



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.

Current club by-laws can be found at www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/About/General Information.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the Month, except for January (3rd Sunday), December (1st Sunday), and summer break (June, July, August).

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

Next meeting: May 16, 2024

Program: Member "Show and Tell"

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, June 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Vera Lyman's Residence

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

2024 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: Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323, lgmc.editor@outlook.com

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

Board Member: Clyde Ogg, 402.326.8682, clydeogg55@gmail.com

Board Member: Mike Stiles, 402.890.1760, mcstiles72@outlook.com

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

2024 LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

1 year: Jayne Beer & Brett Jurgens
2 years: Sharon Marburger & Clyde Ogg
3 years: Vera Lyman & Jim Marburger

2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

1 year: Jeff Kubitz & Vera Lyman
2 years: Jayne Beer & Brett Jurgens
3 years: Charles Wooldridge & Donitte Stiles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Brett Jurgens



Hello LGMC. Sunday night after the show I slept really, really good. It might have been sheer physical exhaustion and lack of sleep from preparing for, setting up, staffing, and tearing down the show. But I think a relaxed mind helped. The week before, my mind was racing with questions: what else do we need to do, what am I forgetting, will the UV lights come in time, will the show be successful? But Sunday night my mind was quiet. I was able to sleep knowing we had come together and pulled off another successful show. And we will be ready for the next one. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered. Special shout out to Katlin and Blake; they joined the club at the March meeting and immediately signed up to volunteer at the show.

Saturday, May 11th is a rock party at Wooly's. Rock parties are a great way to meet other members in the club, try your hand at polishing a rock, and eating some great food. I look forward to talking with you there.

Thursday, May 16th is our last regular meeting before we break for the summer. The club stays active during the summer with other activities. For our program in May, members are encouraged to bring examples of what they are interested in. For example, someone could bring in a vibrating flat lap and examples of material polished with it. I am planning to bring examples of Wyoming petrified wood and Nebraska chalcedony. We will set up around the room and have everyone briefly explain what they brought, and then everyone can go around to examine and converse. This lets us cover multiple interests within the group. If you would like to share your interest, please bring some examples. It is always fascinating to see what others like.

June 22nd and 23rd is our fourth annual Summer Gem Fest at the Beer Family Farm. This is a fantastic event that we have been trying to grow each year. We have the food truck secured for both days; Pim's Thai will be serving their delicious food. On Saturday the 22nd, we will have a picnic potluck for dealers and club members immediately after close.

We are also planning a couple local field trips and another visit to Robber's Cave in July. We first visited Robber's Cave last year and had a blast. Some members were not able to attend, and multiple have expressed interest in going again, so we will. The cave is just blocks from Hidden Gems, and we are planning a potluck afterwards at Hidden Gems.

July 20th and 21st is the Camp Creek Thresher's annual show east of Waverly. I will be looking for volunteers to help staff a rock display there. The display was very popular with both kids and parents last year, and we had over 850 visitors. It is a great way to promote the hobby and club. I look forward to seeing you at these events.

The weekend of August 24th and 25th is the Midwest Federation Convention in Peoria, Illinois. We are looking for someone to go as a delegate of LGMC. The duties are to attend the Delegates' Meeting on Saturday (usually less than two hours), take notes, and report back to the club. There is the added benefit of attending the show hosted by the Peoria Academy of Science - Geology Section. See Sharon Marburger for more information.

I'd also like to welcome all the new members joining at or after the show. There were multiple at the April meeting, along with several guests.

Rock Party at Wooly's Saturday, May 11 @ 5:00 p.m. Wooly will serve brats (no, not naughty children)

Presuming the weather permits, this will be a back yard event. Wooly has lapidary equipment in his basement, so bring your projects if you wish to work on them. Also, if you have portable equipment, you are welcome to bring that. Rock Parties are a lot of fun with food and camaraderie. Don't worry if you don't have a project - food and conversation with relaxation is also accepted.

6115 Huntington, Lincoln

JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Leader



Hello Juniors.

Well, we made it through the show. A big thank you to those who volunteered at the junior booth: Millie, Ari, Adam, Cash, and Leah. I thank you. Come to the May meeting to pick from the treasure box for helping out. A big thank you to the parents who helped out as well. And a special thank you to Charisse Stillahn and Allan Gossman who stepped when we weren't staffed to keep the Gem Dig running. Also, congrats to Adam and Ja-Zeil for setting up a display case. I greatly appreciate that.

Our next club event is a rock party on May 11th at 5 p.m. at Wooly's. If you are new to the club, rock parties are pot lucks hosted by a club member. Often the host will have rock polishing equipment available for people to try their hand at it. There is also lots of great conversation and getting to know each other. And food. Lots of good food.

We have one more regular meeting before our summer break, but don't think that means we aren't doing anything during the summer. June 22nd and 23rd is our Summer Gem Fest. The juniors have typically sold drinks as a fundraiser, but I need volunteers to be able to do this. On Saturday the 22nd, we will have a club and dealer picnic at 6 p.m. immediately after close. We also have plans in the works for at least one collecting field trip and one visiting a collection. And we are working on a date for a rock party at Hidden Gems along with a tour of Robber's Cave. More information at the May meeting.

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
HOSTS ITS FOURTH ANNUAL

Summer Gem Fest

June 22 & 23, 2024

Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Beer Family Farm

18701 Ashland Road, Ashland, Nebraska

Admission: Adult \$3.00; Kids 12 and under FREE

Help the Lincoln Food Bank replenish its shelves.

Bring canned items for the Food Bank.

Gem Fest is open to the public, for both selling and buying.
Everyone is welcome!

**Family
Friendly**

Jewelry

Fossils

**Rocks
&
Minerals**

**Buy
Sell
Trade**

**Lapidary
Supplies
&
Equipment**

**Club Rock Pile
(formerly Silent Auction)**

If you are interested in being a vendor, go to
<https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/summer-gem-fest>
for more information and to fill out the Advanced Reservation form (available Feb. 24).
All Advanced Reservations must be made through the website.

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
Box 5342

Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

Contact Sharon Marburger at 402.429.3323; lgmc.editor@outlook.com.

This flyer may be photocopied and distributed.
Quarter-page flyers are also available from Jayne Beer at Hidden Gems.

APRIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 4, 2024
Home of Vera Lyman
by Sharon Marburger, 2024 Secretary

This quick meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens, to discuss last-minute Show items.

Roll Call

President:	Brett Jurgens	Present
1st Vice Pres.:	Corey Beer	Present
2nd Vice Pres.:	Jayne Beer	Present
Treasurer:	Vera Lyman	Present
Secretary:	Sharon Marburger	Present
Board:	Charles Wooldridge	Absent
	Mike Stiles	Present
	James Marburger	Present
	Clyde Ogg	Present

Visitors: Ed Ridge and Donitte Stiles.

Minutes from the March meeting were distributed. Jim moved to accept the minutes, second by Mike. Motion passed. The Treasurer's Report was distributed. Sharon moved to accept the report, second by Mike. Motion passed.

SHOW BUSINESS:

Jayne reported that three dealers asked if it would be okay for them to help with Show setup. The answer was yes.

Jim stated that he forgot to make early arrangements with the Food Bank, so he will have to pick up the containers on Friday. He will return the full containers to the Food Bank on Monday following the Show.

Brett said the UV lights have been shipped and all received with the exception of the short wave. The new lights will be installed in the trailer on Friday before the Show.

Jayne plans to take her printer, labels, and paper cutter to the show, for last minute items.

Brett says the "ballots" for the display contest have been printed. Also, there are lots of volunteer sign-ups.

Vera has arranged security with Lincoln Police.

Due to space constraints, the center row of display tables will be reduced to a single row.

The club trailer will be delivered to the Event Center on Thursday. That is all to be done, except to make sure the Event Center staff has placed tables according to the floor plan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. on a motion by Jim, second by Corey. Motion passed.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2024
Bethany Park Shelter House
by Sharon Marburger, 2024 Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens. Seven visitors were introduced. We gained several new members from the Show. The room was packed so an accurate count of attendees was not obtained, but the number was close to 50. Welcome new members!

Minutes of the March meeting were published in the Pick & Shovel. Jim Marburger moved to accept the minutes as printed, second by Jim Atkins. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Vera Lyman. Jayne Beer moved to accept the report as read, second by Terry Anderson. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rock Party at Wooly's on Saturday, May 11 at 5:00 p.m. He will be serving brats. Others were urged to take potluck food and lapidary projects.

Summer Gem Fest will be June 22 and 23 at the Beer Family Farm. Mini flyers are available from Jayne.

Wichita, Kansas gem show will be April 26-28. This is a very good show to attend.

Rock Swap in McPherson, Kansas on May 3-5.

Sublette County's gem show will be in Big Piney, Wyoming on June 14-16, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board is asking for ideas of fun things to do over the summer, such as where to go on field trips, Rock Party hosts, and an activity night at Hidden Gems (where the club lapidary equipment resides). Brett is trying to arrange a tour for the Juniors (and adults) at Nebraska Hall where the fossil archives reside. This area is not open to the public. Another suggestion was another Robbers' Cave tour, maybe in July.

SHOW BUSINESS:

Attendance at the show was down from last year, but still within range of the norm. Adults - 1,880; Under 12 - 294.

Vera reported that not all the show-related bills have been paid yet. She should have final numbers by the next meeting.

It was a good show. Dealers were happy with their sales. Lots of great exhibits. Good number of volunteers made setup and tear down easier, as well as easing the load at different stations (club booth, rock pile, fluorescent booth, junior booth, etc.).

Brett says he is planning to have 70 displays at the next show since it is the club's 70th anniversary. He has already obtained commitments from six dealers to provide displays. The 2025 Show will host the Midwest Federation's ("MWF") convention. Sharon will be asking for MWF planning committee volunteers at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned to program and door prize drawing on a motion by Sharon Marburger, second by Clyde Ogg. Eric Fritsch presented a program on Collecting Gemstones which was entertaining and educational, as usual. Thanks Eric!

FLUORESCENT MINERAL DISPLAY AT THE 2024 LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

by Clyde Ogg

There were several positive improvements to the 2024 Gem and Mineral Show's Fluorescent Mineral Display. The most important change was the replacement of the obsolete ultraviolet ("UV") lights with bigger, brighter, and better ones. Participants were able to learn more about UV light and fluorescent minerals with an informational poster and a booklet listing the most common fluorescent minerals. And both Lincoln and Omaha club members stepped up big time and volunteered to help with setup, hosting/presenting, and teardown of the display. I wish to extend a huge THANK YOU to all those that helped make this year's show a success!

Planning for the new UV lights began early last year, but they almost didn't arrive in time for the show. The longwave ("LW") and midwave ("MW") light units were received before setup time, however, the shortwave ("SW") light unit did not arrive until after 5:00 on Friday. Brett's mom (Kay Jurgens) kindly brought the late-arriving SW light unit to us so it could be installed in time for the show. Thanks Kay! Our new UV lights are designed to output LW, MW, and SW light, to produce beautiful fluorescent reactions by the mineral specimens in the club display. Because we now have all three wavelengths, the hosts/presenters were able to compare how each wavelength causes unique responses by each mineral. Everybody loved the new lights and thought they worked great!

I adapted information, with permission from The Fluorescent Mineral Society (<https://uvminerals.org/>), to develop an informational poster and a booklet with pictures and details about each of the most common fluorescent minerals. These resources allowed everyone to learn about UV light and fluorescent minerals. The use of these resources permitted hosts/presenters to refer participants with questions to the poster and booklet, thus allowing everyone to focus on the fluorescent mineral display.

Some club members don't realize what goes on "behind the scenes" at the show. If you haven't helped with setup, hosting/presenting, or teardown in the past, I encourage you to do so at future shows. Volunteers are essential to the success and smooth conduct of the show in general, and particularly the Fluorescent Mineral Display. This year, several members from both the Lincoln and Omaha clubs helped with all aspects of making the Fluorescent Display successful. Special thanks to Terry Anderson (setup and new electrical connections), Katlin Brown (host/presenter and teardown), Brett Jurgens (general guidance and specimen loans), Jeff Kubitz (host/presenter), Blake Marlar (host/presenter), Charisse Stillahn (host/presenter and teardown), and Kathy Talmadge (setup, specimen loans, host/presenter, and teardown). I got acquainted with some new members and renewed friendships with several others. Volunteers not only learned more about fluorescent minerals and got to know other members, but they also went home with a feeling of satisfaction helping to create a positive experience for interested show participants.

WIRE WRAP CLASS BY NYKKY

By Sharon Marburger (photos by Jayne Beer and Sharon M.)

On Thursday, April 25, Nykky Chrastil Lytle taught a wire wrap/weave class to twelve students at Hidden Gems. This month the project was to wrap a kyanite crystal that had been shaped and polished by Corey Beer.

There was lots of chatter and laughter as the group worked on their individual projects. Although it was a relatively easy three-wire design, a lot of instruction was given at the beginning to get started. Once the bail was accomplished, the remainder was basically a weave design that was wrapped around the stone. I heard several people say that their hands were getting tired and sore; this weave was significantly longer than our past projects. In the end, though, everyone seemed to be satisfied with the final result.

This class had a couple of first-time students, a couple of long-time students, and an assortment of in-betweeners. It is fun to see the differences in each project, as each person puts their own creative spin on it.

There is a nominal fee for each class to cover supply costs and Nykky's time and fuel to get to Lincoln. Thanks to Jayne Beer for hosting the classes at her store. We appreciate Nykky for sharing her talent and knowledge with us, and look forward to her next class.



2024 SHOW - PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Photos by Sharon Marburger



Brett Jurgens' case of *Nebraska Chalcedony* won First Place in Show Theme Display.



Mike and Donitte Stiles' case of *Crystals* won Second Place in overall displays.



Eric Fritzsch's case of *Solar Eclipse Path Minerals* won First Place in Most Educational Display.



Corey Beer's case of *Nebraska Specimens* won Third Place in overall displays.



Anne Malone's case of *Fossils* won First Place in overall displays.

**CONGRATULATIONS
WINNERS!!
THANKS TO
EVERYONE WHO
PROVIDED A DISPLAY
AT THE SHOW.**

2024 SHOW VOLUNTEERS

By Sharon Marburger, with photos by John Moss

Many thanks to each of the Show volunteers. Some were LGMC members, some were Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club (Omaha) members, and some were family and friends. Each volunteer was greatly appreciated. There is a lot of work putting on a show, most of which is setup and teardown. The more volunteers, the more time can be spent enjoying the Show. There were other volunteers who avoided the camera, but we thank them as much as we do those photographed.

I also take this time and space to thank member John Moss, for documenting the sweat and fun of the 2024 Show. You did a fabulous job, John, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart!



Event Center worker hanging our banner.



The two main table-coverers, Sheryl Olson and Judith Bay



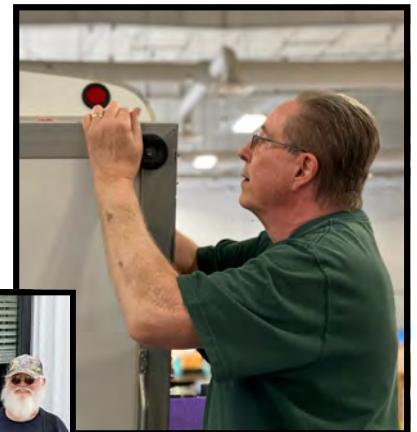
Brett Jurgens and Kevin Schwartman begin the task of unloading the trailer



Michelle Sitzmann (Mike & Donitte's daughter) setting up display cases before the show. Just go in reverse to tear down after the show.



There were lots of helpers putting up (and tearing down) the display cases.



Clyde Ogg securing a fan at the rear of the trailer to provide a little cooling for the fluorescent display at the front of the trailer.



Clyde Ogg and Terry Anderson preparing to install the new UV lights in the fluorescent display. Terry's electrical experience made the installation a piece o' rock (I mean, cake).



Corey Beer, Terry Anderson, Alan Gossman, and Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge greeted the Yankee Hill Landscaping truck that dumped a load of donated river rock for the Nebraska Rock Pile. These gents also "salted" the rock pile with Nebraska-collected rocks and fossils donated by members.



2024 SHOW VOLUNTEERS



Gene Mulinix running power cords for display lighting.



Brett checking his list of displays and assigning cases.



Sharon M. and Jim Atkins manned ticket sales this year. Vera Lyman, not pictured, stamped attendees' hands and distributed Show Programs and awards ballots. This was an experimental year accepting debit and credit cards for entry fees. Seems to have worked well.



Wooly and Katlin working the Club Booth, providing information and answering questions.



Jim Marburger at the Rock Pile swaps stories with long-time member Norm Balliet. They each have belonged to LGMC for 55 years!!

DEALERS
The dealers were too busy to pose for pictures. John managed to capture this one of Randy Kessler (Kessler on the Rocks) while he was setting up.
Although not photographed, we appreciate each and every dealer at the Show.



Christy (Stiles' other daughter) and Kevin Schwartman removing table covers after Show.



Charisse Stillahn disposing of used covers.



DEMONSTRATORS

John captured a few of the demonstrators. They are a wily bunch, escaping the camera.



Corey Beer demonstrated lapidary, but he is shown here with one of his display cases.



Charles Bachle demonstrated rock tumbling.



Nykky Lytle demonstrated stone and crystal wire wrapping and weaving.



Jim Schmidt showed how to make stone kaleidoscopes.



Greg Syslo demonstrated cutting rocks.



Connie McCartney demonstrated carving.



Jan Jackson demonstrated bracelet beading.



Ed Ridge demonstrated lapidary.

2025 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE

Chairmen:..... Jayne Beer, Sharon Marburger
Advanced Reservations:.....Sharon Marburger
Club Booth/Rock Pile
Finance & Admissions: Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger
Floor Chairman:Jayne Beer
Insurance Vera Lyman, Jim Marburger
Publicity & Promotion:Jayne Beer, Jim Marburger
Web Master:Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens

2025 SHOW COMMITTEE

Theme:American Petrified Woods
Chairman:.....
Dealers & Demonstrators:.....
Displays:Brett Jurgens
Event Center Liaison..... Vera Lyman
Finance/Ticket Sales:Jim Atkins, Vera Lyman
Floor Chairman:
Fluorescent Booth:Clyde Ogg
FormsSharon Marburger
Indoor Rock Pile:Jim & Sharon Marburger
LGMC Club Booth:Charles Wooldridge
MWF ConventionSharon Marburger
Nebraska Gem Dig:.....Charles Wooldridge
Plants:..... Ed Ridge
Publicity & Promotion: Jim Marburger
Raffle.....Gene Mulinix
Ribbons & Recognitions:Sharon Marburger
Security: Vera Lyman
Show Flyer & Printed Program.....Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities:Brett Jurgens

2024 SUMMER GEM FEST COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
Advanced Reservations:Sharon Marburger
Finance & Ticket Sales: Vera Lyman, Gene Mulinix
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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audio/Visual:
Clyde Ogg
Audit:
Jayne Beer, James Marburger, Clyde Ogg
Christmas Party:
Edward Ridge
Door Prizes:
Corey Beer, Brett Jurgens, Charles Wooldridge
Facebook:
James Marburger, Jayne Beer, Brett Jurgens
Field Trips:
James Marburger
Gem Fest (Summer) 2024:
Jayne Beer & Corey Beer
Historian:
Sharon Marburger
Membership Record:
Edward Ridge
MWF Liaison:
Vera Lyman
Programs:
Clyde Ogg
Property:
James Marburger
Recognition/Awards:
Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger
Refreshments:
Vera Lyman
Show - 2025:
Jayne Beer
Summer Gem Fest:
Jayne Beer
Swap (Mid-Winter) 2025:
Jayne Beer & Sharon Marburger
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:

A color version of the Pick & Shovel is available at:

<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/index.php/newsletters/current>

PICK & SHOVEL

Hidden Gems by The Jewelry Connection Ltd.

Indian Village Shopping Ctr.

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

Corey Beer - Lapidary
402.890.9155

Jayne Beer - Jeweler
402.890.3307

Lapidary Classes

(Stone Cutting)

\$75 for 5 3-hour classes

Choice of session:

Saturday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

If you can't attend a session,
let us know by Friday noon, or
you will be charged as if you
were there.

Drop-in students welcome
when openings are available,
\$15 for 3 hours.

Check Lincoln Gem and
Mineral Club Facebook page
for openings.

Silversmithing Classes

Tuition: \$150 plus \$30 supply deposit

Choice of Tuesday or Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Tuesdays

Session 1: Jan 9—Feb 27

Session 2: Mar 5—Apr 23

Session 3: Apr 30—Jun 18

Session 4: Jun 25—Aug 13

Session 5: Aug 20—Oct 8

Session 6: Oct 15—Dec 3

Wednesdays

Session 1: Jan 10—Feb 28

Session 2: Mar 6—Apr 24

Session 3: May 1—Jun 19

Session 4: Jun 26—Aug 14

Session 5: Aug 21—Oct 9

Session 6: Oct 16—Dec 4

Contact: Jayne Beer 402-890-3307 or look up "Hidden Gems by The Jewelry Connection LTD" in Facebook and send message