



PICK & SHOVEL

June 2017, Volume 59, Issue 10

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.

September 21	November 16
October 19	December 3

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:

Summer Field Trips:

June 24 & 25 - Camping Trip
Sycamore Springs, Kansas
See article on page 3 for details.

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



Greetings, fellow rock hounds! I hope this month's *Pick and Shovel* finds you going through your rocks, and finding a way to get out and do some hunting.

Let me suggest that you do some Internet searches to find some rock and gem shows, and make those a stop on your summer trips, or better yet, a destination. There are so many shows around.

By the time you get this, the roadside clean-up will be done and another great rock party at the Marburgers' in the books.

Don't forget our club camping trip to Sycamore Springs, Kansas on June 24 and 25. We will spend a couple nights camping and a couple of days out doing some collecting, and lots of time talking about rocks. It will be a good time; don't miss it!

Be sure to watch your e-mail and the club Facebook page for other fun stuff this summer!

We are still looking for an editor for the *Pick and Shovel*! Please consider stepping up and taking on this position.

Let me tell you about a quick trip we made out to the Nemaha River on Memorial Day. It was me, Brian, Corey, and Ja-zeil. The day was just gorgeous! We got down to the river to find that the water was high and had changed course considerably. The water had been much higher, so we had hopes of great new things being uncovered. There was a lot of sand and mud covering some of the former gravel bars. When we had to cross the river, it was quite difficult and a little scary with a 5-year-old along. All in all, we were safe and had a good day, but a little disappointed that we didn't find more. I guess we will just have to go back.

Hope to see many of you at the camping trip! CHEERS!



June Birthdays

Ed Ridge

Jayne Beer

Carolyn Ashmore

Bruce Collamore

Ellie Lyman

Happy Birthday!

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18, 2017, BETHANY PARK SHELTER HOUSE

By Jim Marburger, Secretary

President Jayne Beer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 22 adult members, 6 Mineral Monkeys, and 3 guests (Anna, Becky, and Mike) present.

- ◆ The minutes of the April meeting were printed in the Pick & Shovel. Charles Wooldridge moved to accept the minutes as published, second by Brad Nielsen. Passed.
- ◆ The Treasurer's Report was given by Vera Lyman. Motion to accept the reading by Sharon Marburger, second by Corey Beer. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ◆ Vera Lyman gave a preliminary show report indicating good attendance and a profit. Thanks to all who helped.
- ◆ Roadside clean-up is being postponed due to heavy rains in the area and forecasted to continue through the weekend. After much discussion, it was decided to reschedule the clean-up to Sunday, June 4, meeting at the Hickman Rest Area at 1:00 to receive safety vests and assignments. The Rock Party will follow at the Marburgers' in Hickman.
- ◆ Wild Adventure Day at Pioneers Park was a little slow, but those who attended the gem dig had a great time. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers.
- ◆ No report on the May 7 Children's Museum event.
- ◆ A field trip to Sycamore Springs, Kansas is being planned for June 24 and 25. Field trips each day to include the South Fork of the Big Nemaha River, fossil locations, and other locations. Camping is available at Sycamore Springs, as well as small cabins or rooms at the on-site hotel. Group meals will be held at campsites.
- ◆ We are invited to participate in the Pioneers Park event on August 2 which includes a fossil site field trip. Fairbury is a possible location. The park will provide transportation for its group.

- ◆ GeodeFest in the Keokuk, Iowa area will be held September 22 and 23. Information can be found on the Internet. Last year 2,000 geode pickers were signed in. Make your plans in advance if you plan to attend.
- ◆ If you would like to host a Rock Party, let a Board member know. We need a host for July and September. The June event will be hosted by the Marburgers, August at the Lyman's, October at the Marburgers' following Fall Roadside Clean-up, November at The Jewelry Connection, and December at the Marburgers'.
- ◆ President Jayne asked if anyone is willing to take over editing the Pick & Shovel so Sharon can step down. No volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ◆ We had a special visitor from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogy and Geological Societies (MWF); he is E-Bear. E-Bear is here to accept donations for the Endowment Fund for the MWF. He is visiting Jim and Sharon for a while until he is auctioned off at the next meeting of the MWF. His adventures with the LGMC will be documented in his travel ledger. Thank you for your donations.
- ◆ Charles Wooldridge reported on the MWF Delegates' meeting he attended in Brainard, Minnesota. Minor changes were voted in to change wording of the procedures of the MWF committees. The rock show was fantastic with about 50 dealers set up inside and outside with AGATES and more AGATES. A full report on the meetings will be in the upcoming MWF newsletter. The state directors' meeting was attended by the most representatives in many years.
- ◆ Motion by James Marburger to adjourn the meeting to program at 8:00 p.m., second by Brad Nielsen. Passed.

J J & L Rocks & Minerals

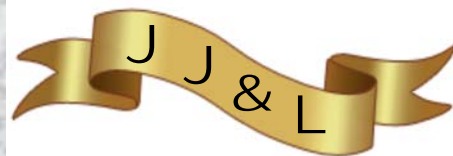
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41 years

Thank You, Greg & Betty Syslo!

By Carolyn Ashmore

On behalf of all LGMC juniors, I want to say a big THANK YOU to Greg and Betty Syslo for their wonderful donation to the youth group of 20 small, 45 power LED microscopes. With all of the new junior members joining each year, I had used up the supply that Greg and Betty previously donated. With this new donation, I can start handing them out again. The kids love to see up close what their collections look like, and with these LED microscopes, they can be amazed at what they find.

Thank you again, Greg and Betty!

WHAT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND ON FIELD TRIP

Photos by Jayne Beer

Thanks to Jayne for sharing these photos of their most recent trip to the river. These are examples of what can be found on the upcoming field trip, specimens shown in place to give an idea of what to look for.



Getting down to the river



A native artifact, in situ



Jaz holding a jawbone



Honey Agate



Laker!

JUNE FIELD TRIP

By Jim Marburger

We are having a field trip weekend on June 24 and 25, 2017! We are heading to Sycamore Springs Recreation Area. The address is 3126 Bittersweet Road, Sabetha, Kansas. The location of the recreation area is 6 minutes north of Sabetha on Hwy 75. From Nebraska, go 1 mile south of the Nebraska State Line on Hwy 75, turn east for 2 miles, then turn south on Bittersweet Road.

There will be field trips on both days, one to the South Fork of the Big Nemaha River and one to fossil collecting locations for sponges and other items.

Camping is available at Sycamore Springs, as well as cabins and rooms in the on-site hotel. Picnics will be held at the campsites. Motels are also available in Sabetha for those who prefer to spend the night in town. All arrangements for lodging should be made ahead of time.

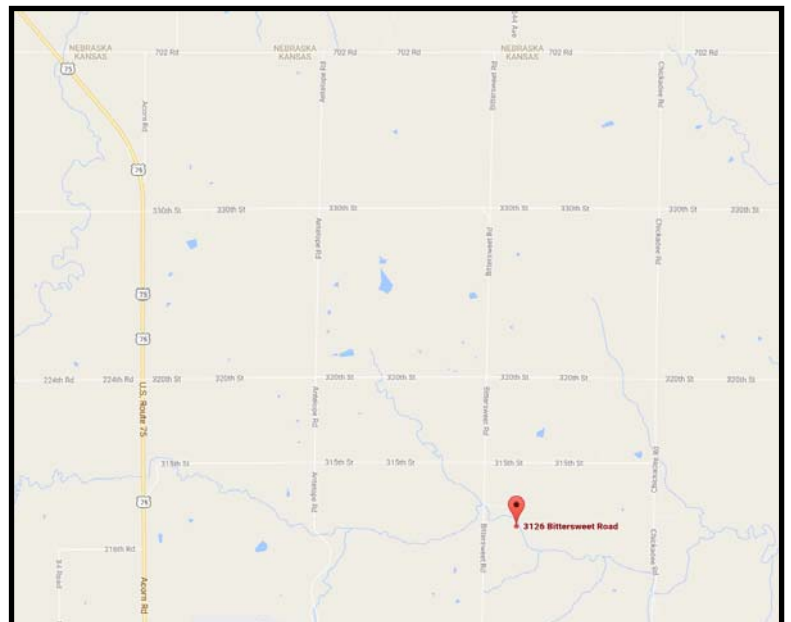
The day trips should leave the campground at 8:00 a.m. to beat some of the heat and humidity. Of course, this is dependent on weather conditions. Pack your own lunch, snacks, water needs, sunscreen, hats, and tick spray.

The level of difficulty of the river trip is moderate to high, depending on the ability of the person. The banks of the river are a 20 to 30-foot climb and, depending on area trails, can be made down. Once down on the river bottom, the sandbars are easy. Most fossil sites will be road cuts so the level of difficulty is easy to medium. The tall grasses and minor tripping hazards are the most concern. Carpooling is suggested to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum since parking might be a problem.

Specimens to be found will be agate, petrified wood, jasper, fossils, and many other items that a good rockhound can't live without.

Sycamore Springs has a roller rink, campground, recreation center, miniature golf, snack bar for food, hotel/with breakfast, park homes, and primitive cabins. Tent camping is \$15.00 per night, RV rate is \$30.00 with 30 and 50 amp hookups. Hotel with breakfast per person is \$50.00 or \$65.00 for 2 people.

Please plan to attend. All trips are dependent on weather and river levels, and liability will be your own responsibility. So we have an idea of how many plan to attend, please call or e-mail James Marburger at 402.430.6703, or james.marburger@outlook.com using "LGMC Field Trip" as subject line. Thank You.



BASIC DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MINERALS AND CRYSTALS

As published in S.C.R.I.B.E. newsletter, Volume 41 No. 3 May/June 2017 (assumed written by editor, Jeff Ursillo)

Have you ever been asked what the difference is between crystal and mineral? While the two words seem to be used interchangeably (not among Rockhounds of course), there are very significant differences between these two and knowing them would help you differentiate one from the other. Here are some facts to help you explain the differences.

A crystal is any solid that has an organized structure. That means that the atoms of this thing are positioned in very accurate distances and angles one from the other, as opposed to glass for example, in which atoms are in a more or less random arrangement.

Minerals are inorganic, naturally occurring substances that have crystalline structures. So it is a prerequisite to be a crystal in order to be a mineral. All minerals, therefore, form crystals.

On the other hand, there are crystals that are not minerals, because they are not naturally occurring, or

because they are not inorganic. Sugar and proteins are examples of solids that form crystals but are organic, so are not minerals. Some synthetic substances used in nanotechnology are crystalline, but are man-made, so not considered minerals either.

Crystals and minerals differ, not only through the ways in which they are used but they also differ in terms of structure. To put it simply, a crystal is a structure made up of various natural materials whereas a mineral is a material in itself. Two or more minerals can actually have the same chemical composition and yet completely differ when it comes to crystal structure. These are known as polymorphs. Crystal structure can greatly influence the physical properties of a mineral. A good example of this would be diamonds and graphite. As you already know, diamonds are known to be the hardest of all minerals and yet, whilst it has the same composition as the graphite, the latter is very malleable in nature.

Ed. Note: Spelling errors corrected.

MWF ENDOWMENT FUND

Established to ensure that in the future and the present there will be monies available for projects approved by the Board of Directors and ratified by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting at an Executive Committee meeting. Only the interest may be used for projects as well as administrative expenses. What does the Endowment Fund do for the Federation? Recent projects have included the printing and mailing of "Award Winning Articles", "Quiz" Booklets, and MWF Operating Procedures Manuals; a new sound system for meetings; state flags for convention displays; and a computer for the Secretary.

E-Bear had a fun time at the May meeting. He was very happy that someone slipped \$2 in his shirt for his cause. He is hoping that more Husker Rockhounds will bring donations to him. When he goes to the MWF Fall Meeting, he would love to hand over a nice amount for the Endowment Fund. C'mon people! Let's give a Big Red amount to the little red bear!



**Have an idea for a field trip?
Let Jim Marburger know!**

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

SUMMER BREAK

**Session 4: Aug 8 - Sep 26, 2017
Session 5: Oct 3 - Nov 28, 2017**

Contact:

Jayne Beer 402-890-3307

Judith Bay 402-423-7058

or e-mail

[NEW PREHISTORIC SEA CREATURE DISCOVERED AFTER FLORENCE HUNTER FINDS EXPOSED FOSSILS](#)

Published in *Missoulian*, April 13, 2017

By Matt Volz, Associated Press

Helena, Montana: A fossil found by an elk hunter in Montana nearly seven years ago has led to the discovery of a new species of prehistoric sea creature that lived about 70 million years ago in the inland sea that flowed east of the Rocky Mountains.

The new species of elasmosaur is detailed in an article published Thursday in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. Most elasmosaurs, a type of marine reptile, had necks that could stretch 18 feet, but the fossil discovered in the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge is distinct for its much shorter neck - about 7½ feet.

"This group is famous for having ridiculously long necks, I mean necks that have as many as 76 vertebrae," said Patrick Druckenmiller, co-author of the article and a paleontologist with the University of Alaska Museum of the North. "What absolutely shocked us when we dug it out - it only had somewhere around 40 vertebrae."

The smaller sea creature lived around the same time and in the same area as the larger ones, which is evidence contradicting the belief that elasmosaurs did not evolve over millions of years to have longer necks, co-author Danielle Serratos said.

Elasmosaurs were carnivorous creatures with small heads and paddle-like limbs that could grow as long as 30 feet. Their fossils have been discovered across the world, and the one discovered in northeastern Montana was well-preserved and nearly complete.

The refuge adjacent to the Missouri River is popular with hunters for its big game and remote setting.

David Bradt, a ranch manager from Florence, Montana, said he was hunting elk unsuccessfully in November 2010 when he walked into a canyon to splash some water on his face. In the creek, the water ran over what he thought was petrified wood sticking out of a rock. He pulled back the brush, saw vertebrae and knew it was fossilized bones. He thought it was a dinosaur and was floored when he learned it was a sea creature.

"It's about the size of a cow, and I'm thinking it's a triceratops," he said. "I didn't know there was an ocean there."

Bradt took photographs and reported the find to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman. It took three days to excavate the fossil, but much longer to clean and study it before the determination could be made that it was a new species, Druckenmiller said. He said the inland sea that stretched the width of Montana to Minnesota and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico was teeming with marine reptiles, but relatively few of their fossils have been excavated.

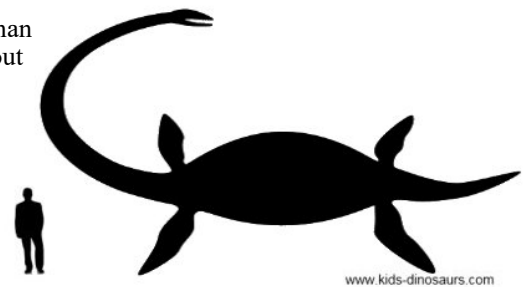
"It's a total bias - just more people out there are interested in land-living dinosaurs than marine reptiles," he said. "There would be a lot more known if more people were studying them."

Ed. Note: Thanks to Martin Dougherty for submitting this article to the Pick & Shovel.

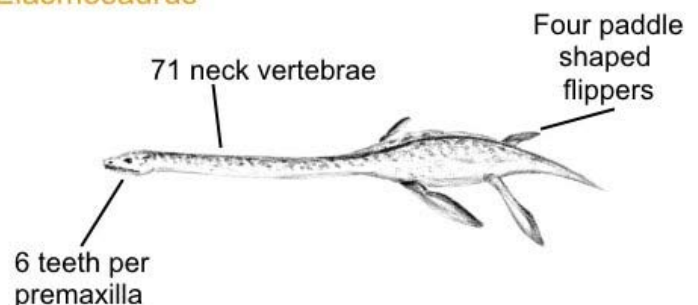
[ELASOSAURUS FUN FACTS AND INFORMATION FROM WWW.KIDS-DINOSAURS.COM](http://www.kids-dinosaurs.com)

- ◆ Like most of the so called 'swimming dinosaurs', Elasmosaurus wasn't really a dinosaur at all! It has no dinosaur classification as it was a Plesiosaur, which is a reptile.
- ◆ It did breathe air. Its neck was so long it wouldn't have been able to lift more than its head above the water.
- ◆ It could only swim in the direction its head and neck were pointing in.
- ◆ It lived during the Late Cretaceous period 80.5 million years ago. This is around the same time as lots of Cretaceous dinosaurs.
- ◆ This was a slow swimming reptile. It had four paddles for swimming that would have been rigid - perfect for swimming. It is unlikely that it would have been able to move on land. Scientist think it may have given birth to its young in the water like sea snakes do today.
- ◆ It would probably have hidden below a school of fish - and then slowly moved its head below its prey. It also had good eyesight for finding small prey.
- ◆ It is the only plesiosaur to have six teeth per premaxilla - these are the bones at the tip of the snout. It also had 71 neck vertebrae.
- ◆ When Elasmosaurus was first discovered no-one had ever seen anything like it. So the scientist initially placed the head on the end of the tail instead of the neck!
- ◆ Fossils have been found in several places in North America.

- ◆ It ate small bony fish, ammonites (mollusks) and belemnites (similar to squid). It also ate small stones to help it digest its food, in the same way that crocodiles, seals and sea lions do today.
- ◆ It was bigger than a T. Rex at about 46 feet long.



Elasmosaurus



PREHISTORIC GIANT ARMADILLO SHELL FOUND IN ARGENTINA

From Science World Report, by Rosanna Singh, First Posted December 31, 2015

On Christmas day, a passer-by found what appeared to be a meter-long shell on a riverbank in Argentina, which likely belongs to a glyptodont, which is a prehistoric kind of giant armadillo, experts announced.

"There is no doubt that it looks like a glyptodont," Alejandro Kramarz, a paleontologist of the Bernardino Rivadavia Natural Sciences Museum, said in a news release. "The animal became extinct thousands of years ago and it is very common to find their fossils in this region."

Kramarz claimed that the shell is relatively young and it is about 10,000 years old.

The passerby was identified as a local man, Jose Antonio Nieves, who assumed that the black scaly shell belonged to a dinosaur egg, which was laying around in the mud, according to Reina Coronel, the man's wife who spoke with AFP.

Nieves discovered the strange shell near a close-by stream at their farm house in Carlos Spegazzini, which is about 25 miles south of Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires.

"My husband went out to the car and when he came back he said, 'Hey, I just found an egg that looks like it came from a dinosaur,'" Coronel said. "We all laughed because we thought it was a joke."

Experts who saw images of the shell said that it is likely a glyptodont shell. Glyptodonts are the ancestors of modern armadillos. Glyptodonts had shells that weighed close to a ton and they roamed the territories of South America millions of years ago.



The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines *Glyptodon* as a genus of extinct giant mammals related to modern armadillos and found as fossils in deposits in North and South America. They date from the Pliocene and Pleistocene epochs (5.3 million to 11,700 years ago). *Glyptodon* and its close relatives, the glyptodonts, were encased from head to tail in thick, protective armor, shaped and resembling the shell of a turtle, but composed of bony plates much like the covering of an armadillo. The body shell was as long as 5 feet and the tail, which was also clad in armor, could serve as a lethal club. In some species of *Glyptodon*, the tip of the tail was a knob of bone that was sometimes spiked. Glyptodonts were plant, carrion, and insect eaters.



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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.



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

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:

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A color version of the Pick & Shovel is available at:
<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/index.php/newsletters/current>

PICK & SHOVEL

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

With prime collecting season upon us, we all need a reminder of the Rockhound's Golden Rules.

- ◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- ◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- ◆ I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- ◆ I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- ◆ I will leave all gates as found.
- ◆ I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- ◆ I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- ◆ I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- ◆ I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- ◆ I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- ◆ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- ◆ I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- ◆ I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- ◆ I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.