



# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

MAY 2018 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY • PASADENA, CA

## The Nails Tale: Kramer Junction

by Karl Stull

The Pasadena Lapidary Society and Whittier Gem and Mineral Society have used the base camp near Kramer Junction for longer than Sylvia Cliffe can remember. Sylvia is our senior member, so it has been a while. She says there used to be a lot of petrified wood around the camp and palm root “eyes.” About a mile to the north, she and her husband Vern found a hill made entirely of red moss agate.

There have been other notable finds at the campsite. During the 2017 Kramer Junction field trip, Carolyn Duncan found a young rattlesnake – green in color. This year, in February, we found several “square-cut” nails. These nails must have been more than 100 years old, lying on the ground in the middle of nowhere, until a rockhound came along. Heavily corroded wrought iron is not something we usually go looking for, but it’s a mineral and worthy of consideration by a curious mind. Rockhounds are nothing if not curious about things they find lying on the ground.

*Continued on page 4*



Photo and map by Ellen Limeres.



*The Old Spanish Trail, beginning at Santa Fe, curved up through southern Colorado, across Utah, and athwart the tip of Nevada, paralleling the Mojave River to Victorville. Then on to San Bernardino and LA. You can see the trail from the Whittier Claim, a stop on our Yermo field trips.*

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## President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

April was a very good month, Board meeting went well with Mona Ross's leadership in my absence. Workshop was well attended. The general meeting was great. We had a wonderful presentation by Marcia Goetz about the 2019 PLS annual show and potential for hosting the CFMS annual show at the same time. This was suggested because next year PLS will not be able to use the facility that we have used for several years.

Members attending the general meeting voted to move forward with plans to host the CFMS show at the Los Angeles County Fairplex. We would have room for many additional dealers, competitive and non-competitive showcases, an opportunity to educate the public about our society, and have lots of fun doing it. This is an exciting time for our club, and in the months moving forward, let us all get involved and make it the best show ever for the Pasadena Lapidary Society.

Tony and Sandie Fender presented a very interesting program about 50 interesting things to find in the Mojave Desert. And they showed us some very interesting stuff that they discovered on their many trips into the desert. Too bad David Lacy missed this presentation. He has a knack for finding interesting and

unusual objects in the desert, as everyone saw in his display case at our annual show in 2017. Thank you, Tony and Sandie, for a great presentation.

At our general meeting in May, we will hear from Joe Goetz, who will bring us up to date on plans to go to the tourmaline dig at the Himalaya Mine. It is a fun trip. Some of you have probably seen the beautiful jewelry that Mark Nelson made from the pink tourmaline he found a couple of years ago.

At the May workshop, Ed Imlay will share the technique of single-wire wrapping. The class will start after Ed's class on Cabbing 101 for newcomers or those who want to review the fundamentals.

New members interested in coming to the workshop should contact Carolyn Duncan and make an appointment for workshop safety and rules orientation. This is required. After orientation, new members have the opportunity to take Ed Imlay's Cabbing 101 class. This class takes you through all the steps from using a trim saw to grinding and polishing. Slabs are provided as well as anything else you need to complete your very first cabochon.

I look forward to seeing everyone at workshop on May 6. This is a different date because the second Sunday is Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers.

– Ellen Ferrell, President

## Leaders, Meetings, Membership Information

### Officers

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### Trustees

Joe Goetz, Marcia Goetz,  
Chris Kyte

### Committee Chairs

**Annual Show** Ellen Ferrell  
Marcia Goetz (cochair)

**Bulletin** Karl Stull

**Display Table** Paolo Sanchez

**Education** Joan Harrison

**Field Trips** Joe Goetz

**Historian** Elizabeth Weston

**Librarian** Jennifer Jang

**Membership** Marcia Goetz

**Publicity** Mona Ross  
Elizabeth Weston (annual show)

**Sunshine** Ellen Ferrell

**Ways & Means** Phil Lahr

**Workshop** Carolyn Duncan

**Webmaster** Ben Shutman

### Membership

Membership per calendar year is \$25; for a second adult at the same address, \$15; further adults, \$10. Junior members are \$10. Initiation fee is \$10 per person.

Renewals are due in October and delinquent after December 31. Mail checks to PO Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025.

### 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.  
Fees are \$3 for half-day, \$5 for a full day. Bring lunch!

**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 9 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.

### Online

**www.pasadenalapidary.org**  
**Email:** info@pasadenalapidary.org  
**Instagram:** /PasadenaLapidary  
**Twitter:** @pasalapidary

Submit articles, corrections, ads, and your ideas to PO Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025 or info@pasadenalapidary.org. Include NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

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## Got a red dot?

If there is a red dot on page 1 of your newsletter,  
please pay your PLS dues...

This is the last newsletter we can send until your membership is up to date. Please renew by sending a check today, or contact Marcia Goetz to correct our records if there has been a mistake: (626) 260-7239 or joenmar1@verizon.net.



## May Program Meeting



### Rockhounds of Ancient Ohio

The presentation at May's program meeting will be "Rock Carvings from Ancient Ohio: 100 BC to AD 400" by Karl Stull. You know Karl as the editor of our club newsletter. Karl is a freelance writer and editor with both a bachelor's and master's degree in English at UC Santa Barbara. Years ago, he lived in central Illinois and was an avid member of the Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archeology. In the IAAA, he got to know a few archeologists from the nearby Dickson Mounds Museum, and spent many a long evening talking about the Hopewell people of ancient Illinois and Ohio: their spectacular art, their fascination with birds and underground animals, and finally their mysterious disappearance. One thing we know for certain about the Hopewell – they were rockhounds.

David Lacy will inform us about apophyllite for the Rock of the Month talk.. – *Mona Ross*



Platform pipes and cutouts from large sheets of mica (the claw is more than 12 inches long) were distinctive forms that make the work of Hopewell artists highly recognizable. Images: Wikimedia

## Workshop



### Re-scheduled – May 6

#### "1-Wire Cab Wrapping"

In our May workshop – moved to May 6 to accommodate Mothers Day plans – we're excited to have Ed Imlay demonstrating a technique that will open your eyes – you veterans as well as newcomers – to new possibilities in cabbng. No materials required for the class, since it's a demonstration. Here's how Ed describes it:

*Traditional wire-wrap is based on a multi-wire "bundle" and "binding" wires. This Workshop class will describe alternative techniques that have evolved to the "1-wire wrap," where a single wire forms both the bundle and the bindings.*

*While this class is planned as a lecture / demonstration, if there is interest, additional activities will be scheduled.*

I'm betting there will be interest.

After class, feel free to browse our library of lapidary books and journals for project ideas. Catch up with PLS people and events. Or put on your safety glasses and go to work. The saws and grinders are ready.

Workshop hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Half day is \$3, all day \$5. Park on the street or in the lot on the east side of the building.

Entrance is on the *west* side of the building, down the walkway between buildings. 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).

– *Carolyn Duncan*



*The breakthrough idea behind one-wire wrapping is to outline the shape of the stone in pencil onto a board and create a framework of nails. Wire moves in, out, and around the framework with ease, and less damage. Learn how from the developer of this ingenious technique, our own Ed Imlay.*

1-WIRE-WRAP

*Continued from page 1*

Our Kramer Junction campsite, just off Highway 395, has been a stopping place for travelers for a long time, as the nails attest. The highway follows a straight line from the Mojave River at Victorville to the Owens Valley and the formerly ample Owens Lake. It's reasonable to guess there has been some kind of trail following this route for centuries, possibly millennia.

After 1830, travelers who crossed the Mojave in wagons held together by nails had two main roads to choose from. The Old Spanish Trail followed a northward arc from Santa Fe (NM) to Victorville and then on to San Bernardino and LA. Travelers headed north from Los Angeles, especially after gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848, took the Camino Sierra, which went the route of today's Highway 14 to Indian Wells and continued through Owens Valley along the path of today's Highway 395. El Camino Sierra and the Old Spanish Trail passed within 40 to 50 miles of our campsite at Kramer Junction.

### The Lane Change

The digital-desert.com website mentions that Aaron G. Lane was awarded a contract for construction of a freight road from San Bernardino to Panamint City, a boom town in the Panamint Mountains (east of Owens Valley). This must have been after the silver strike in 1872. Lane had operated a way station since 1858 on the Old Spanish Trail. His way station later became Victorville. At that point in our history, the road to Panamint City was likely to have been built by Chinese labor. A day of busting rocks recreationally will give you a hint of what that must have been like.

Lane's road was not paved. California did not have a highway department until the mid-1890s. It took several decades, and a Good Roads Movement after World War I, to establish a system of paved roads. A paved route from Los Angeles to Mono Lake was proudly completed in 1931.

The railroad came to Kramer Junction in 1883, on an Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe line between Barstow and Bakersfield. In 1898, the Randsburg Railway opened a 30-mile line north from Kramer Junction to Johannesburg, serving mine operations up there. Conceivably, our P-W field trip campsite began back then as a railroad construction camp. The nails might have been from packing crates.

### How Old Are the Nails?

The round-shafted nails we know today are made from wire. The wire is fed from a spool, snipped at one end and pinched to form a point, and smooshed at the other end to form the head.

In ancient times – and up to the late 1700s – nails were made not from wire but from iron bars. The bars were rolled and sliced to a stock size suitable for nail-making. The shaft of an ancient nail is square, or nearly so, and shows the blacksmith's hammer blows on all four sides. The head may be mushroom-shaped or disc-shaped, being hammered to its final form while the iron was still glowing hot. Until the Industrial Revolution, every nail was hand-made, one at a time.

By the 1830s, nail-making machines could perform all the operations required to fashion a nail. A key difference, which makes machine-made nails highly recognizable, was that the new technology cut nails from thin iron plates rather than thin iron bars. The machine cut a skinny V-shape across the plate, so the nail had a tapered shaft, which was narrow at one end but not necessarily finished to a point.

The heads of 19th century nails were often rectangular blocks but could also be discs. An identifying characteristic is their uniformity compared to the work of a blacksmith. In addition, a machine-made nail typically has an indentation and a bulge below the head, showing where the machine gripped as the head was formed.

### What about the Wood?

Our Kramer Junction nails fit the description of the nails most commonly used from the 1830s through the 1890s. Square-cut nails held on, so to speak, until the years before World War I, perhaps because they provided a better grip. Eventually the lower cost of nails made from steel wire prevailed.

Long gone is the wood that our Kramer Junction nails were hammered into. It's reasonable to assume they were two pieces of wood thick enough to be joined with 2 1/2 inch nails – part of a shack perhaps or a broken-down wagon, or possibly a crate filled with provisions such as canned ham, opened with a slotted key, which we also found at the P-W campsite. After the ham was eaten, the crate might have been thrown on a campfire. We can only imagine.



### Life Is Just That Way

by Matt Pedroza

When I was younger  
It was awkward  
Life was just that way  
Harder and harder through many birthdays

Then rockhounds turned their brilliance on me  
And I began to see  
Cut, carat, color, and clarity  
Plus promotion and sales opportunities

Now I can be creative  
Now I have a dream to share  
And at this moment it becomes so clear  
Mother Nature led me here

## PLS Will Offer to Host CFMS Show in 2019

Members at our April 17 program meeting voted to approve making an offer to CFMS to host the state organization's annual show in 2019. It seems likely the offer will be accepted, since no other offers have been submitted to date.

On behalf of the PLS board of directors, Trustee Marcia Goetz summarized the terms of the offer. With income estimated at \$54,392 and expenses at \$42,812, the proposal anticipates a profit of \$11,580 – to be shared on a 70%:30% basis with CFMS, the Pasadena Lapidary Society receiving the larger share. The estimates were based on PLS experience hosting the CFMS show in 2014 and on updated pricing from various venues.

There were questions from the floor about considering other venues, such as the Pasadena Convention Center, the Arboretum, and high school gyms. These possibilities had been investigated by the board's site search group. In the end, the best deal came from holding the event at the Fairplex (same as in 2014) but scheduling meetings and banquets at the Doubletree Inn, about 4.5 miles away.

Someone asked if the PLS annual show would be combined with the CFMS show. Marcia said it would, because the Masonic Temple would not be available in 2019. The combined show is to take place on the same dates usually slated by PLS for its annual show.

During her presentation, Marcia indicated there would be a need for a show theme. After the vote, Janie Duncan offered: "Rock My World!" A moment of stunned silence followed, as if to say: "Well, there it is."

Board member Elizabeth Weston asked for a show of hands, how many would attend the 2019 show. Nearly all hands went up. Elizabeth then asked: "And how many will volunteer to help at the show?" Nearly all hands stayed up.

"Has someone got a camera?" said Carolyn Duncan. "We need a group photo of our 2019 volunteers!" – *Karl Stull*

### Difference between hosting a CFMS show and our regular show:

- **Rockhounds** from all over the state come to the show
- CFMS Directors meeting on Saturday morning
- Competitive and non-competitive display cases
- Bigger building
- More dealers
- Educational Speakers
- 3-day show
- Awards Dinner on Saturday night
- Cracker Barrel on Friday night with live auction
- Editors meeting
- And more fun
- (And more work)



Dear Cabby,

*I bought some big slabs of Brazilian agate at Quartzsite, planning to put them together with a light inside – an agate lantern! But now I'm wondering, what's the best way to hold agate slabs together? – AGLOW IN GLENDALE*

Dear Aglow,

Shine on, because I've got an answer from the Master Refractor, Chris Kyte. He says the first step in a project like yours is often the hardest: finding a piece of agate large enough to cut five slabs from that will form a four-sided lamp. You have that step covered, so the next is to plan your saw cuts. Stack the four largest pieces to see which direction to cut each slab, so the four walls will match up.

The slab edges can be straight-cut where the walls meet or mitered. Either way, you can also bevel off the corners – your choice.

Once the slabs are cut and ready to assemble, *glue* the edges together. Chris recommends Gorilla Glue, which has a little "give" to it, due to its rubber content. If there are natural holes in the slabs, you can fill them by gluing small pieces of agate on the inside of the lamp.

A fitted base will provide structural support to hold your lamp together. Using a 2x6-inch piece of wood, draw an outline around the base of the lamp, and cut grooves to set the assembled slabs in.


For the electrical hardware, drill a hole in the base to hold the fixture, and cut a groove for the cord.


To finish the lamp, glue the smallest of the five slabs to the top. Thanks, Chris! There's a glimmer now in Glendale.

– *Cabigail Van Boron*



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### Your Cab Here !

Send photo and description to  
[info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org).

If you don't hear back from the editor, check the email address. Submissions to the old email address are not forwarded to the new address.

El Rincon lace agate, sterling silver wire (22 gauge square; 21 gauge half-round for bindings), Ellen Limeres.



## Field Trips



### Himalaya Mine, May 19

Southern California is the number 1 source of tourmaline above the equator. You have to go to Brazil to find our rival. The Himalaya Mine, opened in 1898, was the world's top producer for a long time before shutting down in 1977. Discovery of a new pocket in 1989 yielded half a ton of tourmaline. The mine can't support commercial operations but continues as a popular destination for rockhounds.

The fee for a day is \$70 per person, discounted to \$50 if our group has 20 people or more. You get to take home whatever you find.

The tourmaline there is beautiful, a hard gemstone with a large crystal in a range of colors – especially pink, green, and a bicolor variety called watermelon (the pink surrounded by the green).

The Himalaya Mine is in San Diego County, not far from Lake Henshaw, ten or so miles from Hellhole Canyon Preserve. It gets hot there. Bring your easy-up and plenty of water. Also important, bring a lunch.

For more information or to sign up: (626) 260-7239 or [joenmarl@verizon.net](mailto:joenmarl@verizon.net).

Somewhere in Calif. – *Joe Goetz*

## For Sale: 24" Slab Saw

The club is selling an old 24-inch slab saw. It will need work to get running. If interested, please send an email by May 8 to Philip Lahr at [plkslahr@att.net](mailto:plkslahr@att.net).



## Education Outreach



### Check Out *Mini Miners Monthly*

Schools are preparing for weeks of April/May testing, so no new school visits to report.

I routinely search for useful geologic information that is engaging for learners.

As many of you know, Diamond Dan Publications has a variety of online geology resources. One of my favorites is their online *Mini Miners Monthly*, which is geared for young mineral collectors (of all ages!), offers basic geologic information, and occasionally gets pretty involved. To find it, search "Mini Miners Monthly," or go to <http://www.diamonddanpublications.net>.

As always, please contact me at <mailto:liveoak180@yahoo.com> or 323-640-4394 if you'd like to get involved with school and community education presentations.

**Display Table:** Paulo Sanchez facilitates the Display 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 beneath the "What Is This?" sign.

Polishing a small section or carefully "knocking off" a small corner of the specimen will provide more clues.

You can also send a photo with good resolution to Paulo at: [paolosanchez@lhsla.org](mailto:paolosanchez@lhsla.org).

## Welcome, New Members

Three new members have joined our club, adding their talents, experiences, and insights to a group that has a lot to share. Say hello to Jim and Nancy Robb and to Martin Lindsay.



A rockhound for 40 years, **Martin Lindsay** comes to us from the Santa Rosa Mineral and Gem Society. He enjoys all aspects of the hobby but especially field trips ("Collecting puts you in a meditative state of mind"). He likes to cut and polish one side of a rock, creating a "window" into what's inside.

## Send Us Your BRIEFs

Best Rock I Ever Found (BRIEF) stories, 50 words or less. Photo of your rock, or you and your rock, are encouraged but not required. Email to [pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:pasadenalapidary.org). If you don't hear back promptly, check the email address. Submissions to the old address are not forwarded to our new address.

## 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.



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## Rock and Gem Shows

**May 4–6 YUCAIPA:** Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Yucaipa Music & Arts Festival, Yucaipa Blvd and Adams St. Hours: Fri 6pm–9pm, Sat 12 noon–10pm, Sun 12 noon–7pm. [www.yvgms.org](http://www.yvgms.org)

**May 5–6 ANAHEIM:** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W Crescent Ave. Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4:30. [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

**May 5–6 JACKSON:** Amador County Gem & Mineral Society, Kennedy Mine, 12594 Kennedy Mine Rd (off Hwy 49/88). Hours: 10–4 daily. [www.amadorgemandmineral.org](http://www.amadorgemandmineral.org)

Rockhounds never die. They petrify.

– Sayings of Joe Goetz

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>May 2018</b>		1	2	3 Board meeting	4  Gem show(s)	5  Gem show(s)
6 Workshop 1-Wire Cab Wrap  Gem show(s)	7	8	9 John Daggett birthday, 1833*	10	11	12
13	14	15 Program mtg Rock Carvings from Ancient Ohio	16 William Barstow Strong birthday, 1837*	17	18 Mt St Helens erupts, 1980	19 Field trip Himalaya Mine, tourmaline
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

\*John Daggett, part owner of the Calico Silver Mine, was the newly elected lieutenant governor of California in 1883 when the newly organized town of Daggett (10 miles east of Barstow) was searching for a name. W.B. Strong was president of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad.



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*El Rincon lace agate, sterling silver wire (22 gauge square; 21 gauge half-round for bindings), Ellen Limeres.*



**Above:** Not since John, Paul, George, and Ringo first came to America has there been such a rush of fans to the stage. Patrick Keegan, presenting "Southwestern Turquoise" at the March program meeting, opened his sample cases and stepped aside.

**Right:** Imagine stopping at a thrift store to look for vintage jewelry and there is a turquoise necklace with gorgeous color –



*but not too perfect to be natural. Our Mona Ross says the silver findings convinced her the necklace was special, so she snapped it up for \$7.99. Patrick Keegan said it was Sleeping Beauty, worth upwards of \$2,000. In close-up, flecks of pyrite and varying shades of dark and light blue to green are marks of genuinely imperfect and perfectly beautiful turquoise.*