



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: **September 18, 2025**
Program: Bob Diffendall – Black Hills Geology and
Natural History

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, September 4, 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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLUB FUN

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 26, 2025 - Rock Party at Hidden Gems
August 9, 2025 - River Field Trip
Labor Day Weekend - President's Field Trip to Crawford

RIVER FIELD TRIP

By Jim & Sharon Marburger

Jim will be leading a field trip to the South Fork of the Big Nemaha River on August 9, 2025. We will meet at the Casey's in Pawnee City at 10:00 a.m. The drive from Lincoln takes approximately 1½ hours, depending on traffic and road construction.

From Casey's, we will caravan to Miles Ranch where we will collect agates, jaspers, fossils, and other materials on the river. This location is easily accessed and fairly flat.

Bring your own picnic lunch and water. Shade will be available. It will most likely be HOT, so dress accordingly and use sunscreen and bug repellent.

Please let Jim or Sharon know if you plan to attend.

james.marburger@outlook.com, 402.430.6703
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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. 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).

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.

39th Annual CRAWFORD ROCK SHOW 2025
CRAWFORD CITY PARK - CRAWFORD NEBRASKA

LABOR DAY WEEKEND AUG. 29 - SEPT 1

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Alex Brown Kramer**
- Rowdy Cropp**
- Dick Farlow**
- Jeff Kubitz**
- Robin Leuty**
- Nykky Lytle**
- Jim Schmidt**
- John Worley**



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Last Sunday of the month.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Brett Jurgens, President

Hello LGMC.

For me, this summer has been a whirlwind. I honestly cannot remember a summer jam packed with so many activities and commitments. And I have literally shelved multiple plans or trips due to lack of time. Some day, eventually. A big shout out to Mike and Donitte Stiles, Jim and Sharon Marburger, Ed Ridge, and Patrick O'Brien and daughters, Gracie and Chloe. These people went above and beyond helping with Camp Creek Threshers this year. I'd like to include more names next year, and these people listed would like a break, so please consider volunteering some time next year. We had right around 900 people tour the building, almost half being kids. They were able to enjoy the touch table, gem dig, fluorescent display, tumble table, and displays. A big hit this year was the sphere machine Sharon brought. There were lots of questions!

I am trying to finish this message from within the Ag Society Hall at the Event Center. Today is entry day for the county fair, with tomorrow being judging day. I figure I need to get this message done because 1) Sharon is waiting on it and 2) by tomorrow night my eyes will be so tired I won't be able to see straight. Sitting here has me thinking though; it has been almost four months since our show, which means we are just over eight months from our next one! Which brings to mind the question I ask every year, what are you displaying at the show and do you want four cases or five? (Eight or nine cases if you are Norm Balliet.) All joking aside, how many cases do you need?

Don't forget the field trip being led by the Marburgers. It's coming up soon and you do need to sign up ahead of time. The club took a trip to the area a few years ago and not only was it pleasant trip, but there was also stuff to be found!

Crawford is now only a month away. I actually panicked a bit writing that. So much to do before! The Crawford area is probably one of, if not the richest collecting area in Nebraska. There are morning field trips led Friday, Saturday and Sunday by members of the Crawford club. I always come home with boxes and tubs of rock, both from the swap and from collecting in the field. If you are able, it is definitely a trip not to miss.

I look forward to seeing all your summer finds at our September meeting.



JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Leader

Hello Juniors.

And just like that, summer is nearing an end. As a student with summer breaks, it always seemed like summer just flew by. As an adult with a job, it seems like the years fly by.

This summer has definitely been a busy one. I need a nap. I want to give a huge shout out to Chloe and Gracie O'Brien for coming out and helping at the Camp Creek Threshing Show. We had about 900 people come through the building over the two days, almost half of them kids! This is a great way to promote both the club and the hobby. In the future I hope to have more junior involvement in club activities and outreach. It can be a lot of fun sharing our interests with others.

Don't forget about the upcoming field trip to the Nemaha River. I've collected that area and it is a trip you don't want to miss.

The Crawford swap is also less than a month away; it would be awesome to see more members there!

We will resume our regular meetings in September. Please bring your specimen boxes, and also your summer finds as we will have a show and tell.

Have a great end to your summer!



Check out this cool U.V. reactive specimen, marmathite, which is an iron rich sphalerite. This specimen is from Viet Nam. (In-color newsletters can be found on our website.)



Judith enjoying her meal at the Rock Party



CAMP CREEK THRESHERS ANNUAL SHOW

By Sharon Marburger

The weekend of July 19 and 20, a few of LGMC's members volunteered in the Rock Room at this event. Brett thanks Mike and Donitte Stiles, Ed Ridge, and Jim and Sharon Marburger for spending all day both days to bring joy to some kids. He also thanks Patrick O'Brien and daughters Chloe and Gracie for offering some relief to whoever needed a break.

Although the weather brought us heat and humidity, lots of people attended the event. Brett was kind enough to provide small air conditioning units in the building so we stayed fairly comfortable.

Eddie brought a variety of different stones and minerals to display and allow some hands-on activity. His booth was next to the door so he kept count of the attendees coming into the building.



Donitte kept the kids busy at the Gem Dig. There were many "ohs" and "look what I found" noises coming from that area. As you can see in the picture, there were many happy faces.



Mike manned the fluorescent booth, aweing many with his glowing rocks. It was thrilling to hear the oohs, ahhs, oh mans, WOWs, and other exclamations of wonder.

Jim displayed different types of tumblers and answered many questions. Each person stopping by the table was awarded a tumbled stone of their choice. This also brought a lot of excitement.

Sharon ran a sphere machine and displayed her first four attempts at making spheres. The story of how one takes a rock, cubes it, then makes 45 degree angle cuts, followed by grinding off the sharp edges before the rock can be put in the

sphere machine was told more times than could be counted. Many people stood mesmerized, watching the ball spin around and around.



Patrick (far left), Chloe, and Gracie gave Eddie a break by taking over counting the visitors arriving and stamping the kids' "passports". Kids were encouraged to tour the entire event and collect stamps on their passport. Upon completion, the Threshers allowed them to pick out two

tumbled stones and a selection of stickers, and handed out popsicles to help beat the heat.

Brett ran all over the event, helping out where needed and putting out fires. He very graciously bought lunch for all us volunteers. The food was delicious and appreciated.

A poll taken of the passport kids revealed the Rock Room was the best part of the event!

Brett provided rock displays for the Rock Room. Below is a picture of his beautiful, end polished petrified limb casts, all lined up and stacked.



There was some excitement during Friday setup when three mice and a snake were scared up. Mike was

able to capture the snake and release it gently outside.

See what fun you can have by volunteering at events?



MISCELLANEOUS FUN AND INFORMATIONAL STUFF PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED SOMEWHERE**Rock Bags**

11/62 Carny Hound via THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE
11/2010

To make a good rock bag, take a pair of old jeans. Cut off one of the legs (about 24" is a good length) and sew one end closed. Of course, you can cut off more or less, depending on how much you think you can carry. Put in a draw string or leave open.

An Ideal Club Member's Alphabet

via Strata Gem, 4/2008

- A** Always: attend meetings
B Bring: someone with you
C Communicate: with others (How about communicating in writing by submitting an article for the newsletter?)
D Develop: mutual understanding and respect
E Enjoy the hobby and have fun
F Friendship: cherish and nurture the valuable commodity
G Generosity, Goals, Gentleness: use when needed
H Honesty: use it regularly
I Ideas: Share with other members
J Jealousy: avoid like the plague
K Knowledge: help promote it (Share your knowledge in an article for the newsletter)
L Labor: donate when and where needed
M Mistakes: correct yours and overlook others
N Nonsense: use frequently - breaks monotony
O Order: help maintain at all meetings
P Patience: develop as much as possible
Q Quarrels: never indulge. They serve no purpose
R Rocks: study, hunt, collect, work, polish, build with them
S Share: your talents, energy, and knowledge with others
T Talent: use and improve as much as possible
U United: help the club stay that way
V Value: friends, members, yourself, and the organization
W Work: an important ingredient, be willing to help carry the load
X-rate: all gossip, malice, petty peeves, and negative attitudes
Y Yesterday: leave it where it belongs - in the past
Z Zeal: be generous with it, encourage others to do likewise

SHOP SAFETY

Bernice Achilles, published in CFMS newsletter, via Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society, PICK & SHOVEL 11/2010

- The clothing you wear while working with machinery is important. Aprons, sleeves, long hair, etc. can easily become caught in a belt that is not properly placed or covered. All belts should be covered in such a way that nothing can get caught in them.
- Rings on your fingers can get caught and tear off a finger.
- Watches can get caught and pull an arm into the machinery. Watches can also become magnetized by subjecting them to the static electricity generated around machinery.
- Take the time to thoroughly inspect your shop and look at each piece of machinery critically to see if anyone could possibly get hurt by operating it. Take the time to fix anything that might be a hazard, either to you or anyone who might come into your shop and try to use your machines.
- Do you have insurance to cover such things?

Today's Random Fact

A Petrified Fact By Ed Wengerd in Gem Cutter's News, no date given, Published in THE AGATIZER 12/05

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially those from the Northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of Chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated, making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas left between the cast and the wood were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood.

Rocks

By Mary Murphy, published in 4/1967 Pick & Shovel

Rocks are found in many places,
Seen by a hundred different faces.

Rocks may be large or they may be small,
But most are found attractive by all.

Rocks are made into many things
From huge statues to tiny rings.

A rock may be used as an ornament or stepping stone,
But in the hands of a boy it is bound to be thrown.



AMAZONITE

By Noah DeSantis (Mini Miners Monthly, July 2025)

The Feldspar group of minerals has about twenty members that are divided into two groups. These groups are called Plagioclase Feldspars and Alkali Feldspars. I think a really cool Feldspar mineral that belongs to the Alkali group, is a microcline Feldspar. More specifically, a variety that is called **Amazonite**.



Amazonite is a green to bluish-green variety of microcline Feldspar. Amazonite is formed in the last stages of magma cooling and crystallization way down in the crust of the earth. This grows large Amazonite crystals. It can be found in many places such as Colorado in the United States, Madagascar, Russia, Brazil and different parts of Africa.

Amazonite was first discovered in the eighteenth century, near the Ilmensky Mountains in Russia. Even though it is named after the Amazon River, it has never been found there! At one time, some green mineral from the Amazon River basin was called "Amazonite," but we don't know today exactly which green mineral species it was.

Its most common use is for making jewelry as well as for decoration. People enjoy it for its lively color, and the ease in its ability to be cut into decorative objects. It is also used in crystal healing for its calming abilities.

Amazonite and Electricity

When pressure is applied to Amazonite, it can make electricity. This is called **piezoelectricity**. The word "piezo" comes from the Greek word piezein, meaning "to press" or "to squeeze."

When Amazonite is under pressure, the inside particles break down and move around. This causes the positive and negative charges to separate in the crystal. This makes differences in voltage. Piezoelectricity can be found in other crystals like tourmaline and quartz. Do you have a quartz watch or clock? It has a slice of a quartz crystal in it that uses the piezoelectric properties to keep accurate time.

Do you have a nice Amazonite crystal specimen? If it gets dusty from sitting on your display shelf, it is easy to clean. To take good care of your Amazonite, you should use mild soap and warm water to clean it. Do not ever use heat or harsh chemicals. (Keeping different mineral species clean and undamaged is a very important part of collecting minerals.)

I think Amazonite Feldspar is a unique kind of mineral, and definitely I think it would be cool to have one in your own collection! I hope you like Amazonite Feldspar as much as I do.



(Mini Miners Monthly, July 2025)

Amazonite
Feldspar with
Smoky
Quartz
Drawn by
Jessica Nelson

Allan & Tammy Jeanneret



Rough Rock, Slabs, Specimens, Gemstones,
Jewelry, Rock Paintings

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MORE MISCELLANEOUS FUN AND INFORMATIONAL STUFF PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED SOMEWHERE**The Rockhound Bible**

Published in The Glacial Drifter, 5/1979, author not named

Had a rockhound written the Bible, a book of Rockhound Chronicles would have been added. One chapter might have gone like this:

1. Now it came to pass in the five and sixtieth year of the twentieth century, there dwelt a man in the middle-west of America.
2. And he prospered and increased in goods and became fat and waxed old, his children grew and departed from him.
3. And he retired from business and was afflicted with a serious heart ailment and a stiffening of all his joints, and his soul became weary of his very existence, insomuch that he, like Job, greatly desired to die and be buried and sleep with his fathers.
4. Now there came a day that in his search for entertainment, he chanced to drop into a Gem and Mineral Show.
5. While there, he became greatly intrigued with exhibits, in that he spent the entire day looking at fossils, admiring the collection of artifacts, enjoying the beauty of the crystals and collection of gems and being amazed at the workmanship of the articles in silver and cabochons.
6. And straightway when evening came, he hastened and went home to his wife and spoke to her of all that had come to pass.
7. And he said unto her, "Go, now, let us make ourselves a collection of the rare and beautiful rocks. Let us gather them from our own land and from far off lands, and let us remodel the basement that there be room for this display.
8. "And verily I say unto you, if there is not space enough in the basement, they shall be placed on shelves in the dining room and in drawers in the bed chamber and even in cupboards in the kitchen."
9. And his wife consented thereto.
10. And it came to pass on the morrow they arose early and made haste and prepared themselves lunch and when the sun had risen they climbed into the chariot and departed to go unto the mountains, and into the mountains they came.
11. And the man went to and fro and walked up and down in the mountains all the day long unto the eleventh hour.
12. And he lifted up his eyes and beheld a ledge of rock shining in the sun, and he hastened to it and took his rock hammer and broke it into many pieces and piled the pieces in piles.
13. And carried heavy loads down the hill and placed the rocks in his chariot to be taken to the place where he abode.
14. And his wife did likewise.
15. Again on a day and many times thereafter, they made ready and drove into the hills and the Badlands and the

valleys of the rivers, and to the caves in the mountains and throughout all the region round about, where they searched diligently.

16. And they gathered many rocks of many sizes and descriptions and they carried them unto their home where they piled them in piles in their courtyard and beside the house and along the paths and by every green tree and by every living shrub.
17. And they heaped them in heaps along the driveway and in the garden so they could hardly drive in thereat.
18. They builded themselves also a fireplace, a retaining wall, a patio, a birdbath, a flagstone walk and various and sundry other workings in stone.
19. After many days, they journeyed into far countries where for many pieces of silver they bargained for all manner of precious stones.
20. The first of various agates; the second, amethyst; the third, a turquoise; the fourth, rhodochrosite; the fifth, malachite.
21. The sixth, jasper; the seventh, jade; the eighth, tigereye; the ninth, azurite; and tenth, chrysocholla.
22. And besides these there were many others so that their numbers were like the sands of the seas of the multitude.
23. And it came to pass when the man and his wife had returned to their own house and placed and arranged these specimens on the shelves and in the drawers which they had builded, that the man spake unto his wife, saying;
24. "Now, lo of a truth, I perceive that we must, of a necessity obtain tools and machinery to work with and to fashion and to polish these stones so that their hidden beauty can be made plainly to see."
25. And he spake on and said, "Harken now. let us take us of the money which we have stored up and buy a diamond saw and a trim saw and a grinder and a lap wheel and polishing abrasives and what-so-ever is needed for the cutting and polishing of rocks."
26. And she answered and said, "Know ye not that there must be also silver and gold wherefrom may be wrought settings and mountings and hangings for the cabochons and the baroque stones and the faceted gems?"
27. And he said, "Let it be so. Whatever thou desirest, let it be done,"
28. And it was so.
29. Now when the fullness of time was come that the man should report to his doctor for his regular check-up, he arose and shaved himself and changed his raiment and came unto his physician.
30. And he gave him a thorough examination from the top of

(Continued on page 8)

MISCELLANEOUS FUN AND INFORMATIONAL STUFF PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED SOMEWHERE - CONTINUED*(Continued from page 7)*

- his head unto the sole of his feet. And he found no infirmity.
31. There was no stiffening of the joints, he had lost twenty pounds of excess weight and his cardiac condition was greatly improved.
 32. And the physciian was amazed at the soundness he found within him.
 33. And the physician opened his mouth and spake, saying, "Lo, it is enough. Now truly I believe that which I have heard of the benefits to be derived from the pursuance of an earth science hobby.
 34. "For many words have come to my ears concerning the rockhounds for the fame of them has gone abroad through the country round about."
 35. And he spake on and said, "Now behold a truth, thou hast prolonged thy life by many years. And I perceive in thee a willingness to live and be contented and useful until thou becomest old and full of days."
 36. "I say unto you, cleave unto this hobby and depart not from it, and surely goodness and mercy shall follow thee all the days of thy life."
14. Your local rock shops send you get well cards when you don't stop by in more than a week.
 15. The local jewelry stores and libraries give out your name for information on rock clubs.
 16. The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.
 17. The local university's geology department asks permission to hold a field trip - in your back yard.
 18. The city sends you a letter informing you a landfill permit is required to put any more rocks in your back yard.
 19. UPS has a regular pickup and delivery schedule for your house.
 20. You can debate for hours on the differences between spectrolite and labradorite.
 21. You get excited when you find a hardware store with sixteen pound sledge hammers and five foot long pry bars.
 22. You debate for hours on the Internet about whether vibratory or drum (rotary) tumblers are best.
 23. You can't remember the last time your car still fit in the garage.
 24. They won't give you time off from work to attend the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and you go anyway.
 25. You began fussing because the light strips you installed on your bookshelves aren't full spectrum.
 26. You've spent more than \$10 on a rock.
 27. You still think pet rocks are a pretty neat idea.
 28. You have amethyst in your aquarium.
 29. You associate the word "hard" with a value on the Mohs scale instead of "work".
 30. You know the location of every rock shop within a hundred mile radius of your home.
 31. You're retired and still thinking of adding another room to your house.
 32. You're planning to use a pick and shovel while you're on vacation.
 33. Your spellchecker has a vocabulary that includes the words "polymorph" and "pseudomorph".
 34. You think Franklin, New Jersey might be a cool place to go on your vacation.
 35. You put out a web page about rocks on the Internet.
 36. Your car hasn't seen the inside of your garage in years.
 37. You associate the word "saw" with diamond instead of "wood".
 38. You begin wondering what a set of the Mineralogical Record is worth.
 39. You decide not to get married because you'd rather keep the rock.
 40. You make a backpack for your dog.
 41. You've spent more than \$10 for a book about rocks.
 42. You have a mineralogical database on your computer.

You Might Be a Rockhound If:

By Jim, Published in the GRAVEL GAZETTE, 12/1995

1. You think road cuts are built as tourist attractions.
2. You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.
3. The rock pile in your garage is over your head.
4. When someone mentions "Franklin" you think of New Jersey rather than Ben.
5. You can pronounce "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
6. The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.
7. You examine individual rocks in your driveway gravel.
8. You shouted "Obsidian!" to a theater full of moviegoers while watching The Shawshank Redemption.
9. Your children have names like Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl.
10. The bookshelves in your home hold more rocks than books; and the books that are there are about rocks.
11. On a trip to Europe, you're the only member of the group who spends their time looking at cathedral walls through a pocket magnifier.
12. Your company asks you not to bring any more rocks to the office until they have time to reinforce the floor.
13. Your wife knows you are down in the basement sorting rocks but can't quite find you nor does she remember that pretty wall down there.

JULY ROCK PARTY

By Sharon Marburger (photos by Donitte Stiles, John Moss, & S. Marburger)

The excessive heat advisory of July 26 found a large number of members and family flocking to the cool of Hidden Gems for the July Rock Party. I tried to count how many people attended but the group was very fluid; walking from room to room, some leaving, some arriving late. There were at least 25 people, but I think that is a conservative count.

As always, tons of a wide variety of food was brought in. It was all very yummy. The standout dish for me (and several others) was the key lime cake with tiramisu filling/icing. It was fabulous!

I ground on a couple of freeform preforms, using one of the poly arbors. Patrick O'Brien worked on some garnets while his daughters Chloe and Gracie took turns watching.



The group of hungry people filling their plates. This was only a portion of those attending.



Josh Brown Kramer watched Alex face polish a specimen. New members Brett Walker and kids Canyon and Turquoise also worked at a poly arbor.



Phil Geib tried his hand at cutting a slab on the slab saw. The machine did not sound like it was cutting correctly, so it had to be checked multiple times. Jayne came in and added some oil to the saw, causing it to sound better while cutting.



President Brett Jurgens arrived late and discussed his potluck offerings with Donitte (out of frame).



Mike Stiles cut a small petrified wood log, about 4 inches in diameter. It was a beautiful piece of wood.



Judith Bay admires some of Ja-zeal's treasures



Sheryl Olsen & Ed Ridge

SO YOU THINK SELLING MINERALS IS A GLAMOROUS, FUN, MONEY MAKING PROPOSITION

By Eric Fritsch



Consider this: I find many people are amazed at the variety and number of mineral specimens I have accumulated and offered for sale over the years. It looks like a lucrative business; go out and find rocks, then turn around and sell them. It is difficult to find commercial quantities of minerals in Nebraska or its surrounding states that someone would pay money for. Collectors also want variety, large crystals, color, interesting minerals, etc., so I travel widely to purchase and resell minerals.

I typically mark up my specimens about 25-50% over what I pay for them. That might seem like a lot but professional dealers usually mark up at least 100%. Something I bought 10 years ago marked up 25% is lost to inflation and the decreasing power of the dollar. Some specimens I've had too long in inventory or no longer want to take up space (which is a commodity). Practically everything has to be purchased elsewhere (travel is expensive) and transported here to Nebraska. It really isn't making money out of thin air.

I put dozens of hours into getting ready for a show; putting specimens in boxes, relabeling them, packing them in my car, and sometimes cleaning them. Setup and teardown time at show is hours of labor. I recently calculated that to prepare for a recent swap, I put in about 40 hours of pre/post swap labor on top of the five hours I spent at the swap.

Bad weather, economy, personal taste, and such can sink sales. There's no guarantee you'll sell anything at a swap. The waning economy also doesn't favor sales if everyone is worried about a recession. People who buy several specimens are often given a discount that I calculate based on my costs. Plus, the credit card processors take a cut of our sales (about 4.4%).

Consider the numbers from a recent swap. I took home \$490 from the swap (sounds pretty good). I've spent probably close to \$350 on the specimens to be sold. I also have thousands more dollars invested in other specimens which I didn't sell and take back home. The swap cost \$100 for two tables or about \$20 per hour (five hour swap). The last hour of an event is usually the slowest time and we didn't make a single sale. My profit minus specimen cost, minus the table rental/swap fee, minus boxes, fuel, lights, lunch, and other things (\$30), sales tax (\$40), leaves me about \$30 in the hole (loss). You also need a license, pay taxes, hire an accountant, and keep business records.

Sales	\$490
Specimen Cost	-\$350
Table Rental	-\$100
Sales Tax	-\$40
Other Costs	-\$30
Profit/Loss	-\$30

I don't do this because I'm trying to get rich. I do this because I enjoy the hobby and like sharing minerals with people. It is a way to get rid of excess minerals and acquire new ones.

I could jack my prices up if money was the ultimate goal. I could sell "kitsch" or mass produced stuff that's common and not very interesting. Don't get me started about fake minerals. It looks like a glamorous cool side hustle to buy and sell minerals, but it is hard to make a profit.

One last issue to discuss is breakage and theft. Every event has some breakage because specimens get damaged during transport or people don't handle them respectfully. Theft is an even a bigger problem because they are stealing from someone who often isn't making any money doing this. This is so counter to what we are trying to do.

It seems charming, alluring, captivating, and exciting to sell such wonderful examples of the earth. It is often long hours, lost weekends, taking time off from a regular job, missing out on things with your family, etc. It is very hard to be a mineral dealer and there aren't that many that are very financially successful. One of my mantras about collecting is that it is a money pit - money goes in and doesn't come out. So enjoy it for the hobby, not as a way to get rich: Same with dealing.

Francina Maria Designs
Special Showing
at
**CUSTOM GEMS ROCK
AND JEWELRY STORE**
8487 FREDERICKS STREET
OMAHA, NE

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
Thru
Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Hours are
Monday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**FRANCINA MARIA WILL BE SHOWING
HER UNIQUE DESIGNS, JEWELRY
PARTS, AND BEADS**

2026 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE

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

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.....
 Ribbons & Recognitions: Sharon Marburger
 Rock Pile/Silent Auction.....Andrea Kolodziejczyk
 Security: Vera Lyman
 Show Flyer & Printed Program Sharon Marburger
 Website..... 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
Club Rock Pile:
 Andrea Kolodziejczyk
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