

# Livermore

# Lithogram



**Volume XXXV, Number 9  
September 2010**

**Livermore Valley Lithophiles  
Livermore, California**

Next General Meeting:  
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010  
Carnegie Building, 4th and 'J' Streets  
7:30 PM

**Program:** New Sand Program By Bill Beiriger  
Power Point Program for entry into AFMS  
Program Competition

Next Board Meeting:  
Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010  
The SHOP, 7:30 PM  
Members are welcome to attend!

**Refreshments:**  
Bill Beiriger & Larry Patzkowski

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***Presidents Message:***

Hello Everyone:

It was good to see so many of you at the picnic at Almond Ave. Park. More than enough great food and good company to go around. Thanks to those who helped set up and tear down the awnings and to Bill and Joan for getting there early to hold the facility. Bill's work at the grill produced frankfurters so good I ate two (and lived to tell about it).

The San Leandro Library "Reading Carnival" was once more great success. A high fog kept it cool the first three hours, with sun and blue skies as a closer. Crowds were as large as Deloris and I could remember. Over 400 bags of goodies were given away, and our society again received a check for \$500. Thanks, bag stuffers.

The program for the Sept. 9 meeting will be a Power Point presentation on Sand by Bill Beiriger. "True Grit" won an Academy Award for John Wayne. Maybe this production will

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by Bill will win a AFMS award. Don't miss it.

Both the Lithorama and election of officers are approaching. If you want to enter a case at our show and haven't told Dick Friesen, let Bill Beiriger know. A slate of officer nominees will be finalized at the October meeting.

Bob Trimmingham, President

### **Ellen Placas**

**Ellen passed away on July 16**

**Ellen was one of the Founding Members and was a Life Member of the Lithophiles.**



Photo - Bob Trimmingham

### **Club Picnic 22 August 2010**

There were 32 members in attendance at the club picnic this year, that is the most we have had in many many years.

The club supplied hot-dogs, chips and sodas, the members supplied the pot-luck items.

We had a few rocks and minerals for sale at ROCK-Bottom prices of \$1.00 each and we had several items on a silent auction.

After we ate we had a short meeting to talk about LITHORAMA. After the meeting we cleaned up and all went home.

Remember we will have another summer picnic next year. Thanks to all who attended, there were several new members and families there.

Thanks, Bill and Joan B.

ENHANCED, TREATED, HEATED,  
DYED, STABILIZED, CREATED,  
AND IRRADIATED – FAKE?  
by Deborah Pfianz

Gemstones and semi-precious stones have been fiddled with for centuries to make them 'more': colorful, more eye-catching, and easier to work. This does not make them 'fake', however one should know what some of those terms and treatments mean.

**Heat Treated:** this is the most common treatment and is as old as fire. Humans heated agate and jasper so as to be able to knap the stones for tools. Humans also heat gem materials to enhance, clarify or create color in a stone. Amethyst is heated for citrine and ametrine. Zircon is heated to clarify the stone to clear white. Sapphires are heated to get the most amazing pinks and blues. Tigereye is turned blue or red. Carnelian turns orange. Aquamarine may go from green-blue to blue. Rubies may lose a purplish tint. Iolite may be turned a deep blue. It is also used to enhance the 'color change' gems such as tanzanite.

**Dyed:** this is also a very common practice. Agate is dyed to get fancy pinks, purples, orange and blues – eye catching and very saleable. Chalcedony is often dyed; black is sold as onyx and green is sold as chrysoprase. Howlite is often dyed to look like turquoise, lapis, sodalite and charite. Turquoise and jadeite are often dyed to enhance the natural color. Alabaster, coral, banded calcite, and marble are dyed to enhance their color or to imitate other semiprecious stones.

**Irradiation:** while topaz is currently the most commonly irradiated gemstone (to get various shades and tones of blue) this is also how one gets those fabulously colored diamonds. In fact diamond was the first gemstone color treated with radiation.

**Stabilized:** Opals are often stabilized – either by filling such as with Opticon resin (or similar agent) or by capping either as a doublet or triplet. Emerald has a long history of fracture filling due to its popularity and its tendency to be highly included and fractured. While natural oils have traditionally been used for fillings and stabilization, modern synthetic resins are now being used, such as Opticon, which are more permanent than the natural oils were. Turquoise and coral are also stabilized in such a manner so as to make them a bit more durable.

**Created:** this is a touchy subject. Much like farmed pearls are real with a center of plastic or mother of pearl rather than sand. Still real, still a pearl just helped to grow by a human. Laboratory grown crystals of ruby, sapphire, diamond, emerald, and star sapphire are real semiprecious stones. They just weren't grown in the earth. So what is the answer: Real or Fake? This 'real vs fake' can be argued with all sides being technically correct. That is not the most important information one can have. The really important bit about this from a lapidary or jeweler's point of view is disclosure. Does one know up front that the stone you are getting has been 'helped along' by the human touch? Do you as a lapidary artist, gem-smith, jeweler or craftsperson know what you are using? The beauty and art that we create with these stones is being helped along by our touch, much as it was to first get our attention. There is beauty in the knowing - be sure to share with those around you.

Rock Chipper 6/01; via CentrILL Gems, 10/07; via RockCollector (Rochester Lapidary Society), 12/07

## **Livermore Schools**

Bill Beiriger

We have purchased some more much needed material for the Elementary Schools Science Enrichment Program.

Pat Boyle provided me with a list of DVD from the Schlessinger Science Library Series. I purchased five copies each of; All About Earth's History, All About Fossils, All About Rocks & Minerals and All About Volcanoes.

At a future date the club will buy five additional copies for the other five schools. The money for these DVD is from the Mike Gorges Memorial Fund.

Pat sent me an email telling me to thank the Lithophiles for all they have done for Livermore Elementary Schools Science Program.

### **GEMSTONE CARVINGS: THE MASTERWORKS OF HAROLD VAN PELT**

**JULY 17, 2010 - JANUARY 3, 2011**

**BOWERS MUSEUM**

**Santa Ana, California**

Thousands have admired the work of Harold Van Pelt who, along with his wife Erica, they are considered the best gem and mineral photographers in the world. Few know of Van Pelt's extraordinary ability as a fine art gemstone carver, and nobody has ever seen his entire body of work assembled in one place. Bowers Museum is proud to present the first comprehensive exhibition of the extraordinary artworks of Harold Van Pelt. For over 35 years Van Pelt has quietly been perfecting the art of carving quartz, rock crystal and agate gemstones. Hundreds of hours go into each multi-faceted, fluted, and textured vase, hollow container, sculpture and vessel, many of which are accented with gold and semi-precious stones. Working the stone down to paper-thin walls brings out the gorgeous natural quality and colors of the agate and gives quartz the transparency of glass. Transformed by one man's vision and skill from a solid stone to an incredibly delicate work of art, the gemstone carvings of Harold Van Pelt have to be seen to be believed.

## **LITHORAMA**

**Members: Put a display into our show.**

**Let Dick Friesen or Bill Beiriger know if you are planning on putting one in.**

**It is not too early because we have to start asking for guest displays.**

## **Minutes of the General Meeting** NO JULY or AUGUST Meetings

### *Silver Bullets*

*by Beth Myers, CFMS Membership Committee Chair*

*(from CFMS Newsletter, April and May 2010)*

### **Long Range Planning**

Successful organizations always plan for the future.

If your society is like many others, it's difficult to think creatively and plan for the future at Board meetings and General Membership meetings – there just isn't enough time!

One solution is to establish a Long Range Planning Committee which takes very little effort but can yield impressive results. One society conducts their Long Range Planning meetings once each quarter. Although chaired by a single society member and attended by several regulars, all members are invited to attend and participate. Here is just one success story that resulted from such a meeting:

This society has an Education Program which provides outreach opportunities for teaching elementary school children, The Scouts, etc. about many aspects of geology and earth sciences. Until recently, members of the society had to load the containers of rocks/minerals/fossils/etc. into their own vehicles, drive to the schools, unload the containers, provide the instruction, re-load the containers into their vehicles, then unload them at their home. The Long Range Planning committee researched the cost of purchasing a new 5' X 8' enclosed trailer including the cost of insurance. With some fund-raisers, donations and two grant requests, the society now owns a fully self-contained "Education Trailer" complete with loading ramp and storage areas which is towed to-and-from each school. What a difference it has made!

If your society doesn't already have a Long Range Planning committee, now may be the perfect time to add this silver bullet to your society's arsenal!

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are one of the more popular functions of many Rock and Gem Societies and having an active field trip program goes a long way to attracting (and retaining) members. All too often, a Society's Field Trip Chairperson assumes the sole responsibility for developing and scheduling field trips without capitalizing on a very effective tool that can easily be incorporated into your society.

Consider scheduling a Field Trip Planning Meeting during January of each year and inviting everyone in your society to attend, particularly those who have led field trips in the past. By doing this in January, those rockhounds who need to schedule their annual vacations with their employers will have a 'heads-up' regarding their society's field trip schedule for that year.

**Minutes of the Board Meeting**

NO July or August, 2010 Meetings

**Safety****Bee Alert, Bee Prepared!**

By Bural LaRue

(from CFMS Newsletter, June 2010)

Flowers everywhere are blooming and attracting bees in large numbers. This is the time of year to be especially alert to large numbers of bees appearing to set up housekeeping near areas of activity. The Africanized honey bee (AHB) and the European honey bee look the same. Both species protect their nest and sting. Their venom is the same and they can sting only once. Both species are beneficial in that they pollinate flowers and produce honey and wax.

Why the concern? The Africanized variety is much more aggressive than its European cousin and poses a far greater threat to people and their pets. When disturbed, they respond quickly and sting in large numbers. They have been known to pursue their enemy  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile or more. They can sense a threat from people and animals 50 or more feet from their nest and can sense vibrations from power equipment 100 feet away. They swarm frequently to establish new nests.

Nesting sites for the Africanized honey bee include empty boxes, cans, buckets or other containers, old tires, lumber piles, holes and cavities in fences, trees or the ground. They will also nest in sheds, garages, and other buildings. Remove potential nest sites around buildings. Be careful wherever bees may be found.

To keep bees away, wear light-colored clothing and avoid scented soaps and perfumes. Don't leave food, drinks, and garbage uncovered.

Don't pen, or tether animals near bee hives or nests and never attempt to remove a nest yourself. Find a reputable pest control company that specializes in bee removal. Check with your local extension office or the State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for trained and licensed pest control operators in your area.

(To be continued in next newsletter)

Source: Riverside County Open Spaces District handout

-Bural

# California Shows And Events

## 2010

**September 18 & 19 2010**, Stockton, CA: **Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club**, Earth's Treasures 2010 Gem Show, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 33 W Alpine Ave.

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

**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: pggs50@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)

## Field Trips

Sept. 4, 5, 6 Austin, NV for fluorite, snakeskin agate, other minerals El Dorado Co. Club, Barbara Terrill

Oct. 2 Griffith Quarry, Penryn, CA for a tour of the quarry, Lincoln Hills Club, Ron Clawson

Oct. 9, 10 Fernley, NV for various minerals, Sutter Buttes Club, Gerry Hill

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

## 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**     **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:**  
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**Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM**

**General Meeting Sept. 9th at 7:30 PM**  
**Board Meeting Sept. 23th at 7:30 PM**