



# PICK & SHOVEL

March 2017, Volume 59, Issue 7

Editor: Sharon Marburger

The *Pick & Shovel* is the official publication of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska. Articles and items appearing within may be reproduced in other club bulletins, provided proper credit is given to the *Pick & Shovel* and the author.

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.

## 2017 MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

### General Meetings:

Regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House. Youth activities begin at 6:00 p.m.

March 16	October 19
April 20	November 16
May 18	December 3
September 21	

### Board Meetings:

Board Meetings, unless otherwise stated, begin at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, at the home of Vera Lyman.

Apr: April 4	Oct: October 4
May: May 3	Nov: November 1
Sep: September 6	Dec: November 29

### Activities:

Rock Party at Nick's & Nykky's  
811 Bell St., Beatrice  
March 18 at 5:00 p.m.  
Theme:

April Rock Party  
Who would like to host it?

59th Annual Gem & Mineral Show  
Setup on Friday, March 31, beginning at 8:00 a.m.  
Show on April 1, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
April 2, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wild Adventure Days at Pioneers Park Nature Center  
April 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Roadside Clean-up and Rock Party  
May 20 at the Marburgers  
Meet at Hickman Rest Area at 1:00 p.m.  
Rock Party will follow the clean-up.

Wild Fall Festival at Pioneers Park Nature Center  
September 22 from 5:00—8:00 p.m.

Geology Day March 12, 2017 Pioneers Park Nature Center Prairie Building	Grinding Party July 9, 2017 Pioneers Park Nature Center Prairie Building
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jayne Beer



What a fun time of year! Spring is almost here and we are getting the bug to get out and do some rock collecting!

I hope everyone is looking forward to our annual rock show on April 1 & 2. Are you perhaps looking for ways to get involved? We could use help setting up on Friday, March 31. We start at 8:00 a.m. We will be putting covers on the tables, unpacking the club trailer, and assembling the wooden display cases. Speaking of display cases, do you have any really cool Nebraska rocks that you would like to get out and display for our show? Most of you know by now that our show title is "NEBRASKA ROCKS." It would be great to have some nice displays!

Another way you could participate would be to help out at the LGMC booth. You would be handing out club information and just letting people know what a fun group we are. It would be very nice to add a few new members! There might be a few other things we could use some help with. If you show up and say, "How can I help?", I'm sure we could find something for you to do. You might be able to help at the youth table, or the silent auction, or the fluorescent display, or just act as a temporary fill-in for those needing a food, drink, or bathroom break.

RIGHT NOW, another thing would be to help distribute postcards! You can pick up postcards from the general meeting on March 16, or contact me and I will deliver some to you. If you are hanging out on the internet and see an opportunity to put in a plug for our show, please do that! I would love to see our show increase in customer numbers. It would help us pay the bills. This show is quite costly to put on so we need the paying public to show up in large numbers! We want our vendors to be happy as well, to keep them coming back.

Again this year we will have a rock pile outside of the show entrance for people to dig for specimens. If you have rocks or bones or fossils that we could add, please bring them to the meeting on the 16th, or bring your material to the setup early on Friday March 31. The load of river rock will

# March Rock Party



March 18, 2017  
5:00 p.m.  
Nick's & Nykky's  
811 Bell St., Beatrice

Our hosts will provide burgers, hotdogs, and brats. Baked beans will be provided. Bring your favorite side dishes and your appetites! Bring your lapidary equipment and other tools. Don't forget your hobby projects.

Let's have a good showing of people. This is our hosts' first time to hold a Rock Party. They are very excited. Let their enthusiasm bubble over onto you. See you there!

be delivered around 11:00 a.m. We'd like to have your "salt" there so it can be mixed in while the rock is being dumped.

That is a lot of info about the show! GET INVOLVED! IT'S FUN!

I want to thank Carolyn Ashmore for the great job of preparing for and running the Science Fair. we were once again a very popular booth; so many young people loving rocks! It warms the heart! Below are some pictures I took.

Happy spring! Happy rock collecting! Cheers!



## Silversmithing classes

Tuesday Evenings  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The Jewelry Connection Ltd.  
Indian Village Shopping Ctr.  
13th & Arapahoe, Lincoln

Tuition: \$130 plus \$30 supply deposit

Session 2: Feb 28 - Apr 18, 2017

Session 3: Apr 25 - Jun 13, 2017

Session 4: Aug 8 - Sep 26, 2017

Session 5: Oct 3 - Nov 28, 2017

Contact:

Jayne Beer 402-890-3307

Judith Bay 402-423-7058

or e-mail

[jbeer60070@aol.com](mailto:jbeer60070@aol.com)

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Pat Dvorak

Jayden Eno

Bob Gritmit

Jim Marburger

Greg Syslo



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

By James Marburger, Secretary

**Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.  
General Meeting, February 16, 2017  
Bethany Park Shelter**

Meeting called to order by President Jayne Beer at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Club attendance— 19 Adult Members present  
7 Mineral Monkeys

Guest: Peggy Fast

- ◆ Minutes of the last meeting were published in the Pick & Shovel. Motion to accept by Vera, second by Jim A. Passed.
- ◆ Treasurer Report was read. Motion by Jim M. to accept, second by Sharon M. Passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- ◆ Show post cards are available and should be distributed all over town. Make a list of locations where they are placed for Sharon Marburger so it can be tracked for the history.
- ◆ Articles are needed for the Pick and Shovel. Art work, poetry, or anything related to the hobby.
- ◆ Upcoming shows in the area are Cedar Rapids, IA and Kansas City, MO. Discount coupons are available on the front table.
- ◆ Rock Party is set for the 18th at the Jewelry Connection at 5 p.m. Mexican is the flavor of the month.
- ◆ Sign-up sheet is on the front table for refreshments for the upcoming meetings in 2017.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- ◆ We need a delegate for the Midwest Federation meeting in Brainerd, MN on May 5 to 7. There are field trips scheduled for the day before the show. A stipend is available to the delegate.
- ◆ The National Gem and Mineral Show will be held in Ventura, CA June 8 to 12.
- ◆ Our Show is coming up very soon. Sign-up sheets for displays and help are available. We need Nebraska rocks for the Nebraska Rock pile. Let us all plan to set up the show, starting at 8 a.m. on Friday. All Dealers and Demos have been filled. Special displays are coming in along with other special items.
- ◆ Motion by Carolyn Ashmore to adjourn the meeting, second by Corey Beer. Passed. Meeting adjourned to refreshments and fossil display (pictured at right) brought in by Susy McMahan for the Mineral Monkey lesson. Photo by Jayne Beer.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

By James Marburger, Secretary

**Board Meeting, February 1, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by 1st Vice President Charles Wooldridge at the Lyman Residence.

President:	Jayne Beer	Absent
1st Vice Pres.:	Charles Wooldridge	Present
2nd Vice Pres.:	Sharon Marburger	Present
Treasurer:	Vera Lyman	Present
Secretary:	Jim Marburger	Present
Board:	Carolyn Ashmore	Absent
Board:	Corey Beer	Present
Board:	Ed Dvorak	Present
Board:	Ed Ridge	Present

Pat Dvorak guest.

Minutes of last meeting passed out. Motion to accept by Ed D., second by Sharon. Passed 6 yes, 0 no.

Treasurer Report was passed out. Motion to accept Report by Jim, second by Ed D. Passed 6 yes, 0 no.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Motion by Jim to attend Pioneer Park Nature Center Wild Event days on April 29 and September 22 as a club event which replaces the Geology Day and Grinding Party events that have been cancelled. Second by Ed D. Passed 6 yes, 0 no.
- Jim will bring the club trailer to Hickman in March and a case rebuild party will be scheduled to repair the Nebraska case, Unites States case, and maybe other small display cases that are in need of updating.
- Long Range Planning committee should have a meeting soon to discuss new items for the club. Recontingions, contract review for Lancaster Event Center, Dues, Library, By-laws, and what records the club needs to keep.
- Swap Report: \$230 income for the Lapidary Class and \$106 from the silent auction event.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Audit information should be coming soon.

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. by Jim, second by Ed D. Passed 6 yes, 0 no.

**Have an idea for a field trip?  
Let Jim Marburger know!**



## MINERAL MONKEYS

By Carolyn Ashmore

Whew! What a night at Science Fair, huh?

Linda and I want to give all you volunteers a BIG Thank You. This is a wonderful event for our club year after year, and we stay busy pretty much the entire evening. We are so glad everyone had a chance to go and look around, as there were plenty of interesting things to see and participate in.

At this month's meeting on the 16th, we are getting ready for the 59th annual show. We will be working on customizing our paper balloons for the junior booth, as well as getting your displays together for the two junior cases we have reserved. If you plan on bringing your displays to the meeting, PLEASE NOTE: They need to be bagged separately with their index cards with them. The cards should contain the information of what the specimen is, where you found it, or how you acquired it. Don't forget to include your first name. This process will make it easier for Linda and me to arrange them in the cases.

If you are not ready yet and you need some additional time, we must absolutely have them at the Event Center no later than Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 a.m. I am sure you want to display something from your collection at this special event, and this will be the last chance to get them in cases before the show opens.

We will also discuss the volunteer schedule for working the booth at the show. We are going to have a wonderful time!



## FEBRUARY ROCK PARTY

By Sharon Marburger (photos by Jim Marburger)

The Rock Party was hosted by Judith Bay and Jayne Beer at The Jewelry Connection on February 18. Lots of people showed up, but it was very exciting to have several of the newer members there. The theme was Mexican food, of which there was plenty, and all of it delicious.

Corey showed several people how to grind stones on the Genie and other genie-type machine. Ends were polished and cabochon cutting demonstrated, with successful end products. Eddie and Sharon shared a Genie while Jayne worked on a silver smith project. Others watched the goings-on or sat around talking hobby stuff. As always, it was a fun evening.

Pictured below left is a malachite cab that Teresa made under Corey's tutelage and (below right) is Corey with a rapt group of students.



*(Continued on page 8)*



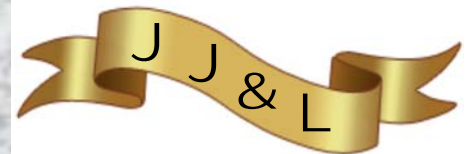
# J J & L Rocks & Minerals

P.O. Box 68  
Hickman, NE 68372

Lee Harrison  
Eric Harrison  
402.792.2337

330 Locust  
Hickman, NE 68372

James Marburger  
Sharon Marburger  
402.792.2348



Proudly serving  
the hobby for  
41 years

jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com  
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**59th Annual  
Gem & Mineral Show**

**The Lincoln  
Gem & Mineral Club  
Proudly Presents**

# **Nebraska Rocks!**

<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org>

**April 1 & 2, 2017**

**Lancaster Event Center**

**Lincoln Room**

**84th & Havelock**

**Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Admission:**

**\$6 per adult**

**\$11 2-day pass**

**Children 11 and under  
free with paid adult**

**Youth Booth**

**Dealers**

**Exhibits**

**Demonstrators**

**Nebraska Gem Dig**

**Fluorescent Display**

**\$1 off paid admission  
with a can donation to  
the Food Bank!**



# **FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**REACHING ACROSS GENERATIONS**  
**AKA JUNIOR/SENIOR PROJECT**

By Mia Eno

I chose my buddy and best adult club friend, Sharon Marburger, as my senior member. Sharon lives in Hickman, Nebraska with her husband, Jim. Sharon has two adult children; Lea and Shaun, and eight grandchildren. She married Jim in 1999. Sharon works at an attorney's office as well as being the editor for our club's online newspaper; the Pick and Shovel.

Sharon says she doesn't have any favorite rock, she loves all pretty ones. Sharon has fur babies; Chika and Missy are her cats.

She came and spent Saturday, October 17, 2015 on our farm three hours away in Lindsay, Nebraska. She taught me a lot of things, like to not fear a [rock] saw that wouldn't hurt me, and I polished petrified wood and some other stones. We all had lunch and dinner together that day; it was really fun. I enjoyed spending time with Sharon. I wish we lived closer so I could spend more time with my buddy, my BFF, Sharon.

**If you have not yet paid your 2017 dues,  
they are now delinquent.  
Pursuant to club by-laws,  
a \$5 fee is assessed on  
all delinquent dues.  
Individual Adults—\$15 plus \$5 late fee  
Adult Couples—\$25 plus \$5 late fee  
Juniors—\$2 each**

**Show postcards are  
now available.  
See Jim Marburger to get  
yours for distribution.  
The Show is  
quickly approaching!**

**MINING SAPPHIRES AT HOME**

by Linda Burns (from Denver Gem & Mineral Guild's *Tips & Chips*, July 2016, [excerpted and edited])

If you want the fun of finding sapphires but lack the funding or time required for an extended trip to Montana, consider ordering bags of gravel concentrate from one of the sources listed in this article.

When you order your gravel, it can come in several different size bags and the cost of shipping is dependent on the amount and weight of the bags ordered. Once you have the bags at home it's time to gather all your supplies and start MINING FOR SAPPHIRES.

To mine for sapphires at home, you will need several items before starting: 1) a set of at least two or three screens (instructions for how to build your own at end of article); 2) a large flat container for water (big enough to put the screens in); 3) a piece of material large enough to cover the screen (2" foam pad works well); 4) tweezers; 5) a small bottle for storing your finds; and 6) plenty of patience and persistence.

To start mining for sapphires, fill your container about two-thirds full of water. Place your screens in the water. The screen with the largest holes should be on top and the one with the smallest holes on the bottom. Open your bag of sapphire concentrate gravel and pour some or all of it on the top screen. (If you have more than a small bag of gravel you will need to do several smaller batches). Once you have a screen full of material, wash it down. Make sure all of the pieces of mud are washed and broken down completely

(those darn sapphires can hide from you in the mud!). After washing the rocks left on the top screen, remove it and check it for sapphires. You never know when a large one will show up! I always put aside all of the material screened and washed; I dry and re-check it at least once more (you will be surprised at how many more you find later). If using three screens (which I do), you continue this process with each screen. The last and smallest screen should be "swished" back and forth in your water several times while lifting and lowering it to help concentrate the heavier rocks in the middle.

Now is the time to use your foam to cover the screen. Once you have the screen covered, make sure you have a clean surface larger than the screen where you can get it wet without causing problems. This can be very messy so insure you are in an area which can stand to be wet and dirty. Now flip it. With the foam covering the screen, hold it down so the rocks stay in place and turn it upside down to rest on your flat surface. The rocks are now resting on the foam and the screen can be removed. It is time to see how well you have done in concentrating the sapphires in the bottom middle of your rocks. Look for any "shiny, clear, glassy" rocks. You have just found SAPPHIRES!!!!

Use your tweezers to remove these stones and place them in a small container. I have and use empty film containers (that I saved from an earlier life). Any small bottle will work, like empty prescription bottles. I like to allow my material to dry out at this point and

then go back though to find the ones I missed the first time.

You are not done yet. You still have all of the material that went through your smallest screen in the bottom of your washing container. This material can still contain a lot of small sapphires. Empty the water slowly out of one corner into an area which can take the sediment. Adding water and draining it off several times will allow you to remove most of the very small sediments. Be sure not to drain it off too fast so as not to wash out your small sapphires. Once you have drained off most of the water you can "swish" the material down a level and look for more sapphires. I like to allow this material to dry and then go back through it several times to make sure I get all of the "good" out of it.

**SUCCESS!! YOU HAVE NOW  
MINED AT HOME FOR  
SAPPHIRES!!**

Do an online search for other sources for gravel concentrate. Here are a couple that I found:

The Sapphire Gallery  
Phillipsburg, Montana  
406-859-3236  
www.sapphiregallery.com

The Sapphire Studio  
Hamilton, Montana  
406-381-1392  
www.sapphiremining.com

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307  
JBeer60070@aol.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

Charles Wooldridge, 402.975.0416  
charles.wooldridgeii@gmail.com

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Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323  
lgmc.editor@outlook.com

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Vera Lyman, 402.464.6089

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Jim Marburger, 402.430.6703  
james.marburger@outlook.com

**Board Member**

Carolyn Ashmore, 402.325.8878  
saturn1\_101@hotmail.com

**Board Member**

Corey Beer, 402.466.6628

**Board Member**

Ed Dvorak, 402.946.3041  
ed20649@windstream.net

**Board Member**

Ed Ridge, 402.477.8469

**PICK & SHOVEL STAFF**

**PUBLISHER:**

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5342  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342

**EDITOR:**

Sharon Marburger  
P.O. Box 64  
Hickman, Nebraska 68372  
E-mail: lgmc.editor@outlook.com

**CIRCULATION:**

Vera Lyman  
402-464-6089

**REPORTERS:**

All members are encouraged to submit features, articles, poetry, or drawings.



**LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

Ed Dvorak, Chairman

- 1 year: Edward Ridge  
Rowdy Cropp
- 2 years: Charles Wooldridge  
Sharon Marburger
- 3 years: Vera Lyman  
Jim Marburger

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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- 2 years: Robert Gritmit  
Sharon Marburger
- 3 years: Jim Atkins  
Andrew Tiedje

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Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer  
James Marburger

**Christmas Party:**

Edward Ridge

**Education/Librarian:**

Charles Wooldridge

**Facebook:**

Andrew Tiedje

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James Marburger

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Sharon Marburger

**Grinding Party Coordinator:**

Sharon Marburger

**Historian:**

Sharon Marburger

**Legislative Liaison:**

Susy McMahan

**Membership Record:**

Edward Ridge

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Vera Lyman

**Programs:**

Andrew Tiedje

**Property:**

James Marburger

**Recognition/Awards:**

Charles Wooldridge, James Marburger, Ed Dvorak

**Refreshments/Door Prizes:**

Vera Lyman

**Roadside Clean-up:**

James Marburger

**Scholarship:**

Vera Lyman

**Show—2017:**

Jayne Beer

**Swap—2018:**

Sharon Marburger

**Website:**

Jim & Sharon Marburger

**Youth Activities:**

Carolyn Ashmore, Linda Guenter

**2017 SHOW COMMITTEE**

- Chairman: .....Jayne Beer
- Dealers:.....Vera Lyman
- Demonstrators:.....Vera Lyman
- Displays: .....Jayne Beer  
.....Ed Ridge
- Event Center Liaison .....Vera Lyman
- Finance & Ticket Sales:..... Jim Atkins  
.....Vera Lyman
- Floor Chairman:..... Ed Dvorak  
.....Jayne Beer
- Fluorescent Booth:..... Bob Gritmit
- Forms..... Sharon Marburger
- LGMC Club Booth: ..... Charles Wooldridge
- Nebraska Gem Dig: ..... Charles Wooldridge
- Plants: .....Ed Ridge
- Printed Program:..... Sharon Marburger
- Publicity & Promotion:.....Jim Marburger
- Ribbons & Recognitions:.. Sharon Marburger
- Security:.....Vera Lyman
- Show Flyer.....Jayne Beer  
..... Sharon Marburger
- Silent Auction:..... Sharon Marburger
- Special Features:.....
- Web Master: .....Jim Marburger  
..... Sharon Marburger
- Youth Activities:..... Carolyn Ashmore  
..... Linda Guenter

**ADVERTISING, SUBSCRIPTION, AND MEMBERSHIP 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.

Subscription to the Pick & Shovel is \$15.00 per year for mailed copy.

Membership dues for the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

- Adults (age 16 and over) - \$15 per year or \$25 per couple (within the same household)
- Juniors - \$2 per year (with a responsible adult)

All new memberships must be accompanied by a written application. Prospective members must gain Board approval and attend one regular meeting before being approved for membership.



**This Editor is a member of Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors**

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5342  
Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

Or e-mail newsletters to:  
lgmc.editor@outlook.com



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

# PICK & SHOVEL

## FOUNDER'S ANECDOTE

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story comes from a book of his own writings that Founder, Irl "Evey" Everett put together.

### I'LL TAKE ALL YOU GOT!

We were doing a show in Hastings, and my friends Neal and Connie Sherman were there as dealers. The show was a little slow after dinner, so I told Lois I was going to look around. As I walked around, I stopped at the Sherman's booth and visited with Neal. He had some onyx dogs that looked like Orphan Annie's old dog Sandy. They were not the best carved, but he had a sign which said *Close Out Price 75 Cents Each*.

I counted them and there were about 10 or 12 on Neal's table. I said, "What is your bottom dollar on the dogs?" Neal went over and acted like he was asking Connie what he should do. He came back and asked if I wanted them all for 35 cents each. So ol' me—I was in the trap again. I said, "Yes, I'll take all you got." I told him to just bring them over when we packed up for home.

From then on I forgot all about the 35-cent dogs until a couple of hours before the show closed. Here came ol' Neal with a two-wheeled cart and four boxes

on it. He said, "Hey, Evey, where do you want the dogs you bought?" Knowing I had been had and was in the "trap", and in there real tight, I didn't want Neal to know that, so I told him to just set them behind my table.

Then came a surprise!! What I thought I was buying were 10-12 dogs, which turned into four boxes of dogs. Total count was 50 dogs. I did not want Neal to know he had "dinged" me, so I paid him off and sat for a long time licking my wounds.

Them danged dogs were a curse on me for a long time. I could only sell maybe one or two at each show. So I got rid of them by putting them in grab bags ... gave them out for door prizes ... and even donated them to the kids' table so I could get some relief over my being once again taken by Neal.

Rats. (Or maybe I should say doggone!)

## FEBRUARY ROCK PARTY—CONT'D

(Continued from page 4)



Corey's  
Montana  
agates



Jayne  
working on  
her silver  
smith  
project



Eddie working  
a stone