

ZOETIS-LPS-NOVARTIS SCIENCE FAIR

by Susy McMahan

Could it be? Yes!! Last year there were 700 students participating in the LPS Science Fair. This year, 800!! And we were part of the entertainment!!

This year we were in a different location, on the main floor! We were able to configure the tables into a rectangle, with the ever-popular gem dig along the two long sides. Ed Ridge brought his great displays, and answered questions on one end, and Corey and Jayne Beer worked on cabochons at the other end. At least Corey tried. He was fielding so many questions and explaining rocks and lapidary so steadily, he declared, "I finally just gave on trying to make a cab." He had some gorgeous face-outs!

Juniors Jayden, Mia, Brooklyn, Ian, Ivy, Ruby, and Ellie worked the gem-dig in shifts, passing out materials needed and answering questions about specific rocks. They all did a great job! Ruby has a future in not only rockhounding, but customer service. (A wish for next year - fossils to add to the mix.) They, of course, wanted to look at other cool exhibitors, so off they went in buddy fashion.

Adults Carolyn and Paul Ashmore, Linda Guenter, Brian and Jayne Beer, Ed Ridge, Sharon Schleiger, and Susy McMahan ran errands as needed. We all enjoyed the dinner provided, and were glad some families came and stayed, just in case. We also got our free t-shirts and goodies. We missed the juniors that couldn't make it. Most of all, I missed Al Stewart and his cabochons. We hope he gets his spunk back soon!

A big thank you goes out to Paul and our friend Bruce for re-vamping our lights. They were getting a bit wobbly, so we put some experts on the job. And of course, Carolyn, who put so much time into the fine details. She wasn't able to move around much, due to a recent foot vs. stair issue, but she deserves a break... Wait!... Not a break! Some nice sunshine and playing with some rocks time.

I could tell more stories; we all had a great time! Some of you might wonder why I am still here, and what happened to my shoulder surgery? The Flu - that is a guaranteed way for surgery to be cancelled. It will now be on St. Patrick's Day, which is fine with me, as I will have the luck of the Irish with me.

by Jayne Beer

In the short informational speech given while the volunteers were eating, we were told this was the biggest show so far, with over 800 kids. It was a busy afternoon and it was enjoyable to answer these young people's questions. They are always very interested in what we are doing. Many parents are very interested also. This year, several kiddos came up to say hi, mentioning that they have hung around our booth for several years now. It is fun to see how Corey has people, kids and parents, hanging around him the entire time, asking questions. He said, also, how much he enjoyed doing this show.



LGMC Booth



Jayden, Ellie, and Ruby



One of the Science Fair projects