



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](http://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:** September 19, 2024

**Program:** **Fossils on the Floor: Mosaics of Fossils on the Nebraska Capitol Rotunda Floor**  
by Bob Diffendal

## 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, October 3, 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:** Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLUB FUN

## Attention New Members!

(and old members if you haven't yet provided the information)

Please let Editor Sharon know your birth month so your special day can be acknowledged in the newsletter.

You may send it in an email (lgmc.editor@outlook.com), text (402.429.3323), or let me know at any meeting.

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Provided by Clyde Ogg, Program Chair

September 19, 2024

Bob Diffendal – Fossils on the Floor--Mosaics of Fossils on the Nebraska Capitol Rotunda Floor

See website (www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/) for background document for program.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Terry Anderson  
Brett Jurgens  
Vera Lyman  
Steve May  
Brad Nielsen  
Tom Sawyer

COVID is on the rise again. With the uptick in cases, consider wearing a mask to protect yourself and others.



**Please do your part.  
Wear a mask to meetings.**

Graphic borrowed from <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

## 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.

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>).

All articles, tidbits, and photos not individually identified as being contributed to this publication are provided by the Editor.

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

## PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

### PUBLISHER:

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5342  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

### EDITOR:

Sharon Marburger  
E-mail: lgmc.editor@outlook.com

### CIRCULATION:

Vera Lyman;  
402.464.6089  
Sharon Marburger;  
402.429.3323

### DEADLINE:

Last Sunday of the month.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Brett Jurgens

Hello LGMC.

Our summer break from regular meeting is coming to an end and we will soon restart gathering on the third Thursdays of the month.

We kept pretty busy this summer with activity night, tour of Robber's Cave, Gem Fest, and the Crawford Swap over Labor Day. I look forward to slowing down a bit, before speeding right up again in preparation for our Mid-Winter Swap the third Sunday of January and hosting the Midwest Federation Convention at our show in April.

We had over twenty club members and family attend the Crawford Rock Swap. Club members who set up and vended included Woolly, the Marburgers, Ed Ridge and the Beers. We gathered as a club for every breakfast and numerous other meals. Many a pancake was flipped, and many a pancake was eaten.

I look forward to the return of our regular meetings and excellent programs coordinated by Clyde Ogg. Please remember to bring items for our door prizes and food to share with our refreshment table. As a reminder, we have members with a peanut allergy so please no items containing peanuts or nuts or peanut oil.

The Omaha Club is having their show on October 5th and 6th. It takes a great deal to run a show, and in the past few years we have been helping each other out at our respective shows. If you are able to volunteer at the Omaha show, please let me know and we will get you signed up.

Our show is now less than seven months away. I realize that sounds like a long time, but time will fly, especially with the holidays. My big push for the show this year is displays; it is the 70th year for the club and I would like to have more than 70 displays for the show. We have consistently had just over 50 the past few years, so it's not too many more. We are in need of people willing to put up a display, and looking for additional display cases. If you have any of the Wichita or Northwestern type display cases you are willing to loan or sell, please let me know.

In addition to the program presented by Bob Diffendal, I would like to see summer finds at our September meeting. Please bring anything you found, traded for, bought, or recently worked on. It's always great to see what others are interested in!



## JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Leader

Hello Juniors.

I hope you all had a great summer! Each year it seems school starts back earlier and earlier. I hope by now you have gotten back into the rhythm of school. We will soon be adding our regular club meetings into that mix. I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on September 19th.

I was able to see a few of you over the summer, but we all get so busy with our summer schedules that it can get nearly impossible to meet up.

The Crawford Swap was great fun. I was able to see junior members Ja-zeil and Alex out there. There were many vendors and I was able to pick up some material for our monthly lessons and take home specimens.

Speaking of our monthly meeting and lessons, I have asked Barb Ogg to assist me with the juniors and our meetings and she has graciously accepted. We have been trying to grow our club and have added quite a few junior members (which is absolutely fantastic) but I am to the point needing some assistance. Barb had a career as an Extension Agent so she is a natural born educator and programmer.

Remember to bring your summer finds for show and tell as well as your specimen box. It will be great to see you all!



Corey found some cool rocks on his summer adventure. Photo by Beers.



The LGMC Vendors at the Crawford Rock Swap over Labor Day weekend. (photos by Sharon M.)

**MAY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, May 2, 2024  
Home of Vera Lyman  
by Sharon Marburger, 2024 Secretary

**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	(via telephone)

Visitors: Ed Ridge and Donitte Stiles.

President Brett Jurgens called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. Minutes from the April meeting were distributed. Jim moved to accept the minutes, second by Vera. Motion passed. The Treasurer's Report was distributed. After some discussion about the different sub-accounts, Wooly moved to accept the report, second by Corey. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion about all the new members ensued. Sharon reported that 22 members/families have joined since the Who's Who was published. She is printing up new member pages to be added to the Who's Who.

Brett was asked to remind members that dues are due every January, no matter what month an individual may have joined. Dues are delinquent after January 31 of each year. Also, membership renewal does not require a new application; only new members need to fill out an application for membership.

A reminder to all members that the club by-laws are posted on the website ([lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://lincolngemmineralclub.org)).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A delegate is needed to attend the MWF Convention in Peoria, Illinois on August 24, 2024. No Board members volunteered so it will be taken to the general membership. Sharon reminded the Board that she and Jim could not be delegates because of holding chairman positions in the Federation. Delegates attend meetings on Saturday of the Convention and report the business back to the club.

There will be a Board meeting on June 6 to wrap up last minute items before the Summer Gem Fest, and to address any new issues arising at the May general meeting.

Brett is looking to arrange a day trip to collect Odell diamonds, and possibly explore road cuts known to have specimens. Jayne asked if anyone wanted to participate in the Memorial Day Weekend traveling driveway sales. Her driveway will be packed with rocks, plants, and garage sale items May 23-26. Others will state their intentions at the general meeting.

The July Rock Party will be at Hidden Gems. Included in this event is a possible tour of Robbers Cave. Brett will try to reserve a tour for July 13 or 14. Hopefully he will have more information at the general meeting.

It appears at this time that Brett, Wooly, the Marburgers, the Beers, and maybe Eddie will be going to the Crawford Rock Swap over Labor Day weekend. Anyone planning to go should get their accommodation reservations now because they fill up fast.

The Camp Creek Threshers' event will be July 20 and 21. See Brett if interested in participating.

**SHOW COMMITTEE:**

Vera does not yet have the Show Report completed as she is waiting for all of the bills to come in. Discussion about hiring practices for Show setup and tear down. Sharon proposed that hired people should be identified and retained prior to the Show. Wooly added that if we are running short on volunteers, other paid people can be hired on the spot. It should be stated clearly if someone is to be paid. Volunteers are just that; they volunteer and therefore should not expect to be paid. It is contrary to by-laws for any member to be paid.

The Show appeared to be successful. Dealers were happy; attendees were happy.

Jim asked Wooly if there was any way we could get "washed" rocks for the Nebraska Rock Pile, as opposed to the muddy rocks we have received the last couple of years. Wooly said he would ask.

**GEM FEST:**

Jayne was reminded of the \$200 budget to obtain signage for Gem Fest, which should include the words, "Rocks, Minerals, Fossils" so it is clear what the event is. She stated that the old signs will have to be repainted because they say Rock Swap instead of Gem Fest. Wooly has some sign "easels" he can loan to raise signage up above the road shoulder weeds.

Porta Potties and tables have not yet been lined up. Jayne will get on that right away. The food truck for both days will be Pim's Thai.

Jayne asked about more advertising with the hopes of reaching more people. She created a Facebook event; Jim plans to take out a \$75 ad with Thrifty Nickel and a \$75 ad for a Facebook boost. Jim was asked to also provide advertising with Instagram. Wooly made a motion to double the META (Facebook) budget to \$150 and keep the Thrifty Nickel at \$75. Second by Sharon. Motion passed.

**MWF 2025 CONVENTION**

Sharon updated the Board on the preliminary Convention plans. She, Vera, and Jim met with the Event Center event planner to get questions answered. An Event Rental Application was submitted to reserve the Lancaster Room for MWF meetings and banquet. If the application is accepted, the room cost for the day would be under \$700. The exact

*(Continued on page 5)*

## MAY BOARD MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 4)*

amount is not yet known because the 2025 price list has not been published. The room comes with 8 tables and 64 chairs. We may have to rent additional tables and chairs.

Doughnuts and coffee have historically been provided to the visitors attending the meetings, at the club's expense. Sharon will order 5 dozen doughnuts and at least 3 gallons of coffee. Water will probably be provided, also. This cost will be at least \$150, but hopefully not more than \$200.

Because of the high cost of lunch provided by the Event Center catering, we will provide a list of nearby fast food restaurants for attendees to have lunch. The concession stand will also be available for lunch to those not wanting to leave the site.

The Awards Banquet menu will be Stuffed Chicken, Applewood Pork Loin, Garden Salad, California Veggie Blend (cauliflower, broccoli, carrots), Scalloped Potatoes, dinner roll with butter, coffee, iced tea, water, and lemonade.

This cost will be between \$30-\$35 per person (again, dependent on 2025 pricing). This expense will be recouped by the per plate/person cost.

Sharon asked Donitte Stiles to update the list of local hotels that will be included in the Convention packet. Brett offered to update the restaurant listing which will also be included in the Convention packet. We will find a volunteer at the general meeting to update the ground transportation list for those people flying in to Lincoln or Omaha. These lists are due to Sharon by June 15.

Wooly offered to lead a river field trip on Thursday, April 3, 2025. A possible Friday field trip to the Rose Clay Pit to collect fishtail selenite and marcasite fossils (petrified wood) south of Fairbury, followed by collecting on road cuts. A leader and details are not yet available.

At 8:36 p.m., Wooly moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Mike. Meeting adjourned.

---

## JUNE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 5, 2024  
Home of Vera Lyman  
By Sharon Marburger, 2024 Secretary

### 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	Present
	Mike Stiles	Absent
	James Marburger	Present
	Clyde Ogg	Present

Visitor: Ed Ridge.

Minutes of the May meeting were not available. They will be presented at the September meeting.

Treasurers Report was distributed. Motion to approve by Jim, second by Wooly.

### Old Business:

Discussion about club field trips. Possibilities are for Odell Diamonds, July 14 Robbers Cave with activity night to follow, and Crawford over Labor Day weekend.

Brett is looking for volunteers to help out at the Camp Creek Threshers show. Wooly, Eddie, Jim, and Sharon said they would be there.

### New Business:

New signs for the Gem Fest were discussed. Wooly plans to check out Makers Space for discounts. Old signs will be repainted with current information on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

### Gem Fest:

At this time, there are 10 vendors signed up for inside booths and 11 vendors for outside booths. Brett has contacted food truck for Sunday; he's waiting for a response. Porta-potties and tables have been reserved. Brett is planning brats and hot dogs for the Saturday night meal for participants. Others are encouraged to bring pot luck foods.

### Show:

Show Chairman Wooly led the discussion of changes to the upcoming show. Based on increases everywhere, Dealer booth rent is increased 10% to \$550. Sharon moved that the Selling Demonstrator rate also be increased approximately 10% to \$65 and \$130, based on the number of tables requested. Second by Clyde. Motion passed. Discussion of admission increase. Clyde moved to raise admission price to \$8 for a minimum of two years, Vera second. Motion passed.

A meeting with Sandhills Global Event Center revealed that, according to the State Fire Marshal, we must eliminate the two half dealers allowed in 2024, and one full dealer. We were apparently over-capacity with State Law. After significant discussion and unhappiness over this dictate, Vera moved to drop LK Enterprises from our annual dealers, second by Sharon. Motion carried. LK Enterprises will be reinstated at the earliest opportunity.

Sharon updated the Board on plans for the MWF Convention.

Wooly selected some of the 2025 Show Committee. He asked Clyde to be Floor Chair, Sharon to be Program Chair (for Federation program), Vera to be Dealer and Demo Chair, Jim to be Advertising Chair, and Brett to be Displays Chair.

We are hoping to have a club tumbling table that displays the different types of tumblers and demonstrations on how they work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. on a motion from Wooly, second by Sharon.

**MAY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, May 16, 2024  
Bethany Park Shelter House  
by Sharon Marburger, 2024 Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens. There were 32 adults, 8 juniors, and one guest present.

Minutes were published in the Pick & Shovel. Wooly moved to accept the minutes as printed, second by Vera Lyman. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read by Vera. Sharon M. moved to accept the report, second by Jeff Kubitz. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

A volunteer to act as delegate for the club at the Midwest Federation Convention on August 24 was sought. No one volunteered.

Reminder of Gem Fest happening June 22 & 23.

Omaha will hold its annual auction on June 9 at Zorinsky Park.

Reminder of the 2024 President's Field Trip to Crawford, Nebraska over Labor Day weekend. It is held at the City Park, will have an auction Saturday night, and planned field trips on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Wooly attended a news fest where he reported on the Crawford Rock Swap, and also shared a little about LGMC with hopes that it may generate some interest in the Journal Star.

Brett reminded us that the By-laws are found on the website, as well as the newsletters. Every newsletter published by the club can be found there.

**New Business:**

Brett has made arrangements for the club to tour Robbers Cave again this year. It is scheduled for Sunday, July 14 at 5:00 p.m. After the tour, we will meet at Hidden Gems for a potluck activity night. Food dishes may be dropped off at Hidden Gems no later than 4:45 p.m. (prior to the tour).

Camp Creek Threshers will hold its annual event July 20-21.

The Beers will have a driveway sale Thursday through Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. They will have rocks, plants, and general garage sale items. Ed Ridge will hold his driveway sale on Saturday and Sunday only.

Sharon provided an update on the 2025 Midwest Federation Convention being hosted by LGMC.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 on a motion by Vera, second by Jayne Beer. Motion carried.

**REVIEW OF 2024 MWF CONVENTION**

By Sharon Marburger

The 2024 Midwest Federation Convention was held on August 24 and 25 in Peoria, Illinois. Jim and I went as representatives of the Nebraska clubs, but could not be delegates for the Lincoln club due to holding committee chair positions in the Federation.

A lot of wisdom and knowledge has gone away with the deaths of a multitude of old rockhounds, mineralogists, and archeologists.

Changes to the by-laws, mostly making the wording gender-neutral, were passed. Most of the attendees were not aware that the new logo for the Federation was also part of the by-laws, so the logo change was accepted along with the language changes. Concerns then arose about the new logo, and a committee will look into the suggestions to make a minor modification which will be addressed at the next meeting.

Reinee Hildebrandt, Junior Activities Chair, presented some good ideas for starting and maintaining a Juniors Club. The main activity was to make an earth moving dessert, a great way to explain a lot of the geologic actions of the earth. Some hands-on items were provided for junior leaders, which will be handed off to our leader, Brett Jurgens.

The State Directors reported on interesting things happening in their respective states. You may see their written reports, as well as the meeting minutes, in the next *MWF News*.

The Friday Meet & Greet and the banquet and awards ceremony were held at the Burger Barge in East Peoria. The venue had a redneck feel, but the burgers were fabulous! The buffet banquet had chicken, shrimp, and burgers of course, along with several sides. The food was very good and I heard no complaints.

A Lifetime Membership was awarded to Marge Collins, who has spent many years working and bringing in money for the Scholarship Committee.

Not surprisingly, the majority of Bulletin Editor awards went to Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society. Editor Michele Yamanaka always does a great job with their newsletter and she is lucky to have people of all ages contribute to that publication.

The MWF Silent auction did the best it had ever done by bringing in over \$1,900 for the Endowment Fund. The "Tricky Tray", which is a mini raffle held at the meetings, brought in \$120. Jim was lucky enough to win the cuttable specimen of orbicular rhyolite.

Endowment Fund Bear, known as E-Bear, brought in \$200 at auction. The lucky little guy got to make another trip to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he will be auctioned off again at the 2025 Convention. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Endowment Fund can see Jim or me, and we will hand the money off to our good friend, E-Bear.

## VIBRATING LAPS ARE A SPLASH!

By James Marburger, Board Member and Lapidary

One of the workhorses in a lapidary shop is an animal called Vibrating Lap. Its sole purpose is to polish end cuts and slabs, and make a mess. It uses a flat pan that vibrates in a horizontal motion by using a counterweight spinning under the pan. In the pan, use the same grits as tumblers do, such as coarse, medium, fine, then a polish. They can be graded grits or combination grits.

One of the important items is the amount of water used in the pan. A "dry" slurry works the best, but most of us tend to use a wet pan with too much water. If there is too much water, it will tend to float slabs and light end cuts, creating a splatter mess around the lap.

There are many ways to tame the splatter, such as placing the lap in a box or using roof flashing to increase the height of the lap pan. A new-to-me way of stopping the splash is to add a second bumper ring to the pan.

Most bumper rings are made of rubber tubing or tygon tubing. When making the bumper rings, there are two ways to connect the ends. One is to cut the tubing longer than needed, then use a sharp knife to cut one end of the tube on a diagonal so it can be inserted into the other end of the tube. This will allow you to adjust the tubing to length. This method will let grit and water inside so it should be rinsed when changing grits. The second method is to use a dowel for the joint. It is still a good practice to flush the tube when changing grits.

By adding a second ring, the water seems to be caught by the top ring and flows back into the pan. Not a complete cure but it does cut down on splash.



Picture shows placement of second ring. Splash shown occurred prior to the second ring being implemented. (Photo by Jim Marburger)

## PRESIDENT'S FIELD TRIP

By Sharon Marburger

Several club members traveled to Crawford, Nebraska for Labor Day weekend to attend the annual Crawford Rock Swap in the City Park and go on collecting trips.

Labor Day weekend is usually when Jim and I celebrate our wedding anniversary. This year made 25 years. ROCKS! What a great way to celebrate!

The weather was beautiful, although a little warm. Crawford club members sprinkled down the road through the park with water to help keep the dust down. There was a fairly nice breeze most of the time; thank goodness it wasn't windy like last year!

At the north cul-de-sac, Charles Woodridge (Wooly), Jim Marburger, Ed Ridge, and Jayne and Corey Beer (with Jazeil) set up booths from which to sell goods. Brett Jurgens and mom, Kay, prepared meals for the group, and anyone else who wanted to eat, while Wooly kept an urn of delicious, free coffee going for most of each day. Our end of the park was very popular. People came to hang out with us and swap rock stories - and eat and drink. So many people visited us that we determined the need to have a donation jar available in future years so that the Jurgens family is not footing the bill. While we appreciate their generosity, it is not fair to them. Feeding 20 or more people a day gets expensive! (Ok, off my soap box.)

We counted 21 club members and Lincoln friends that attended the Swap. I have since learned that at least two others attended that I did not see. This was a fabulous turnout!

Jim and I did not attend the organized field trips due to Jim having a selling booth. However, we did go out on our own to collect chalcidony and petrified wood, then took a scenic drive around the grasslands.

There were great dealers/swappers at the event. I got some fabulous deals on slabs. (I love rocks!)

Jim picked up 5 gallon buckets of orange scented mineral oil for rock saws, available for purchase by our rockhound friends.

We were tightly packed on the way home with rocks for the club rock pile, buckets of oil, our tables, chairs, and table covers, pop-up tent, buckets of rocks to hold the tent down in the event of a windstorm, Jim's inventory, our finds this year, Jayne's chairs and tables, and a very large new-to-him display case for Brett.

It was a wonderful time for us all. We look forward to next year's trip!

As you saw on page 6, E-bear is visiting Nebraska. He went to Crawford with us, and got to visit the ghost town of Orella, Nebraska, then hunted for chalcidony next to the road. He was so excited to collect chalcidony that fluoresces a bright lime green. Some of it contains calcite that fluoresces pink or orange.



## A TALE OF OUR FANTASTIC JOURNEY

By Jayne Beer, 2nd Vice President (photos by Beers)

A few months ago, we got an invitation to go to Oregon while Marc and Marisol (of Monarch Gems) were housesitting at their friend's house. That friend has a shop where he cuts and polishes rocks.

Corey, Ja-zeil, and I left Lincoln on Wednesday, August 7. Well, we left and were about 15 minutes from home when Corey said, "We gotta go back home for something." We got home and found that a box had been delivered to our doorstep. Corey grabbed the box, carried it to the car and opened it. It was an incredible "ring of fire agate", an agate from Indonesian copper mines and filled with copper plumes. Then we were on our way once again.



We drove to Madras, Oregon. It is a 22-hour drive according to Google, but we didn't arrive at our destination until Friday morning. We stopped off in Salt Lake City, Utah to visit with and have breakfast with Corey's friend, who Corey asked to split the ring of fire agate. It was fun to see his reaction. We also found a nice family-owned rock shop where we shopped and talked about how they mine most of the rocks in their store.

Friday, August 9 found us at Richardson's Rock Ranch, where Richardson thundereggs are found. They no longer take people out to dig thundereggs but they do have a nice big rock shop. Corey and Ja-zeil spent hours going through blue lace agate from Nambibia in southern Africa. We purchased quite a bit to sell in the store and some for Corey to cut cabochons.



Saturday, August 10 was our first day out digging our own material at the Canyon Rim Thunderegg Mine. The thundereggs there are fairly easy to mine, relative to other mines, because they come out of a softer ash layer. What makes Canyon Rim thundereggs notable from the many other thunderegg locales is the wiry, often twisting agate stalactites. Some are so thin and fragile that it makes it difficult to safely transport home.

Sunday, August 11 was another day spent at Richardson's Ranch, and another day that Corey spent digging through blue lace agate. In fact, he spent so long there, they offered to bring out a pallet of the material that, essentially, had never been looked through. Obviously, Corey had no choice but to look through that as well, selecting a bunch more of the material.

Monday, August 12 was a big day for this trip because it was the day we were going early morning rafting on the Deschutes River. We drove to Maupin, a small mountain town in Oregon where our rafting trip started. As became the

norm for this trip, Marc got us all going earlier than the rest of us night owls wanted to. In this case, it was a good thing because we were the first group to arrive at the meeting place. We started talking to the group leader and he put us with the best guide. We had a great day talking rocks with our guide after he found out we were all rock family. A few of the day's highlights were the natural water slides (I bet Jazz went 15 or more times); the 6-foot drop in the rapids where our raft and us went completely under water; and last, but not least, the area where Corey and Jazz floated through rapids and then the current took them to an area where they had a hard time getting to shore. Corey was able to swim out, but Jazz got rescued by another raft group; a little scary, but it turned out okay.



On Tuesday, August 13, we took the day off to rest and look at the rocks at the house we were staying at.

Wednesday, August 14: We got to do what we went out there to do. We went digging for rocks!! We drove about 2½ hours to the place where Hampton Butte petrified wood is found. We walked around, finding a few small pieces on the surface. Corey found a few bigger pieces around a large hole someone else had started, so he started digging in that hole, finding a good amount of wood. Soon, we were all digging in that hole. We dug until the sun went down. It was a good day.

Thursday, August 15: We began a side trip to Rickreall, Oregon to attend the "End of Summer Rock Show" at the Polk County Fairgrounds. Since Thursday was setup day, we did a little pre-shopping and overheard a story of a collection that we might be able to see.

Friday, August 16: We spent the day shopping at the show. Afterwards, we drove a short distance to Corvallis, Oregon to visit Al and Merle's Rock Shop. This was a good shop; if you find yourself in the area, you should seek it out. That evening, we went to see the collection we had heard about the day before. It was an incredible collection! We were able to purchase a few amazing pieces; some fantastic petrified wood and obsidian shapes.

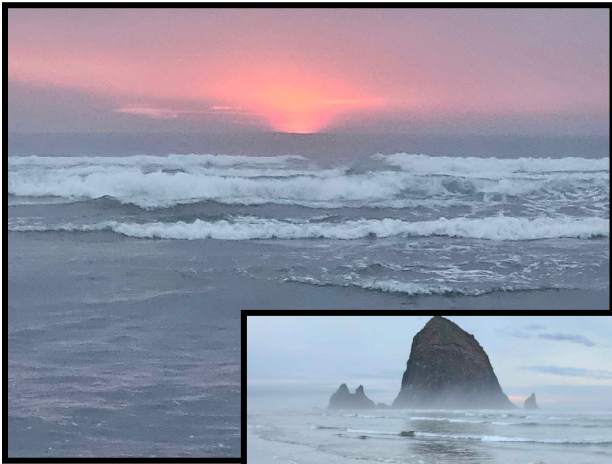


*(Continued on page 9)*

**FANTASTIC JOURNEY - CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 8)*

Saturday, August 17: We headed off to roam the Oregon coast. First, we went to Portland and, on the suggestion of Adam (one of my jewelry students), we went to Pine State Biscuits for lunch. We then did a search for “rock shops near me” and found Handley Rock & Jewelry Supply in Vancouver, Washington. We drove over a drawbridge for the first time in our lives - very cool. At the rock shop, we found several parts for my Lortone tumblers that I had tried to order but they were out of stock. It was a very nice shop with many interesting rocks, but they were all overpriced, so we only purchased the tumbler parts. We then drove to Cannon Beach and walked along the Pacific Ocean, watching the sun set on the horizon of the ocean. It was breathtaking!



Sunday, August 18: We woke up and drove to the Rice Museum in Hillsboro, Oregon. It is a fantastic museum filled with incredible petrified wood specimens, along with other outstanding rock and mineral specimens. I highly recommend making this museum a destination.



We then headed back to house in Madras, Oregon.



Monday, August 19: We returned to Hampton Butte to the hole we dug in several days before. We pulled out several more pounds of petrified weed. We once again dug until dark, then drove to Nevada so we could dig opal the next day.

Tuesday, August 20: We went to Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine where at 8 a.m., we could start working of the front end loader bucket of dirt from the depths of the mine. We methodically searched the clay for opal. We found a few small pieces, but nothing like what Marc and Marisol found in their load of dirt.



We went for a delicious dinner at a small café that they suggested at the opal mine, then began the five hour trip back to Madras, Oregon.

Wednesday, August 21: Another resting day. Marisol and I went thrift store shopping while Corey, Jazz, and Marc enjoyed looking through rocks at the house.

Thursday, August 22: We spent the day cleaning and organizing the rocks we had gathered so far.

Friday, August 23: After packing up all the rock and other items, we headed toward Mountain Home, Idaho, where my friend, Heather, lives nearby.

Saturday, August 24: We woke up early to go meet up with Corey’s Instagram friend, Cam. We went to Cam’s claim where we climbed up a crazy steep mountain to search for amethyst and agate. I am glad I made this climb this one time, but I don’t believe I would do it again. We found a few things, but not as much as we would have liked. Still, it was a fun experience.



Sunday, August 25: We headed to a claim belonging to another of Corey’s Instagram friends, Tom. The climb was not nearly as challenging as the previous day and we had good success finding Imperial Plume Agate, a beautiful

*(Continued on page 10)*

**FANTASTIC JOURNEY - CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 9)*

purple agate with white plumes in it. Back to Heather’s to sleep.

Monday, August 26: We slept in a bit then headed to Idaho Rock Shop to meet up with owner, Tony Funk. We first went to his shop in town where we shopped for awhile. Tony then led us to his land outside of town where he has tons and tons of rock for sale. There are huge rows of rocks that we dug through, finding things for the shop and for personal use. Afterward, we went back to Heather’s house.



Tuesday, August 27: We packed up the van for the next leg of our journey. So many rocks! We met up with Tom, the owner of the Imperial Plume Agate claim, at his house. Corey and Jazz went through Tom’s personal collection of agate and were able to purchase several from him. We then headed out on the 12-hour trip to Crawford, Nebraska for the annual Rock Swap. We arrived in Crawford the morning of Wednesday, August 28. We set up our tents and our booth to sell a few things we had collected along our trip so far.

Thursday, August 29: We woke up to the wonderful smell of Brett preparing a delicious breakfast for us. We spent the day pricing many of the items we had purchased, making them ready to sell. Later in the day, Marc arrived. He planned a visit to Marty’s house where we got to see his extensive rock collection. Back to the Crawford Park to sleep.



Friday, August 30: Once again we woke up to the tantalizing smells of a great breakfast prepared by Brett. Marc, Corey, and Jazz spent the day collecting Nebraska blue agate while I stayed

Master Chef, Brett, preparing breakfast. He and mom, Kay, fixed almost every meal. (photo by Sharon M.)

at the park, keeping the booth open for sales. This was an exciting day because my daughter, Kelly, and her boyfriend, Justin, drove from Lincoln to Crawford in order to surprise Jazz. When the boys returned from collecting rocks, Jazz was very surprised and happy to find his mom and Justin there. That evening, Marc lined up another place to see a collection of fantastic cars and memorabilia from the collector’s life.

Saturday, August 31: Another morning awaking to “Breakfast by Brett”. We wandered around the Swap, making some modest purchases. Then Kelly, Justin, Corey, and Jazz went out rock collecting. Upon their return, they all helped at the booth for awhile, then Kelly, Justin, and Jazz went to Chadron to sleep at the motel. Corey and I spent hours packing up our booth and belongings, preparing for the trip to Denver the next day.

Sunday, September 1: Another day of Brett making breakfast. We loaded the van to near capacity. We were fortunate to have friends there who offered to take many of the rocks, camping gear, and booth items home for us. It took four vehicles to get all the things back to Lincoln. We were so thankful for this help. Once everything was packed and arranged, we headed to Denver. That night we had an all-you-can-eat Italian buffet at Cinzzetti’s.

Monday, September 2: Our whole family (Kelly, Justin, Jazz, Corey, and me) helped Marc unload his merchandise and began setting up his booth. We did some shopping, then Kelly, Justin, and Ja-zeil headed home. Corey and I did our first shopping spree of store merchandise.

Tuesday, September 3 through Saturday, September 7: Corey and I spent five days shopping for store inventory. We were able to fulfill almost everything on our wish list. We packed up everything the morning of September 8 and headed for home. We arrived at the shop around 9:30 p.m. Brian met us there and helped unload the van. We got home around 11 p.m.

I checked the trip meter and discovered we had driven 6,820.6 miles on this journey. I stayed up and wrote this very long and, believe it or not, abbreviated account of our incredible journey.

I cannot express enough how much I appreciate all the folks who made this trip possible. Every single day was AMAZING!

Cheers!

**NOW THAT’S  
A GEODE!**



**2025 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE**

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

**2025 SHOW COMMITTEE**

**Theme: ..... Petrified Woods of America**  
 Chairman:.....Charles Wooldridge  
 Dealers & Demonstrators:..... Vera Lyman  
 Displays: .....Brett Jurgens  
 Event Center Liaison..... Vera Lyman  
 Finance/Ticket Sales: .....Jim Atkins, Vera Lyman  
 Floor Chairman: .....Clyde Ogg  
 Fluorescent Booth: .....Clyde Ogg  
 Forms .....Sharon Marburger  
 LGMC Club Booth: .....Charles Wooldridge  
 MWF Convention .....Sharon Marburger  
 Outside Rock Pile.....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

**2025 MWF CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Chairman:..... Sharon Marburger  
 Area Hotels..... Donitte Stiles  
 Area Restaurants ..... Brett Jurgens  
 Banquet .....Sharon Marburger/Vera Lyman  
 Competitive Displays ..... Brett Jurgens  
 Field Trips ..... Charles Wooldridge/James Marburger  
 Finance: ..... Vera Lyman  
 Forms: ..... Sharon Marburger  
 Ground Transportation ..... Sharon Marburger  
 Host Hotel ..... Sharon Marburger  
 Meeting Rooms ..... Sharon Marburger  
 Publicity & Promotion: ..... Jim Marburger  
 Web Master: ..... Sharon Marburger

**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  
**Historian:**  
 Sharon Marburger  
**Membership Record:**  
 Edward Ridge  
**Mid-Winter Swap**  
 Jayne Beer  
**MWF Liaison:**  
 Vera Lyman  
**Programs:**  
 Clyde Ogg  
**Property:**  
 James Marburger  
**Recognition/Awards:**  
 Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger  
**Refreshments:**  
 Vera Lyman  
**Show - 2025:**  
 Charles Wooldridge  
**Summer Gem Fest:**  
 Jayne 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:

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**