



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

THE PICK & SHOVEL

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

Third Thursday of the Month, except for January (4th Saturday), December (1st Sunday), and summer break (June, July, August). Juniors meet at 5:30 p.m.; adults meet at 6:00 p.m.

January 28, 2023 (Mid-Winter Swap)

February 16, 2023

March 16, 2023

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Vera Lyman's Residence

Persons of general membership are invited to attend Board meetings and offer agenda items.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, JBeer60070@aol.com

1st Vice-President: Brett Jurgens, 402.850.3256, quartz89@aol.com

2nd Vice-President: Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

Treasurer: Vera Lyman, 402.464.6089

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

Board Member: James Marburger, 402.430.6703, james.marburger@outlook.com

Board Member: Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323, lgmc.editor@outlook.com

Board Member: Ed Ridge, 402.805.8248

Board Member: Charles Wooldridge, 402.975.0416, charles.wooldridgeii@gmail.com

2022 LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Charles Wooldridge, Chairman

1 year: Charles Wooldridge & Sharon Marburger

2 years: Vera Lyman & Jim Marburger

3 years: Jayne Beer & Brett Jurgens

2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Charles Wooldridge, Chairman

1 year: Brett Jurgens & Sharon Marburger

2 years: Jim Atkins & Corey Beer

3 years: Jeff Kubitz & Vera Lyman

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLUB FUN



ATTENTION!!!!

We have a club member with a severe peanut allergy. Please bring peanut-free foods to Club functions. Please provide any nut information on your foods.

December Rock Party
December 17, 2022
5:00 p.m.
Marburgers' Residence
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

WELCOME YOUR 2023 LGMC BOARD

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



- Jim Atkins
- Mike Stiles
- Janette Van Butsel

The deadline for submissions to the P&S is the last Sunday of each month.

2023 Mid-Winter Swap
January 28, 2023
See flyer on page 8

Grand Opening!


HIDDEN GEMS

BY THE JEWELRY CONNECTION LTD

Rock Shop

Friday, December 9, 2022
1:00 to 9:00 pm
3227 S 13th St
In Indian Village Shopping Center

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jewelry Classes Lapidary Classes Custom Jewelry Custom Lapidary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabochons Specimens Crystals Lapidary Rough Slabs Fossils
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<p>Jayne Beer Jeweler 402.890.3307</p>		<p>Corey Beer Lapidary 402.890.9155</p>
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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 to Sharon Marburger (<https://www.facebook.com/mamamar7880>).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jayne Beer (photos by Beers)

Dear fellow rock friends, I thank you all so much for the support you have given me as the president of your club. I know you will welcome Brett and treat him well, also.

One of my goals as president was to get the lapidary equipment back into use for the club. I am so happy that we were able to find a new home for this equipment and I look forward to the membership coming in to use it.

I am thankful and thrilled to receive the "Rockhound of the Year" award from the club. What an honor and a surprise! THANK YOU!

Our next club activity will be the rock party at the Marburgers' house. I hope you are able to attend. Saturday, December 17th @ 5:00 p.m. in Hickman. Message Jim or Sharon if you need the address.

Coming up on January 28, 2023 is the Mid-Winter Swap. See flyer on page 8 for details.

Remember, when you are doing anything rock related, take pictures and send them with a story to Sharon to add to the Pick & Shovel. We love to see what our club is doing!

I hope to see more of our members at club activities. Watch the Pick & Shovel, the Facebook page, and the web site for info. Just because I am passing the office of president onto Brett, does not mean I will be any less involved with the club. I love this club and I want to see big and fun things happening!

CHEERS!



Brett presents Jayne with the President's Plaque for serving in 2022

JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Leader

Hello juniors! I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving! This message is being written before our December Christmas Party, but the Pick & Shovel won't be sent out until after. I hope as many of you could attend as possible. The gathering of friends, food, and rocks is a fantastic combination.

The Omaha Rock Show was on November 12th and 13th. As I've said before, shows take a lot of work. The Lincoln club looked pretty good with the amount of members who showed up to help out. A big shout out to Elisha, Adam, Cash, and Leah for helping me out on Saturday at the rock pile. On Sunday, Corey and Jayne came and helped out for most of the day. The Rock Pile is one of the Omaha Club's fundraisers during the show. Members donate rocks and material and the donated material is set out on display and sold to show attendees. The better material is quickly sold, and some of the lesser (but still good) material had been accumulating. It was making moving the material to and from the show burdensome. Jamie Brezina (who grew up in the Omaha club) had come all the way from Rapid City to help out. Jamie came up with the idea of taking this material and selling it in 5 gallon buckets. We ended up selling 39 buckets! Not only was it a great fundraiser, but we estimate we lightened the load by close to 2,000 pounds. Next year will be much easier (and lighter) to move and organize. Again, a big thank you to all the Lincoln club members who showed up to help out. Omaha members were pretty impressed and appreciative.

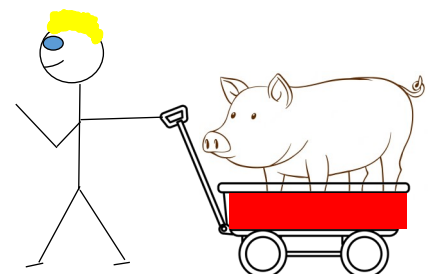
Don't forget about the Rock Party at the Marburgers' in Hickman on Saturday, December 17th at 5 p.m. Rock Parties (and the Marburgers) are always a fun time.

Also, our annual Mid-Winter Swap is making a comeback and will be held on Saturday, January 28th. Swaps are a great opportunity to add to one's collection!

I'll see you soon.



**Don't forget the Rock Party
on Saturday, December 17.**



LGMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2022 at the Lyman Residence

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Jayne Beer.

Roll Call

President:	Jayne Beer	Present
1st Vice Pres.:	Brett Jurgens	Present
2nd Vice Pres.:	Corey Beer	Present
Treasurer:	Vera Lyman	Present
Secretary:	Jeff Kubitz	Present
Board:	Charles Wooldridge	Present (via phone)
	Sharon Marburger	Present
	James Marburger	Present
	Ed Ridge	Present

October Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept Minutes by James, 2nd by Sharon. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Sharon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, 2nd by Corey. Motion Passed.

Old Business:

Jayne reminded members of the plan to move the lapidary equipment to the new shop.

Sharon presented the Proposed Agreement by and between The Jewelry Connection (TJC) and the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club (LGMC). TJC will house LGMC lapidary equipment for members' use and teach classes. LGMC will pay per month to TJC \$120.00 for meeting space. It was decided that LGMC will subsidize TJC 20%, or \$380.00 per year, for insurance, which is approximately \$1,900.00 per year. Anyone that has taken a Lapidary Class is trained to work on the equipment. If not trained, then a qualified instructor will provide training so the equipment can be used without supervision. Machines and the shop must be cleaned up after use. A sign-in sheet will be provided and utilized. Any problems or damage to the equipment must be reported to the shop instructor. The member will be responsible for any damage due to intentional misuse of the equipment. Status will be determined by the Board. The Shop will be opened to all members on set days, but not open during Lapidary Class times. Call TJC for available times. A schedule will be determined. An hourly fee of \$5.00 will be charged for equipment use, the same as for Lapidary Class. The saw fee will be a different charge and is to be determined.

Sharon stated that all silent auction proceeds will be added to the Lapidary Fund, to pay for equipment upkeep. Wooly suggested we could have other silent auctions to help, if needed. Voluntary donations will be accepted.

Jim asked if the Lapidary Class should work with SCC. It was decided not to include SCC.

The Lapidary Class money will go to TJC. The Silent Auction money and money from members renting the equipment will go toward the upkeep of the equipment. LGMC money will remain separate from TJC money. Vera will help Jayne set up an accounting plan.

Brett moved that changes to the agreement discussed during the meeting be made and that Sharon present it to the general membership at the November meeting. Second by Vera. The motion was approved. Sharon will update the proposed agreement and present it for approval at the General Meeting.

New Business:

Jayne announced a Rock Party will be held at TJC on November 20, Soups and Comfort Foods.

There will be an estate sale for Karen and Charlie Messenger in Crete on November 12, the same day as the Omaha Show.

Show Business:

Jayne said one dealer requested that we close the Show earlier on Sundays. Wooley said no, not for one dealer. It was decided that the 2023 Show remain open until 5:00 p.m. since the contracts are already out, and many have been returned executed. Jim and Sharon stated that regional shows end at different times, anywhere from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Jim suggested we give a questionnaire to the dealers at the next Show to see if they want to close early in the future.

Sharon and Jim purchased a 3 pound piece of Pyrite to donate to the club for a raffle. It was decided to display it at the Club Booth and raffle it off at the end of the show. Tickets will be \$1.00 each. Those buying chances will provide their name and telephone phone number on the ticket. Vera motioned to approve, Ed seconded it. Motion Passed.

Vera said nine dealers have sent in their checks and contracts for our next show.

MWF Delegate Report:

Sharon reported that the Future Rockhounds of America is under new leadership.

The MWF asked if LGMC would host a Federation Show and Convention. It would be for 2024 or 2025. After the Federation lets us know which year we would host, Sharon will be the Committee Chair. A list of requested items will be provided by the Federation. Jim said it's neat to have a field trip for the out of state people. Sharon will send a proposal letter to the MWF.

Mid-Winter Swap:

Sharon had some Mid-Winter Swap suggestions. LGMC will rent half of an 8-foot table for \$10.00 and a full 8-foot table for \$20.00. Only Swapper Dollars can be used. If paying by credit or debit cards, a 10% surcharge will be added to the purchase (just like using Swapper Dollars).

Sharon moved the meeting be adjourned, Vera seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

LGMC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2022 at Bethany Park Shelter House

By Jeff Kubitz, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 6:16 p.m. by First Vice President Brett Jurgens. There were 19 members in attendance. President Jayne Beer took over the meeting about halfway through.

The October Minutes were published in the P&S. Motion to accept by Jim Marburger, second by Arvid Olson. Motion Passed.

Treasurer Report read by Vera Lyman. Motion by Sharon Marburger to approve the report as read, second by Gene Mulinex. Motion Passed.

Announcements:

The Jewelry Connection (Jayne Beer) will host the November Rock Party on Sunday, November 20 at 5:00 p.m. The theme will be soups and comfort foods. The event will be at the new TJC location so everyone can see the new shop and possible meeting space.

The Christmas Party will be held at Bethany Park Shelter House on December 4 at 5:00 p.m. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided by the club. Members to bring a hot dish and a cold dish. There will be a gift exchange for those wanting to participate. A short meeting and awards presentations will follow the meal. Then Rock Bingo! Members are encouraged to bring a few Bingo prizes.

The Marburgers will host the December Rock Party at their residence on December 17 at 5:00 p.m. They will provide pulled pork and buns. Attendees please bring a side dish, chips, or dessert.

Long time members, Charlie and Karen Messenger, have moved into town, leaving a building on their farm that has lots of rocks, minerals, and fossil they would like to offer to members (FREE). Contact Brett Jurgens for more information. If enough people are interested, Brett can head a field trip to the building. Bring gloves and dust masks.

Saturday, January 28 is the Mid-Winter Swap, here at Bethany Park Shelter House. Setup time is 12:00 noon and doors open to the public at 1:00 p.m. We will charge \$10.00 for a half table and \$20.00 for a full table. Swapper Dollars will be sold and this year Swappers can accept credit cards for purchases, but the club will get a 10% fee from these credit card sales. Because it has been so popular, we will still have the Summer Swap at the Beer Farm in 2023, too.

The Omaha Show was last weekend, November 12 and 13. Brett Jurgens worked that show and our club loaned some of our fluorescent lights to the Omaha Club for this show. Three of our Juniors volunteered to work this show and some of our members were dealers, demonstrators, and volunteers.

Old Business:

Most of the lapidary equipment has been moved to its new home at The Jewelry Connection.

New Business:

The Midwest Federation wants to know if we would like to host the Midwest Federation Show and Convention in 2024 or 2025. Sharon Marburger sent a proposal letter to the MWF, offering to host in either year. We would need to have a host hotel, meeting room for the executives, a banquet for the awards ceremony, and a field trip. Woolly mentioned he would like to lead a field trip to the Nemaha River on the Friday before. Clyde Ogg asked if the show would stay the same and it would. One thing different is Midwest Federation would run the silent auction on Sunday. Gene Mulinex, Brett Jurgens, and Jim Marburger explained that the Midwest Federation includes 9 states and has a library, does lobby work, provides scholarships, and handles liability insurance. They also use the AFMS Uniform Rules for display case competitions. Brett Jurgens stated our club has 31 display cases and Omaha had 7 on display. We can borrow some of their cases if we need to.

Elections:

Brett Jurgens announced the last call for nominations. Clyde Ogg expressed interest in getting more involved with the club. It was suggested that he attend Board Meetings as a visitor to observe and learn.

Brett called for nominations for each position three times. No further nominations were made. Gene Mulinex moved to close nominations for each position, second by James Marburger. The motions were passed for each position. Having no further nominations, James Marburger moved to accept the slate by acclamation, second by Vera Lyman. Motion passed. James Marburger then moved to have the ballots destroyed, second by Gene Mulinex. Motion passed and the ballots were destroyed.

The new officers and Board are:

President: Brett Jurgens; 1st Vice: Corey Beer; 2nd Vice: Jayne Beer; Secretary: Jeff Kubitz; Treasurer: Vera Lyman; Board: Jim Marburger, Sharon Marburger, Ed Ridge and Charles Wooldridge.

Sharon Marburger said two people are still needed for Long Range Planning & By-Laws Committee and two people for the Nominating Committee. Clyde Ogg and Sharon Marburger volunteered to fill the 3-year positions on the Long Range Planning and By-Laws Committee; Jayne Beer and Brett Jurgens volunteered to fill the 3-year positions on the Nominating Committee.

Sharon Marburger provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Proposed Agreement between LGMC and TJC for the use, housing, and care of club lapidary equipment that was removed from the Auld Center. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and voice opinions regarding the Proposed Agreement. Clyde Ogg had a question of the Proposed Agreement wording in one place, but after discussion, new language was employed and he was fine with

TIDBITS FROM WOOLY

by Charles “Wooly” Wooldridge



Today as I write this, I am in the beautiful mountains of Panchgani, India. I arrived on November 22nd and am attending a week long SERVAS International Conference; more about that later.

We spent five days in Germany on the way here. On the 18th, we attended the Stuttgart International Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. There were 178 vendors from around the world and 15,000 in attendance. The Show was held in an enormous exhibition hall with several other trade shows. The Show was crowded with many high-end mineral specimens, fossils and “smuck”, the German word for jewelry. I was especially struck by the many excellent and large aquamarine, tourmaline, and vivianite specimens. I purchased some aqua, vivianite, ammonite, and some agates from the Ider-Oberstien area. I did not spend as much as I had budgeted because the quality was very high as were the prices. I am looking forward to purchasing some minerals in Pune, India. The area is well known for apophyllite. I am also looking to do some shopping at the Jaipur Gem Market. The market has been a center for gems since antiquity.

I mentioned SERVAS earlier. It is an organization that has been around for 75 years. It reminds me of Friendship Force. They promote cultural experience by providing hosts throughout the world where you can stay in a home for free. It is a great way to make friends and experience other cultures. I find it to be a very valuable and eye opening experience. For more information, please contact Jackie or me. As Mark Twain said, “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness.”

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!



Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson



Residents of a remote village in India

Photos by Wooly & Jackie

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

the result. Clyde wanted to know if members can use the equipment and was told that they can, following training on the operation of it. The fee for use of the equipment will be the same as what TJC charges Lapidary Class students, \$5.00 per hour. Clyde then asked how replacement of old or worn parts is handled. Vera Lyman said \$700.00 from every show goes into the Property Maintenance Fund, and can be used for this purpose. Additionally, proceeds from the Silent Auctions held at various functions goes into a fund for this purpose.

After one minor change was made, Sharon asked Jayne if she was confident in the Proposed Agreement, and Jayne stated she was. Vera Lyman moved to accept the Proposed Agreement with the modified language, second by Arvid Olson. The revised Agreement (no longer “proposed”) will be presented to Jayne Beer, Owner, of TJC and James Marburger Registered Agent, of LGMC, for execution.

Motion to adjourn by Sharon Marburger and second by Vera Lyman. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Sharon Marburger (photos by James M. and Jayne B.)

We had a fabulous night at the Bethany Park Shelter House, celebrating our love of rocks and the Lord. There was a wonderful supper consisting of, in part, fried chicken; beans; taco casserole; vegetable pizza; green bean casseroles; potato salad; pasta cole slaw; many fresh veggies; rolls; dips, chips, and crackers; and a plethora of desserts. It was all very yummy!

There was a short meeting before the meal. It was mostly a recap of recent events and upcoming events.

(Continued on page 7)



CHRISTMAS PARTY - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

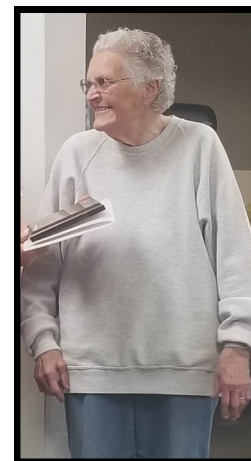
Following supper, there was a brief awards ceremony. Jayne received the President's Plaque for serving in 2022 (see photo on page 3). The Rockhound of the Year was awarded to Jayne by Awards Committee Member James Marburger. She was selected for the hours of work over the past year to find new housing for the club's lapidary equipment and the lapidary class. She also attended most meetings, took care of AV equipment, served on committees, participated in field trips, attended Rock Parties, hosted Rock Parties, was 2022 Show Chairman, was 2022 Summer Swap Chairman, and was "Jaynie-on-the-Spot" when needed. She definitely deserved the honor!



A very special award for Distinguished Service was then presented to Vera Lyman by Sharon Marburger. My research has found that since joining in 1976, Vera: was Show Chairman in 1982 and has served on most Show Committees since then; served on numerous Swap Committees; was P&S Editor for three years and Assistant Editor/Coordinator for three years, and has been involved in the P&S circulation (seeing that the newsletter gets mailed out) for at least 19 years; was reporter to the now-defunct state organization, NAOESCI, for at least five years; was on the Youth Activities Committee for five years; was on the Housing Committee for the one and only year of its existence; was Scholarship Chair for 17 years; has been Hospitality/Refreshment Chair for at least nine years; has been the Midwest Federation Liaison since the beginning in 1989 (34 years); has been on the Long Range Planning and By-Laws Committee for at least 30 years; has been

on the Nominating Committee for at least 26 years; was Secretary for 22 years; and has been Treasurer for 19 years. Vera has held just about every seat in the club. She is deserving of this honor.


Distinguished Service
 Awarded To
Vera Mae Lyman
 With deep gratitude for the years of
 countless contributions to LGMC.
 We are better because of you!
 Thank you!



Following the awards was the Gift Exchange. It looked like some pretty neat gifts were given.

Rock Bingo cards and daubs were passed around. As always, it is the highlight of the Christmas Party. Santa Wooly was out of the country for this event, so Elf Sharon took over calling the Bingo numbers. There were lots of Bingos, and prizes awarded accordingly.

The fun wrapped up around 7:35 p.m. It was amazing how quickly the Shelter House got cleaned, with tables and chairs put away, and everyone out of the building by 7:45.



Elf Sharon waits while Donnette selects her Bingo prize

Merry Christmas

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB'S 42nd Annual Mid-Winter Rock Swap

Saturday, January 28, 2023

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



!Free Admission!

**Help the Lincoln Food Bank replenish its shelves after the holidays.
Bring canned items for the Food Bank.**

Bethany Park Enclosed Shelter

64th and Vine Streets

**Family
Friendly**

Jewelry

Fossils

**Club
Sales**

**Buy
Sell
Trade**

**Lapidary
Supplies
&
Equipment**

**Rocks
&
Minerals**

Swapper Tables: ½ Table - \$10; Full Table - \$20 - **Set up at 12:00 Noon.**
Swappers are responsible for collecting Nebraska State Sales Tax and remitting it to the State.

Cash Sales Only!

**All sales must be completed using SWAPPER DOLLARS.
SWAPPER DOLLARS, which include a 10% surcharge to
offset rental of the facility, are available at the door.**

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Box 5342

Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

Contact: Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323



BUILDING A COLLECTION USING BUSINESS PRACTICES

by Eric Fritzsch

There is an old Chinese expression, “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Everything has to start from something and often it is a small expression.

My mineral collection started when I was in grade school with a single specimen, a common iridescent, massive, chalcopyrite about 2 cm by 2 cm x 4 cm. This specimen intrigued me because of the pretty metallic colors. It had heft (higher specific gravity) and was unlike other rocks I had seen before. It was common mineral, but special to me.

In order to have a collection, one needs to collect. That means purposely going out of my way to acquire additional specimens. So, after specimen #1, there has to be a specimen #2. If I keep on pursuing specimens, the collection grows and grows.

An early question to ask yourself is, “What do I want my collection to be?” You might even break this down into, “What do I want my collection to be in 1 year, 5 years, 10 years, or 40 years?” It helps to have a plan to act as guide or focus on what you are going to collect.

You must be reasonable and can’t think you are going to have a collection that rivals the Smithsonian in 1, 5, 10, or 40 years, unless you have an unlimited bank account. Your goals have to be realistic. I encourage collectors to have a mission or vision statement for their collection.

A mission or vision statement is a short, written statement about what is your overall goal. It might also describe how one will achieve this vision and the purpose of the activity or why you collect.

First, start by asking yourself, “Why do I collect?” Is it because you like pretty things, are you drawn to the chemistry or history of minerals, do you have a cabinet you want to fill with rocks, do you enjoy looking for and breaking rocks, etc. There are literally a thousand reasons to collect rocks and probably everyone has a somewhat unique reason.

It can be hard to figure out what your overall goal is and many collectors flounder at this. Some just keep on acquiring through field collecting or purchasing of both, with no end in sight. A couple years ago a famous collector passed away and his heirs found hundreds of specimens he had purchased for thousands of dollars, still in the paper bags in which he purchased them (never opened). This might sound strange, but this is common with many collectors.

What is realistic in your short term and long term goals? If you want to fill up that display case, figure out how many specimens it will reasonably hold and subtract from the number of specimens you have now. You now have a goal of what you need to add.

If you are specific enough, you might state that you want a Laker, Fairburn, Argentine, Laguna, Brazilian, and Botswana agate, all 3 to 5 inches in size, polished on 1 side with a centered eye. Or your mission/vision statement could be broader such a good variety and selection of agates from around the world.

By putting this in writing, you’ve given yourself and your

collection a target and a philosophy: acquire various agates. You now need to implement your goals.

Another tool we can borrow from the business world is the Deming Cycle, often referred to as Plan-Do-Check-Act.

These are continuous things you do. Planning might mean creating plans to travel to Fairburn, South Dakota to hunt for agates. When you actually do travel there and collect you are performing the do phase. Once you return, check to see if you acquired your goals. Act on those goals by trading or displaying your agates. You can reroute back to planning again, improving your process each step. Maybe you sold some of your Fairburns and now have money to buy a Botswana agate (might be a little impractical to travel to Botswana to collect). You plan a trip to a show (Plan), you go and buy one (Do), you check to see if it meets your criteria (Check), and you act on your next goal (Act).

You probably realize that you won’t reach your goal in a year or maybe 5 years, but you have a vision of what you want and a plan. Collecting is different than acquiring.

If your plan is to have a display case full of pyrite crystals, and you have five now and the case will hold 40, you know you need 35 more. If you buy 1 or 2 at the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Show every year, you’ll realize it will take you 16-35 years to fill that case. You might talk up the dealers about pyrite so they know what you are looking for. You might want to accelerate your purchasing (which costs more money) by buying four specimens per year. This will fill your display case in nine years. You read up on pyrite locations and maybe join in a pyrite collectors Facebook group for more or better exposure.

It becomes about strategies and motive. Goals and direction. My personal mission statement is to curate a large systematic collection of worldwide minerals.

This may not work for you or you may have different ideas and goals. I could not curate my collection in a typical apartment due to size or moving residences frequently. I can add specimens by field collecting but there isn’t enough time to travel everywhere to get specimens. Some specimens may come from places that aren’t safe to travel.

It is a fairly simply and forward mission/vision statement. I collect minerals and don’t collect fossils, bottlecaps, stamps, Beanie Babies, or Coca Cola memorabilia. I am in the pursuit of specimens from known locations. My collection is well taken care of (curated) and consists of several thousand specimens. I am always engaged in acquiring new specimens, mostly to add species or locations from where I do not have specimens. In some cases, I do double collect a species/location, but it is generally a better or different specimen.

I haven’t always had a written mission statement, but I saw collections when I was younger and decided that is what I wanted to build. I visited the collections of famous collectors such as Bill Pinch, and less famous like Don Holt or Bob Eaton. I saw what they had built, and I wanted to replicate that to the extent I could. It wasn’t going to happen overnight, or even in 10 or 20 years. I realized I didn’t want

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BUILDING A COLLECTION - CONTINUED

to spend the money that Bill Pinch had spent and decided my collection would be of more meager means.

I planned what I wanted to do (planning). I field collected and purchased specimens (do). I check periodically to see if what I am adding is toward my goal (check). I act to correct any variance from the goal (act). It is a loop that repeats over and over again focused on a mission statement.

Figure out what your collection mission statement is. Write it out and possibly post it. Plan, do, check, and act.

GOLD IN NEBRASKA

by Eric Fritzsich

This may sound odd, but gold has been found in more places than calcite. What makes me say that? According to Mindat.org, gold has been reported from 35,279 localities whereas calcite has been described from 33,831 localities. Gold is obviously a lot more rare, but it more sought after. The poet John Keats never said, "Much have I traveled in the realm of calcite," but he did say that about gold. Many a person has sought out their fortune in gold, but to have their dreams squashed.

If even a flake of gold is found, someone has likely reported it. Sometimes it is reported when there is none there. In an 1899 copy of the Engineering and Mining Journal I have at my desk, is the unlikely reporting of gold from Nebraska. This isn't that I think it can't be found, it is just over reported.

Another interesting statistic about gold and calcite is that there is more money in mining limestone (calcite) than gold. In 2019-2020, the U.S. mined \$82.3 billion worth of limestone but only \$8.9 billion worth of gold. Obviously, gold is worth more by pound, but so many more pounds of calcite are mined annually that it exceeds the value of gold.

The article below describes gold coming from several places in Nebraska, including a smelter at Pleasant Dale (west of Lincoln) that was built to process gold. Some of these may have been attempts to sell unproductive farms to unsuspecting newcomers thinking they'd become rich from gold mining. There is a guy in Iowa who pans and sluices the streams for gold, but more of a hobby and not making money.

One last thing to think about is that money was worth more in the article below. An ounce of gold sold for \$20.67 per troy ounce. When it is reported that averages ran \$8 to \$10 per ton in Milford, they are talking about almost a half-ounce per ton of rock. That is exceedingly high and these results are over exaggerated. You're probably better off looking for calcite, but you never know, you might find gold.

From The Engineering and Mining Journal (April 6, 1899)

A GOLD EXCITEMENT IN NEBRASKA

By Edwin H. Barbour (founder and curator of the U of Nebraska Museum)

For several years past, noticeably during 1896 and 1897, the gold excitement in Nebraska, especially around Milford, has been sufficient to prove disquieting. Many citizens have been unsettled to such an extent that farms have been bought and sold, time and money squandered, and unnecessary loss entailed. The excitement spread throughout the State and still continues in a mild form. So many exaggerated statements passed from the local press into the wider circulation of the larger papers, that inquiries came from many cities at

GOLD - CONTINUED

home and abroad respecting the discovery of gold in the soils of this region.

The mineral resources of a prairie state like Nebraska lie chiefly in her soils, from which more gold and silver may be extracted by the plow and harrow than by other means known as yet. However, the subject of gold and silver in the State is not to be despatched in an off-hand way, for, as a matter of fact, gold and silver have been found, and the history of precious metals, and the excitement incident to their discovery, cover a period of more than 30 years. And there is no telling how long it may continue. The fact is, that while there have been gold excitements for 30 years based upon little more than hope, yet there is a bare possibility of something more substantial than this, resulting from improved methods of extracting low grade ore. Gold and silver occur in the state, but whether they occur in sufficient quantity to be of interest economically, and not merely mineralogically, is quite another matter. As a measure of what is being done, it may be stated that, according to information collected with some care by the author, gold in Southern, and especially Southeastern Nebraska. If the time spent was reckoned in dollars and cents it would swell this sum.

The State, as part of the great plains, covering a vast area of nearly 77,000 square miles, though extremely diversified and varying in altitude for 1,000 to nearly 6,000 feet, has no disturbed, upheaved, or metamorphosed rock. On the contrary, the rocks are level, undisturbed sediments, and the gold which does occur, and the sand in which it occurs, is not native but transported; that is, it is glacial drift in the east and eastern third or fourth of the State extending south into Kansas. Throughout this drift, particularly in the more southern counties where the excitement has been liveliest, in addition to mica scales, fool's gold and glistening sand, there is free gold in very fine grains. Occasionally one finds drift pebbles rich in free gold. Besides, every community can show you some one who has panned out a little native gold, possibly \$20 or \$30 worth in a lifetime, but no one as yet can call it "pay dirt." However, according to numerous assays made in various cities from Boston to Denver, many of the reliable as far as the assay work goes, it is certain that the average of all these brings the dirt close to the pay limit. But even this statement must be taken guardedly, for there is no way of guaranteeing that all the samples taken are as genuine as the assays. The unauthentic assays run all the from a trace to \$200 per ton. Several such assays near Milford average \$8 to \$10 per ton; 13 similar assays at Crete run from \$0.62 to \$5.50 per ton.

However honestly this work has been done, it has been done in such a way, unfortunately, that no one ventures to call it even approximately reliable. This much can be said, however, that enough has been done to show that the matter is worthy of attention such as it has not had from the State geologist, from the fact there are no funds in the State Treasury for the prosecution of such an investigation. In various towns they have built sluices and riffles and washed 40 to 50 tons of gravel, sometimes getting but little. At Milford 40 tons of gravel were washed, the citizens contributing their time and teams, but with very poor results. At Crete, under the supervision of Mayor Norris, 40 tons were washed and nearly \$12 worth of gold obtained therefrom. The centers of excitement are chiefly Seward, Stanton, and Franklin Counties. But, it extends as far west as Harland County; one citizen there spent \$1000 in 1896 prospecting for gold in a pyritiferous shale. And at Scott's Bluff in the high terraces of the Platte, over 100 claims have been staked out during the past summer.

On the farm of Mr. J. S. Dillenbeck, at Pleasant Dale, Seward County, where the chief excitement has been centered, and where more work and energy as been expended than elsewhere in the State, a 5-ton smelter has been put up, but without results.

All things taken into account, our sands contain more gold than might be expected, and the hope now is that study may reveal the fact that new and improved methods may yet make some of our gravel pay. Inventors in Lincoln and elsewhere, seeing the lack of water in this region, are working upon dry concentrators, with what results remain to be seen.

2023 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE

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 Insurance Vera Lyman
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 Web Master: Sharon Marburger
 Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens

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 Youth Activities:..... Brett Jurgens

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.

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Website:
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Youth Activities:
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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 or club event 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

Contact Jayne or Corey Beer if you are interested in attending lapidary classes.

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

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DEADLINE:

Last Sunday of the month.

Silversmithing Classes

The Jewelry Connection Ltd.

Indian Village Shopping Ctr.

3227 S. 13th St., Lincoln (next to LaundrOmat)

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7:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$150 plus \$30 supply deposit

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Session 2: Mar 7—Apr 25
Session 3: May 2—Jun 20
Session 4: Jun 27—Aug 15
Session 5: Aug 22—Oct 10
Session 6: Oct 17—Dec 5

Wednesdays

Session 1: Jan 11—Mar 1
Session 2: Mar 8—Apr 26
Session 3: May 3—Jun 21
Session 4: Jun 28—Aug 16
Session 5: Aug 23—Oct 11
Session 6: Oct 18—Dec 6

Contact: Jayne Beer 402-890-3307; jbeer60070@aol.com