

Livermore

Lithogram



**Volume XXXV, Number 11
November 2010**

**Livermore Valley Lithophiles
Livermore, California**

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

Program: Program: Show and Tell

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, Nov. 21, 2010
After the show
Members are welcome to attend!

Refreshments:



B



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| LITHORAMA 2010 | 2 |
| General Meeting - Oct. 14th | 3 |
| Notes | 4 |
| Do you enjoy this Society? | 5 |
| Announcements | |
| I dig Archaeology | 6-7 |
| Board Meeting - Sept. 23rd | 8 |
| California Shows & Events | 9 |
| Field Trips | 9 |

Presidents Message:

Gear up everybody!

Yes, it's Lithorama time again. Bill Beiriger will need **everyone's** help to pull off a successful show. Be sure to attend the Nov. 11 meeting to volunteer and schedule your time. Please contribute more than two or three hours if you possibly can. See details in this Lithogram.

Thanks to Bill B. for seeing that five cases were repaired at the Barn on Oct. 23. Lanny Thompson and Alice and Dan New helped out. I took two cases to repaint and use. Others said they would be there but were absent. Let me know if you need phone call reminders of these work sessions.

Remember, our next meeting features "Show and Tell", either items purchased, field collected, or created with lapidary skills. Next years officers will be elected at the next meeting. And, please read Bill B's editorial about the future of our society.

Bob Trimmingham, President

LITHORAMA 2010

- HELP - HELP - HELP -

The show is November 20 and 21.

We need a lot of help on November 19 to set-up the show. We will start about 8:30AM to get everything down from the storage area above the shop.

We will put all the electrical cables in place then the dividers between the dealers.

We have to put up the stands and tables for exhibits and dealers. We then have to skirt the tables with the plastic covers.

About 6:00PM we will have a set-up dinner for the exhibitors and the members who help with the show, if you will be helping at the show during the weekend please come for the dinner.

Please bring a pie or cake for the food area.

During the show we will need help at the Front Door, the Food Area, the Children's Table, the Silent Auction area and Security inside the building.

The advertising Post Cards are here please pick some up at the meeting and give them out, they can also be picked up at the shop. Nancy will bring 2500 of them to the Livermore School District office for distribution to the schools. Post cards were sent out to 200 people who attended the show last year and they were also sent to 25 clubs in northern California.

Please let us know how you can help at the show, please come to the meeting on November 11 and sign-up.

If You Think California Is Bad Check Out New York

It is important to remember that all land in New York either belongs to the government or is private property. Collecting minerals from government lands is illegal in New York and collecting on private property always requires permission in advance.

Minutes of the General Meeting

October 14, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7.30 PM by President Bob Trimmingham.

Guests: Stephanie Goldsmith's mother.

Correspondence: None.

Sunshine: No announcements were made.

Minutes: The September General Meeting and Board Meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Beiriger gave the Treasurer's report from information obtained from Diane Day, Club Treasurer.

Lithogram: Bill Beiriger stated that an article and photographs from Lanny Thompson's archeology field trip will be contained in the next issue. Other articles of interest from members are welcomed. Our website has been updated. A secure section is contained and is accessed by password. Contact Bill Beiriger for access information.

Shop Report: Bill Beiriger recommended that the Club purchase two wheels (#280 and #600) for the shop now rather than waiting until the first of the year. The wheels will cost approximately \$215 each plus shipping and tax. Albert Hess made the motion to purchase these wheels and Bob Whiteside seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Bill Beiriger will order the wheels.

Stephanie Goldsmith indicated that she was willing to change some shop wheels but was advised to seek Club approval. Albert Hess made the motion to authorize this activity with a second from Bob Whiteside. It was approved.

A replacement, or a team of individuals, will soon be needed to replace the current shop foreman, Lynn Zirkle.

CFMS Report: Bob Whiteside gave the Federation report. He indicated that the CFMS newsletter is available by e-mail. Let Bob know if you wish to receive the newsletter. Bob will attend the semi-annual meeting on November 13 in Visalia, California. Among several items to be discussed at the meeting is a proposed Bye-Law change that would streamline insurance provisions for new clubs entering the federation as opposed to the present rather long waiting period. Bob was advised to vote affirmatively on this proposal. The North Bay Cooperative has indicated that clubs not sponsoring a field trip may be deleted from membership.

Field Trips: A field trip to Black Chasm Cavern is scheduled for Sunday October 17. Those attending are to meet at the Shop at 8 AM to carpool.

Lithorama: Post card flyers have been distributed to all local clubs and about 140 attendees of last year's show. Our banner will now be located on Fourth Street across from the Carnegie Library starting November 8. Bill Beiriger will have information on the show at the Livermore Library November 8 and 9. Five (5) cases are in need of repair for the show. A work party is scheduled on October 23 at the Shop at 9:30 AM. Bill Beiriger will purchase necessary materials. Show publicity is a bit uncertain. The Pennysaver and the Independent are possibilities. Stephanie Goldsmith will post show information on Craig's List.

Work Shops: None.

Schools: Bill Beiriger will present to 6 classes next week and will attend a science teacher's meeting on October 27. The purchased DVDs and crystal growing projects will be discussed. Talks to some home-schooled students in Tracy have been completed.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Bob Trimmingham presented a slate of officers for next year. The slate includes Bob Trimmingham, President; Chris Hunt or Bill Snyder, Vice President; Larry Patzkowski, Secretary; and, Diane Day, Treasurer. Other nominations can be made at the next General Meeting, November 11.

Bill Beiriger brought up the very serious subject of the Club's future. For many, many years, only a handful of the same people have been taking care of Club function chairs and officers' duties. There is a real need for other members to "step forward" and volunteer. By way of example, Bill did not wish to be this year's show chairman - as he has done for some 20 odd years - but had to step in again. Inquiries have been made as how to dissolve the club, should it become necessary.

Refreshments: Deloris Colonna and Albert Hess will bring refreshments for the November 11 meeting. Also, Albert announced that he will continue as "Mr. Coffee."

Program: Bob Trimmingham brought in several binders containing photos and information on the recent trip that he and Deloris Colonna took. Their trip lasted 23 days and covered 4,300 miles. Bob said that there was just too much information to assemble it into a DVD format before the meeting. As an alternative, a DVD on Russian gems and gem artwork was shown.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM after the DVD program.

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

Display Case Repairs

We had a work session on October 23 at the Barn. We reworked 5 display cases that we will need for Lithorama.

I want to thank Don & Alice New, Lanny Thompson and Bob Trimmingham for giving me their time to get the job done.

At the end of the session Bob and Lanny took cases home to have them ready for Lithorama.

Bill Beiriger

Results of the 2nd Annual Rock Tumbling Championship

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| First Place-\$250 | Jim Miller from the Maplewood Rock and Gem Club in Bothell, WA |
| Second Place-\$100 | Tom Kuzia of Beacon Falls, CT (Last year Tom won third place) |
| Third Place-\$50 | Susan Oglebay of Ephrata, WA |

Also featured in the top five were: Cliff Thomas of Austin, TX, Paul Musser of Export, PA.

IMPORTANT**Do you enjoy this society?
Do you use the societies shop?****IMPORTANT****by Bill Beiriger**

This society can not survive by expecting the same members to be the operating force for the group. Before the present group of officers took over last year the slate was filled by the same members for six years and that is not the way it should be. For a group to make progress they should have new officers each year. Unless something changes between now and the November meeting we more then likely will be seeing this years officers as next years officers.

We should also have different members takeover the major chairperson positions. We dropped the Children's Fair and the Wine Festival because the same members got tired of being chairpersons and doing most of the work. That means Lithorama is our only fund raiser.

At present we have enough money in the bank to maintain the groups activities. However, without multiple fund raising activities the societies savings will diminish so that we won't be able to rent the meeting hall or the shop and periodically hire someone to speak at our meetings, purchase supplies for the shop or pay the federation dues. Society membership dues are not enough to support our activities.

As for Lithorama I have worked very hard getting the Livermore schools involved with projects at the show. In the past three shows I have seen the attendance of the school children go from 75 to 225. So, I stepped in to RUN (Not Chair) Lithorama because I was afraid it would not take place and my efforts with the schools would be lost. This year I do not have my heart in the show, I may be running it but I am not going to make it the only thing in my life. We may or may not have a show next year, but we must put a substantial amount of the groups funds up front to lock in the show with the Park Department for the facility and the City for putting up the banner.

We should be having several field trips each year. When field trips are offered very few members ever think about going. Each month we publish a list of field trips that are being offered by other groups that belong to the North Bay Field Trip Co-op with no one attending. We have not offered to promote a field trip to other societies in the Co-op and because of this attitude we will more there likely be dropped from the group. On October 9 there was a Co-op meeting published in the Lithogram, no one stepped forward and volunteered to represent our society. Field trips do not have to be for rock collecting they can be for museums, shows, etc. Local collecting is becoming a thing of the past because of government groups like the BLM closing collecting areas to all of us we must take trips that are farther away from are local area. You, the members must do some of the work and not expect one person to find a location to go to. I also realize that new members have asked about going to specific collecting locations only to told that the group has been there before, this attitude by some of our longtime members must also change for the good of the society.

At the general meeting on October 14, I made an announcement that if we do not get new officers and chairpersons that it is time for the Livermore Valley Lithophiles to dissolve their incorporation status and close the organization's doors. I talked to our president before I looked into this as a final solution. At that time I also contacted the CFMS to find out what the procedure is to dissolve the group. Let's hope that the group can turn this trend around during this comming year. We have several active members that have been part of this society for more than 40 years and at least one for 55 years.

If you don't want this END to happen to the group please contact Bob Trimmingham and volunteer your service.

So, member's the future of the society is up to ALL of us.

I DIG ARCHAEOLOGY
or
“What I Did Last Summer”
by Laning Thompson

During the last three summers I have been digging for prehistoric hunter-gatherer artifacts at the Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Ghost Ranch, some 21,000 acres of spectacular desert, cliffs, and canyons at the southeastern edge of the Colorado Plateau, is sort of a dude ranch for artistic and spiritual growth. It's perhaps best known for its association with the painter Georgia O'Keeffe, and it offers programs based on her landscapes among its variety of week-long “seminars” during the spring, summer and fall.

The ranch boasts an anthropology museum, which displays artifacts from the prehistoric Tewa and Gallina cultures, as well as a paleontology museum that is the home of New Mexico's official state fossil, a little Triassic-period dinosaur called *Coelophysis*. There are rich sites for both paleontological and archaeological excavations on the ranch.

For decades, archaeological digs have been conducted yearly at two sites on the ranch property, and anyone can participate by paying a fee for one -- or both -- of the week-long Ghost Ranch Archaeology Seminars. Participants can choose to dig at GR-145, which is supervised by John Hayden, a retired forest ranger, or at GR-2, under the direction of Richard Binggeli, a retired medical school professor. They may also choose to work in the “lab” of the anthropology museum, where the finds from the two digs are carefully catalogued and stored.

Both GR-145 and GR-2 are located under south-facing cliffs, which evidently provided shelter for the early occupants. Each site is divided into a grid of 1-meter squares, and each of those squares has a specific address measured from a fixed data point (i.e., 4 North, 12 East). Usually one or two people dig in a given square at a time, carefully removing the dirt with triangular masonry trowels and putting it in a bucket to be sifted. The specific location of any finds such as potsherds, bones, charcoal, stone tools and projectile points are noted on a paper “grid sheet” that has a gridded map of that square. Larger rocks that may form a hearth or fireplace are also indicated on this map, along with notes about any artifacts and descriptions of the soil itself.

The removed soil is then sifted through a metal screen to ensure that even tiniest of bird-bone fragments are revealed. After about 10 centimeters of excavation, the new surface is photographed, and the findings listed on a field specimen sheet. The artifacts are then put in envelopes labeled with the date, the grid square address, and the depth (say, 90 to 100 centimeters below a vertical data point) where they were found, and taken to the museum lab to be catalogued. Large chunks of charcoal may be carefully wrapped in foil to be sent to a laboratory for radiocarbon dating. A new grid sheet is started for each 10 centimeters (about 4 inches) of further excavation.

I have spent most of my time digging at the GR 145 site -- a ledge sheltered by a sandstone cliff above an arroyo with a seasonal watercourse. This spot is thought to have been a periodic hunting camp rather than a year-round settlement because of the abundance of bones from deer and other game as well as fireplaces with charcoal and ash -- and the relative dearth of potsherds. This summer I was excited to unearth my first arrowhead -- a small obsidian point -- and another small obsidian tool that had saw-like serrations on one side. Other interesting things I've helped dig up at GR 145 have been large rocks that may have been used for grinding, or as anvils for smashing long ungulate bones to get at the rich marrow.

The GR-2 site, which is relatively flat and easily accessed, has yielded lots more pottery and tools, but very few bones. Excavations there have revealed a flagstone floor, so that site may have been used for some kind of rituals.

These sites are excavated only during the two-week period when the archaeology seminars are offered each summer, and they are left exposed to the elements the rest of the year. Of course, rains can wash newer sediments into the open pits, but that has proved to be less disturbing to the recently exposed strata than covering them with tarps. Covering the diggings provides shelter for burrowing rodents, and promotes “bioturbation,” which disturbs the chronological placement of artifacts in the sediments.

I don't know the age of the objects I have unearthed, but some artifacts found at the two sites on the ranch may date way back to Archaic Period hunter-gatherers -- 5,500 to 2,000 years ago. Ceramic potsherds may be attributed to Ancestral Puebloans (early Tewa and Gallina cultures), 1200 - 1425 AD. (The “Ancestral Puebloans” used to be referred to as the “Anasazi,” but that term has recently become politically incorrect because it means “ancient enemy” in the Navajo language.)

Many of the projectile points and knives used for cutting and scraping hides are fashioned from chert/chalcedony cores found on the slopes of Pederal, an iconic flat-topped mountain that's easily visible from the ranch (and frequently painted by Georgia O'Keeffe). These cherts are often heat-treated to strengthen them, which makes them look milky and more opaque. I have also found many little flakes of obsidian knapped from glassy chunks that may have been gathered from the Valles Caldera in the Jemez Mountains near Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Ghost Ranch Archaeology Seminars also include evening lectures on related topics, including one in 2009 by Dr. Giday WoldeGabriel, a geologist who has discovered fossil remains of *Ardipithecus ramidus*, a hominin forerunner of *Homo sapiens* that originated in the the Middle Awash region of Ethiopia.

Objects from the two sites are catalogued in the museum lab, where they are cleaned, measured, categorized, and placed in archival plastic bags with other items found at the same time. An inventory is created so that they can be

located for future study. It's very difficult for the few people working in the lab to keep up with all the field specimens that are gathered each year -- they are now some five years behind in their work! I'm planning to go to NM and join a group of volunteer catalogers attacking this huge backlog during the last week in October.

My interest in archaeology goes back a long way: I majored in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology in college. At that time, however, undergraduates weren't taught field techniques, or invited to go on digs (which, in my case, would have been in the Eastern Mediterranean area). Since I had never actually been on a dig, I was delighted to discover I could participate in one at the Ghost Ranch. The folks who have been doing this every summer for decades are very interesting, and I really enjoy just being at the ranch. I haven't had much opportunity to go rock-hounding there, but I have picked up several forms of gypsum and some interesting pieces of jasper-agate. I think that Lithophile members would greatly enjoy the Ghost Ranch and, especially, participating in these digs!



LITHORAMA

The Display space for LITHORAMA 2010 is FULL.

Thank you

Minutes of the Board Meeting

October 28, 2010

The meeting was called to order at the Barn at 7.30 PM by President Bob Trimmingham.

Those also in attendance included Bill Beiriger, Diane Day, Deloris Colonna, Pat Iannucci, and Chris hunt.

Announcements: - None.

Correspondence: Bill Beiriger received a thank you card for the DVDs from the schools. We received a statement showing the maturity of our CD and a certificate of liability for the Shop. We are waiting for one covering the Show.

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

Lithogram: Bill Beiriger indicated that he has a full bulletin for next month including a two-page article from Lanny Thompson on archeology field work in New Mexico.

Shop Report: Two new wheels have been installed (#280 and #600). The existing #80 and #220 wheels though worn will still be used for now.

Program: We will have our election and a "Show and Tell."

Field Trips: The field trip to Black Chasm on Sunday October 17 was attended by four Club members.

Lithorama: We have enough cases for the show. Five cases have been repaired for the show. Date numbers for the banner have been purchased (\$35) and the banner will go up on November 8. Rent for the Barn for the show (\$2,000) has been paid to LARPD. The Langlois' have the kitchen tasks for the show and the set-up dinner under control. Bill Beiriger will buy the ham for the bean soup. The Old Timers breakfast will be held at Emil Villas. Bill Beiriger will ask for help from school science teachers for the Children's Corner. He will have a display case in the Livermore Library, probably next week. Bill Beiriger will prepare a handout sheet with Club information and our e-mail address for Show patrons.

Schools: Bill Beiriger delivered the DVDs to some of the schools. He indicated that the Club should look into purchasing 5 additional sets so that all the Livermore schools could have a set.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The need for a shop foreman was discussed. Diane Day, Stephanie Goldsmith, and Beverly _____ are looking into setting up a team to run the Shop.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

From last months Lithogram.

Answer to "What Do These Eight Towns Have In Common?"

They are all on the 45 Parallel.

California Shows And Events

2010

November 6 & 7 2010, Concord, CA: **Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society**, 51st Anniversary Show, Clayton Fair Shopping Center, 5298 Clayton Rd., Concord

November 6 & 7 2010 Lancaster, CA: **Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club**, "Rock 'N' Gem Roundup"; Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W. Ave. H

November 12, 13, 14 2010, Sacramento, CA, **Sacramento Mineral Society**, Bob Johnson (916) 339-7007,

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

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

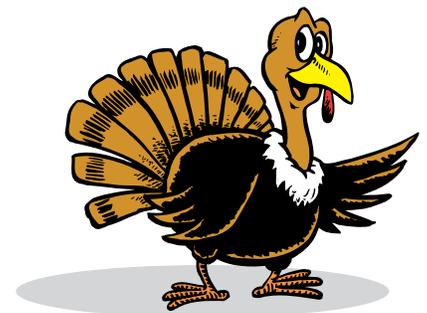
Show information is available at the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: www.cfmsinc.org

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



Field Trips

November 7th Black Butte Reservoir, CA for jasper, El Dorado Club, Ron Stone

November 24th-28th Afton Canyon and Basin Rd., CA for agate, jasper, fluorite, aragonite, seginite, onyx, etc. Mother Lode Club, Al Troglin

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

Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM

General Meeting Nov. 11th at 7:30 PM
Board Meeting Nov. 21st After the Show