



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

# THE PICK & SHOVEL

In association with



The Midwest  
Federation of  
Mineralogical and  
Geological Societies



The American  
Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences including but not necessarily limited to Geology, Paleontology and Mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these fields to its members and the general public, especially to youth and student groups.

Current club by-laws can be found at [www.lincolngemmineralclub.or/About/General Information](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.or/About/General%20Information)

Follow us on Facebook:

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

## 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: March 19, 2026**

**Program: Barb Ogg – Cameos and Intaglios:**  
Timeless Works of Lapidary Art. Barb will discuss the creation of cameo and intaglios from ancient civilizations to modern times. Old and new examples will be shown, along with discussions of materials used and subject matter most common to each period. Rock club members are encouraged to bring cameos and intaglios they would like to show to the group.

## 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, April 2, 2026**

**at 6:30 p.m.**

Vera Lyman's Residence

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

## 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Brett Jurgens, 402.850.3256, [quartz89@aol.com](mailto:quartz89@aol.com)

1st Vice-President: Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, [JBear60070@aol.com](mailto:JBear60070@aol.com)

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Board Member: Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

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Board Member: Charles Wooldridge, 402.975.0416, [charles.wooldridgeii@gmail.com](mailto:charles.wooldridgeii@gmail.com)

# Announcements & Club Fun

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 19, 2026 - General Meeting  
April 3, 2026 - Show Setup  
April 4 & 5, 2026 - Annual Gem & Mineral Show  
April 19, 2026 - Club Activity Night at Hidden Gems  
April 30, 2026 - General Meeting  
May 20, 2026 - General Meeting

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Patrick Carey  
Martin Dougherty  
Joe Edwards  
Greg Ford  
Bob Gruit  
Jim Marburger  
Sarah Nichols  
Greg Syslo  
Ja-zeil



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

## YOUR INPUT TO P&S CONTENT

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.

*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Proudly Brings Its Sixth Annual

# Summer Gem Fest

## June 20 & 21, 2026

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

Held at the **Beer Family Farm**

**18701 Ashland Road, Ashland, Nebraska**

**Admission: Adult \$3.00 / Kids 15 and under FREE**

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

*Jewelry*

BUY  
SELL  
TRADE

Family  
Friendly

FOSSILS

Rocks  
&  
Minerals

Club Rock Pile

Lapidary Supplies  
&  
Equipment

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

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB  
Box 5342  
Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

Contact Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, or Sharon Marburger at 402.429.3323; [lgmc.editor@outlook.com](mailto:lgmc.editor@outlook.com)

Information and Registration (Reservations) go live on the LGMC website on March 31, 2026. Club members will be able to sign up at the March 19 meeting.

## PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

### **Publisher:**

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

### **Editor:**

Sharon Marburger  
E-mail: [lgmc.editor@outlook.com](mailto:lgmc.editor@outlook.com)

### **Circulation:**

Sharon Marburger; 402.429.3323

### **Deadline for Submissions:**

Last Sunday of the month.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brett Jurgens, President

Hello LGMC!

With as mild as this winter has been, it is just my luck that our biggest snowstorm happened on meeting night. I will always keep an eye on the weather and err on the side of caution. This storm ended up being so much more than what was predicted. I have not yet heard a date but the plan is to get Shane Tucker's talk rescheduled, probably in the fall.

We have a lot to talk about with our show quickly approaching. It is now less than a month until our big show at the Event Center. Everything is starting to come together. In the email that includes the Pick and Shovel, MWF News, and the AFMS Newsletter, there also will be a link to sign up for volunteer spots at the show. We desperately need members to sign up to help out. Without member participation, the show literally cannot go on. The form is laid out by time slots; example, Saturday morning 9 a.m.-11 a.m. has the different locations and slots needed, followed by 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please sign up before the meeting on the 19th; we will talk about the remaining slots at the meeting and fill them in.

At the meeting we will have postcards and flyers to distribute, and yard signs available for members to use to promote the show. This year the show is on Easter weekend, so we need as much word of mouth promotion as we can get to help with attendance. Please also make sure to mark yourself as going on the Facebook Event page for the show and also invite friends. Also please share the event from the club's event page.

We have a few club cases still available if you are interested in showing a display at the show. I am more than happy to have to scrounge for cases if demand requires it.

The juniors are needing material for their booth at the show. If anyone has any small tumbled material for the gem dig, or other tumbled material, we would greatly appreciate it. We are also looking for small specimens that we can put into a 3"x3" bag with a label for our rock spin ("Wheel of Fortune"). It is helpful if we have multiple of the same specimen so we can print out the same label.

We are planning club events after the show as well. Field trips are a big hit and we would like to have multiple trips this summer. Day trips are the easiest for schedules but I am wanting to gauge interest in trips that involve an overnight or two. Let me know your interest.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and I thank you in advance for helping promote and staff our show!



JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Jr. Co-Leader

Hello Juniors!

I hope you enjoyed your snow day! I hate not having a meeting, but would rather everyone be safe and warm at home.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 19. We will not have a lesson that night, but we will have a specimen for you, so please bring your specimen boxes. Instead of the lesson, we will be getting ready for our show on April 4 and 5. I will demonstrate how to set up the gem dig, which is the main feature of the juniors booth. Junior members will also get to do the gem dig at the meeting. We will also be putting small specimens and labels in small bags to give out as prizes at the rock spin.

We need people to sign up for volunteering at the show. This can be done via the link sent out to members in an email, but I will also have it available at our meeting. The junior booth is reliant on junior members and parents helping to staff the booth during the show. The main task is running the gem dig, although we also have a rock spin and tumbled material for sale. If enough members sign up, we can also run the rock race.

We are in the middle of figuring out field trips for after the show. If you have ideas or interests, let us know. One question I have for members, are people interested in a one or two night field trip that includes an overnight stay, such as camping? Being able to extend the distance and time traveled increases the options we have for collecting.

I do have a few smaller display cases reserved for juniors to display their collections. Let me know if you are interested.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting as we prepare for our upcoming show.

**CLUB ACTIVITY NIGHT**

**Sunday, April 19, 2026**

**5:00 p.m.**

**At Hidden Gems Rock Shop**

**3227 S. 13th Street**

**In honor of Cinco de Mayo, the potluck theme will be Mexican food.**

**Come use the club equipment, visit with friends, and eat!**

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2026, at Vera Lyman's Residence  
by Sharon Marburger, Secretary

**ROLL CALL**

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

Visitors Donitte Stiles, Jim Marburger, Ed Ridge

Minutes were distributed. Clyde moved, 2nd by Mike, to accept the minutes with the correction that Sarah was a visitor at the December meeting. Passed.

Treasurer's Report was distributed. Sharon moved, 2nd by Mike, to accept the report. Passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Brett contacted the Nature Center regarding their request to identify some specimens. He also learned that the Nature Center has no plans to reinstate Geology Day, however, it will have a public activity in May to which we will be invited to participate.

Discussion about the cost of publishing/printing items for the club. Wooly moved to allocate \$600 for Brett to purchase a Brother Laser Printer and replacement toner cartridges for the club. Clyde seconded. Motion passed. The printer will be housed at the Marburgers' since Sharon does most of the printing for the club.

After running tests on multiple software, Sharon selected Scribus, an open sourced software, to use for the club documents that previously used Microsoft Publisher. This is a free software.

Beginning in March, the Pick & Shovel will be sent out electronically only to those with email addresses. Those without electronic means will still receive a paper copy. There is ongoing discussion about charging for paper copies to those with email who still want a paper copy.

A reminder that the April and May meeting dates are changed for 2026. April 30 and May 20. This is due to another group reserving Bethany Park Shelter House before us.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Science Fair will be held on Thursday, March 5. The

March Board Meeting will, therefore, be moved to Friday, March 6.

**SWAP BUSINESS**

The Swap went very well. Attendance basically paid for the venue rental, allowing for some profit to go to the club's various funds. Sharon expressed gratitude for Linda Hansen's help at the door. Clyde and Sarah were pleased with the club booth areas, finding that the "About the Club" board generated conversation.

**SHOW BUSINESS**

Brett says he will have the electronic volunteer signup ready by the February meeting. He would like people to sign up for 2-hour shifts at the various stations.

Wooly would like to have some "salt" donations for the outside Nebraska Rock Pile. Please bring those donations on Friday morning, April 3, so they can be mixed in as the gravel is delivered.

Wooly asked about when to put out signs for the Show. Brett would like everyone who has signs from last year to provide him with a count so we know if we need to order more for this year. Depending on the sign, members are asked to place them either two weeks or one week before the event.

Jim will contact the Food Bank for collection barrels and pick up.

The week before the Show, Sharon will create a QR code for electronic access to the vendor/demo floor plan. This will be in addition to the paper Show Program given at the door.

Wooly would like ten comp tickets to distribute to various businesses, such as the Yankee Hill Landscaping, Pure Nebraska, NebraskaLand magazine, and other places providing donations or potential advertising.

**GEM FEST**

Brett and Jayne have already secured World Plates food truck for Gem Fest.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. on a motion by Sharon, Vera seconded. Adjourned.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

No meeting due to inclement weather.

## [ASTONISHING SPINOSAUR UNEARTHED IN THE SAHARA IS UNLIKE ANY SEEN BEFORE](https://www.sciencealert.com/astonishing-spinosaurus-uneared-in-the-sahara-is-unlike-any-seen-before)

<https://www.sciencealert.com/astonishing-spinosaurus-uneared-in-the-sahara-is-unlike-any-seen-before>, 20 February 2026,  
By Jess Cockerill

Submitted to P&S by John Moss

A new *Spinosaurus* species has been unearthed from the Saharan desert, and its skull bears a magnificent crest never seen before on this kind of dinosaur.

Paleontologists have named it *Spinosaurus mirabilis*, meaning 'wonderful spine lizard'. We heartily agree.

The discovery reveals more than just the dinosaur's beauty, however. *Spinosaurus* have mostly been found in coastal deposits, while this new specimen hails from deep inland in Niger, hundreds of kilometers from any ocean.

Even the paleontology team, led by Paul Sereno of the University of Chicago, was caught off guard.

"This find was so sudden and amazing, it was really emotional for our team," Sereno says.

"I'll forever cherish the moment in camp when we crowded around a laptop to look at the new species for the first time... One member of our team generated 3D digital models of the bones we found to assemble the skull – on solar power in the middle of the Sahara. That's when the significance of the discovery really registered."

With its spiky, interlocking teeth reminiscent of modern crocodiles, and its proximity to long-necked dinosaurs buried in nearby river sediments, Sereno and team think this *Spinosaurus* might have led a semi-aquatic lifestyle amidst a forested habitat.



Paleontologist Paul Sereno with the reconstructed *Spinosaurus mirabilis* skull. (Keith Ladzinski/University of Chicago)

"I envision this dinosaur as a kind of 'hell heron' that had no problem wading on its sturdy legs into two meters of water but probably spent most of its time stalking shallower traps for the many large fish of the day," Sereno says.

The scimitar-shaped crest sure is handsome, but exactly what purpose it served remains a mystery. The team suspect it was once sheathed in keratin – perhaps brightly colored, like a toucan's bill – to create a kind of visual display.

The research was published in *Science*.

## [FOSSILS UNEARTHED IN MOROCCO ARE FIRST FROM LITTLE-UNDERSTOOD PERIOD OF HUMAN EVOLUTION](https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/fossils-uneared-morocco-first-little-172424248.html?guccounter=1)

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/fossils-uneared-morocco-first-little-172424248.html?guccounter=1>  
By Katie Hunt, CNN, Wed, January 7, 2026 at 11:24 AM CST

Submitted to P&S by John Moss

Fossils unearthed in Morocco from a little-understood period of human evolution may help scientists resolve a long-standing mystery: Who came before us?

Three jawbones, including one from a child, teeth, vertebrae and a femur were unearthed from a cave known as Grotte à Hominidés in Thomas Quarry in Casablanca, Morocco, dating back 773,000 years. They are intriguing to scientists because they are the first hominin fossils from this period to have been discovered in Africa.

"There are a lot of fossil hominins in Africa until about a million years ago, but then after that there is a jump to around 500,000 years ago, and in this gap we have almost nothing," said Jean-Jacques Hublin, an author of the study that published Wednesday in the scientific journal *Nature*.

Most of the fossils were unearthed in 2008 and 2009, but they were definitively dated much more recently, Hublin noted, using a technique known as paleomagnetism, which detects the geological signature of a reversal of the Earth's magnetic field in certain minerals with magnetic properties.



One of three jawbones excavated from Thomas Quarry in Morocco that is 773,000 years old. - Hamza Mehimdate/Programme Préhistoire de Casablanca

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THE NUMBER OF SIEGEN ULLMANNITES

by Eric Fritzsch

Ullmannite is probably a mineral you may not be familiar with. It is a somewhat rare nickel antimony sulfide (NiSbS). It is not particularly aesthetic and is a black semi-lustrous to dull mineral, often massive. One of the most important finds of ullmannite was from Siegen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany between 1870 and 1920 (Andreas Gerstenberg).



In looking around dealers at Tucson this year I was particularly looking for ullmannite for this report, not to purchase but to document. Alas, I didn't visit every dealer in Tucson, nor did I thoroughly check out every dealer in great detail, but after looking at perhaps thousands of specimens, I did not see any Siegen ullmannite for sale. I did find a thumbnail specimen of ullmannite from another Germany mining district.

Many mineral finds are a slice of time, where the mineral is collected and preserved. It can be that mines go through certain ore zones, or allow collecting for a period of time, or people have an interest in that mineral at that time. I'm sure if you knew Mr. Ullmann you'd want to obtain a piece of his namesake mineral. Serious collectors of the day were also likely interested in the species.

Tons of ullmannite probably went to the smelters, but how many samples were set aside for collectors? No one typically records this number, however, I've decided to try and figure it out. No one registered specimens and we don't have complete surveys of all the old-time collections. Many old-time collections are written down, but many were also lost.

A collected mineral lot has a half-life; that is, at a certain point in time, 50% of the specimens originally collected are still preserved. Specimens are lost many ways. Schools use minerals for teaching and they are often destroyed by analytical methods. They are destroyed in wars, floods, fires, earthquakes and other disasters. I once read a paper looking at many of the great collections of the 1800s and nearly half were lost to fire. Many ullmannites were probably in German collections, potentially lost in the World Wars.

Collectors also don't manage their collections as well as they should. They lose labels, store them improperly, and fail to ensure their collections are transformed into the next generation of collectors. Ullmannite also owes its shortened half-life to its ugliness. A crystalline blue, red, green or gemmy mineral is much more likely to be preserved past the current owner.

Collector neglect is a harder value to extrapolate. There

are many scenarios where this happens. Collectors don't have the tenacity of museums when it comes to preservation. This is one of the thrills in examining museums to see such rarities preserved. Museums have a duty to protect specimens and even then, this doesn't always happen. Budget constraints are often a root cause.

On average, I would venture to guess that minerals are held for 20-40 years by individuals. Young collectors are not likely to collect this mineral because it is not colorful or typically crystallized. As these were collected 100-150 years ago, this represents it likely being transferred from collector to collector four or five times.

If we assume a 10-15% loss at each generational transfer (that is a wild guess) and we assume four to five transfers, the best case and worse case scenarios are 44-59% of the original number of ullmannites from Siegen are still around. In this scenario, about half the minerals survive 100 years. This still doesn't tell us approximately how many ullmannites were collected at Siegen, only that maybe half don't still exist.

We can't do such estimates on minerals like "Herkimer diamonds" (quartz) because they've been found for 100+ years and are still being found. But for a one-time strike, or strike over a short period of time, we can estimate survivor ability of a strike. Again, that estimate of loss may be higher or lower.

This brings me full circle to an idea I wrote about earlier: registration. Unlike guns, cars, buildings, people, and other things, we don't have a registry of minerals.

There is a place where collectors self-register their specimens today: Mindat. Mindat.org is a website for mineralogy that was created 25 years ago by Joylon Ralph and Ida Chau. It's sort of a Wikipedia of minerals, built with user input. One popular method is collectors photographing their own specimens and uploading them onto the website. This photographic registry can be searched. When I searched Mindat's ullmannite from Siegen, I counted 17 specimen photographs of siegenite from Siegen. Mindat is not a required registry. Not every user of Mindat uploads their specimens and not every collector is a registered user of Mindat. Mindat also limits some photographs to user use only if they question the locality, species, quality of photograph, etc.

Again, not official numbers or calculations, but I estimate that two-thirds of the world's serious collectors are not registered on Mindat and don't have their photographs on the website. Perhaps 2-3% of collectors who are registered

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FOSSILS UNEARTHED - CONTINUED

*continued from page 5*

The strength of Earth's magnetic field fluctuates, and, at times, the magnetic north and south poles have flipped. The research team found that the layer where the fossils were found coincided with the Matuyama-Brunhes transition, a well-known chronological marker that dates to 773,000 years ago and was the most recent major polar reversal.

Study coauthor Serena Perini, a geologist and paleomagnetist at Italy's University of Milan, said in a statement the technique allowed the team to "anchor the presence of these hominins within an exceptionally precise chronological framework."

The world's earliest known *Homo sapiens* remains have also been found in Morocco at a site known as Jebel Irhoud, and they date to 400,000 years ago. However, Hublin said it would be incorrect to regard this region as the exact place our species emerged. More likely, it was a result of geological conditions in the region that allow fossils to be preserved particularly well.

Hublin noted that the cave these individuals called home would have been a dangerous place. The leg bone was covered in bite marks from a predator, most likely a hyena, and there was much evidence that carnivores occupied the cave.

**'ELUSIVE FIGURE'**

The newly described fossils are important because they shed light on the ancestral species of the three types of human that lived most recently: Neanderthals, Denisovans and, of course, *Homo sapiens*, the only surviving human species.

Neanderthals and Denisovans are thought to have gone extinct around 40,000 years ago, although the timing is less clear for Denisovans, a shadowy population first identified in 2010.

The last common ancestor of the three human groups — sometimes dubbed ancestor x — is an "elusive figure," according to Antonio Rosas, a researcher in the department of paleobiology at the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Madrid.

"Debate over which fossils might represent this crucial evolutionary node persists, and correctly identifying this ancestor is essential for understanding the directions of subsequent evolutionary change," Rosas, who was not involved in the study, wrote in a commentary published alongside the new research.

Genetic evidence suggested that this ancestor lived around 550,000 to 765,000 years ago before splitting into

three separate sister species, the study noted, but it's not clear what the ancestral species was or where it lived.

Candidates include *Homo antecessor*, a group of fossils found in a cave in Atapuerca, Spain, that dates to roughly the same time as the Moroccan fossils, and a species known as *Homo heidelbergensis*, fossils of which have been found in Africa and Eurasia.

While the researchers stopped short of assigning the Moroccan fossils a formal scientific name, Hublin said the remains resembled another species called *Homo erectus* but also appeared to be close ancestors of modern humans.

"The question, then, becomes whether populations of *Homo erectus* directly gave rise to everything, including humans, Neanderthals, and Denisovans, or whether there is a traceable lineage with observable changes along the way," said Ryan McRae, a paleoanthropologist at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, who wasn't involved in the research, via email.

Carrie Mongle, an assistant professor in the department of anthropology at Stony Brook University, said the new research emphasized the importance of Africa for understanding the emergence of modern humans.

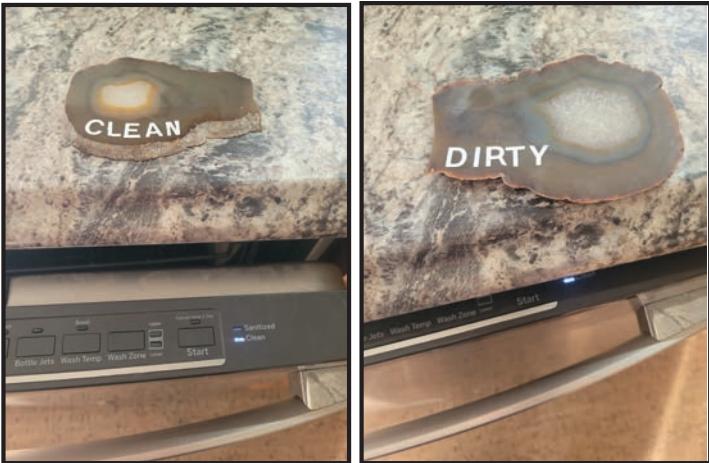
"Any hominin fossil from this critical time period makes for an exciting new window into human evolution," said Mongle, who also wasn't a study author, via email.



Study coauthors Jean-Jacques Hublin (right) and Jean-Paul Raynal at the cave in May 2008 when one of the jawbones was

### A CUTE IDEA FOR YOUR DISHWASHER

submitted by Jackie Barnhardt



Jackie placed labels on each side of a slab to indicate if the dishwasher contained clean or dirty dishes.

### ULLMANITES - CONTINUED

*continued from page 6*

on Mindat have most of their collections photographed. They may be more unlikely to photograph an ugly mineral too.

This means that there are likely 40 times (using 2.5% estimate) as many Siegen ullmannite specimens in registered collectors' collections that are not photographed. And there are two times as many specimens in unregistered collections. I estimate there are approximately 1,360 ullmannite specimens in private collections ( $17 \times 40 \times 2 = 1,360$ ).

Based on a half-life estimation of 100 years, if there are an estimated 1,360 specimens today, there were likely

2,720 specimens collected in the time frame 1870-1920. Keep in mind that they are wild guesses and we are using very small numbers where there is lots of room for error. Some of this is also based on estimates, and estimates can be wildly wrong. Throwing in caution and a wide swing of numbers, I would estimate that there were between 1,000 and 10,000 ullmannites collected from Siegen between 1870 and 1920. Fifty years is a long time to be potentially producing minerals so the number may be much higher. The market has limits on how many specimens it can sell and worldwide distribution of minerals in the early 20th century wasn't as fluid as it is today. Some of the specimens in the Mindat registry also look like potentially chopped up specimens, where dealers take a larger specimen and break it into smaller pieces to sell easier.



Ullmannite (black) in siderite (tan) from Siegen Germany from Eric's collection (photo by Eric Fritzsich)

## **Allan & Tammy Jeanneret**



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We buy collections and estates

## AT HOME ENTERTAINMENT

by Sarah Nichols

Here is a list I put together of films of interest to gem lovers, rockhound, or geology buffs.

### GEOLOGY & VOLCANOLOGY

- ▶ Journey to the Center of the Earth (1959) - Jules Verne adventure to Earth's interior
- ▶ Dante's Peak (1997) - Volcanologist investigates awakening volcano threatening small town
- ▶ The Core (2003) - Team drills to Earth's core to restart rotation
- ▶ Into the Inferno (2016) - Werner Herzog's documentary about volcanoes and the people who study them **[RECOMMENDED BY SARAH - FAMILY FRIENDLY]**
- ▶ Fire of Love (2022) - Documentary about volcanologists Katia and Maurice Krafft **[RECOMMENDED BY SARAH]**

### GEMS & PRECIOUS STONES

- ▶ The Pink Panther series (1963-) - Bumbling detective and famous jewel heists
- ▶ The Great Muppet Caper (1981) - Muppets investigate theft of valuable jewels in London **[RECOMMENDED BY SARAH - FAMILY FRIENDLY]**
- ▶ Romancing the Stone (1984) - Romance writer's adventure involving emerald smuggling
- ▶ Titanic (1997) - Romance aboard doomed ship featuring "Heart of the Ocean" diamond
- ▶ Blood Diamond (2006) - Diamond smuggling during Sierra Leone civil war
- ▶ Uncut Gems (2019) - NYC jeweler gambling on rare Ethiopian opal **[RECOMMENDED BY SARAH - NOT FAMILY FRIENDLY]**

### MINING

- ▶ The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948) - Gold prospecting adventure turns dark **[RECOMMENDED BY SARAH - FAMILY FRIENDLY]**
- ▶ King Solomon's Mines (1950 & 1985) - Quest for legendary diamond mines in Africa

### ROCK & FOSSIL COLLECTING

- ▶ The Long, Long Trailer (1954) - Newlyweds travel in massive trailer; wife collects rocks from each stop **[RECOMMENDED BY SARAH - FAMILY FRIENDLY]**
- ▶ Ammonite (2020) - Fossil hunter Mary Anning in 1840s England

### \*BONUS\*:

- ▶ YOUTUBE VIDEO in which gemologist Leigh-Anne Brown talks about two of the movies above--the Ethiopian opal in Uncut Gems and the oversized emerald El Corazón from Romancing the Stone: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_RfmC-MD8gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RfmC-MD8gw) **[SOME BAD LANGUAGE]**

### LPS SCIENCE FAIR

by Brett Jurgens

On March 5, members of LGMC participated in the LPS Science Fair at Sandhills Global Event Center. Most businesses or organizations set up a one or two table booth. LGMC sets up eight tables. Throughout the night we heard from both kids and parents that we are their favorite booth. This year we featured rock polishing, rock tumbling, fluorescent display, touch table, gem dig, club info display and two tables of specimens. A big thank you to Jayne and Brian Beer, Corey Beer, Kelly Beer, Justin Wait, Ed Ridge, Ja-zeil, and Jackson for helping staff the club booth. This group has worked the Science Fair for years and we definitely have developed a rhythm.

Junior members Alex and Kai were also participants in the Science Fair with their own displays.

We talked about rocks quite a bit and handed out lots of flyers and cards for the club: April show and Gem Fest.



Jayne Beer attends to a tumbler while attendees check out the touch table.

## MURAL REVEAL AT HIDDEN GEMS

by Jayne Beer (photos by John Moss and Jayne)

We have had a very busy month at Hidden Gems Rock shop. We started February 2026 in Tucson, Arizona on a buying trip at the largest gem show in the United States. If you are reading this, I know that you are a rock and gem lover. I hope that you get to experience the Tucson gem show at least once in your life. It is amazing. We came home with a fully loaded van of things for the shop and for personal treasures. When we got back from Tucson on February 8, we had the major task of pricing and rearranging the store to get all of our new purchases onto the shelves.

During this time, five amazing ladies were painting a mural in the shop entryway. The initial idea and discussion for this incredible mural started on December 18 during one of Nykky's wire wrap classes. After class, we were hanging out and Miranda (the head artist) mentioned that she had a degree in oil painting. Corey mentioned that we would love a mural in the entryway. The rest is history.

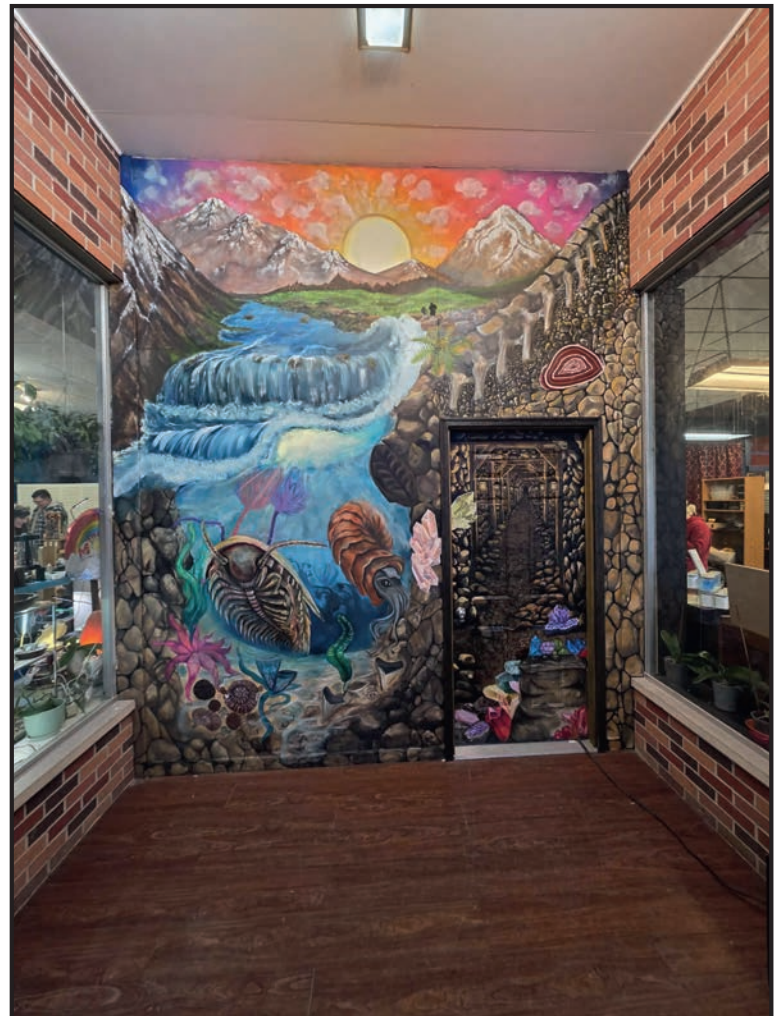
In early January, Miranda and her four friends; Ava, Anna, Emily, and Amelia; started the project and they spent the next month and a half painting their hearts out. They were there many nights a week all through January and had keys to the shop for the two weeks while we were in Tucson. By the time we got back from Tucson, they were at the shop almost nightly. They pushed hard and finished the mural just after 5:00 p.m. on February 20 (the night of the reveal). They put up a tarp to cover the mural until it was time to reveal the fabulous mural at 6:00 p.m.!

The turnout for this reveal was beyond our imagination. So many friends and family of the artists and friends and family of the shop came out. We not only had the mural reveal Feb 20, 21, and 22, we also had an art show where the mural artists and a few other friends of the shop got to show off the other art that they create! I felt that the shop truly glowed with all the energy that was buzzing there all weekend. I am so very grateful for all of this activity! It was even discussed, and I hope it happens, that we have future art shows at the shop. We DO know some very talented people.

I feel so incredibly fortunate for the people that have come into my life and the opportunity to work day and night to try and make this shop a successful venture.



The Artists



The Mural

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:.....Discover Chalcedony  
Chairman:.....Jayne Beer/Brett Jurgens  
Dealers & Demonstrators:.....Vera Lyman  
Displays:.....Brett Jurgens  
Event Center Liaison.....Vera Lyman  
Finance/Ticket Sales:.....Vera Lyman, Brett Jurgens  
Floor Chairman:.....Clyde Ogg  
Fluorescent Booth:.....Clyde Ogg  
Forms.....Sharon Marburger  
LGMC Club Booth:.....Barb & Clyde Ogg  
Outside Rock Pile.....Charles Wooldridge  
Plants:.....Ed Ridge  
Publicity & Promotion:.....Jim Marburger  
Raffle.....Gene Mulinix  
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

2026 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

2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

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:**  
Veral Lyman, Sharon Marburger  
**Refreshments:**  
Donitte Stiles  
**Show - 2026:**  
Jayne Beer, Brett Jurgens  
**Summer Gem Fest:**  
Jayne Beer  
**Website:**  
Sharon Marburger  
**Youth Activities:**  
Barb Ogg, 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. Printable applications are available on the club website and should be mailed with appropriate dues to the address listed. Application may also be completed electronically through the website paying via PayPal.  
<https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/>

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



Email Exchange Newsletters to:  
lgmc.editor@outlook.com

A color version of the Pick & Shovel is available at:  
<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/index.php/newsletters/current>

# The 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

### 2026 Schedule

Jayne Beer - Jeweler  
402.890.3307

#### Lapidary Classes

(Stone Cutting)

**\$100 for 5 3-hour classes**  
**Sundays 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Choice of session

- Session 1: Feb 8 - Mar 15
- Session 2: Mar 22 - May 3
- Session 3: May 17 - Jul 5
- Session 4: Jul 12 - Aug 16
- Session 5: Aug 23 - Oct 11
- Session 6: Oct 18 - Nov 22

Open Shop Nov 29 & Dec 6 (\$20 per use)

#### Silversmithing Classes

**Tuition: \$160 plus \$30 supply deposit**  
**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

Choice of Tuesday or Wednesday session  
(8 classes):

- Session 1: Tues, Jan 13 - Wed, Mar 18
- Session 2: Tues, Mar 24 - Wed, May 20
- Session 3: Tues, Jun 2 - Wed, Jul 29
- Session 4: Tues, Aug 4 - Wed, Oct 7
- Session 5: Tues, Oct 13 - Wed, Dec 2

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