

## MINERAL MONKEYS

by Carolyn Ashmore

Wow! What a great show we had! You all worked so hard, and Susy and I couldn't ask for a better bunch of kids and adults, all working together as one big happy family (the rockhound way). A BIG thank you to Linda Guenter, Breanna Suhr, Sharon Schleiger, Marcia Eddy-Hamilton, and Philip Ashmore for giving their time, allowing everyone to get a chance to look around the show.



photo by Carolyn Ashmore

With summer right around the corner, and May 15th our last meeting for 3 months, IT'S FIELD TRIP SEASON!!!!

For some the Senior Monkeys our lesson for May will be a review, but it is something we can never hear enough. "Safety In The Field," the dos and don'ts for when you are out on a field trip. We will also discuss the "AFMS Code of Ethics" which is every rockhound's GOLDEN RULE.

With the field trip season upon us, another thing I want to cover is how to store and label your collection. By now, you all know how to collect, but storing that collection sometimes becomes a problem! We're going to show you several ways of storing what you collect. Using egg cartons, shoe boxes, and other containers, you can store all your collections: neatly, labeled, and organized.

Remind your parents about the May 24 field trip to Jesup, Iowa; and watch the P&S for information about the field trip to Ashfalls State Park this summer.

See you at the meeting!

## APRIL ROCK PARTY

by Sharon Marburger

The Rock Party was hosted by Ed Ridge on April 19th. Eddie planned a fantastic party, complete with food and a geological Easter egg hunt! It was a glorious Saturday evening; perfect temperature and no bugs!! We gathered in Eddie's back yard where we had a lovely sandwich picnic with all the trimmings.



photo by Jayne Beer

Because it was Easter weekend, the party had a slow start. Soon enough, though, members began trickling in. Those in attendance - Sharon Marburger, Ed Dvorak, Brian Beer, Jayne Beer, Corey Beer, Jayne's nephew Jake, Charles Wooldridge, Jackie Barnhardt, and, of course, Ed Ridge - had a fun time eating and hunting for Easter eggs.



photo by Sharon Marburger

Eddie went all-out with the Easter eggs. He "planted" 60+ eggs filled with small stones and minerals, and many with slips of numbered paper. The numbers corresponded with a larger specimen, rough, or slabs. The numbered items were found in Eddie's basement, living room, or garage. It seemed like quite a labor-intensive effort on Eddie's part, but I think he enjoyed it as much as we who hunted. All of the treasures were donated by Eddie, from his personal collection.

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The hunters combed Eddie’s front, back, and side yards, and the garage, for eggs. I always find great pleasure in teasing Corey when he misses a specimen, and I was not to be disappointed during this endeavor. Corey did not realize that two eggs were hidden in the same spot; he got one, I the other.

At the end of it all, Eddie said he located a few of the eggs that we missed, and one is still missing. At least the specimens won’t decompose and make a big stench like real eggs!!

photos on this page by Jayne Beer and Sharon Marburger



above:  
Sharon’s treasures from the Easter Egg Hunt



# 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

[jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com](mailto:jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com)  
[www.jjlrocksandminerals.com](http://www.jjlrocksandminerals.com)  
jjlrocksmin - Ebay Username



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