



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

DECEMBER 2021 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: ALYSON NISHIMURA



~We Wish You A Very Sandy Christmas~

Sand. Endless weary sand. That's how more than one vacationer felt about camping in the Mojave Desert over Thanksgiving weekend. For us rock hounds, sand is not an inconvenience, but a sign of treasures ahead. Adverse conditions often lead to great finds.

We traveled in a group of 5 vehicles which gave everyone a sense of security. Other travelers weren't as lucky as we heard about a large RV stranded in sand between us and the freeway. Of course, we rushed to help, but like competing tow truck companies, another group of rock hounds beat us to the spot and helped to free the RV. Their advice for us was, "did you know you're going the wrong way? The agates are the other direction!" They even offered to show us where to collect gemstones. Rock hounds truly are helpful people. We turned around and headed back to our camp, but I really wanted to go out with them.

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Editor: Alyson 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 be published or make the next issue.

Inspiration Unearthed Coming in 2022

The committee has had several planning meetings for PLS's upcoming 2022 show to be held at the Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia. The "Inspiration Unearthed" show will be on March 12 & 13. We still have much planning to do and several more meetings before the show. Look forward to more information and details.

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

Contact Marcia Goetz at Joemar1@verizon.net

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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We Wish You A Very Sandy Christmas (continued from p. 1)

Back at camp we made preparations to hunt pink and blue agates, and 30 minutes later we stopped in a big agate field covered with colorful agate. Further exploration of the area led us to a canyon of blue amygdules filled with quartz crystals. The amygdules were similar to geodes but without the rhyolite outer layer. They were unusually large and the potato sized blue nodules were filled with quartz crystals.



After that we found some coarse sagenite specimens. The rock had multicolored agate needles, but lacked sufficient agate to make it worthy of slabbing.



As I was writing this article later that night, I heard a car start. Was it car thieves or a warmth seeking rock hound? I grabbed my flashlight stepped out into the star filled darkness. Sure enough, one of our member's cars was idling with no one inside and no thieves in sight. Perhaps the car got cold and started its engine? No, it turned out that one of our members rolled onto his remote start key fob while he was sleeping. After some coaxing, he told his car to go back to sleep, and I did the same, treating my sore body to much needed rest.

The next morning found us hunting emerald green fluorite and larger pieces of blue agate before lunch. It was easy to get to this location and the hunting was great. No one knew what was in store for the afternoon.



The road to the Top Notch mining claim is an adventure of its own, because it's not easy to get there. Though Baxter Wash is mostly deep sand, it changes to rocky steep terrain as we climbed over small hills and traversed several drainages near the summit of Top Notch. As we climbed each hill, we couldn't see over the top, and it reminded me of the roller coasters I used to ride before I got middle aged vertigo. Like the roller coasters, it was quite thrilling and the ride gave everyone an adrenaline high. Once we arrived at the Top Notch claim, we could see diggings everywhere. There's lot of agate still in those hills, and we found some choice pieces as float. We also worked some seams for reddish jasper agate.

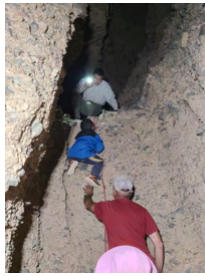


One of our last stops of the day was exploring a slot canyon in Afton Canyon---a canyon so deep that light is unable penetrate and flashlights are needed to navigate and scale the walls.





The walls of this natural canyon are mostly sand and rock, but they are cemented together into a hard matrix by some unknown process. Being true rock hounds, we all helped shine our lights and offered advice while going up and down the canyon, but I discovered how to make rock hounds even more helpful. As we were descending a rock face, I noticed what looked like petrified wood protruding from the wall.



“Wait is that petrified wood sticking out of the wall?”

It definitely got everyone’s attention as everyone immediately rushed the wall. It wasn’t petrified wood, but it was instrumental in getting the last person down the wall and back into the sunlight.

By now it was getting late and we all had plenty of rock for our trip home. Weekend traffic back to the city was building and we still had to travel several miles of sand to get to the pavement. Though some elected to stay another day, most of us had to get back to LA. There’s not much rock to be found in LA, so we bid a sad adieu to our new and old friends and left for rock-less LA, disappearing in a cloud of dust on a road of endless weary sand.

‘til next time,

Rex

Thanks to Chuie N and Gabe Morley for the photos!

Visalia CFMS Meeting Report

Dear PLS members,

As your Federation Director, I represented PLS (#58) at the November 13, 2021 CFMS meeting and dinner in Visalia, CA.

Here is a summary of some highlights. There is a Long Range Planning Committee. According to the Tony and Sandie Fender's Earth Science Studies Report, Camp Paradise, from an education point of view, was a success. Due to Covid-19 shutdown, there was no Zzyzx ESS camp in 2021. There will be no Zzyzx ESS camp in 2022. John Martin reported that 30% of public lands is conserved, meaning we can't go there and can't collect there. There is a suggestion for members to write to the Secretary of Interior or your Congressman. The meeting also installed Jim Barton as the 2022 President and other 2022 officers of CFMS.

The next AFMS meeting will be held on Oct 7-9, 2022 in New Orleans. The next CFMS meeting/show will be held on May 6-8, 2022 in Lancaster, CA.

The CFMS dinner was attended by many well-dressed representatives. In addition to 2022 CFMS officers taking their oath, Marsha Goetz received several awards including a golden bear pin, a planner and a necklace for her contributions.

Sue Pang
CFMS Director

December 11 Christmas Party

In place of our regular general meeting, we will be having a Christmas Party on December 11th in the **Fellowship Room at the Santa Anita Church, 212 Colorado Blvd., Arcadia.**

There will be a potluck, installation of the 2022-2023 board, and a gift exchange! Be on the lookout for an email with more information!

Member-to-Member

The PLS equipment-for-sale cupboard is now essentially bare. We are down to a few pieces of odd equipment and boxes of parts. Why not take advantage of the opening to advertise something you have to sell or something you are hoping to find? Email Phil at plkslahr@att.net by the 15th of December for inclusion in the January newsletter.

Workshop December 12, 2021

It was nice to see our big saws as busy as they have been in a long time at the November workshop. The December workshop will be held on the second Sunday of the month, December 12 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Come join us in our well equipped workshop to have some fun grinding and polishing your latest find, finish off a Christmas gift, or just take a break from the hectic holiday season. Bring the rock you found on a field trip or work on something you find in the bin. Slab saws, trim saws, and grinding/ polishing units are available for members' use, and experienced members are happy to provide instruction and advice. Cost is \$3 for the day.

Access the workshop by walking up the alley on the west side of the building and use the sliding door there. Please do not use the door at the loading dock.

If you need the required workshop orientation or directions, contact Marcia at (626) 260-7239.

Field Trip to Shoemaker Canyon

December's educational field trip on December 18th, from 8:30AM-11:30AM, will be to Shoemaker Canyon Road above Azusa. We'll be visiting the Tunnels to Nowhere, which were hewn out of solid granite in 1969. These tunnels were built to provide an escape route out of LA in case of nuclear attack. Now they sit vacant; a lone sentinel to times forgotten.

This trip is suitable for any passenger car and is 31 miles from Pasadena. The walk to tunnel is 2 miles with an elevation gain of 700 feet. We'll be on the lookout for various ores and minerals, but this is more an educational/nature walk rather than a collecting trip. For more details, please contact Rex at rexch8@yahoo.com



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Thanks to Chuie Nishimura for the pictures from our field trip!

www.freiconspng.com/img/6347>stars.png

Christmas tree.png



Merry Christmas!



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.



Dear Fellow Members,

I have served as your President for the past six years and it has been an honor and I truly appreciate the support I have received. I have met many wonderful people that otherwise I would not be so lucky to meet and it has been a great pleasure to get to know all our members. It has been a wonderful experience that I will remember forever.

Marcia Goetz will be the incoming President beginning January 2022. Everyone is aware what a great job she does with everything she takes on. She served as President before I took over the leadership six years ago. She will do her usual great job. The slate of officers to be installed at the Christmas party; Pres. Marcia Goetz; VP Dean Carlson; Treas. Phil Lahr; Secretary David Lacy; Fed. Dir. Sue Pang; Trustees Ellen Ferrell, Marcia Goetz and Chris Kyte. The last month of my term will be eventful with a board meeting on December 2nd, the Christmas party on December 11th and our last workshop for the year to be held on December 12th. I hope everyone will take part in these activities so we can end this year on a positive note.

I wish everyone a happy holidays.

Sincerely, *Ellen Ferrell, President*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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