

2015 CRAWFORD FIELD TRIP

by Carolyn Ashmore

As I sit here in my motel room on the last night of yet another wonderful trip to Northwest Nebraska, I think about just how much fun it was to have so many friends from Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club attend this year's rock swap in Crawford, Nebraska. We all stayed at the same place in Chadron this year and drove to Crawford daily for the field trips, or we just walked around visiting the many vendors, or just sat in their beautiful park, socializing and having lunch. Our evenings were spent outside in lawn chairs, laughing and talking about everyone's special find of the day or the occasional deal someone got from one of our favorite fellow rockhound vendors. Or it was me naming our club's first futuristic bowling team "The Rolling Rockhounds." This name can also be used for the occasional tumble some of us have experienced walking up or going down a hill, embankment, or valley while looking for specimens to add to our collections. The name Rolling Rockhounds was kinda catchy, I thought at the time, and everyone had a good laugh. We've all done it at some point or another.

But seriously, a lot of great material was collected this time around. Corey brought out the portable handheld fluorescent light to show everyone the very cool colors the minerals made. The junior members that came with us were fascinated, as well as all the adults. We had eight adults and three junior members with us this year. It was a very fun and educational trip for all of us. We had beautiful weather and three days of wonderful field trips in the mornings. And yes, Fairburn Agates were found by a couple of people in our group. I found a fossil sea sponge on one of our field trip outings, as well as a good place to get some much needed Nebraska Blue Chalcedony for our junior rockhound program. We all appreciate the friendship and hospitality shown us from our Northwestern Nebraska extended rockhound family.

I would once again like to thank the Northwest Nebraska Rock Club for yet another year of amazing Labor Day weekend festivities filled with memories I'll not soon forget.

