

THE MID-WINTER SWAP

By Sharon Marburger

The 2024 Mid-Winter Swap appears to have been a huge success. We did things a little differently this year, starting with allowing vendors to sign up online, thus eliminating the crush on the day to get a table. This worked very well, making the atmosphere quite calm. One vendor was not able to make it to the Swap, so that gave another vendor who wanted a full table the opportunity to claim that table. With a little rearranging, we were able to give two other vendors each a half table more since no one from the waiting list was on the premises.

The club was able to purchase a permit from the City to accept cash and credit cards this year, allowing elimination of "Swapper Bucks". The use of Swapper Bucks gave LGMC 10% of all sales, which money was set aside to support the Lapidary Class, including replacement equipment and consumable supplies. The club made up that money by charging \$3 for admission. The public and the vendors were happy to not have to hassle with Swapper Bucks, and those working the entrance booth were happy to not have to compute and log every sale. It was determined, after fears of losing money by not having Swapper Bucks, that we profited as much as we would have using the Bucks.

See KLKN TV's article under Tidbits by Wooly on page 6, and take the opportunity to view 2nd Vice President and Committee Chair, Jayne Beer's interview, using the link provided.

2024 MID-WINTER SWAP PHOTOS



Newest LGMC member, Hanif,
selling Lapis and other items
Photo by Jayne Beer



Mike and Donitte enjoying time
with their customers
Photo by Jayne Beer



New vendors this year,
Charlotte and James
Photo by Jayne Beer



Nyky showing dad and
daughter how to wire wrap
Photo by Jayne Beer

Photos by the Marburgers



Corey and some interested juniors



Jon waiting to answer questions
about his wares



MacNabb and son take a break
between customers

There was a fantastic number of attendees at this year's Swap!



TIDBITS FROM WOOLY

Online article submitted by Charles “Wooly” Wooldridge

WOOLY: Sounds like there needs to be a helpline:
1-800-KICK-ROCKS

View the video at <https://www.klknv.com/it-leads-to-an-addiction-hundreds-of-lincoln-collectors-gather-to-swap-rocks/>

‘It leads to an addiction’: Hundreds of Lincoln collectors gather to swap rocks by Matthew Mittlieder

LINCOLN, Neb. (KLKN) – Rock hounds from around Lincoln met at Bethany Park on Sunday afternoon to trade and sell their stones.

The rock swap was hosted by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club and featured numerous collectors.

This was the 43rd year it’s been held, and several hundred people turned out to participate.

Jayne Beer, a vice president of the club, said you don’t have to bring your own rocks; you can also buy them from others at the swap.

“We’re just amazed so far with how many people are showing up,” she said. “The last few years, people have really gotten into the hobby, and we’re kind of feeling a boom right now.”

Beer said many of the rocks are native to Nebraska, including agates, fossils and minerals.

She said rock collecting is fun for anyone, young or old.

“You can go out and find stones and cut and polish those, but almost always that leads to bigger, fancier stones,” Beer said. “Usually, it starts with things you found in landscape or in the rivers, but it leads to an addiction, I’m afraid.”

She said some of the less valuable rocks sell for as low as a quarter, but rare ones can reach up to \$1,000.

Members of the club also teach classes in Lincoln, where people can learn how to cut stones and make jewelry.

Editor’s Note: A big thank you to Matthew Mittlieder of KLKN TV for his interest in the event.



Photos by Jayne Beer



Rowdy brought a nice selection of items



Tammy and Allan



Randy and the rest of the room



Dick and Donna Farlow



Gene Mulinex



Kenny