

MID-WINTER SWAP REVIEW

By Sharon Marburger (photos by John Moss & Donitte Stiles)

The cold morning of January 18 found a group of us at the Lincoln Firefighters Reception Hall at 8:00 a.m. to lay out the floor plan of the Swap. Mike Stiles and Brian Beer measured out the booth spaces while Donitte Stiles placed tape on the floor to indicate booth boundaries. Sharon Marburger advised them of each booth size and provided Donitte sheets of paper indicating the person or business to occupy each space. Jayne Beer, as co-chairman, was there to answer questions and allow vendors in the building to set up – a half hour early.

Promptly at 11:00 a.m., the doors opened to the public. Sharon M. and Linda Hansen took the entry fees at the door. Of the 358 attendees, almost half arrived during the first hour. It was quite crowded in the building, a wonderful thing to see. The final count was 301 adults and 57 kids.

World Plates, a local food truck, provided lunch and snacks to everyone inside the building so no one had to stand out in the cold.

Brett Jurgens and his elves prepared a delicious pasta supper for vendors and club members. There were several different kinds of pasta with a marinara meat sauce, marinara lasagna, and an alfredo lasagna. Salad was also available, with some “finger food” desserts.

Following the meal, there was a short meeting where Brett announced that Norman Boettcher was awarded the 2025 Rockhound of the Year during the Swap since he couldn't stay for supper and meeting. Sharon handed out the Editor Awards to those who had not attended the awards ceremony at the Christmas party.

The cleanup began immediately after the meeting. Many thanks to everyone who pitched in to help. A special thanks to Brett and his elves for staying after everyone else left, making sure the venue was clean and ready for the next party to use.



Tim Aulner



Greg Syslo



Donitte & Mike Stiles



Ed Ridge



Patrick & Barb Carey



The Jeannerets - Aerie



Afghan Silver



Steve May & Dick Hedges



Gene Mulinix



Rowdy Cropp



The Illians – Natural Collective

MID-WINTER SWAP REVIEW - CONTINUED

Brad Nielsen



Randy Kessler



The Joebgens



Dick & Donna Farlow



Jim Marburger



Jayne Beer & Corey Beer – Hidden Gems



Eric & Carolyn Fritsch



Sharon Marburger & Linda Hansen working the entrance



Sharon thought this beautiful slice of an amethyst geode would make a great wall picture frame (or, in this case, a desk frame). Brad Nielsen was kind enough to pose to demonstrate the idea. Another million dollar idea from which Sharon will not benefit.



After setting up the club display, Clyde Ogg volunteers at the club rock pile



Kevin Schwartman & Sarah Nichols



Sheryl Olson & Hanif of Afghan Silver discuss a purchase



John loves this photo of Donitte shining the UV light on a specimen that refracts the light onto Mike's shirt



Left: John's pick of photos showing what was happening as Jan Amberg was putting things away. (Photo by John)
Right: Jan mopping "Dr." Lee Amberg's brow while washing dishes. Clyde & Barb Ogg helping. (Photo by Donitte)



Thanks to all of Brett's kitchen helpers. Not everyone is pictured or mentioned, but rest assured their help was absolutely needed and appreciated!