

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
Bethany Park Shelter House
Juniors: 5:30 p.m.
Adults: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Location to be determined

CLUB EVENTS

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

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

The Mid-Winter Swap held the last Saturday in January has been **cancelled**.

The Annual Gem and Mineral Show is tentatively scheduled for April 2 & 3, 2022, at the Lancaster Event Center. COVID directives will determine if the Show will be held.

The Summer Swap to be held at the Beer Family Farm is scheduled for June 25 & 26, 2022.

LOSS OF A ROCK FRIEND

by Sharon Marburger

It is with great sadness that I report the death of long-time member Charles Meisinger. He and wife, Kathy, joined the club in 2007. Although unable to attend most meeting, they were diligent in attending the annual shows and the mid-winter swaps. He loved to collect rocks, cutting and polishing many of them.

Charles passed away on August 13, with the funeral service on August 19. Memorials to Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 Charitable Fund, Meisinger Memorial Scholarship.



Photo courtesy of dignitymemorial.com

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Brett Jurgens
 Vera Lyman
 Brad Nielsen



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) or via Facebook Messenger.

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

I am really looking forward to our in person meeting on Thursday the 16th. It will be good to see your faces, even with masks. The program will be new acquisitions from the summer. I like to bring a towel to display items on. Be sure to notice the new time for the meeting - 5:30 p.m for juniors; 6:00 for adults.



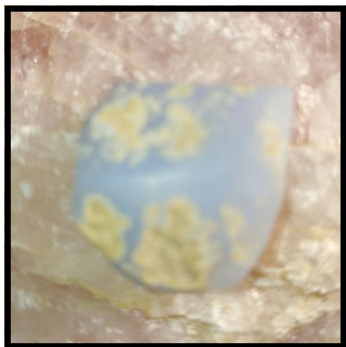
I just returned from the Crawford, Nebraska Rock Swap. There were half a dozen folks from Lincoln who attended. It is an outdoor venue and always a good time. I made a good swap of a large coprolite for about five pounds of Lakota Blue Ice Chalcedony. Mike Jobgen and his father, Dale, have been bringing a couple of five gallon buckets to the swap the past couple years. It is a baby blue chalcedony found on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Southwestern South Dakota. Lakota Blue is very similar in appearance to the very rare beautiful Ellensburg Blue Agate from Washington State. It even shows the hint of pink that appears in incandescent or sun light, the usual benchmark for true Ellensburg Blue. Dale says that they just pick it up off the ground in a very specific area.

Lakota Blue is a seam agate similar to Nebraska blue (the state’s designated gemstone). There are a variety of chalcedonies found in the Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota region. Many of them are fluorescent under ultraviolet light.

This year, the two buckets of Lakota Blue were filled with Simple Green, allowing the drive in the back of the pickup to clean them up. These specimens were not for sale. Some were donated to the Auction and Dale made the aforementioned swap with me, but the rest were being kept by the Jobgens. The Jobgens moved to Kansas this past year and may not be collecting much more. Other than being on Native land, the site location remains a secret.

Upon my return, I discovered an article by Russ Kaniuth in the October issue of Rock and Gem Magazine entitled "What to cut - Lakota Blue Lace Agate". He explains specific steps in cutting and polishing this beautiful chalcedony.

Good hunting and stay safe!



Ellensburg Blue Agate



Nebraska Blue Agate



Lakota Blue Ice Chalcedony

ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

by Jayne Beer

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2021, during which elections for the 2022 Board of Directors will be held.

At this time, the following people have agreed to run for office:

- President: Jayne Beer
- 1st Vice: Brett Jurgens
- 2nd Vice: Corey Beer
- Secretary: Jeff Kubitz
- Treasurer: Vera Lyman
- Board: James Marburger
Sharon Marburger
Ed Ridge
Charles Wooldridge

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the September meeting. Should you wish to nominate someone for office, this will be the time to do so. I encourage others to get involved with the management of the club. New board members means new ideas!

ROCK SHARE WITH JIM BRACE-THOMPSON

by Sharon Marburger

Back in April, Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Club spent an afternoon at the Marburgers. Several club members attended this visit. Jim and Nancy brought California specimens and we sent some Nebraska specimens back with them. In addition, we shared some bubble gum agates from South Dakota and some Mozarkite from Missouri. Below is a sample of Jim’s work on the Mozarkite. Looks like he did a nice job!

Photo by Jim Brace-Thompson



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

by Jim Marburger, Secretary

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc., May 20, 2021, Wooldridge back yard.

Meeting called to order by Charles Wooldridge at 7 p.m. 20 members were present and 7 juniors. Door prizes were given out.

Minutes of last meeting were published in the Pick and Shovel a year and half ago. No vote was made. The general feelings is to start over now with meeting since COVID conditions have improved.

Treasurer Report was given by Vera. Motion to accept the report by Gene Mulinex, second by Sharon Marburger. Passed.

Old Business:

The juniors are in need of 15 specimens with all Nebraska materials for exchange rock boxes soon.

New Business:

The new rental agreement from the Parks System was discussed. New hours 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Motion to reserve the Park Shelter for the fall meeting since the COVID status has improved for face to face meetings. Motion by Gene Mulinex, second by Bruce Sturgis. Passed.

Brett is in need of Nebraska specimens for the Schram Park education display.

Swap Report by Jayne. 17 spots have been assigned, food, porta potties, tables, and set up are ready. We need volunteers - please see Jayne. Flyers and all advertising needs to be sent out or posted in public areas. Flyers were given out for posting. Send flyer to all of your Facebook friends.

A special THANK YOU to Wooly and Jackie for the use of their back yard and the food made available. It was great to see everyone.

Motion to adjourn by Jim, second by Brett. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

by Jim Marburger, Secretary

June 3, 2021 at the home of Charles Wooldridge

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by President Charles Wooldridge.

Roll Call

President	Charles Woolridge	Present
1 st Vice Pres	Jayne Beer	Present
2 nd Vice Pres	Brett Jurgens	Present
Treasurer	Vera Lyman	Absent
Secretary	James Marburger	Present
Board:	Corey Beer	Present
	Sharon Marburger	Present
	Jeff Kubitz	Present
	Ed Ridge	Present
Visitors:	none	

Minutes of the last meeting were handed out. Motion to accept by Jayne, second by Brett. Passed.

No Treasurer Report was available.

Old Business:

A discussion on signing up for Lincoln Gives for next year's money contribution. Jim will look into it.

Charles contacted the Odd Fellows on the use of their 7,000 square feet building. Cost is too great at this time.

New Business:

No Board meeting is scheduled in July due to vacations and no general club business.

Motion by Jim to have a July picnic at Pioneer Park in lieu of a general meeting, with the club providing brats, buns, and plates, with sides to be brought by members in attendance. Second by Jayne. Passed. There will be a discussion on how the Swap went and what changes might be needed for next year.

There will be Blue Forest and Kemmer field trips in conjunction with the July 20-22 Rocky Mountain Federation Show.

Brett will check with the Omaha Club about a possible field trip for July.

Jayne Beer has accepted the show chair for the 2022 gem and mineral show currently scheduled for April 2 and 3, 2022.

Motion to adjourn by Jim, second by Corey. Passed.

**Please do your part.
Wear a mask to the meeting.**

BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

JUST A DROP

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.

FOREDOM MAINTENANCE

If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of videos on how to do everything.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few, if any, special tools are needed. You can watch the videos at www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx particularly under "Foredom Basics" or the "Foredom Shafting..." categories.

Any repair parts needed are available on the Foredom site or from most jewelry supply catalogs. If you have any question about their products, a phone call or an email will get quick answers.

DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small lots.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. It turns out the trace metals in dental gold make it a good material in your mouth but cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. They ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold.

If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use for accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture.

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

<https://www.rockngem.com/what-to-cut-mexican-peanut-obsidian/>

MEXICAN PEANUT OBSIDIAN

Published by Toni Rahn, July 1, 2021, Rock & Gem online magazine
Article by Russ Kaniuth

Mexican Peanut obsidian was discovered in the 1960s near Alamos, Sonora, Mexico. In recent years it's become exceedingly scarce as it has been a lapidary favorite for years. Many people are attracted to orbicular stones or something that resembles flowery patterns, and Peanut Obsidian has all that and more.

Though it's not exactly obsidian, it is perlite with spherulites in it. The spherulites are radiating crystals of feldspar, tinted by hematite. They are quite chatoyant when cut and polished, which adds fascination to the already beautiful orbicular design in this material. The backing matrix is predominantly black but also comes in grey tones with some banding. The spherulites are generally reddish-orange and generally round; however, recently, I've seen batches where the orbs have split and grown in different directions or formed clumps of flowery clusters, which adds to the beauty of this stone.

**Tips for Purchasing**

When purchasing Peanut obsidian, it comes in various sizes, anything from the size of a baseball to large 20-pound chunks. I have always noticed that the lighter the grey matrix, the softer and less stable the material will be. The best choice, in my opinion, is an all-black matrix, as it tends to be far more solid and stable to cut. No matter what, most of this material will have some fracturing to it, usually not a great deal, but there might be times that stabilizing is an optimal idea. The outer edges that have been exposed to the soil around it can soften the perlite and spherulites to a point where you can pop some out with your hands, but don't worry; this is typical of this material and only on the outer areas.

Once you slab this material, the inner portions are generally very stable and have minimal fracturing. You may see small spiderweb fractures, but they are not usually very deep. However, you should do a bench test and either flex the slabs in your hand or lightly tap them on your workbench to see which parts fall off before beginning any work. Be cautious when doing these tests, as volcanic glass can easily cut, or worse, it can send small sharp shards in the air, which can cause severe eye injuries. Take extra precautions.

The fun begins after the slabs are cut as the orbs, or flowery clusters make for some great designs. If possible, consider adding a little extra black matrix in the back-ground utilizing negative space, it adds to the beauty of the stone, and accents the spherulite patterns. When cutting out your preforms, the thinner blades work much better on obsidians; they cut fast and

(Continued on page 6)

PEANUT OBSIDIAN - CONTINUED*(Continued from page 5)*

clean without too much vibration that can cause additional fracturing.

Ready, Set, Cab!

Once you're ready to cab, be sure to wear adequate eye protection, because as I mentioned earlier, this and any obsidian or glass can send small razor-sharp particles into the air when initially grinding out your shapes and domes. I start on the 80 grit steel diamond wheels and softly work out my shapes. Obsidian is relatively soft, so going slow with light pressure is usually best and avoids the additional chipping off the outer back edge.

At this point, I like to move directly to a soft resin wheel,

either 140 or 220 grit and continue to smooth and dome the cab. From here, it's fairly easy and routine; move onto your 280 grit wheel, and be sure to go no further until all the scratches are completely gone at this stage. Having canned air handy is quite helpful, as a quick blast of air will immediately show white scratches if they still exist.

Next, move onto the rest of your wheels until you have reached your 14k grit, at which point you should have a wonderfully polished cabochon that is ready to set in jewelry. But, if you want to go further and gain that added extra mirror polish, you can use cerium oxide on a leather buffing wheel. Just be aware of any open areas, whether it's a hairline fracture or a small hairline gap on the edge of the spherulite and matrix, as these spaces will fill with compound and be difficult to clean after.

You should be able to find this material at the Tucson shows this spring, and you can always obtain the material from Tanner Singleton on Facebook, via the Slab Depot Group.

**JUNIORS**

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Co-Leader

I hope you all had a wonderful and safe summer. I was busy with work all summer but was able to go out and do some rock collecting. For the upcoming meeting, please bring a rock for show and tell. It can be something you collected over the summer, something you purchased, or a favorite rock.



One of the places I collected this summer was the Blue Forest and Eden Valley in Wyoming. While on that trip I was able to spend a day at the AFMS National Show in Big Piney, Wyoming. My good friends Kim and Kathy Nielsen were dealers there. Through them, I was able to meet many new people. I was also able to attend a workshop on youth group activities, including the Future Rockhounds of America program. I now have more information on the programs and I hope to be able to pick up where Carolyn left off. Carolyn had done such a wonderful job and I hope to be able to continue that with the club.

Part of that workshop was an icebreaker where we had to introduce ourselves, let others know which club we were from, and how long we have had our juniors program. Many attending were trying to start a program, or had a program that was only a few years old. One other club had a junior group for 20 years. I had the pleasure of telling them I didn't know how long we've had our juniors program, but I was a part of it 35 years ago and it wasn't new then. So, we have a lot of history and tradition within our club.

At our last meeting we distributed our specimen kits. Please bring yours along as I will have a couple more specimens to add to it. If you missed our last meeting, I will have some kits with me so we can get you caught up.

I look forward to seeing all of you. Please note the new time for the meeting is 5:30 p.m. Also, don't forget to bring a mask.

Be compassionate and stay safe

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

<http://www.fordford.net>
(Watch for upcoming information)

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President**

Charles Wooldridge, 402.975.0416, charles.wooldridgeii@gmail.com

1st Vice-President

Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, JBeer60070@aol.com

2nd Vice-President

Brett Jurgens, 402.850.3256, quartz89@aol.com

Treasurer

Vera Lyman, 402.464.6089

Secretary

James Marburger, 402.430.6703, james.marburger@outlook.com

Board Member

Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

Board Member

Jeff Kubitz, 402.540.9395, jkubitz@neb.rr.com

Board Member

Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323, lgmc.editor@outlook.com

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

2022 SUMMER SWAP COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
Vendors:
Finance & Ticket Sales: Vera Lyman
Floor Chairman: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
Insurance Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger
LGMC Club Booth:.....
Publicity & Promotion: Jim Marburger
Silent Auction:..... Sharon Marburger
Web Master: Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer

2020 SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jayne Beer
Dealers:..... Vera Lyman
Demonstrators: Vera Lyman
Displays:..... Ed Ridge
Event Center Liaison Vera Lyman
Finance & Ticket Sales: Jim Atkins
..... Vera Lyman
Floor Chairman: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
Fluorescent Booth:
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
Silent Auction:..... Sharon Marburger
Special Features:
Web Master: Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer,
..... Sampson Bayer

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

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DEADLINE:

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