



# PICK & SHOVEL

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Lincoln, Nebraska

[www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org)



Volume 53, Issue 5  
January 2011

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### Board Member

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## GENERAL MEETINGS / ACTIVITIES

Regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House on the third Thursday of the month: Sep., Oct., Nov., Feb., Mar., Apr., and May; the second Sunday in December; and the fourth Saturday in January. Youth activities begin at 6:30 p.m. on the same dates. Summer meetings and other activities will be announced as they are planned.

### Annual Swap & January Meeting

#### Rock Swap

January 22, 2011

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

January Meeting

7:00 p.m.



### Pebble Pups

Activity: No special activity

### Monthly Rock Party

January 29, 2011

Hosted by the Marburgers in Hickman.

See details on page 2 of this issue!



## BOARD MEETINGS

Gere Library, Meeting Room 1, 6:30 p.m.

February 2, 2011

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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Peterson

Happy New Year to all and to all a healthy and prosperous 2011. Welcome to another exciting, educational and fun year with the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club. I'm already thinking ahead to Spring ... a short three months off. Snowfall and ice melt, swollen rivers, spring rain, rivers recede and treasure magically appears. But, I'm getting ahead of myself. We have plenty of exciting club activities just ahead.

First is the ROCK SWAP on January 22nd, that's a Saturday, an annual tradition for 32 years, you don't want to miss it. Then on January 29th, just a week later, the ROCK PARTY at the Marburgers' home in Hickman. I missed the party they hosted in August so I'm looking forward to attending. And then on April 2-3, 2011, the crown jewel when we have our 53rd Annual GEM & MINERAL SHOW, "Wonders of the Earth", at the Lancaster Event Center. As in the past, all club activities and events need the support of club members. Volunteer your time, an hour or two, or all day, to help your club make these events a success. See you at the SWAP.

### JANUARY ROCK PARTY

Join the Marburgers at their Hickman home for this month's Rock Party on Saturday, January 29. The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. and continues until the last person leaves.

Soup and/or chili will be provided by the hosts. Bring along a favorite dish and your appetite for good eatin' before the hobby fun begins.

Remember to bring your portable equipment and projects. See you at 334 Locust. Telephone, e-mail or Google maps for directions.

### LAST CHANCE!

If you haven't yet paid your dues, you have another chance to pay them without penalty.

Individual - \$15  
Family - \$25 plus \$2 per junior  
Juniors - \$2

**Dues received after January 31 will have an additional mandatory \$5 late fee.**

**No exceptions!**

### SUNSHINE

If you have any news for our SUNSHINE corner, please let the editor know.

An e-mail received from Becky Crawford told that our old friend, Phyllis Parks, had been in the hospital. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Jim Marburger's second knee replacement surgery went very well. He is mending quite nicely.

Jane France of Columbia, Missouri, a custom jewelry dealer and goldsmith/silversmith who participated in our annual show for several years, passed away this past autumn.

LGMC member, Roger Pabian, passed away in December. His vast knowledge will be missed almost as much as he will.

Roger and Mary Pittard reported the demise of their former internet provider. Their new e-mail address is rognmaryp@windstream.net. Please update your contacts.

### REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

**Jan. 22: Everyone bring cookies/snacks for the Swap. Vera Lyman will provide Anniversary Cake for the meeting.**

# LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB'S 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ROCK SWAP

JANUARY 22, 2011 1:00<sup>PM</sup> - 5:00<sup>PM</sup>



**BETHANY PARK SHELTER**  
64TH & VINE STREET LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**BUY - SELL - TRADE - ROCKS - MINERALS -**  
**FOSSILS - JEWELRY - EQUIPMENT**

CASH SALES MUST BE COMPLETED USING SWAPPER DOLLARS. SWAPPER DOLLARS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CLUB TREASURER AT A 10% SURCHARGE, PAYABLE BY THE BUYER.

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB BOX 5342 LINCOLN NE 68505-0342  
CONTACT RICHARD PETERSON (402) 489-2996

## PETE'S NOTES

Written for the *Pick & Shovel* by Richard Peterson, LGMC President

As October's rock party at Wooly's place was winding down, I found myself sitting in the living room, surrounded by some of our club's more seasoned members. Of course, the subject was collecting ... especially how it was in the "old days". The veteran collectors were remembering this quarry here and that gravel pit there, where collectors could pretty much collect with few restrictions. Some places were posted, others were not. We're talking about the 1970s and before. Road cuts, mine dumps, hog lots, and farm fields all worked their way into the conversation. Heads were nodding as they compared notes on past experiences. Back then the restrictions were minimal, or at least if you were caught some place you ought not have been, the penalty was getting kicked out and told not to return. No one took you to court. Today, even walking through a gravel scraping operation (not even in operation at the time of your visit) to get to the river's gravel bars can be touchy. Signs reading, NO TRESPASSING and VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED tend to discourage the collector. How did the regulations impacting an open pit copper mine or underground coal mine get carried over to a small, gravel scraping operation in Nebraska?

Some definitions are in order. MINING is defined as the extraction of commercially valuable minerals or other geological materials, usually from an ore body, vein or, as with coal, from a seam. Some of the materials mined include iron, copper, uranium, coal, diamonds, oil shale, rock salt, potash and others. Today, mining can include the extraction of such resources such as petroleum, natural gas, and even water. QUARRIES, on the other hand, are usually a type of open-pit mine where rock or minerals are extracted. The name has also been used for the recent trend to extract limestone from underground deposits. Quarries are generally used for obtaining building materials such as landscape stone, construction aggregate, dimension stone, riprap (loose fill for retaining walls), sand, or gravel. A GRAVEL PIT is an open working area for the extraction of gravel. These are often areas in river valleys where the water table is high. The pit may fill naturally with water and when extraction is completed, the enterprise closes. The area is often converted to a pond or lake, and used

for fishing, water sports, camping or wildlife viewing. Gravel scraping operations, on the other hand, are usually much smaller in scale and involve periodic gravel collection from nearby gravel bars. BORROW PITS, also referred to as a sand box in construction and civil engineering fields, is an area where soil, gravel, or sand is dug for use at a nearby location. These are strictly surface operations. For example, soil is collected for use as fill on an embankment, clay for use in brick making, or gravel used to make concrete.

Mining, be it for landscape stone or gravel, has become big business in Nebraska. Did you know that one-fourth (that's one out of every four) gravel pits in the U.S. are located in Nebraska? The University of Nebraska at Kearney is responsible for providing training for new employees in the extraction business as well as refresher courses. Next month ... the Mine Safety & Health Administration.

HELPFUL TIP: Most collectors don't label every rock in their collection. I like to label those I set out for display and those favorite specimens I want to remember. Loose paper labels are used if you store your specimens in a closed, compartmentalized box. Include a number and the name of the rock or mineral specimen, where it was collected, year collected, and collector's name. I prefer to type my labels, this gives a neat look to the collection. If desired, use the smaller fonts available with word processing programs to get more information on the label. The label is kept with the specimen. A notebook with the same information is recommended in case the label is lost or misplaced. Notebook records help restore your memory of the specimens history. This tip is not new, but many of us just do not take the time to take notes and label. It's like taking photographs and not labeling them. To be continued ...

AND THE WORD IS...? Gave you an easy one at



end the year. The answer of course is, "What is MILLERITE?" This month's mineral is an arsenic sulfide and is the principal ore from which we obtain arsenic. The mineral name is from Arabic meaning, "powder of the mine".

# PEBBLE PUPS



Hello Pups! Here's a different kind of puzzle for you. Figure out where the birthstones fit in this puzzle. Happy solving!

Answers on page 7

GARNET

RUBY

AMETHYST

PERIDOT

AQUAMARINE

SAPPHIRE

DIAMOND

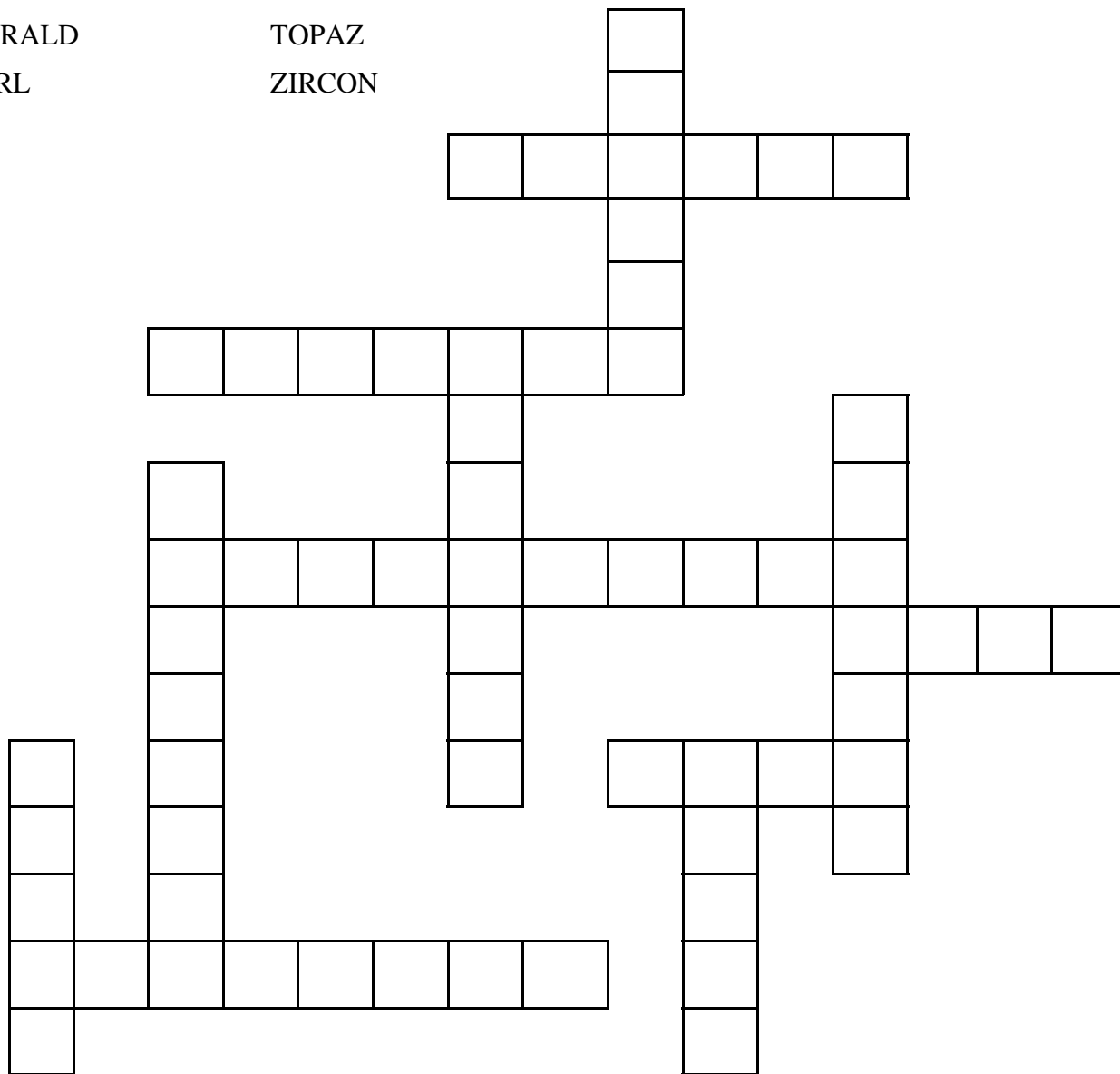
OPAL

EMERALD

TOPAZ

PEARL

ZIRCON



*Puzzle manually created by Sharon Marburger.*

## PABIAN TRIBUTE

*Susy McMahan brought to this editor's attention the following article published online by the University of Nebraska, School of Natural Resources, and found at <http://129.93.242.227/aboutus/what/newsarchive/RogerPabian2010.asp>. The article is very nice, but I will add one correction. According to LGMC's history files, Roger was a long-time member of LGMC, but he was not a charter member; he joined during the club's eighth or ninth year. Enjoy the article!*

### Geologist Pabian Left Legacy of Knowledge

Colleagues and friends said they will miss the encyclopedic knowledge, humor and stories of Roger Pabian, geologist emeritus, who was found December 12, 2010, apparently having died in his sleep at the age of 75. Pabian retired in 2003 after 35 years with the Conservation and Survey Division (CSD) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"It is truly a huge loss of knowledge, in addition to the fact he was a friend to so many people," said Matt Joeckel, professor of geology at UNL's School of Natural Resources and in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. "He knew nuances of geology and where to find certain specimens."

"It's like a library just burned down," said Charles Wooldridge, president of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, and a close friend of Pabian's. "He was such a resource for everyone."

Pabian was active until the end of his life in sharing his passion for agates, gems and other geologic finds. He recommended learning about naturally occurring gems and where to find them as an excellent family activity, and Wooldridge noted that he made many friends over several decades by sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm. Pabian was a charter member of the club, served as president four times, and helped organize and present programs.

"He always took the opportunities to talk about gems and minerals," said Mark Kuzila, director of CSD, now part of UNL's School of Natural Resources. Pabian liked to help people identify gemstones and other geological finds and was the driving force behind an agates database that is now on the School of Natural Resources website. He taught gemology through UNL and lapidary for Southeast Community College.

In addition to his popular work on gemstones, Pabian did meticulous, peer-reviewed research on crinoids and trilobites, creatures that inhabited the inland sea that once covered Nebraska. "He was extremely well-known around the world for his work on gemstones, particularly agates, and on invertebrate fossils," said Robert Diffendal, a long-time colleague. Pabian was the Division's only paleontologist and was the adjunct curator of Invertebrate Paleontology for the Nebraska State Museum.

In the mid-1960s, Pabian worked for the Nebraska Department of Roads. He prospected in all of Nebraska's 93 counties and different drainage basins for building materials, and noticed that he found completely different minerals from one basin to the next.

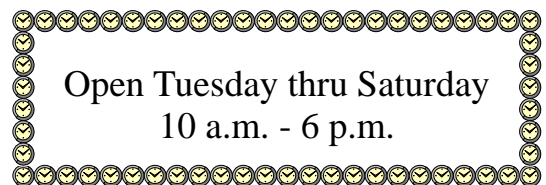
*continued on page 7*

## LINCOLN CURIOS ROCK SHOP

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### ► SPECIALIZING IN ARIZONA PETRIFIED WOOD ◀

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- ◆ Great selection of tumble-polished stones
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Open Tuesday thru Saturday  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**PABIAN - CONTINUED**

*continued from page 6*

Pabian wrote *Minerals and Gemstones of Nebraska*, a field guide published in 1970, and *Record in Rock: A Handbook of the Invertebrate Fossils of Nebraska*, also published in 1970 as CSD Educational Circular No. 1. “Those were probably the two most popular publications that CSD put out,” said Marv Carlson, another long-time colleague. “They’re still selling them.”

Pabian wrote general, technical and peer-reviewed publications throughout his career. Shortly after he retired, the British Museum of Natural History contacted him about co-authoring *Agates: Treasures of the Earth*, which was published in 2006.

He regularly led tours for groups such as the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, the Geological Society of America, the Nebraska Geological Society, and UNL’s Geology Department (now the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences).

“He was very serious about his work, but away from his work, Roger loved a good joke,” Wooldridge said. “Anything that Roger did, he threw himself at totally.” Pabian was an amateur magician, a painter, a metalworker, a coin collector, and, in earlier years, a competitive roller skater.

Pabian received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in geology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and was stationed in Naples, Italy, with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He never married.

He belonged to many organizations, including the Paleontological Society, the Lincoln and Omaha Gem and Mineral Clubs, the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, the Nebraska Association of Earth Science Clubs, the Nebraska Numismatic Association, Friends of the State Museum, American Legion Post No. 3, the Nebraska Geological Society and the Bill Morton Ring Magic Club. Pabian was inducted into the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame in 1992.

“Roger was a renaissance man,” Wooldridge said. “He was a complete person. And he enjoyed a good joke.”

**Silversmithing classes**

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

**Tuesdays  
January 11, 2011**

**thru**

**March 1, 2011  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**Tuition: \$100 plus \$25 supply deposit**

**Contact:**

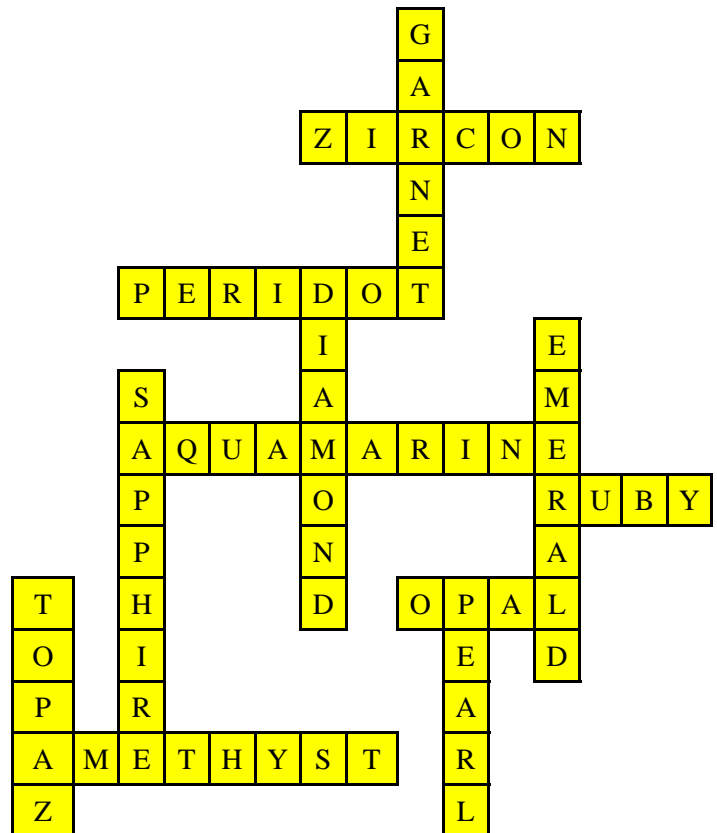
**Jayne Beer 402-890-3307**

**Judith Bay 402-423-7058**

**or e-mail**

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

*Answers to Pebble Pups puzzle*



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### December 12, 2010, Bethany Park Shelter

The LGMC Christmas Party and Meeting was called to Order at 6:38 p.m. by President Charles Wooldridge. Twenty-three adult members, two juniors, and one guest, Susan Joy, were present.

Vera Lyman entertained the group by reading a poem from the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.'s newsletter, The Pegmatite, entitled "Merry Rockhounds Christmas".

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will not be a December Rock Party due to the holidays. The next gathering will be on January 29, 2011 at the Marburgers in Hickman.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes of the November meeting were published in the Pick & Shovel. Jim Marburger moved to accept the minutes as printed, second by Roger Pittard. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Lyman. Mary Pittard moved to accept the report as read, second by Karen Messenger. Motion carried.

The Mid-Winter Swap is scheduled for January 22, 2011. Bethany Park Shelter House is the planned location. The Swap is open to the public from 1-5 p.m. Swappers will be allowed to set up beginning at noon. The traditional pizza supper will follow the Swap, and the meeting will begin after supper.

The 2011 Show plans are coming along nicely. Most of the contracts have been returned. Wooly volunteered to contact the museum to find out why their contract has not been received by us.

### NEW BUSINESS:

President Wooldridge offered praise for all of Richard Peterson's contributions to the Pick & Shovel. Other members were encouraged to submit items. Sharon Marburger reminded the Pebble Pups that they, too, could submit items. Corey Beer asked if he could draw a picture, to which a joyful "definitely" was responded.

### PEBBLE PUPS:

The Pups enjoyed the potluck and Rock Bingo with the adults. No separate lesson was given, nor will there be one in January, due to the Swap and Silent Auction activities.

### A NEW REIGN:

Outgoing President Charles Wooldridge ceremoniously "passed the gavel" to incoming President, Richard Peterson. As Wooly forgot to bring the gavel, the gavel-passing was basically a fist bump, causing much laughter.

As Richard Peterson's first official action, a commemorative plaque was given to Wooly for his service to the club as president. His second official action was to present the Rockhound of the Year award, which went to James Marburger.

The meeting adjourned to Rock Bingo at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Ed Dvorak, second by Karen Messenger. Motion carried.

Members donated an unprecedented amount of prizes for the Rock Bingo awards. Everyone had a great time, especially the winners claiming five prizes per win. What a great group. A special thank you to all who contributed.

There was a gift exchange for anyone caring to participate. If a gift was brought, one was selected. Everyone left with a filled tummy, prizes and/or gifts, and full of the spirit of the season.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Marburger*



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### LGMC Board Meeting, Dec. 1, 2010, Gere Library

The December meeting was called to order by President Charles Wooldridge. Board members present were Charles Wooldridge, Roger Pittard, Al Stewart, Vera Lyman, Ed Dvorak, Richard Peterson and Ed Ridge. Jim and Sharon Marburger attended telephonically. Robert Cropp and Jim Atkins attended as visitors.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes of the November meeting were read. Ed Dvorak moved to accept the minutes, second by Roger Pittard. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was distributed. Al Stewart moved to accept the report, second by Ed Dvorak. Motion carried.

The proposed changes to the By-Laws were approved by the general membership.

The Christmas Party will be December 12 at 5:00 p.m., supper at 6:00. A notation is to be published in the Pick & Shovel, asking for Bingo prizes.

The Rock Swap will be on January 22, 2011. A pizza supper will be held following the Swap and prior to the general meeting. Vera will make the anniversary cake.

### NEW BUSINESS:

There will be no Rock Party in December, due to the holidays. The Marburgers offered to host the next Rock Party on January 29, 2011.

Jim Atkins requested to take the floor regarding the website. It is time to renew the domain. There was some concern over the web host, so Jim Marburger offered to help get the site moved to a new host. It appears as though the move will net a reduction in costs.

Ed Dvorak reported that many new vendors have contacted us, requesting to be a part of the 2011 Show. He is going to draft a form letter to be used in responding to these requests.

At Ed Dvorak's acceptance, Vera Lyman moved to accept him as the 2012 Show Chairman, second by Ed Ridge. Motion carried.

The hobby demonstrations at Independence House went very well. Roger Pabian demonstrated stone drilling and Al Stewart demonstrated lapidary.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. on a motion by Roger Pittard, second by Al Stewart. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sharon Marburger*



## J J & L Rocks & Minerals

P.O. Box 68  
Hickman, NE 68372

330 Locust  
Hickman, NE 68372

John Harrison  
Lee Harrison  
402.792.2337

James Marburger  
Sharon Marburger  
402.792.2348

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Proudly serving  
the hobby for  
35 years



**Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's  
53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show**



***“Wonders of the Earth”***

**held in conjunction with the  
Nebraska Association of Earth Sciences Clubs' Annual Show**

**April 2 & 3, 2011**

**Saturday,  
April 2**

**9:00 - 6:00**

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

**Sunday,  
April 3**

**10:00 - 5:00**

[www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org)

**Featuring Dealers, Gemstones, Minerals,  
Agates, Fossils, Jasper, Petrified Wood,  
Jewelry, Beads, Gem and Jewelry Making  
Equipment and Supplies, Demonstrations,  
Educational Programs, Rough and Uncut  
Gems, Children's Activities, and much  
more.**

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\$9 for a 2-day pass  
Bring this coupon for \$1 off admission for  
each adult in party**

**Free  
Parking!**

## STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Audit                      | John Harrison<br>James Marburger<br>[OPEN]                 |
| Christmas Party            | Edward Ridge   |
| Education / Librarian      | Charles Wooldridge<br>Judy Cropp                           |
| Field Trips                | James Marburger  |
| Geology Day Coordinator    | Aulden Stewart   |
| Grinding Party             | Aulden Stewart   |
| Historian                  | Sharon Marburger   |
| Legislative Liaison        | Richard Peterson   |
| Membership Record          | Edward Ridge   |
| MWF Liaison                | Vera Lyman   |
| Programs                   | Richard Peterson   |
| Property                   | James Marburger  |
| Refreshments / Door Prizes | Mary Pittard   |
| Scholarship                | Vera Lyman   |
| Show—2011                  | Ed Dvorak  |
| Swap—2011                  | Richard Peterson   |
| Website                    | Jim Atkins   |
| Youth Activities           | Stella Thiessen<br>Vera Lyman<br>Dan Cromer<br>Kay Jurgens |

## LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>1 year</b>  | Edward Ridge<br>Robert Cropp           |
| <b>2 years</b> | Charles Wooldridge<br>Sharon Marburger |
| <b>3 years</b> | Vera Lyman<br>[OPEN]                   |

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

|         |                            |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 3 years | Brad Nielsen<br>[OPEN]     |
| 2 years | Robert Cropp<br>Judy Cropp |
| 1 year  | Vera Lyman<br>Edward Ridge |

## 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.

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5342  
Lincoln, NE 68505-0342  
Or e-mail newsletters to:  
lgmsecretary@yahoo.com

# PICK & SHOVEL

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, and that a reprint of the article is sent to the editor of the *PICK & SHOVEL*.

## Your PICK & SHOVEL staff:

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**Circulation:** Vera Lyman, 402-464-6089  
**Reporters:** All members are encouraged to submit articles, poetry, or drawings.

## **A special thanks to this month's contributors:**

Richard Peterson, John Harrison, Susy McMahan, and Roger Pittard.

