

NEMAHA RIVER FIELD TRIP

By Sharon Marburger (photos by James & Sharon Marburger)

On October 23, a group of 12 club members and one visitor met at the Pawnee City Casey's to caravan to two locations on the South Fork of the Big Nemaha River for collecting.

The day was beautiful, sunny, and breezy. It was the perfect temperature for an outing.

It should be mentioned that the visitor on this trip was a reporter for NebraskaLand magazine. She will be writing an article on rock collecting in Nebraska, said article to be published in the spring of 2024. Wooly said she took hundreds of pictures. It will be interesting to see which of our members get memorialized in the magazine.

Wooly organized and led the group to the first location, commonly called "Broken Bridge". The hike from the parking area to the river was treacherous; maneuvering a barbed wire fence, then walking down a steep hill through trees and underbrush. If not careful, one could trip over exposed roots, downed trees, or one's own feet, or even get tangled in some lovely stinging nettles.

The river was very low, exposing lots of sand and gravel bars. The group quickly spread out, hunting for treasures. Some great finds were discovered. Check back next month for an article written by Corey Beer, on some of the finds. Among other specimens, there were lots of honey agate, brown jasper, shells, and some sparkly minerals.

The second location took us to Miles Ranch. Here, we could park the cars next to the river and walk the exposed gravel bars. There was not much exciting in the way of finds here, just the usual agates, jaspers, and petrified woods.

It was around 4:00 when we decided to call it a day. We drove to the Six-Mile Café outside of Dawson for supper. The food was delicious and plentiful. We ate until we could eat no more, and several take home boxes left the café.

It was a great field trip. Plan to join us on the next one!



Wooly describing what to expect



Brett and Eddie walking the river



Wooly, our intrepid leader



Climbing over the barbed wire fence

