

THE PICK & SHOVEL



In association with

The Official Publication of the
**Lincoln Gem &
Mineral Club, Inc.**



The Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and
Geological Societies



The American
Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

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.

Check upcoming issues of the Pick & Shovel, the website, and the LGMC Facebook Group for news about upcoming meetings and activities.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

THERE WILL NOT BE ANY IN-PERSON MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. LINCOLN PARKS & RECREATION HAS CLOSED DOWN BETHANY PARK SHELTER HOUSE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR DUE TO COVID-19.

BOARD MEETINGS:

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

(via Zoom)

Until further notice, Board Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month

Meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in attending via Zoom, contact Jim Marburger for the log-in information. You can attend Zoom meetings via computer, tablet, smart phone, or regular telephone. You are not required to use the video option; you may use voice only if desired.

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

FIELD TRIPS, ROCK PARTIES, OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The January Mid-Winter Swap has been cancelled due to the pandemic and closure of Lincoln Parks and Recreation facilities. In lieu of this cancellation, the Board of Directors is looking into holding a Summer Swap in June 2021. Stay tuned for more information.

The Annual Show is CANCELLED due to the pandemic.

Jim Marburger is working on another program, this one on tumbling and how to clean up between grits. Watch for more information on this upcoming program.

If you missed them, you can view the recorded presentations by Jim Marburger on How to Drill a Hole in a Rock and Charles Wooldridge's Fossil Prep.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/223555904325876/permalink/3835912216423542/>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T-HGSZvuNgg_0cCpws2oCl2Wg4bga7TR/view?fbclid=IwAR0SRhOSfax2AzuO1wa_P6QFdvBwsA4U0Z7ug5qbgH3ZgtP5a3bBezxFG4s

ELECTION RESULTS

As no other requests or nominations were received for the 2021 Board of Directors, the Board members remain the same as 2020. See page 3 for the list of officers and members, and their contact information.



December: Jim Atkins
 Janette VanButsel

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President**

Charles Wooldridge, 402.975.0416, charles.wooldridgeii@gmail.com

1st Vice-President

Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, JBeer60070@aol.com

2nd Vice-President

Brett Jurgens, 402.850.3256, quartz89@aol.com

Treasurer

Vera Lyman, 402.464.6089

Secretary

James Marburger, 402.430.6703, james.marburger@outlook.com

Board Member

Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

Board Member

Jeff Kubitz, 402.540.9395, jkubitz@neb.rr.com

Board Member

Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323, lgmc.editor@outlook.com

Board Member

Ed Ridge, 402.805.8248

LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

- 1 year: Linda Guenter
Vera Lyman
- 2 years: Brett Jurgens
Sharon Marburger
- 3 years: Jim Atkins
Open

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF**PUBLISHER:**

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
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Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342

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Vera Lyman
402-464-6089
Sharon Marburger
402.429.3323

DEADLINE:

Date of Board Meeting, usually 1st Thursday of the month.

STANDING COMMITTEES**Audio/Visual:**

Jayne Beer

Audit:

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer
James Marburger

Christmas Party:

Edward Ridge

Door Prizes:

Corey Beer, Brett Jurgens, Charles Wooldridge

Facebook:

James Marburger, Jayne Beer

Field Trips:

James Marburger

Historian:

Sharon Marburger

Legislative Liaison:

Susy McMahan

Membership Record:

Edward Ridge

MWF Liaison:

Vera Lyman

Programs:

Charles Wooldridge, Brett Jurgens

Property:

James Marburger

Recognition/Awards:

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer, Charles Wooldridge

Refreshments:

Vera Lyman

Show—2021:

CANCELLED

Swap—June 2021:

Corey Beer

Website:

Jim & Sharon Marburger

Youth Activities:

Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer, Sampson Bayer

ADVERTISING 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.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

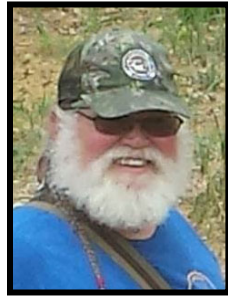
- Adults (age 16 and over) - \$20 per year or \$30 per couple (within the same household)
- Juniors - \$3 per year (with a responsible adult)

All new memberships must be accompanied by a written application. Prospective members must gain Board approval and attend one regular meeting before paying dues. Applications are available on the website: <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/about/membership>, or you may contact Treasurer Vera Lyman for a printed copy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Wooldridge

Meteorological winter has arrived but the weather seems to not be aware. Today the temperature is to be 10 to 15 degrees above normal. This follows a fall where Nebraska set many records for being the driest fall on record.



What does this have to do with rocks? It means that streams in Nebraska should be running lower than they have in years exposing new gravel, and it is warm enough to hunt them! It is not usual to have good rock hounding in December. We should all take a "safe" break from quarantine and take advantage of this anomaly.

The Board has reluctantly decided to cancel both the Mid-Winter Swap and April Gem Show in 2021. The current status of the pandemic makes planning for both events too unpredictable. There is good news, however! We are planning to host a Summer Swap on the last weekend in June at the Beer family farm near Ashland. The event will be open to the public, for both vendors and customers. There will be more information forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

Please share articles and pictures with Sharon. Let's keep in touch through the newsletter, especially while we can't be physically together.



Keep positive, stay safe, and test negative.

This is a "Candy Cane" agate Woolly found during the summer of 2020 near Fairbury, NE.

Silversmithing classes 2021 Schedule

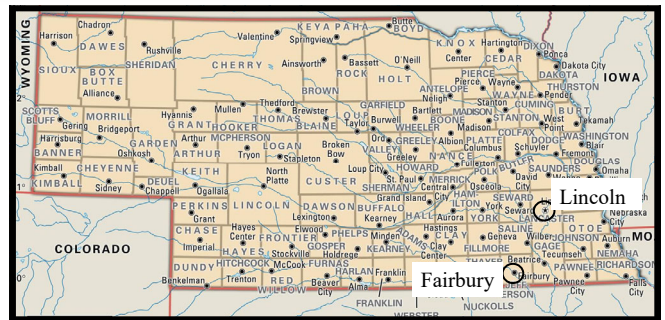
**Tuesday & Wednesday Evenings
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

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

Tuition: \$150 plus \$30 supply deposit

Session 1: Jan 5/6 - Mar 2/3

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



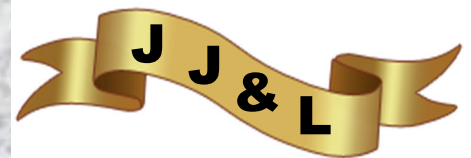
J J & L Rocks & Minerals

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**Proudly serving
the hobby for
44 years**

**jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com
www.jjlrocksandminerals.com
jjlrocksmin - Ebay Username**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting November 4, 2020. Meeting held via Zoom teleconferencing. Minutes recorded by Sharon Marburger, Asst. Secretary.

Meeting called to order by President Charles Wooldridge. The rules of meeting conduct continue to be suspended, due to COVID-19.

ROLL CALL

Charles Wooldridge	President	Present
Jayne Beer	1 VP	Present
Brett Jurgens	2VP	Late Arrival
Vera Lyman	Treasurer	Present
James Marburger	Secretary	Present
Corey Beer	Board	Present
Jeff Kubitz	Board	Present
Sharon Marburger	Board	Present
Ed Ridge	Board	Present

The Minutes were sent electronically and read aloud. Motion by Vera to accept the minutes, 2nd by Corey. Passed.

The Treasurer’s Report was read. Motion by Jim to accept the Treasurer’s Report, 2nd by Sharon. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The Audit has been completed.

There is no change in the status of the lapidary class equipment.

Wooly’s recorded presentation on fossil preparation is currently in progress. It should be done soon.

Due to the county and city restrictions on group gatherings, the Christmas Party is cancelled. The motion to cancel came from Vera, 2nd by Corey.

After discussion about the 2021 Mid-Winter Swap,

Jim moved to cancel, 2nd by Vera. There will be no 2021 Mid-Winter Swap due to the pandemic.

The decision on whether to have the 2021 Show has been tabled until the December Board meeting.

At this point, no requests to be accepted to the 2021 Board of Directors has been received. The deadline is November 19. Election results will be discussed at the December Board meeting.

With all the cancellations due to the pandemic, we are looking into having a summer swap. The Beer Family has volunteered the Beer Farm in Ashland to be the venue. Many questions about ordinances, porta potties, insurance, time of swap, possible admission cost, food, sales tax, tables, dealers/swappers, kids’ activities, and advertising need to be addressed. Anyone wishing to participate on the planning committee should contact Corey Beer.

The Youth Leaders are still asking for approximate 1-inch specimens to give to the kids for their collections. Please contact Brett Jurgens with your specimens.

Wooly’s back yard rock party had 12 attendees. He served root beer floats while everyone discussed rocks. The attendees had a great time.

NEW BUSINESS

Board meetings will revert to the usual time of 6:30 p.m. on the month’s designated Wednesday, with the exception of December. The December Board meeting will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 3.

Although 2020 memberships will roll over to 2021 with no charge, we still must pay our MWF dues. The MWF has determined to charge half price for its dues in 2021. This minimal charge will be paid for out of the general fund.

Vera moved to adjourn the meeting, Brett 2nd. Passed.



JUNIORS

By Brett Jurgens, Junior Co-Leader

Well, Christmas and New Years are right around the corner. In some aspects, this year has flown by. In others, it seems like one of the longest (and strangest) years I have experienced. The holidays are the busy time of year for me at work. I find myself longing for warm days and rock collecting - those times will be coming soon.

Our specimen kits are almost finished. Several club members have donated pieces to go in them. I still have to pick up specimens from a few members. Remember, please email me at quartz89@aol.com to make sure I have valid contact info and to figure out a time to drop off your kits.

I have one rock tumbler ready for someone to borrow to try their hand at tumbling. I even have the kit with the grits and rock so you have everything you need! Let me know if you are interested.

Be compassionate to others and stay safe.



Sample of a specimen kit.



Some recent cabochons from Wooly.

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

Brad's "How To" Books Make a Nice Holiday Gift.
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc., but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.



OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



ROCK TUMBLING CLEAN-UP

by James Marburger

Here we are, stuck inside our homes and not able to do much in the rock hobby. Many parents suddenly realize they can engage their kids with rock tumbling. The transformation of stones going from rough to polished gems should keep their interest going.

The clean-up between grit stages will give hints of the gems as they progress though the four week process of rotary tumbling. Depending on the size of the tumbler, clean-up can be done with a plastic colander and a pan, to a 5-gallon bucket. The following method for clean-up works best for me because I use tumbler barrels that are 12 pound size or larger.

In the pictured examples, the tumbler barrel is a 40 pound tumbler; YES, 40 pounds of rock. I use three 5-gallon buckets and about five gallons of water to wash up between grit runs.



To start with, you need 3 clean buckets and a piece of nylon window screen that is about 36 inches square.



Push the screen into the bucket to form a sack.



Get the tumbler ready to pour into the sack.



Pour into the bucket sack. Add about a gallon of fresh water and swish around and drain.



Move the bucket sack to the next bucket and rinse with a couple gallons of fresh water and swish around and drain. Then move the bucket sack to the third bucket for a final rinse and swish. The rocks should be clean enough to place back into the tumbler.



After each grit step, a wash cycle with Ivory bar soap is needed to remove any remaining grit from both the rocks and barrel. This large tumbler uses a half bar of soap and water to cover the rocks, then run overnight. Using the three bucket method, rinse everything and proceed to the next grit step. You will be surprised how much embedded grit washes out of the barrel. If not removed, this carryover of grit will hinder a good polish.



My 40 pound tumbler

Continued on page 8

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>

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ROCK TUMBLING CLEAN-UP - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7



Here are the finished gems after 4 weeks of tumbling, now about 25 to 30 pounds of tumbled stones.

All of the rinse water should be discarded out in the yard, driveway, or garden, Never put the rinse water down a drain as it will plug your pipes with a concrete sludge.

Happy tumbling and making beautiful gems with the kid in all of us.



✓ Please send your hobby-related photos ✓
 ✓ with captions or explanations for ✓
 ✓ publication in the Pick & Shovel. Field ✓
 ✓ trips, lapidary projects, fossil projects, ✓
 ✓ metal projects, wire wrapping, tumbling, ✓
 ✓ or any other activity of interest to the club. ✓
 ✓ Since we are not allowed to meet in ✓
 ✓ person at this time, it is important to share ✓
 ✓ with others what you are doing. Your ✓
 ✓ project may inspire someone else. Send ✓
 ✓ via email (lgmc.editor@outlook.com) or ✓
 ✓ via Facebook Messenger. ✓