



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

DECEMBER 2020 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® Editor: Jared Nishimura

President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

November was a wonderful month with great participation in the meetings and field trip. I am happy to see everyone taking part, it is not like seeing each other in person but it is so nice to see your faces on Zoom. Marcia Goetz is doing a wonderful job hosting our Zoom meetings. If you are interested in the General Membership Meeting, please send Marcia a message and she will send you the link. I would love to see you there.

At the November meeting we had Philip Lahr with a video presentation on Montana Agate which was great and our main speaker was great as well. If you would like to do the Rock of the Month presentation at any time, just let Michelle Vandebroek know so she can get you scheduled. It just needs to be 10 or 15 minutes long.

Ferdie Sanchez has started presenting a slide show of items that would normally be on the display table. He has had some very nice specimens with some great information and conversation. If you would like to send a photo to Ferdie for the slide show, he would welcome. It can be anything that you would like to share with everyone.

We have all missed our workshop very much but next year will be different I hope. Phillip Lahr has worked with Ferdie to plan a Zoom workshop for December 6th. Check the November bulletin to see Phil's article for all the information and list of items you will need for the workshop class.

We will have our regular board meeting in December on Zoom. It will be held on December 3rd. The General meeting will be December 15th. Everyone is disappointed that we can't get together for a party in December but we will be awarding our ROTY at the General Meeting. If anyone has a suggestion for something festive that the members can do on Zoom to celebrate Christmas, please let me know. Maybe you have seen other clubs doing things that might work for us.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to Everyone,

– Ellen Ferrell, President

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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Editor's Message

By Jared Nishimura

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed. Despite the difficult circumstances, PLS has managed to organize meetings, field trips, and even workshops. I hope that all members have had an enjoyable year. I have put together a collage of past PLS activities as memories we can build on for the new year. Thank you to Ellen Ferrell, Sue Pang, Ansley Davies, Michelle Vandebroek, and the Nishimura family for contributing pictures to the collage.



Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs

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Sue Pang, Federation Dir. (310) 889-8480 sp2019pi@gmail.com

Trustees Marcia Goetz, Chris Kyte, Joe Goetz

Committee Chairs

Annual Show	Ellen Ferrell	Michelle Vandebroek (Co-Chair)
Bulletin	Jared Nishimura	Education Joan Harrison
Display Table	Ferdie Sanchez	Historian TBA
Field Trips	Rex Nishimura	Librarian Jennifer Jang
Hospitality	Mona Ross	Publicity Elizabeth Weston
Membership	Yvette Fitzgerald	Sunshine Ellen Ferrell
Social Media	Elizabeth Weston	Ways & Means Philip Lahr
Webmaster	Ben Shutman	Workshop Carolyn Duncan
Web Editor	Elizabeth Weston	

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 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

Program Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month
This month's meeting is through Zoom.

Contact Us

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Send articles by the 15th of the previous month for publication in next month's issue. However, no article guaranteed to make the next issue.

Important Notice!!

If you have not renewed your PLS membership, then this is the last bulletin by mail you will be receiving. Dues must be received by December 31 to keep your membership current.
\$25 for primary member
\$15 for each additional adult at the same address
\$10 for each Junior member (under 18 years)

Please mail your check to Pasadena Lapidary Society, P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117. For questions about payment or PLS activities, please contact Ellen Ferrell at (727) 512-0381 or Ellenbf2007@aol.com. – Yvette Fitzgerald, Membership Chair

Program Meeting – December 15th



Join us in December for our next virtual zoom meeting!

Our Rock of the Month will be presented by Jared Nishimura who will be talking about the Quartzsite shows. There may be a PLS field trip there in January...

Our feature presentation in December will be presented by Dick Weber who will present "The Geology & History of the Argyle Diamond Mine Western Australia."

The Argyle Diamond mine was discovered in 1979 and is one of the richest diamond mines in the world and the source of almost all of the world's natural pink diamonds.

Geologist Dick Weber was able to visit and photograph this mine during his year-long "walkabout" in Australia.

We are looking for members who would like to present a "Rock of the Month" (ROTM) at upcoming general meetings. The ROTM is a 5-8 minute presentation on a stone or mineral of your choice. If you would like more information, please reach out to Michelle Vandebroek at vndnbr7@aol.com.

– Michelle Vandebroek, Vice-President

Workshop – December 6th

Our first ever online workshop will be on December 6th. We will learn how to make gem trees from PLS member Ferdie Sanchez. If you are interested, RSVP to Phil Lahr at plkslahr@att.net.

– Carolyn Duncan

Brad's Bench Notes

"Templates"



Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that let's me quickly trace the design of ginko leaf earrings onto silver sheet.

Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.



Learn New Jewelry Tricks and Techniques in Brad's Jewelry-Making Books: [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Member-to-Member

Now available, one Thumlers Model A tumbler. It comes with two Lortone barrels: a three pound and 1.5 pound barrel. It also has a new drive belt. Motor is slow to start, but then runs fine and has power to spare so you could replace the 1.5 pound barrel with a three pound one. Asking \$40.



Light up your treasures and stop dusting them! This is a nice lighted wooden display case, 25 inches high and 19 inches wide with two shelves. Asking \$40.



Most items from previous bulletins are still available. Contact Phil Lahr at (818) 926-3163 or plkslahr@att.net for more information.

Gold Prospecting in the San Gabriel River

7AM Saturday, December 12th, 2020

Our December field trip will be to the east fork of the San Gabriel River, following the footsteps of miners in the 1840's. This area is a major recreational prospecting destination and is a great opportunity for us to search for a bit of gold.

Hiking is required for this trip. We will hike for one mile EACH WAY along the riverbed searching for gold, quartz, and other gemstones.

We will meet at the [East Fork Day Use Parking Trailhead at 7AM](#). Parking is limited, and you must arrive early to get a parking space. To get there, take the I-210 E for 15 miles to the Azusa Ave-39, exit 40. Go north on Azusa Ave for 11.8 miles and turn right on East Fork Road. Continue on East Fork Road for 5.2 miles and turn left on Camp Bonita Road. Proceed on Camp Bonita Road for .8 miles to the East Fork Day Use Parking Trailhead. **We won't wait for any late comers so please be on time.** Cell service is spotty up there so I'll have my FRS radio and monitor channel 1-0 and also ham frequency 449.700. We'll prospect for a few hours and suspend mining operations around lunchtime.

You will need plenty of water, lunch, bug repellent, a hat, small shovel, a gold pan and something to put your finds in. I'll be using my TMZiploc peanut butter sandwich bag for any finds. Knee pads are nice and serious miners will get wet.

While there is no guarantee that we will find gold, being able to talk to fellow rock hunters is always a blessing.

If you are interested and/or plan on coming, contact me at rexch8@yahoo.com.

- Rex Nishimura



What are the ten most challenging words to pronounce in the rockhounding hobby, and how are they pronounced?

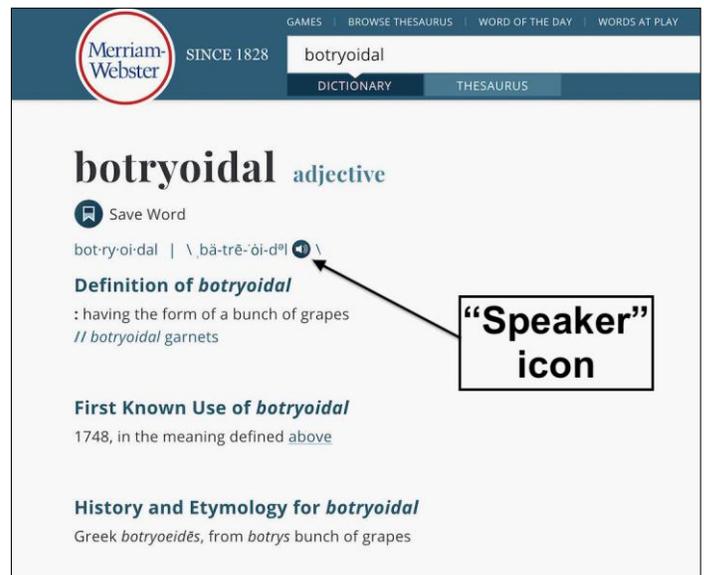
– TONGUE-TIED IN TOLUCA LAKE

Dear Tongue-tied,

I'd be in a lick of trouble with this question if it weren't for my old friend Noah Webster, the original American word-hound. The Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary website shows the pronunciations. Even better, you can click a link to hear them spoken aloud. Take a listen at merriam-webster.com.

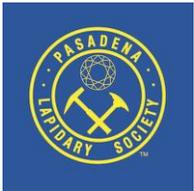
amphibole	AM fib bowl
beryl	barrel
botryoidal	BAH tree OY dull
brecciated	BRETCH ee ate ed
chalcedony	kal SAID dunny
chatoyance	shah TOY ants
chrysoprase	KRISS uh praise
epidote	EP id dote
lapis lazuli	LAP iss LAZZ uh lee
peridot	PAIR id dot or PAIR id dough

Unfortunately, there is no entry in Webster for **Zzyzx**. I call it "the Locality Formerly Known as Soda Springs." – Cabby



The screenshot shows the Merriam-Webster website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'GAMES', 'BROWSE THESAURUS', 'WORD OF THE DAY', and 'WORDS AT PLAY'. The search bar contains 'botryoidal' and the 'DICTIONARY' tab is selected. The main content area displays the word 'botryoidal' as an adjective. Below the word is a 'Save Word' button and the phonetic transcription 'bot-ry-oi-dal | \ bə-trē-ōi-dəl \'. A speaker icon is present next to the transcription, with an arrow pointing to it from a box labeled '"Speaker" icon'. The definition provided is ': having the form of a bunch of grapes' and an example is '// botryoidal garnets'. Below the definition, it states 'First Known Use of botryoidal' as '1748, in the meaning defined above'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'History and Etymology for botryoidal' which notes it is from Greek 'botryoeidēs', from 'botrys' meaning 'bunch of grapes'.

Click the speaker icon to hear pronunciations at merriam-webster.com.



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Mojave Rattlesnake.
Photo Credit: National Park Service



These are pieces of polished chrysoprase. The chrysoprase was bought in Quartzsite a couple of years ago. Photo Credit: Ansley Davies.

****Editor's Note: Send your quarantine projects to pasadenalapeditor@gmail.com.****