

THE PICK & SHOVEL



In association with

The Official Publication of the
Lincoln Gem &
Mineral Club, Inc.



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.

Check upcoming issues of the Pick & Shovel, the website, and the LGMC Facebook Group for news about upcoming meetings and activities.

2020 members of LGMC do not need to pay dues for 2021.

**Due to the pandemic and lack of club activities,
memberships have rolled over to 2021.**

DO NOT PAY DUES FOR 2021.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

THERE WILL NOT BE ANY IN-PERSON MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. LINCOLN PARKS & RECREATION HAS CLOSED DOWN BETHANY PARK SHELTER HOUSE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, DUE TO COVID-19.

BOARD MEETINGS:

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

(via Zoom)

Until further notice, Board Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month

Meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in attending via Zoom, contact Jim Marburger for the log-in information. You can attend Zoom meetings via computer, tablet, smart phone, or regular telephone. You are not required to use the video option; you may use voice only if desired.

FIELD TRIPS, ROCK PARTIES, OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The January Mid-Winter Swap has been cancelled due to the pandemic and closure of Lincoln Parks and Recreation facilities.

The Annual Show is CANCELLED due to the pandemic.

A Summer Swap is in the planning stages, tentatively scheduled for June 26 & 27. Stay tuned for more information.

.....
: Juniors! See the rules to enter the 2021 :
: National Youth Poster Contest on page :
: 6.
: Thanks to Jim Brace-Thompson for alerting :
: us to the contest.
:

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



January: Brian Beer
Cynthia Casselman
Linda Guenter

<u>2021 SUMMER SWAP COMMITTEE</u>	
Chairman:	Corey Beer
Vendors:	
Finance & Ticket Sales:	Jim Atkins, Vera Lyman
Floor Chairman:	Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
LGMC Club Booth:	
Publicity & Promotion:	Jim Marburger
Silent Auction:	Sharon Marburger
Web Master:	Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities:	Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer

Would you like to help with the planning of the 2021 Summer Swap? Please let Corey Beer or any other Board member know. The club has many decisions to make before hosting this first-time event.

CLUB HISTORY

by Sharon Marburger, Historian

The seventeen boxes of Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club history have all been scanned and uploaded to the web. Check it out.

<https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/about/history-docs>

If you find pictures with unidentified people, and you know who they are, please let me know.

All issues of the Pick & Shovel are available. If you would like to help with indexing them, let me know.

Have fun looking at our history!

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President**

Charles Wooldridge, 402.975.0416, charles.wooldridgeii@gmail.com

1st Vice-President

Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, JBeer60070@aol.com

2nd Vice-President

Brett Jurgens, 402.850.3256, quartz89@aol.com

Treasurer

Vera Lyman, 402.464.6089

Secretary

James Marburger, 402.430.6703, james.marburger@outlook.com

Board Member

Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

Board Member

Jeff Kubitz, 402.540.9395, jkubitz@neb.rr.com

Board Member

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

Board Member

Ed Ridge, 402.805.8248

LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

- 1 year: Pat Dvorak
Robert Gruit
- 2 years: Charles Wooldridge
Sharon Marburger
- 3 years: Vera Lyman
Jim Marburger

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

- 1 year: Linda Guenter
Vera Lyman
- 2 years: Brett Jurgens
Sharon Marburger
- 3 years: Jim Atkins
Open

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF**PUBLISHER:**

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CIRCULATION:

Vera Lyman
402-464-6089
Sharon Marburger
402.429.3323

DEADLINE:

Date of Board Meeting, usually 1st Thursday of the month.

STANDING COMMITTEES**Audio/Visual:**

Jayne Beer

Audit:

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer
James Marburger

Christmas Party:

Edward Ridge

Door Prizes:

Corey Beer, Brett Jurgens, Charles Wooldridge

Facebook:

James Marburger, Jayne Beer

Field Trips:

James Marburger

Historian:

Sharon Marburger

Legislative Liaison:

Susy McMahan

Membership Record:

Edward Ridge

MWF Liaison:

Vera Lyman

Programs:

Charles Wooldridge, Brett Jurgens

Property:

James Marburger

Recognition/Awards:

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer, Charles Wooldridge

Refreshments:

Vera Lyman

Show—2021:

CANCELLED

Swap—June 2021:

Corey Beer

Website:

Jim & Sharon Marburger

Youth Activities:

Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer, Sampson Bayer

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.

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 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Wooldridge

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas, Chanukah, Festivus, Winter Solstice, or the holiday of your choice. We had a joyous time with immediate family, while social distancing. Our daughter, who is a chef, made an incredibly diverse and delicious meal. I think my granddaughter, Willow, is destined to be a rockhound, if that's possible for a princess. She insisted she wanted a diamond and a pink flashlight for Christmas. Santa brought a cheap pink LED flashlight and a 50mm brilliant cut glass "diamond". She was ecstatic! I'm always amazed how kids love the little things.



As I write this, it is New Years Eve. The biggest dilemma I have is what to wear to the celebration in our living room. As this difficult year ends, I have been thinking about what I can take away from the experience. I heard someone say they gained clarity and the ability to look at their life with 2020 vision. That seems a good take away. I hope I enter 2021 with a deeper appreciation for some of the simpler aspects of living. Like my granddaughter, I hope to see things more clearly and with insight, recognizing the brilliance that others shine on me.

Okay. Enough for the esoteric ramblings. I have acquired a new-to-me piece of lapidary equipment (see attached pictures). It is a rotary flat lap. I've not seen anything like it before. The big tub spins, a wheel on a shaft with a bearing is turned by the tub, which in turn causes the rock being polished to spin the other way. I know this sounds complicated, but it is like being sanded or polished at double time. If you have seen, or know anything about this type of lap, I would appreciate your input.

I am sure going to miss our Mid-Winter Swap, but I look forward to the Swap in June! Please be safe until we can all be together again.

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!



Silversmithing classes 2021 Schedule

Tuesday & Wednesday Evenings
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The Jewelry Connection Ltd.
Indian Village Shopping Ctr.
13th & Arapahoe, Lincoln

Tuition: \$150 plus \$30 supply deposit

Session 1: Jan 5/6 - Mar 2/3

Contact: Jayne Beer 402-890-3307
Judith Bay 402-423-7058
jbeer60070@aol.com

BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting December 3, 2020. Meeting held via Zoom teleconferencing.

Minutes recorded by Sharon Marburger, Asst. Secretary.

Meeting called to order by President Charles Wooldridge at 6:35 p.m.. The rules of meeting conduct continue to be suspended, due to COVID-19.

ROLL CALL

Charles Wooldridge	President	Present
Jayne Beer	1 VP	Present
Brett Jurgens	2VP	Present
Vera Lyman	Treasurer	Present
James Marburger	Secretary	Present
Corey Beer	Board	Present
Jeff Kubitz	Board	Present
Sharon Marburger	Board	Present
Ed Ridge	Board	Present

The Minutes were sent electronically and read aloud. Motion by Vera to accept the minutes, 2nd by Corey. Passed.

The Treasurer's Report was read. Motion by Jim to accept the Treasurer's Report, 2nd by Eddie. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Board meetings have been changed to 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month until further notice.

After months of discussion, the 2021 Show is cancelled due to the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Motion by Vera to cancel the show, 2nd by Sharon. Passed.

The Summer Swap proposed to be held at the Beer Family Farm in Ashland is moving forward. Liability insurance should be purchased by the landowner for this event; the club will pay the premium. Each vendor is responsible to pay sales tax to the State of Nebraska.

The Youth Leaders are still asking for approximate 1-inch specimens to give to the kids for their collections. Please contact Brett Jurgens with your specimens. Brett has ordered specimen boxes.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to three issues of the Pick & Shovel not being published in 2019-20, Sharon moved to charge JJ&L and The Jewelry Connection for only 9 months of ads in 2021. Second by Vera. Passed.

No requests to be accepted to the 2021 Board of Directors were received, therefore, by acclamation, the 2020 Board of Directors remains the same for 2021.

Schramm Park is requesting Nebraska specimens for its exhibit. Please contact Brett Jurgens for more information or donations.

Jim volunteered to record a program on tumbling clean-up between grit runs. It will be available soon.

Vera moved to adjourn the meeting, Jayne 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

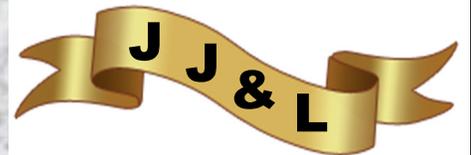
J J & L Rocks & Minerals

P.O. Box 68
Hickman, NE 68372

Lee Harrison
Eric Harrison
402.792.2337

330 Locust
Hickman, NE 68372

James Marburger
Sharon Marburger
402.430.6703



Proudly serving
the hobby for
45 years

jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com
www.jjlrocksandminerals.com
jjlrocksmin - Ebay Username

JUNIORS

By Brett Jurgens, Junior Co-Leader

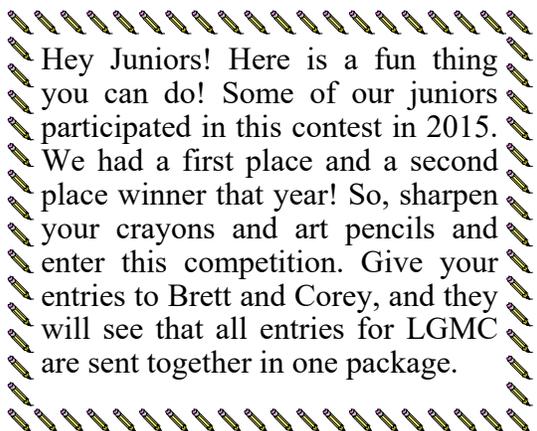
I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Who is ready for warm weather where they can be outside and go collect rocks? My friend, Jon, and I try to get out to the Blue Forest every summer to dig for petrified wood. While this did not happen last year, we are already planning for this year and hopeful we are able to go. I am hoping we can coordinate a local outdoor field trip for the juniors once the weather warms.

Recently, I was contacted by old friends whose children are getting into the hobby. They had no clue that the club existed, and are excited to join once we resume meetings. Typically, we are able to promote the club at events such as our shows and swaps, and the LPS Science Fair. Until we able to hold those events, the club relies on online events and word of mouth. Spread the word!

There has been an explosion of interest in rock tumbling nation wide. I belong to several online forums for tumbling, and many members are having trouble finding tumblers as they are sold out. Many of the questions on the forum are which machine should I get, and what size? Some people quickly realize they want a bigger tumbler, or that tumbling isn't for them. I am still offering tumblers for loan to members who would like to give it a try. This lets you get a feel for it without the initial cost of a tumbler. Some people get hooked, and others do not. I had one tumbler returned after one week. It wasn't for them. Tumbling definitely takes patience; with a rotary tumbler, you are looking to at least one month between start and finish at a minimum. Jim Marburger posted a video on the club's Facebook page about cleaning the rocks between cycles. Although his video showed using a large tumbler, this method will work with whatever size tumbler you use. There will be more videos about tumbling in the future.

We had a delay in getting the cases for the rock kits, but have them now. I would like to thank Kim Nielsen, Rowdy Cropp, and Jim and Sharon Marburger for donating specimens for the juniors. There are a few more members willing to donate specimens, but I don't have them yet. Please email me at quartz89@aol.com to verify an address and good time to drop off your specimen kits. Also, I would like to have a list of junior members' birthdays - please include that in your email.



Hey Juniors! Here is a fun thing you can do! Some of our juniors participated in this contest in 2015. We had a first place and a second place winner that year! So, sharpen your crayons and art pencils and enter this competition. Give your entries to Brett and Corey, and they will see that all entries for LGMC are sent together in one package.

2021 NATIONAL YOUTH POSTER CONTEST

Sponsored by North Lakes Academy Rockhounds of Minnesota

THEME: "Rockin' Around the USA" – Rocks and Minerals from around the USA

Pick a rock or mineral you are passionate about, create a poster featuring it, and provide a brief explanation of why you like that particular rock so much. OR Pick a location in the USA where you LOVE to go rockhounding and craft a poster around that while providing a brief write-up about where it is, what you've found, and why others should go there.

ELIGIBILITY: Any student in 1st through 8th grade.

ENTRY CATEGORIES: Posters will be judged by grade level.

PRIZES: Ribbons and prizes will be awarded for 1st – 5th place in each grade. Overall Champions will also be selected and will receive a prize.

CONTEST RULES:

- All entries must be presented on 12"X18" paper.
- Include name, address, and school grade of participant on BACK of entry.
- The title should be on the FRONT of the poster.
- No three dimensional posters accepted.
- Accompany the poster with the background info requested in the 1st paragraph above.
- Posters will not be able to be returned.
- Any poster postmarked after the deadline will not be accepted. (Please allow a week for posters to arrive.)
- All entries become property of the North Lakes Academy Rockhounds and AFMS.

SCALE OF POINTS:

- Originality and Art Work – 30 points
- Title / Theme Organization, Design, Spelling, Grammar – 10 points
- Information Provided – Facts and Details – 20 points

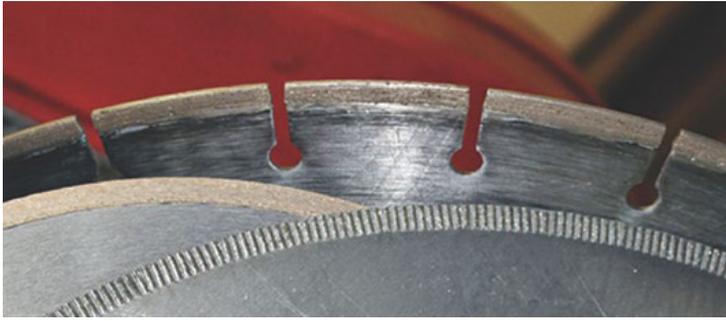
ARTWORK: Artwork can be done with pen, ink, crayons, magic markers, paint, print, photography, or any other artist's medium.

DEADLINE: Entries must be postmarked by **May 1, 2021**

SEND TO: Michelle Cauley
c/o North Lakes Academy Rockhounds
4576 232nd Street North
Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025

QUESTIONS: Contact Poster Competition Coordinator Michelle Cauley by email at mcauley@northlakesacademy.org. Contest info on AFMS website, www.amfed.org/kids.htm.

LAPIDARY HINT: DIAMOND ROCK SAW BLADES



By Bob Rush

Rock and Gem Newsletter, November 21, 2019

<https://www.rockngem.com/diamondrocksawblades/>
as published in the Jade State News, Volume 2020, Issue 4

Frequently, questions arise about the type of saw blades to buy for trimming or slabbing rock, and how to sharpen the blades.

There are three basic types of saw blades: notched rim, sintered rim, and segmented rim. In the past, the notched rim blades were the most common blades one would encounter. They are made by notching the rim of the blade blank and embedding the diamonds into the notches. These blades perform quite well.

Understanding Blade Performance

Advancements in blade manufacturing methods have resulted in a better performing blade. It is the continuous sintered rim blade. This type of blade is manufactured by mixing and bonding diamonds into a metal alloy and bonding that mixture together, under heat and pressure, to the outer rim of the blade core. This type of blade has superseded notched rim blades.

The final type of blade to consider is the segmented blade. These blades have notches manufactured into the rim. The notches consist of a slot into the rim with a round hole at the bottom of the slot. The slots provide a path for the coolant/lubricant to reach the rim more effectively and remove rock waste from the rim area. The blades are primarily utilized in larger sizes, beginning with 18 inches and larger.

Addressing Coolants

There also has been a lot of discussion about which coolants should be used on 10-inch trim saws. Many prefer to use water with additives because there is less mess during the cutting than when oil coolants are used. However, water isn't a good coolant, because the flashpoint is quite low compared to the oils that are commonly in use.

At the point of contact with the rock, the heat builds up, and for an instant, the water flashes to steam, which doesn't carry the heat away. Most blade manufacturers do not recommend using water because it causes premature blade wear. However, many people prefer the easy cleanup of water, and with it,

DUES

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DO NOT PAY DUES FOR 2021.
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they endure the need for more frequent blade replacements.

Resharpener Techniques

When it comes time to sharpen a dull blade, there are numerous methods. As a blade is used, the diamonds in the rim abrade and break down, leaving small holes in the sintered areas of the cutting surface. The friction of the rock deforms this sintered alloy and moves the metal around, where it shields the existing diamonds, and the cutting action slows considerably.

Suggestions for handling this have included cutting through obsidian, which is ineffective and cutting through an old silicon carbide grinding wheel, which is a better approach.

John Rowland of Highland Park Lapidary, suggests turning a very coarse file sideways and strike the cutting edge of the blade vigorously around the diameter of the blade. This method is very effective in sharpening the blade.

However, the above-mentioned method doesn't sharpen the sides of the cutting surface. By gripping the sides of the blade, you can feel the wider cutting portion on the sides of the blade.

If you can't feel the wider area, the blade is worn out regardless of the remaining area of the diamonds around the rim. This step-up is required, so the blade cuts a slot, called the kerf, which is wider than the blade.

This must occur so the rock, which is the focus of the cut, doesn't rub on the sides of the blade during the process. If the rock rubs the blade, the blade gets hot, the rock gets hot, and they both expand, binding the blade in the rock. These cutting surfaces do at least as much rock removal as the outer edge of the blade, thus they wear just like the outer rim.

My method to sharpen all the surfaces is to rub the outer rim vigorously sideways across the blade, with a piece of very coarse silicon carbide grinding wheel, followed by rubbing the sides of the blade vertically with the same grinding wheel piece.

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

THE PALEONTOLOGIST'S PRAYER

by Jeanette Mayo
from the December 1997 Rock Rustler's News
(Minnesota Mineral Club)

Our fossil,
who art in sandstone,
hollowed be thy bones.
Thy age be old,
thy shape be whole,
unearthed as it was in placement.
Give us this day our daily sweat,
and forgive us the slips of our chisels,
as we forgive those who trespassed this bone bed.
And lead us not into more sediments,
but deliver us from digging,
for the hardener will preserve thee
forever and ever,
Amen.

(Publisher's note: Jeanette says that a hollowed bone means that it comes from a theropod, which is a meat-eating dinosaur, which paleontologists love to find.)

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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. Since we are not allowed to meet in person at this time, it is important to share with others what you are doing. Your project may inspire someone else. Send via email (lgmc.editor@outlook.com) or via Facebook Messenger.