

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

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Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer
James Marburger

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Edward Ridge

Door Prizes:

Corey Beer, Brett Jurgens, Charles Wooldridge

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Refreshments:

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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 11-16, 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.



June: Jayne Beer
Ellie Lyman
Ed Ridge



2021 SHOW COMMITTEE

- Chairman:
- 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:.....
- Fluorescent Booth:.....
- FormsSharon Marburger
- LGMC Club Booth:
- 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
- Silent Auction:.....Sharon Marburger
- Special Features:.....
- Web Master: Sharon Marburger
- Youth Activities:..... Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

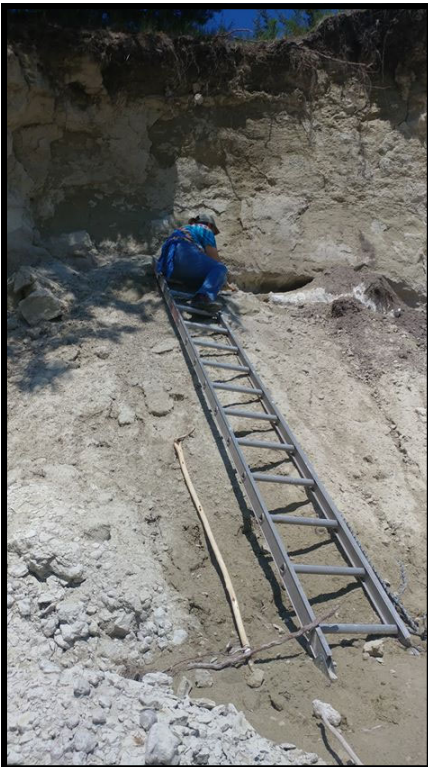
by Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge

Wow! Suddenly it's June and summer didn't waste any time, did it! I hope summer finds you well.

The times they are a changing'! We all are going to do some changing to adapt and keep up. I know many of you have used this time to engage more fully in our hobbies. This has been a good time for "safe" field trips, enhancing our lapidary and jewelry arts skills and knowledge, and researching natural history topics.

I discovered an ancient elephant site in the northern Sandhills this spring but have had physical difficulties since then. I took Jackie to the site at the end of May. I could not get up the bank to work but Jackie was able to.

The other night I was looking at a large number of Pleistocene fossils the Beer family found recently and it dawned on me that I have come to appreciate the discoveries of others ALMOST as much as my own. To see the pure joy on Jackie's face as she worked to unearth ancient bones, the pride on Ja-ziel's face as he showed me the one pound Laker he found, and the general excitement of Corey, Jayne, and Brian is infectious. I certainly look forward to when we can gather together and share our treasures and experiences! In the meantime, stay safe, be open to change, and explore!



LEVERITE

By Peter H. Adams

From https://pentictongeologyandlapidary.blogspot.com/2014/10/leverite-by-peter-h-adams.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR0ttiwpd5fyuNzzlb07X86pnTt7AYjP-BUAUsxKjsrpxJNEHlu-pT_Kyc

Sunday, October 5, 2014

Subvarieties of Leverite

The following varieties of stones commonly referred to as leverite have been glaringly misidentified by rock hounds who refuse to use proper scientific terminology. To alleviate any confusion, this list is a guide. [Editor's Note: Although Mr. Adams references photos, none were found on the blog page.]

1. Asphaltite is not exhibited here. This is a rare type of Leverite from the lost content of Asphaltania. That content blew up and sent chunks throughout the world.
2. Crackacola is a subvariety of disappointment stone. Crackacola is often a quality stone, such as jasper or agate, but has so many cracks in it that cutting the stone results in only small chips. See also Dropsinite.
3. Crudite is a type of Leverite that, when cut or polished, results in considerable time cleaning the equipment, the floor, the walls, your clothes, your fellow lapidary artists, and the cat that wandered into the shop. Crudite is therefore routinely shared, despite the desires of everyone else in the shop. No examples of Crudite are exhibited here.

4. Culverite is a rare type of Leverite. Culverite is only found in culverts, ditches, and other man-made obstructions to nature, such as fast food stores.

5. Detritus is a type of mystery stone that is usually found after storms or otherwise near bodies of water where waves joyfully share this largess with the outside world in hopes that some dummy is gullible

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LEVERITE—CONTINUED

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enough to take the stone home.

6. Disappointment stone is a large sub-classification of Leverite, and includes Crackacola and Meteorwrong. Disappointment stone is identified as it had great potential of not being Leverite until some poor dumb fool cut the stone. Only when removed from the saw can this material be properly identified as disappointment stone by examining the face of the owner. This piece of disappointment stone came from a gold mine in Nevada, an' it ain't got no dang gold in it, consarn it.

7. Dropsinite is a type of Keeper stone that when carefully dropped on the ground produces sufficiently small chips that the stone is then classified as a sub variety of disappointment stone. Dropsinite is not to be confused with Crackacola. Dropsinite is most often found only after the stone is fully and completely polished and shared among clumsy admirers.

8. Giftsinite is any stone that is a present from a well-meaning family member or friend. This material should never be identified as such in the presence of the gift giver.

9. Gypsone is a stone that a rock hound purchased for way too much money. A common means of identification is to wait for the response from the buyer, "Why did I buy that hunka junk?"

10. Hernia stone (did you really think I'm crazy enough to exhibit such a rare specimen?) is a type of Leverite that is of such size and weight that only a fork lift can pick it up.

11. Krumbleacola is a subclass of Crackacola. Krumbleacola is only properly identified when cut. The resulting chips are then gleefully swept into a carefully prepared circular filing cabinet. Crumbleacola produces finer chips than Crackacola.

12. Lanfillite is a type of Leverite that, when properly identified, is most suitable for decorating a local land fill, preferably left at the landfill late at night.

13. Leftover stone is any piece of unsold Leverite that is accidentally-on-purpose left by a rock dealer at the end of a show as he quickly high-tails it out of the parking lot before anyone sees that the dealer left this well-intentioned present for the clean-up crew.

14. Meteorwrong is a type of Leverite that resembles a meteorite. However, this material is often manmade and is easily identified as having absolutely nothing in common with a meteorite.

15. Mystery stone is an intermediary between Keeper stone and Leverite. Mystery stone is only identified by

cutting it open. At that time, the stone is then either dumped into the Keeper stone category or gleefully added to one of the subclasses of Leverite.

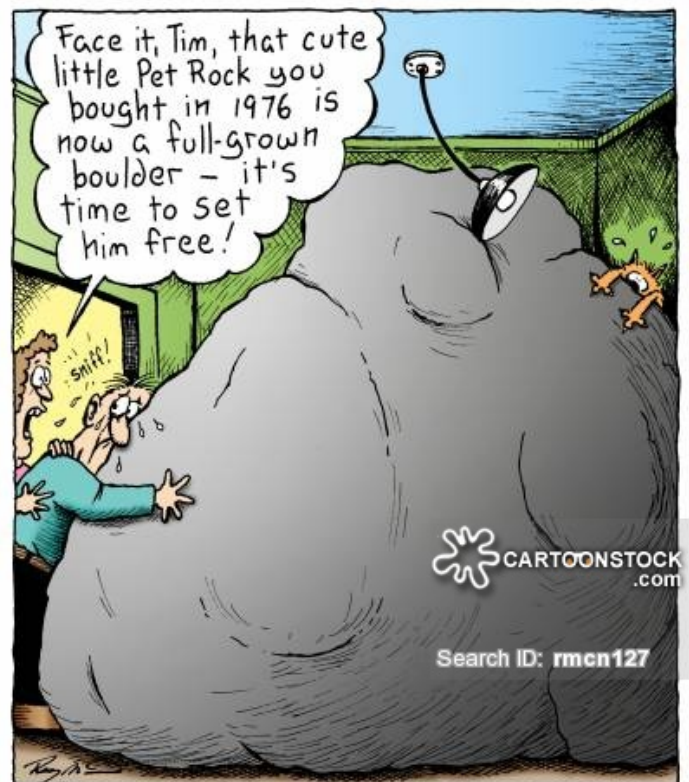
16. Notrock is any hard manmade material that is found often along the side of roads, trash heaps, and beaches. Examples include glass, plastic, ceramic, and last year's Christmas fruit cake.

17. Prestonite is a special intermediary category almost identical to mystery stone. Prestonite can only be properly identified by being found in someone's backyard. The stone must then be carefully scrutinized. On rare occasions, Prestonite does not have any of the desired qualities that are typical of Leverite. In that case, the stone is then dumped into that onerous category of Keeper stone (shudder and horror; run from the building in abject fear and loathing of the dreaded Keeper stone).

18. Trashicola is a delightful variety of Leverite that has absolutely no redeeming quality whatsoever. Trashicola is easily identified by having no attractive pattern, a uniformly ugly color, and not worthy of using even as a door stop. Trashicola is often confused with Lanfillite.

19. Scriticratchite is a type of Leverite that, despite countless efforts, simply will never polish.

20. Sliverite is any stone that is too small to use for anything, but generally comes from Keeper stone. Sliverite is often found in the scrap bin after cutting Keeper stone, or after dynamiting a deposit.



HISTORICAL GEMS

The following article was written by long-time member, Roger K. Pabian and published in the October 2002 issue of the Pick and Shovel.

On Synthetics, Imitations, and Substitutes in the Gem World

By Roger K. Pabian

On September 30 of this year [2002], I completed teaching Gemology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I had taught that course 25 to 30 times. I had always saved the quartz and chalcedony gems until near the end of the class. I always thought of that as saving the best until last.

I had always pointed out that there was really no economic impetus to forge any chalcedony gem as they usually are common and relatively inexpensive compared to stones such as ruby or diamond.

On October 1, 2002, I entered a new world in my understanding of chalcedony gems. Not only had I seen a rather decent forgery of an agate nodule; I had determined the steps in making one.

The agate “nodule” was purported to have been purchased directly at an agate mine in China this past year. The stone was made up of a very thin slice of agate and a naturally rounded mass of what appears to be rhyolite. The slice of banded agate was backed with colored tissue paper and this was pasted to the mass of rhyolite. A “bezel” was built up around the agate slice such that it appeared that the stone was a nodule with a polished, flat face. The bezel appeared to have been built up of the same material as “punk” (those glowing sticks we used to light fireworks on the 4th of July). It appears that the slice of agate was polished after it had been attached to the massive rock. The chromium oxide that was used for a polishing compound artificially stained the rhyolite mass a shade of green that is almost identical to that of the mineral celadonite, the green “skin” of relatively fresh agate nodules. I also observed chromium oxide in the porous areas of the agate slice. All in all, the stone was very convincing and the forgery was quite well done.

The quality of the agate, however, was very poor. It lacked color and contrast, even with the tissue paper backing. It had no defining structure other than relatively wide-spaced, concentric bands. Most show dealers probably would not have stocked a stone of such mediocre quality and it likely would have ended up in one of the give-away boxes for kids at a show. It is difficult to imagine why one would go to the trouble to forge what would have been a two-dollar stone at best.

What is ominous, however, is that such techniques could be used to make forgeries of, for example, high

quality and very highly priced agates from northern Mexico. Many of the very choice agates from Mexico command very high premiums. It would be conceivable to me that someone might be tempted to make such a forgery by getting 20 or so choice appearing agates from a single nodule.

The moral of the story is that one can't be too careful when spending a lot of money even for an agate. They can be forged; they have been forged.

For many years, gemologists had not discovered any blue garnets. However, about two years ago, blue garnets were discovered in Africa. One is always finding something new in the world of gems. These new findings are what keep them so interesting.

Synthetic stones are ones that have essentially the same physical and chemical properties as their natural counterparts. Corundum (ruby and sapphire), emeralds (beryl), alexandrite (chrysoberyl), spinel, opal, and coral have been manufactured in the laboratory and these stones can confound the unwary. The cold war era led to the synthesis of many kinds of gemstones that were needed for weapons grade laser guidance systems. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, many of these stones have found their way into the gem market and many are very attractive stones.

The nature of the growth lines in the crystals as well as the kinds of inclusions in the stones offer the gemologist the best chance to separate the synthetic from the natural stone. Many new synthetic stones appear annually and the best source of information about them and how to separate them can usually be found in *Gems and Gemology*, the publication of the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). *Gems and Gemology* is the only American publication in which I take much stock as it is supported by subscriptions only and carries no advertising.

Assembled stones include such things as garnet-glass doublets, opal doublets and triplets, soudees stones and others. These stones can usually be detected by several simple tests that include magnification and immersion in a liquid such as water or olive oil. This category may also include larger stones that have been made up of several smaller stones that have been fused into one piece.

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HISTORICAL GEMS—CONTINUED*(Continued from page 6)*

Imitation stones include such things as glass, plastic, or other resins and these have been made to resemble a more expensive natural or even synthetic stone. Foilbacks are made to imitate opal and these are quite easy to detect.

Reconstituted stones include such things as turquoise and lapis lazuli. Here the turquoise or lapis lazuli that is often found as small stains in large bodies of rock is pulverized along with the host rock and then separated from it. The remaining lapis or turquoise is impregnated with a resin to produce a solid material. Often the stones are laced with inclusions such as pyrite or dark iron oxides to make them appear more natural.

Another kind of imitation that has come about in the past 20 or so years are stones that have a very thin layer (several atoms thick) of some metal such as gold, titanium, molybdenum, and so forth, applied to them by their vaporization in an electric arc. Some of these stones are sold under trade names such as Aqua Aura™ and other fancy sounding names.

Substitute stones may include such stones as green tsavorite garnet being used for emerald or red spinel being used for ruby. The organic world features cultured pearls and synthetic coral. The former can only be identified with X-ray so the gritty feel across the teeth is of no avail.

There is nothing wrong with getting a synthetic, imitation, assembled, or reconstituted stone so long as the dealer sells the stone as such. Unfortunately, there are some who will not label their stones accordingly and knowing a few tips can help you from becoming victimized.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

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
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J J & L Rocks & Minerals

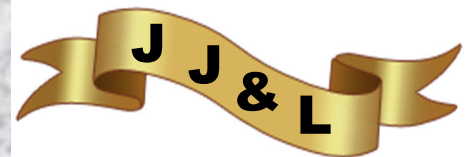
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A color version of the Pick & Shovel is available at:
<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/index.php/newsletters/current>

PICK & SHOVEL

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

By Sharon Marburger

Hello fellow hobbyists! I hope you are all staying well and safe.

A lot of you out there think I know everything there is to know about the club. Thank you for your confidence in me, but what I know I have learned from reviewing the history files, attending Board and General meetings, and paying attention when the “old timers” reminisce. Learning has also occurred when I’ve been asked questions I didn’t know the answers to. Research and finding those answers led to knowledge. However, there is still lots to learn, and I’m not as smart as you think I am!

I also have learned things from the articles and stories I’ve received from you. Yes, this is another plea to all members to please share your hobby-related stories and pictures. For example, I know that a couple of families have gone out on collecting trips. Having those stories to share with the other club members would be fantastic. However, if you don’t send me your stories, I can’t share them with others.

I’m not asking for much. Just a paragraph or two, along with pictures, would be great. Sometimes just a picture with a good caption is sufficient. Don’t worry if you are not an English or Creative Writing major. Just let me know that you would like me to edit your writing to make your story stronger, and I will do what I can.

I look forward to receiving lots of stuff for the July Pick & Shovel.

Please keep an eye on the next two or three issues of the Pick & Shovel, and the website, for news about upcoming meetings beginning in September. There could be more cancellations due to the dreaded “second wave” of COVID-19 and there are possible changes to our meeting location, also due to the virus.