



# Livermore *Lithogram*

Volume XXXIII  
Number 04  
April, 2008

Livermore Lithophiles  
Livermore, California  
Member: CFMS

**Next General Meeting:**  
Thursday, 10, 2008  
Carnegie Building, 4<sup>th</sup> and J Streets  
7:30 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting:**  
Thursday, April 24, 2008  
The Shop, 7:30 p.m.

**Refreshments: Jane Crone and Bill Snyder**

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### Program:

DVD on either a National Park or the 2007 show at Tucson.

### *Presidents Message:*

Hello, Lithophiles!

The sale of Mike Gorges' material went very well. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the sale. There is still lot's of material left including cabinet specimens, fossils and lapidary material. We'll need to figure out what to do with it. Which brings me to my next concern - we have too much weight in the attic storage area again. We need to clear some of the material in storage. This requires planning another work detail.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not be participating at the Wine Festival this year. If you were planning to help at the Wine Festival, thank you. We do plan to be at the Children's Festival at the end of summer.

I encourage members to come to the April meeting and bring your fundraising ideas.

**Bill Snyder, President**

# POLISHING COMPOUNDS

By **Dick Friesen**

Everyone wants to know what the "Best" polishing compound is and how should it be used. Unfortunately, I don't think there is a "best" just a "better" depending on your technique for the stone in question. Here are some of my thoughts on the subject.

**Place To Look For Information:** "Gem and Lapidary Materials" by June Culp Zietner is available at some book stores and from the Lapidary Journal. June has covered most, if not all, materials you will ever cut and has recommendations for cutting and polishing them.

**Fundamental Problem:** Any recommendation for polishing difficult gems requires the added statement that technique is as important as selecting the polishing compound. Techniques are not well described in any book I have read. In fact, I have found many books to be hard to follow or contradictory. Most books describe techniques for agate and that is about all. Since agate is about the easiest material to polish, this is not very helpful.

I think a whole book could be written just about polishing technique, so I won't be too helpful here either.

**The Old Standbys:** The oxides, cerium, tin, and chrome have been used for years and with patience almost all gem materials have been successfully polished with them. But newer polishes are available and in most cases are superior to them.

**Colloidal Polishes:** Colloidal polishes of diamond, alumina, silica, cerium, tin, and chrome are available from Rick Ford at mAji, Beaver Creek Oregon. These polishes hold the polish in suspension better and require less polish and in general are faster than the standard polishes.

**Aluminum Oxide:** There are several different aluminum oxides and they each have their place. The one you hear about most I think is Linde A. This is a .3 micron polish that has been around for a long time and could be listed as an old stand-by except for its price, it is about \$100 a pound. Reynolds has a set of polishes available through Diamond Pacific and I have had very

good luck with their .2 micron polish. FitzCorp in Point Blank Texas has a .1 micron polish that I think is a very good product, they have a lot of research behind it.

Myers Rapid Polish gets my vote as the best jade polish I have tried yet (see my article in the June 1998 Rock and Gem). There is something about its structure that controls orange peel better.

I find as time goes on, I am using aluminum oxides of tenger and the old stand-bys less. Again, technique plays a large part in this.

**Diamond Polish:** This has been the polish of choice for difficult stones for a long time by a lot of cutters, but I am not one of them. I think the extender fluid hides the surface too much and I am taking too long to get the polish I want. I know others use it and like it.

**Diamond Polishing Belts:** There are several manufacturers of diamond polishing belts and wheels and all do an excellent job on agate. In fact, if you do mostly agate, I think the convenience is hard to beat. With the harder to polish stones I always seem to do better with one of the other polishes.



Morrison Jasper



Agua Nueva Agate



# California Shows And Events

**April 4, 5, & 6, Bakersfield**

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society  
 6th Annual Rock & Gem Rendezvous  
 Indoor Show/Outdoor Tail Gate  
 Kern County Fairgrounds  
 1142 South P Street  
 Hours: Fri. 9 - 8; Sat. & Sun. 9 - 5  
 Lewis Helfrich (661) 872-8230 or 323-2663  
 Email: lewsrocks@bak.rr.com

**April 12-13, Mariposa**

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
 Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
 Peggy Ronning (209) 742-7625  
 Email: mineralmuseum@sti.net

**April 4, 5, & 6, San Jose**

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
 Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
 334 Tully Road  
 Hours: Fri. 9-5, Sat. & Sun. 10 - 5 both days  
 Email: info@scvngms.org  
 Website: [www.scvngms.org](http://www.scvngms.org)

**April 26-27 2008, Santa Cruz**

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society  
 Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium at Corner of Center & Church Streets  
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
 Eleanor & Hubert Drake (831-8086)  
 Email: hm Drake@pacbell.net

**May 3-4 2008, Bakersfield**

Kern County Mineral Society  
 Ming Ave and P Street  
 Kern County Fairgrounds  
 Hours: 10-5 both days  
 Ismael Sanchez (661) 301-4609

**June 27, 28, 29 2008, Ventura**

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
 Ventura County Fairgrounds  
 Hours: 10-5 Daily  
 Bural LaRue (909) 874-5664  
 Email: bplarue@earthlink.net

**November 22-23 2008, Livermore**

LITHORAMA 2008 Show and Sale,  
 Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & Mineral Club; The 'BARN' 3131 Pacific

Ave. east of Livermore Ave. Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. Visit us at our website [www.lithophiles.org](http://www.lithophiles.org)

Show information is available at the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

*Additional Resources:*

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

American Lands Access Association website: [www.amerlands.org](http://www.amerlands.org)

CO-OP website: [www.coop.freeservers.com](http://www.coop.freeservers.com)

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies web page [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org) gives everyone access to the CFMS Newsletter.

**LITHOGRAM EDITOR  
NEEDED!**

The time has come for another Lithophile member to have some fun editing and publishing *The Lithogram*.

Please contact **Bill Snyder** (925) 443-5497 or **Beth Myers** (408) 897-3060 if you are interested.

## Sunshine

Deloris Colonna is happy to be back home in Livermore recovering after an extended stay in the hospital at Walnut Creek. And, we are very happy to have her home again.

# Field Trips

## "CO-OP MEMBER" FIELD TRIPS

- All non-CFMS members must have proof of personal liability insurance (homeowners or renters)
- This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.
- Remember to wear your name badge and sign in with the field trip leader.
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- CO-OP website has information: [www.ourfieldtrips.org](http://www.ourfieldtrips.org) (Password is needed)

Trip Location: **Stonyford, CA Area**

**When:** April 19, 2008 10 a.m. check-in. (Rain date May 17)

**Sponsor Club:** Sutter Buttes GMS

**Members Guests:** Not Allowed

**Collection Material:** Jasper occurs in many vivid color combinations and patterns including orbicular and poppy. Agate nodules (some with fortification), small pieces of seam agate (some colored green) and a green jasper/ chert like material (emerald green colored) which has green translucent agate areas. Hematite veining occurs in some canary yellow jasper which you can "see into" when worked up into cabs. There is potential to find minerals here especially if you are willing to cross Stony Creek and do some hiking on the ridges.

**Leader & Contact Info:** Must Contact Gerald (Gerry) Hill, Jr. Phone (530) 695-1595 email: [jrhill1@4xtreme.org](mailto:jrhill1@4xtreme.org)

**Meet/Directions:** Meet 10 a.m. at the Stonyford OHV site. From North or South recommend I-5 to Maxwell, CA. (approx. 80mi. North of Sacramento). Travel West on Maxwell Sites Rd. Make a right turn on Ladoga/Stonyford Rd. and continue on to Stonyford proper. In Stonyford find Fouts Springs Rd. and travel west approximately six miles to the OHV (Off Highway Vehicle Area). Park in the lot West of the restroom. We will travel from there a short distance by road some of which is gravel but passenger vehicle appropriate. Vehicle Req's: Passenger vehicles no problem but BRING PLENTY OF GAS! Always carry chains.

**Camp/Facilities:** RV (with dump station) and tent camping with restrooms and potable water is available at Fouts Springs approximately 6mi. West of OHV area on Fouts Springs Rd. There are a couple of rough places in the road but it is passenger car appropriate as long as you take it easy. Decent Motel lodging can be obtained in Williams, CA. and Colusa Casino (superb dining). There is a Basque Restaurant in Maxwell and additional dining in Williams. Stonyford has a small market which might be on "winter" hours.

**Tools:** Broad-brimmed hat, goggles, high-top boots, plenty of water, gloves, rock hammer, sledge, chisels, day sack or bucket for collectibles, etc. are all advised. Packframe and rope?

**Safety Concerns:** This area is very snaky (rattlesnakes) during the spring and summer months. You will want to exercise caution especially in thick grass or while in brushy ravines. Terrain is mixed and some is steep. A ski pole/walking stick is quite useful. A creek crossing will greatly increase our potential for accessing one orbicular jasper/mineral area (there are two) but we will only attempt this if the water level is knee deep or less. Mosquito repellent is advisable. We strongly recommend long sleeve shirts due to brush and dead burned over manzanita that often has an "attitude".

**Climate/Weather :** In April anything goes! Evenings can be quite cold and damp if camping in. Days might be downright hot.

**Clothing:** Team members will need to bring sturdy clothes, extra dry clothing, (including shoes), as a creek crossing could be appropriate if creek is low enough to do so safely. Warm clothing and raingear is a must to bring even if we do not need it.

**Other Remarks:** Remember to bring plenty of snack foods and drinking water. We will burn some carbs out there! Large boulders of decent jasper exist in addition to plentiful smaller pieces. You might plan accordingly if you desire the larger slabbing material. plenty of water, gloves, rock hammer, sledge, chisels, day sack or bucket for collectibles, etc. are all advised. Packframe and rope?



## Mike Gorges Mineral Sale

By **Bill Beiriger**

The sale of minerals, fossils and lapidary material donated by Mike Gorges is now behind us.

We had a lot of help from both our long time members and our new members.

Bob Trimmingham had the minerals and fossils stored at his house and I had most of the lapidary material stored at my house. Joan and I are glad to have most of the material out of the way but we will be bringing the last of the lapidary material home that is still at Mike's. I know that Bob will be glad to have room to walk around his house. He had over 100 flats stored in every room of his house.

Joan and I still have seven boxes of Mike's display minerals at our house plus we have his display case. We will be putting his case in at LITHORAMA 2008 in November and possibly at another show or two during the remainder of this year.

We made a lot of individuals happy and other clubs happy with the material they purchased for their clubs to use for raffle and door prizes at their meetings. Many of our club members also purchased a lot of the material.

There is also a lot more material that we will use at LITHORAMA 2008.

While we had the BARN rented we did some cleaning of some of the material that we had stored in the upstairs area. We could have done more cleaning but we were all tired after a long day.

So! Again thanks to all who helped.

The CO-OP website also has information: [www.ourfieldtrips.org](http://www.ourfieldtrips.org). All non-CFMS members must have proof of personal liability insurance (renters or homeowners policy.) These trips are open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.

**April 26** Pulga, CA (N. of Oroville) for Idocrase ("Pulga Jade"). Paradise Gem & Mineral Society

**May 3** Carson Hill, CA for Minerals. Sacramento Mineral Society

**May 17- 18** Fairview, NV for agate, geodes, wonderstone. Nevada Co. Gem & Mineral Society

**May 21 - 26** Texas Springs, NV for pink agate limb casts, agate, petrified wood. Tri-Federation, Dick Pankey

## Minutes of the General Meeting March 13, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by president **Bill Snyder**. It was announced that treasurer **Deloris Colonna** was seriously ill and at Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek. **Ernie Myers** proposed that flowers be sent to **Deloris** and a number of those present contributed for this purpose. **Bob Trimmingham** will take the bouquet and club wishes for a rapid recovery to **Deloris C.** tomorrow.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tabled (**Deloris** absent). **Bob T.** collected money turned in using labeled envelopes.

**Minutes:** **Bill Beiriger** noted a correction to be made in the General Minutes of Feb. 14, 2008. Under correspondence "XYZZX" should be spelled "ZZYZX."

**Shop:** **Dick Friesen** said a work party is needed to clean the shop. Two hours might be sufficient. This possibly could be done after the sale on March 29, 2008.

**Sale of Mike Gorges Material:** **Bill B.** will contact LARPD and reserve the Barn from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (new time) on Saturday, March 29. The new schedule is:

8 - 9 AM	Set up.
9 - 10 AM	Sale. Club Members Only.
10 - 1 PM	Sale to Public.
1 - 5 PM	Clean up, includes the shop & attic.

**CFMS:** **Bob Whiteside** brought a newsletter and called attention to a field trip to Texas Springs, Nevada on May 21 - 25.

**Lithorama:** **Bill B.** said the show this November will be his last as chairperson. A Lithorama guidance book is available. One corner of the Barn will be free for kids activities.

**Wine Country Festival:** We will have a lot of new material. Help will be needed. **Bill B.** showed examples of new things for kids, such as dinosaur models that the kids assemble, plastic mini dinosaurs, etc. **Bill B.** is donating hanging display baskets that attach to tables. This will give us more room on tabletops.

**Fair Display:** May consider doing, but a new volunteer is needed to organize and set up the exhibit.

**Field Trips:** The poppy jasper trip was cancelled (land for sale). Sunday, April 13 there is a field trip to the new Bankhead property off Tesla Road for rocks and fossils. The trip begins at 1:00 p.m. Details at the April 10 meeting.

**Old Business:** **Bill B.** discussed his activities with the schools. **Bob T.** and **Deloris C.** helped him at the Livermore Science Fair and **Shana Day** and **Joan Beireiger** may help at the Pleasanton Science Fair on March 19. **Bill B.** gave a presentation to over 300 kids (K-1, 2-8) at Holy Spirit School and found the participants appreciative. A talk to Livermore School district science teachers revealed they would most like rock and mineral identification kits (for 2009).

### New Business:

- ☉ **Dick F.** is trying to arrange a talk by master carver **Glenn Lite** (sp?) for our club in October. The fee would be \$75.00. Would be on our regular Thursday night meeting date (Oct.9), but larger facility might be needed. **Bill B.** will see if the library meeting room is available.
- ☉ **Bob T.** talked about the spectacular displays of U.S. minerals and gems at the Tucson show this year. A verbal auction on Friday night was a new feature.
- ☉ A complete set of DVD's on lapidary art is available for \$200.00, a bargain price. Possible purchase will be discussed at the Board meeting.

**Refreshments:** **Jane Crone** and **Bill Snyder** for the April 10 meeting.

**Program:** **Bob Trimmingham** gave members nine different ways to identify or distinguish between common minerals using simple equipment. All of this was "hands on", with the equipment for each test passed around in boxes.

The meeting adjourned about 9:30 p.m.

- *Bob Trimmingham*, Secretary

This will be **Bill Beiriger's** last year as Show Chairman for our annual gem & mineral show. We need a volunteer to fill this position. It would be wonderful if the new Chair could work with **Bill** in preparing for our 2008 show in November. If you are the one, please call **Bill Snyder** (925) 443-5497 or **Bill Beiriger** (925) 443-5769.

## Minutes of the Board Meeting March 21, 2008

The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. at the shop. Present were president **Bill Snyder**, secretary **Bob Trimmingham**, **Bill Beireger** and **Dick Friesen**. The **Myers'** were ill and **Deloris Colonna** was home recovering from illness. No quorum was present.

**Correspondence:** A letter was received from Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society (Black Hills of South Dakota) proposing an exchange of rocks, fossils and "ideas". Tabled.

### Mike Gorges' Collection Sale:

- ⊛ **Bill B.** showed a floor plan and a set of rules for the sale that he and **Bob T.** put together.
- ⊛ Coffee available, free. Donuts (donation). **Bill B.** will pick up three dozen donuts.
- ⊛ Big coffee pot with small one as back up. **Bill B.** will bring extension cord (if needed) and he will call Albert Hess about the pots.
- ⊛ Must a sales tax be charged? **Bill B.** will call **Mike Kokinos** to check on this. A tax would be added on, not included in the price of the material.

**Purchase of DVD set on Jewelry Class Techniques:** Tabled.

**Festival Sales Material For Kids:** **Bill B.** talked about purchase prices and suggested sale prices. Will discuss further at the general meeting.

**Shop:** **Dick F.** and **Lynn Zirkle** have cleaned two saws at the shop.

**Program (April 10):** DVD on either a National Park or the 2007 show at Tucson.

**Announcement:** **Bill B.** will give a talk on dinosaurs (with video?) at the shop on April 9 to six scouts. Shop tools will be explained.

### New Items:

- ⊛ Might we prepare a program with slides, maps, etc. as a field trip guide for schools, scouts? We are receiving requests for information in this regard.
- ⊛ What mineral, rock, fossil and geology sites would be safe and productive for kids to visit in our area? Tabled.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Bob Trimmingham, Secretary*

## Association And Car Problems

By **Bill Beiriger**

As many of you know when Bob Trimmingham goes on collecting trips and vacations, he all too often has car problems. Many of these problems are MAJOR.

For years I have considered Bob a very close friend, but now I am wondering if that is a good idea.

During this past year Bob has had one of these MAJOR problems. Now those problems have migrated to me. First was the replacement of the Fuel Sensor and Fuel Pump, over \$700. Then it was the Transmission at over \$5200. And then, the Crankshaft Position Sensor over \$200. Except for the engine, I now have a new van.

I was lucky all my troubles were here in Livermore while Bob's were in little towns in out of the way areas.

So Bob! Remember, trouble comes in 3's and we have both had our 3's.

## Bankhead Tesla Road Field Trip

**Date:** Sunday, April 20, 2008

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

We will meet at the intersection of Greenville Road and Tesla Road at 1:00 p.m. Nancy will lead us to the ranch. Nancy will have her cell phone with her (510) 388-7669.

**Material:** We will be looking for float material, rocks and fossil clams. This is an exploratory trip, who knows what we might find?

The date was changed from April 13 to April 20 due to a conflict in Nancy's schedule.

## Livermore Valley Lithophiles

Beth Myers, Editor  
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eme2@wildblue.net



We're on the Web at [www.lithophiles.org](http://www.lithophiles.org)

## Elected Officers and Club Information

### Elected Officers:

President	Bill Snyder	(925) 443-5497
Vice President	Beth Myers	(408) 897-3060
Secretary	Bob Trimmingham	(925) 443-5983
Treasurer	Deloris Colonna	(925) 447-5041

**Membership:** The Livermore Valley Lithophiles invites to its membership anyone genuinely interested in minerals, gems, lapidary, geology or any of the other earth sciences, and who desires association with others of like interests. Membership in our club consists of three classes: Senior, anyone eighteen years or older; Junior, anyone under eighteen; and Honorary. Dues are for the calendar year and are as prescribed in the by-laws, Article III. \$25.00 per family, \$20.00 per individual and \$10.00 for Juniors (twelve and older.)

**Meetings:** General Meeting - Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Building, 4<sup>th</sup> and J Streets, Livermore. Board Meeting - Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Club Shop or to be announced in the *Lithogram*. Any special meetings or places will be published in the *Lithogram*.

**Club Shop:** The shop at the Barn is open to club members 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.. on Tuesday nights. If no one arrives by 7:30 p.m.. or if the Shop Foreman has not been informed a member will arrive late, then the shop will close at 7:30 p.m. Call Lynn Zirkle, Shop Foreman, at (925) 443-2920.

**Field Trips:** Location and date will be published in the *Lithogram*.

**Bulletin:** *Livermore Lithogram*. Published monthly and mailed or emailed to active members and guests. News of interest, reports and articles must be received by the first Tuesday of the month. Articles may be reprinted by giving proper credit. Editor: Beth Myers, 35705 San Antonio Valley Road, Livermore, CA 94550-8402, email: eme2@wildblue.net



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