

SHOW REVIEWS

by Clyde Ogg

This year's show was awesome! My time was split between volunteering, buying, looking, learning, and just plain enjoying myself. I was able to add some great fossils and fluorescent minerals to my collection, and met and talked to nearly all the dealers. Every single person I talked to was excited to be there; the dealers were happy with the show, and most of them were experiencing better than expected sales. The demonstration booths looked to be busy, fun, and educational for everyone both days of the show. The participants were genuinely excited about the show and were full of questions and enthusiasm. This electric environment made everything more fun and was easy to be part of.

I spent several hours each day relieving Cathy Talmadge at the fluorescent demonstration and display. This experience was rewarding for me because of the learning, education, and fun that we all enjoyed. And, the close proximity to the Stiles' fluorescent demonstration booth to the fluorescent display worked beautifully; in part because we were both able to send participants to one another in order to answer all questions and enhance learning.

As we all know, events like this are only possible with the help of our volunteers. I wish to add my thanks to all the devoted and hard working volunteers. It was evident to me that, because of the volunteers, the show ran much smoother than what I saw last year. The setup was much faster and easier, and the clean-up and packing of the trailer was better by far.

Looking forward to next year!



Clyde visiting one of the dealers (green shirt, back left)
photo by Jayne Beer

by Jim Marburger

Recovering from COVID, our plans changed for the show, but Sharon and I knew the slack would be taken up by other club members. Most of my responsibilities were things done prior to the show. Advertising contacts were set up and scheduled three to nine months before the show. This involved notices sent out to the Midwest Federation, post cards for the show (5,000), Visitors' Bureau, Rock and Gem magazine, Buy Nebraska magazine, Channel 8 TV, internet

calendars, Thrifty Nickle, and Facebook ads, just to mention a few. We are also responsible to move the club trailer from its storage location to the show site, then return after the show. There was upkeep and repair of the black lights and other items for the show. Materials for the Silent Auction were rounded up and transported to the show site. Our show display case items had to be gathered and then presented for display at the show. Jeff Kubitz stepped up and ran the Silent Auction in our place since we were going to be absent from the show. (Thank you, Jeff!)

Sharon got a call Saturday afternoon saying that information sheets, membership applications, and junior information sheets were all used and handed out. Sharon printed the replacement items and we went to the show on Sunday. Although we were no longer contagious, having served our 14 day isolation, we wore masks for everyone's safety. We sold raffle tickets for the pyrite grand prizes. At 4:00 Sunday afternoon, the two winners were drawn. Stephanie from Wilber won the 3 pound pyrite, and Charlotte from Malcolm won the 1.5 inch square pyrite crystal with a baby crystal on top. Congratulations to them!

Upon arriving before the show opened, everyone we encountered said that we missed a crazy day on Saturday. Wall to wall people ALL day!

Sunday gave a good steady stream of people coming in. The aisles were full of people with packages, or bags full of precious items purchased from the dealers. Walking around the show, it was very evident that the dealers presented spectacular items for sale. My budget was blown.

This year the attendees were different from past shows. The makeup of the crowd was younger families with kids along with the seasoned collectors. There was much interest in all aspects of the hobby. Excitement about the show oozed out of everyone.

This show ranks in the top four shows we have ever sponsored. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare for and worked at the show. Many new friendships were formed.

On to the next club project, the Summer Swap.

by Donitte Stiles

Last year Mike and I were a one display case "winner" and attendees. This year, putting together three display cases and being fluorescent demonstrators was quite stressful, but so rewarding at the actual event.

Attendees that had never seen UV reactive "rocks" were amazed and almost overwhelmed with their inquisitiveness. Seeing the children's wide eyes and hearing all the "oohhs, aahhs, and wows" were so satisfying. (Children's ages from 1 to 90 years old!)

Our new involvement in the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club is a true enjoyment in our "almost" retirement lives. We are looking forward to learning more in the hopes of being able to share knowledge in the future as well.

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We have great appreciation for all the hard work involved in putting this great event together, and we are looking forward to next year's show and the many other events throughout the year.



borrowed from internet



Mike & Donitte
photos by Stiles Family

by Jayne Beer

Thank you all for attending the 2023 63rd annual show! It was such a successful show. We had great attendance and I think the dealers went above and beyond to bring their very best merchandise for us to see.

I thought the show looked better than ever this year. Brett worked so hard to get all the displays lined up and Eddie made sure they all had a case to fill. We had fantastic help setting up, working the show, and taking down. It all went seamlessly. We worked so well as a team.

I noticed that by the time people got back to the demonstrator area that they were not worn out as you might think they'd be, but excited by everything they had seen. I got to see lots of show and tell; some amazing things were purchased.

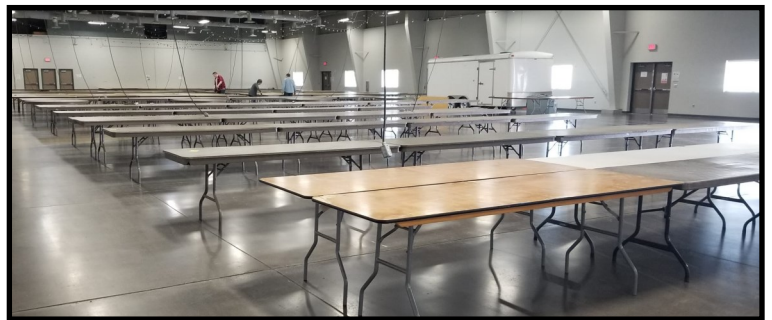
People are excited about the upcoming swap at the Beer farm and cannot wait for that event.

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3 photos by
Jayne Beer

FROM



TO



Photo by Stiles Family

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED!



Fluorescent display
photo by Clyde Ogg

SHOW REVIEWS - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

by Sharon Marburger

As Jim mentioned in his review, we did not attend the show on Saturday as we were still trying to get our strength back following a bout of COVID. I heard that Saturday was fabulous! Attendance topped out at nearly 1,730 on Saturday and a little over 1,100 on Sunday. It truly comes down to advertising. Several people mentioned hearing about the show on Facebook; Jim really pushed the Facebook ads.

As always, on both days, our intrepid team of Vera Lyman and Jim Atkins sold admission tickets. That job requires keeping your wits about you. Gene Mulinex sold Dealer Gift Certificate raffle tickets like they were hotcakes going out of style. Several different volunteers sold Pyrite Specimen raffle tickets on Saturday, and Jim and I took over on Sunday. The specimen was donated so all money from the ticket sales went to the club. Eric Fritsch (Omaha club) provided specimen identification, and Jeff Kubitz manned the Silent Auction with several different helpers. Cathy Talmadge (Omaha club) ran the fluorescent display in the trailer. As Brett mentions in the Juniors article, he had lots of volunteer help in the Juniors booth.

The fourteen dealers had a magnificent selection of items for sale. I confess; both Jim and I spent our budget on new specimens. Now to get to the basement to work on them.



Gene Mulinex announces hourly winner in Dealer Raffle, and draws attention to various activities at the Show. Jim and Sharon sell Pyrite Raffle tickets

photo by Clyde Ogg

Our demonstrators provided a nice array of fun things to do in the hobby. There was lapidary, polishing, carving, flint knapping, wire wrapping, how to flat lap, mineral identification, learning about fluorescent rocks, and silversmithing.

For those not familiar with the Dealer Gift Certificates, they are a \$20 credit to each one of the two dealers selected that hour. The certificates are the same as cash to the dealer. There are 28 certificates raffled off during the show. At the end of the show, each dealer is reimbursed for its gift certificates, using the proceeds of the raffle.

The Pyrite Raffle was a raffle specific to this show, "All That Glitters is Not Gold". The 3 pound specimen was donated; and a second, 1½ inch square pyrite crystal with a baby crystal sitting on top, was donated during the show. Both specimens were very nice. The winner of the larger specimen was Stephanie from Wilber. Her 14-yr-old son was very excited to win. The second place winner was Charlotte from Malcolm. As a side note, we met her cousin from California at the Pittards' auction last year. Charlotte

was thrilled to be able to send the pyrite specimen to her cousin.

The displays were exceptional this year. As mentioned in Brett's President's Message, there were 50 displays this year. Wow!! Compared to other shows that have none, or just a couple displays, well, we blew them out of the water! Displays are really what the show is about. It's a show, not a market.



As we did last year, we asked the visitors to vote for their favorite display case, including one as Most Educational. It was surprising to me that the Most Educational display chosen, by a factor of 5, was the Club's "Gems On Location". How exciting for the club to win by a landslide!

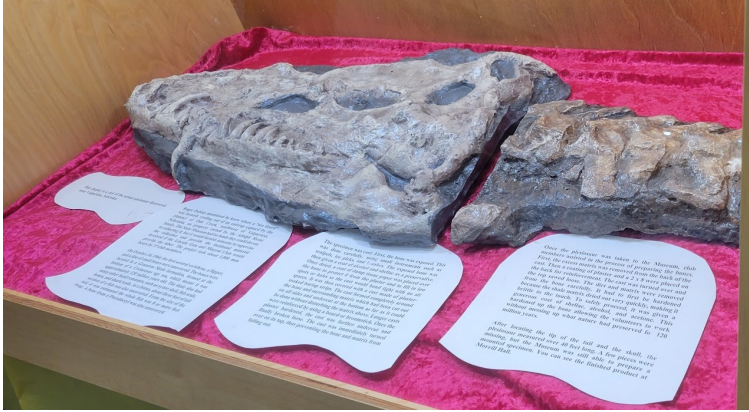
The top three displays chosen as "Best of Show" were: 1st - Lapis by Arvid Olson; 2nd - Specimens Collected During LGMC Field Trips by Jim Marburger; and 3rd - Mixed Specimens by Mike & Donitte Stiles. (next page)



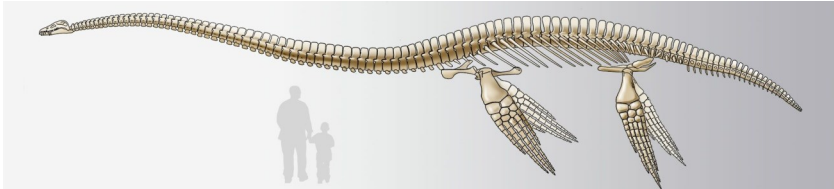
The club put together a show themed display of pyrite. Several members offered up personal pieces to display. The specimens showed some of the many ways that pyrite can manifest itself.

Back in 1964, a club member discovered a large marine reptile near Valparaiso, Nebraska. It was later determined to be a plesiosaur. Many club members helped to excavate "Pleezy" and once excavated, the fossilized bones were given to the State Museum. A plaster cast was given to the club, and after all these years, Wooly asked Lynn Borysenko of Ainsworth, Nebraska to prepare the cast to better show the fossilized structure. (next page)

SHOW REVIEWS - CONTINUED



s://museum.unl.edu/collections/vertebrate-paleontology/highway-paleontology/



1st Place - Lapis (Arvid Olson)

photo by Sharon Marburger



2nd Place - Specimens Collected During LGMC Field Trips (Jim Marburger)

photo by Sharon Marburger



3rd Place - Mixed Specimens (Mike & Donitte Stiles)

photo by Stiles Family



Slow period at the Juniors Booth

photo by Jayne Beer

[SHOW REVIEWS - CONTINUED](#)



A very nice, show themed display by Mike & Donitte Stiles
photo by Stiles Family



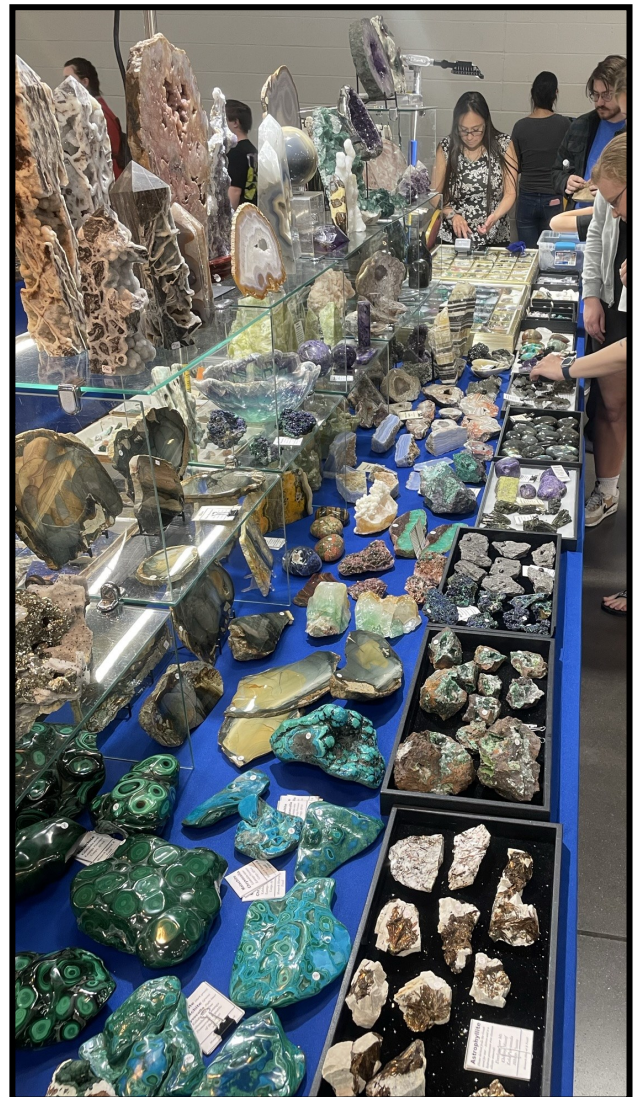
One of the editor's favorite cases, by Corey Beer
Photo by Jayne Beer



Club member and one of the show dealers, Brad Nielsen, shows off a tusk
photo by Jim Atkins



photo by Jayne Beer



A sample of some of the beautiful items
offered by the dealers

photo by Clyde Ogg