

THE PICK & SHOVEL



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

In association with



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.

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DEADLINE:

Date of Board Meeting, usually 1st Wednesday 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

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Programs:

Charles Wooldridge, Brett Jurgens

Property:

James Marburger

Recognition/Awards:

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer, Charles Wooldridge

Refreshments:

Vera Lyman

Show—2021:**Swap—2021:**

Brett Jurgens

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.

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
September 17, 2020**

Tentative Program:
“Gemstone Drilling”
Live Presentation by Jim Marburger

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:
September 3, 2020**

SHOWS:

MWF Convention: Howell, Michigan
September 18-20, 2020

AFMS Convention: Knoxville, Tennessee
October 16-18, 2020

LGMC 2021 Show: Lincoln, Nebraska
April 3 & 4, 2021

FIELD TRIPS, ROCK PARTIES, OTHER ACTIVITIES:

At this time, no activities are planned, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



- March: Pat Dvorak
Bob Gruit
Jim Marburger
- April: Corey Beer
- May: Noah VanButsel
- June: Jayne Beer
Ellie Lyman
Ed Ridge



 ★
 ★ Rockhound? ★
 ★
 ★ There was a man who liked rocks but always stored ★
 ★ them in the attic. His wife one day said, “What ★
 ★ good are those rocks doing up in the attic?” He ★
 ★ replied, “When I leave this earth and go to heaven, ★
 ★ on my way up, I’m going to take them with me.” ★
 ★ One day he died. His wife went up to the attic to ★
 ★ see. They were all there. She said, “That’s what I ★
 ★ thought; he must have gone the other way.” ★
 ★
 ★ From May 1981 Pick & Shovel ★
 ★ via THE TEMPLATE, Feb. 1981 ★
 ★
 ★*****

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

MARCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge

March seems to be coming in like a lamb, at least around here. The warm weather makes me eager to get out there hunting for agates, fossils, and artifacts. Unfortunately, I have so many things needing to get finished (including this message) and I haven't the time.

The Board of Directors reluctantly determined at its March meeting to cancel the Kentucky field trip due to concerns about the Corona Virus. The Mushroom Festival and Rock Show we were going to attend draw tens of thousands of visitors. Many large gatherings are being terminated or postponed. As of today, there are 29 states, including Nebraska, affected. The concern for me is not that I might get sick, but that I may bring it back and give it to someone else. Last night, Jackie and I cancelled our reservations. Hopefully, we will be able to reschedule at a future time.

We have yet to secure a location for the Lapidary Class. Innovation Campus does not have a spot for us; neither does the Lux Art Center. Jayne Beer is checking with Speedway Real Estate and I am pursuing a possibility at the old Good Year Center. Lincoln Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Chris Meyers, will see if the University Recreation Department is a possibility. If you have other ideas, let me know ASAP.

We still need people to host Rock Parties. If you have attended one you know what a great opportunity these afford members to socialize with fellow "Recreational Rockhounds". I promise we won't judge you by the size of your equipment!

It is time to be planning for the LGMC Annual Show, the first weekend in April. We need members to display their collections. We can provide cases and guidance in setting up a nice presentation. You don't need a ton of stuff, in fact, generally less is more. We will need volunteers to set up, tear down, help with the membership booth, silent auction, and Juniors among other things. I need your Nebraska materials for the Gem Dig. Please bring them to the next meeting or on Friday morning to the Event Center. Hopefully everyone has announcement postcards and you are distributing them EVERYWHERE.

Take care and I'll be seeing you soon.

**APRIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

by Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge

What a time we are living in! It seems like fiction has become reality. Just weeks ago, this situation was unimaginable. During these times, it is essential we all look out for one another. I prefer the wording "physical distancing" rather than "social distancing". We can maintain our physical distance and still be social. The other night in our neighborhood, we held a driveway gathering. Neighbors brought lawn chairs and sat at the end of their driveways and chatted all evening. Last week, we ordered pizzas and met up with another couple in a park. We sat at different picnic tables, ate pizza and had a great time. I think it is important to continue to be social while staying safe during these difficult times.

Although we can't hold meetings, we can still enjoy our hobby. We can catch up on lapidary projects we have not had time for. Rock hunting is still possible. We can even go with others if we drive separately and maintain appropriate distance from one another. There are many places to go within an hour or so from Lincoln. Rivers, streams, and quarries are great options as long as you obtain permission from landowners. Often overlooked are the many minimum maintenance roads, road cuts, and field exposures throughout Southeast Nebraska. Anywhere a road or stream cuts through the glacial till there will be the possibility of finding petrified wood, agates, and fossils.

Many of us are going to have some extra time on our hands. How about researching something new related to the Earth Sciences? While you are at it, could you write an article for the Pick & Shovel. You don't have to be scientific about it; you could just share your experience and thoughts. There are people to help you. You just need to reach out.

Please take care of yourself and reach out to others; it may just make their day!

MAY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge

My message is short this month. I have a crimp in my spinal cord at the neck that has caused me to lose feeling and strength in my arms and legs. I hope to have surgery soon to correct it. I have been calling club members to see how they are doing and if they need anything. So far everyone I've called is doing ok. It has been encouraging to hear folks express concern for others and how people have been helping each other. We are, after all, a community of persons with common interests. Continue to take care of one another and stay safe.

FOLLOW UP TO MAY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Wooly had surgery on Friday, May 15. I have asked Jackie for an update, but she is too busy caring for Wooly to respond. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

By Sharon Marburger

As you may have noticed, I have taken back the job of Editor of the Pick & Shovel. Brett Jurgens has taken on many responsibilities, both personally and within the club. In order to avoid burnout, I agreed to resume being Editor. Thanks to Brett for his short tenure as Editor.

All of our lives have been disrupted this year by the COVID-19 pandemic. Regardless of your position and beliefs on this subject, we must comply with health department regulations. Sadly, this involved cancelling the 2020 Show. We are not alone. Nearly all shows across the United States have been cancelled through September. As we try to plan for future events, we must take one day at a time. This is difficult for most of us who have become accustomed to "immediate gratification". Hang in there, folks. It will get better.

In the meantime, if you have extra time on your hands and would like to help out the Club Historian (me), perhaps you would be willing to review archived issues of the Pick & Shovel on our website and create an index of what is in each issue. If you are interested in helping out, let me know. I will provide a sample of what I'd like on the index and assign a year to each person, so we don't get duplicative efforts. Once you have completed indexing your assigned year, forward your index to me. I would like to post a completed index on the Newsletter page of the website, with recognition of those who assist, to facilitate searching for items. Should you decide you would like to do more, I will continue to assign years for indexing. I appreciate any and all assistance with this.

I have been scanning the history files to eliminate paper. Boxes are stacked 5 feet high, using about 16 square feet of floor in my closet. Since this job was "dumped" on me several years ago (at least 10 years), no one else has offered to take on the responsibility. I am hoping to whittle down the number of boxes to 3 or 4. Most of what will remain are scrapbooks, trophies, items that can't be scanned, and important items that should not be destroyed.

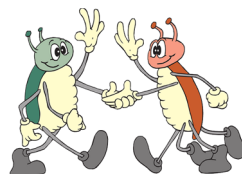
While scanning and reviewing the issues of Pick & Shovel, I discovered some interesting articles that I plan to publish in upcoming issues. Keep in mind that the articles can be up to 60 years old, so make sure to research and check any current procedures and information before implementing any ideas/suggestions provided in the articles. It is fun to see how things used to be.

The answer to what Brett is holding? Pump body to old Genie, with piston and drive pulley.

RECIPE FOR A FRIENDLY CLUB

- 1) Speak to people even if you do not know them or their names.
- 2) Smile at people.
- 3) Call people by name.
- 4) Be friendly and helpful (if you would have friends, be one).
- 5) Be generous with praise (and cautious with criticism).
- 6) Be considerate of the feelings of others.
- 7) Be alert to give service (what we do for others counts most in life).
- 8) Add to this a good sense of humor, a generous dose of patience, and a dash of humility.

From the May 1981 issue of The Pick & Shovel.



Silversmithing classes 2020 Schedule

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**

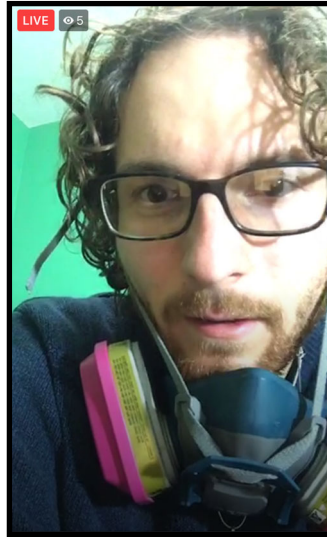
LIVE STREAMING—A VIRTUAL EVENT

By Brett Jurgens

As part of a virtual First Friday event, club member Sampson Bayer participated in a live Facebook Stream showcasing his silversmithing and walking viewers through the creation of a crystal pendant. I just happened to check Facebook and had a notification that a friend was livestreaming. Watching and listening to Sampson, as well as communicating with him via live comments, was a pleasant distraction from everything going on, and truly felt like a visit with a good friend. Sampson has posts for multiple videos and links to his online shop on his Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/sampson.bayer.33>. Check him out.

There has been some discussion in the club about having some sort of online event while we are not able to gather as a group. A Facebook live event would be a great opportunity for members to showcase their interests and share with the club. As a bonus, the events can be viewable to the public so anyone with an interest can watch. If you would be interested in sharing your hobby interests with the club, let me know.

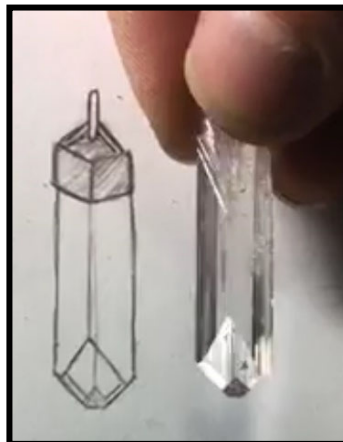
Other ways to share your hobby knowledge with the club is to provide a live program or a how-to slideshow at a meeting, once we are able to gather again; write a how-to article for the newsletter; or just share some fun facts about collecting, preparing specimens, or how to display your treasures at home or at a show. Sharing your knowledge can be quite rewarding, and those who learn from you are very appreciative.



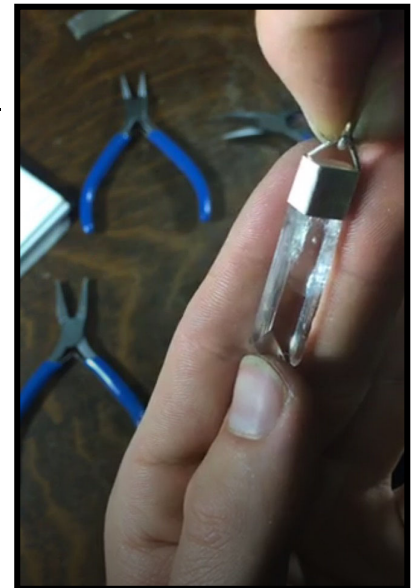
Screenshot of Sampson during his live Facebook presentation on how to create a crystal pendant



Screenshot of crystal



Sketch of planned project



Finished project

J J & L Rocks & Minerals

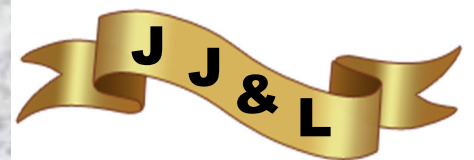
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Proudly serving
the hobby for
44 years

HISTORICAL GEMS

The following article was written by long-time member, Roger K. Pabian and published in the May 1983 issue of the Pick and Shovel. At the time, Dr. Pabian was chairman of the Education Committee.

AGATIZED WOOD

Agatized wood is a very popular medium for the gem cutter. There are several reasons for this. It is common and occurs in almost every state in the Union as well as most of the Canadian Provinces and most areas of Mexico. Some fine examples of agatized wood is now being collected in Brazil.

Most agatized wood is inexpensive. Much of it is very colorful, but choice gems of agatized wood are still few and far between. There are two grades of wood that really concern the lapidary. The most sought after pieces are complete limb sections that are commonly called rounds. Some areas are well known for the many fine examples of wood rounds that they produce. Eden Valley in Wyoming has been known for many years. There one finds a black wood that has a blue or gray agate filling fractures within the rounds. This wood may contain some calcite and most of this is highly fluorescent. Complete logs up to several feet in length have been found here. The wood occurs in Eocene age strata.

The petrified forest in Arizona is well known to almost everybody. Although the wood there is protected, similar varieties are found on some of the private ranches in the area and some of these areas are open to fee collecting. The wood here includes some very rare varieties such as *Woodworthia* and it is all found in a Triassic age rock unit called the Chinle Formation.

Some other examples of petrified woods have been collected near Escalante, Utah. These woods are strikingly similar to the Arizona woods, although yellows are more common than reds here.

McDermitt, Nevada is well known to wood buffs. There one finds some fine logs that vary from a tan on the outside to a dark brown on the inside. Such wood has been offered for sale by a number of dealers at a number of shows.

Cherry Creek in Oregon is well known for fine petrified wood. Much of this is very colorful and fine rounds are not uncommon. Much of this wood is preserved in Miocene age volcanic rocks.

Associated with petrified wood one can find such things as seeds, cones, and leaf imprints. The latter occur in very fine grained sediments, whereas the former can be found in sand and gravel sized sediment fractions.

Nebraska has a great deal of petrified wood. Some of this occurs in place. Some fine black wood occurs in the Chadron Formation of Oligocene age in Sioux and Dawes counties. This wood can be bleached in a commercial chlorine bleach to show a wood structure and restore a woody color. Late Miocene age strata exposed along the Niobrara and Republican rivers has yielded some very fine examples of wood rounds. Much of this wood is opalized and much of it is difficult to polish even if it is not very hard.

Streams flowing from western sources have transported a great deal of fossil wood into Nebraska. Brief stops on gravel bars found in almost all of Nebraska's streams will usually yield an example of petrified wood. Fine examples can be found in the Loup, Republican, Niobrara, and Platte River drainage systems. Ancient streams are known from the terraces that they have left high on modern day hilltops. These terraces are often more productive than the modern day river bed.

Some excellent examples of agatized woods have been found in the terraces of Lodgepole Creek and the South Platte River in Deuel County, near Chappell. The wood found there may include such varieties as palm, cottonwood, oak, or rather, forms that are ancestral to these. An occasional cycadophyte can be found there.

JUNIORS—JUST FOR FUN

Match up the terms with the description. (From May 1981 Pick & Shovel.)

Geology	Study of people who lived long ago
Archaeology	Study of fossils
Culture	Study of rocks
Paleontology	Places new rock comes from
Volcanoes & seas	A way of life

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

PICK & SHOVEL



Okay all you lapidaries out there. What is this that Brett is holding?
