

# Livermore

# Lithogram



**Volume XXXIV, Number 12**  
**December 2009**

**Livermore Valley Lithophiles**  
**Livermore, California**

Next General Meeting:  
 Thursday, **December 10, 2009**  
 Carnegie Building, 4th and 'J' Streets  
 6:00 PM

**Program:** Christmas Party Meeting  
 Pot-Luck Dinner

Next Board Meeting:  
 Thursday, **NONE**  
 The SHOP, 7:30 PM  
 Members are welcome to attend!

**Refreshments:** Pot-Luck - See inside for info



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**Presidents Message:**



We had a great show! Over 1000 adults and children visited the Barn over the two days – that's nearly two times the attendance from the 2008 show. Many thanks to the dedicated members who spent long hours helping out during the Lithorama. Special thanks go to Pat Iannucci for her able chairwomanship, to Gayla Langlois for managing the kitchen, to Dick Friesen who got the dealers and guest exhibitors, and to Bill Beiriger who created the activity for kids.

Our next meeting, on December 10, is our Holiday Party. It's a potluck so bring a dish to share – if you've ever attended a Lithophile's potluck, you know that we have some very good cooks so be sure to come. See more details in this issue.

Thanks to all the members who volunteered and helped make this a great year for the Lithophiles. Our new President, Bob Trimmingham, surely will be asking for your help for 2010. Please don't hesitate to step up to contribute to the vitality of our club when Bob asks for help.

See you at the Holiday Party!  
 - Chris Hunt, President

# *Minutes of General Meeting*

November 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by:  
President Chris Hunt.

**Guests: None**

**Correspondence:** Other club newsletters, money for raffle tickets. A letter from Livermore City requesting that we get a business license. Bill B. will check it out.

**Treasurer's report:**

Diane Day gave the treasure's report.

**New Members:** None

**Lithorama:**

- Bill Snyder will be security on Friday night. He is willing to do it Saturday if no one else will volunteer, but would rather not.
- Bill B. needs refrigerator space for soup, Diane offered hers.
- We need a \$50 bill for raffle prize.
- Suggestion we have a Whiteboard to put up raffle winners. In discussion, it wasn't clear what the value was, so we'll not do it.
- There's a stack of advertising cards. We'll take them to any place it might help.
- Hourly door prizes. We've got items from previous efforts, and the dealers make make donations. Members might bring items.
- Silent Auction. Make arrangements for getting materials to the barn. Most are in the storage area and there are some at Nancy's. If anyone has time they may want to go to Nancy's and pick through it and bring it to the barn. Bob T. has some flats that can be auctioned or to sell.
- We discussed how to coordinate the silent auction and the door prizes so there is no conflict for the microphone.
- Ye Old Timers Breakfast will be held in the back room at Emil Villas restaurant. Meeting time 7:30 AM Sunday Nov. 22.
- We'll have a vote again for the favorite case.
- We have received the insurance certificate, and will make sure that the park department has a cop.
- Kid's Corner. Kids will get a blank card to which they'll stick rocks and minerals on with hot glue.
- Crystal Growing project is proceeding well, as far as we know.
- Beth put the show information on web sites that Rich H. sent her.
- Pat wants donations of a pie or cake.
- Set-up starting time on Friday: 9:00 AM. Donuts and Coffee will be served.

**Nominations:**

- President - Bob Trimmingham
- Vice President - Chris Hunt
- Secretary - Larry Patzkowski
- Treasurer - Diane Day

No nominations from the floor.  
The slate was passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

- Are the Livermore Lithophiles a corporation? Yes, we last filed in 2008 as a corporation. We think we'll need to do this again in 2010.
- Bill B. gave the books we purchased to the schools.

**New Business:**

December meeting will be our Christmas Potluck. Starts at 6:00 PM. Bring a dish to share, along with your own silverware and plates. We'll do a gift exchange. Mark gift for male/female / either. Club will provide Bing-O prizes.

Bob T. moved we adjourn, seconded by Bill B.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM  
Bob Whiteside, Secretary

**IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR  
WHEN THE LITHOPHILES HAVE  
THEIR ANNUAL MEETING AND  
CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK**

**TIME - 5:00 PM  
DATE - THURSDAY - DEC. 10  
PLACE - CARNEGIE BUILDING  
(OUR NORMAL MEETING AREA)**

**BRING - A FOOD ITEM TO SHARE  
YOUR OWN PLATES, GLASSES AND  
SILVER WARE**

**AN EXCHANGE GIFT  
(MARK IT - MALE / FEMALE / EITHER)**

# California Shows And Events

## 2010

**March 5-6-7 2010**, Newark, CA  
**Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley**  
**Newark Pavilion - NEW LOCATION**  
 6430 Thornton Avenue, Newark, CA 94560  
 Hours: Fri & Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
 Lary Ham (510) 887-9007  
 Email: showchair@mgscv.org  
 Website: www.mgscv.org

**March 13-14 2010**, Turlock, CA  
**Mother Load Mineral Society**  
 Stanislaus Co. Fairgrounds  
 900 N Broadway  
 Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5  
 Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494  
 Email: terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com  
 Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

**March 20-21 2010**, Vallejo, CA  
**Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society**  
 Vallejo Elks Lodge  
 2850 Redwood Parkway  
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
 Phylis Malacki (707) 745-3255  
 Email: Vgms01@yahoo.com  
 Website: www.iwired.org

**March 27-28 2010**, Roseville, CA  
**Roseville Rock Rollers**  
 Roseville (Placer Co.) Fairgrounds  
 800 All American City Blvd.  
 Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4  
 Glori Marie (916) 216-1114  
 Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com  
 Website: www.rockrollers.com

**April 16, 17, 18, 2010**, San Jose, CA  
**Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society**  
 Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
 334 Tully Road  
 Hours: Fri 9-5, Sat & Sun 10-5  
 Frank Mullaney (408) 265-1422  
 Email: info@scvgms.org  
 Website: www.scvgms.org

**November 20-21, 2010** Livermore  
**LITHORAMA 2010 Show and Sale,**  
**Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & Mineral Society;** 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)

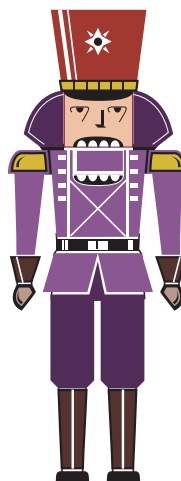
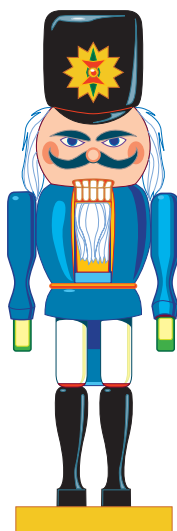
**Additional Resources:**

**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.



# *Sand of the Month*

Mineral Crystals in Sands

William Beiriger

Minerals come in all shapes and sizes. Most people have seen large showy crystals on Pyrite, Quartz, Calcite and Tourmaline. My specialty for minerals has been micro mount mineral crystals that require using a stereo microscope. The micro crystals look the same and sometimes even better than their larger counterparts because they have not had a chance to bump against each other and grow together as the larger ones.

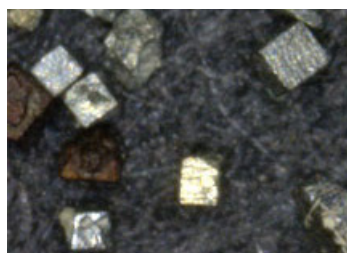
I had no idea that there were even well formed crystals in sand until I started taking a close look at the sand I had in my collection. Of the sands that contain crystals most are damaged as they bounce against each other and lose their crystal faces.

The quartz crystals shown below are formed in gypsum. The gypsum is very soft and dissolves in water releasing the quartz crystals. The garnets probably weathered out of a rock similar to the Franciscan formation along the California coast. I don't have any idea how the pyrite crystals formed, but what is interesting is that they are from the same beach. One end of the beach has the golden colored crystals while the other end contains the limonite coated crystals. At White Sands National Park you can find rhombohedron crystals of gypsum though most have been weathered. Other minerals include zircon, sapphire and ruby and spinel, ilmenite, magnetite, rutile and several others. A major mineral that is found in the beach sands along the African coast are diamonds, though in most cases they are small.

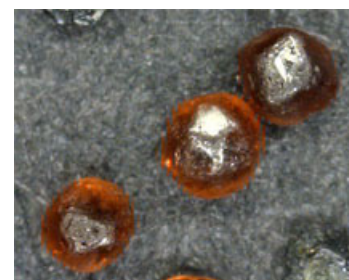
Next time you go rock and mineral collecting take a look at sand that may be in the rivers in the area where you collect, YOU MAY JUST FIND CRYSTALS.



Quartz  
New Mexico  
2.80 mm



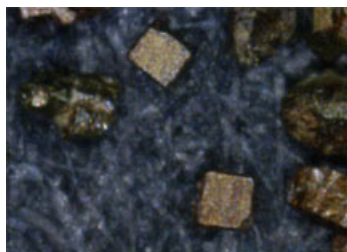
Pyrite  
Cyprus  
0.15 mm



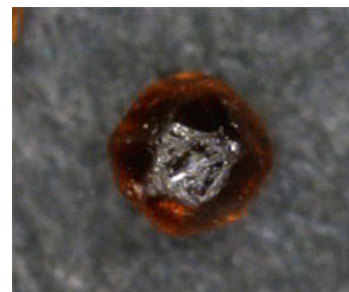
Garnet  
New Zealand  
0.50 mm



Dipyramid Quartz  
New Mexico  
2.30 mm



Pyrite w/ Limonite Coating  
Cyprus  
0.12 mm



Garnet  
New Zealand  
0.57 mm

# *Lithorama Report*

## **A Big Thank You for Your Help!**

I would like to thank all the members who helped make the Lithorama a great success. I appreciate Bill Beiriger's mentoring which was a big contributing factor in making this show do so well. The attendance this year was over 1100 people and brought in a gross of almost \$6000! This was largely due to the great publicity efforts. Bill Beiriger has spent many hours going to the elementary schools to give talks and publicizing the club and the show. Nancy suggested creating a glossy, colorful card. Diane Day designed the great postcard for us to pass out. Nancy submitted the same design to be published in the Independent. Bill B. and Rich Hunt wrote articles for the newspaper. Beth sent out flyers to area clubs and submitted show information to numerous web sites. The banner was still over 4th St. through the show weekend. Bill B. also put in a display at the Library. As a result of all the publicity, the attendance was almost overwhelming.

Some of our newer members, Jeff Carnes, Jay Springarn, and Dianne Merlone, spent most of the weekend helping out as did many of our long time members. Although it was a lot of work it was also a lot of fun. It was especially gratifying to see so many children (almost 400!) who were excited about assembling the set of mineral specimens that Bill Beiriger planned. Gayla bought all the food and spent three days making the food concession run smoothly. Deloris manned the cashier table all weekend. Thanks go to Bill B. and Chris for the delicious soups. Joan always transforms the barn with her decorations. Bob Trimmingham and Albert ran the auction table all weekend. Rich Langlois manned the glow room most of the weekend. Dick did a great job lining up the exhibitors, dealers and demonstrators. He and Jan Watling spent the weekend demonstrating. Another thanks to Dick for hosting the after show get-together. Bill B. embellished the small silver boxes given out to our exhibitors. Jim Gruver always makes the electrical set up look easy. I'm grateful to Bill Snyder, Diane, and Shana for the overnight security duty.

As we look to future shows, we are going to need more of our members to help during the show setup and during the show. I ask all of you members to put next year's show on your calendars (Nov. 19-21) so more of you can take the opportunity to have fun and support the club in its effort to promote our wonderful hobby.

Pat Iannucci

## **Wonders of a Crystal Author Unknown**

A crystal is one of the strangest objects of nature. It is not alive, yet it grows. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical forms, cements the parts together and holds them.

Place a crystal in a liquid, or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal and the process of accumulation immediately begins. If a crystal was broken in two parts and placed in a bath of liquefied crystal, the broken surface will be repaired and each part will grow into another crystal, providing the other conditions favorable for crystal growth are present.

Even after a crystal has been worn down until it is but a rounded grain of sand, it will speedily become a crystal again if placed in a solution containing the ingredients of which it is composed. There is no known limit to the ability of a crystal thus to repair itself and resume its growth.

Under a microscope a crystalline solution can be seen forming into crystals, and it is a wonderful sight. First, innumerable dark spots form in the fluid; they stand still and then begin to move. It is soon seen that the movement arranges the spots in straight lines, like beads. The beads speedily coalesce into rods, and the rods arrange themselves into layers until a crystal is created. The process proceeds so rapidly that it is impossible to follow closely.

Via Snoopy Gems, July 2008 (From Gulfport Gems 05/08  
via Golden Spike News 08/01, via Dusty Rocks 07/01, via  
Rock Scoop 2/01), via Canaveral Moonstone, Sept, 2008

# *Lithorama Children's Corner*

## LITHORAMA 2009 Children's Corner and Crystal Growing Project Bill Beiriger

I was hoping for more children to attend LITHORAMA this year but I did not expect that count to be so high. There were about 450 children twelve years and under in age.

It has been a lot of work the past three years working with the elementary school teachers and the school district front office, but it finally paid off. I have enjoyed working with the teachers and have had a lot of support from Pat Boyle as my main contact person.

This year my project was to have the children make a rock and mineral collection. They had the choice of five rocks and three minerals from a selection of nine and four respectively. The rocks and minerals were put into color-coded cans from which the children chose the material without seeing what was in each of the cans. We then helped them with the identification, labeling and hot gluing the specimens onto a card. The children were then sent home to find out about the rocks and minerals they had on their cards. I suggested they look in a book or on the internet to learn about each specimen.

Early on Saturday morning we had a traffic jam at the Children's Corner, there was a 30-minute wait for some of the children to complete their project.

I wish to thank these Lithophiles for helping me at the show; Jay Springarn, Jeff Carnes, Chris Hunt, Rich Hunt, Joan Beiriger and also Teresa Paden a teacher. If I forgot anyone please forgive me.

Many of the teachers made the comment they would like to help with the children's corner project in the future, so next year I hope to have their support.

If I can obtain a large quantity of inexpensive fossils for next year we will have a fossil project at LITHORAMA 2010. I would like to obtain about 750 to 1000 each of the fossils. Items that would work include: Brachiopods, Crinoids, Shark Teeth (Black), Petrified Wood. If you are going to Quartzsite please see me or call me (443-5769).

This was the third year that the Lithophiles worked with the Livermore 4th Grade classes for a display of crystals grown at the schools. As with last year we had seven out of ten schools participate in the project. I am still hoping for participation from all of the schools at future LITHORAMA shows.

The students and schools could use whatever type of material they wanted to grow. The best material was alum with others using borax, halite, sugar and epsom salts. Some of the students even tried mixing several materials together.

The largest crystal was alum and was grown by Sunset School. The most innovative was grown on pipe cleaner that spelled out the school name and was from Rancho Las Positas School.

The following schools participated in the project; Altamont Creek, Emma C. Smith, Jackson Avenue, Joe Mitchell, Leo R. Croce. Rancho Las Positas and Sunset.



SHALOM  
*Happy Hanukkah*



**Winter is Here**



*Merry Christmas*

Coal  
The Mineral of Progress  
By HH "Tom" Odiorne  
From Highlites, April 2002  
via SCRIBE

It seems to me like it was just a few years ago (around the 1930's) that coal was the major source of energy in this country. Of course, this was after firewood, whale oil, and other materials came and went. Back in New England, ships entered every harbor to unload tons and tons of black coal on docks. It piled up as high as small mountains awaiting delivery by wagons and (later) dump trucks to businesses and residences all winter and all summer long. In those days, the major sources of coal were limited to the northern Appalachians, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Illinois, and Kentucky. That was then, but now, coal has been found and mined for many years out of sedimentary-layered beds in numerous states all over the US. I got to thinking about this recently as I counted nearly 100 rail cars on a coal train as they made the trip from Wyoming to some unknown destination to the south.

My personal experience with coal harks back to when I was perhaps eight or ten years old. I remember the black, smelly dust that was created by clods of bituminous coal as it crashed down a chute through a side window into our basement. Every house had a "coal bin" and it was there that it was my job to clean up and sweep up the mess after the deliveryman left. But it was also there that I found my first fossils from ancient swamps millions of years old. Inter-bedded shales and ultra-hardened coal layers revealed beautifully preserved ferns, calamites, and intricately-patterned lepidodendron tree bark. Many years later as a field geologist, I was always intrigued by outcroppings of coal and its many variations whenever they could be observed.

Technically, mineral coal is a hydrocarbon, a fossil fuel formed by the transformation of plant material of ancient swamps into peat, then into lignite, into bituminous ("soft") coal and finally into anthracite ("hard coal"). The mineral now known as Jet is actually a dense, black form of lignite. It takes a remarkably good polish and used to be used for "mourning jewelry". Identification of true Jet is iffy at best today and it is now considered to be a collector's item.

Lightning frequently set fire to peat bogs along the shores of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Early-day emigrants

from Europe dug for lignite to heat their homes, just as they had done in France, Italy, and Ireland.

When I used to conduct field studies in northern Pennsylvania and New York, it was not unusual to enter a town such as Scranton or Pittston and see the streets lined with huge tailings piles of coal and mine debris. At Wilkes-Barre, I remember seeing gift shop displays of attractive coal statuary and even large flat ashtrays. Unfortunately, I never purchased any, and I have not seen any for many years.

The use of coal to generate electricity and to convert into "coke" with its extremely valuable byproducts such as gas, ammonia, light oils, coal tar, etc. has been phenomenal over the last one hundred years. Without coal, the iron and steel industries as they exist today would not have been possible. Plastics, detergents, and a host of other items that we use every day owe their existence to coal.

So, mineral collectors, look over your displays of gems, crystals, micromounts, and fossils. Do you have even one sample of a mineral that has been more valuable to the human race than coal?

## STATE ROCKS, etc.

**Virginia**  
NONE

**Washington**  
State Fossil - Columbian Mammoth  
State Rock - Petrified Wood

**West Virginia**  
State Fossil - Mississippian Fossil Coral  
State Gem - Calcedony

**Wisconsin**  
State Rock - Red Granite  
State Mineral - Galena

**Wyoming**  
State Gemstone - Jade  
State Fossil - Knightia

## Livermore Valley Lithophiles

Bill Beiriger, Editor  
P.O. Box 626  
Livermore, CA 94551-0626  
info@lithophiles.com

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



## Elected Officers and Club Information

### Elected Officers:

**President** Chris Hunt (925) 443-5525  
**V. President** Bill Snyder (925) 443-5497  
**Secretary** Bob Whiteside (925) 455-1540  
**Treasurer** Diane Day (925) 606-0888

**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, 4th 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:**  
Bill Beiriger,  
Livermore, CA 94551-0626,  
email: info@lithophiles.com

**Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM**

**General Meeting Dec. 10th at 6:00 PM**  
**Board Meeting Dec. 24th at 7:30 PM**