

# Livermore

# Lithogram



**Volume XXXV, Number 10**  
**October 2010**

**Livermore Valley Lithophiles**  
**Livermore, California**

Next General Meeting:  
Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010  
Carnegie Building, 4th and 'J' Streets  
7:30 PM

**Program:** Program: Meeting program will be about my Denver trip (4200 miles) or a DVD of interest to the club.

Next Board Meeting:  
Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010  
The SHOP, 7:30 PM  
Members are welcome to attend!

**Refreshments:**  
Bill Beiriger

## *Inside this issue:*

<b>NBFT (Fieldtrip Meeting Oct 9)</b>	<b>2</b>
Grab Bag Workshop Photo	<b>2</b>
General Meeting - Sept. 9th	<b>3</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>4</b>
Board Meeting - Sept. 23rd	<b>5</b>
<b>New Paleontology Museum</b>	<b>6-7</b>
California Shows & Events	<b>8</b>
Field Trips	<b>8</b>
<b>Dangerous Situations</b>	<b>9</b>

## **Presidents Message:**

Greetings:

Daloris and I are back from another great trip to the Denver show, this time via an excellent smaller show at Silver City, NM. I hope to share highlights with you Oct. 14, maybe with Power Point or I Movie.

In spite of having no nominating committee we do have a slate of officers to present next meeting. Guess Who! Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Maybe a surprise.

After a noble term as shop foreman Lynn Zirkle will be stepping down at the end of the year. We will need a new foreperson, or forepeople sharing, alternating, etc. Please, you lapidaries who use the shop, come to the next meeting with ideas.

Maps for the Oct, 17 (Sun.) fieldtrip to Black Chasm Cavern will be available at the meeting. Don't miss the details.

We may be short demonstrators for the Lithorama. Any, ideas? And if you have risers and liners you are not planning to use for our club cases, how about sharing them.

Bob Trimmingham, President

### **NBFT Fall Meeting**

The Contra Costa M&GS will host the fall meeting of North Bay Field Trips on October 9, 2010 in Pittsburg, CA.

In place of a program this year we are planning a “Silver Pick” collecting trip to rock-hound estate sale at the home of one of our ‘old timers.’

The purpose of NBFT is to share field trips and rockhounding between our member clubs. Each club is encouraged (and expected) to plan and host a field trip or “event” each year.

So mark your calendars now for NBFT on October 9th. Talk it up at your next meeting and get a group of field tripping rock collectors to attend the NBFT fall meeting. Bring something to share and your plate and utensils for the potluck lunch and bring rocks and rock related items for the silent auction. Also, bring Show-N-Tell from a recent trip.

For more information contact Dick Pankey at 925-439-7509 or dickpankey@juno.com

### **GRAB BAG STUFFING WORKSHOP**



Ernie M., Joan B., Bill B., Dalorse C.



Beth M., Ernie M., Joan B., Lanny T.

Photos - Lanny's camera

**Minutes of the General Meeting**

September 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7.35 PM by Vice President Chris Hunt.

**Guests:** New Members Don and Denise Downey and their children Grace and Jillian were present.

**Program:** A program by Bill Beiriger was given at the start of the meeting. Bill's program consisted of a DVD he is preparing on sand, entitled "The World of Sand." The informative DVD covered various aspects of sand including its grain size parameters, particle shape, color, composition, and important aspects of collection location. Bill's intent on showing the Club this nearly finished DVD was to elicit comments from the group; several comments were received by Bill. He plans to enter the final DVD into Federation competition next year.

There is no planned program for the October meeting. Perhaps one will materialize?

**Correspondence:** Miscellaneous club newsletters.

**Sunshine:** No announcements were made.

**Minutes:** The June 10 General Meeting minutes were not formally contained in the September Lithogram although pertinent information on Bill Beiriger's purchase of publications for the Livermore schools was included. Bill Beiriger also purchased a book for our library, "Photography of Agates and Jaspers." In addition, the Treasurer's report information regarding receiving the Frazier's check for the Lithorama and a discussion of a second account was absent. Hopefully these items will update our records.

**Treasure's Report:** Diane Day gave the treasure's report. Recent income for the month was from the shop, the San Leandro Library function, and case registration.

**Lithogram:** Bill Beiriger stated that articles of interest from members are needed. Bill indicated that he will be the Editor for one more year.

**Shop Report:** No shop report. It was mentioned that the present shop foreman, Lynn Zirkle, wishes to give up these duties. A replacement, or a team of individuals, will soon be needed

**CFMS Report:** None.

**Field Trips:** A field trip to Black Chasm Cavern was tentatively scheduled for Sunday October 17. This item will be discussed at the October 14 General Meeting.

The North Bay Cooperative has indicated that clubs not sponsoring a field trip may be deleted from membership.

**Lithorama:** Post card flyers are being prepared and should be ready for the Stockton show next weekend. The post cards will indicate a \$5 entry fee for the Lithorama as was decided by the members after a motion to that effect was made by Nancy Bankhead and second by Dianne Merlone. A discussion of the motion followed that resulted in allowing a \$1 discount for show entrance with the post card. The motion passed. Our banner will be located along North Livermore Avenue under the railroad overpass. We need members to enter cases for the show. Insurance for the Lithorama needs to be renewed. It was decided to keep the level of insurance the same as last year (i.e., the number of attendees insured).

**Work Shops:** None.

**Schools:** Bill Beiriger purchased five copies of 4 DVDs from the Schlessinger Science Library Series for the Livermore schools. The topics of the DVDs included: All About Earth's History, All About Fossils, All About Rocks & Minerals, and All About Volcanoes. Bill has planned talks with home schooled groups in Tracy and we will probably have crystal growing in the schools again this year.

**Fair Case:** The Fair case prepared by Diane Day won 1<sup>st</sup> place and Best of Show. The case will be set up again for the Lithorama.

**Festivals:** The Club earned \$500 at the San Leandro Library function, passing out some 400 bags of rock samples.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** It is time again to appoint a nominating committee for next years officers. Lanny Thompson needs rocks that look like food for her food case.

**Refreshments:** Not assigned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

### **What Do These Eight Towns Have In Common?**

New Meadows, Idaho  
Rangeley, Maine  
Alpena, Michigan  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Salem, Oregon  
Lincoln City, Oregon  
Franklin, Vermont  
Beaver, Wisconsin

**Answer in next months Lithogram**

## **LITHORAMA**

**The Display space for LITHORAMA 2010 is FULL.**

**Thank you**

## **LITHORAMA**

**IMPORTANT - We need a work party to repair 5 of our display cases.**

**Please call Bill B. at 443-5769**

**Thank you**

**Minutes of the Board Meeting**

September 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order at the Barn at 7.30 PM by Vice President Chris Hunt.

Those also in attendance included Bill Beiriger, Diane Day, and Dick Friesen.

**Announcements:** - Bill Beiriger announced that there is a new paleontology museum in Madera County displaying a vast number of Pleistocene and possibly earlier fossils that were excavated from a landfill site over the last few years. There are approximately 10,000 specimens representing about 37 species that will be on display when the museum opens at the landfill site about October 13 of this year. Bill also announced that the North Bay Co-Op will have a meeting and potluck lunch on October 9 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm in Pittsburg. It was stressed that clubs that do not participate in North Bay Co-Op field trips (presumably by sponsoring one) will be dropped from their membership.

**Correspondence:** Bill Beiriger received an e-mail from a lady who wanted geodes polished. He encouraged her to join the club.

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

**Lithogram:** Bill Beiriger indicated that he will have an article on the Madera area paleontology museum but still needs other articles from members. Lanny Thompson may submit an article on archeology field work in New Mexico. Bill stated that he purchased 300 first class stamps as the rates are slated to increase in January.

**Shop Report:** New wheels are soon to be needed for the shop. It was decided to defer their purchase at this time as significant savings in shipping and discounts can be realized by waiting until Dick Freisen can purchase them at Quartzsite early next year. Admittedly, the wheels are worn but there is a "fair" life in them.

**Program:** Nothing set at this time.

**Field Trips:** The field trip to Black Chasm is set for Sunday October 17. More details at the General Meeting October 14.

**Lithorama:** We have enough cases for the show. We need to repair 5 cases at a work session to be set up. Post cards (5,000) for the show have been ordered for a cost of about \$118. Substitute notices were distributed at the Stockton show. Post cards will be sent to people who gave their addresses on last years raffle tickets. There were 105 addresses: 13 from Pleasanton; 33 from the rest of California; and, the balance from Livermore.

**Old Business:** The possibility of having a club credit cart was mentioned. No decision was reached. A nominating committee for next year's officers needs to be formed.

**New Business:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

## Madera County Paleontology Museum

New Paleontology Museum to open in Chowchilla. The museum will have its grand opening of its 5700 square-foot Fossil Discovery Center from October 13 through 17.

In 1993, a remarkable discovery occurred in the San Joaquin Valley of California. An eight-foot Columbian mammoth tusk was uncovered during excavations at the Fairmead landfill next to where the museum now stands.

The tusk is just the icing on the cake, now more and more of that cake is being uncovered. There have been more than 15,000 fossils representing more than 42 different species. The fossils are from the middle-Pleistocene period dating back to 1 million years ago.

Along with mammoths are saber-tooth cats, short-faced bears, giant ground sloths, prong-horned antelopes, camels, horses, wolves, rodents and other fossils.

According to paleontologist Niranjala Kottachchi this is a scientifically significant find because it is the largest find of the Pleistocene period on the West Coast of North America. Very few sites show such a great diversity as have been found here.

The Fossil Discovery Center is at 19450 Road 21 1/2.  
(Hwy 99 Exit 164, SW corner of Road 19 1/2 & Avenue 21 1/2, Chowchilla, CA)



**This should make a great field trip for clubs and schools.**  
**Website: <http://www.maderamammoths.org>**



Perspective View of Museum



Life in the Pleistocene



Saber-Toothed Cat



Giant Ground Sloth

# California Shows And Events

## 2010

**October 9-10 2010**, Grass Valley, CA  
**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  
 Web: <http://www.ncgms.org>

**October 9 & 10 2010** Trona, CA: **Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society**, Searles Show Bldg, 13337 Main St

**October 16-17 2010**, Placerville, CA  
**El Dorado County Gem & Mineral Society**  
 El Dorado County Fairgrounds 100 Placerville Drive Hours: 10-5 daily Karen Newlin (530) 676-1643  
 Website: <http://www.rockandgemshow.org>

**October 16 & 17 2010**, Santa Rosa, CA,  
**34th Annual Show**, Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa

**October 23 & 24 2010**, Los Altos, CA, **Peninsula Gem & Geology Society**, Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Road, Hours: 10-5 both days, Email: pgg50@yahoo.com, Website: <http://pggs.org/>

**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](http://www.lithophiles.org)

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies web page [www.cfmsinc.org](http://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](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

### Additional Resources:

**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies** website: [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

**American Lands Access Association** website: [www.amerlands.org](http://www.amerlands.org)

**CO-OP** website: [www.coop.freeservers.com](http://www.coop.freeservers.com)



**Black Chasm Cavern**  
 Photo - Wikipedia

## Field Trips

Oct. 9, 10, Fernley, NV for various minerals, Sutter Buttes Club, Gerry Hill, 530-695-1595

October 16, Santa Rose, CA, RARE ROCK MOSAIC ART MUSEUM, Kevin Scism 530-693-1304

October 17, Black Chasm Cavern, National Natural Landmark, near Volcano, CA. Info and maps at the Oct. 14 Lithophile meeting.

Oct. 23, 24, New York Cyn., NV for epidote, copper, minerals, microcline, RRR Club, Jim Hutchings, 530-367-5108



## Of Depth Perception and Dangerous Situations

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

Well the weather has gotten hot and I've been out hunting a lot recently. On one of these trips I re-learned the lesson about knowing where you're going, making sure that you have the gear to get there, and more importantly — to get out.

As I like to tell my kids, "the easiest thing about climbing trees is getting down. The hardest thing is doing it without getting hurt."

So there I was, standing alone on an old country bridge looking down 40 feet to the water. The creek was about 4 feet higher than normal, but the fringe of the bank still looked accessible — which meant I would have access to the fossil layer. So I attached my tag line and lowered my bucket and gear over the side to a little ledge that looked to be just above the water. Then I walked back around to access the bank and headed in. That's when I realized I had some problems that had started with bad depth perception.

Problem 1: I couldn't get down the way I have always done in the past because it was under water.

Problem 2: My bucket wasn't on the edge of the bank. It was actually about 5 feet up, and I couldn't get to it from higher up on the bank/cliff.

Problem 3: Where was my buddy Chase who was supposed to bring some better ropes?

Problem 4: The small amount of bank that was still exposed was actually a talus slope of shale that had just been "lubricated" by the creek.

Problem 5: You'll have to wait for...

So for Problem 1, I found a spot, used some old vines and roots to get as far down as possible, then jumped into about 8 inches of water + a few more of mud. Good thing I didn't twist anything!  
Remember the depth for future reference.

Problem 2: It wasn't too hard to handle except that I didn't want to go for a swim. When balancing on a precarious slope, adjusting your center of gravity upward isn't a good idea. Moving very carefully, I maneuvered the bucket down. I stayed dry to that point and found a little dry spot for my bucket and gear. Then I started working my way downstream. I used my tag line to steady myself as I scuttled along.

Problem 3: Where was Chase? About then he called and told me he couldn't come because his girlfriend's parents had just come into town and wanted to take him out to dinner. This was bad since I really needed some better gear to haul my middle-aged

butt back out of the creek!

Problem 4: "Man this footing is slick!" My tag line only helped for about 20 feet, and then it was just me, my mud boots, and my pick. I used the pick to dig out dry foot holds just above the water, and worked my way to the outcropping layer. I spent a good three hours there digging through the matrix and came away with my first mosasaur tooth. It was small with the very tip broken off, but I was still pretty happy. So, time to call it a day, and I could even be back in time for dinner.

That's when Problem 5 reached up (literally) and threw a wrench in my preconceived plans. Although there had not been any recent rain in the creek's watershed, the Brazos River had recently received several inches a couple of hundred miles upstream.

So while I was in the creek, the Brazos continued to rise and water backed into the creek. I was facing the wall and didn't notice that the water had risen about a foot behind me!

So there I am at the bottom of the cliff, the fringe of the bank is now underwater AND I'm loaded down with matrix I want to take home. Well, I did make it out. Had to cut more steps which took a lot of work. Flailed numerous times and fell in once while tossing my pick in the air. Luckily it missed me on the way down and landed where I could grab it. Otherwise, I WAS swimming back. Finally made it to the tag line and used it to haul myself about two feet up the bank. I secured it to my bucket and realized how hard it was to climb with two mud boots filled with muddy water. After partially emptying them (I must have looked like a crazed and muddy yoga master) I crawled the remaining 38 feet to the top. Yes—I was exhausted, and now all I had to do was drag that 50 lbs. of rock up from the bottom, and I could go.

The only smart thing I did in the whole process was to bring my wagon to the bridge. So I loaded it up and easily walked the quarter mile back to my Jeep. Then I headed home, very tired, but not bleeding (much) and without needing to go to an orthopedic surgeon the next day! I even used that change of clothes. All was good in the world until my hands cramped into a death grip on the steering wheel. I always take Motrin® with me, and that helped!

In retrospect, I put myself into a pretty dangerous situation and should have pulled out once I realized my hunting buddy wasn't going to show up. But since I had been to this spot several times before, I thought I could handle it. Maybe I did, just barely, or maybe since my Mom still prays for me every day I had a little help! Either way, I'm too old to do something that stupid. So I vow here and now to stop—at least until I need more fodder for my next article!

## 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](http://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 Oct. 14th at 7:30 PM**  
**Board Meeting Oct. 28th at 7:30 PM**