



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).

New Meeting Times: Juniors meet at 6:15 p.m.
Adults meet at 7:00 p.m.

Next meetings: **October 19, 2023 (Halloween dress-up)**
 November 16, 2023 (Annual Business Meeting)
 December 3, 2023 (Christmas Party)

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, November 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>

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>).

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Madagascar Mineral Adventures by Eric Fritsch

Eric Fritsch and his wife, Carolyn, spent 3 weeks in Madagascar this August, specifically touring mines and mineral deposits with the Mindat Organization. Madagascar is famous for its gems and minerals. Madagascar is close to the geoprode (exact opposite side of the Earth) of Nebraska. It takes over 26 hours to fly there and is not a simple place to get around.

Come to the next meeting, Thursday, October 19th, 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House to find out about this incredible and amazing place.

Let's Get Rockin' at the Wooldridges! Rock Party on Sunday, October 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

Featuring Venison Spaghetti Squash!

6115 Huntington

Bring your projects, your potluck food items,
and yourselves to celebrate rocks and each other!

It should be another fun-filled evening!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Judith Bay

Opal & Tourmaline



Photo
from
gia.edu

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

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DEADLINE:

Last Sunday of the month.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Brett Jurgens

Hello.

Although last week felt like the height of summer, this week fall is starting to show its face. While I enjoyed the summer, and my several rock collecting trips, I am ready for the pace to slow down. Working retail, that slow pace doesn't last too long though. Thank goodness for rock club and some of our planned events so I can at least feel a little bit social.

Our Halloween Party and meeting is coming up on the 19th. Make sure to bring a costume as your favorite rock or mineral. We will have another fantastic program given by Eric Fritsch. I believe this is one you will not want to miss.

The Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club (Omaha) had their annual rock show on September 30th and October 1st. Numerous LGMC members answered the call for volunteers and helped out at the show. Sharon and Jim Marburger helped at the ticket booth, as did Amy and Leland Petersen. Several ideas were picked up on that we may use at our show in the future. Ed Ridge ran the silent auction. I helped out at the Rock Pile and wherever else needed, plus I had displays. Corey and Jayne Beer helped with tear down. As we all know, it takes a lot to put on a show, and I have been striving to have LGMC and the Omaha Club work closer to help each other with promoting our hobby. Please consider volunteering at the Omaha show next year. Your help is greatly appreciated and it does not go unnoticed.

Speaking of shows, we are now less than six months from our show! Please start thinking about how you can help out, what you would like to display, etc. I may sound like a parrot, nevertheless, "it takes a lot to put on a show". But that effort is well worth the result.

At our recent board meeting I proposed having "activity nights" at Hidden Gems to raise interest in using the club equipment housed there. This equipment was set up with the intent of club members using it at the low cost of \$5 an hour to help offset costs. So far, there has been very little usage of the equipment. Activity nights will be a free use night to get people familiar with and certified to use the equipment. We are hoping this will get people using it at other times. The equipment is a great opportunity that is provided by the club and Hidden Gems - please make use of it! See the article to the right.

Thursday, October 12

6:00 p.m.

At Hidden Gems

by The Jewelry Connection Ltd.

Nycky Lytle will teach a wire wrapping class on how to make a druzy pendant. The cost is \$40. All materials will be supplied. Contact Jayne Beer to reserve your spot in the class. Space is limited to 12 attendees.



Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society

45th ANNUAL

GEM, JEWELRY, & ARTIFACT SHOW

October 21st & 22nd, 2023

Methodist Outreach Center • 3602 16th Street • Columbus, NE

Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm • Sunday: 10:00am - 3:00pm



DISPLAYS WIRE WRAPPING DEMONSTRATION ...AND MORE!

Indian Artifacts
Fossils
Buffalo Skulls
Rocks
Gems

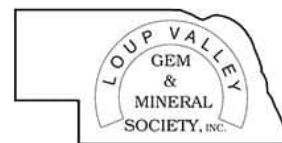
FOUR ROCK GEM & JEWELRY VENDORS.

Children's Activities
Lunch Stand
Raffle

Come and Enjoy the Beauty and Wonders of the Rock World

Admission: Adults \$5.00
Children under 12 free.

Not Responsible for Loss or Accident



ACTIVITY NIGHT

By LGMC Board

The Board has scheduled a club activity night for Saturday, January 27, 2024. It will be held at Hidden Gems by The Jewelry Connection Ltd. from 3:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. (or later, if needed or wanted).

This will be your opportunity to use the club lapidary equipment **free of charge!** You can also earn your equipment certification, which will allow you to use the equipment, without supervision, at any time Hidden Gems is open for business.

And don't forget that Hidden Gems also holds lapidary classes on Saturdays and Sundays. (See ad on last page.) You can also earn your equipment certification by attending these classes.

As a reminder, club members may normally use the equipment for the same price as lapidary class members - \$5.00 an hour. You can't find a better bargain in town!

This event is not to be confused with a Rock Party; it is solely to provide **FREE** and guided lessons on the lapidary equipment. This group loves food, so there will probably be snacks available. If you would like to contribute, you may bring simple finger foods.

Be there, or be a Leavarite.

LGMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

by Jeff Kubitz, Secretary

Thursday, September 7, 2023 at the Lyman Residence

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens.

Roll Call

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

Guests: Mike & Donitte Stiles present

The minutes of the May meeting were distributed. Eddie moved to accept the minutes, second by Jim. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Wooly moved to accept the report, second by Corey. Motion carried.

Announcements:

The Omaha Show will be September 30 - October 1. They are looking for volunteers to help out.

Old Business:

Brett Jurgens and Clyde Ogg will continue to look for the best projector for our club.

UV lights choice is still between UV Systems vs Way Too Cool. UV Systems have raised their price. Brett said, at Crawford, two private collections had Black Lights with 95 watts by Way Too Cool. UV Systems had hand-held shortwave of less than 70% transmittance and Solarize 10%. They have new ones for \$3,000.00. Brett is leaning toward Way Too Cool for the club's lights. We need short, long and mid waves lighting. The Board previously approved up to \$5,000.00 to spend on UV lights.

New Business:

Vera and Donnite went to the Park Department to see about renting Bethany Park Shelter for the Mid-Winter Rock Swap. Someone else has already booked all the Saturdays in January 2024. The Board previously discussed changing the Mid-Winter Swap to the third weekend of January so as not to compete with the Tucson Show. Since Saturdays are not available, we will hold the Rock Swap on **Sunday**, January 21, 2024. Swappers will be allowed to sign up for tables ahead of time, as is done for the Summer Swap. Until such time as we move to a larger venue, Swappers will be limited to **one** table each. Swappers will be able to select their table from the provided floor plan. Club members will be given first choice on swap tables at the Christmas Party. The registration form and floor plan will be placed on the website shortly thereafter.

The Board slate will be presented at the September General meeting. Nominations will be called for from the floor. Although nominations will not be discussed at the October meeting, if you have a nomination or wish to volunteer, you may contact the Nominating Committee at any time prior to the November election.

Members are to dress up as their favorite rock, mineral, fossil, or other hobby-related item for the October Halloween meeting on October 19. This is always a lot of fun.

The Christmas Party is planned for Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a potluck supper, with club-provided fried chicken. A short meeting will follow the supper, and the ROCK BINGO!!

Motion to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. by Sharon, second by Eddie. Meeting adjourned.

JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Leader



It was nice to see some new faces last month; I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Speaking of our next meeting, please plan to stay for the program after the general meeting. It is not one to miss. Eric Fritzsche is giving a talk on his mineral collecting trip to Madagascar. I know from his past presentations, this will be fantastic. Also, please do not forget to bring a costume as your favorite rock or mineral. You can either come to the meeting in costume, or change into for the costume contest. And, yes, there will be prizes!

Our lesson this month will focus on quartz vs. chalcedony vs. agate, what they have in common and what differentiates them. Please bring your specimen boxes as you will have a new specimen going home with you.

If anyone is looking for something to do on Saturday, October 14th, Camp Creek Threshers is having their free annual "Eek at the Creek" trunk or treating at their show grounds outside Waverly. There will be lots of people handing out candy, free food, and hay rack rides. Families who have gone in the past had a blast.

I believe Leland and his mom had a fun time at the Omaha show. In addition to looking at everything, they sat at the entry and sold admission tickets. Leland appeared to enjoy himself immensely doing this volunteering job.

October 19
Halloween Meeting
Come dressed as your
favorite hobby-related
item

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2023, Bethany Park Shelter House
by Jeff Kubitz, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens. There were 30 members and seven guests in attendance - Sherry, Kathlyn, Jojo, PhePhe, Alisa, Ari, and Mila.

Minutes were published in the Pick & Shovel. Motion by Wooly to accept the minutes as published, Gene Mulinex second. Motion passed.

The Treasurers Report was read by Sharon Marburger. Jim Marburger moved to accept the report, second by Wooly. Motion passed.

Old Business:

The Crawford Rock Swap was held over Labor Day weekend. At least 12 members attended this event, which was also the 2023 President's Field Trip. Gene gave a shout out to Brett for providing great food and cooking. Two spectacular private collections were viewed by two members; the hope is a field trip could be set up at some future time.

Jayne Beer reported that the wire wrapping and weaving classes taught by Nykky Lytle at Hidden Gems are quite popular and well-attended. Jayne also reminded that lapidary and silver smithing classes are also taught at Hidden Gems.

The Traveling Driveway Rock Sales held over Memorial Day weekend was a success for Lincoln driveways. Marburgers has three customers on Saturday, but were closed on Sunday due to illness.

The Camp Creek Threshers event was fun and those who participated had a great time.

Brett reported that he and Clyde located a projector that would work to replace our current projector. It will be purchased soon.

The new UV lights will be purchased from the company, Way Too Cool. They had the best prices and quality products.

The theme for the 2024 Show will be "Nebraska's Geological Treasures". Sharon is accepting ideas for the advertising post cards and flyers until October 1.

The October Rock Party will be hosted by Wooly and Jackie. Check the October newsletter for date and time.

New Business:

The club Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. The club will provide fried chicken and beverages; members to bring a hot dish and a cold dish to share.

The date for the 2024 Mid-Winter Swap has been changed to the third Sunday, January 21, 2024. Future Mid-Winter swaps will most likely be held on the third Sunday of January, to avoid conflict with the Tucson show. As always, swappers are allowed one table. Members will be given the opportunity of first choice at the Christmas Party. Shortly thereafter, the information sheet and registration form will be

posted on the club's website.

In Vera's absence, Sharon announced that name tags will be ordered shortly. We get a lower cost with volume ordered. At the moment, each tag is approximately \$14. It is in the shape of Nebraska with the club name and the member name. If hanging bars are needed, they are approximately \$7.

Nominating Committee Chairman Jayne Beer announced that it is time for nominations for the Board of Directors. The beginning slate showed the 2024 Board to remain the same. Nominations were accepted from the floor. Brett nominated Clyde Ogg for a Board seat; Clyde accepted nomination. Sharon nominated Mike Stiles for a Board seat; Mike accepted nominations. No nominations at the October meeting. Nominations will be called for prior to the election at the November meeting.

The October meeting is our dress up as your favorite hobby-related item for Halloween. It is always fun to guess what everybody is.

Jim reported that a long-time rockhound, Kay Graber, donated her collection to the club for educational purposes. The juniors will benefit from some of the specimens, and others will be sold to advance their learning. The collection is estimated at \$6,000. Marburgers also purchased another old collection and is donating a large portion of it to the juniors.

Wooly shared that this meeting day is United International Day of Peace.

It is noted that, along with the usual specimens donated by members for the door prizes, Wooly also donated a rock tumbler, to be given to the junior holding the first junior number drawn, as long as they didn't already own a tumbler. The winner was Joy Pribl.

Wooly moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Jayne. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m. to Jamie Brezina's Zoom presentation about the many different agates and how they are formed. It was an interesting and informative presentation.

Rock Party at Wooly's
Sunday, October 15
@ 5:00 p.m.
6115 Huntington
Potluck Supper
Wooly has lapidary equipment, so bring
your projects to work on. Or just sit and visit.

MINERALOGICAL MISWANTINGS

By Eric Fritzscht (via LGMC Facebook Post)

Have you ever gone to a mineral show or shop and thought, I really want that. When you get the specimen and return home, you find there really isn't as much joy in that specimen as you'd hoped. These are mineralogical miswantings, the way we often inaccurately predict how much joy something will bring us.

We do this with a lot of items, clothes, tools, toys, food, and other items. We often don't appreciate the difference between like and want. We all like minerals, so we want them all. Nobody needs them (as a hobby), but we convince ourselves we'd be more happy with them.

Some things can buy you happiness, a puppy, a comfortable house, and even a new car (if your old one isn't running so well). Money can buy happiness to a point. Most studies suggest having enough money to meet and slightly exceed one's needs is a breakeven point. People with millions of dollars are not generally happier than people with a comfortable salary.

My mother is convinced I should never buy another mineral, because I have so many now. She's not a collector and doesn't understand that collecting overrides need. But how do we avoid the mineralogical miswantings, aka buyers remorse?

Buyers remorse comes in all sorts of forms. Sometimes you feel pressure to buy or are overwhelmed. Sometimes you realize you overpaid for something. It can be that the specimen isn't really as good as you thought or you didn't notice something about it when you bought it. Peer pressure or advertising can also cause bad decision making. How many people are going to a show this weekend with money in their pocket burning a hole?

First of all, there should be some very basic rules and concepts you set up ahead of time.

#1 is always starting with a budget. Set a budget and refuse to exceed it. You can always walk away and come home from a show with money in your pocket. You don't have to spend it.

#2 Realize that one's budget is discretionary funding. Hobbies are money pits, they take money, not make money.

#3 is knowing. Knowledge is powerful and to avoid buyers remorse, you need to know about the specimen, it's "pretend" value, and how it compares to other samples.

#4 Once you've taken ownership of the specimen, enjoy it. If it doesn't still provide you with joy, get rid of it. You can dispose of it, give it away, or even sell it (lots of collectors have side businesses where they will often sell specimens out of their collections).

Number four (#4) can even be used to upgrade your collection. Collectors will often accept lower quality specimens and replace them later with better quality ones. Why not get the best quality first? Often it is price. In order to get the best of the best, it is often out of the reaches of most people.

The key to all of it is enjoyment. Enjoy all of your specimens. If you don't enjoy them, get rid of the them. If you are not financially capable of buying specimens, don't; you don't need them. Remember, collecting anything is for enjoyment.

Don't compare your collection to other collections and equate it with sadness or happiness. Your collection is your collection and you built it. Envy and jealousy are as ugly as they sound. The happiest people are those who are content.

Lastly, you can't collect everything. Some people have no filter and try to collect everything. Know your limits. The problem with miswanting is wanting the wrong things and making bad decisions about what will and won't make you happy. Much unhappiness has less to do with not getting what we want and not liking what we have.

POSTCARD RECEIVED IN THE MAIL

**Have you found a meteorite?
Do you want to know?
Meteoritetesting.org**

"The Testing Program is an educational outreach for science centers, universities, museums, planetariums, mineral societies, and the general public. It offers a quick turnaround of you samples at a low cost and is available to anyone who believes they have found a meteorite."

This editor reviewed the website. Be sure to read the FAQ section before using this service.

Disclaimer: Use at your own discretion. LGMC is not responsible for any interactions with the organization.



The picture is the Widmanstätten structure of the iron meteorite *Yarovoye*, IIIAB, Yarov, Russia, found in 1991.

[THE 56 SURE SITES TO FIND AGATES IN NEBRASKA IN 2023](#)

By Dr. Keith Jackson, Geology Ph.D., excerpted from ROCKCHASING.com/agates-in-Nebraska

With agates being so beautiful you can imagine that the best spots are not always advertised widely. In fact, it isn't unusual for good places to find agates to be secrets known by just a few locals. Fortunately, you do know someone who has been around the block!

The key factors in our recommendations are:

- ◇ The deep experience and understanding of our team about the area
- ◇ Recommendations from local groups and clubs
- ◇ How easy it is to get to a particular location
- ◇ Safety and potential hazards when collecting
- ◇ Weighing private and public locations
- ◇ The ability for both experienced and novice agate enthusiasts to find great samples
- ◇ With these factors in mind we've been able to put together a fantastic list that just about anyone can use!

Always Confirm Access and Collection Rules!

Before heading out to any of the locations on our list you need to confirm access requirements and collection rules for both public and private locations.

These requirements are subject to change without notice and may differ from what we state below.

Always get updated information directly from the source ahead of time to ensure responsible rockhounding.

Platte River is one of Nebraska's most iconic waterways. Stretching over 310 miles across our state, it flows eastward, eventually joining up with the Missouri River. Over the ages, water flow has moved vast amounts of sediment, giving the Platte River a unique, braided appearance. This braided pattern has created countless sandbars and islands. From a geological perspective, its sediments and gravels have trapped a treasure trove of ancient materials, including agates.

Reaching the Platte River is easy, especially given its significant length and accessibility. Major highways run alongside or cross it at various points, making it a favorite spot not just for rockhounds, but also for families, hikers, and nature lovers. You can spot stunning agates along the shorelines and sand pits of the Platte River.

Little Nemaha River winds its way through some truly picturesque landscapes. Starting from its headwaters in the southeastern part of our state, it flows gracefully for about 75 miles before joining the Big Nemaha River. Its journey paints a diverse picture of Nebraska's terrain, showcasing both the gentle undulations of the land and the flatter, more expansive plains areas.

When it comes to terrain and geology, the Little Nemaha River has a lot to offer. Its banks, rich with sediment and soil, tell tales of ancient times through the presence of various minerals and rocks, including precious agates.

Reaching the Little Nemaha River is a straightforward affair. It runs through several towns and is crossed by roads at multiple points, making access quite easy. If you want to find agates, explore the gravels of the Little Nemaha River near Auburn.

Minnechaduza Creek is a charming and often overlooked gem. Located in the north-central part of our state, it winds and weaves for several miles, creating a delightful scene of rippling waters and surrounding landscapes. Along some stretches, the creek gently rolls over soft plains, while in other spots, it has carved more noticeable paths through the land, resulting in mini canyons and interesting rock formations. Getting to Minnechaduza Creek isn't a tough task. While it's somewhat off the beaten path, there are roads and pathways that lead to prime viewing spots along the creek. Its relative tranquility also means that you can have a more peaceful experience, without the hustle and bustle of crowded tourist spots. To find agates, you can explore upstream and down on both sides of the Minnechaduza Creek and in the hills flanking it all the way to the South Dakota border.

Pine Ridge spans a vast area, showcasing a blend of rugged cliffs, deep canyons, and lush pine forests. It's a stark contrast to the flatter landscapes Nebraska is often associated with. Tall pine trees sway with the wind atop the ridges, while the canyons below tell stories of ages gone by. The canyons here have been carved out over millennia by the forces of nature, with treasures that are a dream come true for rock lovers. If you're thinking of visiting Pine Ridge, you're in for a treat. It's easily accessible by road, with well-maintained highways and trails leading into its heart. Once there, a network of hiking paths lets you explore the region's beauty up close. The general area of Pine Ridge offers irresistible opportunities to uncover captivating agates.

Where to Look for Agates

Rivers and Riverbeds. As rivers flow, they pick up rocks and minerals from their sources and carry them downstream. Over the journey, its waters act like nature's sandpaper, grinding away the softer materials and leaving behind the tougher ones. Among these tough treasures are agates! Agates, with their splendid patterns and bands, are hardy gemstones. They resist erosion better than many other rocks. That's why, as a river erodes its surroundings, these beautiful stones often remain intact. In Nebraska, rivers meander through this geologically rich land. In doing so, they unearth and transport agates to different parts of our state.

Sediment Deposits. Sediment deposits are formed from particles that settle over time, often in layers. Among the treasures found in these layers are agates, which are both beautiful and resilient. Since agates are harder than many surrounding materials, they endure as softer particles erode away. Nebraska's history of ancient volcanic activities and river movements has resulted in rich sedimentary layers. As these layers have been laid down over millions of years, they've captured and preserved many agates within them.

Aside from our top recommendations, listed below are some more sure sites where you can find agates in Nebraska.

OMAHA GEM SHOW

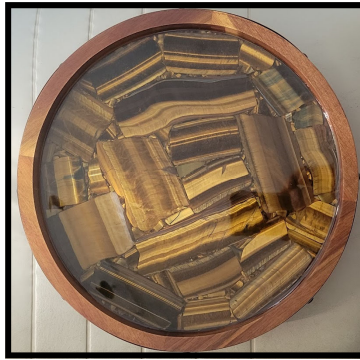
By Sharon Marburger

The Omaha Gem & Mineral Show was on September 30 and October 1. Brett Jurgens had called to ask if we could volunteer some time at the show, to help out where needed. So we headed up Saturday morning, taking some time to walk around the show before our volunteer duties. There were many beautiful items for sale. It was hard to not buy everything in sight! Jim made me buy THREE spheres for my sphere collection. They are beautiful. We also purchased two lazy susans; pictures herein. A friend of the Jeanneretts makes them.

Omaha’s club rock pile was overflowing with goodies. There was still a lot of stuff left after Jim and I went through it. We are happy campers for now.



Lazy Susan made with petrified wood



Lazy Susan made with tiger eye

We offered to man the “gate”, taking admissions to the show. Of course, when it was time to take over, the entrance line was out the door. It was a quick lesson on the procedure, and thankfully those waiting to get in were patient with our process. It was very enjoyable greeting the public as most of them were very excited about the show and ROCKS! Tammy Jeannerett had set up a “Square” to take credit and debit cards for the admission fees. It was super easy; just press the appropriate button for regular admission, students, or seniors. It would be nice to have a similar setup for the Lincoln show.

When our two hour shift was over, Amy and Leland Petersen relieved us. After having a lull in admissions, of course the line was once again out the door when they took over. Another quick lesson and they had it down. Leland, who is one of Lincoln’s juniors, was excellent at greeting people and referring them to submit tickets to the “raffle”, which was a very nice - and large - pyrite specimen.

The Omaha club has secured a location for their shop. Watch for more information or contact their leadership to learn more.

NEBRASKA SITES FOR AGATES - CONTINUED

Continued from p. 7

- Douglas Lyman-Ritchie gravel pit
- Douglas Valley area
- Hooker Upstream on South Fork along both shores to Jefford Lake
- Jefferson Regional gravel pits and stream gravels in Fairbury
- Jefferson Area gravel pits, quarries, and stream gravels in Steele City
- Johnson Sterling area
- Keith Upstream along the south bank of North Platte River to Kingsley Dam
- Lancaster Lincoln area
- Madison Norfolk area gravel pits
- Morrill Area gravel pits, sandhills, and stream gravels in Bayard
- Nance Local gravel pits in Fullerton
- Nance Upstream on both sides of Loup River
- Nemaha Auburn area
- Nemaha Brock area
- Nemaha Johnson area
- Nuckolls Oak area gravel pits
- Otoe Gravel pits in Palmyra and Dunbar
- Otoe Lorton, Syracuse, and Unadilla area gravel deposits
- Pawnee DuBois area gravel deposits
- Pawnee Table Rock area gravel deposits
- Red Willow South shore of the Republican River and Red Willow Creek
- Richardson Dawson area
- Richardson Stella area gravel deposits
- Richardson Along Nemaha River in Humboldt
- Sheridan Area gravels, cut banks, and breaks in Hat Springs
- Sheridan Whiteclay Creek
- Sheridan All breaks, badlands, cut banks, erosion features in Whiteclay area
- Sioux Area gravel beds and cut banks of Hat Creek
- Sioux Waldron Hills
- Sioux Area gravels in the Montrose area



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



TIDBITS FROM WOOLY

by Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge (photo provided by Wooly)



You Can't Roller Skate in a Buffalo Herd!

It has been a very busy end of summer! Jackie and I did a show at Canton, South Dakota the end of July. It was a fun and profitable experience, with lots of good people. We camped with our camper at Blue Mounds State Park in Southwest Minnesota. A beautiful campground with lots of geology to explore.

We visited Pipestone National Park to view the mines. Artisans, carving the Pipestone (Catlinite) were very informative. There are 56 mines, all operated by Native Americans. There is an eight year waiting list to get a mine.

My next trip was to the Crawford Rock Swap. I got there early and saved places for other LGMC members. There were over a dozen that showed up. Other than the micro burst of wind that destroyed Jayne's and Corey's setup, all had a great time.

September 30th, a friend and I went rock hounding in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. After hunting around a large mesa, we decided to follow the 4x4 trail to the west. After traveling a few miles through beautiful grasslands and mesas, we suddenly found ourselves surrounded by hundreds of bison. The Pine Ridge Reservation has over 300. It appeared too late to turn around, as we were already surrounded, so we just slowly drove through the herd as they moved out of the way. It was an amazing experience. Reminded me of the old days when bison ruled the Great Plains.

The young woman from Game and Parks is still planning to write an article about rock hounding in Nebraska. I hope to take her on a field trip to Richardson County in the next few weeks. I hope to have more information about this at the Rock Party at my house on October 15th. (See announcement on page 2.)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 15:	Rock Party at Wooly's
October 18:	General Meeting (Halloween)
November 5:	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 16:	General Meeting (Annual Business Meeting with Election of Officers)
November 19:	Rock Party at Hidden Gems (Soup Supper in memory of Roger Pabian)
December 3:	Club Christmas Party (with Rock Bingo!!!!)
December 16:	Rock Party at the Marburgers (menu undetermined at this time)
January 21, 2024:	Mid-Winter Swap with pizza supper and meeting to follow (NOTE NEW DATE)
January 27, 2024:	Club Activity Night at Hidden Gems

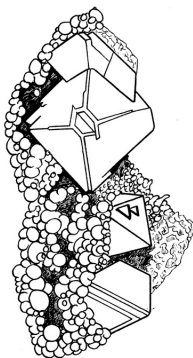
FLUORITE

by Jillian Primrose

As published in *Mini Miners Monthly*, August 2023 -
Volume 15, Number 8

Fluorite is a fascinating mineral that naturally forms in all colors of the rainbow. One of the most interesting and characteristic properties of this mineral is fluorescence. The phenomenon is so common in fluorite that when the word was created in 1852 by George Gabriel Stokes, he named it after the stone. Fluorescence and the similar optical effect of phosphorescence both describe when a stone glows under ultraviolet light. The difference between the two is that when the light is removed, fluorescent stones will almost immediately stop glowing, but phosphorescent stones continue to glow, and fade over minutes to even hours!

Not all specimens of fluorite fluoresce, but like all minerals, they share many other properties. Fluorite is a fairly soft material, at a 4 on the Mohs hardness scale. Fluorite varies in its color greatly. Pure fluorite is clear, but this is rare. Most widely available fluorite specimens are green or purple, and many have bands of the two colors. However, many other colors, such as some striking teals I personally love, can be found. Fluorite specimens also can come with some great inclusions, or other minerals present within the stone. Some are super sparkly, like mica or pyrite!



Fluorite forms in many interesting shapes and patterns. Most commonly, fluorite forms in cubes or octahedra, which are eight-sided, diamond-shaped crystals. When a lot of these shapes grow on or near each other, fluorite can make some gorgeous formations. It can exhibit interesting effects as well. One of these is called “QR code” fluorite. This is when pigmentation is darkest on the outer faces of the fluorite, and it makes cubical, squiggly lines across the specimen that resembles a QR code.



Another interesting type of fluorite is “sugar” fluorite. “Sugar” fluorite is when miniscule quartz crystals grow all over the surface of a fluorite specimen, making it look like a sugar coated candy! This type of fluorite is very popular for the sparkly effect it exhibits as a result of the tiny crystals on its surface.

Those of you who pay close attention to your tubes of toothpaste may recognize a similar sounding word, fluoride. Fluoride is a non-crystallized form of fluorite. In other words, those beautiful mineral specimens are made of some of the same stuff as your toothpaste! Despite that, it’s still never a good idea to put your mineral collection in your mouth.

MINERAL TERMINOLOGYFrom *Mini Miners Monthly*, June 2023**Acicular:** Needle-like**Arborescent:** Like a tree**Botryoidal:** Grape-like**Bow-Tie Crystals:** Formation that looks like a bow tie**Dendritic:** Branching**Double Refraction:** Optical property where light splits into two rays**Enhydro:** Containing water**Eye Agate:** Circular banding**Fiber Optics:** Ulexite - when specimen is cut and polished across the fiber and the specimen is placed on top of a picture, the image appears to be on top of the specimen**Fibrous:** Like a fiber**Filiform:** Like a thread**Flos Ferri:** Flowers of iron (sample - aragonite)**Fluorescence:** When UV light shines on some minerals, it causes electrons in the minerals to jump around. This jumping around creates light that you see as fluorescent colors.**Hopper Crystals:** When a crystal edge grows faster than the face, causing a hollow space that makes the crystal look like a funnel-shaped box.**Inclusion:** Something trapped inside**Magnetism:** The state of attracting iron objects**Parallel Growth:** All lined up**Phantom:** When a crystal stops growing, then begins growing at a later time, it appears that a crystal is trapped within a larger one.**Pisolitic:** Pea-like or Bird’s Nest**Pseudomorph:** False form**Reticulated:** Forms a pattern or network**Striations:** Lines parallel to each other across a crystal face (and not scratches)**Twinned Crystals:** Two crystals growing together at a specific angle**Zoned Crystals:** A change in chemistry as a crystal grows, causing color changes (such as watermelon tourmaline)

2024 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Jayne Beer, Sharon Marburger
 Club Booth/Rock Pile..... 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

2024 SHOW COMMITTEE

Theme: **Nebraska's Geological Treasures**

Chairman:..... Jayne Beer
 Dealers & Demonstrators:..... Vera Lyman
 Displays: Brett Jurgens
 Event Center Liaison..... Vera Lyman
 Finance/Ticket Sales: Jim Atkins
 Floor Chairman: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
 Fluorescent Booth: Clyde Ogg
 Forms Sharon Marburger
 Indoor Rock Pile: 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
 Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens

2024 SUMMER SWAP COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
 Vendors: Corey Beer, Sharon Marburger
 Finance & Ticket Sales: Vera Lyman, Gene Mulinex
 Floor Chairmen: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
 Insurance Vera Lyman, James Marburger
 LGMC Rock Pile:..... 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:

Jayne Beer, Ed Dvorak, 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:

Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger

Refreshments:

Vera Lyman

Show - 2024:

Jayne Beer

Swap (Mid-Winter) 2024:

Jayne Beer & Sharon Marburger

Swap (Summer) 2024:

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