

SCIENCE FAIR

by Corey Beer (photos by Brett Jurgens)

For quite a few years, the Club has participated in the LPS Science Fair. A group would attend, taking lapidary equipment to demonstrate cutting cabochons, stones for display, and the gem dig for kids to dig through.

For the past two years, the Science Fair was cancelled due to COVID concerns. On Sunday, February 26th, some customers came into the shop mentioning they would be displaying at the Science Fair. That got us wondering why we hadn't been contacted. Brett looked up the LPS website and contacted the number for the person in charge of the Fair to get some more information. He ended up hearing back from them the same day, and just like that, we were in! And just in time as the fair was only three days away!

We packed up a Genie lapidary machine, a small trim saw, and some florescent rocks to take to the Fair. After closing the shop early, we drove out to the Lancaster Event Center to get set up. The Fair started at 5 p.m. It was a blast as always! I ran the Genie for most of the Fair and demonstrated cabbing to many inquisitive kids and adults alike.

Brett brought along some very nice pieces of petrified wood for a touch table, so kids could pick up and inspect the pieces, seeing how it had been preserved and, in some cases, replaced by agate.

Eddie brought along his cases with a wide variety of material and gave lots of information on the material.

This year, we also had a small black light box full of minerals, which garnered many "Oohs" and "Ahhs" from all the curious students. And the most popular attraction was the gem dig. Always a fan favorite. There were many mini miners taking part and they got to take home a bag of gems. An interesting observation we always make is that there tends to be two types of kids when it comes to the gem dig. Some will sit for five minutes and only pick out a few of the biggest, shiniest stones, then want to be done. The second group will pick out even the smallest hidden gem and rough garnet, and once finished, they usually will want to search through the plate of the first kid. Speaking from experience, I was firmly in the second group as a kid.

All-in-all, it was another great science fair and we look forward to it again next year.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brett has provided the correct contact information to LPS so next year we should get plenty of advance notice of the Science Fair.



Corey demonstrating cabochon cutting



Left: Eddie with his displays

Bottom: Jayne and a group of avid mini miners at the Gem Dig

