



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, October 15, 2026 (Halloween meeting. See page 2 for more information.)

Program: Shane Tucker – A Deep Dive into the Western Interior Seaway : Shane will cover the different rock layers exposed at the surface deposited during the late Cretaceous and the fauna from them.

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, November 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Brett Jurgens

Twenty-two pounds bacon, twenty-five pounds ham, over 200 pancakes and Crawford 2026 is a wrap. That's not even including the over 200 slices of cheese, 20 pounds of bread, and 10 pounds of potato salad. LGMC was well represented at Crawford this year. Most of us set up in about the same spot this year. We brought some canopies just for club members and hospitality to hang out under. Woolly, Eddie and the Beers set up vendor booths. We had multiple members come to the swap for the first time. Patrick O'Brien brought his two daughters, Chloe and Gracie, and they were all able to get out into the grasslands to collect.

Only a couple of weeks later and Nebraska Mineral and Gem club had their annual show. LGMC was also well



Continued on page 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLUB FUN

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Malcolm, NE collection is no longer available, so the field trip is canceled.

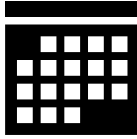
October 15, 2026 - Halloween Meeting - come dressed as a rock, mineral, or other hobby-related item. Prizes will be awarded!

October 18, 2026 - Rock Party at Wooly's

November 19, 2026 - Annual Business Meeting and Elections

November 22, 2026 - Rock Party at Hidden Gems

December 6, 2026 - Christmas Party and Awards



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Judith Bay



Don't forget.
The October meeting is
our Halloween meeting!

October Rock Party

October 18, 4 p.m. at Wooly's & Jackie's
6115 Huntington

Bring your potluck food item(s) and plan for a fun evening eating and talking about rocks and field trips in Wooly's back yard (provided the weather cooperates!)

Wooly has some lapidary equipment for those who wish to bring a project to work on. This is always a fun time. Wooly may have a surprise for us, as he has in the past (no promises at this time).

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>).

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Shane Tucker earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has served as the Highway Paleontologist and Coordinator for the Nebraska Highway Paleontology Program since 2007. Before that, he had been the Preparator and had an internship for the same program. As an undergraduate, he spent two years working as a curatorial assistant in the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM) and two seasons as a summer intern at Ashfall Fossil Beds.

Shane works closely with the public as well as state and federal agencies to collect reported discoveries and curate them into the UNSM vertebrate paleontology collection.

November Rock Party

November 22, 5 p.m. at Hidden Gems
3227 S. 13th St.

Indian Village Shopping Center

November's Rock Party is always in memory of former member Roger Pabian. The menu will be **Soups & Comfort Foods**. The club equipment will be available to those bringing projects. This event has tons of food and fun. See you there!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ariana (junior)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

represented there, with Hidden Gems having a vendor table and members helping with the fluorescent display and touch table. The show was in a new location that offered plenty of space.

Don't forget that the meeting this month is our Halloween party. Make sure to bring a costume of your favorite hobby related item or rock or mineral and let others guess what you are!

We also have a rock party at Wooly's and Jackie's house on Sunday, October 18th. More details on page 2.

LGMC continues to grow. We recently hit 120 adult members and 27 juniors. Please help us continue this trend and encourage others to come to a meeting. We are typically a friendly bunch.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

JUNIORS

By Brett Jurgens

Hello Juniors. It was great to see so many of you, both familiar faces and new, at our last meeting. To those of you that were new, welcome. I think you found your spot. I will have specimen collection boxes at the next meeting. If you already have a box, please be sure to bring it as Barb and I will have something for you to add to your collection.

We will have our Halloween Party and Costume contest at our next meeting. The contest takes place during the adult general meeting so please make plans to stick around. For the contest, we ask that you dress as a rock or mineral, or other hobby related item. Then other members get to guess what you are. It is one of my favorite traditions of the club. And this year there will be participation prizes for those participating.

We also have a rock party on Sunday, October 18th. More details on time and location on page 2. Rock parties are a great way to meet and connect with other club members. They are a potluck; as I've said, the club likes both rocks and food. There will be lots of great food, and lots of great rock talk. I hope you are able to make it!

Chloe and Gracie were able to make it to the Crawford Swap and were able to go out and collect multiple times in the grasslands. I am hoping they are able to bring some examples of what they found to the meeting. I will have some specimens that I found for you to add to your collection. Hope to see you all at the meeting!



IT'S TIME FOR NOMINATIONS!

Club elections happen at the November meeting, which is the annual corporation meeting. In order to have an election, we must have nominees to vote for.

Nominees for President shall have served on the Board of Directors for the previous term. Nominees for any other office shall have been a member of the club for the previous term.

The Board determines the direction the club takes, so having good leadership is essential. You may nominate any qualified person after getting their consent.

Remember, more than one person may run for any seat on the Board.

Here are the nominations to date:

President: Brett Jurgens
First Vice: Clyde Ogg
Second Vice: Jayne Beer
Treasurer: Sarah Nichols
Secretary: Sharon Marburger

(Vote for two (2))

Board: Corey Beer
Board: Linda Hansen
Board: Vera Lyman
Board: Arvid Olson
Board: Mike Stiles
Board: Charles Wooldridge (Wooly)

Two nominees for the Nominating Committee three-year position will be accepted. Jayne and Brett will rotate off the committee (except Jayne is still chair and will remain so unless Brett is unseated as President). Wooly and Donitte will move up to the one-year position and Vera and Eddie will move up to the two-year position. Let Jayne or a Committee member know if you, or a nomination, would like to sit on the Nominating Committee. Jayne has volunteered to rotate to the 3-year position, but we still need one more.

The same procedure happens with the Long-Range Planning & By-Laws Committee, but the three-year positions are appointed by the President instead of being elected.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

By Sharon Marburger, Secretary
August 27, 2026 (September meeting)
Vera Lyman's Residence

ROLL CALL

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

Visitors Donitte Stiles, Jim Marburger, Ed Ridge.

Meeting called to order at 6:44 p.m. Minutes from the June meeting were distributed. Jayne moved to accept the minutes, second by Sarah. Passed.

Summer Treasurer reports were distributed. Sharon moved to accept the reports, second by Sarah. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The Odell field trip was postponed due to tall grasses and weeds and collecting on NRD property is now forbidden. Brett is looking to contact a local neighboring landowner for a fall or early spring trip.

Corey will let us know the date of the fall river field trip after the Crawford activities are done.

Jim M. has arranged for a field trip to a location near Malcolm, Nebraska. The son of a long-time collector has rocks from western Nebraska, collection dating back to the 1950s and 1960s. He will host the club on September 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A small per-pound fee will be charged. These are great looking rocks, some cuttable and some for tumbling.

Limestone Days in Weeping Water was successful. Several people said they would do the event again, given the chance.

Brett said that the Threshers' show in July was great. Approximately 800 people toured the Rock Building, enjoying the Gem Dig, touch table, displays, fluorescent display, and tumbling equipment.

NEW BUSINESS

Jayne presented a tentative slate for election of officers and board. At this time, Brett is considering retaining the presidency; need to check with Clyde about moving up to 1st Vice President; Jayne would like to drop to 2nd Vice President; Sharon is nominated for Secretary;

Sarah is nominated for Treasurer; Corey, Mike, and Vera have accepted nominations for Board, and Linda Hansen was nominated for Board but has not yet accepted the nomination.

Brett would like the Long-Range Planning and By-laws Committee to convene a meeting to discuss changes to the By-laws. One change in particular is to change the junior ages to match the MWF. This would require the top age to be changed from 15 to 18 years. Once the committee makes its suggested changes, said changes will be presented to the rank and file at a General Meeting.

The Omaha Gem and Mineral Show will be on September 26 & 27 at a new location. Brett would like to see Lincoln member volunteers.

Woolly will host the October Rock Party on October 18, beginning at 4:00 p.m. More to come later.

The Beers will host the November Rock Party on November 22 at Hidden Gems, beginning at 5:00 p.m. As it is every year, the theme will be soups and comfort foods, in memory of Roger Pabian.

Sharon announced that she entered the club website in the American Federation Website Competition. She was surprised and proud to report that **the website won 2nd place nationally**.

SHOW BUSINESS

Sharon (Show Chair) and Jim (Advertising Chair) presented the design for the Show Postcard for 2027. There were no suggestions for changes.

Sharon provided each Show Committee Chair with an electronic copy of the Show Operating Procedures. Ed Ridge and Gene Mulinix will receive their paper copies at the September general meeting.

Sharon presented the Proposed Show Budget. Everyone agreed it looked acceptable. Also distributed was a monthly list of things to be done for the Show.

Since Sharon has the documents and the club printer, she updated the Dealer Contracts for the Show and mailed them certified return for Dealer Chair Jayne. When the signed contracts are returned, Jayne and Vera will handle the remaining procedures.

Sharon suggested that after Show setup, an inventory be taken on how many table covers remain, and an inventory on anything else that may need to be replaced or purchased for the following year's show.

Vera moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., second by Corey. Passed.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

By Sharon Marburger, Secretary

September 17, 2026, Bethany Park Shelter House

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Brett Jurgens.

New junior member, Ariana, was introduced. A count was not reported but it was a full house.

The minutes of the May meeting were published in the Pick & Shovel. Wooly moved to accept the minutes as printed, second by Mike Stiles. Passed.

Sharon reported that there was no Treasurer's Report due to Vera's absence. There is money in the account, and four dealers had sent in their booth rent for the Show.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominations for the Board of Directors were announced and additional nominations were accepted. Nominations are: President - Brett Jurgens and Jayne Beer; 1st Vice - Clyde Ogg; 2nd Vice - James Marburger; Treasurer - Sarah Nichols; Secretary - Sharon Marburger; Board - Corey Beer, Linda Hansen, Vera Lyman, Mike Stiles, Charles Wooldridge, and Arvid Olson. Jayne volunteered to rotate off the 1-year Nominating Committee to a 3-year position.

NEW BUSINESS

A dollar off admission price coupon is available for the Topeka Show, October 10&11.

The Omaha Gem Show is September 26&27 at a new venue.

The Columbus, Nebraska show is October 3&4.

The Des Moines show is October 17&18.

The Malcolm field trip will be announced once the date is finalized. Watch your email and LGMC Facebook feed.

MID-WINTER SWAP

Members were able to submit paper reservations for the Mid-Winter Swap. Sharon will update the website next week, at which time only online reservations will be allowed.

The meeting adjourned to program on a motion by Mike Stiles, second by Eric Frittsch. Eric talked about his recent travels to China.



Picture of one of Eric's slides from his China & Mongolia tour of mines & rock hounding. (Photo of slide by Donitte Stiles)

Allan & Tammy Jeanneret



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CRAWFORD FIELD TRIP – LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

By Linda Hansen (photos by Linda)

As a newer member of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, I have been interested in going on a field trip since I first heard about them, but the timing didn't work out for my first year.

This summer (my second year), Sarah Nichols and I made plans to attend the Crawford Rock Swap for Labor Day weekend. It was a quick trip with a lot of driving and a lot of rocks!

We decided to take Highway 2 out to Crawford on Friday, then head home via Highway 26 to Ash Hollow State Park and I-80 on Sunday. I had never been to Crawford, nor had I driven Highway 2 through the Sandhills, so I was delighted to see parts of Nebraska I seldom have a chance to see.

Because Sarah and I share a tendency to be nerdy, I brought along two books that I read while we travelled across the state: "Roadside Geology of Nebraska," a 2003 edition, and "Nebraska, a guide to the Cornhusker State," originally published in 1939 by the Federal Writers Project and reprinted in 1979. This second book includes several Tours of Nebraska highways and tidbits about the things you'd find along the way. Thus, we learned that Highway 2 in 1939 had a graveled and oiled roadbed, open all year, with side roads of fine sand that you'd better be careful driving on.

Sarah has made many trips through north central and northwestern Nebraska, so she was familiar with the route and had some preferred places to stop. On Friday, we stopped for lunch at a park in Ansley, where I found a green rock in the gravel road. I took lots of mediocre pictures through the car windows as we drove and read bits from both books as we passed through the relevant areas. (Ansley was once known for its alfalfa fields!) We arrived in Crawford in time to eat with the club at the park and chat for the evening.

Saturday morning, we joined the Rock Show field trip and headed out to Pasture 27. I think we each quickly realized we might be under-equipped – no buckets, just grocery tote bags and a backpack, no rock hammer, no trowels – but we definitely brought enthusiasm. We didn't get far from the car but found plenty of interesting specimens despite that. We also managed to avoid falling into prickly pear cactus or waking up a rattlesnake; even better. I picked up a lot of smooth white quartz, a couple of pieces of petrified wood, and many pieces that have great colors, shapes, and patterns.

Saturday afternoon we perused the Rock Show itself. I am starting to recognize some vendors from the Lincoln shows I've attended! We also enjoyed sharing meals with the members of the Gem & Mineral Club who attended. The Lincoln group claimed a nice, shady spot that seemed quiet but had steady traffic.

We also drove out to Fort Robinson. It was shocking to see so many burned pine trees around the park from this year's wildfires! We visited the Crazy Horse memorial and nearby buildings, and then Sarah gave me a driving tour, including a trip through Smiley Canyon. We resisted the urge to stop to look for rocks at the roadside cuts in the canyon!



Coal train going through the Sandhills



Sarah hunting for rocks at Pasture 27

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2027 GEM & MINERAL SHOW PREP

By Sharon Marburger

Show postcards were ordered and have been received. You may pick up a stack at the next meeting. (They look fabulous, by the way!)

Several Dealer contracts have been fully executed. A contract for a replacement dealer has been mailed out to cover a declining dealer. Another dealer has declined to participate this year. The Show Committee has decided to once again split the remaining booth into two half booths. Hidden Gems and Mike & Donitte Stiles were given contracts for the half booths.

CRAWFORD - CONTINUED

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Our drive home Sunday included a brief stop at the Ash Hollow Visitor Center, with a quick look at the locked door protecting the Native American artifacts at the cave, sadly. We also stopped at the Sutherland east-bound rest stop as the Geology book mentioned the faded wagon ruts from the settlers were visible there.

All in all, it was a really good trip. I'd recommend the Crawford Rock Swap to anyone who can make the journey out there!

REGISTER EARLY FOR MWF CONVENTION WITH BUS TRANSPORT AND FIELD TRIPS

From the *MWF News*, Issue 655, October 2026

John Rettler, MWF 1st Vice President; Kettle Moraine Geological Society Show Chair

The Kettle Moraine Geological Society of Wisconsin is proud to kick off the Wisconsin End of Winter Weekend by hosting the 2027 convention of the Midwest Federation! Convention activities, March 5th through 7th, will be held in conjunction with our rock and mineral show at the Washington County Fair Park & Conference Center in West Bend, Wisconsin.

Pre-convention activities on Friday, March 5th will include side tours to three amazing places: the Great Horicon Marsh Explorium (interactive exhibits and a 33,000-acre wildlife reserve); Kettle Moraine State Forest glacial landscape, including the Henry Reuss Ice Age Visitor Center; and Holy Hill/St. Mary's Basilica, a historic building atop a glacial kame.

Friday will also include a sneak peek of the show and a sampling of Wisconsin wine and craft beers.

The MWF Executive Committee will meet on Saturday morning, the 6th. A box lunch will be offered at noon (attendees can also buy lunch at the 4H counter), and the Delegates' meeting will follow that. A catered dinner will be served at the annual MWF Awards Banquet on Saturday night.

The show will offer more than 20,000 square feet of displays, demonstrations, vendors, and authentic American Indian artifacts and ancient tools. It will be

held Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Guest speakers at the convention will present programs about the megafauna of the Ice Age, fossils of the Midwest, Wisconsin caves, and Wisconsin geology ("A Story of Fire, Water and Ice").

Two Milwaukee excursions on Sunday will go to the Potawatomi Casino and the Harley-Davidson Museum. You can go to either or both.

March weather in Wisconsin has never been a factor for our show. However, for those who prefer a leisurely ride to avoid early spring weather and possible roadway conditions, KMGS has made arrangements with Riteway Transportation Group for motor coach transport.

Buses will begin in more than 20 cities as far west as Omaha, as far south as St. Louis, as far east as Detroit, and as far north as Minneapolis, and take attendees to West Bend. More details will be in upcoming issues of *MWF News*.

You can get early registration for all events here: zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/mwf-convention-package-2027. Registration forms are on pages 5 and 6 of this issue; for more information, call John Rettler, 262-617-0022. (P&S Editor's Note: The *MWF News* is included in your P&S distribution email.)

THIS NEBRASKA SHOP IS PACKED WITH GEMS, CRYSTALS AND UNEXPECTED TREASURES

By Karen Walsh, Décor Hint.com

https://decorhint.com/this-nebraska-shop-is-packed-with-gems-crystals-and-unexpected-treasures-ff138a0d/?fbclid=IwY2xjawUiOfJleH-RuA2FlbQlXMAbWZG9mBWJyaWQRMWE5VmhzdjZnaFNudkE0VjBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAy-MjIwMzcxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeJh7IKb0wj3vgwEVZ4YeI8R2F-XAm0Mmkcm6z-BQtiOA75z4Bu9fnTopNedQ_aem_IrxV9o5StpoD-KsOezKsybQ

September 22, 2026

Photos © Hidden Gems Rock Shop By The Jewelry Connection, Lincoln, NE

Some of the best stops in Nebraska sit behind doors you'd never think to open. A plain strip mall storefront, a parking lot full of errand-runners, and inside, trays of polished stone glowing under shop lights like something smuggled out of a museum.

You can drive past a place like this for years and never once wonder what's in there. Then you finally walk in, and suddenly an afternoon disappears while you turn a piece of turquoise over in your hand.

A ROCK SHOP ON SOUTH 13TH STREET

Trays of cut stone, shelves of raw mineral chunks, and a glass case of handmade jewelry fill a compact storefront on Lincoln's south side. Hidden Gems Rock Shop By The Jewelry Connection occupies a slot in a strip mall along South 13th Street, the kind of building most Lancaster County drivers register as background scenery.

The exterior gives away almost nothing. There's no giant amethyst geode parked out front, no neon crystal sign.

Just a row of businesses, a shared parking lot, and a door that opens into something far denser than the frontage suggests.

Inside, the density hits immediately. Fossils sit near lapidary slabs.

Shaped cabochons rest in organized rows. Bins of small tumbled stones sit at kid height, and larger specimens claim the upper shelves.

What makes the place work is the range packed into limited square footage. It isn't a large store, yet the inventory spans from quarter-priced pebbles to serious cutting material for people who already own a saw.

Both ends of that spectrum get equal shelf respect.

THE FAMILY BEHIND THE COUNTER

Corey and Jayne run the shop, and their names come up constantly in connection with the place. Corey handles much of the cutting and shaping work, turning rough material into the polished cabochons that fill the display trays.

Jayne works the jewelry side and offers guidance on how to polish and care for whatever you carry out.

Family-owned isn't a marketing line here, it's the operating structure. The same people who source the material also price it, explain it, and remember what you asked about last time.

Ask about a stone and you'll get an answer with actual geology in it. Identification books sit within reach so you can work through a mystery specimen yourself rather than just being handed a label.

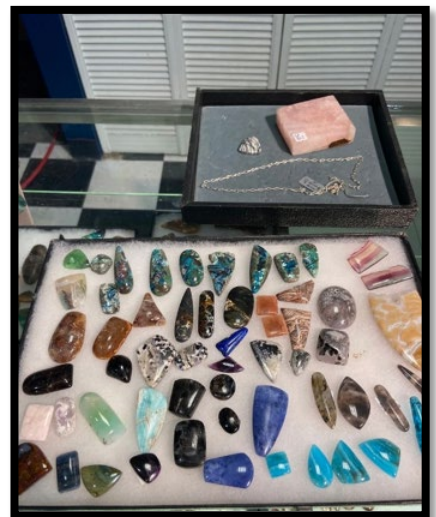
That teaching instinct shows up in small ways. A child hunting for a special rock gets help finding one.

Someone trying to figure out what they picked up along a creek in the Platte valley gets a real look at it.

The shop also keeps stock that never makes it onto the floor, so asking is often productive.

CABOCHONS CUT AND POLISHED IN-HOUSE

Row after row of smooth, domed stones fill the cabochon trays, and most of them were shaped a few steps from where they're sold. Corey does the polishing and cutting himself, which means the selection reflects one person's eye for material rather than a



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NEBRASKA SHOP - CONTINUED

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wholesale catalog order.

Shapes vary well beyond the standard oval. Some pieces carry deliberate texture, others are carved, and the color range runs from quiet earth tones to stones that look almost lit from inside.

For anyone doing silversmithing or wire wrapping, this is the practical draw. Buying a cabochon in person means you can hold it, tilt it toward the light, and see how the pattern actually reads before committing to a setting.

Prices span a wide band. Small stones start at pocket change, and larger or rarer pieces climb from there, but the pricing stays reasonable for the quality of the cutting work involved.

Turquoise gets particular attention, with multiple varieties available. Polished specimens and carved pieces round out the case.

FOSSILS, SLABS AND RAW MATERIAL

Flat slabs of agate and jasper stand upright in racks, sliced thin enough that light passes through the banding. Lapidary slabs are a specific kind of inventory, aimed at people who plan to cut the material down further rather than display it as-is.

Fossils occupy their own corner of the collection. Ancient shapes locked in stone always draw a crowd, and they give the shop a natural-history dimension that a pure crystal boutique wouldn't have.

Raw mineral specimens fill in the rest. Clusters, points, geode halves, and rough chunks sit alongside the finished goods, which lets you see the same material at multiple stages of processing.

Sourcing takes real effort. The owners have said publicly that they spend considerable time hunting down interesting material while keeping prices sensible, and the inventory reflects that balance.

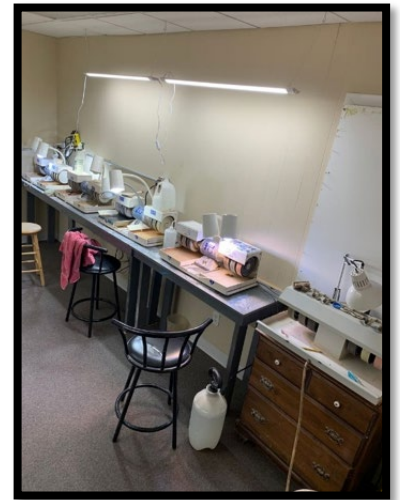


Beads also factor in, making the shop a stop for jewelry makers who need components rather than statement pieces. Between the beads, the slabs, and the cabochons, one visit can supply several different crafting habits at once.

LAPIDARY CLASSES IN THE BACK ROOMS

Behind the retail floor, machines do the loud work. The back rooms hold lapidary equipment, and the shop teaches people how to use it, which turns a shopping trip into something closer to a workshop.

Here's how it tends to go: you pick out a piece of rough material on the sales floor, then learn to cut and polish it yourself into a finished stone. The instruction mixes demonstration, hands-on correction, and stretches where you simply work on your own project at your own pace.



Metalsmithing runs as a multi-week session, giving students enough time to move past the awkward first attempts and produce something they'd actually wear. Combining that with the lapidary side means a person could shape a stone and then build the setting for it.

Class availability isn't posted as a fixed schedule, so asking in person or by inquiry is the way to find out what's running.

Few Nebraska retail shops offer instruction like this. It's the feature that separates the place from a display case full of pretty rocks.

TURQUOISE WORTH SLOWING DOWN FOR

Blue runs the full range in the turquoise section, from pale sky tones to deep saturated stones threaded with dark matrix. Multiple types are stocked, which is unusual for a shop this size in southeast Nebraska.

Matrix patterning is where the browsing gets slow. No two pieces carry the same web of veining, and comparing a handful side by side is the kind of thing that eats twenty minutes without you noticing.

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NEBRASKA SHOP - CONTINUED

Continued from page 9

Both cut and polished forms appear. Some pieces are ready to set into silver, others are meant to sit on a shelf and catch light.

Because Corey handles the shaping, the selection leans toward pieces that were chosen for how they'd look once finished, not just for volume. That judgment shows up in the trays.

Pairing turquoise with the shop's silversmithing instruction creates a natural path. Buy the stone, take the class, walk out months later wearing the result.

For collectors who already know their varieties, the staff will talk specifics rather than generalities.

HANDMADE JEWELRY IN THE GLASS CASE

Jewelry made on-site fills the front case, and the pieces carry the same fingerprint as the loose stones. Jayne's work anchors that side of the business, and the results lean toward settings that let the stone lead rather than compete.

Silver and gemstone combinations dominate. Pendants, rings, and smaller pieces sit at various price points, so it functions as a gift stop as much as a collector destination.

What you're buying is traceable. The stone was likely cut in the back, set by someone who works in the building, and priced by the person who did both.

That connection matters when so much jewelry retail involves no visible chain between the rock and the register. Here, the whole process happens under one roof.

Shoppers looking for something Nebraska-made without a cornfield motif will find it here. A pendant from this case says Lincoln without announcing it.



Small touches show up too, like a free heart-shaped stone in a little box included with a purchase.

SCENTS, SERUMS AND OTHER SURPRISES

Sage and cedarwood. Cypress and tea tree.

Vanilla and bourbon, eucalyptus and citrus, sandalwood and rose, oatmeal and cinnamon. Reading the scent labels feels like wandering into a completely different store, which is part of the fun.

Skincare shows up too, including a rose geranium facial serum and a chamomile makeup remover. None of it is what you expect from a shop whose main business is cutting stone.

Home decor rounds out the non-mineral inventory. Items meant for shelves and windowsills sit near the geological material without feeling shoved in.

The mix widens who the shop works for. Someone dragged along by a rockhound friend has plenty to look at, and the gift-buying possibilities extend well beyond crystals.

Nothing here is sprawling. Limited floor space means the selection stays curated instead of overwhelming, which keeps the store from tipping into gift-shop clutter.

Still, it's the unexpected shelf that sticks in memory. You come for agate and leave with a bar of something that smells like a cedar closet.

MATURE PLANTS AND A WELL-ORGANIZED FLOOR

Big, healthy houseplants change the whole feel of the room. Mature specimens spill over shelf edges and soften what could easily be a fluorescent-lit retail box, and they've clearly been tended for years rather than bought last month.



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NEBRASKA SHOP - CONTINUED

Continued from page 10

Organization is the other thing you notice. Material is grouped logically, labeled, and arranged so browsing follows a natural path instead of requiring archaeology.

That tidiness matters in a rock shop, where the default aesthetic can slide toward chaos. Here the density reads as abundance rather than clutter.

Green foliage against mineral color also does something for the eye. Polished stone looks better next to a living plant than next to bare drywall, and the shop seems aware of that.



Space is limited, so every surface earns its place. Upper shelves hold larger specimens, lower bins hold the affordable tumbled stones kids reach for first.

The overall effect is calm. Even on a busy afternoon, the room invites slow looking rather than quick grabbing, which is exactly what this kind of inventory deserves.

WHO THE SHOP SUITS BEST

Kids do well here. Bins of small tumbled stones priced at pocket change mean a child can pick something out and pay for it themselves, which is a rare and satisfying transaction at that age.

Serious hobbyists get served at the other end. If you cut, wrap, or set stones, the slab racks and cabochon trays justify a dedicated trip from Omaha or anywhere along I-80.

Casual crystal shoppers land comfortably in the middle. There's plenty to look at without needing any background knowledge, and questions get real answers.

Retirees looking for a new skill have the clearest opportunity of all. The metalsmithing sessions are built for beginners, and finishing one produces something tangible.

Budget-wise, the shop stays accessible. Material starts at a quarter and climbs, so a family outing doesn't require a big commitment.

It's an indoor stop, which makes it useful during a Nebraska winter when the day-trip options thin out considerably. An hour here beats another lap around the mall.

GETTING THERE AND FINDING THE DOOR

Address first: 3227 S 13th St, Lincoln, NE 68502. It sits in a strip mall shared with other businesses, roughly south of downtown Lincoln and easy to reach from most points in Lancaster County.

Parking is the shared-lot kind, which means it's free and usually available. From I-80, it's a straightforward run south through the city.

The building itself won't impress you on approach. Older strip mall construction, neighbors that have nothing to do with geology, and a modest sign are all you get from the curb.



Do not let that steer you off. The gap between the exterior and the interior is the entire point of the place, and plenty of people who lived nearby for years never figured that out.

Day-trippers from Omaha can make it a round trip easily. Pair it with a meal on the south side and the afternoon fills itself.

Once you're inside, budget more time than you planned. The square footage is small, the browsing is not.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT AROUND ROCK SHOWS

Here's a practical wrinkle worth knowing. The family also works craft fairs and rock shows, which means the shop occasionally closes outside its usual pattern while they're out with a booth.

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NEBRASKA SHOP - CONTINUED

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Calling ahead solves it. If you're driving in from Grand Island, Nebraska City, or anywhere that makes the trip a real commitment, a quick check before leaving saves the frustration of a locked door.

Hours run later on weekdays than most retail of this type, with afternoon and evening coverage, and weekend hours shift earlier on Saturday. Confirm before you go rather than trusting any posted listing.

Show season also affects inventory in a good way. Material gets sourced at those same events, so stock rotates and the trays look different visit to visit.

Repeat trips make sense for that reason. What wasn't there in March might be sitting in the case by June.

And if you're hunting something specific, say so. There's stock held off the floor, and the staff will look for you.



WHY THE NAME FITS

Naming a business Hidden Gems is a gamble, because the place has to earn it. This one does, largely because so many Lincoln residents have driven that stretch of South 13th without ever clocking what was inside.

The whole experience runs on that contrast. Ordinary parking lot, ordinary facade, then a room packed with fossils, slabs, turquoise, handmade silver, plants, and a scented soap shelf nobody predicted.

Add working lapidary equipment in the back and a family willing to teach you how to use it, and the shop stops being a store and starts being a small local institution.

Prices stay grounded. Starting at a quarter means a kid can participate, and the upper end still reflects fair value for hand-cut work.

For a weekend drive with an actual payoff at the end, it holds up. You'll leave with something in your pocket and probably a plan to come back.

Give it more time than you think it needs. Small rooms can be deep.

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:..... MOHS 6-7
Chairman: Sharon Marburger
Dealers & Demonstrators: Jayne Beer
Displays:.....Brett Jurgens
Event Center Liaison Vera Lyman
Finance/Ticket Sales:..... Vera Lyman, Sarah Nichols
Floor Chairman: John Moss
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 Sharon Marburger
Security:..... Vera Lyman
Show Flyer & Printed Program Sharon Marburger
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. 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



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.