

FLUORESCENT MINERAL DISPLAY AT THE 2024 LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

by Clyde Ogg

There were several positive improvements to the 2024 Gem and Mineral Show's Fluorescent Mineral Display. The most important change was the replacement of the obsolete ultraviolet ("UV") lights with bigger, brighter, and better ones. Participants were able to learn more about UV light and fluorescent minerals with an informational poster and a booklet listing the most common fluorescent minerals. And both Lincoln and Omaha club members stepped up big time and volunteered to help with setup, hosting/presenting, and teardown of the display. I wish to extend a huge THANK YOU to all those that helped make this year's show a success!

Planning for the new UV lights began early last year, but they almost didn't arrive in time for the show. The longwave ("LW") and midwave ("MW") light units were received before setup time, however, the shortwave ("SW") light unit did not arrive until after 5:00 on Friday. Brett's mom (Kay Jurgens) kindly brought the late-arriving SW light unit to us so it could be installed in time for the show. Thanks Kay! Our new UV lights are designed to output LW, MW, and SW light, to produce beautiful fluorescent reactions by the mineral specimens in the club display. Because we now have all three wavelengths, the hosts/presenters were able to compare how each wavelength causes unique responses by each mineral. Everybody loved the new lights and thought they worked great!

I adapted information, with permission from The Fluorescent Mineral Society (<https://uvminerals.org/>), to develop an informational poster and a booklet with pictures and details about each of the most common fluorescent minerals. These resources allowed everyone to learn about UV light and fluorescent minerals. The use of these resources permitted hosts/presenters to refer participants with questions to the poster and booklet, thus allowing everyone to focus on the fluorescent mineral display.

Some club members don't realize what goes on "behind the scenes" at the show. If you haven't helped with setup, hosting/presenting, or teardown in the past, I encourage you to do so at future shows. Volunteers are essential to the success and smooth conduct of the show in general, and particularly the Fluorescent Mineral Display. This year, several members from both the Lincoln and Omaha clubs helped with all aspects of making the Fluorescent Display successful. Special thanks to Terry Anderson (setup and new electrical connections), Katlin Brown (host/presenter and teardown), Brett Jurgens (general guidance and specimen loans), Jeff Kubitz (host/presenter), Blake Marlar (host/presenter), Charisse Stillahn (host/presenter and teardown), and Kathy Talmadge (setup, specimen loans, host/presenter, and teardown). I got acquainted with some new members and renewed friendships with several others. Volunteers not only learned more about fluorescent minerals and got to know other members, but they also went home with a feeling of satisfaction helping to create a positive experience for interested show participants.

2024 SHOW - PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Photos by Sharon Marburger



Brett Jurgens' case of *Nebraska Chalcedony* won First Place in Show Theme Display.



Mike and Donitte Stiles' case of *Crystals* won Second Place in overall displays.



Eric Fritzsch's case of *Solar Eclipse Path Minerals* won First Place in Most Educational Display.



Corey Beer's case of *Nebraska Specimens* won Third Place in overall displays.



Anne Malone's case of *Fossils* won First Place in overall displays.

**CONGRATULATIONS
WINNERS!!
THANKS TO
EVERYONE WHO
PROVIDED A DISPLAY
AT THE SHOW.**

2024 SHOW VOLUNTEERS

By Sharon Marburger, with photos by John Moss

Many thanks to each of the Show volunteers. Some were LGMC members, some were Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club (Omaha) members, and some were family and friends. Each volunteer was greatly appreciated. There is a lot of work putting on a show, most of which is setup and teardown. The more volunteers, the more time can be spent enjoying the Show. There were other volunteers who avoided the camera, but we thank them as much as we do those photographed.

I also take this time and space to thank member John Moss, for documenting the sweat and fun of the 2024 Show. You did a fabulous job, John, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart!



Event Center worker hanging our banner.



The two main table-coverers, Sheryl Olson and Judith Bay



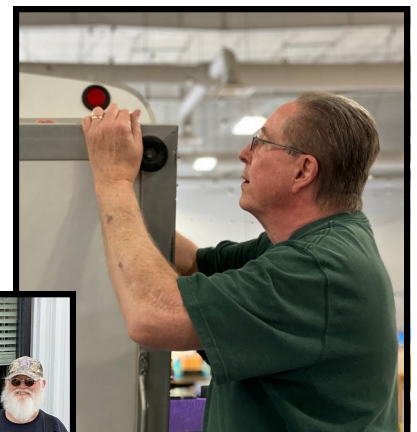
Brett Jurgens and Kevin Schwartman begin the task of unloading the trailer



Michelle Sitzmann (Mike & Donitte's daughter) setting up display cases before the show. Just go in reverse to tear down after the show.



There were lots of helpers putting up (and tearing down) the display cases.



Clyde Ogg securing a fan at the rear of the trailer to provide a little cooling for the fluorescent display at the front of the trailer.



Clyde Ogg and Terry Anderson preparing to install the new UV lights in the fluorescent display. Terry's electrical experience made the installation a piece o' rock (I mean, cake).



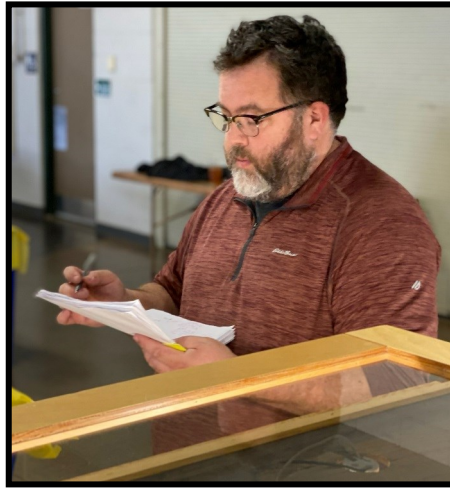
Corey Beer, Terry Anderson, Alan Gossman, and Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge greeted the Yankee Hill Landscaping truck that dumped a load of donated river rock for the Nebraska Rock Pile. These gents also "salted" the rock pile with Nebraska-collected rocks and fossils donated by members.



2024 SHOW VOLUNTEERS



Gene Mulinix running power cords for display lighting.



Brett checking his list of displays and assigning cases.



Sharon M. and Jim Atkins manned ticket sales this year. Vera Lyman, not pictured, stamped attendees' hands and distributed Show Programs and awards ballots. This was an experimental year accepting debit and credit cards for entry fees. Seems to have worked well.



Wooly and Katlin working the Club Booth, providing information and answering questions.



Jim Marburger at the Rock Pile swaps stories with long-time member Norm Balliet. They each have belonged to LGMC for 55 years!!

DEALERS

The dealers were too busy to pose for pictures. John managed to capture this one of Randy Kessler (Kessler on the Rocks) while he was setting up.

Although not photographed, we appreciate each and every dealer at the Show.



Christy (Stiles' other daughter) and Kevin Schwartman removing table covers after Show.



Charisse Stillahn disposing of used covers.



DEMONSTRATORS

John captured a few of the demonstrators. They are a wily bunch, escaping the camera.



Corey Beer demonstrated lapidary, but he is shown here with one of his display cases.



Charles Bachle demonstrated rock tumbling.



Nycky Lytle demonstrated stone and crystal wire wrapping and weaving.



Jim Schmidt showed how to make stone kaleidoscopes.



Greg Syslo demonstrated cutting rocks.



Connie McCartney demonstrated carving.



Jan Jackson demonstrated bracelet beading.



Ed Ridge demonstrated lapidary.