Museum. The Ashmores plan to attend.
- ◆ May 20 will be Roadside Clean-up. Meet at 1:00 at Hickman Rest Area. The Rock Party to follow at the Marburgers'.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- ◆ A special Silent Auction will be held at the September General meeting. A special collection was donated to the club for silent auction. The Board would like to give members first chance at the items. The remaining items will be put on the Midwinter Swap silent auction.

### SHOW REPORT:

- ◆ The club made a nice profit. The raffle went very well with the help of Steve May and Gene Mulinex. In addition, all of the available labels for next year's show postcard were completed by attendees.
- ◆ The Silent Auction and the Mineral Monkeys both enjoyed nice sales; earning money for their respective funds.
- ◆ Attendance was approximately 1,921.
- ◆ As a thank you for a fabulous job on the Show, Ed Dvorak and Jayne Beer were presented with "You're a Gem" pins for their club shirt/smock.
- ◆ Motion by Susy McMahan to adjourn the meeting to refreshments and program, second by Andrew Tiedje. Passed. The program was a video entitled "Bringing Back the Wooly Mammoth."

**APRIL ROCK PARTY**

By Charles Wooldridge

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club held a Rock/Grinding Party on April 23 at Jackie and "Wooly" Wooldridge's home in northeast Lincoln. Thirteen club members and two guests (from the North Central Kansas Rock Club) were in attendance. Wooly made a big pot of Bison Chili and many side dishes and delicious desserts graced the kitchen.

Three Genie cabbing machines, a slant cabber and a couple of trim saws ensured there was ample opportunity for creative lapidary expression.

A fire was lit in the backyard at which Jayne provided pyrotechnic oversight while turns were taken toasting, burning, and consuming delectable smores. It was nice to see new and old members alike sharing experiences, asking questions, and socializing around the mutually affected hobby. I was struck by the distances some traveled to the event; a couple of folks were from Beatrice, two from Fairbury, and one from Missouri.



Photo by Allan Gossman



Photo by Wooly

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED**

(Continued from page 1)



It was interesting to see how nature left the agates for us to find. Photos by Jayne Beer.



(Continued on page 5)

**MINERAL MONKEYS**

By Carolyn Ashmore

Hello Again Juniors.

With this being our last meeting before summer break and with field trip season upon us, I thought we would talk about field trip etiquette and the AFMS Code of Ethics. This will be a refresher for a lot of you as we have talked about this topic before, but with all the new junior members in our little group, we need to go over it again. It never hurts to review the material; it reminds us to be safe and respectful while out rock hunting.



Please remember to bring a mineral from home to this meeting. I have asked Jim Marburger to bring the fluorescent light. It is always fun to see what we might have in our collections that fluoresces. Some of the specimens you may want to bring (if you have them) are Calcite, Dolomite, Halite, Chalcedony, Barite, and Selenite, to name a few. Of course you can go through your collections to see what you have. You might be surprised at what does and does not fluoresce!

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting, and examining your specimens under the black light.

Rock on!

## AMBER IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO

by Charles Wooldridge

During the fall of 2016, my wife, Jackie, and I had the opportunity to spend a month in Chiapas, the southernmost state of Mexico. This was our second visit to this enchanting region of the Mayan; rich with ruins both discovered and yet to be viewed; aqua blue rivers; mysterious caves; cloud forests; colorful, remote villages teeming with smiling children and families eager to share their culture; and beautiful amber. Previously we had explored the San Cristobal de las Casas area, including the majestic and mysterious ruins at Palenque, the misty jungle at Miso Ha, and the amazing aqua blue waters at Agua Azul, so we set out to explore other areas such as Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of Chiapas; the Pacific coast; and the Guatemalan frontier. In the Sierra Madre cloud forests, we were reunited with friends Eduardo and Liliana, who we had met several years before in San Cristobal. They took us to a remote village to visit Eduardo's family and view the indigenous organic coffee they grow on the mountainsides in the forest.

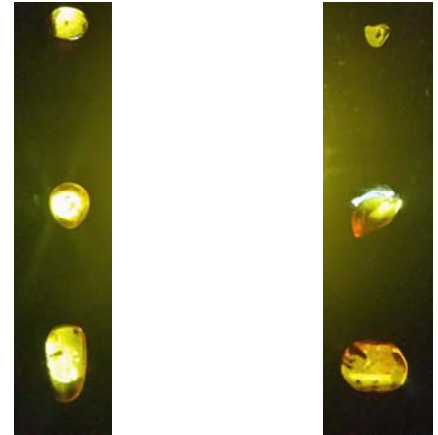
Tuxtla is a bustling city with many parks and city squares, including Marimba Park, which is a typical village square that hosts marimba bands every night in the center gazebo. Everyone dances, including yours truly, young and old, graceful and clumsy (like me) with no judgment, just pure enjoyment. Tuxtla hosts a number of very good museums including the Regional Museum of Chiapas, Museo del Caf'e and Museo de Paleontologia. The Paleontological Museum has a wonderful hall of Amber with lots of specimens and interpretive displays. On one wall is a large colorful map of the earth with worldwide deposits of amber brightly lit. My attention was drawn to the central United States where, curiously, the only deposit was Seward, Nebraska. I have never heard of any significant finds of amber within a thousand miles! The Nebraska amber aside, I highly recommend visiting the Museum.

The only commercially mined amber deposit in the Central American isthmus is located near a village about 130 kilometers north of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. The area is about a 3 kilometer hike on a jungle trail from the village of Simojovel, Huitiupan area. From what I have learned, the Amber is mined in makeshift tunnels with hammers and screw drivers, and using candles for light. It is very dangerous and hard work, with

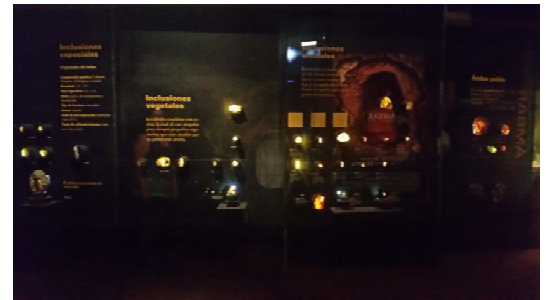
a total output of only about one hundred kilos per month. The Tzotzil Maya hand polish the amber to sell in the markets in San Cristobal and Chiapa de Corzo near Tuxtla Gutierrez. Amber from the area is true amber from the upper Oligocene to lower Miocene, making it around 25 million years old. Colors range primarily from yellow to orange with rare specimens of green and red. A wide variety of inclusions can be found, which may add to the beauty and value.

There are wonderful Museums dedicated specifically to Amber in San Cristobal and Tuxtla, where inexpensive to very expensive specimens and jewelry can be purchased. I enjoy bargaining for amber from the free-lance vendors selling primarily in the tourist areas of Chiapa de Corso and San Cristobal. If you are persistent and cautious, you can get some great deals. Each vendor comes with a white placard covered with necklaces, earrings, and other jewelry for sale, and a black light to show that the specimens are genuine. True amber fluoresces with a pale green or blue sheen. If you ask, they usually also carry rough amber with them. My experience has been that the majority are honest and sell only true amber, but one should always be wary. Outside of San Cristobal on the road to Palenque, there is an Amber shop that carries copious quantities of bulk amber in all price ranges.

Amber is only one of the many reasons to explore Chiapas: great coffee, fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh sea foods, puc chuc (Mayan grilled pork), ruins, jungles, cloud forests, beaches, and most of all, the people. There are remote villages where the people speak diverse languages totally unrelated to Spanish. Many of these cultures are slowly vanishing, being replaced by the colonialism. We hope to return soon.



Amber Specimens



Amber purchased from a private vendor.



In the Paleontology Museum at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas there is a wonderful display of amber, including a map of the various deposits of amber around the world. Right in the middle it shows Seward, Nebraska as a major deposit. I visited with a Paleontologist who could not explain why Seward was identified. There is a known deposit in Kansas, but it was not mentioned

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 3)*



Brian and Corey having a great time looking for rocks. Photo by Jayne Beer.



Wooly setting up for the tailgate part of the show. Photo by Jayne Beer.



Midwest Federation Delegates Meeting. Photo by Jayne Beer.



LAKER!! Photo by Jayne Beer.



Endowment Bear, affectionately called "E-Bear" by his friends, made the trip back to Nebraska after Jim and Sharon Marburger won the auction for the privilege of providing a temporary home for him. The money E-Bear earns is donated to the Midwest Federation Endowment Fund. E-Bear is very popular among members of the Federation, and there is usually a vigorous auction. Wherever he travels, E-Bear carries a biography, listing the places he has lived and the donations he has acquired. E-Bear has lived in Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska. This is his second trip to Nebraska. You can add your name to E-Bear's biography by making a donation to the Endowment Fund. Bring your spare change to the meeting and the club will pool the money to make a single donation. Photo by Sharon Marburger.

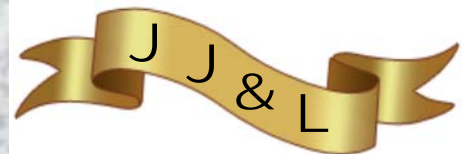
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## FIELD TRIP SAFETY

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Safety and Health for Field Operations  
Handbook 445-3-H, February 2014**  
(Excerpted by Jim Marburger)

Rattlesnakes are the largest of the venomous snakes in the United States. They can accurately strike at up to one-third their body length. Rattlesnakes use their rattles or tails as a warning when they feel threatened. Rattlesnakes may be found sunning themselves near logs, boulders, or open areas. These snakes may be found in most work habitats including the mountains, prairies, deserts, and beaches.

Signs or symptoms associated with a snake bite may vary depending on the type of snake, but may include:

- A pair of puncture marks at the wound.
- Redness and swelling around the bite.
- Severe pain at the site of the bite.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Labored breathing (in extreme cases, breathing may stop altogether).
- Disturbed vision.
- Increased salivation and sweating.
- Numbness or tingling around your face and/or limbs.

### Prevention.

- Do not try to handle any snake.
- Stay away from tall grass and piles of leaves when possible.
- Avoid climbing on rocks or piles of wood where a snake may be hiding.
- Be aware that snakes tend to be active at night and in warm weather.
- Wear boots and long pants when working outdoors.
- Wear leather gloves when handling brush and debris.

### First Aid.

- Seek medical attention as soon as possible. Dial 911 or call local Emergency Medical Services.
- Try to remember the color and shape of the snake, which can help with treatment of the snake bite.
- Keep still and calm. This can slow down the spread of venom. Apply first aid if you cannot get to the hospital right away.
- Lay or sit down with the bite below the level of the heart.
- Wash the bite with soap and water. Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.

### DO NOTs.

- Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it.
- Do not wait for symptoms to appear if bitten; immediately seek medical attention.
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not slash the wound with a knife.
- Do not suck out the venom.
- Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water.
- Do not drink alcohol as a painkiller.
- Do not drink caffeinated beverages.

### Bugs.

Bees, wasps, and hornets are found throughout the United States and are most abundant in the warmer months. Nests and hives may be found in trees, under roof eaves, or on equipment such as ladders.

Stinging or biting insects, spiders, ticks, and other arthropods can be hazardous to you. Health effects range from mild discomfort or pain to a lethal reaction for those allergic to the venom. Anaphylactic shock is the body's severe allergic reaction to a bite or sting and requires immediate emergency care.

Prevention. Take the following steps to prevent insect stings:

- Wear light-colored, smooth-finished clothing.
- Avoid perfumed soaps, shampoos, and deodorants. Don't wear cologne or perfume.
- Avoid bananas and banana-scented toiletries.
- Wear clean clothing and bathe daily. (Sweat may anger bees.)
- Wear clothing to cover as much of the body as possible.
- Avoid flowering plants when possible.
- If you are attacked by several stinging insects at once, run to get away from them. A shaded area is better than an open area to get away from the insects.
- If a bee gets inside your vehicle, stop the car slowly and open all the windows.
- People with a history of severe allergic reactions to insect bites or stings should consider carrying an epinephrine auto injector (EpiPen) and should wear a medical identification bracelet or necklace stating their allergy.

### First aid.

- If a person is stung by a bee, wasp,

or hornet, have someone stay with them to be sure that he or she does not have an allergic reaction.

- Wash the site with soap and water.
- Remove the stinger using gauze wiped over the area or by scraping a fingernail over the area. Never squeeze the stinger or use tweezers.
- Apply ice to reduce swelling.

Scorpions usually hide during the day and are active at night. They may be hiding under rocks, wood, or anything else lying on the ground. Some species may also burrow into the ground. Most scorpions live in dry, desert areas. However, some species can be found in grasslands, forests, and inside caves.

Symptoms of a scorpion sting usually subside within 48 hours and may include:

- A stinging or burning sensation at the injection site (very little swelling or inflammation).
- Positive "tap test" (i.e., extreme pain when the sting site is tapped with a finger).
- Restlessness.
- Convulsions.
- Roving eyes.
- Staggering gait.
- Thick tongue sensation, slurred speech, drooling.
- Muscle twitches.
- Abdominal pain and cramps.
- Respiratory depression.

### Prevention.

- Wear long sleeves and pants.
- Wear leather gloves.
- Shake out clothing or shoes before putting them on.
- People with a history of severe allergic reactions to insect bites or stings should consider carrying an epinephrine auto injector (EpiPen) and should wear a medical identification bracelet.

### First aid.

- Contact a qualified health care provider or poison control center for advice and medical instructions.
- Ice may be applied directly to the sting site (never submerge the affected limb in ice water).
- Remain relaxed and calm.
- Do not take any sedatives.
- Capture or take a picture of the scorpion for identification if it is possible to do so safely.

Venomous Spiders found in the

*(Continued on page 8)*

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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.



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

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# PICK & SHOVEL

## FIELD TRIP SAFETY - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 6)*

United States include the black widow, brown recluse, and hobo spiders. Spiders are usually not aggressive. Most bites occur because a spider is trapped or unintentionally contacted.

Black widow spiders are found throughout North America. They are identified by the pattern of red coloration on the underside of their abdomen. They are usually found in workplaces containing undisturbed areas such as woodpiles, under eaves, fences, and other areas where debris has accumulated. Black widow spiders build webs between objects, and bites usually occur when humans come into direct contact with these webs. A bite from a black widow can be distinguished from other insect bites by the two puncture marks it makes in the skin. The venom is a neurotoxin that produces pain at the bite area and then spreads to the chest, abdomen, or the entire body.

Brown recluse spiders, known as the violin spider, is brown in color with a characteristic dark violin-shaped (or fiddle-shaped) marking on its head and has six equal-sized eyes (most spiders have eight eyes). Brown recluse spiders are usually found in workplaces with

secluded, dry, sheltered areas such as underneath structures, logs, or in piles of rocks or leaves. The brown recluse spider cannot bite humans without some form of counter pressure; for example, through unintentional contact that traps the spider against the skin. Bites may cause a stinging sensation with localized pain. A small white blister usually develops at the site of the bite. The venom of a brown recluse can cause a severe lesion by destroying skin tissue (skin necrosis). This skin lesion will require professional medical attention.

Ticks. Tick-borne pathogens can be passed to humans by the bite of infected ticks. Ticks can be infected with bacteria, viruses, or parasites. Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in the United States. Areas with woods, bushes, high grass, or leaf litter are likely to have more ticks. Ticks are usually more active in the months of April through October and peak in the summer months of June through August.

Symptoms. Some common symptoms of infection with tick-borne diseases include body/muscle aches, fever, headaches, fatigue, joint pain, rash, stiff neck, and facial paralysis.

### Prevention.

- Wear a hat and light-colored clothing, including long-sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into boots or socks.
- Use insect repellents that provide protection for the amount of time you will be outdoors.
- Check your skin and clothes for ticks every day. Shower or bathe as soon as possible after working outdoors to wash off and check for ticks. Remember to check your hair, underarms, and groin for ticks. Immediately remove ticks from your body using fine-tipped tweezers. Clean the area with soap and water.
- Wash and dry clothes in a hot dryer to kill any ticks present.

Diagnosis and Treatment. If you develop symptoms of a tick-borne disease, seek medical attention promptly. Be sure to tell your health care provider that you were outdoors in an area where ticks may be present. Tick-borne diseases are diagnosed based on symptoms and the possibility that a person has been exposed to infected ticks. Most cases can be successfully treated with specific types of antibiotics, especially if treatment is started early.