



# 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%20Information).

## GENERAL MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the Month, except for January (3rd Sunday), December (1st Sunday), and summer break (June, July, August). Bethany Park Shelter House, 65th & Vine

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

**Next meeting:** May 15, 2025  
**Program:** Member Show & 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, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Vera Lyman's Residence**

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

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:** Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, JBeer60070@aol.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:** Clyde Ogg, 402.326.8682, clydeogg55@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Vera Lyman, 402.464.6089

**Secretary:** Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323, lgmc.editor@outlook.com

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**Board Member:** Jeff Kubitz, 402.540.9395, jkubitz@neb.rr.com

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

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLUB FUN

## DATES TO REMEMBER

May 15, 2025 - General Meeting  
May 18, 2025 - Rock Party at Wooly's  
June 21 & 22, 2025 - Summer Gem Fest

## PROGRAM FOR MAY

By Clyde Ogg

This month's program time will be devoted to members'/ guests' "show and tell." It's a time to share with others your favorite rock, mineral, or fossil; or your most recent finds that you wish to show off. Each person will provide a brief overview of what they brought with them, and then everyone can spend the remaining time chatting, looking at others' gems, and/or grabbing a snack. We think it's important to get to know other members/guests, learn about their interests, and hopefully form new friendships. Enjoy!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Anna Castro  
Linda Hansen  
Carol Roston & grandson Kai  
Matt Haacker & daughter Andi

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

**Molly Baumertt**  
**Arvid Olson**  
**Matthew Stratton**  
**Noah Van Butsel**



## 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.

# May Rock Party

Sunday, May 18 @ 4 p.m.  
Eat at 5 p.m.

Wooly's & Jackie's  
6115 Huntington, Lincoln  
Potluck Supper

Bring your projects to work on  
after eating, or just sit around  
swapping rock stories.

Weather permitting - back yard event.

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).

### PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

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402.429.3323

**DEADLINE:**  
Last Sunday of the month.

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/223555904325876>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Brett Jurgens, President

Hello LGMC.

Hopefully we all have recovered from the show. It definitely took me a few days to feel not drained. Again, kudos and a big round applause for the club. It takes a lot to pull off a show, and even more to pull off a GREAT show. And that is what we had - a great show! I was pleased to see both new members and seasoned veterans volunteering to help make the show a success. Getting experience in volunteering in different roles will help the club in the future.

We had many compliments on the quality and diversity of items that our dealers brought. Every dealer I spoke with was very happy with their sales. I also heard many compliments on the quality and quantity of displays. We had the range of burgeoning displays from new members and juniors to displays that would make museums drool. To everyone who helped or displayed at the show - thank you. And a double thank you if you did both. Our next show is in 11 months; what are you doing to display? Jokes aside, we need a theme for next year's show and we are looking for suggestions.

The May meeting is our last meeting before summer break. But please don't think there are no club activities during the summer. On Sunday, May 18, Wooly and Jackie are hosting a rock party. We are also working on several local field trips during the summer. We will have more info by the May meeting.

Don't forget about the Summer Gem Fest on June 21 and 22. This is a wonderful club event and a great way to add specimens to your collection. The food truck, World Plates, will offer lunch on Saturday and Sunday. We need a few volunteers during this weekend so if you are interested, please get in contact with me. On Saturday the 21st, we have a club grill out at 6:00 p.m. for club members and vendors. The club will provide hot dogs and such. If you are able to provide a side dish, please let me know. We don't have a lot of refrigeration space but there will be some available. In the past, this has been a great opportunity to relax and meet new people with similar interests.

Friday, August 29 is officially the first day of the Crawford Rock Swap, which also officially ends on Monday, September 1. Unofficially, the start date keeps moving up, now many dealers are setting up on Wednesday and many leave on Sunday. This has been the "President's Field Trip" the past few years and I deem it so again. The Crawford club leads several field trips in the mornings. There are two private collections in the Alliance area I would like to get club members to see this year. Last year we had over 20 club members and family attend the swap and they all had a blast. We will talk more about this at the meeting and in future issues of the Pick and Shovel.

I will see you at the meeting.

JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Leader

Hello Juniors.

This month we will continue with working on our fluorescent badge. With such a range in age and interests, and everyone not always able to attend a meeting, we will have individual evaluations for completion of badges. We all learn at different speeds and some things interest us more than others. You will now have the ability to "read ahead" on some badges if so inclined.

We will have one more meeting before the regular meetings break for the summer. Just remember that the club activities do not stop. We are working on some summer field trips and will share that information in upcoming issues of the Pick and Shovel.

And don't forget about our Summer Gem Fest! I encourage all members, both adults and juniors, to attend. Gem Fest is a ton of fun and offers a great selection of material to add to your collection. On Saturday June 21, we have a club and vendor grill out immediately following closing at 6:00 p.m. Come check out the fun before close and stay for dinner with friends!

Make sure to bring your specimen kits to our next meeting!

SUMMER GEM FEST

By Sharon Marburger

Advanced reservations for Gem Fest began on April 17. Since then, all but one one-table booth remains available in the barn. Almost unlimited outside spaces are still waiting to be claimed. This is your chance to sell off some of your collection so you can buy more. This is a bargain at \$30 for a 10x10 foot space (limited availability of 8-ft. tables; or bring your own tables and awning).

This year, in addition to our great vendors, we will have World Plates catering via food truck. It is reported that they have wonderful and delicious choices to consume.

As tradition carries on, there will be a grill out on Saturday evening for the vendors, club members, and helpers. The club will provide dogs, burgers, and beverages with sides being offered by those who partake. I believe the club will accept any free-will offerings to help offset the cost. See you there for a fun time!

**Gem Fest**  
**June 21 & 22**

**APRIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 27, 2025 at Vera Lyman's Residence  
by Sharon Marburger, 2025 Secretary

**Roll Call**

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

Visitors: Ed Ridge, Jim Marburger, and Donitte Stiles.

President Brett Jurgens asked Secretary Sharon Marburger to run the meeting. Jayne and Clyde were asked if this was okay with them; they said yes. Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

The minutes of the March meeting and the Treasurer's report were distributed. Clyde moved, and Wooly seconded to accept the minutes and Treasurer's report as printed. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The updated contract between LGMC and The Jewelry Connection/Hidden Gems will be presented to Jayne and Registered Agent James Marburger for signatures.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The question was asked if the club has any cloth table covers. It was reported that there should be some cloth table covers in the trailer.

Jim stated that he purchased new, larger clips to hold cloth table covers in place.

Clyde proposed a new procedure for onboarding new members. Going forward, new members will receive a welcome letter, a copy of the Who's Who, and either a paper or electronic newsletter.

Clyde asked that the Programs Chair have a consistent procedure regarding stipends to speakers. It was suggested that each speaker should be offered a \$75 gift card (stipend), a certificate of appreciation, and a thank you card. Wooly moved for Vera to purchase three (3) \$75 gift cards (Mastercard or Visa) now and give them to Clyde to hold and present to speakers at the time of their presentation, along with the certificate of appreciation and thank you card. Mike seconded the motion; motion carried. It was also mentioned that a speaker could refuse the gift card stipend; said gift card would be used for a future speaker. It is important to note here that club members may not be paid a stipend for any reason. A club member providing a program will receive a certificate of appreciation and a thank you card, but no stipend.

Wooly is planning to host the May Rock Party at his residence. Date and time will come later.

**GEM FEST:**

Sharon will provide paper pre-registration forms with Gem Fest Rules and Regulations at the April General Meeting, allowing club members first choice of selling space. Pre-registrations will be accepted only if space rent is also provided.

Reservation forms and Rules and Regulations will go live on the website on April 18.

Brett contacted "World Plates" food truck to possibly serve at Gem Fest. It has not yet been confirmed. Jayne located the menu and the food choices look fantastic.

There will be a grill-out for members and vendors on Saturday evening, per usual. More information as we get closer.

Discussion regarding some new road signs for Gem Fest. It was suggested we obtain permission to place them prior to ordering. We will discuss number and budget later.

**SHOW BUSINESS:**

Wooly has 28 MWF people signed up for the Thursday field trip to Fairbury area. Club members will have this same field trip later this spring.

Yankee Hill Landscaping has agreed to supply two loads of washed river gravel for the Nebraska Rock Pile, to be delivered Friday noon. One load will be complimentary; the second load will be purchased. The Rock Pile location has been moved east of the entry doors this year, due to Event Center construction. Members are asked to take "salt" material for the Rock Pile to the Event Center prior to noon Friday, or deliver to Wooly at his home. The MWF field trip will commence at 2:00 p.m. at the Rock Pile.

Half of the road signs have been placed at various high traffic locations around the city. The remaining signs will be placed this week.

Brett has sign-up sheets with task assignments mostly filled. We are still looking for people to do specific tasks.

The Event Center has requested the trailer be delivered Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday morning. Jim and Sharon will handle that.

Sharon reviewed the Federation plans for the Show. There has been good response for event attendance. As stated above, 28 Fairbury field trip participants; 50 Meet & Greet participants; and 68 Awards Banquet participants.

The Meet & Greet will be held in Ag Society Hall due to a double-booking by Hy-Vee. The Event Center and Hy-Vee have worked together to allow this, contrary to the rule of no outside food allowed in the Event Center. Eric Fritzsch will provide a program on Minerals of Nebraska.

Vera said there has been a drastic decrease in the number of mailing labels completed at the show (for mailing show postcards). She asked that we discontinue this practice in the future. The number of cards mailed is not worth the postage to mail them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. on a motion by Clyde, second by Corey.

**APRIL GENERAL MEETING**

April 17, 2025 at Bethany Park Shelter House  
By Sharon Marburger, 2025 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens. Guests Matt and Andi (jr.) were introduced. New members Anna Castro, Carol Roston and Kai (jr.) were introduced and welcomed.

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

Vera read the Treasurer’s Report. Charles Wooldridge moved to accept the report, second by Norm Boettcher. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Clyde has drafted up a “new member onboarding” proposal. Included would be a welcome letter, a copy of the Who’s Who, the current newsletter, and a mention in the next newsletter. The Board will further discuss this before making it policy.

Norm Boettcher gave details on the upcoming North Central Kansas Rock & Gem Club’s field trip to Oklahoma. Details were given in the April issue of the Pick & Shovel. It sounds like it would be a fun trip.

Wooly announced that he and Jackie will be hosting the May Rock Party on Sunday, May 18. We will begin gathering at 4:00 p.m. and eat at 5:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to bring projects to work on.

**SHOW BUSINESS:**

Show Chairman Wooly thanked everyone for helping with the show. It was a successful show because we all worked together. Brett thanked Sharon for spearheading the MWF Convention preparations. Federation members were impressed with the show. Brett was shooting for 70 displays in honor of the club’s 70th year, but we ended up with 90 displays. Thanks to all who displayed. Brett also sent out a special thank you to the Omaha club for loaning their display cases to us; this included transporting them to the show, helping with set up and tear down, then transporting the cases back to Omaha. We couldn’t have done it without them!

**SUMMER GEM FEST:**

Gem Fest is scheduled for June 21 & 22, 2025 at the Beer Family Farm between Ashland and Ceresco. Jayne Beer has flyers that can be copied for members to distribute. Advertising is key. Jayne reported approximately 400 people attended 2024 Gem Fest. She would like to see more in 2025.

Porta potties and tables have been reserved. Brett and Jayne check out the food truck “World Plates” and found them worthy to serve our event.

As tradition has it, there will be a cookout Saturday evening. The club will provide dogs, burgers, and beverages. Others are encouraged to bring potluck items. There will be limited refrigeration available, so make sure you keep cold items chilled, even if in an ice chest. No food poisoning here!

Donitte Stiles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m., second by Mike Stiles. Meeting adjourned to snacks and program.

Eric Fritsch presented a program on his trip to the big Germany show. It was entertaining and informative. Thank you, Eric.



**NYKKY’S APRIL CLASS**

Photos provided by Jayne Beer

Nykky taught a wire wrap/wire weave class at Hidden Gems on April 11. The project this month was a drusy amethyst pendant! There were about 14 students at this class. Here are some of the finished projects.



The Editor loves this picture of Jayne and Nykky.



## EPIDOTE

By Eric Fritsch

This is an interesting specimen I got a few years ago. The dealer didn't know what it was and it came from a granitic pegmatite. It could be a rare mineral so he paid to have a small piece of it x-ray diffracted.

If you put a mineral in an x-ray beam the internal arrangement of the elements will diffract (bounce off at specific angles). This series of angles can be captured in a graphic form creating a signature pattern. The patterns are fairly unique to each mineral species such that the mineral can be identified.

This specimen is epidote, not particularly rare. To have a laboratory run a diffraction test can be relatively expensive (about \$75) so it isn't very common. I used to have limited access to a x-ray diffractometer in college but the college even charged students money to use it as it required energy, paper readouts, etc.

If you ran an agate, petrified wood, or other what are called crypto crystalline materials you do not get sharp diffraction angles, but rather broad curves. These are glasses or near glasses. Glass does not diffract either.



## TARIFFS AND THE HOBBY

By Eric Fritsch

I don't want to make this article political, but rather discuss what tariffs will do to our hobby - rock, gem, and mineral collecting. Your first reaction might be, "Nothing," because heading out into the rivers and looking for rocks has nothing to do with tariffs. But when it comes time to cut and polish these specimens, you'll be using diamond (Africa) saws, grit from overseas to polish, plastic boxes to store your specimens (overseas), fuel, vehicles, etc.; it will all cost more.

This goes for minerals and mineral related items. You can try to buy up mineral pre-tariff, however, the timing may be too quick to react. Also, some foreign dealers leave stock in the U.S. for sale, meaning they might have a supply for years to come. Minerals also get recycled out of collections and old foreign minerals may undercut new foreign material coming in. Recycled may push out imported. Importing specimens may stop all together.

Twenty-five percent tariffs were already placed on Chinese mineral specimens under a 2019 administration rule (under Trump). With tariffs expected to be over 100% on Chinese minerals, this means a doubling for the wholesale price, compounded by the U.S. importers costs.

You can pre-tariff purchase items. I made a couple of pre-tariff purchases last week. I bought a new Geiger Counter after my last one (Russian) finally kicked the bucket. I also purchased a digital microscope which I've been eyeing for a while. These, and many other items, are made overseas and will see high tariffs. I recently purchased some more cabinets for my collection before tariffs increase their price. They are made in India or China; the Chinese ones are better constructed and will receive a higher tariff rate.

I'm looking at getting a new car in a couple of years but can't go out and buy one now and let one sit around. I'm not done with my old car which hopefully has another 100,000 miles in it and can make it to the next administration.

You might look at buying an ultraviolet light from China, but the ones made in the USA are better and come with UV filters. The batteries and chargers come from China so that might make the USA made one more expensive in the future. The electronics and maybe the casing for these lights likely come from China, so even though they are made and designed in the U.S., they will have to increase prices due to tariffs.

Fabric guns are another machine I buy from China. These, if you haven't used one, are great for cleaning rocks and minerals. They shoot high velocity pulses of water out a narrow nozzle and remove dirt and clay like magic. They don't last very long so maybe having a back up isn't a bad idea. They run about \$30 pre-tariff.

A lot of the other tools we use in the hobby are made overseas as well. Microscopes, cameras, computers, and even the little gem boxes, are made overseas. The margins many gem and mineral dealers operate on are very slim. The tariffs are likely to drive many dealers out of business and lower profits for others.

Less widely reported, the value of the U.S. dollar is also down about 10% this year, meaning minerals from around the world are more expensive purchased with U.S. dollars. This is atop the tariff, making items from overseas more expensive.

Sorry to be a downer, but this is how policy changes affect our hobby. Food and other basic necessities may need to take preference over the hobby, further eroding its economics. Farmers, being unable to sell their crops, will hurt the state. Companies like the railroads (big employers in the state) will haul less materials. Everything is connected and it's hard to be isolationist. We are conditioned that everything is getting more and more expensive every year as the hobby appreciates. I often go to shows and say, "I could have bought that 25 years ago for a quarter of the price." Most items have increased over time and money has a time value on it; \$1. 25 years ago is worth almost \$4 today by the rule of sevens. Tariffs are not gradual but sharp and noticeable immediately. Lowered stock prices and people's 401K accounts, public opinion, layoffs, and recession will impact the hobby. This may hurt less if you have an established collection, but new collectors might be less inclined to get into the hobby due to the sharp increases in costs. Without new collectors, the hobby dies.

## CLUB ROCK PILE

By Sharon Marburger

The Club Rock Pile, formerly the Silent Auction, is in need of a new chairman and home. The position has become too much for Jim and me, what with aging and bad backs. I took over the position at least 10 years ago and I think it's time to share the fun.

Whoever takes over the position may make the rock pile a silent auction again, should they choose to do so. It is not a difficult job; just heavy.

The Rock Pile/Silent Auction is put to use at the show in April, Gem Fest in June, and could be put out at the Mid-Winter Swap in January.

Jim and I proposed to the Board to build a rolling rack for the inventory, that will hold smaller, heavy duty bins full of rock. It will make storing the rock neater and easier, and the rack can be easily rolled to the vehicle for handier loading and unloading. Construction will begin in the next couple of weeks.

I will keep the position until Summer Gem Fest, at which time I relinquish possession of the inventory and duty. Please consider taking over this position. The club thanks you!



When mixing epoxy, it's very important to have the same amount of each component. If the ratio is not 50:50, the mixture will not develop the best strength or may not harden at all.

If the amounts are small, I can generally eyeball the two components correctly. But I have trouble getting the proper mixture for larger quantities. The easiest way I've found is to use a gram scale.

1. Put a bottle lid or piece of scrap paper on the scale. Zero out the scale.
2. Squeeze out the epoxy Part A. Note the gram weight.
3. Zero out the scale again.
4. Squeeze out the same amount of Part B.
5. Mix thoroughly for use.

It's a trick I had to use when mixing resins for mold making where the ratio is usually 1 to 10.

## BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

### DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, ease up on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you may chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.



### DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over plier jaws if needed to avoid scratches.

### MIXING EPOXY



See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series: <http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

**SHOW RECAP: WOOLY’S PERSPECTIVE**

By Charles Wooldridge, Show Chairman

This year our Annual Gem Show was held in conjunction with the Annual Midwest Federation Convention. It was wonderful to visit with old friends and meet many new ones.

Saturday was very busy with the Convention going on in a room on the backside of the Event Center and a full house of vendors and customers in the Ag Society Hall. Unofficial reports indicate we had upwards of 3,000 attendees, which is really great.

I would like to thank everyone who assisted in making it such a wonderful experience for everyone. I would like to especially thank the Stiles and Beer families for making it a truly family affair. It was neat to see three generations working hard together.

Brett had a goal to have 70 club display cases in recognition of the Club’s 70th anniversary. We had 90!!! Not only was the number impressive, the quality of all of them was excellent!

The Oggs developed a poster display (Downing display) to introduce folks to all of the activities of the club. It was very well done and provided a new addition to the Welcome/Club Booth area.

There are too many people who helped out to name individually. You know who you are and I hope you know how much the club appreciates your efforts to make the show a success. Thank you!

**Table Cover Crew (photos by John Moss)**



*Thanks to you all!*

**PRE-CONVENTION/SHOW FIELD TRIP**

By Charles Wooldridge

On Thursday, April 3, I led a field trip to the Fairbury area. There were 30 participants, all from outside the state of Nebraska. I had to limit participants to just out-of-state persons due to the large number.

First, we stopped at the Casey's in Fairbury to reload and unload coffee. Once we were all restored, the group caravanned south to the only place in Nebraska where there are dinosaur footprints. Many photographs were taken of one of the tracks that is especially prominent.

Our next stop was the Rose Creek Clay Pit where we found numerous selenite specimens and Ghost Shrimp burrow fossils.

Heading west of Fairbury, a road cut provided innumeral bi-valve fossils in limestone. It seemed there were fossils in every piece.

The day ended with a visit to the Pioneer Inn in Gilead. It was a time to talk about the adventures of the day, and enjoy good food. The building was constructed of area limestone to house the railroad workers in 1887. Today it is a small town tavern and grill. The burgers were great and cheap. Four dollars bought a deluxe 1/2 pound burger.



Photo by Steve Shimatzki



Photos by Joe Johnson



Photo by Steve Shimatzki

**SHOW RECAP: SHARON'S PERSPECTIVE**

By Sharon Marburger

There is a picture recap of the Show on our website: [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/annual-show](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/annual-show), then go down to the archives and click on 2025 Annual Show.

The club hosted the Midwest Federation at this year's show. All events were well attended.

It started with a field trip to the Fairbury area on Thursday to collect minerals and fossils. It was a beautiful day for collecting. Wooly led approximately 30 MWF people on this trip. With such a large group, Wooly asked that club members not attend (he will lead another trip later this year). See Wooly's field trip article on page 8.

Friday brought rain showers and chill air. Yankee Hill Landscaping brought two loads of river rock and members salted the pile as the trucks were emptied in front of Ag Society Hall. At 2:00 p.m., the announcement was made that the parking lot field trip was starting. Excited persons made their way to the Nebraska Rock Pile where they found all sorts of material found in Nebraska. Even the Federation's Ebear got in on the fun.



Also on Friday was Show setup. Lots of volunteers showed up, making quick work of setup. Brett was shooting for 70 displays in honor of the Club's 70th birthday; we

ended up with 90 displays. They were fantastic! There was also one competitive display which scored highly.

The Meet & Greet was on Friday evening. This event allowed club members, MWF members, and dealers to gather and chat. Eric Fritzsck spoke to the group about Minerals of Nebraska. Complimentary snacks were provided. Thank goodness Brett and mom, Kay, were there with backup treats. About 20 unexpected people participated, which was fine, but the prearranged snacks didn't quite stretch far enough. Thanks to the Jurgenses, no one went hungry.



Saturday morning began the Federation meetings in the Nebraska Room while the Show started in Ag Society Hall. Attending the Federation

meetings, we didn't get to witness the numbers of people attending the Show that day. Everyone said it was super busy.

Saturday night was the MWF Awards Banquet. There was plenty of food here, so people could have seconds and thirds, if they wanted.

Sunday was Day 2 of the Show. It was unusually busy for a Sunday. I was overjoyed that so many people turned out for the event.

Vera has not yet tallied the results of the Show, but using the amount of cash brought in and the count on the Square, we estimate approximately 3,000 people attended the two-day show!

**Allan & Tammy Jeanneret**



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We buy collections and estates

**TURQUOISE**

By Noah DeSantis

**From Mini Miners Monthly, Vol. 17, No. 4, April 2025**

Do you know what Turquoise is? Turquoise is a water-based copper aluminum phosphate. Turquoise forms by acidic water pooling into spaces of rock that are rich with copper. This forms veins and nuggets, leaving the mineral turquoise in place. It is located in many places around the world like Iran, China, Russia, Egypt, Mexico and our very own United States, but in the southwestern area (such as Southern California, Nevada, Arizona and parts of Colorado).

Do you want to know what the rarest type of turquoise is? It is the Lander Blue Spiderweb Turquoise. It takes a lot of experience to detect real versus fake Lander Blue Turquoise; it is much easier to find the fake version for sale in shops. The real Lander Blue has a much deeper looking blue color with a hint of green, and the matrix is iridescent looking without a pattern to it. The fake Lander Blue will have dye build up in cracks and corners, and the matrix will show more of a pattern. Also, the real stone will be very hard and difficult to scratch, whereas the fake version is easier to scratch with only a fingernail. The real Lander Blue Turquoise is heavy for its size, and the fake stone? Well, it's light, almost like a piece of sidewalk chalk. The outside of the Lander Blue Turquoise will be smoother than the fake version.

Do you want to know fun facts about Turquoise? It is the birthstone for the month of December. People often believe that Turquoise has protection, wisdom and healing abilities as well. Do you know what else? The ancient Egyptians also decorated king Tutankhamun's burial mask with Turquoise!

If you are lucky enough to have or find Turquoise, you must take excellent care of it. You need to store it away from other tougher, rocks. Do not get it wet or allow any chemicals to get on it, because it can ruin the stone or change the color. High heat can also possibly change the color too, so try to avoid high temperatures. If you find or buy a real Turquoise, you will add a wonderful mineral to your collection that defines its own individual beauty and luster, and if cared for correctly, will last a very long time.

**About Noah**

Noah is an eleven-year-old fifth grader from Western Massachusetts, who has an indescribable love for geology and paleontology. Noah found his passion for everything rocks, fossils and minerals at the very young age of five years old; and it has only intensified since that time. He has participated in countless online courses that have provided him with boundless education, harnessing his deep-rooted interest in paleontology and geology. He attends every Rock and Mineral Show that he is able to, and spends hours learning from the professionals who bring their knowledge and geological treasures to share.



Noah enjoys searching for his own treasures with his rock hounding tools as well. He is hoping to one day excavate something really valuable, so he continues to "pound the ground" in search of that special discovery. His dream is to one day earn a college degree in either paleontology or geology; he hasn't quite narrowed it down yet. He'd love to see the world, find incredible stones, study them, and maybe even unearth something no one has ever found before!

In the meantime, Noah plans to continue with his other interests as well like, playing trombone in the school band, participating in Dungeons and Dragons Club as well as Magic the Gathering Club, and training in Ju Jitsu twice a week. Noah intends to keep up with these other hobbies, and in the future, add "Professional Geologist/Paleontologist" to his running list of interests that make him amazing.

# Get inspired, Juniors!

**And Juniors!**

**Hey, Junior Leaders — There's a New Badge in Town!**

*Dennis Gertenbach, CTN Editor*

There's a brand new badge you [juniors] can earn, the **Sand and Sediment Badge**. When you work on this badge, you will learn the *definition of sand, silt, and clay, and how they differ from each other*. Sand is fun, and you will learn many things *about it, what you can learn from it, and the things you can do with it*.

Let your leader know you want to earn this new badge. The requirements activities for the badge can be found at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/fra-badge-program/the-badges/sand-sediment>. (This link is active in the digital version of this newsletter, so all you need to do is click on it to go directly to the page.)



**2026 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE**

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

**2026 SHOW COMMITTEE**

**Theme:** .....  
Chairman: ..... Jayne Beer/Brett Jurgens  
Dealers & Demonstrators: ..... Vera Lyman  
Displays: ..... Brett Jurgens  
Event Center Liaison ..... Vera Lyman  
Finance/Ticket Sales: .....  
Floor Chairman: .....  
Fluorescent Booth: ..... Clyde Ogg  
Forms ..... Sharon Marburger  
LGMC Club Booth: .....  
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 LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

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

**2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Jayne Beer, Chairman  
1 year: Jayne Beer & Brett Jurgens  
2 years: Charles Wooldridge & Donitte Stiles  
3 years: Vera Lyman & Ed Ridge

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

**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:  
lgmc.editor@outlook.com

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

### 2025 Schedule

#### Lapidary Classes

(Stone Cutting)

\$100 for 5 3-hour classes

Sundays 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Choice of session:

Session 1: Jan 26 - Mar 2

Session 2: Mar 9 - April 20

Session 3: Apr 27 - Jun 1

Session 4: Jun 29 - Aug 3

Session 5: Aug 10 - Sep 14

Session 6: Sep 21 - Oct 26

Session 7: Nov 2 - Dec 7

#### Silversmithing Classes

Tuition: \$160 plus \$30 supply deposit

Choice of Tuesday or Wednesday

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

#### Tuesdays

Session 1: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Session 2: Feb 25 - Apr 15

Session 3: Apr 22 - Jun 10

Session 4: Jun 24 - Aug 12

Session 5: Aug 19 - Oct 7

Session 6: Oct 14 - Dec 2

#### Wednesdays

Session 1: Jan 22 - Feb 19

Session 2: Feb 26 - Apr 16

Session 3: Apr 23 - Jun 11

Session 4: Jun 25 - Aug 13

Session 5: Aug 20 - Oct 8

Session 6: Oct 15 - Dec 3

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