



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JANUARY 2019 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY™ • PASADENA, CA



becomes the sky, the sea. Philosophically, this use of minimum detail is meant to focus the mind on essentials, with awareness of a vast surrounding stillness. Psychologically, this kind of landscape painting relies on a built-in readiness of the mind to see a horizontal line as a horizon.

Given a horizon, a bump becomes a mountain. Adding a line or two below the mountain gives an impression of foothills, which are seen as nearer than the mountain, “in the foreground.” The flat picture becomes an image in perspective. Nature draws lines; we see pictures.

Continued on page 4

Pictures in Slices of Rock

by Karl Stull

The pleasure of finding a “painting” inside a rock is universal – like cloud gazing. A little bell goes off, a thrill of recognition: “Hey, it’s a cockatoo!” You share the image with someone, and they see it too. And then you’re filled with wonder to think how many pictures must have rolled across the sky when you weren’t looking – horses, pineapples, windmills...

Then again, pictures in cross-sections of rock are different in some ways from pictures in clouds, just as watercolor paintings are different from oil paintings. Cloud pictures have a contour, and they also include a lot of shading. Pockets of dark to light gray between puffs of white create 3-D effects, which give a fullness to that image of a lion’s mane, a sailing ship, or George Washington’s wig. Rock pictures tend to use more lines and less shading. Maybe that’s why cloud pictures are often of animals or people while so many rock pictures are landscapes.

That’s Weird

If you think about the “paint” and its mode of delivery, cloud pictures are a fluid in a fluid: drops of water carried along by currents of air. In contrast, rock pictures are made by particles carried in a fluid and deposited on or in a solid. The colored fluid coats surfaces, fills cracks and depressions, soaks into a matrix. Clouds tumble and dissipate. Rock pictures settle into a long-lasting form, like ink painted into paper.

In Japanese ink painting, or *sumi-e*, a single brush stroke can be enough to suggest a distant shoreline. Another flick of the brush adds a soaring bird. The empty space above and below the shore



“Picture jasper” is a catch-all term for rocks formed by local combinations of events – volcanic, sedimentary, metamorphic. On this page, the top two specimens are from eastern Oregon, where layers of lava and then clay and then more lava are thought to have formed the bands of color we see in slabs of picture rock. The layers were squeezed from above by the weight of new layers. They were also folded by forces from other directions, which shaped the bands into lines that look to us like the contours of mountains and rolling plains.

The rock with cottony blossoms is Sonoran Dendritic Jasper from Arizona.

President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

It has been a wonderful year with lots of new members and new activities. Our Holiday Party was a huge success. Well attended and enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Susan Carter and her team of elves for putting it all together. The decorations were beautiful, and the food was plentiful and delicious. Who would have thought that bingo would be such a big hit? I am so glad that everyone enjoyed the party, and we will be looking forward to other times to meet and enjoy each other's company.

Looking to 2019 and preparations for the CFMS Show, Ferdie Sanchez is working with volunteers on the gem trees for the Awards Dinner. I can hardly wait to see the results. Marcia Goetz and I, along with all our volunteers, have been working continuously since the PLS show last March at putting the upcoming CFMS show together. Pasadena Lapidary being the host for the California Federation annual show is a big deal, and we want it to be the best. And it will be – with all the help we will have. There will be a show meeting on January 12 to review everyone's progress. I will email details to show chairmen.

January will be a new beginning. Sylvia Cliffe is starting a new carving class at the workshop. So if you haven't signed up yet, don't miss the opportunity to learn from the master. See details in Carolyn Duncan's Workshop column on page 6.

Carolyn has signed up for Sylvia's carving class, so I will be filling in for her at orientations and assisting new members. I am sure I can count on Phil Lahr, Chris Kyte, Ed Imlay, and Joe Goetz to pitch in too. If you might be interested in assisting with orientation for new members, and would like to learn the routine, Carolyn would appreciate the help.

Ed Imlay will continue with his Cabbing 101 class. This class gets new members off to a good start. And if any long-time members want to take Cabbing 101 as a refresher class, you are always welcome.

Quartzsite is the January field trip. This is a fun way to spend a weekend and load up on rocks, slabs, cabs, beads, findings, tools, and equipment. Check Joe Goetz's article on page 5 for details. And feel free to call other members for assistance.

Happy New Year to all, and stay safe.

– Ellen Ferrell, President

Officers and Committee Chairs

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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 Ferdie Sanchez
Education	Joan Harrison	Field Trips Joe Goetz
Historian	Karl Stull	Hospitality Elizabeth Weston
Librarian	Jennifer Jang	Membership Marcia Goetz
Publicity	Mona Ross	Elizabeth Weston (social media)
Sunshine	Ellen Ferrell	Technology Ben Shutman
Ways & Means	Phil Lahr	Webmaster Eugene Kim
Workshop	Carolyn Duncan	

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 (nonrefundable).

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. 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 make the next issue.

Pasadena Lapidary Society™

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From the Holiday Party



Program Meeting – January 15



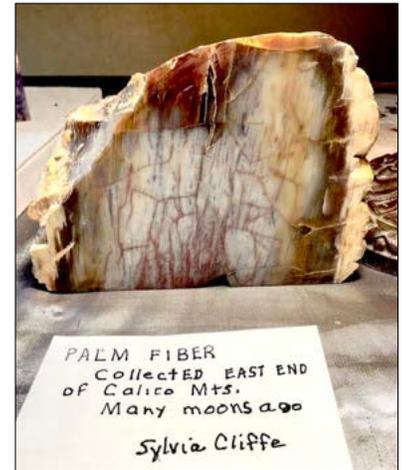
The Venerable Beads

Which invention came first, the wheel or the bead? For the answer to this and many other questions regarding ancient civilizations, come to the PLS program meeting on January 15 to hear Janie Duncan’s presentation “A Brief History of Beads.”

Janie is a PLS member and third-generation rockhound. She has more than enough beads, rocks, fossils, slabs, cabs, and other specimens to open her own museum, located in her basement.

Call for speakers: Interested in talking to our club about your favorite stone for about 5 minutes? Please volunteer as a Rock of the Month presenter. Do you harbor a desire to do a 30-minute presentation on rocks, minerals, lapidary work, or a related topic? Contact me by text message or email at (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 by the Display Table “What Is This?” note. Knocking a corner off the specimen may provide helpful clues.



Thank You
for paying PLS dues for 2019
PO Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025





Pictures in Slices of Rock *Continued from page 1*



The most compelling rock pictures include upright features that look like trees and limbs or stalks of plants. These are dendrites, cracks that filled with sediment and were mineralized over time. Dendrites follow a branching pattern (the word is from ancient Greek

for tree), and the “limbs” may leak out “flowers” that spread into the host rock like tea stains in a tablecloth. Water usually flows downward, so the scraggly shrubs accompanying this paragraph should be turned upside down for a geologically correct perspective. Flipping a rock picture often produces a surprising, disorienting result – as seen in the two views of a single slab at the top of this page.

Eyes, Faces, and Figures

It isn't so surprising, then, that rock pictures favor landscape scenes. Horizontal and vertical strokes of color are abundant in Earth's crust, and our brains are primed to respond to patterns in the lay of the land around us. The surprising thing is how agile our minds can be when it comes to turning random marks into meaningful detail. Certain viewers claim to see a flying saucer parked on a hillside in the top-left picture on page 1.

Circles are less common in picture rocks but are found in agates and other silica-rich species – especially “orbicular jaspers” such as Morgan Hill poppy jasper and Ocean Jasper. Given almost any nearby feature that can be taken for a body, the circle becomes a head. You see a good example in the slab between thumb and forefinger at right, where a bird-like figure seems to run with wings outstretched, carrying a purse. The circle is a head, unmistakably, though none of us has ever seen a cyclops bird in nature. What do you see next to the cyclops bird? The source of this slab remains unidentified. For lack of a better name, you could call it Rorschach jasper.

Circles that can be taken for a pair of eyes are rare. We expect eyes to be the same size and fairly close together. And usually there should be only two, though mystics might be open to a third eye. Ocean Jasper was called eye jasper in the 1920s, but the eyes were mostly like the eyes of potatoes. Nevertheless, lovers of rock pictures keep on searching. This being January, you'll find them at Quartzsite, sifting through the slabs in tray

after water-filled tray. They'll hold up a slab and ask you, just because you happened to be there at the moment of discovery, “Do you see the picture? Isn't it amazing?”

Rockhounds are a diverse, beauty-loving lot. Among the gem faceters, cab shapers, carvers, wire wrappers, metalsmiths, and sphere makers, there have always been picture-rock collectors. Keith Shivers and his wife displayed their collection at PLS shows in the 1960s. They had one that looked like a forest fire.

Consider the bride and groom below, captured in Apple Valley (Morocco) agate. In the slab's superabundance of details, which are the ones that say “bride and groom,” and which ones do we ignore for the sake of the picture? Yes, it's amazing. ❖



CLAST FROM THE PAST



Jessie Chittenden signed the document establishing The Pasadena Lapidary Society as a nonprofit corporation on April 29, 1949. She was our first president, and remained active into the 1980s as a teacher, speaker, jewelry designer, and president again in 1963. She was probably the single most influential person in the club's history.

You can guess the flavor of influence Jessie brought to PLS from a quotation she attached to the club's annual report in 1949, a snippet from novelist Hugh Walpole: "Art and Life ought to be hurriedly remarried and brought to live together."

Jessie was an art teacher.

In the above photo, from the Pasadena City College yearbook of 1949, we see her wearing a brooch she very likely made herself – possibly in collaboration with her husband Clarence, a founder of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California (more about Clarence Chittenden in a future newsletter).

Jessie Chittenden (1904–1994) was born in Clinton, Wisconsin, and died in Beaverton, Oregon.

Brilliantly, Jessie's maiden name was Stoney.



See the beetle, looking up at you, in this Moroccan septarian?

Field Trips

See You at Quartzsite!



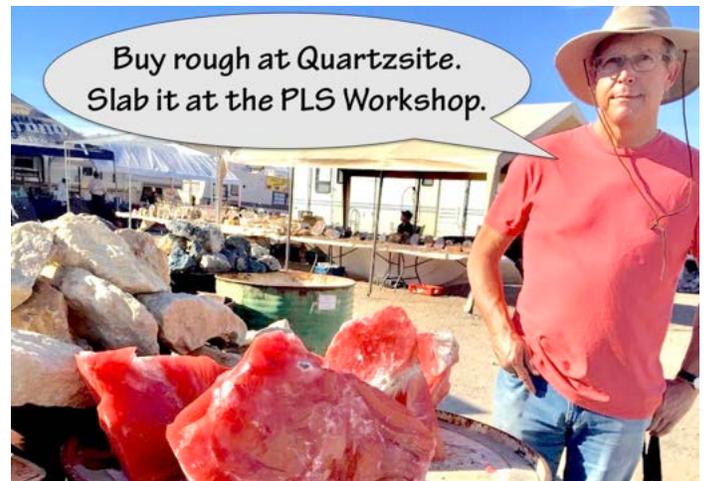
This month we don't have an "official" PLS field trip. However, there is Quartzsite, the largest rockhound swap meet. You'll swap your money for rocks of all kinds – whatever catches your eye.

Visit www.desertUSA/cities/az/quartzsite to find out what's happening at Quartzsite this year. The following list will give you some idea of what you can find at the website, and the site can give some idea of what can be found at Quartzsite:

- **Desert Gardens, Jan 1–Feb 28**
- **Prospectors Panorama, Jan 1–Feb 28**
- **Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show, Jan 4–13**
- **Annual Hi Jolly Daze Parade, Town Park, Jan 12**
- **QIA POWWOW, Jan 16–20**

Also, check for field trips offered by the local rock club, the Quartzsite Roadrunner Gem and Mineral Club: www.qrgmc.org.

Somewhere going around in circles!!!!!!! – Joe Goetz



Karl Stull at Desert Gardens, 2018, Photo by Ellen Limeres



Real tarantula – not a rock picture – in Afton Canyon (from the Thanksgiving weekend field trip). Photo by Jeff Dengrove

2019 CFMS Annual Show & Convention

Hosted by The Pasadena Lapidary Society
Fairplex, Pomona March 8-10, 2019



Packing a Lot of Fun (and Work) into a Few Short Days

Here we are just about 60 days from the show!!!
Let's fast-forward with a preview...

Thursday, March 7, will be setup day. We arrive early and put skirting on the Pasadena Lapidary Society tables (Information, Demonstrations, Raffle, Silent Auction, etc.). Pink's Transport delivers the equipment and furnishings that we keep in storage between shows. A lot needs to happen in a hurry. Volunteers need to pick up their ID badges, electrical cords need to be laid out, and tables need to be ID'd for the dealers. Display cases need to be assembled, because those who are putting in a case (competitive and noncompetitive cases) will start arriving at noon. The Raffle barrel and prizes are placed and made ready for the next day, while games, goodies, and signage are arranged in the children's area. The dealers start arriving at noon.

Friday, March 8, we arrive early again – probably around 7 – to finish with last minute details of setup. The doors open at 10. We will be ready with volunteers at the ticket booth. Friday morning is when the judging for the competition cases takes place. Our Silent Auction team is planning on a few spectacular items, which will be offered throughout the show. The Raffle will have many great items (PLS ALWAYS has great prizes). That evening we gather for the Cracker Barrel at our host hotel, the DoubleTree in Claremont.

Saturday will be a meeting day for a lot of us: the Directors Meeting, Editors Lunch, and Awards Dinner. If you plan to come to the Awards Dinner, be sure to visit the CFMS Show page at pasadenalapidary.org to make your reservation.

Sunday we close the show at 4. The teardown begins, and we call the show a wrap. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please give me a call at (626) 260-7239.

– Marcia Goetz, Show Co-Chairman



Workshop – January 13



Rock Carving Class for Beginners

Back by popular demand – an introductory carving class for new students starts at the next workshop. There will be four sessions in all (January through April) taught by master carver and legendary rockhound Sylvia Cliffe. She will demonstrate a range of basic techniques.

Materials and tools. Slabs for carving will be provided. You will eventually need your own rotary tool, such as a Dremel or Foredom, but we'll have tools you can borrow during the first session. Bring a pencil for marking slabs and a small towel to keep your work space dry. The class will run from 9:30 to noon.

Class size is limited to 10. To sign up in advance, contact Karl Stull: (818) 205-7135 or newsletter@pasadenalapidary.org.

Workshop hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Half day is \$3, all day \$5. **Note:** We sometimes close early due to excessive heat, storms, or low attendance. If you plan to arrive late, please call ahead.

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.

For directions, please call me at (909) 455-4360 (cell) or (909) 593-2781, or email gem.quest@verizon.net.

– Carolyn Duncan

Education Outreach



CFMS Show Needs Demonstrators

We're looking for volunteers to demonstrate lapidary and jewelry-making skills at the CFMS show in March. It is a relaxing and fun way to spend two hours at the show. As long as we demonstrate safe ways to work with tools and materials, volunteers at every skill level make wire wrapping, beading, capping, and carving accessible to visitors. We provide a point of entry to the hobby we all love.

So, thank you to those who participate each year. To those who haven't worked with us yet – especially if you've taken a carving class with Sylvia or a wire-wrapping class with Ed, Martha, or Marcia, or if you have been capping, wire wrapping, or making gem trees at workshops – you have the skills we need at the demo tables. Please sign up for a shift or two. You'll be of service and will have fun!

Contact me at (323) 640-4394 or liveoak180@yahoo.com.

– Joan Harrison

Demonstrators at the PLS Annual Show in March 2018 share their knowledge and enjoyment of lapidary arts with the public. Left to right, around the table: Martha Wilson, Ferdie Sanchez, Joan Harrison, Marcia Goetz, Ellen Limeres (standing, in cap), Karl Stull, and Jared Nishimura.



Armando Pedroza's carving setup includes a drip system (cup on top) and a housing to control splatter. He adds a lamp at the window for a bright view. There are good ideas here for anyone who wants to design their own workstation.

Rock and Gem Shows

January 19–20 EXETER, CA: Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia; Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building, 324 N. Kaweah Ave. Hours: Sat 10–5; Sun 10–4.

It's a hobby that once adopted usually becomes a lifetime activity. It carries the lure of the open road and a bit of adventure as well as the joy of creating beauty out of rough material one has found oneself.

– Jessie Chittenden, *LA Times*, March 2, 1966

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 2019		1	2	3 Board mtg PLS members always welcome	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Workshop Carving Class with Sylvia Cliffe	14	15 Program mtg Janie Duncan "History of Beads"	16	17	18	19 Gem show
20 Gem show	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
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A clever wrap by Carol Burton. The stone is Herkimer "diamond," a naturally faceted quartz from upstate NY.

Rockhounds of the Year

Alyson Nishimura (Junior division) and Ben Shutman are our Rockhounds of the Year for 2018. They are both perennial volunteers at Pasadena Lapidary Society events, and each has had their own positive, personal impact on the club. As our go-to for technology, Ben plays a part in the success of nearly everything we do. Alyson has been a poised, knowledgeable presenter at many club meetings. Thank you, Alyson and Ben.

Photo of Alyson by Rex Nishimura

