

Livermore

Lithogram



Volume XXXVI, Number 2 **Livermore Valley Lithophiles**
February 2011 **Livermore, California**

Next General Meeting:
 Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011
 Carnegie Building, 4th and 'J' Streets
 7:30 PM

Program: "Rhodochrosite, Red Treasure of the Rockies"
Part - 1
Dues Are Due!

Next Board Meeting:
 Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011
 7:30 at 'The Shop'
 Members are welcome to attend!

Refreshments: Albert Hess and Diane Day



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Presidents Message:

Thanks to all who made it to the January organizational meeting. It was productive. Yes, the shop will be open at 7 am on Tuesday nights, with Stephanie, Chris, Diane and ? covering. Program and Field Trip chairpersons are badly needed.

Now, for the Feb. 10 regular meeting, the program will be the first half of the exceptionally fine video called "Rhodochrosite, Red Treasure of the Rockies." This is the story of the modern mining techniques used to capture the spectacular mineral wealth of the Sweet Home Mine near Alma, Colorado. Bring your rhodochrosite, including jewelry, from the Sweet Home or anywhere. This will be a swap meeting too. Anything goes.

Bob Trimmingham, President

Minutes of the General Meeting

January 13, 2011

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7.33 PM by President Bob Trimmingham.

Guests: Billy Williams, a previous member was present. In addition, a new member David Wynsky was present.

Minutes: The December minutes were approved as printed.

Treasure's Report: Diane Day gave the Treasurer's report which included expenses and income. Preliminary gross receipts from the Lithorama were given. The 2-year audit needs to be scheduled.

Lithogram: Bill Beiriger indicated that articles from members are needed instead of relying mostly on other clubs' articles. He stated that publication of the Lithogram is somewhat costly and that members who do not pay their dues would be dropped from distribution.

Shop Report: The team running the shop is working on a schedule. Stephanie Goldsmith brought up safety issues at the shop, and the lack of compliance to basic safety issues. She indicated that some sort of release of liability may be needed and, perhaps a "use at your own risk" notice. We may amend shop rules to be more specific. There was some discussion on the shop's lock and need for service or replacement.

CFMS Report: No report.

Program: Bob Trimmingham indicated that we need a chairperson for programs and that plans for programs need to be made well in advance. DVD's tend to get "old." Bob indicated that a stipend of \$100 for good speakers is a reasonable amount.

Field trips: - Field trips need to be planned. A possible field trip to the paleontology museum near Chowchilla may be a possibility.

Lithorama: It is too early to discuss this year's show.

Schools: Bill Beiriger reported that he spoke to two 4th grade classes this week and will speak to three 2nd grade classes next week. He also has 8 to 10 classes scheduled for February. Apparently, Joe Bruns has had an enquiry from St. Michaels for talks as well. Bill brought up the subject of school funding by the Club this year. He suggested that an amount of \$500 from our Education Fund be donated. This suggestion became a motion which was second by Sally Brown. The motion passed unanimously. Stephanie Goldsmith indicated that she would like to obtain about 30 magnifying glasses for her class.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Bob Trimmingham has been approached by a representative of the Concord club (Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society?) regarding raffle material. We have a significant amount of material inherited from Mike Gorges in storage. We may wish to keep this material for our own use. The matter is under consideration.

Albert Hess brought up the subject of the Club's direction as it pertains to our youthful members. Several ideas were mentioned including funding for their projects. Ideas are to be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Refreshments: Albert Hess and Diane Day will provide refreshments for the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary



Minutes of the Board Meeting

January 27, 2011

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at the Barn at 7:22 PM by President Bob Trimmingham.

Those also in attendance included Bill Snyder, Diane Day, Deloris Colonna, and Jim Grover.

Announcements: - None.

Correspondence: Two new members' membership papers.

Treasure's Report: Diane Day stated that the treasure's report was essentially the same as given at the general meeting (Jan.13). She is gathering information for the 2-year audit.

Shop Report: The shop has been run effectively by the new team. Shop keys have been distributed, as needed.

Program: We will have an opportunity to view a CD on the Sweet Home Mine as well as an informal "swap" of materials.

Field Trips: A field trip to the paleontology museum near Chowchilla is planned for March 12. The field trip could coincide with a visit to the Turlock show.

Schools: Bill Snyder enquired if a visit to the Shop by a small group (8-10) of Livermore High School Special Education students could take place during one of their classes. The preparation steps, with examples, for cabochon cutting could be explained.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Bob Trimmingham showed a brochure that outlined a project planned for the Fairgrounds involving the purchase of bricks. The bricks would be inscribed with the purchaser's name or organization.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

Rare Artifacts Beneath Table Mountain

By Elizabeth K. Myers

When the gold mining companies dug mines and shafts deep beneath Table Mountain in Tuolumne County, California they found more than gold. The miners also found many stone implements – mortars, pestles, grinders, platters and rarely, human fossils.

The stone artifacts found in surface deposits of gravel or in gravels washed out from the hillsides by hydraulic methods were of doubtful age. Excluding finds that may have reached great depths through sinkholes or other means there remain some finds that give cause for thought. "... artifacts from deep mine shafts and tunnels could be more securely dated because the gold-bearing gravels lay underneath thick layers of volcanic material." (Forbidden Archeology, Cremo and Thompson, p. 368)

Mr. Charles David Voy, a part time employee of the California Geological survey, was the recipient of some of the hundreds of stone artifacts found by the miners. Mr. Voy's collection was purchased by D. O. Mills and donated along with his own collection of mollusks to the University of California. The first legislative appointed California state geologist, Professor Josiah D. Whitney, reported to the scientific community on some of the most significant of the finds.

Age of Strata at Tuolumne Table Mountain

Slemmons (1966, p. 200)

Age (Millions of years)	Formation
9.0	Table Mountain latite member
9.0 - 21.1	Andesitic tuffs, breccias & sediments
21.1 - 33.2	Rhyolite tuffs
33.2 - 55.0	Pre-volcanic auriferous gravels
>55.0	Bedrock

A massive latite flow that moved down the Cataract Channel, a Miocene course of the Stanislaus River, forced the river into a new channel and created Tuolumne Table Mountain. The latite lava cap is 9 million years old and is 300 feet thick in the vicinity of the town of Sonora according to R. M. Norris (1976, p. 43).

Dr. Perez Snell of Sonora, California had a collection of Table Mountain artifacts found by the miners and a few by himself that included 2 spear heads (6 – 8 inches long), several scoops or ladles with well shaped handles, a silicious slate with little notches at the end designed as a bow handle, a human jaw and a stone muller used for grinding. Unfortunately, most of his finds are poorly documented. (Whitney 1880, p.264)

Mr. Albert G. Walton, one of the owners of the Valentine Claim found a stone mortar, 15-inches in diameter in gold bearing gravels 180-ft. below the surface and below a latite cap. A piece of human skull was also recovered. (Whitney 1880, p. 265)

Mr. James Carvin wrote in 1871 of a stone hatchet he dug out about 1858. The hatchet had a hole for the handle near the middle, was about 4-inches across the middle and had evidently been made by human hands. It was found "from 60 – 75 ft. from the surface in gravel and basalt and about 300 ft. from the mouth of the tunnel. There were mortars found at about the same time and place." (Whitney 1880, pp. 274-275)

Mr. Oliver W. Stevens in 1870 submitted a notarized affidavit certifying his find about 1853 from the

Sonora tunnel at and in Table Mountain, from a car-load of auriferous gravel which came from under the basalt about 200 ft. in and a depth about 125-foot. He found a mastodon tooth in a good state of preservation, which afterwards was partly broken to reveal a hollow of sulphuret of iron (iron sulfide or pyrite). "And at the same time I found with it some relic that resembled a large stone bead, made perhaps of alabaster, about 1 ½ inches long and about 1 ¼ inches in diameter, with a hole through it ¼ inch in size, which no doubt had been used, some time, to put a string through." He gave the specimens to C. D. Voy about the year 1864. Voy visited the site and confirmed the geological details. J. D. Whitney examined the bead and found it to be correctly described by Mr. Stevens with the exception it was made of white marble not alabaster. (Whitney, 1880 p. 266)

Mr. Llewellyn Pierce in his written testimony the day in 1870 he presented to C. D. Voy a stone mortar: "dug by me about the year 1862, under Table Mtn., in gravel at a depth of about 200-ft. from the surface, under basalt, which was over 60-ft. deep and about 1,800-ft. in from the mouth of the tunnel. Found in the claim known as the Boston Tunnel Company." Whitney described the mortar as 31 ½ inches in circumference. Voy visited the site and saw the approximate place where the mortar was found. The mortar, preserved in Voy's collection is an oval boulder of hornblende andesite into which a hole has been worked, about 4 ¾ inches in greatest width and 3 ¾ inches deep. (Whitney, 1880 p. 266)

August 2, 1890, J. H. Neale, a superintendent of the Montezuma Tunnel company, signed a statement about his find, "1400 - 1500 ft. from the mouth of the tunnel, 200 - 300 ft. beyond the edge of solid lava, several spear heads of some dark rock nearly a foot long; a small mortar 3 or 4 inches in diameter and irregular shape. Found within 1 - 2 ft. of spear heads, large well formed pestle and a large, very regular mortar." The mine tunnel penetrated the tertiary deposits (35 to 55 million years ago). Also recovered from this mine were 11 obsidian blades or spearheads averaging 10 inches in length. Some had one notch, some had two notches and others were a plain leave shape. (Sinclair 1908, pp. 118-119; Holmes 1899, pp.451-453)

In 1891, Dr. George Ferdinand Becker told the American Geological Society that in the spring of 1869, Mr. Clarence King, director of the survey of the fortieth parallel and a respected geologist was conducting research at Tuolumne Table Mountain. Becker stated "At one point, close to the high bluff of basalt capping, a recent wash had swept away all talus and exposed the underlying compact, hard, auriferous gravel beds, which were beyond all question in place. In examining the exposure for fossils he [King] observed the fractured end of what appeared to be a cylindrical mass of stone. The mass he forced out of place with considerable difficulty on account of the hardness of the gravel in which it was tightly wedged. It left behind a perfect cast of itself in the matrix and proved to be part of a polished stone implement, no doubt a pestle." The pestle closely resembles a modern Indian pestle. Mr. Becker goes on to say about the pestle now in the collection of the Smithsonian, "Mr. King is perfectly sure this implement was found in place and that it formed an original part of the gravels in which he found it. It is difficult to imagine a more satisfactory evidence than this of the occurrence of implements in the auriferous, pre-glacial, sub-basaltic gravels." (Becker 1891, pp. 193-194) Modern geological dating of the Table Mountain strata in this description puts the pestle at over 9 million years old.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
LIVERMORE VALLEY LITHOPHILES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
ARE NOW DUE!**

California Shows And Events

2011

February 19 & 20, 2011, Antioch, CA
Antioch Lapidary Club
 Contra Costa County Fairgrounds in
 Antioch, CA.
 "Treasures of the Earth 2011"
 Hours: Sat. & Sun. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Brenda Miguel at 925-301-6957,
 email brenda.miguel@yahoo.com

February 25, 26, 27, 2011, Newark, CA
**Mineral and Gem Society of Castro
 Valley**
 Newark Pavilion 6430 Thornton Avenue
 Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 am to 6 pm - Sun.
 10am to 5pm
 Larry Ham, show chair - (510) 887-9007
showchair@mgscv.org
 Website: /www.mgscv.org

March 12 & 13, 2011, Turlock, CA
Mother Lode Mineral Society
 Turlock Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway,
 Turlock, CA
 Hours: Sat. 10 am - 6 pm & Sun. 10 am
 - 5 pm
 Bud & Terry McMillian (209) 524-3494
www.turlockgemshow.com

March 12-13, 2011 - Salinas, CA
Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
 Veteran's Hall Spreckels, CA, 5th &
 Llano Streets
 Hours: Sat. 10-5 daily
 Karen Jones (831) 678-0337 / KenK-
aren0337@att.net

March 26-27, 2011 - Angels Camp, CA
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
 Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds
 Hwy 49 in Angels Camp
 Hours: Sat. 9-5 - Sun. 9-4
 Tak Iwata (209) 928-5579
 Email: Tak2me@msn.com
 Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 26-27, 2011 - Roseville, CA
Roseville Rock Rollers
 Roseville (Placer Co.) Fairgrounds
 800 All American City Blvd.
 Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4
 Gloria Marie (530) 367-2262
 Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
 Website: www.rockrollers.com

April 9-10, 2011 - Mariposa, CA
Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club
 Mariposa Co. Fairgrounds
 Hwy #49, 1.8 miles South of Mariposa
 Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5
 Diane (209) 742-7625
 Email: mineralmuseum@sti.net

April 15-17, 2011 - 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

November 19 & 20, 2011 Livermore
 LITHORAMA 2011 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

The California Federation of Min-
 eralogical Societies web page
www.cfmsinc.org gives everyone
 access to the CFMS Newsletter.

**Show information is available at
 the California Federation of Min-
 eralogical Societies website: www.cfmsinc.org**

Additional Resources:

**American Federation of Mineralogi-
 cal
 Societies website: www.amfed.org**

**American Lands Access Association
 website: www.amerlands.org**

CO-OP website: www.coop.freeserv-ers.com

Field Trips

Field trip March 12 to the Madera County Paleontology Museum in Chowchilla.

To learn more goto: <http://www.maderamammoths.org>

This will be the same weekend as the Turlock show and only a few miles from the museum.

Received as an email - Author unknown

“RETARDED” GRANDPARENTSWritten by a third grader, on what his grandparents do.

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Arizona. Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles , and wear name tags, because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now, they do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out ,and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night - early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck.

Some of our night time friends from our cruise.

Bill and Joan



Livermore Valley Lithophiles

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We're on the Web at www.lithophiles.org



Elected Officers and Club Information

Elected Officers:

President **Bob Trimmingham (925) 443-5983**
V. President **Bill Snyder (925) 443-5497**
Secretary **Larry Patzkowski (925) 426-7768**
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. Shop Foreman, OPEN.

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.

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Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM

General Meeting Feb. 10th at 6:00 PM
Board Meeting Feb. 24th 7:30 PM -The Shop