

Livermore

Lithogram



Volume XXXIV, Number 5
May 2009

Livermore Valley Lithophiles
Livermore, California

Next General Meeting:
 Thursday, May 14, 2009
 Carnegie Building, 4th and 'J' Streets
 7:30 PM

Program: Rich Hunt will give our program – “Name that Rock,”

Next Board Meeting:
 Thursday, May 28, 2009
 The SHOP, 7:30 PM
 Members are welcome to attend!

Refreshments:
 Bill Beiriger & Deloris Colona



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Presidents Message:

Greetings all,

May is a very busy month. We can certainly use everyone’s help. The Wine Country Festival is May 2-3. The club will have a booth downtown near the Vine Theater. Rich Langlois is the chairman of this event and I know he will appreciate your help staffing the booth during the festival. On May 9th, we are selling rough rock from the Mike Gorges’ collection at Nancy Bankhead’s ranch. The hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are planning to move the rock from Jim Gruver’s property to Nancy’s on Thursday May 7th at 5 p.m. Meet at Jim’s property (end of Victoria Lane) at 5 o’clock to help move the material to Nancy’s ranch. Come out to the ranch again on Saturday to help with the sale, and to buy some really good rock!

The USGS in Menlo Park is having an open house on May 16-17. This looks like a very interesting event and it is also free of charge. Please see the advertisement in this issue of the Lithogram or go to <http://openhouse.wr.usgs.gov>.

This month we will have another “Show and Tell”. The theme is: Something you have made in a club activity or your favorite rock or mineral purchased at a show. I want to make sure everyone is able to participate, so the category is large.

Rich Hunt will give our program – a selection of photographs of interesting cases from the California Federation show. He calls it “Name that Rock,” because we took very sparse notes about the cases he photographed so our members can provide some content to the program by helping to identify some of the cool rocks that Rich photographed. See you at the activities, - Chris Hunt, President

Minutes of the General Meeting

April 9, 2009

The April meeting of the Livermore Lithophiles was called to order at 7:36 p.m.

Rich Hunt volunteered to be acting secretary.

Treasurer: Income was \$990, mostly Gorges fluorescence mineral sales. Expenses were \$128.12 mostly for the speaker honorarium.

Two corrections were made to the board meeting minutes. There were two different adjournment times. Members who attended the meeting said that 8:20 p.m. was the correct time. Also, Pat Iannucci was not present at the meeting. Albert Hess moved that we approve the minutes as corrected. Rich Langlois seconded. Motion passed.

Wine Country Festival:

- The festival will be held the weekend of the 2-3 of May. It is one of our major fund-raisers so we need all members to help
- Need help filling bags. The date was changed to Thursday 4/16 7:00 p.m.
- Set-up: We have not received information from the city yet, but it should come next week. Currently, we will meet at the barn at 7:00 a.m. to load up on Saturday, May 2. Plan to stage for set-up at the bagging party
- Help in the booth: we need members to volunteer to staff the booth on May 2-3

Gorges Rock Sale:

- Flyers sent out to 10 local clubs
- Advertisement in Lithogram
- Plan to sell lunch: hot dogs, sodas and chips, price will be \$3.00

Fair Case: Diane Day will do the club case. When she determines a theme, she will ask to borrow members' items for display during the fair.

Programs: Lanny Thompson suggested we have USGS come talk about the Livermore seismic hazard maps. We need a volunteer to follow-through and set up a time.

Program for May: ? – any ideas?

Refreshments next month: Bill Beiriger and Deloris Colona

Shop: Lynn Zirkle talked to LARPD, showed them where the roof leaked, and they said they would fix it. Bottom line: they know about it and agreed to fix it.

New Business: SFSU student Michelle Newcomer is working on a school project with NASA Ames. She needs samples that cost \$125.00 each. NASA is loaning the equipment, but she is asked for help with the cost of the samples. Dr. Freund is her professor on this project and he vouched for her. We will ask her if she would give a talk. Bill B. moved to contribute \$300 out of the Gorges fund to her project. Pat I. seconded. Discussion ensued related to the benefit of funding education and the ability of other clubs to help with donations. Motion passed.

Member Bob Trimmingham gave a program on the Oregon Trail by comparing paintings by William Henry Jackson with the modern day view. Some of the paintings were done from memory nearly 50 years afterward from Jackson's drawings and memory (he didn't get it all quite right after 50 years). It was an interesting program – thanks Bob!

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill B. and seconded by Albert.
Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully,

--Rich Hunt - Secretary pro tem.

Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM

General Meeting May 14th at 7:30 PM

Board Meeting May 28th at 7:30 PM

Sand of the Month

The World of Sand
William Beiriger

The sand for this month has the name 'Star Sand'.

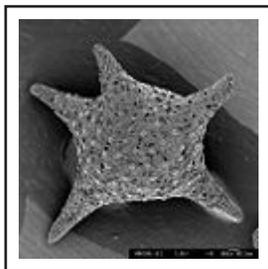
The sands on some beaches are composed of tiny, amoeba-like, single-celled organisms called foraminifera. What we find on the beaches are the microscopic shell houses, referred to as tests, of these foraminifera. They are a group of marine protozoan which are usually less than 1 mm in size but can be more than several centimeters in size.

'Star Sands' are one of the groups of foraminifera. Their calcareous shells are composition of CaCO₃.

The marine environment in parts of Japan and Guam have a high salinity and pH and a high carbonate content in the seawater allowing for a large amount of these star shaped foraminifera to grow. The star foraminifera cling to the coral substrate with their spines to resist the high water energy at the reef front. When they die, the empty tests are transported by waves to the beach.

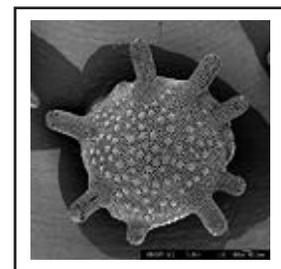


These foraminifera belong to the type *Baculosypsina sp.*
 Samples of *Baculosypsina sp.* from Guam.



Baculosypsina sp.
 Okinawa - sharper spines

SEM photos from
 WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.



Calcarina sp.
 Okinawa - sharper spines

The beaches on the southern end of Taketomi Island (Taketomi-jima) in Japan contain absolutely dazzling grains of sand called star sand. An old Okinawan folktale describes how star sand came into being. The tale tells how Almighty God told Southern Cross, the mother of star babies, to have her children on the south side of Taketomi-jima, "where the current is warm and slow." Southern Cross went to the ocean by the island and gave birth to many babies.

The World of Sand (continued)

The Seven-Dragon God was angered by this and told a giant serpent to eat the babies. After killing the babies, the serpent spit them out and their bodies turned into tiny star-shaped particles of sand. There was a worship place at the seashore where the star babies' bodies were.

A kind goddess found the dead star babies, gathered them up, and put them in her incense burner. When the villagers came to worship the goddess, the villagers burned the incense and the star babies floated with the smoke back to their mother in the sky. That is why when you look in the sky at the Southern Cross, there are so many baby stars circling around their mother.

This story is an old Okinawan folktale. Taken from "Carved in Stone" by: William Langer.

Wine and Art Festival

May 2 and 3, 2009

**Please come and help at the Lithophiles Booth
We need members to help sell rock related items.
Our booth will be on 1st Street by the Vine Theater.**

STATE ROCKS, etc.

Kentucky

State Mineral - Coal

State Gemstone - Freshwater Pearl

State Rock - Kentucky Agate

State Fossil - Brachiopod

Louisiana

State Mineral - Petrified Palmwood

State Gemstone - Agate

Maine

State Gemstone - Tourmaline

State Fossil - *Pertica quadrifaria*

Maryland

State Fossil - *Ecphora gardnerae*

State Gemstone - Patuxent River Stone

Field Trips

May 23-25 Monte Cristo Mts., NV for rhyolite, agate, apache tears and petrified wood. Nevada Co. GMS, Vicki Black

May 23-25 Davis Creek, Lassen Creek & Adin CA for obsidian and dolomite. Sutter Buttes GMS, Gerry Hill

May 20-25 Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for obsidian. AFMS Inter-Regional, Dick Pankey

June 6 Virgin Valley for Opals, opalized petrified wood. El Dorado Co. M & G Club, Fred Ott

June 13 or 27 (rain date) Babcock Peak for rose quartz & tour of Taylorsville Museum. Paradise GMS, Mike Eggleston

July 4, 5 Buffalo Canyon (Middlegate, NV) for fossils. Fossils for Fun, Hugh Brady

JADE COVE FIELD TRIP!

Diane Day would like to go Jade collecting at Jade Cove south of Monterey on Hwy. 1. The best time for trip will be Saturday May 30 (low tide 10:12am) or Sunday May 31 (low tide 11:04). We will talk about the trip at the May 14th meeting.

Please attend if interested also email Diane at day.diana@sbcglobal.net

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FIELD TRIP!

**There is an Open House at the U.S.G.S. in Menlo Park.
Saturday and Sunday May 16 & 17, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

For more information see the USGS web page <http://openhouse.wr.usgs.gov>

We will talk about this at the May 14th meeting.



Lithophiles Rock Sale
Saturday, May 9th, 2009
9:00 to 2:00
1340 Hartman Rd., Livermore
FREE ENTRY
Food - Hot Dogs w/ Chips & Soda \$3.00



California Shows And Events

2009

May 9-10 2009, Reno, NV
Reno Gem and Mineral Society
 Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall
 1350 N. Wells Ave., Reno, NV
 Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4

September 1-2 2009, San Francisco, CA, **San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society**
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way
 Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
 Website: www.sfgms.org

September 4-7 2009, Fort Bragg, CA, **Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society**
 Town Hall
 Cr. of Main & Laurel
 Hours: Fri. to Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-4
 Don McDonell / (707) 964-3116

September 19-20 2009, Redwood City, CA
Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society
 Redwood City Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave.
 Hours: 10-5 daily
 Carol Corden (650) 248-7155
 Email: coorden@comcast.net
 Website: www.sgms.driftmine.com/home.htm

September 19-20 2009, Stockton, CA
Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club
 Scottish Rite Masonic Center
 33 West Alpine Ave.
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days
 (209) 946-0113
 E-mail: footsey1@yahoo.com
 Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

September 26-27 2009, Carmel, CA
Carmel Valey Gem & Mineral Society
 Monterey Fairgrounds
 Hours: Sat.10 - 6; Sun. 10-5
 E-mail:
 Website: www.cvgms.org

November 21-22 2009, Livermore, CA
Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & Mineral Society. LITHORAMA 2009
 The 'BARN' 3131 Pacific Ave. at South Livermore Av. Next to Civic Center
 Website: www.lithophiles.com
 Email: info@lithophiles.com

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.

Announcements

OUR WEB PAGE!

Please visit the Lithophile's web page and goto the 'Exchange Newsletters Page. We have newsletters from several other clubs. There are clubs from Escondido & Fallbrook, CA and one from Gaithersburg, MD. I will add new clubs as I receive them.

Livermore Fossils

These fossils were found by Zone 7 while putting in a new water pipeline near the Target store.
Photos supplied by Zone 7.



Mammoth Tusk



Mammoth Leg Bone



Mammoth Tooth



Horse Tooth

Board Minutes for April 23, 2009 will be in the May Newsletter

Livermore Valley Lithophiles

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info@lithophiles.com

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

Elected Officers and Club Information

Elected Officers:

President Chris Hunt (925) 443-5525
V. President Bill Snyder (925) 443-5497
Secretary Bob Whiteside (925) 455-1540
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.

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