



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

THE PICK & SHOVEL

In association with



The Midwest Federation of
Mineralogical and
Geological Societies



The American
Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

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

Current club by-laws can be found at [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/About/General Information](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/About/General%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: Thursday, September 17, 2026

Program: Eric Fritsch - Minerals of China
Eric will share his experiences during visits to China.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings are usually held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Vera Lyman's Residence.

**Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 27, 2026
at 6:30 p.m.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello LGMC.

Where has the summer gone? It's hard to believe that our show was four months ago.



Our regular meetings will resume in September.

LGMC club members helped staff the rock display at the Camp Creek Threshers show on July 18 and 19. Many thanks to Jeff and Tammy Kubitz; Sarahlynn Nichols; and Patrick, Gracie, and Chloe O'Brien for volunteering to help out.

A special shout out to Mike and Donitte Stiles and Eddie Ridge. These three have volunteered every shift of the Camp Creek weekend, including set up on Friday- for each of the four shows we have done. It literally would not be possible without their help. I am personally very grateful for their help. This was the first year we didn't have the help and wisdom of Jim and Sharon Marburger. I wish Jim a speedy recovery and look forward to future years.

Continued on page 3

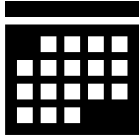
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLUB FUN

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 17 -First meeting back after
summer break

October 15, 2026 - Halloween Meeting

November 19, 2026 - Annual Business
Meeting and Elections



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Alex
Rowdy Cropp
Dick Farlow
Jeff Kubitz
Eva
Robin Leuty
Nyky Lytle
Jim Schmidt
John Worley



YOUR INPUT TO PICK & SHOVEL CONTENT

The Pick & Shovel is YOUR newsletter. 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>).

Crawford Rock Show September 4-7, 2026

Buy, sell, and swap rocks, minerals,
Agates, gems and jewelry. Located at
Crawford City Park.

Gates open daily at 8 a.m.

Admission is free.

Schedule of Additional Events

- 4th - 6th 8 a.m. – Field Trips to the
Agate Gravel Beds. Meet at
the Information Booth
- 5th 2 p.m. – Agate Collectors
Meeting with Guest
Speakers, Cameco Pavilion
- 7 p.m. Rock Auction, Cameco
Pavilion

40th Annual CRAWFORD ROCK SHOW 2026 CRAWFORD CITY PARK - CRAWFORD NEBRASKA



LABOR DAY WEEKEND - SEPT. 4th - 7th

In addition to continuing good thoughts and prayers for Jim Marburger's recovery (which is ongoing), also include Allan Jeanerett, who had major surgery that sounds like it will take quite some recovery time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED

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We had just about 800 people come through the building. With the aid of a generator, we were able to keep four air conditioners running without tripping breakers. Guests would come inside and utter a sigh of relief from escaping the outside heat and humidity. Once again, the activities were a hit with both kids and adults; the touch table, gem dig, and fluorescent display were especially popular. So popular, in fact, that one family came back four or five times one day. It was a great way to promote both the club and the hobby.

The Crawford Rock Swap is quickly approaching. The official dates are Friday, September 4 through Monday, September 7. Most vendors are set up by Thursday and many leave on Sunday. This is the official President's field trip and I would love to see you attend. I have arranged to view a private rock museum near Alliance and we are leaning towards doing that the evening of Wednesday, September 2, but I am looking for feedback from those attending. The local club leads a field trip each morning of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Saturday night there is a catered dinner followed by a rock auction. During the swap I plan on cooking breakfast and lunch a few times for club members. This trip is adaptable to fit your travel schedules. In the past, some members have come for a day, and many stayed over a week. If attending, please let me know your arrival and departure dates. Tent camping is available in the city park. There is one hotel in Crawford that typically fills for the weekend, but there are many options in Chadron, which is 30 minutes away. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in September and seeing everyone's summer finds.

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers.

Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see if it hangs straight.



JUNIORS

By Brett Jurgens, Co-Leader

Hello Juniors.

Another month of summer has gone by, and the start of school is just around the corner. I hope everyone had a great summer and were able to get out and do some collecting. Meetings will begin again in September and I look forward to seeing your summer finds.

I want to give a big shout out to Chloe and Gracie for coming out and helping at the Camp Creek Threshers show. Not only did they have a great time exploring the rest of the show, they were also able to learn a great deal while helping in the rock building. This is a great show with so many different things to see, and I hope to get more juniors participating in future years.

The Crawford Rock Swap is quickly approaching. While officially listed as September 4-7, there are a lot of vendors set up on the 3rd. As the official President's field trip, I encourage as many club members as possible to attend. More information about this trip in my President's Message.



MORE BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

*See More of my Smart Solutions for
Jewelry Making Series*

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it's handheld in a flexshaft or a Dremel. Bits can easily break with too much pressure or if they tilt a little while in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel and/or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

CAMP CREEK THRESHERS ANNUAL SHOW

Photos by Mike & Donitte Stiles

Although the Camp Creek Threshers Annual Show is not an official club function, it is something we do to spread the love and knowledge of rocks and minerals to attendees. The club uses the building known as Saddle & Tack, which displays, in addition to saddles and tack, different types of barbed wire and other antiques and photos of the old west days.

Approximately 800 people came through the building during the weekend.



Ed Ridge provided information on specimens and the Touch Table. He also kept track of how many people entered the building.



People of all ages enjoying the Rock Room



A busy Saturday morning



Gem Dig fun. All from one family!

CAMP CREEK THRESHERS - CONTINUED



The Threshers provided wagon rides behind the rock building.



The fluorescent display is always a favorite



Mike Stiles wows the young folk with his glowing rock



Mike talks about tumblers and the fluorescent rocks



How many little hands will fit in the tumbled rocks giveaway?

GARNET

By Eric Frittsch



Garnet isn't a mineral, but rather a group of minerals. There are dozens of different species of garnet. Garnet has a chemical formula of $X_3Z_2(SiO_4)_3$ with X and Z as variables such as

$X = Mg, Ca, Fe^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, etc.$

$Z = Al, Fe^{3+}, Cr^{3+}, V^{3+}, etc.$

Garnet has to be isometric; cubic forms are extremely rare and the dodecahedron (12-sided shape) is the most common.

One of the most common types of garnet is almandine. It is made up of the four most common elements in the earth ($Fe^{2+}_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$ or iron, aluminum, silicon, and oxygen). Over 87% of the earth's crust is made of these four elements.

Many times garnet are made up of solid solution series between two species. A garnet might be 60% almandine composition and 40% spessartine composition. If you had this sort of analysis, you'd call this garnet an almandine.

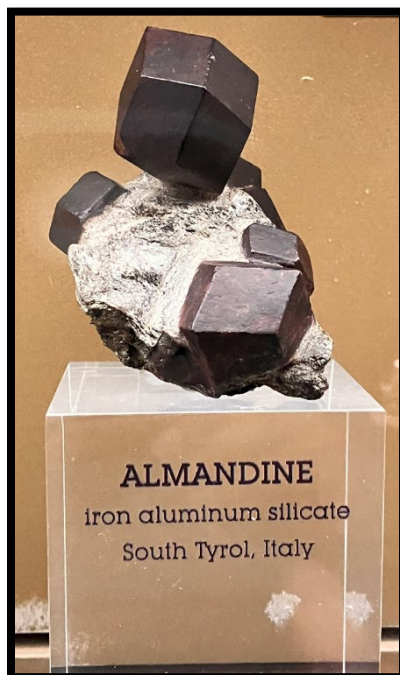
Red is a common color for garnet and the name comes from the Latin word *granatum* which means pomegranate. Pomegranate seeds are somewhat gemmy like small garnets. If you travel to South Dakota you can collect small gemmy garnets from the area around the tunnel just north of Keystone (don't collect in the tunnel as it is dangerous and coated in concrete). Look in the schist around the tunnel near the pull off and you can find hundreds of pomegranate seed-like gemmy garnets.

In New York City, the American Museum of Natural History has a famous garnet called "The Subway Garnet." It's a large almandine (about 10 inches across). According to the collections manager, it was actually found digging a sewer project underneath New York City, but it sounds better to call it "The Subway Garnet" than "The Sewer Garnet."

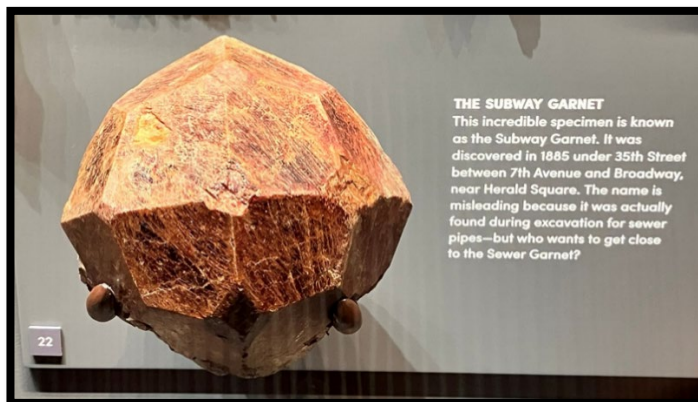
Garnet is found in a wide variety of rocks and rock types. You can find glacial garnets in Nebraska, brought down from Canada. Garnet is fairly hard and tough and resists weathering.

Garnet is mined from sands and some deposits where it is often used as an abrasive. Red sandpaper or red emery boards for filing fingernails are crushed garnet glued to paper or cardboard for their abrasiveness. It has other applications in filtration,

ceramics, and other industrial uses. Nearly 77,000 tons of garnet is mined in the United States each year from New York and Montana. In the Adirondack Mountains, garnet has been mined since 1878 and is the New York state gemstone. A ton of U.S. garnet sells for about \$220. Australia and China are the largest producers of industrial garnet.



A well-formed almandine garnet from the South Tyrol, Italy in the Los Angeles County Museum collection.



The Subway Garnet on display at the American Museum of Natural History.

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GARNET - CONTINUED

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Large almandine garnets (about baseball sized) from Thakaringa Station, New South Wales, Australia on display at the Victoria Museum.



A spessartine garnet from a granitic pegmatite in Raikot, Pakistan (Fritzsch collection #6531). Specimen is about 8 inches across.



A large block of ore from Gore Mountain, New York. Note the red crystals up to a foot across are garnet. Displayed at the American Museum of Natural History.

Allan & Tammy Jeanneret

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

By Appointment Only

402.873.6515 / 402.209.0747

306 O St, Union, Nebraska

Tjeanneret6515@gmail.com

Watch for **AerieRock** online rock auctions at
jbauctions.hibid.com

AerieRock.com

AerieArtwork on etsy

AerieRock on Facebook

We buy collections and estates



ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

If you would like to nominate someone for the election slate, contact Nominations Chair Jayne Beer, or one of the committee members, Brett Jurgens, Wooly, Vera, Donitte, or Ed Ridge. The initial slate will be announced at the September meeting.

Remember:

A color version of the Pick & Shovel is available at:

<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/index.php/newsletters/current>

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

1st Vice-President: Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, JBeer60070@aol.com

2nd Vice-President: Clyde Ogg, 402.326.8682, clydeogg55@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vera Lyman, 402.464.6089

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

Board Member: Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

Board Member: Sarahlynn Nichols, 402.419.3913, sarahlynn.nichols@gmail.com

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

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

2027 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE

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

2027 SHOW COMMITTEE

Theme:.....
 Chairman:Sharon Marburger
 Dealers & Demonstrators: Jayne Beer
 Displays:.....Brett Jurgens
 Event Center Liaison Vera Lyman
 Finance/Ticket Sales:..... Vera Lyman, Sarah Nichols
 Floor Chairman:
 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
 RaffleGene Mulinix
 Ribbons & Recognitions:Sharon Marburger
 Rock Pile/Silent AuctionSharon Marburger
 Security:..... Vera Lyman
 Show Flyer & Printed ProgramSharon Marburger
 WebsiteSharon 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. 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/>

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audio/Visual:
 Clyde Ogg

Audit:
 Jayne Beer, James Marburger, Clyde Ogg

Christmas Party:
 Edward Ridge

Club Rock Pile:
 Sharon Marburger

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:
 Donitte Stiles

Show - 2027:
 Sharon Marburger

Summer Gem Fest:
 Jayne Beer

Website:
 Sharon Marburger

Youth Activities:
 Barb Ogg & 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: Vera Lyman & Ed Ridge

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



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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.