



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JUNE 2019 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® • PASADENA, CA

Three Cases from the 2018 PLS Annual Show

By Jared Nishimura:

“This was my 3rd case for the PLS show. I wanted to encourage more kids to become members. For the best showing, I tumbled a large number of Sweetwater agates that my family and I collected in Wyoming into shiny, irresistible round gemstones. A well-worn hammer and gad gave the case a more realistic feel...”



By Mary Kirmil:

“This educational case illustrates ‘How to Create a Single-Sided Cabochon,’ using pink rhodonite as a sample rock. The text describes five steps in layman’s terms, including slabbing, cutting, grinding, sanding, and polishing. This was my second case. In 2017, I showed my favorite cabochons, with this pink liner. I like pink.”



By Carol Burton and Carole Sumler:

“The idea for a fun, fantasy case popped up as I was walking through Michael’s and found an aisle of gnomes with tiny furniture and wee wheelbarrows. Carole Sumler joined me on the project, and we had so much fun setting it up. There are many ways to fill a display case. Free your mind, and have fun with it!”



See “Display Cases” story on page 4.

Photos by Elizabeth Weston

President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

With summer just ahead, there's no better way to start the season than with a Pasadena Lapidary Society annual picnic.

We'll gather as always by our oak trees at Arcadia Park (see the star on the map on page 3). We'll spend time with lapidary friends and enjoy a traditional picnic. The club will provide hot dogs and the basics that go with – including condiments, plates, and cutlery. For side dishes, from chips to cookies and all kinds of salads, we'll have potluck brought by our members. Bring a favorite dish of yours!

I wonder if anyone will bring chili for the hot dogs...

Meanwhile, PLS has been going along very well. The Board had a good meeting, getting back to normal after the CFMS Show. We had an early Workshop in May (so members could have a Sunday for rocks and then another Sunday for Mother's Day). As Sylvia Cliffe's carving class held its final session, the Imlays came in with special activities to share. Ed brought materials for flint knapping and for gem trees. Corinne demonstrated wire weaving. It goes to show there is always something to do at the PLS workshop. The May program meeting, with speaker Don Buchanan, was informative and of special interest on the topic of mining in San Bernardino County.

Our Bylaws Committee has completed its review of the PLS Bylaws, as required in odd-numbered years. The committee is proposing several updates to make names and capitalization consistent (for example, referring to "the Society" rather than "the club"). Also, the founders of PLS didn't foresee the need for a Webmaster or Technical Specialist, so the committee has recommended adding those as regular positions on the Board.

Thank you to Chris Kyte for heading up this effort, and to committee members Marcia and Joe Goetz, David Lacy, Phil Lahr, Carolyn Duncan, and Karl Stull. As the next step, the Board will vote on the committee's recommendations, and if approved the proposed revision of the Bylaws will come before the whole membership for a final vote.

For now, the sun is bright and there are many opportunities for great rockhounding.

Best wishes to all for a happy summer.

– Ellen Ferrell, President

Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs

Ellen Ferrell, President (727) 512-0381 Ellenbf2007@aol.com
Mona Ross, VP (626) 437-0150 mlr.gotrocks@gmail.com
David Lacy, Secretary deeceelink@earthlink.net
Philip Lahr, Treasurer (818) 926-3163 plkslahr@att.net
Joe Goetz, Federation Dir. (626) 260-7239 joenmar1@verizon.net

Trustees

Marcia Goetz, Chris Kyte, Joe Goetz

Committee Chairs

Annual Show	Ellen Ferrell	Marcia Goetz (cochair)
Bulletin	Karl Stull	Display Table Ferdie Sanchez
Education	Joan Harrison	Field Trips Joe Goetz
Historian	Karl Stull	Hospitality Elizabeth Weston
Membership		Marianne Hutchins-Mejia
Publicity	Mona Ross	Social Media Elizabeth Weston
Sunshine	Ellen Ferrell	Technology Ben Shutman
Ways & Means	Philip Lahr	Webmaster Eugene Kim
Workshop	Carolyn Duncan	

Membership

Membership per calendar year is \$25; for additional adults at the same address, \$15. Junior members are \$10. There is an initiation fee of \$10 per person (non-refundable) to cover costs of name badges, etc.

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

Meetings

Board Meetings – 1st Thursday of the month

7 p.m. at Matt Denny's Ale House
 145 E Huntington Dr, Arcadia
 PLS members are welcome.

Workshop – 2nd Sunday of the month

Fees are \$3 for half-day, \$5 for a full day. Equipment instruction is required; also liability waivers, eye protection, and closed-toe shoes. For directions, please call (909) 455-4360 (cell) or (909) 593-2781, or email gem.quest@verizon.net. Bring lunch!

Junior members 9 and older are welcome with adult supervision.

Program Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month

Doors open at 6 p.m. Meeting is 6:30–8:45 p.m.
 Pasadena Central Library, 285 E Walnut St.

Contact Us

Email: info@PasadenaLapidary.org **Instagram:** /PasadenaLapidary

Facebook: Pasadena Lapidary Society **Twitter:** @pasalapidary

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Send articles by the 15th for publication in next month's issue. Very short items can get in as late as the 22nd but are not guaranteed to be the next issue.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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Program Meeting – June 18



Mineral Colors in Glass

At our June Program Meeting, come hear Walter Lombardo present “From Mine to Masterpiece: The Minerals Used in the Making of Art and Decorative Glass, Especially as Colorants.”

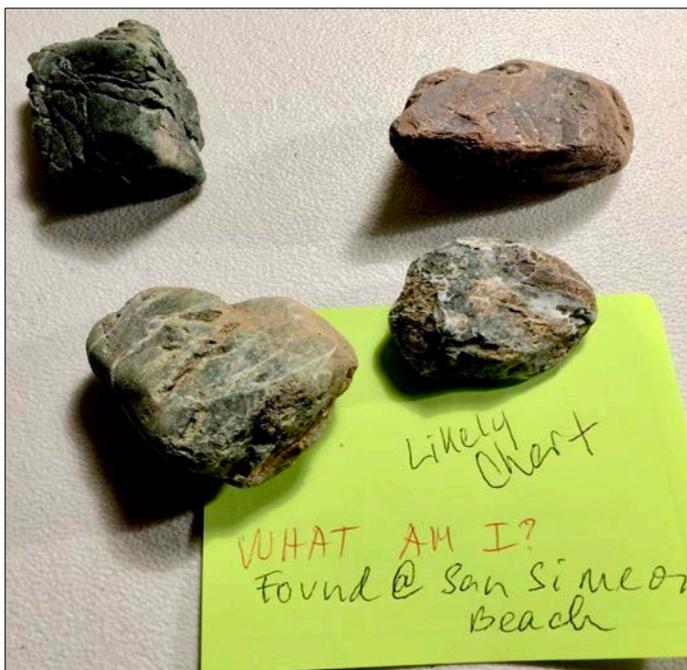
Glass has been manufactured for almost four thousand years. Most people are not aware of the properties that minerals impart to glass, whether it be color, refractive index, or durability. Learn how these different minerals contribute to glass and glass making. Uranium glass, ruby glass, cobalt glass, and iridescent glass will be among the topics in this talk.

You may recognize Walter Lombardo as a presenter at past meetings and a PLS Show vendor. He is a geologist with more than 35 years’ experience in mineralogy and the mining industry. He has extensive contacts worldwide for minerals, fossils, and gemstones, including many direct contacts with the people who mine them. Walter is the founder of the Nevada Mineral and Book Company (342 S Tustin Street, Orange, CA 92866).



Rock of the Month: I’m still looking for members to give a five-minute presentation about a rock or mineral for Rock of the Month talks. Please call or email: (626) 437-0150 or mlr.gotrocks@gmail.com. – *Mona Ross*

Display Table: Ferdie Sanchez coordinates the Display Table at monthly meetings. Share items of rockhound interest, workshop projects, or rocks from field trips. If you have a rock you’d like to have identified, put it on the Display Table with a “What Is This?” note. Knocking a corner off the rock may provide clues.



PLS Annual Picnic

Sunday, June 23

Arcadia Park
405 S Santa Anita Ave

10 a.m. Set Up

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Picnic

2:30 p.m. – Clean Up

Enter the parking lot from Santa Anita Ave – near the tennis courts. Look for PLS blue and yellow streamers.

It’s time to get out your Pic-a-Nic basket again. PLS is headed out to have its annual picnic in the park. PLS will provide the hot dogs, paper plates, utensils, napkins, and condiments. We ask you to bring a potluck dish to share (bring your own serving spoon).

We will have water available. If you have a specific drink you prefer, bring it with you. Other things to bring: chair or blanket to sit on, hat, sweater (one year we got cold). – *Marcia Goetz*

Contact Marcia Goetz for information:
(626) 260-7239 (voice or text)

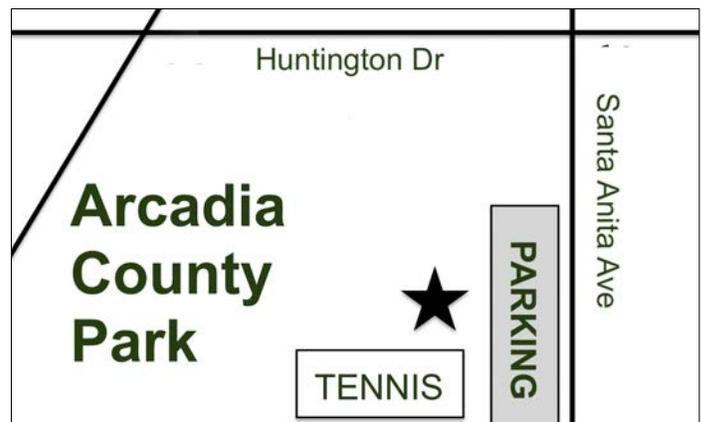




Photo by Sue Pang and Steve Cady

“I Want to See More Display Cases”

by Karl Stull

There was a moment of thoughtful silence at the CFMS Show wrap-up meeting when a committee member (not me) blurted out, “I want to see more display cases!”

With all the buzz and bustle surrounding Demonstrations, Kids Activities, the Information table, and fundraising, it was good to be reminded that display cases are the culmination of what we do in a gem and mineral club. We collect rocks. We cut, polish, and mount rocks. We display our work at a show.

When a show visitor stops to look into a display case – into that lit-up world behind the glass – there is a moment of one-on-one communication with the case creator. This is the opportunity we get to share with others what we as individuals find fascinating about rocks.

There are a lot of ways to be fascinated. For examples, take a look at cases put together by Ed Imlay. He has a case of bola ties, another with rocks from different parts of California and the West, yet another of jaspers in different shades from Lavic Siding, and another yet again that pairs cabochons with their parent rocks.

These are all “collection” cases, but Ed does “education” cases too. His “Evolution of the One-Wire Wrap” gives a detailed how-to for a jig-assisted method of wrapping that he developed right here – as a PLS member. As you might guess from the word *evolution*, this case also tells a story. It’s a step by step account of a rockhound’s journey from the traditional four-wire bundle (and the burden of dealing with its loose ends) to a Zen-like model of simplicity.

Ideally, every display case will tell a story – of the materials you encountered, the qualities you admired, the preparation and arrangement you thought best. You make your case, so to speak, and the rest is up to the show visitor.

In addition to collection cases and education cases, rockhounds enjoy creative cases. Creative cases are organized around an unconventional theme, as in the “Backyard Rocks” case by Martha Wilson and Cathi Considine, featuring jewelry made from the likes of granite and basalt.

Creative cases often reflect a sense of humor. At this year’s show, you saw Janie Duncan’s “Rockhound Diner,” with barite crystal fried chicken and a river rock baked potato (don’t forget the sulphur butter). In “Stuff Collected When Collecting Stuff,” David Lacy presented *all* his mineral-related findings from field trips, including aluminum cans, brass ammunition casings, and half of a plastic propellor from a drone.

For the beginner, a creative case can be a springboard to taking part in PLS annual shows. You don’t necessarily need dozens of high-quality lapidary pieces to exhibit. What you need is a point of view, and an idea for how to share the joy of rockhounding with others. Everything else is a trip to Michael’s.

A fear of not being good enough – compared to masters of their craft, like Sylvia Cliffe, Joe Goetz, or Gloria Biesterfeld – is an obstacle for some, and not to be lightly dismissed. When I think back on the first rockhound show I attended, and how blown away I was by Ferdie Sanchez’s gem trees, seeming to glide like tall ships through bright space, it makes perfect sense to ask: “Who in their right mind would put in a case of gem trees when Ferdie’s case is in the same room?”

But I feel certain Ferdie would be the first to welcome a new gem-tree exhibitor. It’s why he teaches at PLS events. It’s why Sylvia teaches carving at PLS workshops. The whole idea of a rockhound show is to share knowledge and also to share your individual perspective on the hobby. At a PLS show, all the display cases are noncompetitive. All blue ribbons are awarded in the minds of show visitors.

I plan to put in my first display case at next year’s show. And I encourage others who have been in the club a year or two – and brand new members too – to think about how they might add a dash of new and exciting to our annual parade of rocks in a box. Start sketching, gather materials, and talk about your plans with fellow rockhounds (they may have ideas and materials you can borrow). In 2020, let’s see more display cases. ❖



Display case mementos are a thank-you to each exhibitor for participating in our annual show. As seen in these examples from 2017 and 2018, mementos reflect the theme of the show for that year. Martha Wilson has designed and produced PLS case mementos since 2014 and wants to give others a chance to express their ideas and talents. What are your design ideas for display case mementos in 2020?

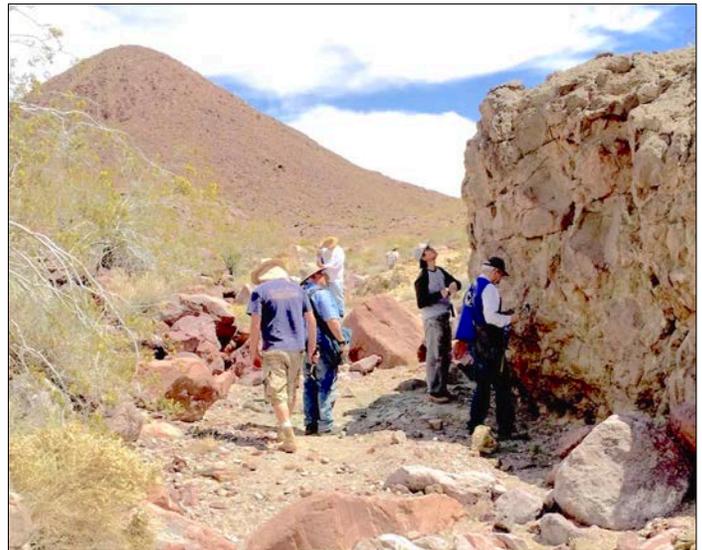


Marcia Goetz put in a case of different styles of wire-wrapping at the 2019 CFMS Show. Photo by Sue Pang and Steve Cady

From the Field Trip Photo Album



Two recently shorn sheep keep an eye on rockhounds who drive slowly by, scouting locations for the Kramer Junction field trip in May. Photo by Jay Valle



On the April field trip to Lavic Siding, we ventured north of the freeway to Sandy Wash. In this streambed, Jay Valle, Eugene Kim, and David Lacy check the channel wall for seams of agate. Checking the rubble under foot are Kevin (friend of Eugene's) and Steve M., a member of the Whittier club.

Aria Easter has been collecting rocks on her own for years. Lavic was her first PLS field trip. About midmorning, she spotted an unusual rock in the midst of all the red jasper, like a cluster of bluish grapes – botryoidal chalcedony. After a good day of rock collecting, it is a long drive home from the desert. Photo by Jan Easter



Workshop – June 9



Jewelry: Intro to Sawing and Riveting

Martha Wilson will demonstrate a simple method of cold joinery at the June Workshop. The class will focus on using a jeweler's saw to cut out shapes to be riveted to another piece of metal. You'll design a small pendant and then cut it out and attach it to a contrasting piece of metal using silver rivets.



Tools: jeweler's saw, saw blades and files, chasing hammer, drill-press bench pin, and flush cutters. Feel free to bring any of these tools if you have them. Otherwise tools and materials will be provided. Class starts at 1 p.m.

For directions to the workshop, please call (909) 455-4360 or (909) 593-2781, or email gem.quest@verizon.net. 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 enter by the ramp in the parking lot.

Workshop hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Half day is \$3, all day \$5. We sometimes close early. If you plan to come late, please call ahead. – Carolyn Duncan

PLS Bylaws: RAQ (rarely asked questions)

Why do we have both Bylaws and a separate set of Operating Regulations?

The Bylaws are like the Constitution, providing an outline of the structure of PLS government (officers, committees, elections). The Operating Regulations go into detail about annual dues, how to run meetings, and responsibilities of committee chairs. A change to the Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote at a general meeting of PLS members. Changes to the Operating Regulations only require a majority vote by the Board.

Who/what are the Trustees?

When a PLS President finishes their term of office, he or she becomes First Trustee. The Bylaws provide for three Trustees, each serving for six years or more (their terms are extended two years whenever a current President is reelected). So Trustees are long-timers, the club's institutional memory. They audit club finances and are responsible for club property.

Currently, the PLS Trustees are Marcia Goetz, Chris Kyte, and Joe Goetz.

Find the PLS Bylaws and Operating Regulations at PasadenaLapidary.org > Membership.

Show Your Display Case at the Culver City Show

The Culver City Rock and Mineral Club (CCRMC) invites you to put in a display case of your creations or collections at the CCRMC annual show, June 29 and 30, at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Culver City.

The Culver City club provides the display case, liners, lights, locks, and security during the show. All you have to do is set up your display Friday evening or Saturday morning before the show opens and pick it up Sunday after the show closes.

Sign up at the CCRMC monthly meeting on June 10, or contact Display Chairman Steve Dover: skdover@yahoo.com or (310) 477-2279.

Double the life of your diamond saw blade...

by keeping the oil clean and keeping the feed on low. Adding 1/4 to 1/2 cup of liquid detergent acts as a coagulant and holds the grit to the bottom in a tight ribbon.

From the PLS bulletin (August 1972)



Corinne Imlay and Becky Fregoso did a little socializing at the May Workshop while wire weaving. As seen in the closeup, two main wires provide the structure and a weaving wire goes over and under to make a decorative pattern. A gem or bead goes into the football-shaped space under the thumb when the ornament is complete.

Come on Down, It's the NOC Annual Show!

Join us in our quest to inspire learning, community, and passion for rockhounding. You'll enjoy a museum-quality experience of rocks and gemstones, including the Walt Wright collection of petrified wood – with activities for kids, and food and snacks that won't bust your budget. And don't miss...

- Geode cutting – \$10 to \$60

The North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society supports our local community as well as the rockhounding hobby. We have a scholarship program, and by including student volunteers at our show, selling drinks and snacks, we are proud to encourage teen leaders to pursue their interest in earth sciences.

Rain or shine, we'll be waiting for you next Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (June 7–9) in La Habra, at 101 W La Habra Blvd. – *Armando Pedroza, PLS member and NOC Show Chairperson*

Rock and Gem Shows

June 7–9 LA HABRA North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, La Habra Community Center, 101 W La Habra Blvd. Hrs: Fri 5–8, Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4. www.nocgms.com

June 8–9 GLENDORA Glendora Gems, Goddard Middle Sch, 859 E Sierra Madre Ave. Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4. ybidwell2@aol.com

June 29–30 CULVER CITY Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Blvd Hours: Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5. culvercityrocks.org

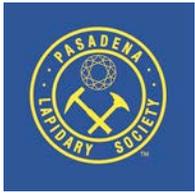
June 29–30 ESCONDIDO Palomar Gem & Mineral Club, California Center for the Arts, 340 N Escondido Blvd. Hours: 10–5 daily. palomargem.org

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.

A DISPLAY CASE IS A WINDOW
INTO SOMEBODY'S MIND –
SOMEONE WITH ROCKS IN THEIR
HEAD – ANONYMOUS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					June 2019	1
2	3	4	5	6 Board mtg PLS members always welcome	7  Gem show	8  Gem shows
9 Workshop Intro to Sawing and Riveting	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23 Annual Picnic Details on page 3	24	25	26	27	28	29  Gem shows



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Tavernier thunder egg, 2.5 X actual size.
 Photo by Ellen Limeres

A classic display case using visual aids



David Lacy is famous for visual aids. He once carved a foot-long cubo-octahedron out of foam plastic for a Rock of the Month presentation.

In his "Opals 101" display case, from the 2018 PLS annual show, pipe cleaners and ping-pong balls illustrate how different colors of reflected light come flying out of an opal's molecular structure. The green and pink ping-pong balls are meticulously speckled, as rows and layers of molecules light up with different intensities.

In addition to being a classic "education" display case, this is also an impressive "collection" case, with examples of rough, polished, and not actually opal.

Photo by Elizabeth Weston