



## Minutes of the General Meeting

February 10, 2011

### MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:29PM by Vice President Bill Snyder

**Guests:** Cathryn Bankhead, Nancy Bankhead's niece

**Minutes:** The January minutes were approved after a correction to the Board Meeting minutes was made.

**Treasure's Report:** Diane Day gave the Treasurer's report. Income included funds from the General Meeting raffle and member dues. Diane will be meeting soon with Beth Myers regarding the 2-year audit.

**Lithogram:** Bill Beiriger publically thanked Beth Myers for her article contained in the February Lithogram. The article discussed rare artifacts found beneath Table Mountain, located in Tuolumne County.

**Shop Report:** Attendance at the Shop has been fairly steady with a few members working. Albert Hess stated that he instructed Stephanie Goldsmith and her husband on the use of the slab saws. Bill Beiriger stated that the Shop's door lock has been repaired. Bill Snyder revisited the idea of a visit to the Shop by a small group (8-10) of Livermore High School Special Education students. The visit was favorably discussed at the January Board Meeting. Bill Beiriger indicated that he would be willing to host the group's visit.

**CFMS Report:** Bob Whiteside indicated that the Federation show will be held on May 13-15 in Anderson, California. Also, the Zzyzx Earth Science Seminar (jewelry making) in Southern California will be held March 27 through April 3.

**Program:** The approximate first half of a video on rhodochrosite specimen mining was shown. The video "Rhodochrosite Red Treasure of the Rockies, the Story of the Sweet Home Mine", portrays the history of mining at the mine, first for silver, and more recently for specimen rhodochrosite crystals.

A possible future program may be a talk by Barry Parr, an author who writes books about hiking, according to Bill Snyder.

**Field Trips:** A field trip on March 12 to the paleontology museum near Chowchilla could be combined with a visit to the Turlock show. Other possible future field trips include a visit to the Consolidated Rock facility at Vacaville, possible quarry trips to a soapstone quarry near Murphys and "bluestone" quarry near Jackson. Quarry operators' Insurance concerns may limit quarry visits.

**Schools:** Bill Beiriger reported that he spoke to a class last week at Smith School and has five more scheduled for next week and other classes in March.

**Old Business:** the need to organize and re-store the Mike Gorges material located at Nancy Bankhead's place was discussed again. Buckets may be collected from local business.

**New Business:** The idea of purchasing bricks at the fairgrounds was tabled until the March General Meeting.

**Refreshments:** Bill Snyder and Larry Patzkowski will provide refreshments for the March meeting.

The meeting broke for the video viewing at 7:57PM and concluded at 8:55PM.

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

## Minutes of the Board Meeting

February 24, 2011

### MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at the Barn at 7:27PM by President Bob Trimmingham.

Those in attendance included Bill Beiriger, Diane Day, Deloris Colonna, Nancy Bankhead, Andrea Rodrigues, and Dick Friesen.

**Announcements:** Many **dues** are coming in but several are still missing. The Lithogram will not be distributed to those not paying their **dues**.

**Correspondence:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** Diane Day gave her Treasurer's Report which included items of income, and expenses including a check to the Livermore schools (\$500), and payment for our website. A few checks are to be written. A visit by Diane to Beth Myers place to work on the 2-year audit was postponed until next week because of snow conditions in the Myers ranch area.

**Lithogram:** Bill Beiriger indicated the Beth Myers is preparing an article on California's first Geological Survey which may be ready for the March Lithogram.

**Shop Report:** Diane Day reported that the shop closed early on February 22 for lack of attendance. Dick Friesen purchased propane for the shop heater.

**Program:** Rich Hunt has arranged for a program for the March meeting on radioactive materials to be presented by a representative of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories (LLNL). Future programs may include a presentation by Professor Luther of California State University East Bay (CSUEB) on geologic aspects of Taiwan. Bill Beiriger may be able to acquire a video from Sousa Granite and Marble works describing how these stone products are mined and processed.

**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 Beiriger continues to speak to classes and has 3 to 5 more classes to do bringing the total number of students he has spoken to about 950. Bill will be participating in Junction Avenue school's Science Odyssey on March 17. He would welcome the help of a couple of people (Bob Trimmingham indicated that he would help). A \$500 check has been presented to Ms. Pat Boyle for the schools. Bill stated that he needs to write a letter of thanks to the schools for the teachers who helped at the Lithorama and also prepare certificated for the students' crystal growing project. He has not heard back about the proposed Shop visit by a group of Livermore High School Special Education students.

**Lithorama:** Nancy Bankhead brought up a likely raise in the Barn fee for the show and suggested that we increase the dealer's fee to offset the expected cost increase and augment the advertising budget for the show. After some discussion, Bill Beiriger motioned to increase the fee; Dick Friesen seconded the motion which was passed by those in attendance.

**Old Business:** Bill Beiriger will obtain the required buckets needed to organize the Mike Gorges material in storage at Nancy Bankhead's ranch. Emil Villa restaurant will save their used buckets for Bill.

Dick Friesen will bring samples of the items he purchased for the Club to the March meeting.

**New Business:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

## First California Geological Survey - Dr. J.B. Trask

By Elizabeth K. Myers

California had barely acquired statehood when a special committee in favor of a geological survey submitted their report to the state on April 24, 1851. The California state legislature requested Dr. John Boardman Trask a physician and one of the eight co-founders of the California Academy of Sciences to provide geological information about the state. In 1853 Dr. Trask was appointed to make studies of the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges. (Trask, 1854, 1855, 1856)



Britton & Rey, Lithographers of San Francisco, California produced a map of California in 1853 that was “compiled from the most recent surveys by J. B. Trask.” You can view the map at [www.davidrumsey.com/maps3990.html](http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps3990.html).

The 31 pp report of 1853 on the Sierra Nevada contained a sketch of the geology and mineral resources of the eastern valleys of Sacramento and San Joaquin and was based on his personal observations made during the years 1850-1852. In his 95 pp report of the Coast Mountains made in 1855, he covered more of the agricultural resources and mineral productions looking extensively at the mining interests. This emphasis on industrial resources is carried into his 92 pp report of 1854 on the geology of the Coast Mountains and part of the Sierra Nevada.

Extracts of Dr. Trask's works can be found in *Mountains and Molehills: Recollections of a Burnt Journal* by Frank Marryat, 1826-1855. These articles include “Soils of Valley Santa Clara and Shores of San Francisco Bay”, “The Structure of the Valley of Sacramento and San

Janquin”, “Mineral Resources of the Coast Mountains”, “Placer Mining”, and “Quartz Mining”. There is an extensive list of the mines inspected by Dr. Trask.

In the article titled *Dr. John B. Trask, A Pioneer of Science on the West Coast* written for Science Magazine in August 1908, the author Robert E. C. Stearns writes that Dr. Trask came to California in 1850, was born in Roxbury, Mass. in 1824 and died in San Francisco on July 3, 1879. Stearns states that Dr. Trask was connected with the US and Mexican Boundary Survey and became the first state geologist of California. He further writes with fondness, “That Dr. Trask, by virtue of his genial qualities, untiring energy and all around ability, was the leader [of the California Academy of Sciences]...”

It is clear from the records of the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences Dr. Trask remained active in the academy serving as the recording secretary, curator of Geology and Mineralogy, on the Publications Committee and through the years holding other posts as well.

*Earthquakes in California During 1856* by Dr. J. B. Trask was read before the California Academy of Sciences at S.F. on January 12, 1857. The study and recording of earthquakes held a special interest for Dr. Trask. He kept records and wrote updated articles on California earthquakes for the years 1854 to 1864.

A Physician by profession, the energetic Dr. Trask certainly made inspiring contributions to the study of the newly formed California State.

## BENITOITE

Benitoite (beh-NEE-toe-ite) is a rare gem that was first discovered in 1906 along the headwaters of the San Benito River in San Benito County, California. This small region is the only source in the world for gem quality Benitoite. Because of its rarity and beauty, Benitotite was adopted as California's state gemstone in 1985.

Benitoites have often been mistaken for fine blue sapphires and spinels due to their rich blue-violet colors. Benitoites tend to be found in smaller sizes with gems larger than one carat being the exception. Larger gems with rich color and exceptional quality are greatly prized by collectors. The one pictured here is described as a "Fancy Trillium" cut with rich blue-violet hue and dark tone of moderate saturation. It weighs 1.83 carats and is 6.9 millimeters in diameter. Scott Forrest of WSF Gems, who gave us the photo and permission to use it in this article, describes it as "very well cut with nice dispersion and high lustre".

W. Scott Forrest is a second-generation in the mining and gemstone business. His father and his father's partner owned the "Benitoite Gem Mine". After faceting Benitoite and other precious stones for them Scott began to sell his own and opened WSF Gems in Old Town Clovis. He still facets most of them to maximize beauty and value. He invites jewelry and lapidary hobbyists to visit his store or to shop his web site. You can see this gem and others at [www.wsfgems.com](http://www.wsfgems.com).

Article from Mark Nelson, Editor - Rockhound Ramblings, Pasadena Lapidary Society Feb 2011



## *Special Program*

### **Radioactive Mineral “Show and Tell”**

Daniel Stefanescu, from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, will talk about his radioactive mineral collection. Daniel will discuss how he got into collecting radioactive minerals, where you find such material, the equipment you need, and the characteristics of radioactive minerals. He will bring two home-built cloud chambers which will allow us to observe the radioactive decay as it happens. Daniel also plans to bring a highly-sensitive Geiger counter, so if you have something in your collection that you believe to be radioactive (e.g., minerals or some of that pretty glassware from Albert's collection), then bring it to the meeting so he can check it for you. Daniel says that some of his specimens also fluoresce beautifully, so perhaps one of our more fluorescent members can bring a UV light to the meeting?

## *Field Trips*

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

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

The museum is about 2 hours from Livermore. After the museum plan on attending the Turlock mineral show which is about 1 hour from the museum.

Then from the show it will be about 1 hour back to Livermore.

We will discuss the museum and show at the March 10th meeting.

See the October Lithogram on the Lithophile web site under ‘Newsletter’ for Directions.

**Adults - \$8 Seniors - \$6 Students - \$4**

### **NBFT & CO-OP MEMBERS ONLY FIELD TRIP TO COULTERVILLE, CA**

#### **MARIPOSITE QUARRY FEE COLLECTION AND GOLD MINE TOUR**

Sponsored by CCM&GS&MLMS

WHEN: **APRIL 2, 2011, SATURDAY** – (RSVP FEBRUARY 14 THRU MARCH 23, 2011)

WHERE: **COULTERVILLE, CA – HWY 49 & 132** – Plan on a 3 hour drive from S.F.

TRIP DIFFICULTY Vehicle Access & Parking - to the quarry and mine, #3 - 4 vehicle access and parking good for most vehicles,

no specific handicap parking. Collection Site – to the quarry and mine, #5 ¼ to ½ mile trail to site with moderate difficulty

COLLECTION MATERIAL: MARIPOSITE @ \$.50 PER POUND

VEHICLE REQ'S: 2WD w/room for rocks

MEETING PLACE: GRASSY PARK IN TOWN ACROSS FROM MUSEUM. Restrooms available. Plenty of parking.

LEADERS & CONTACT INFO: JOANNE CASKEY, CCM&GS, 925-689-2119 Home, 925-768-4813 Cell, TO SIGN UP – in case

you leave a msg, be sure to get a call back confirmation from me! AL TROGLIN, MLMS, 209-838-7725 FOR ADDT'L TRIP INFO.

# California Shows And Events

## 2011

**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 9-10, 2011** - Paradise, CA  
**Paradise Gem & Mineral Society**  
 Elks Lodge 6309 Clark Road Hours: Sat  
 10-5; Sun 10-4  
 Manuel Garcia (530) 877-7324 Email:  
 mmpg@earthlink.net  
 Website: http://paradisegem.org

**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

**April 23-24, 2011** - Santa Cruz, CA  
**Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society**  
 Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium Corner of  
 Church and Center St  
 Hours: 10-5 both days Dean Welder (408)  
 353-2675  
 Email: wdewanwelder@yahoo.com Web-  
 site: www.scmgs.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**

**Dues Are Due! - - No Dues - - No Lithogram**  
**This will be the last Lithogram for Members who do not pay their**  
**2011 Dues!**

## Livermore Valley Lithophiles

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info@lithophiles.com

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

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

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

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