

Livermore

Lithogram



**Volume XXXVI, Number 5
May 2011**

**Livermore Valley Lithophiles
Livermore, California**

Next General Meeting:
Thursday, May 12, 2011
Livermore Library Community Room
7:30 PM

Program: Bob Trimmingham will give a slide program on Mineral collecting in California.

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, May 26, 2011
7:30 at 'The Shop'
Members are welcome to attend!

Refreshments: Diane Day and Jim Gruver

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Presidents Message:

Our April meeting at the Library was moderately well attended in the Board-Room comfort by an inquisitive group of rhodophiles. Red was the color of the evening. The remainder of the video tape was played showing how the geochemistry of associated Tetrahydrate was a clue to rhodochrosite vein temperature. Higher temperatures produced better "Rhodo" with a deeper red color. Most of the Rocky Mountain specimens I brought were cooler vein "Pinks". I like them anyway.

The May 12 meeting will be at the Library, but this time in the larger Community Room. Just make a right turn when you enter the front door and head down the hall. The program, by me, will be a slide show featuring California collecting in the last half of the 20th century. You know, the good old days. See what it was like to "rockhound" in Northern California and particularly Alameda and San Benito counties. See Evelyn Bankhead, Joe Iannucci, Gene Darter, Bill Beiriger, Jane Crone, etc. in action. See the places you can't get to anymore. See you there!

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Presidents Message: continued

P.S.:

Note: The Alameda Co. Fair is approaching and Diane Day will set up another fine case for our society. She will discuss the theme for the fair at May's meeting and note how everyone can contribute to the display. Material must be brought to the **June** meeting or delivered to Diane. Bob Trimmingham, President

Minutes of the General Meeting

April 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Bob Trimmingham at the Livermore Library Board Room.

Sunshine: Bob Trimmingham reported that Deloris Colonna had fallen down a flight of stairs. Fortunately her injuries were limited to extreme soreness; no bones were broken.

Correspondence: Bill Beiriger had previously received an e-mail from Gary Howard of Castro Valley High School asking if the Club would participate in their May 7 science fair. Bill will display a case on sand. There was also correspondence from a Mary Hicks of the Concord Club regarding giving a talk to second graders at Valley View Elementary School in Pleasanton. Bill will present a talk to the students on May 19.

Minutes: The March minutes were approved as printed.

Shop Report: Attendance at the Shop has been slow. There had been concern that the Shop was not open on some Tuesdays. Dick Friesen stated that the Shop has been open by 7 PM every Tuesday but may have closed a couple of times after 7:30 to 7:45 PM due to lack of shop attendees. Albert Hess talked briefly about the items for sale/possible donation by Caratti Jewelers. Colin of Caratti Jewelers has indicated that he may wish a fee-differed membership in the Club for his possible donation. The matter will be discussed at the Board Meeting.

Treasure's Report: Diane Day gave the Treasure's Report. There was no new income and a couple of checks were written. The 2-year audit meeting between Diane and Beth Myers is still pending.

CFMS Report: No report. The CFMS show in Anderson will be held May 13, 14, 15. Bill Beiriger will exhibit a case.

Program: The balance of the video on rhodochrosite mining and exploration at the Sweet Home Mine was shown. At this point we do not have a program for the May meeting.

Lithorama: A meeting is scheduled to discuss the Lithorama at Nancy Bankhead's home on April 30. The time will be announced.

Schools: As mentioned earlier, Bill Beiriger will speak to second graders at Valley View Elementary School on May 19.

Old Business: There was a brief discussion regarding presenting our monetary donations to the Livermore schools at a School Board meeting where it could be televised. We will look into it in the fall before the Lithorama.

New Business: No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM, after the video showing. Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

The Second California Geological Survey - Part II

By Elizabeth K. Myers

In his initial speech to the legislature on March 12, 1861, J. D. Whitney outlined the expectations of the geological survey.

1. **Topography** – to prepare a complete and correct map of the state.
2. **Physical Geography** – a full investigation of its physical geography with a focus on agricultural development. This is to include elevation, direction, distribution of mountain ranges, drainage including springs, lakes, rivers, relations of land to oceans, the climatology, conditions regulating distribution of heat and cold, moisture and dryness, winds and storms.
3. **Agricultural Resources and Botany** – catalogue all plants growing in California, geography of the forest trees.
4. **Zoology** – a full and scientific description of its zoological productions
5. **General Geology & Paleontology** – to be broken into two parts, first the general geology and paleontology, second the economical and applied geology – What materials are composed, how formed or deposited, what changes they have undergone, what agencies created the changes. Search for and describe fossil remains in the stratified rocks – compare with other countries and ascertain their relative age and position. Lay down the geographical distribution of different systems and groups of rocks, exhibit their stratigraphical relations or positions with regards to each other, sections showing the configuration of the surface and character of rocks beneath it.
6. **Economical Geology** – aim to classify the mineral and metallic treasures buried beneath the surface.
7. **Metallurgy** – everything connected with the separation of the metals from their ores. Various means of crushing, washing, amalgamating or smelting. Have a duty to afford all possible help to those engaged in mining – various mineral products analyzed, also substances used for fuel or fluxes, best methods for each mining district.

Whitney stated, “We cannot possibly, ourselves, do all this preliminary work of exploration, centuries would not be sufficient for every square rod of the 160,000 square miles which make up the state...”

Referring to the recent flood of prospectors to the state, he went on to say, “There are probably 10,000 persons at work collecting materials for our inspection, ready to direct our attention to important points...”

In addition to their own explorations, Whitney proposed to co-ordinate the information previously collected by the US military posts, the Smithsonian and other government studies in the state. He informed the legislature that, “Every person connected with the survey have no other aim in view than that of advancing the interests of the state.” Going on to quote the geologists motto, “Mente, manu, maleoque – with head, hand and hammer – we will do our best to develop the resources of this good state...”

In Part III we'll look at what the survey accomplished.

Minutes of the Board Meeting

April 28, 2011

The meeting was called to order at the Barn at 7:32 PM by President Bob Trimmingham.

Those also in attendance included Bill Beiriger, Diane Day, Deloris Colonna, Jim Gruver, Bob Whiteside, and Dick Friesen.

Correspondence: Diane Day is working on correspondence with the State of which there have been some problems regarding details. Diane is frustrated as the State is not forthcoming with their concerns except for indicating that we are delinquent of the \$50 fee.

Announcements: Two new members recently joined the Club at the Shop.

Treasure's Report: Diane Day gave her Treasure's Report which included income from two memberships, the Shop, and expenses including a check to the Livermore Library for meeting room rental and checks for coffee, polished stones, and the speaker's fee for the March meeting.

Lithogram: Bill Beiriger indicated that Beth Myers has prepared her third article on the California Geological Survey for the June issue. Bill Beiriger also indicated that he will postpone his planned monthly series on volcanoes until after the summer. He also stated that the Lithogram will not be posted on the website until after two months of its publication.

Shop Report: As mentioned, two new members joined the Club. One of the new members donated some materials for the Club.

Federation Report: Bob Whiteside indicated that he would attend the CFMS show in Anderson and also attend the Director's meeting. Bob Trimmingham asked Bob to prepare a written report for inclusion in the Lithogram.

Program: The May program will be "potpourri" of slides taken by Bob Trimmingham on California mineral collecting sites.

Field Trips: Field trips, made in conjunction with the Federation show in Anderson May 13, 14, and 15, are a possibility. The Lithogram will contain a listing of various sponsored field trips, as indicated by Bill Beiriger.

Lithorama: A planning meeting is scheduled at Nancy Bankhead's place on Saturday April 30 at about 1:30 PM. Some of the Mike Gorges material may be sorted and placed in suitable buckets.

Schools: Bill Beiriger is planning to speak to second graders at Valley View Elementary School in Pleasanton on May 19. Larry Patzkowski will assist Bill.

Fair Case: Bob Trimmingham reported that the Fair's theme this year will be "99 Ways to Come Out and Play." Diane Day will develop a plan for the case for the May Lithogram. She would appreciate Club members to start thinking in May and donate items for the case. More information will be given at the May General Meeting. Bill Beiriger stated that three cases need repair for the Fair.

Old Business: Bill Beiriger will exhibit a case on sand at the Castro Valley High School science fair on May 7. He plans to exhibit the case at the CFMS show as well.

New Business: In order to assist the Treasurer, now and in the future, it was decided that the Club should purchase Quicken software. The motion to purchase was made by Dick Friesen and second jointly by Bob Whiteside and Deloris Colonna; it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Refreshments: Diane Day and Jim Gruver volunteered to bring refreshments for the May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

May 12th, Meeting

**Livermore Library
1188 S. Livermore Ave.
Civic Center Complex
Community Room Room**

Enter Front Door - take a Right - Last Room on Right.

June Meeting - Community Room.

**Contact Bill Beiriger at (925) 443-5769.
or Bob Trimmingham at (925) 443-5983.**

Field Trips

May 28 - 30 Central OR for petrified wood, limb casts, obsidian, thunder eggs, other minerals.
Inter-Regional Rendezvous (AFMS) Doug True and Dick Pankey

June 11& 12 Linka Mine, Austin, NV area for fluorescent minerals, other minerals, graptolites.
Nevada Co. Society, Vicki Black

June 17 - 20 Black Rock Desert, NV for limb casts, petrified wood, jaspers, opal, calcite.
Calaveras Co. Society, Bob Young

June 25 & 26 Meadow Lake, (Truckee are) CA for chalco & arsenopyrite, viewing petroglyphs.
El Dorado Co. Society, FT Leader TBD

June 29 - July 4 Madras, OR for annual Pow Wow for various collecting trips.
Sacramento Mineral Society, Joe Shook

Jet **by Mary Sue Bucher**

In the year 1861, Prince Albert, husband to Her Royal Majesty Queen Victoria of England, died of typhoid fever. For the remainder of her life, which numbered forty years, she remained in mourning and dressed only in black. Back then, mourning attire included beads fashioned from jet - a strange but beautiful gemstone which is a form of Lignite ... coal. Jet is a fossil mineraloid, sometimes called Black Amber, Agstein, Scorpion Stone, and Witch's Amber. Most jet originated in the Jurassic period, approximately 182 million years ago from the remains of Araucaria conifer trees whose living relatives we call Monkey Puzzle trees. It's lightweight, has a distinctive "coal" smell to it, is known to be flammable, and like amber, it takes on a static charge when rubbed. It is soft, with a Mohs hardness of 2-4 and is known to polish to a luster resembling black velvet.

Victorian mourning jewelry has a distinct "look" to it; the beads are, of course, black and are usually faceted. Long ropes of these faceted jet beads were common, and they remained popular well into the 1920s when they were adopted by young "Flappers" to wear with their short, straight dresses. After jet beads became popular, there were, of course, imitators such as Ebonite, also called Vulcanite (hardened rubber). Unlike jet, Vulcanite was molded rather than cut and if heated, smelled like rubber instead of coal. It also bleached out with age to an olive-brown color. "French Jet, Paris Jet, or Faux Jet," is glass, and is the most common imitator of jet; it's easy to distinguish from real jet as it's heavy and has a cold feel to it.

Bakelite is a type of vintage plastic that was sometime tinted black to resemble jet. Bakelite, in its own right, has become valuable. About ten years ago, a friend asked me to pick up a Bakelite bracelet for her at an antique show. Turns out most of the good ones that I saw were being offered for around five hundred dollars and needless to say, she didn't get her bracelet. Jet has been imitated by Bog Oak, a type of black wood found in Irish peat bogs, and jewelry makers have also used Cannel Coal, Shale, Horn, and a few things that aren't around anymore. Then, of course, there's onyx, or black chalcedony, obsidian, schorl, (a type of tourmaline), coral, and any stone that's been dyed or enhanced with dye. Naturally, Queen Victoria could afford the real thing, and the only jewelry that was allowed at court during the mourning period was real jet - preferably, mined from Whitby England, a town on the Yorkshire coast that was and still is known to have the finest jet in the world.

Interestingly enough, Whitby is also a source of Ammonite fossils. An old legend tells of St. Hilda of Whitby who hundreds of years ago was credited with turning a plague of snakes into stone. They do some beautiful jet carvings in Whitby and that's not all they've carved. As proof of St. Hilda's miracle, local artisans would carve snake's heads on the ammonite fossils and sell them as a cottage industry. The coat of arms of Whitby is adorned with three of these "Snake Stones."

from SFGMS

Mineralog, 8/10 via Gem Cutter News 9/10

via September 2010 'The RockCollector' - Rochester Lapidary Society

California Shows And Events

2011

May 7-8, 2011 - RENO, NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society

Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit
Hall 1350 N. Wells Ave.

Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4 Ann Johnson
(775)544-4937

Email: ann.johnson.e@gmail.com www.
renorockhounds.com

May 13-15, 2011 - ANDERSON,
CA

****CFMS SHOW ****

75 Years

Superior California G&M, Shasta
G&M, Paradise G&M Societies
Shasta District Fairgrounds - An-
derson, CA

Briggs Street (8 miles south of
Redding)

Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4

Show Chairman: Steve Puder-
bough - steve@applyaline.com

Website: www.superiorcal.com &
www.shastagemandmineral.com

May 21-22, 2011 - JACKSON, CA

Fossils For Fun Society

Kennedy Mine 12954 Kennedy Mine
Road Hours: 9-5 daily

Debbie Bunn (916) 929-6665 Email:
fossilsforfun@hotmail.com

Website: www.fossilsforfun.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**

What Do Gold and Diamonds Have in Common?

by Celia Tiffany

- Diamond (a form of carbon) and gold are both classified as Native Elements in the Periodic Table of the Elements: that is they are among the few elements that occur in the Earth's crust in a relatively pure, uncombined form.
- Both crystallize in the cubic system.
- Both most commonly occur as octahedral crystals.
- Large deposits of each have been mined in South Africa and in Australia
- Both are highly valued for use in jewelry, science, and industry.
- Both have inspired exploration, exploitation, and brutal conquests.
- Both are outrageously overpriced, but diamonds set in gold remain popular as a pledge of fidelity.

from The Geode, 9/99, via Rollin Rock 02/10

via January 2010 'The RockCollector' - Rochester Lapidary Society

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



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 May 12th at 6:00 PM
Board Meeting May 26th 7:30 PM -The Shop