

# 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.

GENERAL MEETINGS

NO MEETING IN AUGUST.

BOARD MEETINGS

Until further notice, Board Meetings will be held at 6:30 on the first Thursday of each month.

**Next Board Meeting:**  
**Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**In person at Vera's**

CLUB EVENTS

No monthly **Rock Parties** until further notice.

No club-organized **field trips** at this time.

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Sharon Marburger  
 Susy McMahan  
 Charlie Messenger

AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Rowdy Cropp  
 Jeff Kubitz  
 Nykky Lytle  
 Karen Messenger  
 Andrew Tiedje

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 have limited meetings 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](mailto:lgmc.editor@outlook.com)) or via Facebook Messenger.

A huge thank you to the entire Beer Family for donating the venue for the Summer Swap, all the prep work to make the Swap a success, and the hours of planning, cleaning, brainstorming, and setting up. A special thank you to Jayne Beer for making sure that it all came together. Thanks, also, to the club members who helped with planning, and those who pitched in during the Swap. Everyone working together made the First Annual Summer Swap a huge success! Kudos!

## Silversmithing classes 2021 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 5 - Feb 23~~**

**~~Session 2: Mar 2 - Apr 20~~**

**~~Session 3: Apr 27 - Jun 15~~**

**Session 4: Aug 17 - Sep 5**

**Session 5: Oct 12 - Nov 30**

**Contact: Jayne Beer 402-890-3307**  
**[jbeer60070@aol.com](mailto:jbeer60070@aol.com)**

### SUMMER SWAP NUMBER ONE!

By Jayne Beer (photos by the Beer Family)

On June 26 & 27, 2021, we held our first summer swap at the Beer farm near Ashland, Nebraska. It turned out amazing! The weather was incredible. Beginning on Friday, our vendors started showing up with some of their best merchandise. If you have ever imagined what it would be like to set up a booth at a rock swap, let me tell you, those folks work HARD! It is all very heavy and fragile, so packing and unpacking to make sure that it arrives in good condition is certainly not easy. Thank you vendors!

Saturday it was so cool that I had to loan Vera a jacket that I keep in my car. Fifteen minutes before opening time, we had a short line of cars forming. When Anne was there to start the day as a customer (as she always is at our regular show in April), I began to think maybe, just maybe, people would show up. Vera, Gene, and Jim A. were our entrance fee collecting team - thank you team! My grandson, my daughter, and her friend were our parking crew. They looked like they were having fun and I got no complaints, so way to go parking crew! Marburgers brought out our silent auction stuff on Friday and we set up the silent auction with Bruce, Jeff, and my sister Judi running it. They did a great job and the club made some good money on the auction. Thank you, silent auction folks! It was about an hour or two into the day that I stopped and looked around and was absolutely filled with joy thinking "IT WORKED! This is my dream come true!" I couldn't believe that the parking lot was full, customers were shopping and happy, Vendors were selling and happy, Black Jack (the big black dog) was greeting everyone and demanding to be petted - he was definitely happy. GranyWeavs, the food truck had arrived, they had some tragedy with their food, but they worked through it and we had great food. I WAS HAPPY! We continued to be busy throughout the day. That evening we had a picnic with hot dogs and sides that people contributed. The Saturday night meal was nice and relaxing.

On Sunday when I got to the farm, Brett was making waffles - I might add, the best waffles I've ever had - they were crisp on the outside and very soft and tender on the inside. We opened at 10 a.m. with a few cars in line. It was a lighter crowd all day, but people came to buy. I heard great reports from vendors of very good sales. I got reports from Vera that we had good customer numbers and we made some good money for the club. I had many people tell me this should be an annual event. I love the suggestions I have



gotten so far. Add more live music, make sure more drink choices are available, farm produce, and more vendors.

In conclusion, I'd like to say thank you to all who made this Swap come together, including Brian's family who did so much work to prepare the barn and the farm. Let's make plans to have a second annual summer swap at the Beer farm.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

by Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge

Let me first give a big shout out to the Beer Family for all the effort and hard work to make our first Summer Swap a huge success! Our club members pitched in and also deserve kudos for their tireless dedication to the hobby. I'm sure next year's will be even bigger and better. Thanks again to everyone who helped out.



Jackie and I are in our last week of a five week tour of the Western States in our camper. Wow! There is so much to explore, I feel we have only scratched the surface. We visited Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and California. I could spend days telling you about all the natural wonders, but because this is a Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter, I thought I would focus on several Rock Shops I visited.

The first is Idaho Rock Shop in Gooding, Idaho, owned by Tony Funk. Most of his business is by Internet. The advantage of making an appointment and visiting in person is that you get to view the material directly, pick out specific pieces, and avoid shipping cost (which can be more expensive than the material itself). Tony has a large building full of many varieties of rough material and a working lapidary. He has thousands of tons of more material at his house "rock yard". Tony was very helpful and knowledgeable. You can reach Tony at [tony@idahorockshop.com](mailto:tony@idahorockshop.com).

Next is Brad Newport in Holley, Oregon. Brad also does most of his business online, however, he has a gorgeous shop with multiple showrooms. Brad has many tons of both rough and finished pieces. He specializes in very "high end" material. On display are many one of a kind pieces including the largest opal sphere in the world. He employs miners and has factories in Indonesia and the Philippines. Brad has an interesting internet show where he displays and sells his products. Brad used to own the Hollywood Ranch where he mined mostly petrified wood. He can be reached at: [Wegotrocks.com](http://Wegotrocks.com).

By the way, I am told that no one is finding Holley Blue Agate anymore.

The Rock Stop in Philo, California has a beautiful tourist type rock shop along Highway 128. There is also a large rock yard full of very large specimens. Owner Sam Gitchel and his family also own a business called "River Blossom Jade" that specializes in rare Jades via helicopter. He sells more California jade than anyone else. I purchased a couple pieces of botryoidal jade which is considered the "rarest of the rare jades". You can reach Sam at: [sam@riverblossomjade.com](mailto:sam@riverblossomjade.com).

Last is Riverview Gems and Gifts in Bandon, Oregon. Phil and Joni Andrist and their son, Haven, were vendors at our Show for many years. Haven recognized me the minute I walked in the store. He was running the shop while his parents were taking some time off. Haven said they are both well and doing fine. It was nice to chat with Haven about rocks. He says that rumor has it that a new Owyhee Picture Jasper is going to become scarce in the near future, so, buy it while you can. The Andrist's can be reached at: [riverviewgemsandgifts@yahoo.com](mailto:riverviewgemsandgifts@yahoo.com).

There will not be a general meeting in August. I hope to see you on September 16 at the Bethany Park Shelter House. Bring your summer finds for a show and tell.

With the new COVID variant, please wear a mask to help reduce the number of infections. Thank you.

**SWAP PHOTOS**

by Beer Family



SWAP PHOTOS

by Beer Family



# CRAWFORD ROCK SHOW

**Labor Day Weekend**

**Sept. 3, 4, 5 & 6**

Crawford City Park - Crawford, Nebraska

**Buy - Sell - Swap**

**Rocks - Minerals - Fossils  
Agates - Gems - Jewelry**

Public Welcome - Open 8 a.m. - FREE

EVENTS :

Daily - 8 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
Field Trips to Agate Gravel Beds -  
Meet at Information Booth

Saturday - 2 p.m. Agate Collectors Meeting  
with guest speakers at the  
Cameco Pavilion

- 7 p.m. Rock Auction - Cameco Pavilion

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS OR ACCIDENTS

**NOTICE**

Persons making sales at the ROCK SHOW are responsible to collect Nebraska Sales Tax (7%) and turn over tax and duplicate sales slips to N. W. Nebraska Rock Club Treasurer. Persons showing a current Nebraska Sales Tax Permit may elect to collect and pay sales tax.

Nebraska Dept. of Revenue Reg. 1-033

## J J & L Rocks & Minerals

After 45 years in business, Lee, Eric, and Jim are retiring.

# Auction

**Polished Specimens,  
Equipment, Rough Rock,  
Slabs, Cabochons,  
Findings, and more**

**October 9 & 10, 2021  
330 Locust, Hickman, NE**

**MINERAL COLLECTOR VIDEOS - COURTESY OF MINI MINERS MONTHLY, JULY 2021**

There are some great YouTube videos for young mineral collectors. Here is a list for you.

The Peter L. Via Collection at James Madison University  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHGG6DkQhRc>

Jon Voelter - Introduction to Mineral Cleaning and Preparation  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gbZcSfkraQ>

Fine Minerals International - What's Hot In Tucson: 2020 - Program Sponsor Series  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMLkXySP\\_4w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMLkXySP_4w)

Digging Herkimer Diamond Quartz Crystals | Hardcore Mining! | Treasure Hunting!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-pa2rcHTdk>

Digging for Top Quality World Class Amethyst Quartz Crystals in South Carolina  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmrVLFb2LiM>

A National Treasure: The Gilles Haineault Mineral Collection  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ar4pK9nZpso>

Organizing the Smithsonian's Mineral Collection  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4P8wolPOIE0>

Smithsonian Mineral and Gem Collection  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBmDXmGgl7o>

Young Mineral Collectors Exhibit - What's Hot In Tucson: 2019  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ueYf0VG0xo>

How to Record Your Mineral Collection  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4USitHRqX7U>

My mineral collection - video 2 - fluorescent minerals  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AybNje0yRyA>

My Son Showing off his Gem & Mineral Collection  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBJqwNx4aH8>

Fluorescent Mineral Collection from Sterling Hill & Franklin Mines  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXFj\\_0j6Tk4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXFj_0j6Tk4)

A Brief Introduction to Minerals  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8a7p1NFn64s>

Identifying Minerals  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32NG9aeZ7\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32NG9aeZ7_c)

Fluorescent Rocks | Understanding UV Light and Minerals  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZULTE6xIGHc>

Misfits of the Mineral Collection  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEaLNUqPqk>

How to Grow Crystals Overnight with Amazing Results!!! | Easy Kids Experiment  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4xOKnk6RoY>

Grow Purple Single Crystals of Salt at Home! DIY Home Decorations!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLBZIV-cRNU>

**SWAP PHOTOS**

by Beer Family



**2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS****President**

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**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

**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.

**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

**Summer Swap—2021:**

Corey Beer

**Website:**

Jim & Sharon Marburger

**Youth Activities:**

Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer, Sampson Bayer

**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.

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>

# PICK & SHOVEL

## BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

### Easier Prong Setting

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers with a slight groove on one jaw.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the quickest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a separating disc. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.

### Drill Breakage

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel and/or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

## PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

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### **DEADLINE:**

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