



# Livermore *Lithogram*

Volume XXXIII  
Number 08  
September, 2008

Livermore Lithophiles  
Livermore, California  
Member: CFMS

**Next General Meeting:**  
Thursday, September 11, 2008  
Carnegie Building, 4<sup>th</sup> and J Streets  
7:30 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting:**  
Thursday, September 25, 2008  
The Shop, 7:30 p.m.  
Members are welcome to attend!

**Refreshments:**  
Not determined - bring a treat to share if you wish.

**Program: It's Show & Tell time!**

Please share with us your summer purchase, project, photo's and collected objects. I can hardly wait to see them!

## *Presidents Message:*

Hello, Lithophiles!

By the time you read this message the Children's Faire (Sept. 6 & 7) will be going on or just completed. I'd like to thank all the people who volunteered to make this event a success. These types of events are our opportunity to share our interests with the community and encourage new membership.

Like you to start thinking about holding an officer position in our club. This request is a little early; historically no one has beat down the door to be of service. Perhaps we can change this trend.

Our show is approaching so mark your calendar for Friday, November 21 to help set up and Saturday and Sunday, 22 & 23 for the show.

**Bill Snyder, President**

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## From the desk of Shirley Leeson, AFMS President

### WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY!



You have a five week window to contact your Congressman about this VERY important matter. Please take advantage of it!

On July 29, 2008 I received information from Wendell Mohr (AFMS Commemorative Stamp Project) that U.S. Congressman JOHN CULBERSON, R, from the 7th District (West Houston, Texas) regarding the Paleo Bill H.R. 554. He is trying to either stop the bill or change it. He asked for our help.

I immediately contacted everyone on our email list both in San Diego and Idaho. I forwarded the information Wendell has supplied me. I also talked directly to Assistant to the Congressman, Brittany Hooten.

They asked us to do a "grass roots" movement to help him stop this bill. Helping me was John Martin, CFMS Public Lands Advisory Committeeman from Southern California. We contacted everyone we could think of. The response was abysmal. Only a few responded. SO NOW WE HAVE A FIVE WEEK WINDOW WHILE CONGRESS IS CAVORTING ON THEIR VACATION ONCE AGAIN....

Here are a few things you can mention when you con-

tact your congressman:

1. Tell them you are a rockhound/amateur collector.
2. Tell them that as the bill stands, we can be put in jail for picking up a rock that might look like a fossil to the "untrained eye" of a BLM or Forestry person. Which will result in the confiscation of your vehicle and all equipment and the burden of proof will be on you IN COURT.
3. Amateur collectors have been responsible for many of the finds of important fossils over the years. All this will now stop.
4. Fossils are not renewable. Once fossils are exposed by wind and rain they will disintegrate. Professional paleontologists usually don't have the time, the money or the staff to check out paleo sites found by amateurs but they don't want us to collect them either.
5. This bill is a disaster for rockhounds, and I urge you to stop it.

One last thing: please contact me with your name, city and state and the name of the congressman you contacted. I'd like to know who responded to this emergency.

Your AFMS President, Shirley [Leeson]  
<[shirleyleeson@msn.com](mailto:shirleyleeson@msn.com)> via CFMS Newsletter 9/08

## Welcome New Members!

**Toni Swenson** of Livermore, Ca

Interests: Jewelry, Art

**Sylvia Belena** of Livermore, Ca

Interests: Carving, colors, Luster, jewelry, much more.

**Tom Wallace** of Pleasanton, Ca

Interests: Varied

**Joseph Cross** of Livermore, Ca

Interests: All Aspects

**Jeff Carnes & Family** of Livermore, Ca

Interests: Rock \* Mineral Collecting, basic rock jewelry

Please seek out our new members and share our common interests with them.

New rosters will be available at the September 2008 general meeting.

# California Shows And Events

## September 27-28 Monterey

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Rd.

Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5

Sky Paston (831) 417-7477

Email: [sky@familystones.net](mailto:sky@familystones.net)

Website: [www.cvgms.org](http://www.cvgms.org)

## September 27-28 Stockton

Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club  
Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
33 West Alpine Ave.

Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Nettie Meissner (209) 858-2263

Email: [footsey1@yahoo.com](mailto:footsey1@yahoo.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@rockandgemshow.org)

Show Website: <http://www.rockandgemshow.org>

Website: [eldoradomineralandgem.org](http://www.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:sbogosian@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](mailto:sdwools@earthlink.net)

Website: [www.ccmgs.org](http://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](http://www.lithophiles.org)

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)

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies web page [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org) gives everyone access to the CFMS Newsletter.

## Mike's Lapidary Material

By Bill Beiriger

Well, another phase of helping with the rocks over at Mike and Agnes Gorges' house has been completed. Joan Beiriger has been helping Joanne Gorges, the daughter of Mike and Agnes, get the house in Fremont ready to sell. Joanne lives in England and quit her job there to be with her mom and dad the last six months of their lives.

Joan organized all the rocks that Mike had collected over many years. I went a couple of times to help with the rocks and a couple of minor jobs. Most of the rocks were in five gallon plastic buckets and a few milk crates.

On Saturday, August 16, a work party brought the material back to Livermore. We used Pat Iannucci and Jim Gruver's trucks and picked up almost all of the material at the house. We took the material to Jim's ranch for storage.

In the future we will go through the material and get it ready for another 'BARN' sale. There are about 75 - five gallon buckets and some other containers of rock. Much of this material is of very good quality.

I wish to thank **Pat Iannucci, Jim Gruver, Rich Hunt, Rich Langlois, Bill Snyder, Max Goehry** and **Joan Beiriger** for helping to transport the material. We filled both the pick-up trucks and my van.

# 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](http://www.ourfieldtrips.org) (Password is needed)



### A "CO-OP MEMBER" FIELD TRIP TO INDIAN SPRINGS TRAILHEAD

TRIP LOCATION - Indian Springs Trailhead. Tahoe National Forest, Eagle Lakes Road about 1.5 miles north of Highway 80 (approximately 22 miles west of Truckee, California).

WHEN - October 4, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.

SPONSOR CLUB - Sun City Lincoln Hills Gem and Mineral Society

MEMBER'S GUESTS - Allowed

COLLECTION MATERIAL - Chinese Writing Rock (porphyry) with large white crystals in black rock. It is found on the side of the road, hillside and in a creek. It will make beautiful cabochons.

LEADER & CONTACT INFO - Ronald Clawson, Field Trip Chairman, 916-543-0065  
cearon1@yahoo.com

PROPOSED SCHEDULE - Meet at the Indian Springs Trailhead staging area at 10:00 a.m. on October 4, 2008.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE - Take Highway I-80 East to the Eagle Lakes Road turnoff which is located about 22 miles West of Truckee, California. Proceed about 1.5 miles North on Eagle Lakes Road past the Indian Springs Campground. Turn right on the dirt road at the Indian Springs Trailhead sign. Proceed about two blocks to the staging area at the bathroom..

VEHICLE REQ'S - Any vehicle is acceptable. This is a very easy site to access.

### 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](mailto: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.

## Team Work of Geese

Author Unknown

Have you ever wondered why migrating geese fly in a V formation?

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird following. When a goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

If people had as much sense as geese, they would realize that ultimately their success depends on working as a team, taking turns doing the hard tasks, and sharing leadership.

Geese in the rear of the V formation honk to encourage those up front to up their speed.

It is important that our "honking" be encouraging. Otherwise it's just - well - honking.

In past newsletters I have been doing some "Honking" to encourage some of the members of this club to step forward and take on some of the important jobs in the club.



It looks like I have to keep "Honking" because very little has happened.

Like geese...people who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier than those who try to go it alone.

Remember the above applies to this club; Please take on the Point Position, or this club will die. - Bill Beiriger

### 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 13 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](mailto:eme2@wildblue.net) and your newsletter will be in your inbox, in full color no less! Thanks, Beth Myers, editor.

## Minutes of the General/Board Meeting August 17, 2008

After a picnic at Almond Avenue Park, the meeting was called to order at 3:25 p.m. by president **Bill Snyder**. Guest **Tom Gitchel** was introduced. **Tom G.** is on a temporary assignment in the Danville area and is anxious to be involved in Lithophile activities while he is here from the Chicago area. **Tom's** interests are minerals, fossils and lapidary.

Treasurer's Report (Informal): **Deloris Colonna** reported that the club's CD will mature on September 25. Lithorama raffle forms have been submitted. A check has been received from the San Leandro Library Festival committee.

Children's Fair: Sept 6-7, 2008 at the Livermore Community Center. The paper work has been completed. Bill Beriger will get more information about the booth position. Help is badly needed. Contact Bill B. and/or Bill S.

Sept 11 Meeting: Several officers will be absent. Jane Crone will cover for Deloris C. and Pat Iunucci will take minutes for Bob Trimmingham. The program will be a "Show & Tell" session.

Workshop: Dick Friesen would like to teach a class on lost wax casting at his place, probably beginning the first two Saturday's of October (casting) followed by a break and then the wire work/ Details pending.

Old Business: The talk on gem carving scheduled at the Livermore Library on Wednesday, November 5 from 6-9 p.m. will be well publicized through the library's network. We should promote it also at the Children's Fair. The intent is to publicize club activities and attract new members locally.

☺ A number of club members joined Bill and Joan Beiriger at Mike and Agnes Gorges' place to pick up about 65 buckets more of rough material of average to excellent quality. Jim Gruver is storing the material. A special sale may be in order next year.

The meeting adjourned about 4 p.m.

- *Bob Trimmingham*, Secretary

## Polishing Jade

By Dick Friesen



I started researching jade polishing several years ago when I took over our club shop. I could get a polish on jade but trying to tell someone else how to do it didn't thrill me much. What I found when I started reading, was that most authors had the same problem I had, they could do it, but telling someone else how was hard. The problem, it seems to me, is that most of the directions are "technique sensitive", and telling someone that "this piece of jade needs more pressure than that one", or some other such description, isn't easy to explain in print. What I wanted was some way of polishing jade that I could tell someone and not have to worry about their being able to do it, regardless of the quality of their jade.

I had better luck talking to cutters about their methods than reading about it. Al Youngquist of "Jade and More" pointed me at Rapid Polish on wood. I found it worked better than anything else I had ever used.

At this point I set up a series of experiments to see what the other things affected the polish. The most common thread in the books seems to be: "sand it dry on a worn 600 grit belt." I didn't have a used one so I used a new one. Using the belt wet produced essentially the same results as the diamond belt. But dry, the surface started to look like it was almost ready to polish. I also tried a new 400 grit belt. The difference between the 400 and 600 was visible but small.

My next step was to find a finer grit silicon carbide. Rio Grande carries 3M 15 and 9 micron belts and is the only source of finer grit belts I have found. Use their "micron graded," not the "Trizact" belts. The "Trizact" belt is designed not to load and won't work. If you are using a Diamond Pacific "Genie" or similar machine, sanding disks on a rubber backed disk work fine. I found a supply of 1200 grit PSA backed 6 inch disks at Red Hill Corporation. I have also used 1200 grit paper and glued it to a Crystalite "Flexodisc." Dry sanding isn't speed sensitive but you may want to keep a pan of water handy to keep the jade cool enough to stay on the dop stick.

What I did find, however, is that the differences are small and a "worn" 600 grit belt is about the same as a 1200 grit belt new. I was able to follow a dry 400, 600, or 1200 grit belt with the Rapid Polish and get a good polish with little or no orange peel. It was just a case of being able to improve the finish with the added steps.

I think the sanding surface is being loaded by jade particles whose size is determined by the grit size.

*Continued on page 7*

## Polishing Jade continued from page 6

This jade surface then "burnishes" the jade cab's surface. I think that the surface of the "burnished" cab is harder than the "un-burnished" jade. This harder surface is then less subject to orange peel. This difference in hardness, if real, is small. I believe that this surface change is what has led to some of the different jade polishing methods. If the time you spend on the polishing buff is short enough after the dry sanding the jade is less sensitive to how it is polished. But if you leave the jade on the buff long enough you may go through the "hard" surface and get orange peel. The Rapid Polish never seemed to go through the "hard" surface.

I have tried different polishing pads and found the differences to be visible but small. There is an area where different jades seem to respond differently. Bill Myers, from the company that produces Rapid Polish, suggested using the paper side of a sanding disk. I tried that and found the results about the same as wood disks, although perhaps easier to acquire. I don't think the pad life would be as good either. The harder leathers helps keep the surface smoother but the softer ones seem to give a brighter polish. I think the answer is: don't worry about it.

I tried other polishes after the initial Rapid Polish and found that Reynolds POLY-AL F improved the polish. This is a .2 micron alumina available from Diamond Pacific. Other polishes in the .1 to .2 micron range would probable work as well.

Rapid Polish also isn't rapid. It takes about three or four times as long for me to polish a jade cab as other polishes on other stones, it just does a better job. Many cutters are now recommending adding some vinegar to the polish. I have tried adding some to the polish and have a small spray bottle to spray the polishing disk. Sometimes I think it helps, sometimes I think it doesn't. At least it doesn't seem to hurt anything, give it a try. It does seem to deteriorate the leather pads faster. Ken Fitzgerald of Fitzcorp, Inc. recommends mixing any alumina one-to-one by weight with liquid dish-washing soap and use as though it were diamond paste. Fitzcorp has done extensive laboratory testing of polishing compounds and plans to publish a book soon on tumbling and polishing watch for it.

So, after all this, what do I recommend?

Diamond: don't sand past 1200 or 1800 grit.

Silicon carbide: sand through 600 wet.

Dry sand on 600 grit until the jade burnishes.

Polish with Rapid Polish on what ever pad you have.

If you are happy, stop.

If you want to try for a better polish, start by getting some 1200 grit silicon carbide disks or belts.

If that isn't good enough, try the different types of wood and/or leather polishing disks.

Try other polishes after the Rapid Polish, sometimes you can improve the finish.



I know there are other ways of polishing jade but most are sensitive to the type of jade being polished and technique being used. This method has proved to be the least sensitive of any I have yet found.

The companies mentioned can be reach at:

**Crystalite Corp.**, 8400 Green Meadows Dr. Westerville, OH 43081 (800),777-2894

**Diamond Pacific Tool Corp.**, 2620 W. Main St., Barstow, CA 92311 (800),253-2954

**Fitzcorp, Inc.** ,P. O. Box 565 Point Blank, TX 77364 (409),377-2409

**Jade and More**, P.O. Box 2381 Castro Valley, CA 94546 (510),538-7136

**Myers Rapid Polish**, P.O. Box 646, Keller, Texas 76244 (817),379-5662

**Red Hill Corporation**, P.O. Box 4234 Gettysburg, PA 17325 (717) 337-1419

**Rio Grande**, 7500 Bluewater Rd. N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87121 (800) 545-6566



## Livermore Valley Lithophiles

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We're on the Web at [www.lithophiles.org](http://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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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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