



# PICK & SHOVEL

March 2018, Volume 60, Issue 7

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.

### **March 15 - Program by David Loope - *Iron Concretions in Utah and on Mars***

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

No meetings in June, July, or August

### 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.

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| Apr. 4 | Oct. 3  |
| May 2  | Oct. 31 |
| Sep. 5 | Dec. 5  |

### Activities:

March Rock Party at the Wooldridge Residence  
Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Wild Adventures Day at Pioneers Park  
March 31, 2018, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

60th Annual Show, "Diamond Festival"  
Special Display provided by A.T. Thomas Jewelers  
April 6 & 7, 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jayne Beer

I would like to start by thanking Eric Fritsch for the great talk he gave at the January meeting. I have heard over and over how much people enjoyed the slide show of his trip and what a great job he did of talking about the areas that he was in. It was so interesting to hear about the people and the lifestyle they lead. Of course, it was great to hear about the rock and mineral collecting in Russia as well.



It was also an enjoyable time at the grinding party at Vera's house. It was cold outside but warm and welcoming inside. There was delicious Mexican food galore! All the usual suspects were there. There was a good turnout with great conversation. There was reminiscing about Vera's husband, Glenn, and all the wonderful lapidary that he did. Fun talk about future rock hunting trips. Wooly brought a video about rock collecting. And then, of course, there was rock polishing.

We have good things to look forward to. On March 15th, you can attend the general meeting at 6:00 p.m. for the youth group and 7:00 p.m. for the adults. Wooly has another guest speaker for the program; David Loope will talk about iron concretions in Utah and on Mars. I hope you can make it.

The grinding party will be March 17th at Wooly's house. I hear tell of a fish fry! Hope for good mid-March weather .... Saturday, March 17th to be exact. I hope you can be there.

Remember that our annual show is right around the corner. I hope you know by now that it is April 7 & 8 at the Event Center. We have exciting things planned for this year's 60th anniversary show. If you have free time and would be willing to help, please let us know. Also, don't forget that we will have our rock pile out front of the show for people to go through, and we could use your excess Nebraska finds to add to the pile. Please bring them to the meeting or to the grinding party.

A memory came up on my Facebook account of us enjoying a beautiful sunny day out rock collecting on February 20, 2016. It definitely was not that nice this year. It has been a long cold winter, but we will soon start having days nice enough to get out and see what this cold weather heaved out of the ground for us to find. We are dreaming of spring! DREAM ON!

## **March Birthdays**

Pat Dvorak

Jayden Eno

Bob Gritit

Jim Marburger

Greg Syslo

*Happy Birthday!*

## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

By James Marburger, Secretary

### **Board Meeting, January 31, 2018, Lyman residence.**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jayne Beer.

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Jayne Beer, President      | Present |
| Charles Wooldridge, 1st VP | Present |
| Ed Ridge, 2nd VP           | Present |
| Vera Lyman, Treasurer      | Present |
| James Marburger, Secretary | Present |
| Ed Dvorak                  | Present |
| Corey Beer                 | Present |
| Carolyn Ashmore            | Present |
| Paul Ashmore               | Present |

Guests: Sharon Marburger, Pat Dvorak

Minutes of last Board meeting were passed out. Motion to accept by Carolyn, second by Vera. Passed: 9 yea, 0 no.

Treasurer's Report was given out. Motion to accept by James, second by Carolyn. Passed: 9 yea, 0 no.

#### **Old Business:**

The Lapidary Class requested supplies to replace worn diamond pads for the polishers. Motion by James to purchase the requested supplies for an estimated cost of \$500 to \$600, second by Charles. Passed: 9 yea, 0 no.

The Swap was a great success. A couple of issues occurred near the close of the Swap, regarding swapper bucks and pizza supper. First, there is confusion at the front sales table when trying to sell swapper bucks to customers and simultaneously redeeming them from vendors. It was suggested that sellers turn in their swapper bucks up at 5 p.m. and then return to pack up their table. The tellers can then count, record, and change the script to cash without being rushed and having people stand over them. This will eliminate congestion at the doorway and provides a more secure situation while handling cash. Sellers can then pick up their cash as they leave. The second item that came up was late requests for the pizza party after the order had been placed. It was suggested that anyone who plans to attend the pizza party, but is not able to attend the Swap, let the Swap Chairman know ahead of time, and pay in advance. This year, with the additional pizza ordered after the initial order, we collected significantly less money than was needed for the supper. Because of rising costs, Vera moved to raise the price of the pizza supper at the swap to \$7.00, second by Ed D. Passed: 9 yes, 0 no.

Food donations and cash donations totaling \$21.00 from the public were received for the food bank. These items will be added to the donations collected at the show in April. Motion by Vera to add \$29.00 to the \$21.00 collected to make a \$50.00 donation to the Food Bank from the Swap, second by Charles. Passed: 9 yes, 0 no.

Information on the Science Fair has been received. It will be March 1st from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Carolyn has the sign-up sheets and materials needed for the group.

The February Rock Party will be held at the Lyman's on the 18th at 4 p.m. It will be a taco party. The March party will be held at Woolly's and April will be at the Marburgers' after the Roadside Clean-Up.

Charles has lined up a great program by Eric Fritzsch on mineral collecting in Russia.

#### **New Business:**

None.

Motion by Charles to adjourn, second by Corey. Passed: 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

By James Marburger, Secretary

February 15, 2018. Meeting held at the Bethany Park Shelter. Meeting called to order by President Jayne Beer at 7 p.m.

Attendance: 20 adults, 4 Mineral Monkeys, 2 visitors, Ron and Kate Erickson.

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

Treasurer Report was read by Vera Lyman. Motion to accept the treasurer report as read by Sharon Marburger, second by Susy McMahan. Passed.

#### **Old Business:**

Announcement of Gem Shows in the area :

Kansas City, Missouri - March 9-11  
 Macomb, Illinois - March 10 & 11  
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa - March 24 & 25  
 Lincoln, Nebraska - April 7 & 8  
 Wichita, Kansas - April 20-22

Discussion of a field trip in association with the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention Show in Rapid City, SD on July 20 – 21 with field trips 2 days before and 2 plus days after the show. More information when it is available.

Roadside Clean-up is set for April 28 at 2 p.m. Meet at the old "Rest Area" on Hickman Road and Hwy 77, followed by a Rock Party at the Marburgers' in Hickman.

Reminder of Rock Party at the Lyman residence on February 18th at 4 p.m. A taco party.

See Carolyn Ashmore for information about the Science Fair on March 1 from 4 to 7:30 p.m.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 2)*

We have also been invited to present our program at Wild Adventure Day at Pioneer Park on March 31. Contact Jayne Beer to help with the gem dig and to answer questions about the club at this event.

March Rock Party will be held at the Wooldridge residence on March 17 at 5 p.m. Woolly and the Beers will provide fish for a fish fry.

### New Business:

The "Mini Miner Monthly Magazine" from Diamond Dan Publications is available by e-mail for junior members. To sign up for it, visit [www.diamonddanpublication.net](http://www.diamonddanpublication.net) or send an email to [powellpublicationsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:powellpublicationsgroup@gmail.com) and ask for the free issues of the Mini Miner Monthly Magazine.

If you have any pictures of our Mineral Monkeys doing any activities, please print them and send them to Carolyn Ashmore by next month's meeting so she can use them at the Youth Booth at the show in April.

Woolly is asking for donations for the Nebraska Gem Dig at the show. These Nebraska items will be added to the rock pile provided by General Excavating where our guests can collect and take home. The Gem Dig at the show is a great attraction and your donations are needed and appreciated.

Show postcards are available from Jayne Beer or James Marburger for distribution before the show.

Next month's program will be a presentation by David Loupes on Iron Concretions in southern Utah and Mars.

Motion by Susy McMahan to adjourn the meeting, second by Corey Beer. Passed.

Meeting adjourned to refreshments and a program by Eric Fritsch on collecting minerals in Russia.

## 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 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](mailto:jbeer60070@aol.com)

## March Rock Party



**Fish Fry**

**Wooldridge Residence  
Saturday, March 17  
5:00 p.m. (eat at 6)**

Participants are encouraged to  
bring St. Patrick's Day food items

Bring your lapidary equipment,  
wire wrapping projects, other  
projects

Share your knowledge with others

**Brainstorm about future  
club activities**

## [NEW EGYPTIAN DINOSAUR REVEALS ANCIENT LINK BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE](#)

Excerpted by LGMC Editor from PhysOrg article  
January 29, 2018, Ohio University

Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2018-01-egyptian-dinosaur-reveals-ancient-link.html#jCp>

When it comes to the final days of the dinosaurs, Africa is something of a blank page. Fossils found in Africa from the Late Cretaceous, the time period from 100 to 66 million years ago, are few and far between. Recently, a discovery of a new species of dinosaur in the Sahara Desert of Egypt is helping to fill in those gaps: *Mansourasaurus shahinae*, a school-bus-length, long-necked plant-eater with bony plates embedded in its skin.

The fossilized remains of *Mansourasaurus* were unearthed by an expedition undertaken by the Mansoura University Vertebrate Paleontology (MUV) initiative, an effort led by Dr. Hesham Sallam of the Department of Geology at Mansoura University in Mansoura, Egypt. Sallam is the lead author of the paper published today in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution* that names the new species. According to Sallam, “The discovery and extraction of *Mansourasaurus* was such an amazing experience for the MUV team. It was thrilling for my students to uncover bone after bone, as each new element we recovered helped to reveal who this giant dinosaur was.”

Dr. Eric Gorscak, a postdoctoral research scientist at The Field Museum and a contributing author on the study states, “*Mansourasaurus shahinae* is a key new dinosaur species, and a critical discovery for Egyptian and African paleontology. Africa remains a giant question mark in terms of land-dwelling animals at the end of the Age of Dinosaurs. *Mansourasaurus* helps us address longstanding questions about Africa’s fossil record and paleobiology—what animals were living there, and to what other species were these animals most closely related?”

During the earlier years of the dinosaurs, throughout much of the Triassic and Jurassic periods, all the continents were joined together as the supercontinent of Pangaea. During the Cretaceous Period, however, the continents began splitting apart and shifting towards the configuration we see today. Historically, it hasn’t been clear how well-

connected Africa was to other landmasses during this time or to what degree Africa’s animals may have been cut off from their neighbors. *Mansourasaurus*, as one of the few African dinosaurs known from this time period, helps to answer that question. By analyzing features of its bones, Sallam and his team determined that *Mansourasaurus* is more closely related to dinosaurs from Europe and Asia than it is to those found farther south in Africa or in South America. This, in turn, shows that at least some dinosaurs could move between Africa and Europe near the end of these animals’ reign. Gorscak concludes that Africa’s last dinosaurs weren’t completely isolated, contrary to what some have proposed in the past, and that there were still connections to Europe. The discovery of rare fossils like this sauropod dinosaur helps us understand how creatures moved across continents, and gives us a greater understanding of the evolutionary history of organisms in this region.

*Mansourasaurus* belongs to the group of long-necked, plant-eating sauropods known as *Titanosauria* that were common throughout much of the world during the Cretaceous. Titanosaurs are famous for including the largest land animals known to science, however, *Mansourasaurus* was moderate-sized for a titanosaur, roughly the weight of an African bull elephant. Its skeleton is important in being the most complete dinosaur specimen so far discovered from the end of the Cretaceous in Africa, preserving parts of the skull, the lower jaw, neck and back vertebrae, ribs, most of the shoulder and forelimb, part of the hind foot, and pieces of dermal plates.

Scientific discoveries are often compared to finding the missing puzzle pieces to complete a picture. Gorscak says this discovery is like finding an edge or corner piece used to help figure out what the picture is.

Suggestion for this article submitted by Martin Dougherty

## J J & L Rocks & Minerals

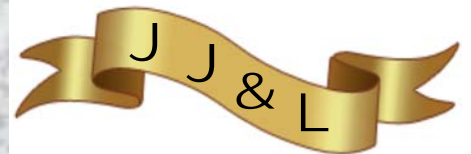
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jjlrocksmin - Ebay Username



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the hobby for  
42 years

## MINERAL MONKEYS

By Carolyn Ashmore

These next few months before Summer break are very important to attend. We will be making gem trees to take home that will take approximately 2 months to put together. At the March meeting, we will be making the tree part of this project, cutting the wire and picking out your gemstones. After making the trees, you will then take them home in a gallon bag, and then bring them to the April 19th meeting, when we will be hot-gluing them to the bases to complete the project. If you miss a meeting, you may not have an opportunity to get your tree completed by the last meeting in May before the summer month break.



### Reminder:

Any Parents/Grandparents/Members available to lend a hand with this project would be greatly appreciated. This is a first for me as well as the kids. And I know we all would enjoy your help and knowledge.

Also, if parents or grandparents have hot glue guns and glue sticks, please bring them to the April 19th meeting. Once we start the gluing process, we can't stop until it's finished. I'd like to have at least one glue gun per junior if possible. I will be bringing the work trays for the loose gemstones that we'll need for the bases to finish them up. I'm looking forward to seeing your creations. I know they will be awesome.

Don't forget! The March Rock Party will be held at Wooly's house on March 17 at 5:00. Ask your folks if you can attend! And read about the various field trips being set up for this summer. Family vacation time!

Rock on!

## WANTED

If you have any photos of the Mineral Monkeys working on lapidary projects, please print them and give to Carolyn. The pictures will be displayed at the Youth Booth during the 60th Annual Show!

## PROGRAM FOR MARCH GENERAL MEETING

*Iron Concretions in Utah and on Mars*  
Live presentation by David Loope, Ph.D.

Dr. Loope is currently located at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Most of his research has involved wind-blown sediments on the Great Plains (Quaternary) and on the Colorado Plateau (Pennsylvanian through Jurassic). A recently completed project focused on rain-slumped strata within the Navajo Sandstone along the Utah-Arizona border. In a collaboration with Clint Rowe, they have been trying to use the cross-strata in the Navajo to figure out atmospheric circulation over the supercontinent Pangea during the Early Jurassic.

His most recent work with Dick Kettler, Ross Secord, and Cara Burberry on three different projects include iron-rich concretions (southern Utah); rising anticlines (central Wyoming); and sheeting joints (southern Utah).

See more at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/bioscifacpub/198>



## FEBRUARY ROCK PARTY

By Sharon Marburger

The February Rock Party was hosted by Vera Lyman on Sunday the 18th. Tacos was the theme of the party. A magnificent array of items to build your own tacos and burritos was spread on the counter of Vera's basement kitchen. In addition to taco/burrito fixings, there was chicken tortilla soup, salad, chips, and several dessert items. As always, everything was delicious!

After talking and eating, and more talking and eating, Sharon and Corey set up a Genie lapidary machine to work on cabochons and stone face polishing.

Those who attended had a great time of eating, visiting, and working on lapidary. Taking into account that there are several activities going on in Arizona in February, and the club has several snowbirds, it is still somewhat sad that more members do not take advantage of the monthly rock parties. Everyone is welcome to participate. Addresses are not necessarily published, however, they are announced at the club meetings. As club members you have a directory of active memberships, including names, addresses, and phone numbers. It is a quarter-page sized booklet called the Who's Who. If you don't know the address of a Rock Party, you can always contact someone in the club who can provide that information, or direct you to someone who can.

These gatherings are fun! Join us at the next Rock Party, hosted by Jackie and Wooly, March 17 at 5:00 p.m.



Front and back of a piece of petrified wood. Corey plans to make it a pendant, mounting it so both sides can be seen.



Photo by Jayne Beer

Corey's gems (left) and Sharon's Mexican agate (bottom)



## THE SPIT AND WHITTLE CLUB

By James Marburger

Are you ready to join the Spit and Whittle Club in the world of lapidary? How many times have you been to a museum, gem and mineral show, art show, or even looking on the internet, and have seen gem stone carvings of birds, animals, lamps, bookends, chess sets, or any other type of stone carvings? Let's start the process of carving.

If you work in lapidary, you have already started to carve. Making a cabochon in either standard sizes or free form, is carving of stone. Carving can be as simple as shaping stone into another shape to be admired. Using your eye, you use the stone patterns to bring out pleasing features that are hidden in the stone. By doing lapidary, the

knowledge of stone and how to polish it is a big part of this journey. Each stone material has little hints of how to work it and what polish techniques to use.

Carving tools vary from a pocket knife, metal files, rasps, and wood sticks to diamond power tools, depending on the material and the speed at which removal of material is to be done. Most lapidaries have tools that will work for carving. These tools can be used in many ways.

Let's start with a simple and easy material to carve. Soap stone is available in many colors. Simple things like a hack saw for metal cutting can be used to cut or block

*(Continued on page 7)*

## THE SPIT AND WHITTLE CLUB—CONTINUED

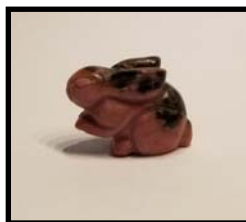
*(Continued from page 6)*

down the soap stone to a usable size for your project. Once the block is cut to general size, it is time to mark out on the sides of the block the design that you are going to carve. Use a pencil or even a fine felt tip pen to draw a rough sketch as these general marking on each side will guide you to the 3-D dimensions of your art project. Using the hack saw, large chunks can be trimmed from the block in a similar way as trimming of a cabochon blank out of a slab. This process can be done in small steps, or bites, until the rough shape is obtained. A sharp knife, along with metal files in various shapes, can now be used to start smoothing the shapes. As with any process in polishing of stone, now wet and dry sandpaper can be used to remove marks down to a polished surface or, depending on the carving, a mat finish.

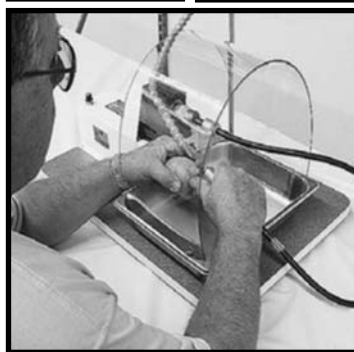
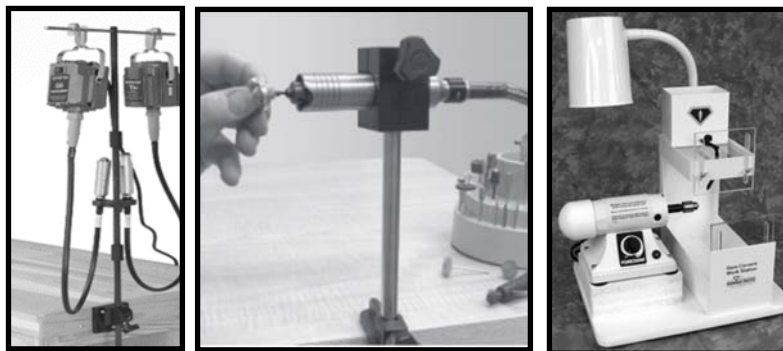
You will need to make several decisions before starting your carving or rock whittling. What materials are to be used in your project? This will dictate what tools will be needed, depending on your talent, availability of equipment, and speed at which material is to be removed. Diamond carving tools are available for use in power tools such as Dremel, Flex shaft tool, or even a carving station. The options are wide; your cash flow will dictate where your carving hobby will begin. Expensive tools are not needed, and some common tools can be used with minimal problems. Carving stations can be purchased, but if you already have a small bench top drill press, that could be your carving station. By adding a water drip system, it could be used with diamond carving tools. Drip systems can be made by using drip irrigation valves and tubing hooked to 2 gallon Hudson sprayer for pressure, or even an IV drip bag. Plastic shielding can be added to cut down on water spraying when water is used. Another tip for using water with diamond tools is to add a few drops of Dawn dish soap per gallon of water. This will make the water wetter and will flush the rock dust out away from the surface that is being worked. Additionally, it will extend the life of the cutting tools.

Have you ever wondered how the Mexican Onyx carvings are made and polished? The short answer is: most of the "carving" is done by using a standard lapidary saw blade to shape the items and then an acid bath will "polish" the calcite-based onyx. Yes, carving can be this simple.

Carving can be an excellent form of expression in the world of the spit and whittle club. The original spit and whittle club was from the time when people would gather to sit in the park or on a front porch to talk and carve items in wood for kids, or to carve canes out of wood. Now you can extend it to your art objects in stone and make new friends.



Photos by  
Sharon  
Marburger



Foredom flex shaft grinder and polisher to a carving station can be purchased or made with your own tools.



Some grinding points and slitter to aid in carving. These are available in many shapes, plated or even sintered ends depending on how long of life will be needed. There are also soft resin bonded points in finer grits to do the sanding and polishing of the carvings along with felt bobs depending on end polish powder that is used. Some power carving points can be made with wood dowels or even match sticks and grit either silicon carbide tumbling grit or diamond paste. You add the elbow grease to these manual sanding sticks.



Hand files can be diamond or the standard metal working files and rasps. Rasps are reduction and shaping tools and are crafted to quickly remove stone, leaving a smoother surface ready for additional carving and/or finishing.

A couple of items that will also be needed before starting power carving would be ground fault outlets to protect you from electrocution when using power tools with water. Dust masks or respirators when dry sanding to protect your lungs from the dust created. Many other safety considerations are needed, depending on conditions encountered in your carving adventure.

## HISTORY OF THE HOPE DIAMOND

Copied in part from the Smithsonian Institution  
<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/hope-diamond/history>

The history of the stone which was eventually named the Hope Diamond began when the French merchant traveler, Jean Baptiste Tavernier, purchased a 112 3/16-carat diamond. This diamond, which was most likely from the Kollur mine in Golconda, India, was somewhat triangular in shape and crudely cut. Its color was described by Tavernier as a "beautiful violet."

Tavernier sold the diamond to King Louis XIV of France in 1668 with 14 other large diamonds and several smaller ones. In 1673, the stone was recut by Sieur Pitau, the court jeweler, resulting in a 67 1/8-carat stone. In the royal inventories, its color was described as an intense steely-blue and the stone became known as the "Blue Diamond of the Crown," or the "French Blue." It was set in gold and suspended on a neck ribbon which the king wore on ceremonial occasions.

King Louis XV, in 1749, had the stone reset by court jeweler Andre Jacquemin, in a piece of ceremonial jewelry for the Order of the Golden Fleece (Toison D'Or). In 1791, after an attempt by Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette to flee France, the jewels of the French Royal Treasury were turned over to the government. During a week-long looting of the crown jewels in September of 1792, the French Blue diamond was stolen.

In 1812 a deep blue diamond described by John Francillion as weighing 177 grains (4 grains = 1 carat) was documented as being in the possession of London diamond merchant, Daniel Eliason. Strong evidence indicates that the stone was the recut French Blue and the same stone known today as the Hope Diamond. Several references suggest that it was acquired by King George IV of the United Kingdom. At his death in 1830, the king's debts were so enormous that the blue diamond was likely sold through private channels.

The first reference to the diamond's next owner is found in the 1839 entry of the gem collection catalog of the well-known Henry Philip Hope, the man from whom the diamond takes its name. Unfortunately, the catalog does not reveal where or from whom Hope acquired the diamond or how much he paid for it.

Following the death of Henry Philip Hope in 1839, and after much litigation, the diamond passed to his nephew, Henry Thomas Hope, and ultimately to the nephew's grandson, Lord Francis Hope. In 1901, Lord Francis Hope obtained permission from the Court of Chancery and his sisters to sell the stone to help pay off his debts. It was sold to a London dealer who quickly sold it to Joseph Frankels and Sons of New York City, who retained the stone in New York until they, in turn, needed cash. The diamond was next sold to Selim Habib who put it up for auction in Paris in 1909. It did not sell at the auction but was sold soon after to C.H. Rosenau and then resold to Pierre Cartier that same year.

In 1910 the Hope Diamond was shown to Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean, of Washington D.C., at Cartier's in Paris,

but she did not like the setting. Cartier had the diamond reset and took it to the U.S. where he left it with Mrs. McLean for a weekend. This strategy was successful. The sale was made in 1911 with the diamond mounted as a headpiece on a three-tiered circlet of large white diamonds. Sometime later it became the pendant on a diamond necklace as we know it today. Mrs. McLean's flamboyant ownership of the stone lasted until her death in 1947.

Harry Winston Inc. of New York City purchased Mrs. McLean's entire jewelry collection, including the Hope Diamond, from her estate in 1949. This collection also included the 94.8-carat Star of the East diamond, the 15-carat Star of the South diamond, a 9-carat green diamond, and a 31-carat diamond which is now called the McLean diamond.

For the next 10 years, the Hope Diamond was shown at many exhibits and charitable events world wide by Harry Winston Inc. as the central attraction of their Court of Jewels exhibition. On November 10, 1958, they donated the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian Institution, and almost immediately the great blue stone became its premier attraction.

The weight of the Hope Diamond for many years was reported to be 44.5 carats. In 1974, it was removed from its setting and found actually to weigh 45.52 carats. It is classified as a type IIb diamond, which are semiconductive and usually phosphoresce. The Hope Diamond phosphoresces a strong red color, which will last for several seconds after exposure to short wave ultra-violet light. The diamond's blue coloration is attributed to trace amounts of boron in the stone.

In the pendant surrounding the Hope Diamond are 16 white diamonds, both pear-shapes and cushion cuts. A bail is soldered to the pendant where Mrs. McLean would often attach other diamonds including the McLean diamond and the Star of the East. The necklace chain contains 45 white diamonds.

In December of 1988, a team from the Gemological Institute of America visited the Smithsonian to grade the great blue stone using present day techniques. They observed that the gem shows evidence of wear, has a remarkably strong phosphorescence, and that its clarity is slightly affected by a whitish graining which is common to blue diamonds. They described the color as a fancy dark grayish-blue. An examination on the same day by another gemologist using a very sensitive colorimeter revealed that there is a very slight violet component to the deep blue color which is imperceptible to the naked eye. Still, one can only wonder that the original 112 3/16-carat stone bought by Tavernier was described as "un beau violet" (a beautiful violet).

# 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**

### 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.

**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!**



# let's have some fun!

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## 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](http://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.

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## 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>

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**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

The *Pick & Shovel* is the official publication of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska. Articles and items appearing within may be reproduced in other club bulletins, provided proper credit is given to the *Pick & Shovel* and the author.



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.