



# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JUNE 2018 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY • PASADENA, CA



*Don't Miss It ...*

## California State Mining and Mineral Museum

by Marcia Goetz

As you drive north on the Golden Chain Highway (Route 49) and enter Mariposa, you see it – the brown sign on a post with green signs that say Fairgrounds and Fairgrounds Road. The sign is there and gone so quickly that you have a chance of missing it. Without the fanfare it deserves, the California State Mining and Mineral Museum is tucked into the Mariposa Fairgrounds, waiting for visitors to come discover its treasures.

And exciting it is! One year during the 1990s, the Pasadena Lapidary Society made the Mariposa area our Thanksgiving field-trip destination. We camped on the lawn of the fairgrounds and rented the exhibit hall with its kitchen, which we used for preparing Thanksgiving dinner. It was also a great location for

*Photos: Benitoite, Didier Descouens/Wikimedia; map, National Park Service; stamp mill, California State Mining and Mineral Museum*

warming up, because it got very chilly that year. Boy, were we thankful for the heat!

While rockhounding in the Mariposa area, we arranged for a tour of the museum and enjoyed hours of browsing its collection. They had lots of large and exotic minerals, thumbnails, and miniature specimens. What we enjoyed most was the walk-in vault – like a bank vault – where the super-duper specimens were kept. As a friendly gesture, the tour guide let us know where there was mariposite on the fairgrounds, and we were allowed to collect some. *(Continued on page 4)*



## President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

May was an eventful month. Some of it we enjoyed, some not so much. On the unhappy side, Linda Nelson has resigned from the club. This came about after the CFMS accepted our bid to host their 2019 show, but imposed certain conditions. That is, we were required to change our handling of accounts. The PLS Board voted to make these changes, some of which were painful to a few who have served PLS long and well. We wish Linda all the best.

Marcia Goetz and I have been very busy planning for Pasadena Lapidary Society hosting the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Show in 2019. This will also be PLS's 61st Annual Show. The combined show will be at the Fairplex (Building 6) on March 8, 9, and 10 of 2019. CFMS has assigned consultants to represent them in the planning and execution of this important show for all of us.

Looking ahead to June, Mona Ross has taken on the task of planning the PLS Annual Picnic. She and Gloria Biesterfeld will be working together to make it a day of fun for rockhounds. The picnic will be on June 16 at Arcadia Park (see page 7 for

details). You will not want to miss this event, so mark your calendars to attend.

The monthly PLS Board meeting will be June 7 at Matt Denny's restaurant at 6:00 p.m. The first planning meeting for our 2019 Annual Show will be two days later, June 9, at Peppertree Café in Arcadia. Then the Workshop will be June 10, followed by the Annual Picnic on the 16th. The general membership meeting will be June 19 at Pasadena Central Library. Without a doubt, June will be a busy month.

Thank you to David Lacy and Karl Stull, who made very interesting and informative presentations at the general membership meeting in May. We had good attendance at the meeting and a few guests. The PLS Board had approved membership for several new members in May, and some of the new members were present to hear these great programs.

As I write this monthly message, PLS members have returned from the May field trip to the Himalaya Mine. I hope everyone found some nice specimens of tourmaline.

I am looking forward to June and all of the activities. It is always good to see friends and catch up on their news. Thank you for your support.

– Ellen Ferrell, President

## Leaders, Meetings, Membership Information

### Officers

**Ellen Ferrell, President**

(727) 512-0381  
Ellenbf2007@aol.com

**Mona Ross, Vice President**

(626) 437-0150  
mlr.gotrocks@gmail.com

**David Lacy, Secretary**

deceelink@earthlink.net

**Joe Goetz, Federation Director**

(626) 260-7239  
joenmar1@verizon.net

### 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 required; also liability waivers, eye protection, and closed-toe shoes.

Junior members 9 and older are welcome with adult supervision.

### Program Meetings

3rd Tuesday every month.  
Doors open at 6 p.m.  
Meeting is 6:30–8:45 p.m.  
Pasadena Central Library  
285 E Walnut St.

### Online

**www.pasadenalapidary.org**  
**Email:** info@pasadenalapidary.org  
**Facebook:** Pasadena Lapidary Society  
**Instagram:** /PasadenaLapidary  
**Twitter:** @pasalapidary

**“Galaxy in Crystal”** (continued from back cover): A retired machinist, Clyde Latimer has made a specialized lapidary hobby of creating fixtures to shine light through crystals. He is proud of the piece he calls “Galaxy in Crystal,” because it combines a crystal with exceptional visual depth (the photo doesn't do it justice) and good workmanship in the base. The crystal is a synthetic, found online. The base is walnut – drilled with a hole saw and end mill to accommodate the electric works and LED, then closed up with wood filler. The whole job was done with a small drill press in Clyde's workspace at home in the kitchen. Questions? Ask for Clyde at a program meeting or workshop.

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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## Workshop



## One-Wire Cab Wrapping, Part Two – June 10

In last month's Workshop, Ed Imlay introduced his one-wire technique for cabochon wrapping. In our June session, participants will try it for themselves – with step-by-step guidance from a master teacher. Participants should bring a cabochon ready to wrap and a few tools. Some supplies will be provided, as noted below.

### Participants should bring:

- Pliers (chain nose, bent chain nose, flat nose, round nose, flush cutter)
- Wire: 20, 22, or 24 gauge (soft)
- Cabochon (round or oval, 1 inch across or larger)
- Caliper and ruler

### For the masking tape method:

- 1-inch green tape will be available

### For the finishing-nail method:

- Finishing nails (1/2 inch to 1 inch long; 3/4 inch will be available)
- Wood block (1 inch thick and large enough to hold the cabochon plus 1/2 inch of clearance all around)

If you don't have a caliper, there will be one on hand for participant use. You won't need more than two gauges of wire (bundle and bindings): #20 and #22 copper are available from workshop stock.

Even if you missed the first class, stop by and see how single-wire cab wrapping is done. We are sure to offer this class again.

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.

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

**Above, right:** Ed Imlay explains how his method evolved from two wires (one for the "bundle," the other for bindings) to a single wire. With either technique, a framework of headless nails lets you create a wrapping off the stone that will fit your cabochon perfectly.



## Program Meeting



## Micrometeorites and Where to Find Them – June 19

The PLS June program presentation will be "Micrometeorites and Where to Find Them" by Paolo Sanchez. Paolo has a well-earned reputation for keeping us enthralled and informed. You may remember his black-light presentation on fluorescent minerals earlier this year. Or the time the projector broke down but Paolo said the show must go on – so he called in a friend to pose for the visuals. Paolo plans to continue studying geology when he goes to college.

Our Rock of the Month talk will be by Alyson Nishimura, another Junior member, on the Blue Forest petrified wood deposit in Wyoming. Alyson graciously postponed her talk, originally scheduled for April, to allow Annual Show Co-chair Marcia Goetz to present a proposal to host a CFMS and PLS combined show in 2019. Thank you for your patience, Alyson.

PLS members, please contact me with ideas, and possibilities for future presentations and talks. The calendar is wide open for the second half of the year. – Mona Ross



Sylvia Cliffe was at the May workshop polishing a cut-out with agate that transforms under the light. The big news: she plans to start a rock carving class for beginners at the July workshop.



*Continued from page 1*

The museum houses the official mineral collection of the State of California, including over 13,000 objects, with about 350 specimens on display at any given time – so you would probably see different exhibits each time you visited. In the collection, there are gem and mineral specimens, meteorites, specimens of crystalline gold, a working stamp mill (scaled to fit in the building), and mining artifacts. There is a “tunnel” that walks you through a short experience of mining in the 1800s. What a great place to learn about California’s mining history and its wealth of gems and minerals.

The museum collection has been housed in Mariposa since 1986. Curator Darci Moore, who has worked for California State Parks for 28 years, was collections manager for several other parks before coming to this museum. She says it’s exciting to work with the museum’s historic collection, and the colorful fluorescent mineral display is the one she enjoys the best.



The favorite of most visitors is the Fricot “nugget” – a crystallized gold piece of 13.8 pounds. It’s a real beauty that will take your breath away. The Fricot was found in 1864 in the American River.

There is a massive sheet of crystallized copper that will also capture your attention when you enter the museum.

Of course, among the many other minerals, you will find a sample of benitoite, the official California state gemstone.

The museum has had its ups and downs. Darci shared that the worst time was when the museum faced possible closure during the 2009–2012 economic downturn. In contrast, great days at the museum are when school groups come to visit, with all their excitement and enthusiasm. Our club can relate to that. We see that excitement when children attend our PLS Annual Show.

Huell Howser, producer and host of the KCET series *California’s Gold*, thought the museum was a treasure. Darci tells me attendance goes up each time the episode about the museum is televised. Yearly, about 12,000 people visit this beautiful museum, and many comment that it is the best mineral museum they have ever seen.

## California State Mining and Mineral Museum

Mariposa Fairgrounds  
5005 Fairgrounds Road  
Mariposa, CA 95338

Online: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=588](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=588)

Phone: (209) 742-7625

## Say, answer me this one, will you? Why is gold worth some twenty bucks an ounce?

**Flophouse Bum:** I don’t know. Because it’s scarce.

**Howard:** A thousand men, say, go searchin’ for gold. After six months, one of them’s lucky: one out of a thousand. His find represents not only his own labor, but that of nine hundred and ninety-nine others to boot. That’s six thousand months, five hundred years, scramblin’ over a mountain, goin’ hungry and thirsty. An ounce of gold, mister, is worth what it is because of the human labor that went into the findin’ and the gettin’ of it.

**Flophouse Bum:** I never thought of it just like that.

**Howard:** Well, there’s no other explanation, mister. Gold itself ain’t good for nothing except making jewelry with and gold teeth.

*From Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948), written and directed by John Huston (based on a novel by B. Traven)*



*In the early 1910s, two miners looking for gold found precious opal instead, and worked this site for two years as the American Opal Company. The best opal, 200 feet down in hard rock, was too costly to dig out. PLS visited the site – Scout’s Cove, at Opal Mountain, north of Hinkley – on our March 2018 field trip.*



## Notes from Lavic Siding

by Christine Tureaud

Saturday morning started off with our six guests, my husband, and dog. Breakfast of fried yams, ham, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit – including watermelon, cantaloupe, grapes, raspberries, and Cara Cara oranges.

Joe and Marcia arrived. Eager faces awaited their instructions for the club's field trip. This was a first encounter for many, and they scoured our campsite far and wide. We were surrounded by bounties of various colored jasper, agate, and chalcedony.

Joe and Marcia took us over and under bridges for larger pieces of tremendous mother-earth rewards. Chalcedony containing hordes of druzy crystals, and a beautiful jasper agate called Flower Garden. Joe and Marcia answered all inquiries of the new members and guests as they picked up every unknown rock.

As the day came to a close, we headed back to camp. We were joined by the Nishimura family and enjoyed luscious fried rice and apple pie. One of our friends from the Etiwanda Game Preserve surprised us with a show and tell of rattlesnakes. Another of our friends entertained us with his poetry, played his harmonica, and sang along with our dog.

Sunday morning, Jay Valle (another field leader), joined by Joe and Marcia, took us to a "hot dig." Huge pieces of chalcedony everywhere. Then we were off to collect thulite, pink and green specimens. What a wonderful trip to Lavic.



Dear Cabby,

*I just purchased a sizable nugget of turquoise (2.5" x 3" x 1.5"). It's aqua/green, with sepia brown at the edges. I want to cut it to make several cabs. What saw should I use?*

– KERF-UFFLED

Dear Kerf,

A nugget that big is valuable, so it's definitely a treasure-twice, cut-once situation. I consulted with Workshop Wizard Carolyn Duncan, who warned that oil-cooled saws are likely to stain turquoise a muddy brown. To keep the stone's original color, she recommended using a water-cooled saw. She also suggested using a thin blade to conserve as much of the nugget as possible. Our workshop has a 4-inch saw perfect for the job. – Cabby

Dear Cabby,

*I have a cab with a crack in it. Is it okay to use glue to repair the crack? If so, can I continue to grind and polish it on the Genie without gumming up the wheels? Will using the Genie make the crack worse?* – ANXIOUS IN ALTADENA

Dear Anxious,

Thank you for being concerned about our club's equipment as well as your stone. I checked with the Genie Whisperer, Ben Shutman. He says using superglue to fix the crack is a good idea. As long as the glue has fully cured (or dried), it should not harm the Genie wheels.

However, not all glues are created equal. Ben says superglue is better to use than epoxy. He recommends Hot Stuff superglue (cyanoacetate) as a good one to use. I looked it up online, and you can purchase 1 ounce of Hot Stuff glue for about \$6.

Adhere to this advice. – Cabby



*Glass balls, about the size of walnuts, turn up along the tracks east of Lavic Siding after strong winds or rain. Jay Valle has a theory they might have been feed stock for a glassworks, spilled in a rail accident long ago.*

## Education Outreach



### Janie Duncan's Classroom

On April 27, Janie Duncan presented two 3-hour workshops at her house. Mona Ross and Joan Harrison assisted her.

The two groups of home-school students and their parents participated in a variety of hands-on activities. As always, Janie was very engaging and informative. Highlights included learning about local geology, using drinking straws to take "core samples" from multilayered, sediment-colored cupcakes (and then, of course, using the straws to punch many more holes and eat the cupcakes), and a delightful visit to Janie's Geology Museum.

### Thank you, Janie and Mona!

To schedule a school presentation by one of our experienced club members, contact me at: (323) 640-4394 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

## Field Trips



### We're Going on a Picnic in June

See details, next page!

Somewhere in Calif. – Joe Goetz

## Photo from Your Shop



A cinderblock filled with Quikcrete on top of one-inch foam insulation board and a carpet square keeps the noise level down from a vibratory tumbler – about the same level as a clothes dryer.

Send a photo from your workshop to [info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org).

If you don't hear back, check the address. Email to our old address is not forwarded.

## Welcome, New Members

A warm welcome to all our new PLS members. We'll be getting acquainted soon with **Akira Atobe**, **Kiki Gerardo**, **Mireya Morales**, **Marlene Roscher**, and **Scott Wadler** and **Miles Wadler** (Junior member).



**Jim and Nancy Robb** became members in April. They retired recently and relocated to Altadena. Nancy is a former PLS Junior member from 1965-1974. She is the daughter of two PLS presidents, Harry and Arlene Billheimer. She wants to use rocks in new and creative ways. For Jim,

being a rockhound came naturally when he married Nancy. It goes well with his love of guitars and the outdoors. Jim has a degree in forestry.



Joining in May, **Channing Hansen** is an avid woodworker – turning out bowls, candlesticks, and other projects on a lathe. He's looking forward to activities in the PLS workshop. He is yet another PLS member who is interested in just about everything, from astronomy onward. The molecule on his t-shirt is caffeine.



**Ambrose Chan** is an accountant (semi-retired), and daughter **Annika** is in 5th grade. They went with us on the April field trip to Lavic Siding and became PLS members in May. Both are interested in jewelry-making in the workshop. They are looking forward to field trips, rock collecting, and family time outdoors.



## FASANAROCK

John & Christina Fasana

(626) 632-0859

114 S. Myrtle Ave  
Monrovia, CA 91016

[fasanarock@gmail.com](mailto:fasanarock@gmail.com)

[website-fasanarock.com](http://website-fasanarock.com)

 [Instagram-FASANAROCK](https://www.instagram.com/FASANAROCK)

Pasadena Lapidary Society

# Annual Picnic

**Saturday, June 16**

10 a.m. Set Up

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Fun

2:30 p.m. – Clean Up

**Arcadia Park**

405 S. Santa Anita Ave

Enter parking lot on west side of Santa Anita Ave – near the tennis courts. Look for PLS blue and yellow streamers

- ✓ Bring a chair or blanket.
- ✓ Bring your cabochons and favorite lapidary projects to the Newsletter Photo Table!
- ✓ Sign up to bring a dish, drinks, condiments, etc.

**Contact Mona Ross for sign-up info:**

(626) 437-0150 (voice or text)

[mlr.gotrocks@gmail.com](mailto:mlr.gotrocks@gmail.com)

*Be there, and bring a chair!*

## Rock and Gem Shows

**June 8–10 LA HABRA:** North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours: Fri 5–8, Sat & Sun 10–5.  
<http://www.nocgms.com>

**June 9–10 ESCONDIDO:** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club; California Center for the Arts, Escondido; 340 N Escondido Blvd. Hours: 10–5 daily.  
<http://www.palomargem.org>

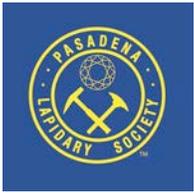
**June 9–10 GLENDORA:** Glendora Gems, Goddard Middle School, 859 E Sierra Madre Ave. Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4. Contact: Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638 or email [ybidwell2@aol.com](mailto:ybidwell2@aol.com)

**June 23–24 CULVER CITY:** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Blvd. Hours: Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5.  
<http://www.culvercityrocks.org>

YOU ARE MOST LIKELY TO FIND LOADS OF GOOD ROCKS WHEN YOU'VE LEFT YOUR COLLECTING BAG BACK AT THE CAR.

– **MARCIA'S LAW**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>June 2018</b>	<b>Important note:</b> Monthly program meetings now start at 6:30.				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Death of René Just Haüy, father of crystallography	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Board meeting</b>	<b>8</b>  Gem shows	<b>9</b>  Gem shows
<b>10</b> <b>Workshop</b> 1-Wire Cab Wrap	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>PLS Picnic</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Program mtg</b> "Micrometeorites" Meeting starts at 6:30.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Gem show
<b>24</b>  Gem show	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Landers earthquake (7.3), 1992	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



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



*"Galaxy in Crystal," Clyde Latimer. See page 2 for details.*

## Jaspers from Lavic Siding (April 2018) *Photos: Ellen Limeres*

