

Livermore

Lithogram



**Volume XXXV, Number 3
March 2010**

**Livermore Valley Lithophiles
Livermore, California**

Next General Meeting:
Thursday, March 11, 2010
Carnegie Building, 4th and 'J' Streets
7:30 PM

Program: We will have a video program.

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, March 25, 2010
The SHOP, 7:30 PM
Members are welcome to attend!

Refreshments:
Albert Hess and Jim Gruver



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Presidents Message:

Greetings all.

The four day trip (via Prescott) to Tucson was a primer on weather. Heavy rain began Saturday morning (2/06) in Barstow. Bought sharks teeth in light rain in Quartzsite. Last 20 miles over mountains to Prescott were after dark on curvy (20mph) road with rain, snow and slush at every turn. Even hail. Pretty country, I think. Sunny on Monday for drive to Tucson. Raining hard on Tuesday on visit to Quality Inn. Back at the nearly deserted Inn Suites foreign dealers were using borrowed shovels and push brooms to redirect water away from rooms facing the courtyard. The full swimming pool was the driest place around. Fortunately nice weather followed.

The March 11 meeting is one you won't want to miss. Two videos programs are being considered, and the stones, jewelry and fossils garnered at Quartzsite/Tucson will be shown. Also, decisions will be made regarding two upcoming field trips. The first is to Black Chasm, near Volcano, CA on the weekend of March 27-28. This is the weekend of the Angels Camp show. The second is to Agate Beach near Bolinas, Marin Co. the weekend of April 17-18 is first choice at present.

President's Message

Continued from page 1.

Bring ideas for other trips to the meeting.

Thanks, Chris, for chairing the February meeting and thanks to Beth for another informative and timely article (Welcoming and Orienting New Members) in the March 2010 CFMS Newsletter.

Hope to see all of you March 11.

Bob Trimmingham, President

Minutes of the General Meeting

February 11, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7.33 PM by Vice President Chris Hunt.

Guests: No guests were present.

Program: Member Albert Hess presented a slide show on the Black Chasm Cavern entitled "Black Chasm Cavern – Jewel of the Mother Lode" produced by Dave Bunnell. Black Chasm Cavern is a National Natural Landmark located near Jackson, California. It is a complex of underground rooms, passage ways, and chambers lined with several forms of limestone cave deposits of chiefly aragonite composition. Forms included crystals, flow structures, stalactites, stalagmites, box work structures, and unusual helicitic crystals. Lower levels of the cavern system contain water, forming clear, deep "lakes." The presentation was well received by those in attendance.

Break: Our break was taken after the program.

Correspondence: Miscellaneous club newsletters and membership checks.

New Members: None

Sunshine: No announcements were made.

Schools: Bill Beiriger reported that the science fair at Junction School will be held March 18 and will include a display and an activity for the students. Set-up will be at about 5 pm. A couple of people are needed to help; please give Bill a call (443-5769).

Lithogram: Bill Beiriger stated that articles of interest from members are needed.

Website: The Club's website is paid for the year.

Minutes: There were no corrections to the minutes. They were accepted as printed after a motion to accept was made by Beth Myers and second by Lanny Thompson was passed.

Treasure's Report: Diane Day gave the treasure's report. Income for the month was from the shop and membership dues. A few bills remaining from the Lithorama were paid.

Membership Dues: Vice President Chris Hunt stated that dues shall be paid by March or members will be dropped.

Shop Report: Diane Day mentioned that the shop had been busy and some propane had been purchased for the shop's heater.

CFMS Report: Bob Whiteside reported on the up-coming courses at Camp Paradise in Clipper Mills. The course, with an emphasis on jewelry making, will take place May 16 through May 22 and May 23 through May 29. The cost for the course is \$350 and includes room and board. There was some discussion as to the Club sponsoring someone to go to the course, chosen by way or a raffle or drawing. Apparently other clubs send members. This possibility will be discussed at the Board Meeting. .

Program: Lanny Thompson brought a video, entitled "Darwin's Dilemma" to the meeting as a possible program. The video discusses an explosion in the Cambrian period where many species appeared without an apparent preceding evolutionary sequence. The 72-minute video could be used for two meeting programs. Ernie Myers also suggested showing a silversmith CD on box ring fabrication. In addition, Beth Myers indicated that CFMS has a list of speakers that give programs. Plans for monthly programs will be discussed at the Board Meeting.

Field Trips: A field trip to Black Chasm Cavern was discussed as a possibility for April. Albert Hess will contact Bill Beiriger to put a notice in the Lithogram. Dianne Merlone suggested that a trip to Agate Beach, near Bolinas, would be a good field trip. Recent stormy weather should have brought ashore much new material.

Lithorama: A new show chairman is needed for this year as Patti Iannucci will not act as chairperson. Nancy Bankhead is working with the City for new banner sign location(s) and locations of possible small signs for the downtown area.

Work Shops: Jan Watling will present a work shop on square wire wrapping for up to 6 people in March. This class is full with a waiting list. Class dates will be in the Lithogram, if available. Dick Friesen may conduct a carving class.

Fair Case: Diane Day will prepare the Fair case. We need a theme.

Festivals: The Board decided that the Club will not participate in the Wine and Honey Festival this year. It is possible, however, that we may participate in the Children's Fair this year.

Old Business: None.

Refreshments: Albert Hess and Jim Gruver will bring refreshments for the March 11 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM after a motion to adjourn made by Albert Hess and second by Bob Whiteside and was passed.

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

Minutes of the Board Meeting

February 25, 2010

The meeting was called to order at the Barn at 7:30 PM by President Bob Trimmingham.

Those also in attendance included Delores Colonna, Bill Beiriger, Diane Day, Dick Friesen, Chris Hunt, Patti Iannucci, and Andrea Rodrigues.

Correspondence: We received an e-mail from Tom Getchel (sp?) who has rejoined the Club and has a box of geodes for us.

Treasure's report: Diane Day gave an update of the treasure's report.

Program: A video, entitled "Darwin's Dilemma" will be shown by Lanny Thompson. The video discusses an explosion in the Cambrian period where many species appeared without an apparent preceding evolutionary sequence. Approximately one-half of the 72-minute video is planned to be shown.

Field Trips: A field trip to Agate Beach will be discussed at the March 11 General Meeting. The dates of April 17 and 18 look suitable as far as low tides and the time of day of the low tides is concerned. Black Chasm, possibly in conjunction with the Angles Camp show in April (April 27, 28), may be possible. Other possible field trips mentioned include a field trip along the local Greenville fault. Chris Hunt brought a CDMG guide booklet on the fault; Bob Trimmingham will review the guide. An opal collecting trip to Virgin Valley in northeastern Nevada, adjacent to the Black Desert area, was mentioned.

Lithogram: Bill Beiriger re-stated that we need articles of interest from members.

Work Shops: Jan Watling will present a work shop on square wire wrapping for 10 people on March 13. Dick Friesen will conduct a carving class for 6 people on March 20. Both classes are full.

Shop Report: No shop report. However, the shop has been busy.

CFMS Report: No CFMS report. The CFMS has indicated that much of the area adjacent to Mojave Road in southern California will be closed to the public. Apparently, a 20-mile swath along both sides of the road, for perhaps a 100-mile length, will be closed.

Festivals: The Club will participate at the San Leandro library function again this year.

Fair Case: As previously reported, Diane Day will work on the fair case. She mentioned that we lost some points last year for not having enough California-related material in the case. The possibility of doing a case on California rocks and minerals, or even Alameda County rocks and minerals, is being considered. We can discuss this at the General Meeting.

Schools: The Club will participate at the Junction School science fair on March 18. Bill Beiriger is developing the scope of our activities for the fair. Bill mentioned that he has given talks to 30 school classes during the last 2-1/2 months. He also mentioned that he will be giving the second half of a presentation on sand colors on March 8 to the Pathfinders, a group of youth of the Seventh Day Adventist Church; the Pathfinders is a group who are similar to the Scouts.

The Club possesses several black light kits that we may try to sell to individuals or donate them to the

Minutes of the Board Meeting

January 28, 2010

schools. Bill showed one of the kits to the members at the Board Meeting.

Lithorama: Bob Trimmingham brought four types of small fossils to the meeting that he purchased while in Arizona (Quartzsite/Tucson). These fossils will be used for the Kid's Corner at the show. Also, Dick Friesen showed the members several of the items that were purchased in Tucson for the Club's use at the Lithorama and for the Club raffles at the Club's general meetings. The items included a 50-pound box of tumbled stones, carved animals, intricately shaped stone boxes with inlay adorned lids, and, key chains and necklaces made using natural polished stones.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chris Hunt brought our attention the Camp Paradise discussion that was tabled at the last General Meeting. The discussion centered on the possibility of the Club sponsoring a person(s) to attend the Camp Paradise venue. A raffle or drawing may be held to pay for the approximately \$350 cost. Bill Beiriger will look into possible legal issues. We will discuss the issue at the General Meeting on March 11; a decision will be made at the next Board Meeting on March 25.

Refreshments: Al Hess and Jim Gruver will bring refreshments for the March 11 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

Field Trips

April 2-4, 2010 Black Butte Reservoir, CA, for jasper, sponsored by Mother Lode Mineral Society (CO-OP)

April 9-10, 2010 Stoneyford, CA, for various jaspers and agates, sponsored by Sutter Buttes (CO-OP)

April 17-18, 2010 Fallon, NV, for leaves in rhyolite, sponsored by Fossils For Fun (CO-OP)

May 15-16, 2010 Majuba Mtn, NV, for various minerals, sponsored by Nevada County GMS (CO-OP)

May 22-23, 2010 Talapoosa Mtn, NV, for agate, sponsored by El Dorado MGS (CO-OP)

May 29-30, 2010 Petersen Pk, Virginia City, NV, for quartz crystals, sponsored by Sutter Buttes (CO-OP)

Announcements

Lithophiles Fieldtrip

**Location: Agate Beach, Bolinas Bay
April 17, 2010**

**Allow about 2-1/2 hours to get to the beach.
Contact Diane Day at 510-277-2711.**

Square-Wire Jewelry Class

Jan Watling will be the instructor.

March 13

10 - 2

Location: The Shop at the Barn, unless otherwise announced

NOTE: THE CLASS IS FULL - BUT SIGN-UP AS A STAND-BY.

Contact Diane Day at 510-277-2711.

Carving Class with Dick Friesen

March 20

Time: 9am-4pm

Location: The Shop at the Barn, unless otherwise announced

Fee: \$50

Dick will supply everything except Optivisors.

We will break for lunch at Emil Villa's.

NOTE: Class is full.

If you signed up for the class and we haven't already contacted you, please confirm that the date will be OK as we have a waiting list of interested members.

Contact Diane Day at 510-277-2711.

Livermore Science Odyssey!

**The Livermore Schools Science Fair will be held on
Thursday March 18th.
It would be nice to have a couple of new members help
with this project.
Please call Bill Beiriger - 443-5769**

California Shows And Events

2010

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

March 27-28 2010, Angels Camp, CA
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society
 Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds
 Angels Camp on Hwy 49
 Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4
 Camping contact: Tom or Sue Reeves (209)
 754-4863

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

June 18, 19, 20, 2010, Whittier, CA
CFMS / AFMS / NOCGMS SHOW
North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
 website www.nocgms.com/show/index.htm

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

Show information is available at
 the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: www.cfmsinc.org

Additional Resources:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: www.amfed.org

American Lands Access Association website: www.amerlands.org

CO-OP website: www.coop.freeservers.com



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

OUR WEB PAGE!

Please visit the Lithophile's web page and goto the 'Exchange Newsletters Page. We have newsletters from several other clubs.

Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM

Dispensing the Collection
What to Do When You Inherit a Collection
By Bruce Siegfried for The Mountain Gem
via January-March S.C.R.I.B.E. Bulletin - vol 34 #1

Often times, people contact our club members or the museum we sponsor, wondering just what to do with a collection they have inherited. How can they dispose of a collection that they know little, if anything, about?

They are concerned with knowing:

1. How does one identify 'boxes of rocks,' perhaps even a profusion of them dumped together?
2. How do you assign monetary value to rocks, minerals, and gems?
3. Who would buy this collection, and how do I find that person?

Even a surviving spouse who belongs to a club—and has been left with lots of stones wonders: “What will I do now?”

For sure, these issues are not easily addressed. Here is what we can say; these are some suggestions to help you find that illusive place to start.

Adjust the plan to your situation, one that fits you best.

When a long-time collector dies, with an extensive collection, it presents a difficult problem for the family. At first, just dealing with the loss of the loved one is enough. Eventually though, the time comes to “do something” with the collection. Now as a collector myself, I realize

that most collectors have the same goal. They reason: “Having put much time, effort, thought, and money into my collection, (not to mention love), I would like to leave it ALL to ONE close family member, good friend, or worthy organization. Someone who not only appreciates it, but will keep it intact.”

If you find someone like that, good, case closed, end of matter. Often, however, this proves to be a fantasy. Ideally we all would like to have that child who loves the hobby as much as we do, and would be happy to

receive the collection. Seldom are such events so ideal. As you know by now, the real and ideal are usually not the same thing.

Let's face reality. Most who inherit a collection view the collection as someone else's hobby. It is not their hobby. Their interest in it may be minimal at best. Thus, their feelings toward the collection are rarely the same as the person who put it together over many years, with much care and effort. Hence, they are not prepared to give it the room in their lives it would demand of them. (Not to mention the space it would claim in their homes.)

Two easy choices first present themselves. And they come about from lack of action, from procrastination, more so than any conscious thought and decision making effort.

Choice # 1. Don't do anything! Let the collection languish in storage. Maybe out in the garage, or down in the basement, or worse—in some rental storage unit, possibly for many years. This will usually result in losing the labels. As the boxes fall apart, leaves, dirt and dead bugs will pile up, till you end up with one big mess! A mess that someone eventually dumps outside, they throw it away, or give it away. I have seen several of these conclusions for nice collections. Some are put into a dumpster.

Choice #2. This one also takes place naturally enough. Dispense the collection among family and friends, and their children. Let them take what they want. They might want to keep a few as reminders of him or her; it may have been the collector's favorite, or they may have dug the specimens themselves, or they cut and polished the stone. You can do this over some several months until the collection just naturally wanders off. Somehow, somewhere, it is gone, and that takes care of that. Would a grandchild be able to handle the collection and appreciate it? Perhaps you will be satisfied with choice #1 or choice #2. But I feel there is a viable third option. You may consider something better. Far better is the day this idea presents itself—to dispose of

the collection in an orderly manner.

But HOW?

Soon after making that decision, the challenge becomes evident. How will you do it?

Some ideas follow; pick and choose, adjusting them to your circumstances. Ultimately you must decide what is best for you and for the collection.

The problem so often starts with the fact that the collection and hobby was known by just that one person. The collection proved to be his or hers alone. This person knew all the details; what it is, where it came from, and the value as well. **BUT ALL TOO OFTEN, THE PERSON DOESN'T RECORD ALL THESE IMPORTANT DETAILS!**

In my personal collection, I list all the names and locations of each stone in triplicate. Great, you say. On the other hand, I abhor values. To me, if it is pretty and I like it, I don't care whether it is worth fifty cents or twenty dollars. So no one knows the value of my thousands of specimens.

Others do the same, omitting details, whether carelessly or purposely, they often leave scant information behind. As a consequence, surviving family members are left in the dark while trying to understand the collection. It is hard for them to relate to the fact the one 'pretty rock' is worth only \$1.00, while another, not near as nice, is worth perhaps \$50.00. Plain, dirty rocks may be very beautiful inside, and quite valuable.

My first recommendation, (if you don't want to sell it all quick and cheap), is to divide it into three easy and practical parts. Simply put, here they are:

1. Keep some to remember the person by
2. Sell the best
3. Dispose of the rest; give away to interested person, or children, or throw in the woods, or line the driveway.

What follows is a more detailed explanation of this plan.

1. **KEEP SOME**—for yourself and other family mem-

bers. You can do this in connection with having "something to remember him (her) by." To remind you of him and his treasured hobby.

A. One mineral that each person views as their favorite.

B. Something the collector person was especially fond of.

C. Something he or she personally collected on a favorite field trip or vacation.

D. Something that person thought of as their favorite or special piece.

2. Now sell the best, those that have exceptional value or beauty. I will discuss several options for this in the rest of the article.

3. Dispose of the rest, the leftovers. Here are some good possibilities.

A. Sell it cheap and quick.

OR

B. Even better, my personal favorite: donate it to your local club or museum. It's a tax deduction. They will be happy to get it and gladly put it to good use. Perhaps they will put a few specimens on display. Or in the gift shop to raise funds. Or use it as door prizes at the club meetings. At times they give some to young ones who are 'pebble pups', leading them into a lifelong hobby, all from the gift of a few nice specimens. Also, they occasionally auction items off to raise funds for their club.

At times, generous souls donate an entire collection to a club or museum. But lets us now assume you desire to sell the entire collection yourself. This is the final avenue we will discuss. You will have two problems to deal with.

1. How do you find a buyer?
2. Just as important, how do you attach a dollar figure to the collection?

To Be Continued in the April LITHOGRAM

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 **Chris Hunt (925) 443-5525**
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. 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:
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Livermore, CA 94551-0626,
email: info@lithophiles.com

Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM

General Meeting March 11th at 7:30 PM
Board Meeting March 25th at 7:30 PM