



# PICK & SHOVEL

February 2020, Volume 62, Issue 6

Editor: Brett Jurgens

## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

### General Meetings:

Monthly meetings are held on the **third Thursday** of the month during February, March, April, May, September, October, and November. The January meeting is held on the **fourth Saturday** and also includes the Mid-Winter Rock Swap followed by a Club Supper. The December meeting is held on the **first Sunday** and includes the annual Awards Presentations and Potluck Christmas Party.

Youth activities begin at 6:00 p.m. and adult meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House.

**Next General Meeting  
February 20, 2020**

### Board Meetings:

**Most Board Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at the home of Vera Lyman, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

Exceptions: If the first day of a month falls on Thursday, the meetings will be changed to the **last Wednesday** of the **previous** month. This allows a minimum of 10-days public notice of the meetings, per Corporation rules.

**Next Board Meeting: March 4, 2020**

### Upcoming Activities:

**LPS Science Fair– Thursday, March 5, 2020**

**LGMC's 62nd Annual Gem and Mineral Show**

Set-up Friday April 3, 2020

Open to Public April 4-5, 2020

Volunteer and Display sign-up at upcoming meetings



**Charles Wooldridge**

**Ed Dvorak**

**Allan Gossman**

**A very special happy leap-birthday wish to Connie McCartney who will celebrate his 22nd birthday on February 29th.**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge

The problem:

Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department is evicting the Lapidary Class from the basement of the Auld Pavilion after the current session. The location in the basement has many problems. It is a fire inspector's nightmare. It is down steps generally cluttered with leaves, trash, or snow; there is not sufficient egress; the electricity is not up to code; and there have been problems with drainage.



The History:

The Lapidary Class has a long history, maybe as much as 50 years. For the last 25 years or so, it has been a joint venture between Lincoln Parks and Recreation, Southeast Community College, and Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. SCC provides marketing and pays the instructor. LGMC has provided the equipment and upkeep. Lincoln Parks and Recreation has provided the space.

Possible Solutions:

I met with the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Director, Lynn Johnson and Manager of Operations, Chris Myers on January 31st. They seem very committed to finding a new location for the class. They expressed a clear understanding of the class' value to the community. Some of the places they are going to pursue are the Lux Center for Art, Innovation Campus, and UNL's Recreation Department. Let me know if you think of other possibilities. I pledged the Club's assistance in the move to a new and better location. We will stay in touch and I will let you know of progress made. I left the meeting feeling hopeful this valued resource will be available in the future.

In other news, the Mid-Winter Swap was a success even though we were missing some of the usual participants. Attendance seemed lower than usual, I expect due to icy streets.

Rob Bozel, the state archeologist, will present a program on some recent projects in the Sandhills at the February meeting.

It is time to start planning your cases for the Annual Show the first weekend in April.

We are looking to do a field trip to Kentucky later in April. (See preliminary plans on page 4.)

## JUNIORS

By Brett Jurgens

I was glad to see several of you at the swap meet. It is a great opportunity to not only add to your collection, but also your knowledge about rocks and minerals. I am always amazed at how many different fields of interest there are within the rockhounding community. And, it was on display at the swap meet. I always look forward to visiting with some of the long-time vendors and their collections. Eric Fritsch has had a life-long interest in minerals, which is evident with the great minerals he brings to sell. Brad Nielsen has spent multiple summers mining for fossil fish in Wyoming. Dick Farlow has collected agates from around the world. With so many different interests, it can be hard to figure out what your own interests are.

For the next meeting, we will be discussing what currently interests you and what you would like to learn more about. We have curriculum through the Future Rockhounds program, but can also come up with our own as well. Please bring an example from your collection to show others what interests you. We will also have a specimen for you to take home to add to your collection.

April 4th and 5th is our club's annual rock show at the Lancaster Event Center. As usual, we will have the Junior booth set up with different activities for the public to participate in. This is a great opportunity to spread awareness of the club and junior program to the public, as well as raise funds for the junior program. We are always in need of volunteers to help run the booth. We will talk about this more at the meeting.

Thursday, March 5th is the LPS Science Fair. Once again, we will have a booth set up promoting the club. I believe we are covered with volunteers, but why not come out and check out the fair? Make sure to come by and say hi!

As Wooly reported in his president's message, we are in need of a new space for the lapidary class. Lincoln Parks and Recreation currently does not have any locations available, and they have committed to reaching out to other organizations to look for space.



**LGMC member Arvid Olson makes use of the club provided equipment at the Lapidary class.** - Brett Jurgens

We would like members to brainstorm for ideas as well. Jayne, Corey, and I visited a Saturday class to assess the amount of equipment for the upcoming move; there is quite a bit. The last day of class has been pushed back due to a snow day. We are not sure when everything will need to be out, but we will keep you posted.

## REPORT ON MID-WINTER SWAP

By Sharon Marburger, Swap Chair

Another Mid-Winter Swap is in the history books. January 25, 2020 was a cold winter day, with lots of ice on the ground. Even so, between 150 and 200 people braved the conditions to come to the swap.

There were 11 swapping vendors; family obligations reduced the number of swappers this year. A great silent auction area also contributed to the fun. Overall, it was a successful event.

I offer my personal thank you to Brett Jurgens who spent a significant amount of time breaking ice on the sidewalk so that the public could safely attend the event. Other thanks to those who brought snacks, helped with setup and teardown, and just lent a hand where needed.

I do not have any pictures because I was busy with overseeing the Swap, helping Vera at the door, and documenting silent auction sales.

## **Silversmithing classes**

**Tuesday 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 8 - Feb 26**

**Session 2: Mar 5 - Apr 23**

**Session 3: Apr 30 - Jun 18**

**Session 4: Aug 13 - Oct 1**

**Session 5: Oct 8 - Nov 26**

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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting January 8, 2020. Meeting at the Lyman residence. Minutes recorded by Jim Marburger, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by President Charles Wooldridge at 6:38 p.m.

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

Minutes of last meeting were handed out. Motion to accept the minutes by Vera, second by Ed R. Passed 7 yes.

Treasurer's report given out. Motion to accept by Corey, second by Brett. Passed 7 yes.

**Old Business:**

KC Gem show coming up. We have received their discount cards and will make them available to the membership.

Our Show cards are in and will be distributed at the January Mid-Winter Swap. Cards will be sent to KC Show with the Jeanerets as they are going as dealers.

Swap Chair, Sharon, will need the signs from the trailer, help for setup, and good weather. Advertising and Facebook notices have been set up.

**New Business:**

Notice to the club that Susan Taylor passed on December 19, 2019.

Treasurer Vera said the books are ready for the annual audit by the Audit committee. Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer, and James Marburger will schedule a time to meet with Vera soon.

March 5, 2020 is the Science Fair. Jayne will need to know the workers so they can sign up.

Program suggestions to Wooly are needed. February will be Bob Bozell, State Palentologist.

Motion to adjourn by Vera, second by Brett. Passed 7 yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**Dues are Past Due!**

See Page 5 for rates.

A late fee is assessed as of February 1st.

**Make sure to renew soon to avoid interruption of benefits and not making the Who's Who.**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Inc., January 25, 2020 at the Bethany Park Shelter  
Minutes recorded by Jim Marburger, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Charles Wooldridge. Twenty members were present; one visitor, Eric Fritzsch.

Minutes of the last meeting were published in the Pick and Shovel. Motion to accept the minutes by Sharon Marburger, second by Jeff Kubitz. Passed.

Treasurer's Report was given by Vera Lyman. Motion to accept the report by Ed Dvorak, second by Sharon Marburger. Passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Kentucky Field trip for end of April is in the planning stages with information coming soon. A suggestion to have a field trip to Highway 61 revisited – eastern Iowa and Missouri was suggested (geodes and such).

Upcoming programs: February will be Bob Bonzell, State Paleontologist. March will be Eric Fritzsch's program on gemstones. April will be James Marburger, Drilling Stones.

A big thank you for the club and its vendors for a great Swap today. Sharon had it under control all day. Everyone pitched in and set up tables for the swap. It was attended by somewhere around 150 to 200 visitors. Show cards were distributed and are available from James Marburger. A great pizza party after the swap was very filling. The club's birthday cake and celebration of 65 years was the frosting on the cake, so to speak.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rowdy Cropp gave a report on the Lapidary Class losing the use of the Auld Building. The last class is ending in February at this site. Many e-mails and personal contacts with the Parks and Recreation along with SCC. More information to come, but looking for a new site or solution for the class.

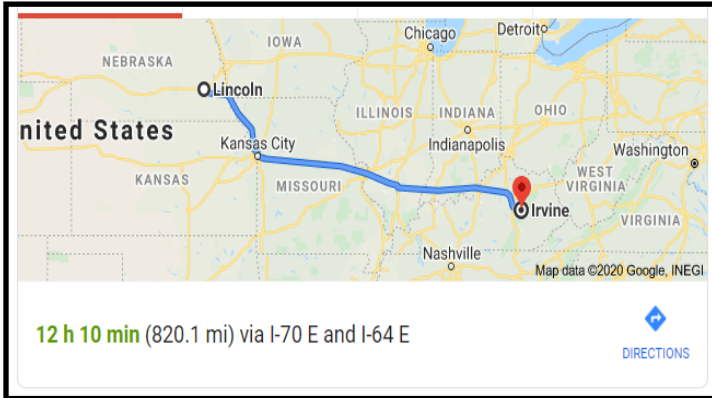
Motion to adjourn by Ed Dvorak, second by Jeff Kubitz. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

The Juniors are participating in a rock exchange with two other clubs. We are needing 15-20 pieces of a specimen to send to the other clubs. We would like to send some examples from Nebraska, but other specimens are also needed. Thank you in advance for supporting our Juniors Program!

## KENTUCKY FIELD TRIP

By Sharon Marburger

The trip to Irvine, Kentucky to hunt for agates is tentatively scheduled for the third full week in April, 2020. There will be more information in the March and April issues of the Pick & Shovel



Depending on your travel stamina, plan to leave Lincoln on the 19th or 20th. The gem show will be April 24, 25, and 26. At the time of this publication, agate hunts in association with the gem show are scheduled for April 21, 22, and 23. Our local contact plans to try to arrange some private field trips for us. If you are interested in attending, please let Field Trip Chair Jim Marburger know; we need to provide an accurate count of the number of people attending the private field trips.

The show coincides with the Mountain Mushroom Festival, which is also in Irvine. This event attracts approximately 20,000 visitors. You may check their website at <http://mountainmushroomfestival.org>. Please note that the website has not yet been updated to the 2020 event, but there is a notice that updates are coming soon.

I suggest if you plan to attend, make your accommodations reservations soon. Jim and I have booked the Holiday Inn Express in Richmond, Kentucky, which is approximately 20 miles from Irvine. Jim's contact states that there are limited hotels in the area, and with the additional visitors to the Mushroom Festival, it will be difficult to find rooms. Our contact also states that there are plenty of camping areas, should you choose to go that route.



Kentucky Agate: This is what we will be looking for—and hoping to find!

**SHOW POSTCARDS  
ARE AVAILABLE!  
SEE JIM MARBURGER.**

## J J & L Rocks & Minerals

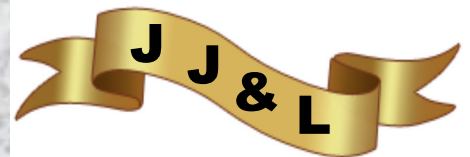
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Sharon Marburger  
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Proudly serving  
the hobby for  
44 years

# **Agates Around the World**

**Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club's 62nd Annual Show!**

**April 4 & 5, 2020**

**Lancaster Event Center**

**Lincoln Room**

**84th & Havelock**

**Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**Youth Booth**

**Dealers**

**Exhibits**

**Demonstrators**

**Nebraska Gem Dig**

**Fluorescent Display**



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

**Regular Admission:**

**\$6 per adult.**

**\$11 2-day pass.**

**Children 11 and under**

**free with paid adult.**

<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org>

## TUMBLE POLISHING JEWELRY

by Barrie Edwards

(Jim Marburger stumbled across this item a couple of years ago. All the credit goes to Barrie Edwards. You may contact him at [fvbeadshow@gmail.com](mailto:fvbeadshow@gmail.com))

This method of polishing jewelry involves a burnishing effect caused by the tumbling action of polished steel shot with your jewelry pieces, bringing them to a dazzling sparkle. The major benefits are:

1. No dust & particles flying around the room.
2. No half-polished pieces flying around the room!
3. No burned, blackened fingers.
4. And most importantly, requires none of your valuable time. You can sleep through the whole process if you want!

The only drawback I can figure is that you can't quite get a "mirror" finish on very large, flat surfaces. This would need a little machine buffing after the tumbling, but not nearly what you would normally have to do!

You will need the following equipment:

- rotary tumbler traditionally used for rock polishing (I use a Lortone 3A tumbler)
- enough polished steel shot to fill the barrel half full
- soap! I use Ivory bar soap (grated). You can use a liquid soap, but make sure it is "99 44/100% pure soap" NOT detergent!! Check the label of your soap carefully to make sure it is not a detergent you are using. Also, most jewelry suppliers carry a burnishing compound that would also work. \*\*Note that many people use Dawn Dish Soap in their tumblers as burnishing compound. Formulas are not the same in each country or even in each color! I have read that the blue is the best, however I've always used Ivory bar soap, and given the extra protection that the tallow in the soap gives the silver (it takes AGES for my silver jewelry to tarnish compared to tumbling with anything else!), I'm sticking to it. Your mileage may vary!

It's very important that you make sure the piece you are going to tumble is sanded (using emery paper or boards) as smooth as possible - just as if you were about to take it to the buffing machine. If you take extra care at this point, making sure you've removed any file marks and heavy scratches, you will save lots of time after it's polished. Tumbling with steel shot will NOT remove scratches and imperfections, it will just make them shiny!

Now, put the shot in the tumbler barrel. Fill with enough water to cover the shot by about 3/4 of an inch. Add one tablespoon of soap (I use an old cheese grater to shave the soap). Put your jewelry in the barrel, put the lid on tightly, plug the machine in, and then put the barrel on the machine. Leave it to rotate for 6 to 8 hours (I usually put the tumbler on just before going to bed). Remove the barrel from the tumbler, then remove the pieces from the barrel. Rinse very well with running water. That's it, you're done!! Now you can set your stones, if there are any, and you have a beautifully polished piece of jewelry.

A note about putting the lid on the barrel – do NOT overtighten the top screw. The inner lid (that's the round flat part that has a rubber gasket over it and a screw sticking up) is made of thin aluminum. When you put the top lid on over the inner lid and start screwing the knob tight, the inner lid starts to flex just a little. Tighten a little and you create a good seal. If you tighten the knob too tight, the flex in the inner lid won't seal properly and the barrel lids will pop open during the tumbling process, letting all your soap, water, shot and jewelry free to make one heck of a mess that you get to clean up. If this happens, it's not the end of the world (which is why we never put our tumblers over top of anything that will be harmed by a water leak!). Gather up all the messy stuff, rinse everything off really well and start over. You can use a magnet to collect the steel shot off the floor and from other nooks and crannies. To make sure you're not over-tightening the lid, screw the knob on finger tight (don't use all the strength you own!), then back it off just a smidge. If you're worried you have it too tight, put the whole tumbler assembly in a large rubbermaid container or clean plastic litter box. That will contain the mess until you're confident that you have the lid tightening process down pat!

At some point you may find that your silver looks dull and gray after tumbling for a length of time. This is the barrel breaking in – it doesn't usually happen right away but after a few tumbling sessions. If it should happen, remove your jewelry, rinse the shot well and return the shot to the barrel. Add enough FLAT Coke to cover the shot by about 1/2 an inch. Flat Coke is important so that it doesn't fizz out of control and pop your lid! Tumble with flat Coke for a couple of hours, rinse everything well, then put the shot back in the barrel with soap, tumble for a few hours. At this point, rinse one more time, add fresh soap, throw your sad looking jewelry back in with the shot and tumble for a few hours. It should come out shiny and pretty after all that. If not, repeat the procedure. It can take 2 or 3 runs with Coke to clean the barrel sufficiently.



Lapidary Class at Auld Pavillion basement (photo by Brett Jurgens)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Board Member**

Jeff Kubitz  
402.540.9395

**Board Member**

Sharon Marburger  
402.429.3323

**Board Member**

Ed Ridge, 402.805.8248

**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.

**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.

**2020 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..... Sharon Marburger,  
.....Jayne Beer  
Silent Auction: ..... Sharon Marburger  
Special Features: .....  
Web Masters: ..... Jim Marburger  
..... Sharon Marburger  
Youth Activities: ..... Brett Jurgens,  
..... Corey Beer, Sampson Bayer

**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:**

Andrew Tiedje, 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

**Scholarship:**

Vera Lyman

**Show—2020:**

Jayne Beer

**Swap—2020:**

Sharon Marburger

**Website:**

Jim & Sharon Marburger

**Youth Activities:**

Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer, Sampson Bayer

**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  
Andrew Tiedje

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

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P.O. Box 5342  
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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.

## HOST A ROCK PARTY

- ◆ Let the Board know if you would like to host February, March, April, or May.

### Hosting a party is easy!

- ◆ Pick a date and time.
- ◆ Determine what the theme or main dish will be.
- ◆ Provide plates and service ware.
- ◆ Have room (inside or outside) to set up equipment.
- ◆ You don't have to own your own equipment. Members bring what they have.
- ◆ Rock Parties provide great opportunities to learn something new in the hobby.
- ◆ Don't worry if you think you don't know enough about the hobby. There is usually someone in attendance who knows stuff, or knows where to find the information.
- ◆ Rock Parties provide the opportunity to get to know your fellow hobbyists and new club members.
- ◆ That is pretty much it! Now, get ready to have some fun fellowship with other rock, mineral, and fossil enthusiasts!

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.