



PICK & SHOVEL

February 2018, Volume 60, Issue 6

Editor: Sharon Marburger

2018 MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

General Meetings:

Regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House. Youth activities begin at 6:00 p.m.

Feb. 15 - Program by Eric Fritsch

Mar. 15	Sep. 20
Apr. 19	Oct. 18
May 10 (Special Date)	Nov. 15
	Dec. 2 (Christmas Party)

Board Meetings:

Board Meetings, unless otherwise stated, begin at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, at the home of Vera Lyman.

Feb. 28 (Mar. Meeting)	Sep. 5
Apr. 4	Oct. 3
May 2	Oct. 31
	Dec. 5

Activities:

[UPDATED]

February Rock Party at the Lyman Residence
Sunday, February 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Science Fair at the Lancaster Event Center
March 1, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jayne Beer

Greetings fellow rock nuts! We had a great turnout at our rock swap on January 27th! Thank you to everyone (sellers, buyers and volunteers) for coming out and enjoying a beautiful day in the park. If you missed it, you missed a super fun time! There were a pair of living, breathing dinosaurs walking around. No one was scared away; all I saw were smiles! This is preliminary, but I hear a rumor that our club did very well. Everyone enjoyed the pizza party and thanks to the few hearty folks that stuck around for the meeting on Saturday evening. We just barely made a quorum for the meeting.



Here is a little known fact; we must have a certain percentage of our board and a certain percentage of our general membership to be able to have an official meeting. So, if you are a paid member, you are part of that equation. We need you at our meetings!

Speaking of meetings, you are not going to want to miss the February 15th general meeting! We have an exciting guest coming to give us a special program! Eric Fritsch will give his slide show presentation entitled "Mineral Collecting in the Kola Peninsula (Russia). Eric took a trip to Murmansk, Russia and has created a great program about his experience.

We are getting closer to our diamond anniversary show (60 years!) at the Lancaster Event Center on April 7th and 8th! Please help us get the public there! We have a nice box of lovely postcards to get out into the public's hands. Pick them up at meetings, contact me and I'll try to drop some off to you, or contact Jim Marburger. Put them at businesses where you shop if they will let you. Doing this will reach a wide variety of the public. Also, if you are on Facebook, share the post. We need to get the word OUT!

Thank you to Sharon for taking the newsletter back over! Please send her articles and pictures!

We are beginning to talk about rock collecting trips this summer! We are working on a possible trip to Rapid City, South Dakota for the Rocky Mountain Federation Show and Convention, and associated field trips. There is also a Southeast Nebraska camping trip being discussed. Do you have any ideas? Let us know! CHEERS!

February Birthdays

Ed Dvorak
Allan Gossman
Charles Wooldridge

Happy Birthday!

JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

By James Marburger, Secretary

Board Meeting, January 3, 2018, Lyman residence.

Meeting called to order by 2nd Vice President Ed Ridge at 6:30 p.m.

Jayne Beer, President	Absent
Charles Wooldridge, 1st VP	Absent
Ed Ridge, 2nd VP	Present
Vera Lyman, Treasurer	Present
James Marburger, Secretary	Present
Ed Dvorak	Absent (arrived at 7 p.m.)
Corey Beer	Absent
Carolyn Ashmore	Present
Paul Ashmore	Present

Guests: Sharon Marburger, Pat Dvorak (arrived at 7 p.m.)

Minutes of last Board meeting were passed out. Motion to accept by Carolyn, second by Vera. Passed: 4 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Treasurer Report was given out. Motion to accept by Jim, second by Carolyn. Passed: 4 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Old Business:

Sharon Marburger reported that the Swap is all set up and ready to go. Advertising is out. See you there.

Vera reported that the Insurance Policy is to be rewritten in March with the new agent.

Vera also reported that the reissued check for the AMFS Scholarship was received by them. The original check is still lost.

A discussion on the Pick and Shovel that was sent to the Board of Directors. Jim is to contact Cynthia about the issue that should be out by January 15th and problems encountered with e-mail.

2018 calendars were given out by Vera.

The 2019 Swap chairman volunteer is Sharon Marburger. The 2019 Show chairman volunteer is Jayne Beer.

Vera will pay the deposit for the Event Center this week.

Vera reported that she is working on getting a special diamond display for the 2018 Gem Show. More information will be available once the deal is sealed. Jim reported that the Lincoln Visitor Bureau has been contacted with the show information.

No New Business.

Motion to adjourn by Paul, second by Ed D. Passed: 5 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

By James Marburger, Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Jayne Beer at 7 p.m.

Attendance: 26 members for the Pizza Party after the Swap; 19 members stayed for the meeting. Eight Mineral Monkeys attended their meeting after the swap.

Minutes of last meeting were printed in the Pick & Shovel. Motion by Charles Wooldridge to accept the minutes as published, second by Susy McMahan. Passed.

No Treasurer Report was available at the time of the meeting.

Old Business:

No old business from the floor.

Announcement from the President: We had a great swap today and even had dinosaurs visit. Attendance seemed to be up and a lot of material was seen leaving the building. Thanks to all that work to make it a success.

Upcoming Gem Shows in the area :

Macomb, Illinois - March 10 & 11
Cedar Rapids, Iowa - March 24 & 25
Lincoln, Nebraska - April 7 & 8
Wichita, Kansas - April 20 – 22

New Business:

Dues are due. A \$5 late fee will be assessed after January 31.

Eric Fritsch will present a program on Russian Minerals at the February general meeting.

The Rock Party for February will be hosted by Jayne and Judith at The Jewelry Connection. Date and time will be announced. The March Rock Party will tentatively be at the Wooldridge residence. Plan for the April Rock Party to be at the Marburgers after Roadside Clean-up. All of these dates will be confirmed and printed in the Pick and Shovel.

Sharon Marburger will continue as the editor, and wants to thank Cynthia for attempting to do the newsletter. Issues with e-mail and internet connectivity was an issue for Cynthia.

Show Postcards are here and need to be put out at the area businesses.

If you have any ideas for field trips or a summer campout, contact Jim Marburger. A field trip to South Dakota in July for the Rocky Mountain Federation Show is in the works.

Motion by Jim Marburger to adjourn the meeting, second by Charles Wooldridge. Passed.



February Rock Party

Come help us celebrate

18 de febrero

Lyman Residence

Sunday, February 18

4:00 p.m.

¡Taco Bar!

Enchiladas, Burritos

(cuz that's how we roll)

Beans, Rice, your Favorite
Mexican Dish

Bring your lapidary equipment, wire
wrapping projects, other projects

Share your knowledge with others

Or, come and brainstorm about
activities the club can do



Rock Party Archive Photo
Photo by Marburger

MARK YOUR CALENDARS; OFFER TO HOST

Future Rock Parties

- ◆ March will be hosted by Wooly and Jackie; date and time to be determined.
- ◆ April will be hosted by the Marburgers, in conjunction with the Spring Roadside Clean-Up. Date and time to be determined.
- ◆ Let the Board know if you would like to host:
 - ◇ May
 - ◇ June (may be preempted by camping trip, but there is no reason we can't do both!)
 - ◇ July (may be preempted by Rapid City field trip, but there is no reason we can't do both!)
 - ◇ August, September, or October
- ◆ November is usually hosted by The Jewelry Connection
- ◆ December is usually hosted by the Marburgers
- ◆ The Fall Roadside Clean-up is associated with the September or October party, so the Marburgers will host one of those months.

Hosting a party is easy!

- ◆ Pick a date and time
- ◆ Determine what the theme or main dish will be; other participants will provide side dishes.
- ◆ Provide plates and serveware.
- ◆ If you need card tables or folding chairs, let the Dvoraks or the Marburgers know. They will bring some if they are able to attend that month's party.
- ◆ Notify a Board member or let Sharon Marburger know.
- ◆ Have room (inside or outside) to set up equipment.
- ◆ If there is some aspect of the hobby you would like to have demonstrated at your party, let it be known and someone will offer to do it. We have great members who are willing to share their knowledge.
- ◆ That is pretty much it! Now, get ready to have some fun fellowship with other rock, mineral, and fossil enthusiasts!

Reserve your month now!!

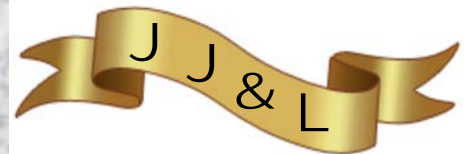
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the hobby for
42 years

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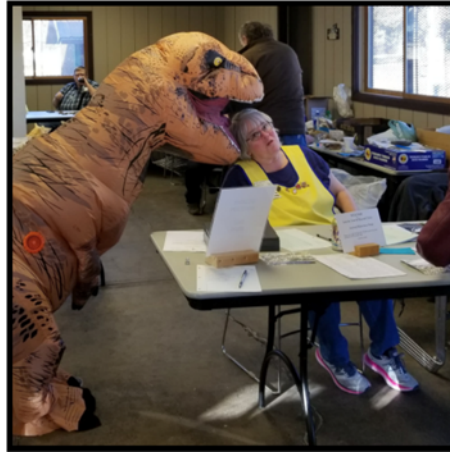
2018 MID-WINTER SWAP

by Sharon Marburger (photos by Jim Marburger and Jayne Beer)

The 2018 Mid-Winter Swap took place on Saturday, January 27 at the Bethany Park Shelter House in Lincoln. There were eleven vendors selling a wide variety of hobby-related items, and a very nice Silent Auction. We had very good attendance of club members and the public.

I was at the entrance helping Vera with greeting the public as they arrived, Swapper Buck sales, and taking in the Silent Auction proceeds, so I did not get an opportunity to wander around to see what all was going on. Someone must have sprinkled magic juice on some fossils. I was minding my own business when I suddenly was attacked by a fossil-come-to-life! Miss Carolyn offered a friendly welcome and was rewarded by getting her head bitten! Paul tried to rescue her by forcing open the dino's mouth, but the effort was useless.

Member Connie McCartney showed Mineral Monkey Mia how to carve an owl from a piece of wood. Mia was tickled that her work produced a recognizable owl.



Fortunately, Jim Marburger captured this lovely photo of Carolyn, so we have something by which to remember her.



As always, we had a fabulous pizza/lasagna/salad supper following the Swap. Delicious!

Fortunately, the two dinosaurs found wandering the park did not seem to bother any of the guests at the Swap. Most people went on shopping and visiting, paying little or no attention to the wild creatures wandering around.



There were lots of pretty rocks and minerals to look at and to purchase.



MINERAL MONKEYS

By Carolyn Ashmore

Well done juniors!!! It was good to see all of the junior members who showed up for this year's Swap. We had a beautiful, sunny day, apparently causing the dinosaurs to come out of hibernation. There were two of them roaming around the park.

I hope everyone had a chance to look around the Swap. Many used their Monkey Bucks to buy items for their collection. It was a fun day for everyone who attended.

Our next Lesson will be Unit 4 - Learning about Lapidary rocks. This unit will have us look at the most commonly used lapidary materials. February's meeting will be about Agates, one of the harder stones used in lapidary. For those of you who have faced a stone, made a cab, or done any lapidary project using Agates, please bring them to this meeting. We will share what they are and how you made them. I want to remind everyone that monthly rock parties are a great place to get guidance from senior members, and the machines to do a lapidary project are available if you don't have your own equipment at home.

In the next couple of months, we will be talking about and designing the displays cases we will be doing for the show this year, and what displays we will do for the youth booth. If you have any thoughts or ideas on what might be fun and educational, let us know at this meeting. **OUR SHOW IS COMING UP FAST!!!**



Thursday, March 1, 2018
at the
Lancaster Event Center
Setup at 4:00 p.m.
Open 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Contact Carolyn Ashmore
for more information.

WHAT IS AGATE?

According to Rocktumbler.com:

Agate is a translucent to semitransparent chalcedony. If you have a piece that is semitransparent you will be able to hold a very thin piece up and see distorted or foggy images through it. If you hold a translucent piece up to a source of light you will see a small amount of light passing through the thin edges. If you hold it up to the light and pass your hand between the material and the source of light, your hand will block the light passing through the material.

Agate is generally a banded material, and observing bands in a specimen of chalcedony is a very good clue that you have an agate. However, some agates do not have obvious bands. These are often translucent agates with plume-shaped, dendritic or mossy inclusions.

How Does Agate Form?

Many agates form in areas of volcanic activity where waters, rich in dissolved silica, flow through fractures and cavities in igneous rocks. When the solution is highly concentrated with dissolved silica, a silica gel can form on the walls of these cavities. That gel will slowly crystallize to form microcrystalline quartz.

Over time, additional layers of gel are deposited and these form younger bands of microcrystalline quartz on the walls of the cavity. If the dissolved mineral composition of the silica-rich water changes over time, impurities (elements other than silicon and oxygen) can be incorporated into the gel and into the microcrystalline quartz. These impurities can alter the color of the microcrystalline quartz. This can produce the color banding. Crystallization of foreign (non silica) materials is often what forms the plumes, dendrites, or mossy structures that are often seen in translucent agate.



STONES OF NEBRASKA: JADE TYPE II

Submitted by Cynthia Casselman

Copied from <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/conservationsurvey/2/> Minerals and Gemstones of Nebraska: A Handbook for Students and Collectors by Roger Pabian. Dr. Pabian was the Emeritus Research Geologist at the University of Nebraska and long-time member of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

All known jade from Nebraska is nephrite. Small amounts of nephrite have been collected from terrace gravels and gravel pits in the North Platte River basin and in the Middle and Lower Platte River basins. It originated in Precambrian metamorphic rocks in the Front Range in Wyoming. There are several claims in the Wyoming source area from which nephrite is now being mined. Most nephrite found in Nebraska is black. Black nephrite has been found near Mitchell and Henry, Scotts Bluff County; and Ashland, Saunders County. The Ashland material may be a Type III occurrence.



Nephrite has been found in the Cedar Bluffs Till in limited quantities near Nebraska City and Palmyra, Otoe County; and Humboldt, Richardson County; commonly found in glacial deposits. Nephrite from northern and western sources cuts and polishes in the same manner.

Nephrite is used almost exclusively for jewelry as it generally occurs in fragments that are too small for specimens. Nephrite grinds easily by almost any method. Sanding nephrite is difficult for it has a tendency to undercut. The texture of nephrite varies considerably from one piece of material to the next. Therefore, the technique used to get a glossy sanding job on one piece may fail on the next. The desired results may be produced by either wet- or dry-sanding. If one method fails, the cutter should try other methods until the desired effect is obtained. Generally, nephrite is easily polished with Linde-A on leather, but chromium oxide or stannic oxide may also produce a high, glossy polish.



Photo from Geology.com

THE KRUPP DIAMOND

Article idea submitted by Cynthia Casselman; written by Sharon Marburger

The Krupp Diamond is a large, asscher cut stone weighing 6.638 grams, or 33.19 carats. The white/colorless stone is believed to have been mined in the Golconda region of India. It was originally purchased by German industrialist, Alfred Krupp, in the early 1950s, for his wife, Vera, having set it in a ring. Stories say that Vera wore the ring everywhere, rarely removing it from her finger. Sometime during the mid-1950s, Vera Krupp, feeling neglected by her husband, moved to the United States. In 1959, the ring was stolen right off her finger. The FBI was able to recover the diamond approximately 6 weeks after it was stolen. Vera had the stone reset as a ring, keeping it in her possession until her death in 1967.

You've never heard of the Krupp Diamond? How about the Elizabeth Taylor Diamond? In 1968, Richard Burton, then husband of actress Elizabeth Taylor, purchased the Krupp Diamond for her. Several sources say that she wore the ring almost daily, calling it her favorite piece of jewelry. Burton reportedly paid \$307,000 for the diamond. In 2011, following Ms. Taylor's death, the stone sold at auction for \$8,818,500 to the South Korean conglomerate E-Land. Its estimated value today is somewhere in the vicinity of \$9,250,000.



Photo from famousdiamonds.tripod.com

Quite the price tag for a piece of carbon.

Silversmithing classes

**Tuesday Evenings
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**The Jewelry Connection Ltd.
Indian Village Shopping Ctr.
13th & Arapahoe, Lincoln**

Tuition: \$130 plus \$30 supply deposit

Schedule for 2018

Session 1: Jan 9 - Feb 27, 2018

Session 2: Mar 6 - Apr 24, 2018

Session 3: May 1 - Jun 19, 2018

Session 4: Aug 14 - Oct 2, 2018

Session 5: Oct 9 - Nov 27, 2018

**Contact: Jayne Beer 402-890-3307
Judith Bay 402-423-7058
jbeer60070@aol.com**

April 7 & 8, 2018

Diamond Festival

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club's 60th Annual Show!

<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org>

This Just In!
Special diamond display
to be provided by
A.T. Thomas Jewelers

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



**Youth Booth
Dealers
Exhibits
Demonstrators
Nebraska Gem Dig
Fluorescent Display**

**Admission:
\$6 per adult
\$11 2-day pass
Children 11 and under
free with paid adult**

**\$1 off paid admission
with a can donation to
the Food Bank!**



**April 7 & 8, 2018
Lancaster Event Center
Lincoln Room
84th & Havelock
Lincoln, Nebraska
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

let's have some fun!

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON JUNE SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA FIELD TRIP

By Sharon Marburger

Jim Marburger and Charles Wooldridge are working on the details of a camping field trip to occur in June. Depending on where members indicate what they would like to collect or places they would like to visit, the campground will be Alexandria State Recreation Area, Rock Creek Station, or Steele City Campground. The camp base will be determined by the proximity to most of the collection/visitation sites.

Camping at Alexandria requires a State Park Permit. The annual permit costs \$31; daily permit costs \$6. I believe there is also a camping fee, but I haven't located it on the state website yet. If you choose to fish, you will need to purchase a fishing license, too.

Camping at Rock Creek Station requires a State Park Permit. The annual permit costs \$31; daily permit costs \$6. I believe there is also a camping fee, but I haven't located it on the state website yet. Showers are available mid-April through late October. Tent sites and RV sites are available by reservation, visit www.OutdoorNebraska.gov/RockCreekStation All pads have hook-ups, camp grill or fire ring, and picnic table. All pads are paved. Tent sites have picnic table and grill or fire ring.

Steele City is located 12 miles southeast of Fairbury or 12 miles north of Washington, Kansas. Camping at the Steele City Campground costs \$14 per day for RV, \$5 per day for tents. Electricity, water & sewer are available. For more information contact (402) 442-2360 or (402) 613-1299.

Should you prefer to stay at a motel, I understand from various club members that the Capri Motel in Fairbury is the economical place to stay.

Please let one or both of these field trip coordinators where you would like to go, or what materials you would like to collect, or places you would like to visit.

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON JULY FIELD TRIP TO RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

By Sharon Marburger

The Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society will be hosting its 38th Annual Gem and Mineral Show in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Annual Convention on July 20 through July 22, 2018. All show events will be held inside the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Barnett Arena in Rapid City, South Dakota. Admission to the show is \$4 per day, children 12 and under are free with adult. The club is advertising presentations (speakers), special events, and children's activities, in addition to the usual show fare of dealers and demonstrators.

Wednesday and Thursday prior to the show (July 18 & 19), and Monday and Tuesday following the show (July 23 & 24) have been allocated for guided tours of local geological sites and national landmarks. The exact schedule and locations will be announced closer to the event dates.

LGMC field trips in southwest South Dakota and northwest Nebraska are in the works. If you know of a fun place to explore for rocks/minerals/fossils in those areas, or have GPS coordinates of locations, let Jim Marburger know. Remember, this event is in the middle of July, so plan on very hot temperatures. Make your plans accordingly.

The hosts of the convention have provided the following links for more information:

To view the Arena and downtown Rapid City events:

<https://www.gotmine.com/plan-your-visit/directions-parking>

Printable Badlands, Black Hills and Devil's Tower maps:

<http://blackhillsbadlands.com/maps>

Additional info available at the Visitor's Information Center:

<http://blackhillsbadlands.com/business/black-hills-visitor-information-center>

GUIDE TO GEM SHOW DISPLAY CASE DESIGN

Submitted by James Marburger, excerpted by Sharon Marburger

Information excerpted from Brandy Zzyzx's "Best Practices Guide to Gem Show Display Case Design." Full blog post can be found at <http://wheretofindrocks.com/best-practices-guide-to-gem-show-display-case-design/>

◆ **Pick a Theme or Statement of Purpose for your display case.**

What is the purpose for displaying my collection?

Answer 1: To showcase my collection of rocks & minerals.

In some instances the display case may be on a theme, such as minerals all the same size, all specimens from the same locality, or all the same type of mineral. Traditional display cases usually have very little, if any signage except for specimen labels, because the rocks, crystals, or gems are the main focus of the display.

Answer 2: To teach the people about rocks & minerals.

Display cases that are educational in nature can be scientific and technical in nature; or can contain a detailed timeline of the operations of particular locations or discovery history of a specific mineral type, including signs, graphs, charts, photos, and labels.

Answer 3: To share my experiences with rocks & minerals.

Display cases related to rocks and minerals but are telling a story or relaying a feeling or memory, are very different from the displays around them. These displays can contain someone's art, craft, or other creative endeavors; or be a memorial of photos and specimens of a departed collector or of a closed collecting location. This type of case is quite important as it can offer stories and history of our collective past that would be forgotten if not shared.

◆ **Plan and execute the actual design and presentation of your display case.**

The most visually appealing displays are ones that utilize all 3 dimensions; length, width, and height. In order to take full advantage of the entire volume of a display case; risers, pedestals, and other display accessories are used to not only provide height, but to assist in the viewing of all specimens equally.

For specimens of mixed sizes, place larger specimens in the back or on the sides of the display and alternate the spacing between rows to ensure optimal viewing of each specimen. Signs and photos can be used to add height to an otherwise empty display.

Select a case liner in a color that will showcase your specimens the best. For instance, if you are displaying a case of white or clear specimens, choose a dark colored background material to provide visual contrast. Neutral or natural colors are preferred for backgrounds, stands, and other non-specimen display items. However, a monochromatic color scheme, like a pink background for a case of hot pink rhodochrosite specimens, can also

be visually appealing. When considering color, remember that this element will change how your specimens and your overall display is perceived by viewers. Creative, but tasteful, use of color can enhance your display in some instances, but keep in mind, "less is more."

Use of cardboard, foam core, or wood cut to size and covered in fabric, secured in place by duct or masking tape, are best for back and side case inserts. The best fabrics to use are cotton, blends, suede, canvas, muslin, and flannel. Iron your fabric before securing it to the background board. Stands and risers can be made of wood, plastic, Styrofoam, Foam core, or cardboard. Paint or cover with fabric to enhance the display or to create a custom effect.

◆ **Make sure your rocks and minerals are display ready.**

Always display full, terminated crystals facing the viewer. Broken crystals should face toward the back or bottom when all possible.

Clean any dust or dirt from your minerals and rocks prior to displaying them.

Mount small specimens on stands or bases securely. Test under shaking and heat to ensure effectiveness of the mount.

Label your display. Use a clean, simple, font that is easy to read, and consistent throughout your display.

◆ **Practice, Prepare, Pack, Present**

Pay attention to the details, this is what will make or break the successful execution of your display.

Double check the spelling and grammar on all labels and signs.

Make sure dirt, dust, stains, or hair is removed from all fabric.

Check all mountings for stability and adhesion.

Do a practice set-up of your display case and see if all your specimens are clearly visible.

Take a photo of your practice display to use as a reference for real display day.

Bring all tools and accessories you may need to set up your display case.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Be sure to look up and follow the AFMS Uniform Rules if you plan to enter your display into competition.

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

WINDING JUMP RINGS

If you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.

To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.

SAWING JUMP RINGS

The difficult part of making jump rings for me has always been holding the coil while cutting off the individual rings. I use a saw to get the best fit when closing the rings later. I've seen all sorts of suggestions for ways to hold the coil, but the one that works best for me is this little jig made from scrap wood.

It's about 2 inches wide and 4-5 inches long with a groove cut down its length to cradle the coil of wire and a thin stop attached to the front end.

To cut the rings, thread your saw blade through the coil, hold the coil down in the groove and against the front stop, and saw through the bottom of the coil at about a 40 degree angle.

Don't forget to use some wax or cutting lube. It really does make a difference. If you don't believe me, do an experiment while you're cutting a lot of rings. Count how many rings can be cut before the blade breaks. First, do the test without lube, and then do it again while adding some lube to the blade after cutting every 8-10 rings.

DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chain making, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove this is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not to tumble for a long period with the pyramids because it will remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler? No problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you ever run into Brad at a gem show, take the time to visit with him. He is knowledgeable and entertaining!

Photos from the Bench Tips Facebook page

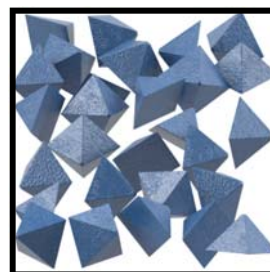
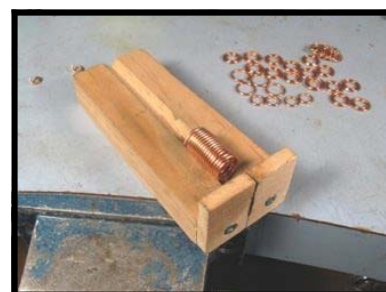


Photo from blobcore



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All members are encouraged to submit features, articles, poetry, or drawings.

LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Ed Dvorak, Chairman

- 1 year: Charles Wooldridge
Sharon Marburger
2 years: Vera Lyman
Jim Marburger
3 years: Pat Dvorak
Robert Gritit

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ed Dvorak, Chairman

- 1 year: Robert Gritit
Sharon Marburger
2 years: Jim Atkins
Andrew Tiedje
3 years: Linda Guenter
Vera Lyman

STANDING COMMITTEES**Audit:**

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer
James Marburger

Christmas Party:

Edward Ridge

Facebook:

Andrew Tiedje, James Marburger

Field Trips:

James Marburger

Historian:

Sharon Marburger

Legislative Liaison:

Susy McMahan

Membership Record:

Edward Ridge

MWF Liaison:

Vera Lyman

Programs:

Jayne Beer, Charles Wooldridge

Property:

James Marburger

Recognition/Awards:

Charles Wooldridge,
James Marburger, Ed Dvorak

Refreshments/Door Prizes:

Vera Lyman

Roadside Clean-up:

James Marburger

Scholarship:

Vera Lyman

Show—2018:

Jayne Beer

Swap—2019:

Sharon Marburger

Website:

Jim & Sharon Marburger

Youth Activities:

Carolyn Ashmore, Cindy Ramey

2018 SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jayne Beer
Dealers:..... Vera Lyman
Demonstrators: Vera Lyman
Displays:..... Jayne Beer
..... Ed Ridge
Event Center Liaison Vera Lyman
Finance & Ticket Sales:..... Jim Atkins
..... Vera Lyman
Floor Chairman: Ed Dvorak
..... Jayne Beer
Fluorescent Booth: Ed Dvorak
Forms..... Sharon Marburger
LGMC Club Booth:..... Charles Wooldridge
Nebraska Gem Dig: Charles Wooldridge
Plants: Ed Ridge
Printed Program:..... Sharon Marburger
Publicity & Promotion:..... Jim Marburger
Ribbons & Recognitions: .Sharon Marburger
Security: Vera Lyman
Show Flyer Jayne Beer
..... Sharon Marburger
Silent Auction:..... Sharon Marburger
Special Features:..... Vera Lyman
Web Master: Jim Marburger
..... Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities: Carolyn Ashmore

ADVERTISING, SUBSCRIPTION, AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Advertising by rock / hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board of Directors. Contact the Editor with your proposed ad. The rate is set at \$20.00 per full page; \$10.00 per 1/2 page; \$5.00 per 1/4 page (minimum) per issue, paid in advance to the Club treasurer. Ads will be placed throughout the newsletter as space permits.

Subscription to the Pick & Shovel is \$20.00 per year for mailed copy.

Membership dues for the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

- Adults (age 16 and over) - \$20 per year or \$30 per couple (within the same household)
- Juniors - \$3 per year (with a responsible adult)

All new memberships must be accompanied by a written application. Prospective members must gain Board approval and attend one regular meeting before being approved for membership. Applications are available on the website: <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/about/membership>.

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 5342
Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

Or e-mail newsletters to:
lgmc.editor@outlook.com



A color version of the Pick & Shovel is available at:
<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/index.php/newsletters/current>

PICK & SHOVEL

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All articles, tidbits, and photos not individually identified as being contributed to this publication are provided by the Editor.



**This Editor is
a member of
Special Congress
Representing Involved
Bulletin Editors**

UPCOMING AREA SHOWS

March 10-11: Macomb, Illinois

Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc.'s Annual Show
Western Illinois University Student Union Ballroom,
Murray Street

March 24-25: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Cedar Valley Rocks & Mineral Society's Annual Show
Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th St. SW

April 7-8: Lincoln, Nebraska

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club's Annual Show
Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock

April 20-22: Wichita, Kansas

Wichita Gem & Mineral Society's Annual Show
Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd.

The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences including but not necessarily limited to Geology, Paleontology and Mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these fields to its members and the general public, especially to youth and student groups.