

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

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Edward Ridge

Door Prizes:

Corey Beer, Brett Jurgens, Charles Wooldridge

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Membership Record:

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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:**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
CANCELLED

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.



July: Sharon Marburger
Susy McMahan
Charles Messenger



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

July is here with its heat, humidity, and fireworks. If the weeks prior to Independence Day are any indication, we are in for a particularly LOUD one. Keep a close eye on your four footed family members.



The rivers in Nebraska have been rising and falling, providing many opportunities for new materials to be turned over. I hope you are getting out and looking. It should be a good year for rock hounding. Please, won't you send pictures and stories about your adventures to Sharon so we can all share the excitement of new finds?

Here is a little update on my ancient elephant site: I visited with a paleontologist who said it is probably a Gomphother. Wikipedia describes a Gomphother as: “Gomphotheres are any members of the diverse, extinct taxonomic family Gomphotheriidae. Gomphotheres were elephant-like proboscideans, but not belonging to the family Elephantidae. They were widespread in North America during the Miocene and Pliocene epochs, 12–1.6 million years ago.” I have included pictures of one of its vertebra I excavated. Even though further excavation is on hold due to 15 feet of overhang making it too dangerous until erosion makes it safer, it is still very exciting knowing there is more to be unearthed. What have you been excited about?

The only show I am aware of coming up is the Crawford Swap over Labor Day. This is always a fun time with many vendors, good people, and, best of all, it is held outdoors in a city park with lots of fresh air and room for healthy distancing. Stay safe and I hope to see you all soon.



NO PEEKING!
Answers to Juniors' quiz on p. 7

pyrite
peacock ore
optical calcite
fluorite
emerald
leopardskin jasper
Lake Superior agate
moss agate
soap stone

topaz
ruby
malachite
agate
azurite
geode
thunder egg
petrified wood
amethyst

opal
conglomerate
obsidian
mica
quartzite
iron ore
pipe stone
diamond
coal

JARGON ALERT

Rick Kennedy,
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Via the AFMS Newsletter, April 2020

Many of us have been involved in the hobby or members of a club long enough that we develop our own language, sets of terms that don't make a lot of sense to the outside world. It is a shared language, our own kind of "secret handshake." When we use this language among ourselves, it feeds and strengthens our community.

However, when a system is not in place for a neophyte (who might be shy, and a bit afraid to be the only person not in on a joke) to ask questions, that same shared language can have a very unwelcoming effect on new people.

There is an organization that I belong to that has come up with a great way of dealing with this issue. At the beginning of our meetings, the leader announces that if there is any word or term that does not make sense, shout out "Jargon Alert!" At which point, whoever is speaking must pause, and explain the unknown term. This leads to better understanding and fosters better community.

One last thing: Neophytes need help identifying rocks and minerals. It is one of the foremost reasons they initially come to club meetings. By definition, they are inexperienced and likely not discerning collectors yet. As a club, it is our job not just to help them identify things, but to do it in a kind, teaching manner.

New people will pick up anything that catches their eye or looks different, and there is nothing wrong with that. We have knowledge they don't, and if we want to be welcoming, we will use that knowledge gently and kindly. Calling our own collecting mistakes "Leaverite" leads to good-natured humor, but giving the same name to someone else's finds can easily come off as an insult, especially if they are new to the hobby and just don't know any better.

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

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J J & L Rocks & Minerals

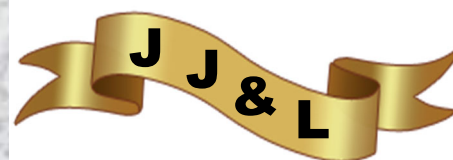
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Proudly serving
the hobby for
44 years

HISTORICAL GEMS

The following article was written by long-time member, Roger K. Pabian and published in the March 1981 issue of the Pick & Shovel.

NEBRASKA GEM HUNTING: The Needle In The Haystack Syndrome

By Roger K. Pabian

Those of us with stooped backs and flat feet who have been collecting in this state for some time, realize that difficulties lie ahead for those who go afield. Nebraska is a state which has not been blessed with vast resources of gem materials. As an old friend of mine used to say: "The good ones are farther apart than the bad ones." Before you can begin collecting, several things should be kept in mind.

The majority of Nebraska gem materials consist of crypto-crystalline quartz family minerals. Other than the famed blue agate from the Crawford area, several cherts and flints from southeast and south central Nebraska, dendritic opal from the panhandle, and the opalized wood deposits in north central and south central Nebraska, the majority of gem materials do not occur in place. Our extraneous gems have either entered the state due to stream transport from source areas in the mountains to the west or glacial transport from source areas to the northeast. Most of these materials occur as outcrops of gem bearing gravels covering thousands of square miles.

The variety of gem materials found will vary with their source areas and the particular section of the state which is being hunted.

Fortification agates, Lake Superior agates, jaspers, agatized woods, dendritic agates, and opalized woods are found most commonly. More exotic materials such as labradorite, epidote, topaz, sapphire, jade, smoky quartz, amazonite, and cat's eye and asteriated quartz have also been found. Due to the space limitations of this article, it is not possible to go into exact locations. For specific discussion of locations, see the publications listed under readings at the end of this article.

Hunting for Nebraska gems consists of looking at many small outcrops over vast areas. Gravel pits are a prime source due to their concentration of the larger materials as castoffs in the search for sand and smaller gravels. Gravel bars in existing streams or old stream channels or terraces always require that second look. Also check out glacial till deposits in the worked fields and along roadside ditches in eastern Nebraska.

Remember, good cabbing materials occur almost anywhere the crypto-crystalline quartz materials are found. Top notch cabinet specimens are another matter. Due to the nature of gem deposition, gems

with the prerequisites of size and perfection of top cabinet specimens, are a little harder to come by. However, don't give up. They are out there!

In Nebraska collecting, the greatest rewards are not the cabochons or cabinet specimens which one acquires. They are the beautiful days, wild flowers, animals, and the wonders of nature to be seen. They are the memories of old friends who are no longer around for us to collect with. These are the treasures Nebraska has to offer. Perhaps field collecting is for you. If so, start building your collection of treasures today. Happy hunting.

READINGS

Pabian, R.K., 1971

Minerals and Gemstones of Nebraska, Educational Circular 2, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 80 p.

----- 1980

Gem Collecting In Nebraska, Lapidary Journal, Vol. 34, p. 462-477.

----- 1980

Rocks & Minerals, Nebraska Special Edition, Vol. 55, Number 3, p. 91-134.



Family Bonding Table (submitted by Wooly)
Photo from www.earthfamilycrystals.com via Facebook

JUNIORS

The following was originally published in the March 1997 issue of the Pick & Shovel for the juniors' page by Kay Jurgens, then-youth-leader. See how many you can answer correctly.

- I am black, and am burned for industry. _____
- I could be yellow or blue, but my colorless form is popular in wedding rings. _____
- I am soft, the Native Americans carved me and smoked with me. _____
- I am sometimes found as concretions, and look rust-colored. _____
- I am found in Nebraska, and am pinkish in color. _____
- I form in layers, and can be fairly colorless. I have been used for windows. _____
- I am nature's form of glass. _____
- I am different rocks molded together. _____
- I am mined in Mexico, and can display many colors. I am a woman's name. _____
- I can be many colors, and am the birthstone for November. _____
- I am often red, and the color of people's lips. _____
- I am green, and I sometimes have swirls in my patterns. _____
- I have bands, and could be from Brazil or the prairie. _____
- I am blue, and am often found with malachite. _____
- I am hollow, and may have crystals inside. _____
- I can be found in Oregon, and have agate inside of me that can form stars. _____
- I once was a tree, but now I am fossilized. _____
- I am the purple form of quartz. _____
- My common name is "Fool's Gold". _____
- I am metallic and have as many colors as a peacock. _____
- I produce a double image and cleave rather easily. _____
- I fluoresce, and begin with the same five letters as fluoresce. I also have cubic crystals. _____
- I am a green gemstone and Dorothy came to my city. _____
- I look like the skin of a wild cat. _____
- I am an agate named after a lake. _____
- I am an agate named after something on the north side of a tree. _____
- I have the same name as something you wash your hands with. _____

WORD CHOICES

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| IRON ORE | MICA | OBSIDIAN |
| CONGLOMERATE | OPAL | TOPAZ |
| MOSS AGATE | AZURITE | AGATE |
| FLUORITE | PIPE STONE | THUNDER EGG |
| PETRIFIED WOOD | QUARTZITE | PYRITE |
| RUBY | MALACHITE | OPTICAL CALCITE |
| AMETHYST | GEODE | LEOPARDSKIN JASPER |
| PEACOCK ORE | EMERALD | SOAP STONE |
| DIAMOND | LAKE SUPERIOR AGATE | COAL |

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:

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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

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR COLLECTION LATELY?

Submitted by Arthur C. Howlett, Publications Chairman, as printed in the February 1973 Pick & Shovel (and still applicable today!)

I bought a dead man's rock collection the other day and as I was sorting the rocks, the thought came to me, "Who is going to pick over my rock collection?"

Every rock hound has a rock collection, some quite valuable. All of us have at least one rock or mineral or gemstone that we would like for someone to have someday. But how are you going to be sure that someone gets it after you are gone?

Of course, you could give it to them before you die, but that would deprive you of the pleasure of possession and display and, as you don't know just when you will die, you might be without your collection for quite some time.

Perhaps a few pieces should be given away, but it would seem reasonable that the bulk of your collection should remain in your possession as long as it gives you pleasure. You should leave written instruction regarding the disposition of your collection, even incorporating it as a part of your will.

Perhaps the bulk of your collection should be sold, in which case arrangements should be made with a trusted rock dealer to supervise the sale or even to buy the entire lot.

In case you have some valuable pieces, it might be advisable to consult your attorney and accountant. Is your will up to date? Who is going to pick over your rock collection?

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.