

# Livermore

# Lithogram



**Volume XXXIV, Number 11**  
**November 2009**

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

Next General Meeting:  
 Thursday, **November 12**, 2009  
 Carnegie Building, 4th and 'J' Streets  
 7:30 PM

**Program: No Program.**  
 We will make final preparation for  
**LITHORAMA 2009**

Next Board Meeting:  
 Thursday, **November 26**, 2009  
 The SHOP, 7:30 PM  
 Members are welcome to attend!

**Refreshments:** Bill Beiriger  
 & Jane Crone



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## **Presidents Message:**

The year is rapidly coming to an end. We have done many things and had some fun along the way. Our big event, the Lithorama, will be here soon, November 21-22. We really need all our members to participate to make the show a success. We need help preparing the Barn for the show – setting up stands, skirting, and cleaning – and then doing the reverse, taking everything down at the end. Gayla needs help staffing the kitchen and we need each member to donate a cake or pie to sell during the show. Please volunteer to work a shift in the kitchen and/or at the front door. You will find sign-up sheets at the November meeting and also at the shop – please sign up early and often. If we get lots of volunteers, no one will be exhausted at the end of the show.

The USGS talk on earthquakes was very interesting. It's a shame we didn't have a better turnout. Let next year's president know if you think these talks are a good thing for the rock club to do. What would you like to see or hear instead?

The nominations committee has done a great job to find four people to run next year. If you would like to submit your name, it's not too late.

Currently, we have:  
 President – Bob Trimmingham  
 V. President – Chris Hunt  
 Secretary – Larry Patzkowski  
 Treasurer – Diane Day

See you working at the show! - Chris Hunt, President

# *Minutes of General Meeting*

October 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by:  
President Chris Hunt.

**Guests: None**

**Correspondence: None**

**Treasurer's report:**

Diane Day gave the treasure's report.

**New Members:**

Paul Bloom and Karen Masterson

**Lithorama:**

- Diane D. showed a sample color flyer to be used for show publicity. Bor T. will provide other club event photos for use, especily of the fluorecent exhibits.
- Help will be needed for set-up on Friday.
- All dealers have paid.
- Bill B. reseived word that the fossils from the Zone 7 pipeline dig will be a featured exhibit.
- Ye Old Timers Breakfast will be held in the back room at Emil Villas restaurant. Meeting time 7:30 AM Sunday Nov. 22. **This is a new venue.**

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the Sept. 10, 2009 regular meeting were not in the Lithogram.

**Programs:**

It was decided not to have a program for November. The time will be used for preparation for the show. For the January meeting we will have Machele Newcomer giving a presentation on the project we helped provide funding for.

**Nominations:**

The slate, so far, is as follows:

- President - open
- Vice President - open
- Secretary - Larry Patzkowski
- Treasurer - Diane Day

**Old Business:**

The Lithophile's Brick has been emplaced at the Bankhead Theater. **Look fo it.**

**New Business:** none

**Announcements:**

- Rich Langlois will be having hip surgery.
- Bob T. recently gave five Cub Scouts and their parents a tour of his collection. Each scout received a chunk of

magnetite and a flyer for Lithorama.

**Refreshments:**

Bill B. and Jane C. will bring refreshments for the November 12 meeting.

**Program:**

Bill Beiriger used a new computer program and the digital projector to take the club on the trip he and Joan recently made to Craters of the Moon, Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks. The program included professional level photography, captions, automatic image changes, sound effects and music. The presentation was impressive and, Bill said, surprisingly easy to put together.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Bob Trimmingham, Secretary pro tem.

## NAME BADGES

**Please Order Your Badge So You Will Have  
It For The Show - \$5.00 Each  
See or Contact Diane Day**



# California Shows And Events

## 2009

**November 7-8 2009**, Concord, CA  
**Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society**  
 Centre Concord  
 5298 Clayton Road (Cornern of Ygnacio  
 & Clayton Rd)  
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
 Harry Nichandros  
 Email: show2009@ccmgs.org  
 Website: http://ccmgs.org

**November 21-22, 2009** Livermore  
 LITHORAMA 2009 Show and Sale,  
**Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem &  
 Mineral Society**; The 'BARN' 3131 Pa-  
 cific 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 Mineralogi-  
 cal Societies website: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

**Additional Resources:**

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

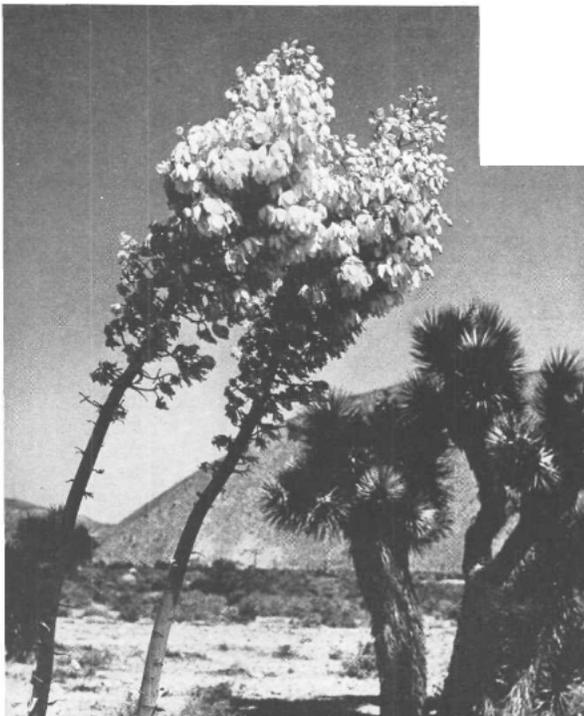
**American Lands Access Association  
 website: [www.amerlands.org](http://www.amerlands.org)**

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

**HELP NEEDED FOR SHOW SET-UP  
 NOVEMBER 20, 2009  
 8:30 AM**

The California Federation of  
 Mineralogical Societies web  
 page  
**[www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)** gives every-  
 one access to the CFMS News-  
 letter.

**Picture by the Lithophiles first president, Ben Klus  
 Published in Desert Magazine - April 1951**



**PICTURES of  
 the MONTH**

**YUCCALAND**

Second prize winner in the February Picture-  
 of-the-Month contest was B. M. Klus of Liver-  
 more, California, with the accompanying print  
 of Yuccas in blossom near Palmdale, California.  
 Photograph taken with a 4x5 Speed Graphic,  
 Ektar lens, K2 filter, Super Pan film, f.16 at  
 1/200th second.

# *Sand of the Month*

Heavy Mineral Sands

William Beiriger

70 percent of the worlds sands contains mostly quartz, with little or no heavy minerals, but in some areas there can be 10 percent or more heavy minerals mixed in the quartz sand. Heavy minerals can be found on many beaches, rivers and dunes around the world.

After storms the wave action on a beach can remove the lighter weight grains of sand and pull them back out to sea and leave the heavier mineral grains behind. This also applies to leaving larger rocks behind; that is why you go to the beach in the winter to collect agates.

In the case of sand dunes the prevailing winds will blow the less dense quartz sands over the top of the dune and leave the heavier material behind.

When you pan for gold the denser gold is left in the pan and the less dense material is washed over the edge of the pan.

Take a trip to the beach and look for areas that show color changes around rocks on the beach. On many of California beaches you can find high concentrations of pink or rose garnet and black iron minerals separated from the quartz sand. Use a magnet and see if you can pick-up the black sand, if you can, that black sand will be magnetite.



Magnetite  
California



Garnet  
California

In many part of the world there are industries that mine the heavy sands for minerals like Rutile, Ilmenite, Zircon, Monazite and Garnet. Other heavy minerals like Amphiboles, Pyroxenes, Olivine, Tourmaline, Corundum and Topaz can also be found on many beaches. Beaches along the coast of Namibia are host to economic diamond containing sands. The major problem with heavy mineral sand mining is it can be damaging to the environment.

Australia, South Africa, Canada and China are the largest heavy mineral sand mining countries with about ten other countries including the United States not far behind. (Ref: Wapedia)

# *Minutes of General Meeting*

September 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM by President Christ Hunt.

Guests: Don Neuschwander

Minutes of the last meeting: Approved as published.

Diane Day Treasurer's report.

Income \$1311 since June (mostly registration for the show).

Correspondence:

Bill B. Michelle Newcomer can come give a presentation in January.

Patti on Lithorama. (Nov 21, 22)

- Had meeting in August .. things seem to be progressing.
- Need volunteers/helpers to get display cases to Libraries as publicity.
- It seems like there's plenty of material for the silent auction, even if Mike's stuff is largely gone.
- Speaker at library: USGS hasn't gotten back to us yet.
- Diane talked about badges. Reminded people to get request and money in if you would like a badge.

New Business: None

Old Business:

- Had a nice picnic.
- Lots of bags of rocks handed out at the San Leandro library. Perhaps we have about 100 bags left.

Program:

Don Neuschwander gave an excellent presentation about Opals from Virgin Valley.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM

## **HELP NEEDED FOR SHOW SET-UP**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2009**

**8:30 AM**

**Over the years members have taken vacation from work  
to help with set-up.**

**Many who are retired do not have great backs for this job.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST.**

**We also need help all day on Saturday and Sunday.**

**Help at Front Door**

**Help in the Kitchen**

**Help in the Fluorescent Room**

**Help in the Children's Area**

**Help with Security**

## Minutes of the Board Meeting

October 23, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Chris Hunt.

Also present were Diane D., Jim G., Bill B., Dick F., Andrea R. Deloris C., Bob T.

**Treasurer's report:** No change.

**Shop:** None

### Announcements:

Rich Langlois is doing well after hip surgery. Someone will be needed to help set-up his fluorescent mineral display. Also someone will have to cover for him helping Gayla in the kitchen.

### Minutes:

Chris brought in the unpublished minutes of the regular meeting of Sept. 10. These were discussed and modified / clarified for Bill B.'s use in the next Lithogram.

**Library Presentation:** On Oct. 29 at 7:00 PM Dr. Fred Pollitz of the USGS will lecture on "Earthquake Hazards in Livermore" in the Community Room of the Livermore Civic Center Library. Bill show the color fliers for the event. The Independent" has been notified.

### Nominations:

Nancy B. gave the slate of officers for 2010 as follows:

- President - Bob Trimmingham
- Vice President - Chris Hunt
- Secretary - Larry Patzkowski
- Treasure - Diane Day

Farther nominations may be submitted from the floor at the Nov. 12 meeting. The election will follow.

### Christmas Party:

Bill and Joan have volunteered to organize the party.

### Lithorama:

Nancy and Diane showed the color postcard-size advertisement the designed to publicize the show. Much discussion followed concerning design changes in the card, how to use it, and the various costs involved.

Among suggestions were:

- Mailing the cards to people for whom we have prior names.
- Making cards available at public places.
- Bringing the card or newspaper ad of same to the show will earn one free raffle ticket. Very popular idea.

\*\*Rich Hunt then moved that \$500 be authorized for ads in the Independent on the two Thursdays of Nov. 12 and Nov. 19. The motion was seconded by Bill B and passed by voice vote.

- Bill B. is doing and article on the Zone 7 Livermore foffils fot the Independent.

### Old Business:

- Bill B. has delivered the science books to the elementary schools for their science programs. A sticker noting the books were donated by the Lithophiles in memory of Mike Gorges was added to each book.
- Bob T. inquired about whether or not our society was incorporated. Diane D. has the by-laws.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32.

Bob Trimmingham, Secretart pro tem

**HELP NEEDED FOR SHOW SET-UP**  
**NOVEMBER 20, 2009**  
**8:30 AM**

## STATE ROCKS, etc.

### Tennessee

State Gem - Tennessee Pearl

State Stone - Agate

State Rock - Limestone

### Texas

State Gemstone - Blue Topaz

State Stone - Petrified Palmwood

State Precious Metal - Silver

### Utah

State Gemstone - Topaz

State Rock - Coal

State Mineral - Copper

### Vermont

State Gemstone - Garnet

State Rock - Marble

State Mineral - Talc

### Lapidary Polishing Compounds

A complete group of polishes for lapidary applications from the inexpensive tumbler to the best quality gemstone polishes that bring up a bright, high shine of gems. For economy, dedicate a buff, lap pan, or barrel to a particular polish and simply recharge with fresh polish as required to maintain effectiveness.

**Cerium Oxide:** The best gemstone polishing compound for most uses, is a mixture of rare earth oxides rich in cerium oxide. Best with opal, agate, quartz, obsidian, etc. and not as effective with very soft material or stones that tend to undercut. For lap or tumbler, mix with water and apply the paste to your buff.

**Micron Alumina:** A 5-micron polishing powder developed for computer disks. It is the best polish for sea shells, pretty good for soft stones such as malachite and onyx, and excellent as a pre-polish in vibrator tumblers and laps but not in rotary tumblers.

**Aluminum Oxide, MAP:** Preferred by many to Linde A, this is a slightly faster and more economical rare earth polish that we call Miracle Atomic Polish.

**Tin Oxide:** A longtime favorite. Use on leather for polishing turquoise and all soft stones.

**Zirconium Oxide:** A rare earth polish that is especially good for tumblers and laps. The most economical and effective polishing media. White and will not discolor gemstones.

**Linde A:** Tremendous favorite with gem cutters whether faceting or polishing cabs. Relatively expensive, you should consider polishing the stone then giving it a quick hit with Linde A to attain a super polish. Available as powder to mix with water or an emulsified cream with the consistency of hand lotion that does not separate in solution.

**Oxalic Acid:** Used for polishing carbonate type onyx when mixed with another polish such as Tin Oxide. In a strong solution with water, it is used to clean iron stains from specimens such as quartz. Mix with hot tap water by stirring in oxalic crystals until the water is supersaturated and will not dissolve any more. Crystals forming along the sides of the container indicate a saturated solution and should they disappear, you need to add more. **WARNING:** while this a relatively mild acid, all precautions must be taken to keep it out of the eyes, mouth, etc.

from Fredericksburg Rockhounds News, January 2003 via Backbender's Gazette, 8/03 AND from: Newsletter for the Rochester Lapidary Society - November, 2003 page 5 via  
The Cutting Edge, Ottawa, Canada - Nov, 2003



Bill with Livermore Elementary Science Teachers  
with new books supplied by the Lithophiles from funds from the Mike Gorges Fund.

## 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** 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.

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

**General Meeting Nov. 12th at 7:30 PM**  
**Board Meeting Nov. 26th at 7:30 PM**