

PRESIDENT'S FIELD TRIP

By Sharon Marburger

Several club members traveled to Crawford, Nebraska for Labor Day weekend to attend the annual Crawford Rock Swap in the City Park and go on collecting trips.

Labor Day weekend is usually when Jim and I celebrate our wedding anniversary. This year made 25 years. ROCKS! What a great way to celebrate!

The weather was beautiful, although a little warm. Crawford club members sprinkled down the road through the park with water to help keep the dust down. There was a fairly nice breeze most of the time; thank goodness it wasn't windy like last year!

At the north cul-de-sac, Charles Woodridge (Wooly), Jim Marburger, Ed Ridge, and Jayne and Corey Beer (with Jazeil) set up booths from which to sell goods. Brett Jurgens and mom, Kay, prepared meals for the group, and anyone else who wanted to eat, while Wooly kept an urn of delicious, free coffee going for most of each day. Our end of the park was very popular. People came to hang out with us and swap rock stories - and eat and drink. So many people visited us that we determined the need to have a donation jar available in future years so that the Jurgens family is not footing the bill. While we appreciate their generosity, it is not fair to them. Feeding 20 or more people a day gets expensive! (Ok, off my soap box.)

We counted 21 club members and Lincoln friends that attended the Swap. I have since learned that at least two others attended that I did not see. This was a fabulous turnout!

Jim and I did not attend the organized field trips due to Jim having a selling booth. However, we did go out on our own to collect chalcedony and petrified wood, then took a scenic drive around the grasslands.

There were great dealers/swappers at the event. I got some fabulous deals on slabs. (I love rocks!)

Jim picked up 5 gallon buckets of orange scented mineral oil for rock saws, available for purchase by our rockhound friends.

We were tightly packed on the way home with rocks for the club rock pile, buckets of oil, our tables, chairs, and table covers, pop-up tent, buckets of rocks to hold the tent down in the event of a windstorm, Jim's inventory, our finds this year, Jayne's chairs and tables, and a very large new-to-him display case for Brett.

It was a wonderful time for us all. We look forward to next year's trip!

As you saw on page 6, E-bear is visiting Nebraska. He went to Crawford with us, and got to visit the ghost town of Orella, Nebraska, then hunted for chalcedony next to the road. He was so excited to collect chalcedony that fluoresces a bright lime green. Some of it contains calcite that fluoresces pink or orange.

