



# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

FEBRUARY 2018 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY • PASADENA, CA



Inside  
this  
issue

## Timid about Your Display Case? (What! Are You Talking to Me?)

by Marcia Goetz

When I joined PLS, and after making a few pieces of wire-wrap jewelry, I was encouraged by several members to participate in the annual show by putting in a display case. I thought to myself that I couldn't possibly do that – I didn't have enough pieces, they weren't good enough, I didn't have a case liner, etc. But somehow I presented a display case anyway.

(continued on p. 4)

2

President's Message

3

What's New about Our Newsletter? ♦ New PLS Website under Construction ♦ Program Meeting for February

6

Field Trip ♦ Workshop

7

Education ♦ Participate ♦ Rock & Gem Shows ♦ New Members ♦ Member-to-Member



**President's  
Message**

Text to come ♦

Ellen Ferrell

**Leaders and Contact Information**

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**Trustees**

Joe Goetz, Marcia Goetz, Chris Kyte

**Committee Chairs**

<b>Annual Show</b>	Marcia Goetz Elizabeth Weston (Show Publicity)	<b>Hospitality</b>	TBD
<b>Bulletin</b>	Karl Stull	<b>Librarian</b>	Jennifer Jang
<b>Display Table</b>	Paolo Sanchez	<b>Membership</b>	Marcia Goetz
<b>Education</b>	Joan Harrison	<b>Publicity</b>	Mona Ross
<b>Field Trips</b>	Joe Goetz	<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Phil Lahr
<b>Historian</b>	Elizabeth Weston	<b>Workshop</b>	Carolyn Duncan
		<b>Webmaster</b>	Ben Shutman

Submit articles, proposals, ads, or corrections for the newsletter to P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025 or to **info@pasadenalapidary.org**. Include NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

*Newsletter redesign and layout by Ellen Limeres.*

Find us on

[twitter.com/pasalapidary](https://twitter.com/pasalapidary)

**Photos on page 1**

**Top:** *In his display case of agates from the Santa Monica Mountains, Jason Badgley used steps to organize the collection visually. Shadows of the risers form dark lines, reinforcing the separation into levels.*

**Left:** *Danielle Sanchez and Antonio Franco spotlighted e their minerals with backdrops of colored paper and foil.*

**Right:** *In a display case by master carver Sylvia Cliffe, different shapes and colors, with thoughtful arrangement, please the eye and bring the collection together around a central piece.*

**Membership and Meeting Information**

**Membership** per calendar year is only \$25, \$15 for a second adult member in the same house. Junior members and the third or more adult members at the same house are \$10. Initiation fee is \$2 per person and membership badges are \$7.50. Renewals are due by the October Program Meeting and delinquent after December 1. Mail checks for membership to P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025.

**Website**  
[www.pasadenalapidary.org](http://www.pasadenalapidary.org)

**Email**  
[info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org)

**Board Meetings**  
1st Thursday every month.  
7 p.m. at Matt Denny's Ale House,  
145 E Huntington Dr, Arcadia.

All members are welcome.

**Workshop**  
2nd Sunday every month.  
Two sessions: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.  
and 1–5 p.m.

Fees are \$3 per session or \$5 for a full day. Bring lunch!

*Workshop safety:* Equipment instruction is free (and mandatory). Liability waivers, eye protection, and closed-toe flat-heeled shoes are required.

Workshop is open to adult members and junior members 8 and older with adult supervision.

**Program Meetings**  
3rd Tuesday every month.  
Doors open at 6 p.m.  
Meeting is 6:45–8:45 p.m.  
Pasadena Central Library,  
285 E Walnut St.

Guests are welcome.

**Annual Club Show**  
2nd weekend of March.  
Masonic Center,  
3130 Huntington Dr, San Marino.



## Check Out Our New Website

The new official website of the Pasadena Lapidary Society made its debut in mid-January. Our new address is one word shorter: [www.pasadenalapidary.org](http://www.pasadenalapidary.org).

Visit often to see the site grow as we transfer content from the old site and add functions to your new PLS home online. We're especially excited about a feature that lets you download PLS activity dates to your smartphone or computer.

### Download Events to Your Phone or Computer

Find the PLS calendar of events by clicking *Events* on the home page. When the calendar appears, you can click just the events you are interested in, or download all events for the month by clicking the blue *Export Events* button.

If you run into issues, I'll be happy to show you in person how to use the Events feature; find me at a PLS Program Meeting or Workshop.

If you would like to post an event to the PLS calendar, please email all data available for the event, because many include a link to generate a Google map. On the new PLS website, events have their own URL (address), so they can be linked to outside sources. For example, you can share an event from the PLS calendar on Facebook.

### Enjoy the new site, and send your comments.

And be sure to add our new PLS email address to your Contacts: [info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org).

- Ben Shutman

## What's New in the Newsletter?

The back cover has a new look – color photos. The pages between the front and back covers are all black-and-white. The reason: to save money on printing costs. After a couple of issues, if you don't like this format, we could change it. For example, we could move the color to pages 4 and 5. More space, more photos. Or bigger photos. We're listening.

And that is the big change you'll notice in your newsletter in 2018. In the coming months, the emphasis will be on member-driven content. There will be more stories written by Pasadena Lapidary Society members, and coverage of PLS activities from different points of view. Expect to see faces you know from program meetings, and learn from other members' experiences – on field trips, in the workshop, and on vacations to places where the rocks are strange and wonderful.

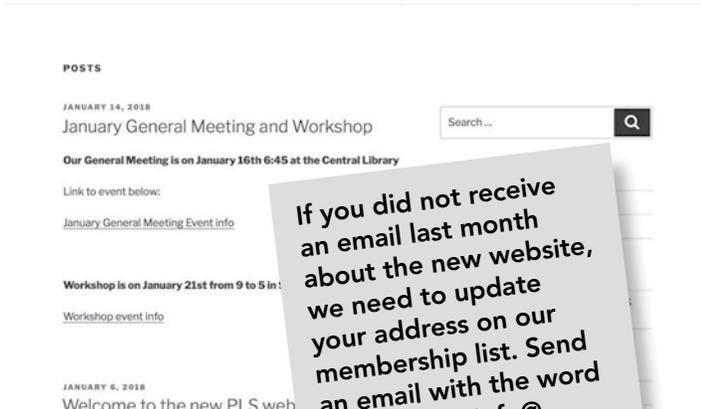
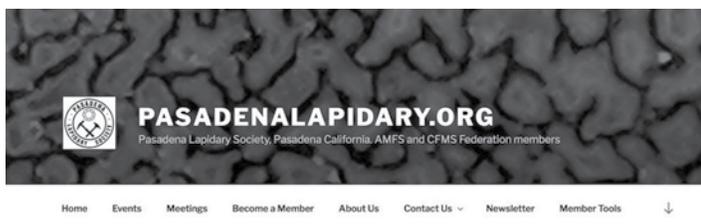
It may be that you don't think of yourself as a writer. But if you have a good story, you might try your hand at a short item. We're looking for stories that are 50 words, 100 words, or 200 words, under headings such as A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Rockpile, My Favorite Rockhound, or Why I Love the Desert.

We're considering a Q&A column: What You Always Wanted to Know about Rockhounding but Were Afraid to Ask.

We have one ironclad requirement for every contributor. You must ask yourself: Will our readers – your fellow PLS members – say, "I'm glad I took time to read that"? If the answer is "maybe" or better, send in your story, question, or letter.

Send to [info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org). Include "NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

- Karl Stull



**If you did not receive an email last month about the new website, we need to update your address on our membership list. Send an email with the word UPDATE to: [info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org).**

## February Program

With Dick and Mary Pat Weber presenting "Canadian Amethysts," this month's Program Meeting is sure to have a lively mix of geology and travel tales. Last May, the Webers gave a talk on "Septarian Nodules" that got everyone thinking about taking a trip to Utah. Dick and Mary Pat are geologists who have visited unique sites throughout North America, Australia, and New Zealand.

### Rock of the Month

Jennifer Nishimura will give a talk about display cases in our annual show. She has won top awards for cases of cabochons and jewelry and will share her experiences in state and national competition. "Display cases are a piece of us put out for the world to see," she says. Handouts will be available about making case liners.

As always, the Program Meeting will include a raffle of interesting rock slabs – to be hosted in 2018 by Phil Lahr. Bring your "What Is This?" rocks to the Display Table or any samples of work for your fellow rockhounds to see and enjoy.



(continued from p. 1)

Seasoned members made me feel comfortable about displaying and gave me lots of help. I was especially encouraged to find out that display cases at our annual show are not judged!

### Getting Started

For the liner, I considered the fabric type and chose a neutral fabric color that would enhance and show off my jewelry. Once the foam core had been cut to size and covered with the fabric, and the fabric wrinkles were smoothed out, the case liner made a nice platform for the few pieces in my case.

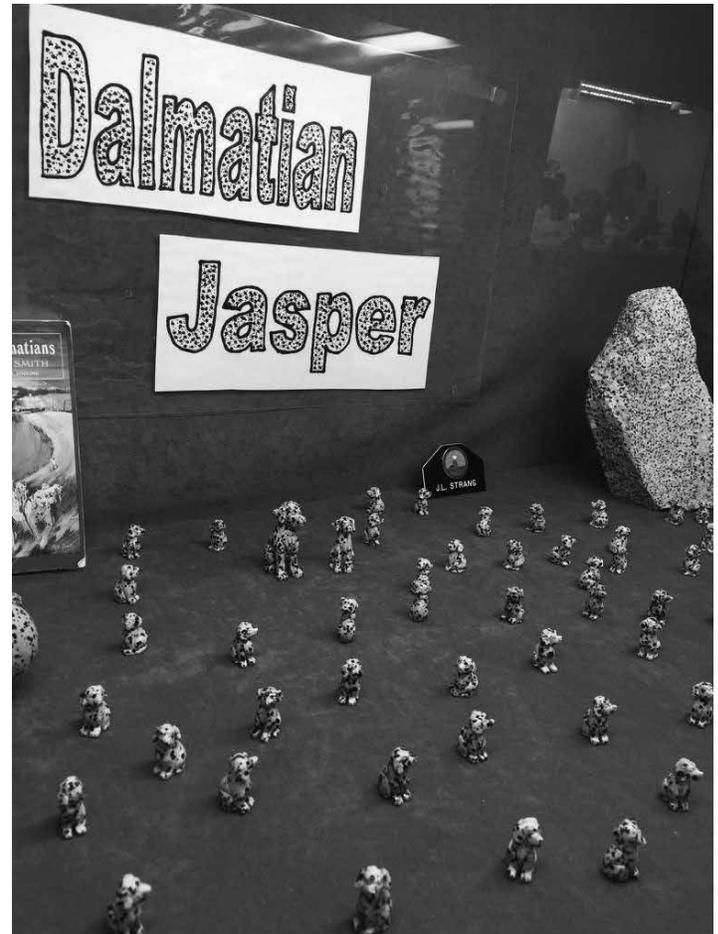
On show set-up day, the case liner was ready, the jewelry polished, and labels made. It's interesting how labels and placement of the jewelry, even *...the lights played off the stones and wire, they made everything look good.* My pieces of wire-wrap jewelry were not great, but I found that by placing them in ways so that the lights played off the stones and wire, they started to come alive.

It is normal to be uncomfortable about putting in a case for the first time. It almost feels like a first date, with a dry mouth and sweaty palms. You know that you have put in a lot of effort, time, and your vision of how the piece will translate to others, and you worry if what you are showing is good enough.

### Thinking Outside the Box

New members find different ways to make the process enjoyable. Some put a humorous spin on the case. Take Dave Lacy: last year we encouraged him to display, and his case was great. He displayed things he found on field trips along with the rocks – like the rusty cans and broken glass. This was his way of having enough material to fill a case and display his collected rock.

Ellen Limeres, one of our newer members, has decided to take the plunge and put in a display with a great theme called “My Lapidary: Year One as a Rockhound.” It will be a collection of “raw” rocks paired with cabochons she created this last year. This is a great theme because the inside of a rock can be so different than the outside. It is surprising that many



annual show visitors from the public will comment that they thought the patterns in the rocks have been painted.

The case can be a way to express what your interests are, and take on the feel of an art display. Some of our members like to create jewelry, some have educational displays, others like to create objects like carvings and boxes; others like to display the minerals they find or purchase. If you were to take a look at the AFMS rules for competition, you would see there are dozens of categories.



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We buy and sell gold and silver and carry a nice supply of rocks and minerals, jewelry, findings, tumbled glass and rocks, rock slabs and cabs, silver wire and sheet, beads, and more.

We carry a good selection of gold panning equipment, dry washers, gold pans, metal detectors, tumblers, rock saws, polishing equipment, lost wax casting, soldering silver and gold jewelry.

Monthly Field Trips !      We Support Lapidary Clubs!



Some of our members have teamed up to put in a case. As an example, if two members feel neither of them has enough pieces to show on their own, they can share a case, with each taking one side. It's a great way to get comfortable with the idea of displaying your work, and you'll have a good time while setting it up together.

**Setting Up for the Show**

When you arrive in the room where the cases are being set up, you will find others who are there for the same reason. This pre-show time gives us an opportunity to see what others have accomplished in the past year, and there is a lot of exchanging of ideas. Here you find that the worry of how your display will

...bring the word *ahhh* to people's lips.

compare to the other displays was misspent time. The displayers are a team – a team with a mission to show the world how wonderful rocks, gems, and minerals can be, and bring the word *ahhh* to people's lips.

Overall, after putting in a case once, the next time isn't so intimidating. It isn't really "old hat" either, but it gets easier. Each year there are details requiring careful attention – making sure the case liner is in good condition, the jewelry or stones are cleaned and polished – but soon you feel comfortable.

*It isn't really "old hat" either, but it gets easier.*

The case is a representation of the things that give you enthusiasm for our hobby. ♦



Above: Gloria Biesterfeld used backdrop images to provide context for a Plesiosaur display.

Page 4: A.L. Stang's "Dalmatian Jasper" display case, seen at the CFMS show last June, illustrates the tradition of humor in case case conceiving.



To sort rocks and plan their arrangement, Ellen Limeres used a sheet of cardboard as her display case work space.

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Field Trips

Kramer Junction and Beyond  
Feb 17-19

Kramer Junction is always a great field trip and a great camping spot to explore nearby areas such as the Princess Pat Mine and other tungsten mines, Opal Mountain, North Edwards, and Castle Butte. You know it's not going to be boring, because on this trip there is great collecting right around the campsite.

We can look for moss and flower agates as well as jasper, some petrified palm, and opalite. There is a large area to explore, and who knows what we'll find? (Some of the best stuff has been found when we were "lost.") Not 30 feet away from where we typically camp are some of the widest seams of agate I have ever seen.

You can join the field trip for a single day, but it is much more enjoyable to be there for each day. When you wake up, you can walk around with a cup of coffee and find rock. You can relax and not worry about making it to the departure point before the group heads out to explore and collect choice material.

The time to meet in camp is before 8:30 a.m. That's when we'll finalize where we are going for the day and talk about types of rocks to look for. If you are a little late, call and let us know. We could wait by the road for you to show up. Should you miss us, we'll probably have left a map and directions on how to get to our first collecting area.

Bring a lunch, lots to drink, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, a rock hammer, and something to put your collected material into. It could just happen that we will all be popping wheelies on the way home.

Somewhere in Calif, driving in circles... ♦

- Joe Goetz

Joe Goetz: (626) 260-7239

Jay Valle: (626) 602-5849

Workshop

Parking Lot Sale – Feb 11

We're selling donated equipment we don't have space for in the workshop – assorted odds and ends. The idea is to let members have an opportunity to buy anything they would find useful before we sell it elsewhere.

The workshop machines will be available for lapidary work all day. In the afternoon, we will be putting rocks in the grab bags for the annual show.

Workshop hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Half day is 3 dollars, 5 dollars for all day.

Parking is available on the street or in the parking lot on the east side of the building.

Entrance is up the walkway on the west side of the building. Do not use the ramp in the parking lot.

For directions, please call me at (909) 593-2781 or email [gem.quest@verizon.net](mailto:gem.quest@verizon.net). ♦

Sale starts at 11 a.m., MEMBERS only

- Carolyn Duncan



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**You look good in blue**

 PLS t-shirts, hats and vests are available to our members. Vests – \$10, t-shirts – \$15, hats – \$11. Contact Ellen Ferrell at (727) 512-0381 or [ellenbf2007@aol.com](mailto:ellenbf2007@aol.com)

Put the PLS logo on *your* shirt, bag or jacket. TAS (The Advertising Specialists) can print or embroider our logo on your item. Ask for Leah: (626) 966-4770. 841 E Rte 66, Glendora

Missing something? Replacement member badges are \$9. Contact Marcia Goetz at [joenmar1@verizon.net](mailto:joenmar1@verizon.net). Please specify magnet or pin mount.



## Education Outreach

Club members facilitated a hands-on rock and mineral table at Sierra Madre Elementary School's STEAM Night on January 26.

Next month, volunteers will share lapidary techniques and projects in the demonstration area at our Annual Show. Volunteers needed – no special skills required.

To schedule a school presentation by one of our experienced club members, contact (323) 662-3074 or [liveoak180@yahoo.com](mailto:liveoak180@yahoo.com).

**Display Table:** Paolo Sanchez is coordinating the Display and Rock Identification Table at our club meetings. You may display items of general interest, Workshop projects, and items you've collected on field trips. If you'd like to know the name of a rock or mineral you've acquired, please bring it to the next meeting and set it on the table, with a "What Is This?" note. Polishing a small section, or carefully "knocking off" a small corner of the specimen, will provide more clues. ♦

– Joan Harrison

## Meeting Recaps

**Board Meeting: January 4.** The returning Board members welcomed new officers and committee chairs, and discussed plans for program meetings, field trips, the annual show, and changes to the website and newsletter. Membership Chair Marcia Goetz reported that about half of members have not yet paid annual dues. (Members can pay dues at a workshop or program meeting to remain in good standing.) Following a letter of resignation from Cindy Lamarche as Hospitality Chair and Sunshine Chair, a search was begun for her replacement.

### January Program Meeting

Recap of January's meeting to come from Karl.

## WELCOME New Members!

Share the lapidary hobby. Invite your friends and neighbors to one of our monthly meetings to learn more about the Pasadena Lapidary Society!

## Rock & Gem Shows

**February 16–25 INDIO:** San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, 82-503 Highway 111. Hours: 10–10 daily. See the club's Facebook page for information.

**17–18 ANTIOCH:** Antioch Lapidary Club, Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th St. Hours 10–5 daily. [www.antiochlapidaryclub.com](http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com)

**24–25 VALLEJO:** Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society, Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Dr. Hours 10–5 daily. [www.vjgems.org](http://www.vjgems.org)

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## Participate in PLS

One way to learn from others is to take part with others in activities. Support your club, and gain some knowledge in the process, by volunteering. We always need help in the following areas. Contact any PLS committee chair for ideas about where you might lend a hand.

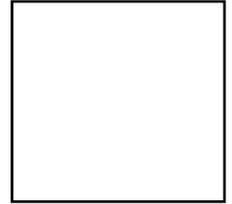
- **Program Meeting presentations** may be informative, entertaining, broad in scope, highly specialized... PLS members have ears for all things relating to our hobby. If you have knowledge to share about a rock-relevant topic, or know of a speaker who might present a good talk (about 30 minutes), see Mona Ross at a Program Meeting or send her a text message at **(626) 437-0150**.
- **Rock of the Month** is a fun way to celebrate a rock, gem, or mineral that you find interesting. Your presentation doesn't need to be long or fancy – just five minutes or so. See Mona Ross at a Program Meeting or send her a text message at **(626) 437-0150**.
- **Program Meeting refreshments:** Every member should bring refreshments to a PLS meeting once a year. The library asks that we bring light, non-messy snacks. For more information, contact NEW INFO TO COME.

## Member to Member

Members are welcome to place a FREE message for items or services wanted, for sale, or for trade. Photos welcomed. Email to [info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org). Include NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

## Reminders!

- Dues paid for 2018? Keep your membership up-to-date!
- New website: [pasadenalapidary.org](http://pasadenalapidary.org)
- Send email address corrections to: [info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org)



Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.  
PO Box 5025  
Pasadena, CA 91117-0025

## Key dates

- Board meeting 2/1
- Field trip 2/17–2/19  
*Kramer Junction – agate, jasper, opalite*
- Workshop 2/11  
*Equipment sale starts at 11 a.m.*
- Program meeting 2/20  
*"Canadian Amethyst" presented by  
Dick and Mary Pat Weber*

<Firstname Lastname  
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## From last year's Kramer Junction field trip...



*Kramer Junction – our field trip this February – is surrounded by opportunities for exploration. Last year we collected various agates, petrified palm, and travertine. We also visited a portal-like sculpture that was made of giant beads and situated in the exact middle of nowhere.*