



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.

February 16, 2023

March 16, 2023

April 20, 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, March 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Vera Lyman's Residence

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

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Brett Jurgens, 402.850.3256, quartz89@aol.com

1st Vice-President: Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

2nd Vice-President: Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, JBeer60070@aol.com

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

2023 LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

1 year: Vera Lyman & Jim Marburger

2 years: Jayne Beer & Brett Jurgens

3 years: Sharon Marburger & Clyde Ogg

2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

1 year: Jim Atkins & Corey Beer

2 years: Jeff Kubitz & Vera Lyman

3 years: Jayne Beer & Brett Jurgens

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.

Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/223555904325876>

Dues are past due. A \$5 late fee is now assessed when paying dues.

Watch for future information on the Summer Swap to be held June 24 & 25, 2023 at the Beer Family Farm!

All That Glitters is Not Gold Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club's 63rd Annual Show!

April 1 & 2, 2023
Lancaster Event Center
Lincoln Room
84th & Havelock
Lincoln, Nebraska
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



Get \$1 off paid admission with a can donation to the Food Bank!

Youth Booth
Dealers
Exhibits
Demonstrators
Nebraska Gem Dig
Fluorescent Display

Regular Admission:
\$6 per adult.
\$11 2-day pass.
Children 11 and under
free with paid adult.

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

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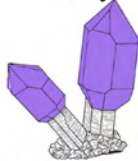
DEADLINE:

Last Sunday of the month.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Allan Gossman
Connie McCartney
Charles Wooldridge

February



AMETHYST

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. 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 Brett Jurgens

Hello LGMC. The 2023 Mid-Winter Swap has come and gone. We had a fantastic turnout of swappers and customers! For awhile during the swap, the building was pretty packed!

It would be great to see more members attending club events. Jim Marburger described our upcoming show quite accurately, "our next big project". It takes a great deal to put on the show. All of the dealers have returned their contracts. Demonstrator contracts were more recently mailed and are starting to return. As club members, we need to be promoting the show: talk about it, put up flyers, and hand out postcards (see Jim M. for postcards).

If you use Facebook, make some posts on the club page. We would love to see what lapidary project you're working on, or a favorite rock on display in your home. The number of people following our club is growing, and the more we post, the more exposure and advertising the club and show get.

Please be thinking about what you are going to display at the show. Ed Ridge is in charge of display cases; let him know how many you would like to reserve. The theme this year is Pyrite. Some of us have enough pyrite for our own display, but many of us, including me, do not. The club will have a shared display that members may contribute specimens to. Please let Ed or me know if you will contribute to the club display. Last year, we had 53 display cases; it was a fantastic showing and was noticed by many. This year we will continue the friendly competition of having attendees vote for their favorite display.

While the show is the big event this year, there are plans in the works for other events. One thing I would like to do is have more local field trips. While road trips that involve multiple days of collecting are fantastic, most members do not have the availability to participate. I have been brainstorming with Jim Marburger, our field trip chair. Examples of non-collecting local trips include: 1) tour of the vertebrate fossil floor at Nebraska Hall (the club has done this in the past, and it is fantastic, but it has been awhile); 2) the Bartels collection at Concordia College in Seward; and 3) a paid tour of Robbers' Cave in Lincoln. Ideas for local collecting trips include the Nemaha River, the Blue River, and Odell for Odell Diamonds. Collecting trips are increasingly more difficult as many collecting sites have become unavailable due to liability. If you have any ideas, please let Jim or me know.

I am glad to announce that I asked Clyde Ogg to be Program Chair, and he has accepted. If you have ideas on a source of a program, or are willing to do one yourself, please let Clyde know.

I have hopes of starting a tradition at each meeting. In addition to the normal program, we will feature a club member. The member will be asked to give a 3-5 minute talk about an interest in the hobby. For the February meeting, I will start it off with me showcasing Eden Valley petrified wood. We will possibly have a short video for the program at the February meeting, so I would like to see members bring their personal favorite find for a show and tell. See you at the meeting,

**LGMC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

January 28, 2023 at Bethany Park Shelter House
Following Rock Swap and Pizza Supper
By Jeff Kubitz, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens. Eighteen members in attendance.

The Minutes were printed in the Pick & Shovel. Wooley moved to accept the minutes as printed, second by Sharon Marburger. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Vera Lyman. Sharon Marburger moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by Jeff Kubitz. Motion passed.

Announcements:

Sharon Marburger stated the article on awards given at our Christmas Party was published in the *MWF News*. The Federation awarded our recipient, Jayne Beer, the MWF Rockhound of the Year award. The American Federation also awarded Jayne Beer with its Rockhound of the Year award. Both awards were presented to Jayne Beer at tonight's meeting. Good job, Jayne!

Brett announced the Omaha Swap will be held on February 11. All the dealer spots are full.

Vera still has equipment for sale.

For those interested, the online JJ&L Auction will end February 5th.

Old Business:

Jayne said that Brian got his truck back, so we can plan to move the rest of the lapidary equipment from the Auld Pavillion.

New Business:

Wooley's homemade gluten free, sugar free pie was delicious!

Wooley reminded that the Cedar Rapids and Kansas City shows are coming up.

We need volunteers to host Rock Parties.

Clyde Ogg would like to try volunteer for Program Chair.

Short Field Trips are in the works. Wooley would like to lead trips to the Nemaha River. Robbers' Cave was also suggested as a short, local trip. Shane Tucker of UNL, could possibly lead us in a tour of Nebraska Hall (State Museum).

Wooley stated he picked up a fossil ID quiz box at the Messengers'. He thought Clyde Ogg might like to check it out and fix it up to be a working learning tool for the club.

Show Business:

This year's show is full. Francina will not make it this year but Monarch Minerals, from the wait list, will fill her space this year.

Five Demonstrator contracts have been returned and we hope to get more before the February 1 deadline.

(Continued on page 4)

LGMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

by Sharon Marburger, Substitute Secretary

January 5, 2023 at the Lyman Residence

Meeting called to order at 6:43 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens.

Roll Call

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

The minutes of the December meeting were distributed. Wooly moved to accept the minutes, with correction that would be reflected in the P&S published minutes, second by Corey. Motion carried.

The Treasurer’s Report was handed out. Jim moved to accept the report as printed, second by Eddie. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Hidden Gems by The Jewelry Connection has been fairly busy since opening last month. Jayne would like to focus on a plan to plumb the club’s arbors so they can be used. Options for plumbing were discussed, including recycling the water.

Brett stated the search for a new projector is on hold until some other decisions are made. Subject tabled.

Recommendations for by-law changes is tabled until the committee has a chance to meet.

Talk about starting a new Programs Committee. Those expressing interest in participating part time are Brett, Clyde Ogg, and Wooly. All club members are encouraged to make program suggestions.

Wooly will contact the Messengers to see if we are still able to get into the building on their previously-owned property. If we can get in, Jim will plan a field trip to meet the new owner’s schedule.

New Business:

Membership application were received via the website from Jennifer Bockerman and Alex Gee. Sharon moved to accept their membership, second by Jim. Motion carried.

Wooly would like to get club baseball caps. The subject will be brought before the general membership before researching purchase.

Swap Business:

Concern was expressed that we may have more Swappers than available tables this year. Sharon reminded everyone that the Swap has always been advertised as first come, first

served. We will see how the Swap goes, then decide if we need to look for a larger venue or possibly have pre-registration (like for the Summer Swap) to prevent turning people away on the day. There was also discussion of possibly changing the date so it doesn’t interfere with the Tucson Show. The Board was split on changing the date, so more research is needed.

Show Business:

Jim stated that the postcards were ordered and have arrived. Vera, Wooly, and Jayne took a few for advertising.

All Dealer contracts have been executed.

Vera will be sending out Demo contracts this week. There are a couple of new vendors this year wanting to be selling demonstrators. One is Sullivan and Rose, who will have a fluorescent display and sell fluorescent material. Another is Afghan Silver who will demonstrate how to polish lapis and sell lapis.

Wooly will talk with Phil Geib, Tom Sawyer, and Dennis Beckman about demonstrating or displaying. Their domain is archaeological.

Ticket sales for raffling the 3 pound donated pyrite will be set up between the show entrance and the club booth. Perhaps Jeff can sell tickets. A call is out for others to volunteer to help with this. Jayne offered to loan a small glass case to display the pyrite at the show.

Wooly will make arrangements for the Nebraska Rock Pile. Sharon says we will have a Silent Auction. Everyone agreed that we should have the People’s Choice contest again this year. The public would vote for their favorite case. The top three winners will receive a certificate.

Case needs were also discussed. Wooly would like to have one case for a cubic mineral display (pyrite is a cubic mineral), and two cases for fossil casts. The Stileses may have a pyrite display. Eddie took down names and numbers of cases.

Sharon moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Wooly. Motion carried; adjournment at 8:14 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

Because some of our members helped at last year’s Omaha Show, Jim Schmidt will try to get some Omaha members to help with ours. Set up and tear down is where we need the most help. Jayne will see if Kelly and some of her friends would like to work.

Anyone wanting to display at the show should contact Ed Ridge. If a person does not have enough specimens to fill a case, there will be shared displays. Ed said he has two of the new display cases open for anyone wanting to use them. Reminder, all specimens should be labeled in the display case.

Wooly mentioned a plesiosaur display. Juniors will have their fund raiser of the tumbled stones and gem dig. We need donations of tumbled stones.

Jim Marburger moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Corey Beer. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m..

ROCKHOUND

by Jayne Beer

I was, and remain, shocked and honored to receive Rockhound of the Year in the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. Then on January 28, I was presented with Rockhound of the Year from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. This leaves me speechless and humbled. I have no idea how I was nominated and chosen for these awards, but I am very thankful and appreciative that I was noticed by someone. I definitely try daily to promote and encourage everyone young and old to get involved with our great hobby. I also continually attempt to get our members to get active and involved with the club.

I am so happy that after months of searching, I was able to find a space to relocate the club's old lapidary equipment, and to have help building new and updated areas to house and use this equipment. Our club members will be able to come in and learn how to cut and polish stones. I am hopeful this will encourage membership to increase. My son, Corey, and I were also able to add a storefront to the new equipment location so that we will be present daily to accommodate people wanting to use the equipment. (See ad on page 12.)

I say a sincere thank you to everyone involved in the process of nominating and selecting me as Rockhound of the Year.

OUR JAYNE

by Sharon Marburger

As was reported in the January P&S, Jayne Beer was awarded the club Rockhound of the Year for her seemingly tireless hours of work for the club. The article was picked up by the *MWF News*, bringing the award to the attention of the Midwest Federation's Rockhound of the Year chairman. That chairman forwarded the information to the American Federation's Rockhound of the Year chairman. The end result is that Jayne now has the distinction of being the only LGMC Rockhound of the Year recipient to receive a certificate from the Midwest Federation and the American Federation for her efforts. Congratulations, Jayne!!



WIRE WRAPPING CLASS

by Sharon Marburger

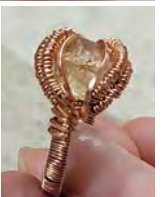
Nykky Lytle offered a wire wrap class at Hidden Gems on the evening of January 20, 2023. Eight people attended the class. A small fee was charged to cover expenses, as Nykky provided the wire and some stones. Some people brought their own stones or purchased from Jayne.

It was amazingly simple to make the fancy design with the wire. Nykky is a great teacher, and the class was fun.

If you want to attend one of Nykky's classes, keep an eye on the club's Facebook page, where it will be announced. If Jayne hosts it, you can also find notification on the Hidden Gems Facebook page.



Sharon's chrysocolla ring



Marissa's ring. Editor unsure of stone (maybe quartz, rutilated quartz, or topaz?)



MORRISONITE

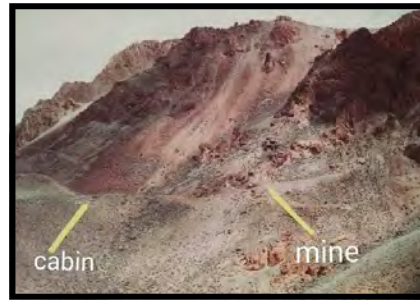
by Eugene Mueller (photos provided by Mr. Mueller)
From Facebook; Used with permission

Darrell Jacobitz, commonly known as “Jake”, and I mined Morrisonite for 11 years from 1986 through 1996. Jake worked mostly on the Jake’s Place claim and I worked mostly on the Christine Marie claim. We worked together for several years on both claims.

Of the five original claims in the area, the Christine Marie claim is the furthest down into the canyon from the canyon rim and is difficult to get to. It is about 600 feet below the canyon rim in elevation and it took me two years of work to establish four wheel drive access to the area. Both digging areas are on the east side of the Owyhee River canyon and are about a quarter mile apart.

Sixty years ago collectors would camp at the canyon rim and hike down and back to the collecting areas. At least one hour down and two hours back.

The Jasper found on the Christine Marie claim is generally smaller and less patterned than the Jasper found on the Jake’s place claim. About 30% of the jasper mined from the Jake’s place claim has the “egg pattern” but virtually all of the jasper from the Christine Marie claim has the “egg pattern”, a bit like Bruno jasper from Idaho. This is because the “egg pattern” is the only patterning that exists in most of the jasper from the area. The jasper from the Jake’s Place claim is full of streamers and other variations that make the jasper desirable. The Christine Marie jasper has the “egg pattern” or it is just a plain color. This actually made it a little easier to mine in terms of what to keep and what to throw away.



MID-WINTER SWAP

by Sharon Marburger (photos by James Marburger)

We had a very successful Mid-Winter Swap on January 28, 2023, after two years of COVID preventing the event. Vendors began arriving shortly before 11 a.m., hoping to get a table. The tables were available on a first come, first served basis. Although the Swap was scheduled to open at 1:00 p.m., we decided to let in the few early birds since everyone appeared to be set up and ready to sell.

There were concerns that the public would have forgotten about our event, and other concerns that we would have too many swappers. Thankfully, both sets of concerns were groundless. We had the usual bunch of swappers, along with some new ones. We missed the usual swappers that could not make it. There was a wide variety of materials for sale (swap). Although the day was very cold and snowy (below zero wind chill), lots of people came to see what was available to purchase. Some people visited to see all of what we had, not wanting to buy anything. Others cracked open their piggy banks, prepared to spend. Visitors came from as far as Grand Island and St. Libory, Nebraska, and some from Kansas.

Several pounds of donations to the Food Bank were collected. Our public is so generous when it comes to helping out the needy.

The Swap was quite well-attended; at one point I looked up from my position at the door and I could not see the back of the room, due to the number of bodies blocking my view. Overall, as Swap Chairman, I was very pleased about the attendance.

The club provided meat and cheese trays with crackers, and a relish tray. Members brought in cookies and other snacks for everyone to enjoy. Most of the goodies were gone by the end of the Swap at 5:00 p.m.

There were Show postcards available to anyone who wanted one. A couple of people took a stack of them to place in their shops or other public places.

Several people asked me about the Summer Swap. That information will be put on the club website (<https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/>) once the details are available.

Judging by the receipts of this Mid-Winter Swap, about half the swappers did quite well while the other half did okay. Everyone seemed to be having a good time; there was lots of chatter, smiles, and laughter.

Several people expressed interest in joining the club. They completed applications and paid their dues. Welcome to LGMC, new members!

Following the Swap, members enjoyed a Valentino's supper, including pizza, lasagna, breadsticks, and salad. After the meal, there was a short meeting wherein Jayne received her MWF and AFMS Rockhound of the Year certificates (see stories on page 5).

A HUGE thank you to the crews that helped set up tables

before the Swap, then tear down after the event. Your help was priceless to me!

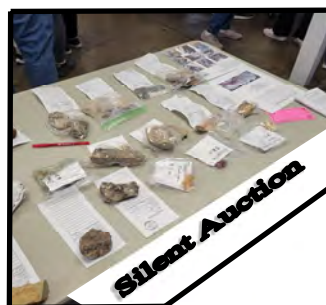
Jayne and I look forward to next year's Mid-Winter Swap.



The Club's intrepid human calculators, braving the below 0°F. air that came in every time the door opened.



Kenny, Hanif, Eddie, and the Stiles - Swappers



Greg, Betty, Francina, Rowdy, Nykky - Swappers

ROCK SWAP

by Jayne Beer

This was the first Swap since Corey and I opened our shop. It was really fun to get out and price more items. I think there was a great turnout of vendors and customers. I am very disappointed that I did not get any pictures of our tables.

Corey took his ever-growing inventory of cabochons and face polished specimens and I took a bit of my jewelry inventory and several other items from our store.

I enjoyed talking to the public. We seemed to have folks gathered at our tables at all times. The swap was run seamlessly by Miss Sharon. I cannot wait until our next events: The 63rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show on April 1 and 2, 2023 at the Lancaster Event Center, and the Summer Swap at the Beer Family Farm on June 24 and 25, 2023.

Watch for the flyers on the Club website and in issues of the Pick & Shovel.

HOW A MINERAL GETS TO MARKET

by Eric Fritsch (published on Facebook) (used with permission)

The late Art Linkletter was famous for asking kids, “Where does milk come from?” The answer was often, “From the store!”. The same question could be asked of mineral collectors about, “Where do mineral specimens come from?” Most wouldn’t answer that they are from the mineral dealer, as most know they come from the ground. They have to be removed from the ground, inspected, and cleaned before being put up for sale.

People explore the earth searching for minerals of value. In Pakistan, it is estimated that 100,000 people are involved with the mining of minerals as a profession. Much of this is for gemstone, but with 100,000 swinging hammers and moving rocks in a mountainous region, you are going to find some interesting rocks.

I’m going to start with the story of chalcocite, from Mindouli, Congo. Congo is not a particularly well-known country. It is a very poor country and often confused with the larger, better known Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire). It is a small country (a little less than twice the size of Nebraska) and has about three times as many people. Congo is not known for many mineral rich areas, making mining very limited, mostly around the town of M’Fouti, for minor amounts of copper. This region is tropical and heavily overgrown.

Congo is not a country where you think of minerals coming from, yet there was this very nice, interesting specimen of chalcocite in the British Museum of Natural History, brought out nearly 100 years ago. Sporadically, other minerals would appear on the mineral market from Congo, but not a steady supply, and little is known about them.

A few years ago, a mineral dealer from Poland, Tomasz Praszki, started going to, and sending people to, Congo, to look for minerals. It took several trips and years to decide it might be worth mounting a full-scale trip to this little country for minerals.

In 2019, Tomasz and his company, Spirifer Minerals, applied for permission to look for and mine mineral specimens in Congo. This required government approval and licensing, which is not a cheap proposition. He sent over a team of Polish mineral collectors and hired numerous locals to work for him.

It sounds almost romantic, traveling to an exotic locality to collect beautiful minerals. In reality, it is a trip to a third world country with huge spiders, disease, armed insurrectionists, warlords, snakes, humidity, thieves, and the potential to come home with nothing. This was a very risky proposition, and he had probably already spent tens of thousands of dollars before a single specimen was collected.

Collecting tools, such as rock hammers, had to be taken to Congo because they were not readily available there. They searched the mines and areas around the mines for months and collected thousands of specimens. The rock these specimens are in is hard and tough, so working it with hammer and chisel is laborious. Because shipping is

expensive, specimens had to be trimmed and often cleaned in the field to lower weight. Shipping rocks is an expensive proposition.

The rocks were then shipped to Poland where Spirifer Minerals further processed them. This included additional cleaning, trimming, sorting, studying, describing, labeling, pricing, and eventually selling.

There are mineral collectors in Poland, but most of the world’s wealthy mineral collectors reside in the United States. Tomasz has numerous customers in the United States and he frequently sells at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show in Arizona every February. He has to ensure that what he takes is well-priced and that it will sell. Only a very limited portion of people are mineral collectors, and even fewer are willing to pay significant prices for minerals.

Chalcocite is a somewhat common mineral, but fine crystals of chalcocite are rare. Very good specimens have come from England, Connecticut, and Namibia, but these sources have all dried up. A good 1-inch Connecticut chalcocite crystal typically goes for more than \$10,000 on the open market.

When Tomasz sets up in Tucson, he is competing with hundreds of other mineral dealers. There are many backroom deals and he may sell off the absolute best of his inventory to a potential pool of a dozen high end dealers and collectors. He also has transportation, meal, staff, and housing in Tucson expenses which easily add up to thousands of dollars.

How do you price minerals? It is often about what someone is willing to pay. Pretty minerals typically go for more money than ugly black or white minerals. They are more desirable and, therefore, more pricey. Rarity is another factor that contributes to a specimen’s price. Then there are a host of other factors, such as the specimen’s coolness, its chemistry, how well it is promoted, and how it compares to other localities. You can’t eat minerals, so you have to sell them.

Tomasz sells chalcocite and other minerals for \$50-\$10,000. Most of his specimens are in the lower end of that frame as there are there are even fewer people who spend \$10,000 on an individual specimen. For a typical miniature chalcocite, he might offer the specimen for \$75-\$400 depending on the quality of the specimen.

He also wholesales some of these specimens in larger quantities. These are typically meant for dealers, who can afford to lay out a couple hundred or thousand dollars to buy a dozen or more specimens. These wholesale minerals are meant to be resold with a mark-up for the buying dealer. These secondary dealers will often mark up the specimen 100% to make a profit and pay for their costs of carrying an inventory, doing shows, etc. It also means the secondary dealer is now a competitor of Tomasz.

The secondary dealer may, in turn, sell the chalcocite to a tertiary dealer, who may sell it to a quaternary dealer, and so forth, down the line. Eventually with all the mark-ups, the mineral will get too expensive to buy, or collectors won’t think it worth the price.

(Continued on page 9)

MINERALS - CONTINUED*(Continued from page 8)*

A general rule of thumb is that the closer you are to the collector, the better the price you'll get on the specimen. If three or four dealers have handled the mineral by the time it gets to you, the price is much higher than had you bought it retail from the original supplier. The best price is often wholesale from the original supplier. Wholesale quantities of minerals can be expensive and require the ability to move (sell) them.

In time, the chalcocite collected by the Polish collectors will spread to dealers far and wide. Specimens may get recycled from collections (one person buys it for his/her collection and later sells their collection or dies and his/her heirs sell it).

I always find it fascinating to try and imagine where all the specimens go. The Ladysmith Mine (WI) chalcocite came out by the tens of thousands, yet they are hard to find on the market today. Did all of these go to collections? Some are held back by dealers or speculators who think their value will increase; this is often the case, but not a guarantee. One of the dealers at the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Show last spring had about 15-20 of these chalcocites that he had reportedly gotten from someone at the mine who had held onto them all these years. They were very nice but, alas, I did not buy any of them.

Sometimes minerals go down in price. If a lot of dealers get the idea to go to Congo and look for minerals, the price could drop. Likewise, if Tomasz goes back and finds tons more, the price might drop. In general, minerals are a scarcity and tend to appreciate in value over time.

Chalcocite is also an ore, found mostly in the enriched cap of porphyry copper deposits. This can easily and quickly be mined by mechanized methods and is probably why we don't often see very many new chalcocite localities on the market.

The chalcocite from Congo are some of the nicest chalcocite crystals ever to be found. Is Tomasz swimming in money from his discoveries in Congo? I don't believe so. I think he has probably made a good amount of money, but he still has to compete with all the other mineral dealers and collectors out there. His quality has remained high and some of his past exploits are well known, sought after specimens. Will he always be successful at getting good minerals? We can hope so.

Keep in mind that some of these mineral ventures do not go so well. There are famously successful mining ventures like the Sweethome Mine rhodochrosite, but the company that did it also, reportedly, lost over a million dollars trying to reopen the Red Cloud Mine in Arizona for wulfenite.

Many specimens are also produced by individual collectors or small groups of collectors. The sincosite find at the Ross Hannibal Mine in South Dakota was collected by one person and he removed hundreds of specimens from this find that was on an active mining claim.

The collecting of minerals is not always very easy. It involves a lot of labor, travel, equipment, sweat, and exploration. Once you have found mineral in a rock, it has to

be chiseled out carefully as to not damage the specimen. The specimens have to be packed carefully, and since Tomasz's chalcocites were collected in a foreign country, there were a lot of hoops and legal requirements before exporting them.

So back to our original question, "Where do mineral specimens come from?" They must be found in nature, by people who recognize them for what they are: natural chemical assemblages which were given enough time, space, and material to grow into crystallized objects. They are mined by people and processed by people to be desired by people. They are transported around the world from people to people and each one is unique and wonderful. The milk doesn't just go from the cow to bottle in the grocery store, and neither do minerals.

JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Leader

Hello Juniors. The Mid-Winter Rock Swap has come and gone. I had hoped to see more juniors in attendance, but I realize how busy Saturdays can be.

Now is the time to finalize planning for our next big event, our annual gem and mineral show on April 1 and 2, 2023. We will need volunteers to sign up to help run the junior booth on Saturday and Sunday. If we have enough volunteers lined up, we will also be able to set up our famous rock race. It has been a few years since it was set up, and I would like to see it make a comeback.

If adult members are reading this, we are looking for donations of tumble polished rocks to sell at the junior table. If you have some you are able to donate, please let me (Brett) know. After the show, we will be looking for both tumble polished and tumble rough for future years.

Our next junior meeting is February 16th at 5:30 p.m. Please bring your specimen kit as I will have a lesson and a specimen for you.

Parents of juniors, please let me know about availability to volunteer on April 1st and 2nd. Also, let me know about availability for new meeting days and times. With the club rock equipment now housed at Hidden Gems (13th and Arapahoe), we can arrange for meeting space at times other than the general meeting.



All That Glitters is Not Gold Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club's 63rd Annual Show!

April 1 & 2, 2023

Lancaster Event Center

Lincoln Room

84th & Havelock

Lincoln, Nebraska

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Youth Booth

Dealers

Exhibits

Demonstrators

Nebraska Gem Dig

Fluorescent Display



Get \$1 off paid admission with a can donation to the Food Bank!

Regular Admission:

\$6 per adult.

\$11 2-day pass.

Children 11 and under

free with paid adult.

2024 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Jayne Beer, Sharon Marburger
 Club Booth/Silent Auction James & Sharon Marburger
 Finance & Swapper Bucks Sales: Vera Lyman
 Floor Chairman: Jayne Beer
 Insurance Vera Lyman
 Publicity & Promotion: Jayne Beer, Jim Marburger
 Web Master: Sharon Marburger
 Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens

2023 SHOW COMMITTEE

Theme: **Fools Gold (Iron Pyrite)**

Chairman: Jayne Beer
 Dealers & Demonstrators: Vera Lyman
 Displays: Ed Ridge
 Event Center Liaison Vera Lyman
 Finance/Ticket Sales: Vera Lyman, Jim Atkins
 Floor Chairman: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
 Fluorescent Booth: Brett Jurgens
 Forms Sharon Marburger
 LGMC Club Booth: Charles Wooldridge
 Nebraska Gem Dig: Charles Wooldridge
 Plants: Ed Ridge
 Publicity & Promotion: Jim Marburger
 Raffle Gene Mulinex
 Ribbons & Recognitions: Sharon Marburger
 Security: Vera Lyman
 Show Flyer & Printed Program Sharon Marburger
 Silent Auction: Sharon Marburger
 Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens

2023 SUMMER SWAP COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
 Vendors: Corey Beer, Sharon Marburger
 Finance & Ticket Sales: Vera Lyman
 Floor Chairmen: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
 Insurance Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger
 LGMC Club Booth: Sharon Marburger
 Publicity & Promotion: Jayne Beer, Jim Marburger
 Web Master: Sharon Marburger
 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.

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, Brett Jurgens

Field Trips:

James Marburger

Historian:

Sharon Marburger

Legislative Liaison:**Membership Record:**

Edward Ridge

MWF Liaison:

Vera Lyman

Programs:

Clyde Ogg (Wooly & Brett assisting)

Property:

James Marburger

Recognition/Awards:

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer, Charles Wooldridge

Refreshments:

Vera Lyman

Show—2023:

Jayne Beer

Swap (Mid-Winter) 2023:

Sharon Marburger

Swap (Summer) 2023:

Jayne Beer & Corey Beer

Website:

Sharon Marburger

Youth Activities:

Brett Jurgens

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

Lapidary Classes

(Stone Cutting)

Regular student

Pay \$75 for 5 3-hour classes

You get first choice at the session you choose.

If you cannot be there, let me know by noon on Friday and you won't be charged for the class (this is how drop in openings happen). If you don't call and don't show up, you will be charged as if you were there.

Drop in student

Pay \$15 for 3 hours

This is only when openings are available.

I will post on Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Facebook page when there are openings.

Hidden Gems

by The Jewelry Connection

3227 S 13th
Lincoln Ne

Class Times

Saturday 10 am - 1 pm

Saturday 2 pm - 5 pm

Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm

Jayne Beer - Jeweler
402-890-3307

Corey Beer - Lapidary
402-890-9155

Silversmithing Classes

The Jewelry Connection Ltd.

Indian Village Shopping Ctr.

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

Tuesday & Wednesday Evenings

7:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$150 plus \$30 supply deposit

Tuesdays

Session 1: Jan 10—Feb 28

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 or look up "Hidden Gems by the Jewelry Connection LTD" in Facebook and send message