



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JANUARY 2021 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® Editor: Jared Nishimura

President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

Welcome to 2021! While last year was most certainly different than we could have anticipated, I appreciate that we were still able to fellowship with other members and exchange ideas during our Zoom meetings.

We are all looking forward to 2021 and have made plans for the coming year. The budget has been set and we have approved several new members and welcomed them. We have a date for our 2021 Annual Show, August 14 & 15. Be sure to mark it on your calendar.

Michelle Vandebroek has done a great job with providing us with wonderful speakers. However, she does need members to present the Rock of the Month presentation. If you are interested, you can contact Michelle or me.

Thank you to Ferdie and Paolo Sanchez, who have been presenting a monthly slide show at the zoom meetings on what would normally be on the display table. They are doing a great job.

Phil Lahr has been coordinating virtual workshops. Last month's workshop was taught by Ferdie and Paolo Sanchez on how to make various gem trees. This month, Martha Wilson will demonstrate how to make a different type of gem tree. Look for her article for more details. If you are interested in teaching a virtual workshop, please email me or Phil.

The January field trip will be to Quartzite. Check for Rex Nishimura's article in the bulletin on the details.

A huge congratulations to Rex and Jared Nishimura for being recognized as the Rockhound of the Year and the Junior Rockhound of the Year. They contributed so much to the Society in 2020 and we all appreciate the work they do.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you a holiday season filled with hope, health and prosperity for the New Year.

– Ellen Ferrell, President

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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A Trip to Baxter Wash

By Rex Nishimura

Not wind, nor dust, nor Thanksgiving can keep a rock hound away from the collecting grounds. Wait minute. Thanksgiving? Yes, a PLS expeditionary force ventured into Baxter Wash in the Cady Mountains on Thanksgiving weekend. The desert was very quiet for a holiday weekend. I guess that's not too surprising.

What we found was several rich deposits of blue seam agate, angel wing agate, gem quality fluorite, and Top Notch jasper. Nothing beats California desert time rock hunting this particular November, because it seemed like no one had collected here in a long time. Praise goes out to all participants on this field trip. You were all great and made this trip a breeze.

The Pasadena Lapidary Society usually camps between 20 and 40 minutes away from Baxter Wash and that adds up to a fair amount of commuting on a multiday trip. On top of that, the old campsites are awfully close to railroad tracks, which come alive both day and night. Nothing kills sweet dreams like a Southern Pacific diesel breathing dragon blowing its horn at 3AM. Our new site is 3 miles from the tracks and very peaceful.

For this trip, all I supplied was a satellite map showing the road and GPS coordinates of the campsite. A special call out to the navigating skills of PLS members; everyone found our campsite in Baxter Wash. Great job!

There were 18 rock hounds in all on Saturday, of which 5 were minors. That's a good sign for our club. Very few people have been to this area during the current lockdown and this was confirmed by the road conditions. The desolate sandy roads had changed substantially from 2020 winter rains. Most of the trip was on decent road, but other parts tested our mettle and our vehicles.

The results were outstanding. The first stop was an immense field of blue seam agate, with blue seam pieces up to 1" wide scattered over a ¼ mile area. This was all float which means that there probably is better stuff hidden right below the surface. We collected here for about an hour and then proceeded another ¼ mile to some washes known for orbicular jasper. This red jasper has many round black inclusions which make it look like a reverse ocean jasper. Instead of green jasper with orange spots, it's red jasper with black spots. It takes a high polish and I've only found it at this location. I found a few pieces of it on Saturday, but other members of the group found a lot more.

The next stop was to a fluorite spot with gem quality green and purple fluorite. This material was locked in a vein of rhyolite and the best specimens needed to be mined out. Jared and other PLS members worked hard at getting pieces out, but they graciously offered nice finds to others. So generous! Thank you!

Continued on next page...

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Trustees

Marcia Goetz, Chris Kyte, Joe Goetz

Committee Chairs

Annual Show	Ellen Ferrell	Michelle Vandenbroeck (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

Board Meetings – 1st Thursday of the month. Members welcome to join. Contact Ellen Ferrell for more information.

Program Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month

This month's meeting is through Zoom.

Contact Us

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

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

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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.

Federation Director's Message

As your Federation Director, I represented PLS at the November 14, 2020 CFMS meeting via Zoom where 44 societies and 5 officers were present. One highlight was that the Golden Bear is being trademarked. Additionally, Joe Goetz installed Guanita Pardun as the 2021 President and other 2021 officers of CFMS. Also, congratulations to Paolo Sanchez for winning the CFMS \$2000 scholarship. Paolo is a student of Geology and Geophysics at UC Berkeley. The next AFMS meeting will be held on April 21-25, 2021 in Utah. The next CFMS meeting/show will be held on June 25-27, 2021 in Lodi, CA.

~Sue Pang, CFMS Director

Continued...

Our last stop was near the Top Notch claim. Top Notch is only 2,300 feet in elevation, but the drive felt like Mount Everest. Routes were washed out by last winter's rains, and it was challenging following the old roads. We finally made it to the Top Notch area and found lots of seams dug out the hillsides. There is still a lot of material there for those willing to dig and we extracted some multicolored seam agates of green and purple.

Our last stop of the day was our campsite, where there was a modest potluck. Days are short in November, and we didn't have much time to cook. Still, Alyson and Chuie whipped up a wonderful meal of turkey and dumplings cooked in a Dutch oven over a campfire. Rich brought a 3 bean salad, Sue brought some papaya, Jeff brought some apple pie, and we even had a can of whip cream. Though it was cold outside, our big tent fit everyone with room to spare and no one was cold. We swapped stories and laughs and then called it a night at about 9PM. As the last car left our campsite and we bid farewell, I felt good about the day, the company, and then once again were all alone. Great memories. Thanks everyone!



Program Meeting – January 19th



Join us in the New Year for our virtual zoom meeting!

Our Rock of the Month will be presented by Alyson Nishimura who will be talking about Mushroom Rhyolite. There is a PLS field trip to collect some in January.

Our feature presentation will be an exploration of mineral pigments through the lens of the mineralogist, focusing on the origin of color in select minerals and why some fell out of favor.

Dr. Aaron Celestian currently researches how minerals interact with their environments and how they can be used to solve problems like climate change, pollution, and disease. He holds adjunct teaching and research faculty positions at the University of Southern California and is an Affiliate Research Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

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 Vandenbroeck at vndnbr7@aol.com.

– Michelle Vandenbroeck, Vice-President

Member-to-Member

Did Santa forget something on your list or maybe sent cash to build out your shop? We do have equipment available including this little trim saw with a 3-inch blade. I believe it was intended to be a faceting trim saw, but it would work to trim out cabs and be a real space saver. Asking \$40. Contact Phil at (818) 926-3163 or plkslahr@att.net.



A Nice Piece of Fluorite from the Baxter Wash Thanksgiving Trip. Photo Credit: The Nishimura Family

Brad's Bench Notes



"Ochre Applicator"

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



Happy holidays. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year.

Learn New Jewelry Tricks and Techniques in Brad's "How To Do It" Books: [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Quartzite (Collecting Mushroom Rhyolite)

Saturday, January 23rd, 2021

Happy New Year,

PLS is going on a field trip to Quartzsite! Though gold was found here in years past, today's treasure is the sunny wintertime weather, and endless shopping. It's also a great chance to see one of the biggest rock shows of the west. We will go shopping on Friday, January 22nd and rock hunting to Aguila on Saturday, January 23, 2021.

If you want to go rock hunting, make sure you have a full tank of gas! I won't be bringing any extra fuel on this trip. The field trip on Saturday to Aguila will be about 190 miles round trip. I haven't set up a meet-up point or a starting time yet. RSVP for updated information. 4wd is recommended and high clearance is a must.

We'll try to have a modest potluck on Saturday night.

If you are planning on joining us, please remember that Quartzite, AZ, is **in a different time zone**. Make sure to set your watch forward one hour once you cross the state line.

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

- Rex Nishimura

Workshop – January 10th

Our online workshop will be on January 10th. We will learn how to make trees of life from PLS member Martha Wilson. There is more information in the article below. If you are interested, RSVP to joenmar1@verizon.net.

-Carolyn Duncan

Tree of life Pendant (Workshop)

By Martha Wilson

Learn to make the Tree of Life at the PLS Zoom Workshop for January 2021.

Because we are not going to be meeting in person, you will need to get your own supplies and tools in advance. I have provided a supply list below. Most of the equipment required can be found at your local Joann's, Michael's. However, you can also order them from Riogrande.com, TheRockShed.com, KingsleyNorth.com or Amazon. Order supplies as soon as possible to ensure that you have all the items needed to participate.

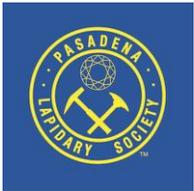
The Tree of Life symbol represents our personal development, uniqueness and individual beauty. Just as the branches of a tree strengthen and grow upwards to the sky, we too grow stronger, striving for greater knowledge, wisdom and new experiences as we move through life. What better way to start the New Year?



If you are interested, RSVP to joenmar1@verizon.net. The Zoom link will only be mailed out to people who RSVP so please make sure you email as early as possible.

Materials/Tools Needed:

- Pill bottle or a round object to form wire
- 6" of 18 gauge wire
- 35" or so of 24 gauge wire.
- Handful of rock chips or beads.
- Round nose pliers, flat nose pliers and chain nose pliers
- Flush cutters



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*Desert Tortoise.
Photo Credit: Pinterest*



These are two cut geodes were found in Brenda Arizona. The left geode appears to have a pocket of quartz while the right one has a nice band of blue agate around the edges and white crystals inside. Photo Credit: Chris Kyte.

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