



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

NOVEMBER 2020 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® • PASADENA, CA

President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

It is now November. I am sure none of us thought we would still be in lockdown. Hopefully things will return to normal soon.

We did have a good October with a well-attended Board meeting and General Meeting through Zoom. I would encourage anyone who hasn't tried this to email Marcia Goetz so she can send you a link to access the meeting on Zoom. The meetings keep us connected and help us to decide on future events.

The Board meeting will be on November 5th at 7:00 pm. The General Meeting will be on November 17th at 7:00 pm. Mark these dates on your calendar.

The California Federation annual meeting will take place in November. Marcia Goetz, the President of the California Federation, is busy planning for this meeting. Sue Pang is the Federation Director for PLS and will vote on behalf of Pasadena Lapidary Society on any item or agenda requiring a vote.

Rex Nishimura, our Field Trip Leader, will tell us what he has planned for November. I encourage everyone that has an interest in a field trip to let Rex know. This gives him the information he needs in the event of any change of plans.

Phil Lahr, Treasurer, has reported that he is receiving dues from a good many members. If you haven't sent your dues for 2021 yet, please consider sending them to him.

Phil is also working on ways to get things going for workshop. He will have an article in this bulletin about a class scheduled for December 6th. Check it out.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Zoom meetings!

Take care,

– Ellen Ferrell, President

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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Tri-Color Marble Field Trip (10-17-20)

By Rex Nishimura

The Tri-color marble trip is now a memory, but 14 stalwart explorers braved heat and terrain in the Sidewinder Mountains on October 17th. It was tough collecting because 87 degrees with a slight breeze was still quite warm and the hills were steep. Sometimes that's what you have to do to get the good stuff. It wasn't too bad if combined with lots of ice cold water and experienced 4 wheel drivers.

While we waited for our group, we sought a vantage point by hiking up into the mountain above. From the mountain top, we had a clear view of all the arriving rock hunters. The first to arrive was Tenny and Howard, followed by Richard and his kids. After that, the famous rock group "Marvin and the Delvers" came bouncing down the road followed by Sue and Steve. I thought about asking Marvin for a song, but he's a lot bigger than me. (For you millennials, oldies bands used to list the name of the singer followed by the band name e.g. Marvin and the Dells.) Last to arrive was Phil who showed remarkable courage by locating us on his own.

Our first stop was for tri-color marble at an old quarry location on the backside of the Sidewinders. The green material we found was stunning. I only wish I was a rock carver because I know it would make a beautiful frog. Instead we practiced by carving into a big box of fresh donuts. It seems like the corona virus lockdown whetted our appetite for donuts too.

Our next stop was the verde antique mine located about 700' above the desert floor. This was 4wd country not fit for all wheel drive vehicles. The AWD vehicles were abandoned at the base of the mountain and 4wd vehicles took it from there. A little wheel spinning and a lot of dust later took us to within 100' of the quarry. Everyone was happy not to have to hike up that hill and the thrill of a powerful 4wd showing off its capability was plenty of excitement for the day. We split up and quickly located the Verde Antique, carefully extracting it from a steep hillside. *Verde Antique*
Some of our members got some really nice material.



After that, most of us were tired and didn't have the energy to hike up to the actinolite mine at the top. Hence, there was no black jade this time, but who knows? Maybe we'll get some next year. Until then, be well my friends and happy rockin'.

Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs

Ellen Ferrell, President (727) 512-0381 Ellenbf2007@aol.com
Michelle Vandebroek, VP (213) 926-8060 vndnbr7@aol.com
David Lacy, Secretary (626) 339-3240 deeceelink@earthlink.net
Philip Lahr, Treasurer (818) 926-3163 plkslahr@att.net
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
Technology	Ben Shutman	Workshop Carolyn Duncan
Webmaster	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

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

Dinner at 6 p.m. PLS members are welcome.

****Editor's Note: This month's meeting is through Zoom.****

Workshop – Canceled

9 a.m.–5 p.m. \$3 for half-day, \$5 for a full day. Equipment instruction, liability waivers, eye protection, and closed-toe shoes are required. For directions, please call (909) 455-4360 (cell) or (909) 593-2781, or email gem.quest38@gmail.com. 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.

****Editor's Note: 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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Editor: Jared Nishimura pasadenalapeditor@gmail.com

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.

Program Meeting – November 17th



Please join us in November for our next virtual general meeting. Our featured speaker will be **Stacy Walbridge**, who will be presenting “*Collecting in the Sonoran Desert*” (with a focus on California and Arizona). The presentation includes an overview of the geology of the Sonoran Desert, preparation and tools, and locations and collected minerals.

Stacy Walbridge began rock hounding several years ago when he was stationed at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona. Since then he and his wife, Kathi, have explored and collected in the southern desert and the New England area. They are both active in their local Gem & Mineral Club.

The November Rock of the Month presentation will be by Philip Lahr. Phil Lahr will discuss the hard, beautiful, and variable stone known as Montana Agate.

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

– Michelle Vandebroek, Vice-President

Workshop – Canceled for November

Time to renew for 2021!!

Looking forward to the new year and a return to lapidary fun, now is the time to renew your PLS membership. 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

Brad's Bench Notes

“Straightening Wire”



Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

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

A ten-inch trim saw manufactured by Crown Lapidary Equipment Company. Ready to go as a trim saw or for cutting small slabs by hand pushing the carriage. Needs new motor to use the screw feed. Asking \$150.



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

North Cady Mountains 4WD trip

Saturday, November 27-29th, 2020

I'm so thankful to have been able to go on PLS field trips the last few months. There's nothing like bouncing on a dirt road and watching a cloud of wonderful dust in my rear view mirror. I love smelling fresh dirt instead of wildfires and picking up beautiful gems instead of discarded face masks. Thank you Lord for PLS field trips.

Speaking of thanks, if you would like to join us on a Thanksgiving adventure, our next field trip is to Baxter Wash, deep in the Cady Mountains. We'll be camping Friday-Monday. High clearance 4wd is required for this trip. Baxter Wash is 160 miles away, about 3 hours northeast of Pasadena and 8 miles south of Baker.

The Cady Mountains have produced more gemstones than almost any other southern California location and we intend to explore the northern part of the range. We'll look for jasper, agate, fluorite, calcite, and amethyst in places where few rock hounds go and with any luck we will get some nice specimens.

We will camp at the mouth of Baxter Wash and would love company. Plan to join us for turkey and dumplings on Friday night. We will probably start around 9AM and return to camp by 3PM each day. 4WD is required for this trip. It might be cold or windy, so stout cold weather gear is required.

For more information, please email me at rexch8@yahoo.com

Happy Thanksgiving!

– Rex Nishimura

The Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular, the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship. (AFMS Newsletter)

A copy of the AFMS Code of Ethics may be obtained by contacting Ellen Ferrell at Ellenbf2007@aol.com.

Gem Tree Zoom Workshop

By Phil Lahr

Learn to make Gem Trees at PLS's first ever Zoom workshop on Sunday, December 6, at 10:00 am. Ferdie Sanchez will walk attendees through construction of a basic gem tree and have a brief discussion of options for other tree types and ways to attach the tree to a stone.

You will need to get your own supplies and tools in advance. You will need 18 feet of soft round 24 gage (or 26 gage) copper wire in a color of your choosing cut into twelve 18-inch lengths, a string of chip beads (aka pebble beads or chip necklaces), at least a foot long, a flat bottom rock for the tree base, and felt or felt pads for the bottom.

Supplies and tools can be found at Joann's, Michael's, Rio-Grande.com, Amazon.com, TheRockShed.com, and KingsleyNorth.com. Order soon! You won't want to be left out.

RSVP (in advance!!) to plkslahr@att.net. Put GEM TREE WORKSHOP in the subject line and you will receive an email from Marcia Goetz with the meeting link.

Workshop Goal: Assist attendees to make a basic gem tree. Also show them photos of fancier trees and discuss how different types of trees can be made and different ways to attach trees to the base. It is possible that more advanced techniques could be a second workshop.

Duration: 2 hours

Materials needed:

Copper or craft wire, 24 gauge (26 will work, and 22 can work), bare or colored, soft preferred. Requires 18 feet for a twelve branch tree

Chip beads, about half a 36-inch string, or 9 inches

Flat based rock for tree base.

Felt pads for bottom of rock (optional)

Small tube of super glue (depends on attachment method used)

Tool needed:

Wire cutters

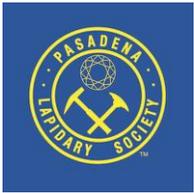
Pliers – same as used for wire wrapping or rings

Optivisor (optional)

Dish or container for beads



A Gem Tree.



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Mojave Rattlesnake.
Photo Credit: Cooper Bailey

Pictures from the Palos Verdes Trip

Photo Credit: Michelle Vandebroek.

