

Livermore *Lithogram*

Volume XXXIII
Number 09
October, 2008

Livermore Lithophiles
Livermore, California
Member: CFMS

Next General Meeting:
Thursday, October 9, 2008
Carnegie Building, 4th and J Streets
7:30 p.m.

Program: VCR program on White Sands New Mexico.

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, October 23, 2008
The Shop, 7:30 p.m.
Members are welcome to attend!

Refreshments: Bill Snyder and ???
Need another volunteer to bring refreshments.

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Presidents Message:

Hello, Lithophiles!

The shop teacher at Livermore High School has agreed to open his Gold Country property to us on the weekend of October 18 & 19 for mineral exploration. He has stated that if it rains the property will be too hard to reach and the trip will be cancelled. The property is located off highway 80 north of Sacramento and south of Truckee. I will have maps available at the Thursday, October 9 general meeting. If you are interested please see me at the general meeting or call me at 925-443-5497 for more details. This trip is only open to our club and a rare opportunity to explore new ground.

Bill Snyder, President

House Bill HR 554, the "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act."

This letter was sent to Congressman Brian Bilbray, by a professional geologist, opposing House Bill HR 554, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act". If you want to continue to collect fossils on public lands, its time to write a similar letter to your elected officials.

Bill HR 554 would make it a crime for individuals to collect fossils on public lands. I am a registered professional geologist with a half century of experience working as a geologist, which includes the collecting of fossils. I believe bill HR 554 is ill advised and unnecessary. I have been involved in voluntary teaching of geology, including fossils, to school children and adults. *This is a pastime that millions of Americans practice and enjoy. I do not understand the purpose of restricting and criminalizing their free exercise of their right to use THEIR public lands.*

There are trillions of fossils in the rocks within the United States. The collecting of a few thousand or even tens of thousands of fossils each year will not deplete this resource in 1,000 centuries nor does it contribute any significant environmental impact. *To appoint bureaucrats and law enforcement individuals, who are untrained in paleontology, to enforce this dumb law is ludicrous and another waste of taxes.* I find it incredible that with all the problems facing this country you folks in Washington are wasting your time and our money on such absurdly silly legislature.

A few paleontologists want to restrict their fellow Americans so that they alone can pursue this hobby. It is a hobby for them too, because people cannot make a living as paleontologists unless we taxpayers support them with grants of our money. No one should have his access to knowledge restricted so that only a few anointed experts can pursue fossil collection and study. Many of the finds and much research in paleontology occurs as a result of amateur and semi-professional research and collecting. What is next? Will only librarians be allowed to use the libraries or only biologists be allowed to go fishing?

If this bill is passed, a family on a weekend outing can be jailed and fined for picking up a fossil even if they do not recognize it as a fossil. How do we restrict children from picking up a fossil any more than restricting them from picking a wild flower or catching a butterfly? Children need to explore nature to be children. Our scientists, including the very paleontologists promoting this law, come from a childhood curiosity that includes pastimes like fossil collecting. I became a geologist because of a childhood pastime of collecting fossils, which began at the age of 8 years. In my professional career, I have added billions of dollars in resources to our nation's benefit. Many other geologists share the

same background and have made similar contributions. *You have to decide if the passage of this stupid Bill HR 554 is worth the price of further diminishing our nation's available energy and mineral resources and our future supply of scientists.* Or perhaps in the future we can also import our scientists from China too?

I urge you to vote against bill HR 554.

Sincerely,

Eugene V. Ciancanelli

California Professional Geologist #357

Source - San Diego Mineral & Gem Society News

To read additional letters sent to Congress regarding HR 554 you can visit:

www.sdmg.org/HR554_Letter.pdf

To contact our Congressional representatives:

DC Phone/Fax

Senator Diane Feinstein (D) 202-224-3841/202-228-3954

Senator Barbara Boxer (D) 202-224-3553/202-224-0454

Representative Ellen O. Tauscher (D-10):
202-225-1880/202-225-5914

Representative Jerry McNerney (D-11):
202-225-1947/202-225-4060

The above contact information along with the electronic correspondence addresses can be found at www.visi.com/juan/congress

Welcome New Members!

Lucy Masterson of Livermore, interested in Jewelry, casting and outings.

Kenneth G. Swanson of Pleasanton, enjoys field collecting and fluorescence minerals

Jim & Bonnie Hamilton of Livermore, would like to go on field trips, learn to identify rocks and how to work them.

California Shows And Events

October 11-12 Grass Valley

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society, "Earth's Treasures"
 Nevada County Fairgrounds
 11228 McCourtney Road
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days
 Kim Moore (530) 470-0388
 Email: Kmoore160@comcast.net

October 18-19 Placerville

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
 El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr.
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days
 Jackie Cerrato (530) 677-2975
 Email: info@rockandgemshow.org
 Show Website: <http://www.rockandgemshow.org>
 Website: eldoradomineralandgem.org

October 25-26 Los Altos

Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
 Los Altos Youth Center
 One San Antonio Road
 Hours: Sat. 9-5 pm, Sun. 9-4 pm
 Stan Bogosian: (408)568-2489
 Email: [sbogosian@aol.com](mailto:sbogasian@aol.com)

November 1-2 Concord

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
 Centre Concord - 5298 Clayton Rd.
 Clayton Fair Shopping Center
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days
 Sam Woolsey (925) 837-3287
 Email: sdwools@earthlink.net
 Website: www.ccmgs.org

November 22-23 Livermore

LITHORAMA 2008 Show and Sale,
 Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & Mineral Club; 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.



Giant Crystal Cave!

SUN OCT 12th 9 p.m. on the National Geographic channel. Visit the website at <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com:80/episode/giant-crystal-cave-3569/Overvi>

A team of scientists explore a Mexican cave filled with giant crystals; some of the largest ever discovered. With temperatures near 120 degrees Fahrenheit, and over 80 per cent humidity, the cave is one of the deadliest environments on earth.

An article in the September 2007 Rock & Gem magazine wetted our appetites for more information on these giant selenite crystals.

Turlock Gem and Mineral Show
March 14 & 15, 2009

With collecting sites being closed and gas prices remaining high, this is a good time to plan a Field Trip to the Turlock Gem and Mineral Show. The Silent Auction has been changed into a Rock Sale and will be offering good material from 3 old collections. Fluorescent tent, 100 exhibit cases, 40 demonstrations, snack bar, free parking. Speakers will include Bob Jones - What causes the color in gems and minerals; Walt Wright - Petrified Wood; Dr. David Lynch - The San Andreas Fault; Dr. Alan Schaffert - The Great Bone Wars of the 1860's; Richard Wade - Dinosaurs and fossils. Check our website for further details.

The Mother Lode Mineral Society's Gem and Mineral Show
 Turlock Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway, Turlock
 Saturday 10 - 6, Sunday 10 - 5
 Admission: Adults \$5; Two day pass \$8; Children 12 & under free with adult, Free parking, Camping available on site - reservations suggested
 Chairman: Bud and Terry McMillin 209-524-3494
www.turlockgemshow.com

Field Trips

"CO-OP MEMBER" FIELD TRIPS

- All non-CFMS members must have proof of personal liability insurance (homeowners or renters)
- This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.
- Remember to wear your name badge and sign in with the field trip leader.
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- The CO-OP website has information: www.ourfieldtrips.org (Password is needed)



Private Tour Gold Bug and Old Priest Mines Placerville, CA Saturday, October 25, 2008

Please Note: There are 85 steps on wood and dirt/gravel stairway up to the Old Priest mine. There is a short walk up the road to the stamp mill.

Trip location: Private tour of the Gold Bug and Old Priest Mines at the Gold Bug City Park in Placerville. If you have taken the walking tour, you will not want to miss this expanded guided tour, well worth the \$15.00 admission. Take Highway 50 east to Placerville, turn left on Bedford Road, go one mile, follow signs on Bedford Rd. to a right turn into the park.

When: Saturday, October 25th at 9AM and 1PM (Two tours to accommodate as many as would like to attend). Contact Jim Hutchings by Friday, October 17th for a guaranteed reservation for this trip.

Sponsor: Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society

Material to Collect: Gold panning with real gold to keep!

Leader: Jim Hutchings, contact (530) 367-5108, and cell phone on the 25th, (916) 995-7380. Contact by Friday October 17th for a guaranteed reservation for this trip, however, it is first come first serve after the 17th until the available slots are filled. We can accommodate as many as 120 in groups of 15 on this trip with advance notice by the 17th. E-mail: Jhutchings22@hotmail.com

Who may attend: All members of CFMS Societies in good standing. North Bay Field Trips Clubs also. Any guest may attend and will not require proof of personal liability insurance for this trip. All must sign a waiver of liability form if they have not signed one at any event this year.

Proposed schedule: Saturday, October 25th, meet at the mine's covered lunch area adjacent to the parking lot and the gift shop building. We will be there at all times to assist you with any information and take your entrance fee and have you sign the consent waiver at 9 AM for the 9:00 tour. And again, at the same location, at 1 PM for the 1:00 tour. If you can arrive a little earlier, that would help in getting the housekeeping done. You can arrange to bring your bag lunch and eat it at the park if you like.

Fees: \$15.00 cash or check made out to "Strike it Rich Tours".

Climate and Weather: Other than normal fall weather, most of the tour is inside the mines and the stamp mill.

Other Remarks: Since this is a City Park, there is no collecting of any rock, plants, or animals from this site. The feast of information about the history of the mines, the geology of the mines, and the methods and culture of the miners was far beyond the value of the \$15.00 admission fee. The panning for gold was better than that of most do-it-yourself mining opportunities.



June Harris of the Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society sent this along by request of Dean Welder. Thank you, June and Dean.

A Santa Cruz member has a large, industrial rock tumbler setup for sale. Asking \$400. The tumbler uses 7, 1-gallon, barrels.

Contact Bonnie at shellgatherer@aol.com

Minutes of the Board Meeting September 25, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by president **Bill Snyder**. Also present were **Deloris Colonna, Bob Trimmingham, Bill Beiriger, Dick Friesen and Beth Myers**.

Children's Fair: Kids spent a lot of time in the pool. Had a good position for the booth, but little action. Conflict with Children's Fair [held the same weekend] at Pleasanton.

Mike Gorges' Material: Estate approved appraiser should have examined the material. Discussion. Ways to dispose of material were discussed. Books, tools and equipment might be distributed at the next Lithorama.

Lithorama: Only two cases promised to date.

Field Trip: Possible trip to former hydraulic mining area in [Gold Country] California.

Special Speaker: Glen Lehrer will be here [Wednesday,] November 5. \$100.00 payment and the room reservation fee.

Program: VCR program. White Sands New Mexico or Tucson 2008.

Lost Wax Class: Dick F. is offering two wax working classes. Classes probably are full.

Web Site: Bill B. discussed.

Treasurer's Report: Deloris C. - Washington Mutual bought out. CD renewed for 8 more months at 4.25 % annual percentage yield.

Refreshments: Bill Snyder and ?

Meeting adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.

-Bob Trimmingham, *secretary*

Show Chairman Needed!

This will be Bill Beiriger's last year as Show Chairman for our annual gem & mineral show.

We need a volunteer to fill this position. It would be educational if the new Chair could work with Bill in preparing for our 2008 show in November. If you are the one, please call Bill Snyder (925) 443-5497 or Bill Beiriger (925) 443-5769.

Your Newsletter is only an e-mail away...

Currently 14 of our members receive the newsletter through email. If you would like to help the club save money on printing and postage - I would be delighted to email your newsletter. It's easy - just send me a note at eme2@wildblue.net and your newsletter will be in your inbox, in full color no less! Thanks, Beth Myers, editor.

Minutes of the General Meeting September 11, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by president **Bill Snyder**.

Minutes were approved as printed in the *Lithogram*.

Children's Fair: **Bill S.** commented that the location wasn't good. It was hot and the awning could have been re-oriented. A park department canopy was used instead of our own popup. The booth location, however, was good and there were a lot of helpers. There was also a commercial children's fair at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. **Bill S.** will send in comments to the organizers.

Shop: Three new people came. Two guests at the meeting are interested in the shop. **Bill S.** mentioned upcoming classes.

Casting class: Call **Dick Friesen** (447-8223) if you're interested in the class. The class will be held on the first two Saturdays in October. The wax castings will be sent out to be cast. Once the casting is done the class will finish in November. \$25 for class plus cost of the casting.

Treasurer's Report: July: income from the shop and membership. August: income from dealer fees, San Leandro Library, and more sales of the Gorges collection.

Field trips: Field trip info on the web site in the newsletters.

CFMS: The fall meeting will be held in Nov. in Visalia.

Bob Whiteside said the Camp Paradise classes were great. Camp Paradise classes will be held in the spring next year because Zzyzx location is no longer available in the spring. Zzyzx classes will be held in November 2009

Lithorama: So far there's only one response from an exhibitor. More members will be needed to exhibit. No decision has been made yet about activity for children's corner yet. New member **Sylvia** may volunteer to be next year's chairman. **Isaac** will be setting up the fluorescent display. **Bill Beiriger** will have raffle tickets at the next meeting.

Lithogram: A new editor is still needed for the bulletin.

Election: Nominations are needed for officers next month.

County Fair: Club needs a volunteer to put in a display at next year's fair.

Programs: October's program will probably be about White Sands.

Field Trips: The Shop teacher from Livermore High has property in the gold country. We've been invited to go

there to explore the area. If gold or artifacts are found, he will keep them. We are welcome to collect other materials. The trip will be in October. About 10 people expressed interest. More info will be on the web site. The trip is limited only to club members. It could be an overnight trip.

Old Business: **Bill B.** sent the Brunton compasses to Cal State East Bay. There's been no confirmation of their receipt by the school or the students. Compasses were backordered so we couldn't give them out at a meeting.

The crystal growing contest will be held again for the show. **Bill B.** asked for a book list for classrooms. Schools want some rock collections. Bill will work on those.

Bill S. said the rasps and files we donated to Livermore High teacher are being used by the art students for soapstone carving. Hopefully they will have something for a display for the show. **Albert Hess** may have some soapstone to donate.

New Business: Another possible additional sale for **Gorges** and **Iannucci** lapidary materials. **Mike** had Stone Canyon jasper, other jaspers, Brazilian. Agate, obsidian, Graveyard Point agate. Material still needs to be sorted. Sale won't be held until at least Feb. The sale of Mike's stuff for his family for tax purposes is complicated. An official appraisal is needed. **Joan Beiriger** was there for many days helping get the materials ready to be transported. Should some of the better stuff be slabbed for the sale? Is it worth the time and expense?

Show and Tell: **Albert H.** brought in Texas Springs limb casts and rutulated quartz that he polished. He also polished some native materials found in the Livermore area into cabochons. Also polished just the corners of pieces he's picked up just to see what it looks like polished. **Bill** mentioned going down the arroyos here after rain to look for local materials.

Walt Hayden brought in a polished piece of jadeite and a naturally polished "worry stone".

A guest brought horn coral from Weeping Water, Nebraska.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Pat Iannucci

Award Winning Artist Glenn Lehrer

Will present a special program for the
Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem and Mineral Club

Glenn Lehrer is internationally recognized as one of the finest gemstone carvers of our time. His fluid gemstone carvings and precisely faceted stones are featured in custom, fine jewelry and exquisite gemstone sculptures around the world.



Date: Wednesday - November 5, 2008

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Civic Center Library

1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Livermore, CA 94550

Community Meeting Room

Livermore Valley Lithophiles

Beth Myers, Editor
P.O. Box 626
Livermore, CA 94551-0626
eme2@wildblue.net



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

Elected Officers and Club Information

Elected Officers:

President	Bill Snyder	(925) 443-5497
Vice President	Beth Myers	(408) 897-3060
Secretary	Bob Trimmingham	(925) 443-5983
Treasurer	Deloris Colonna	(925) 447-5041

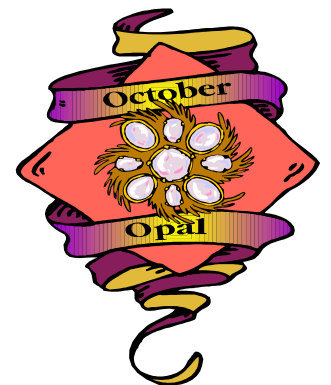
Membership: The Livermore Valley Lithophiles invites to its membership anyone genuinely interested in minerals, gems, lapidary, geology or any of the other earth sciences, and who desires association with others of like interests. Membership in our club consists of three classes: Senior, anyone eighteen 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: Beth Myers, 35705 San Antonio Valley Road, Livermore, CA 94550-8402, email: eme2@wildblue.net



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