



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

OCTOBER 2021 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: ALYSON NISHIMURA



Photo by [Jeffrey Keenan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

~PLS Visits Palos Verdes~

It was supposed to be under 70 degrees during our field trip to Palos Verdes so people came bundled in their long sleeves and winter coats. However, upon arrival, we were greeted by warm, balmy weather with patches of cloud cover. It was the perfect day for a trip to the beach. At exactly 10 o'clock fourteen rockhunters, led by Sue Dekany, made their way towards the steep trail that led to the water's edge. The hike down was short and easy (although we wouldn't think so on the way up) and we were soon on the rocky beach ready to start searching. While Glaucothane and Serpentine are common in this area, my goal was to find a gemmy piece of root beer agate. The rocks are easier to spot when wet so I tried to walk as close to the water as possible without touching the water.

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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.

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 Marcia Goetz at Joemar1@verizon.net for the zoom link.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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PLS Visits Palos Verdes (continued from p. 1)

We quickly found plenty of rocks. Unfortunately, the rocks that looked vibrant and green when wet, turned dull and gray when dry. Oftentimes, I wondered why I picked that up in the first place. Nevertheless, a few hours of searching yielded several nice specimens.

Mr. and Mrs. Belcher gathered some prize pieces. While discussing our finds, Mr. Belcher relayed that he had been to this beach many years ago. Back then, the tide would recede and there would be several tide pools filled with sea life. It seems as though rockhounds have been to this beach as well because several years ago, you could fill up an entire jar with tiny moonstones. Since then, however, moonstones have become a rare find. We found this out ourselves on our July field trip to Moonstone Beach where we failed to find any moonstone.

Other rockhounds, like Mr. Tennyson, found specimens that were less like rocks and more like golf balls. Oh well, it was still an interesting find!

Some of the younger rockhounds preferred to look for rocks in the ocean as opposed to along the beach. It's not everyday that one can go swimming and rock hunting in the same trip.

My hours of searching finally paid off when I found this gemmy piece of root-beer agate next to the water. Although it looked like barite, it did not scratch leading us to believe that it is agate.

On our way back to the cars, the rock filled bags made the trail seem longer heading up than it had seemed going down. Nevertheless, we reached the top and paused to enjoy the beautiful ocean scenery. It was another successful PLS field trip.



Editor

Thanks to Chuie Nishimura for the photos!





A Brief Recap of our Trip to Stoddard Wells

This month was special for PLS because instead of having one field trip, we had two! The second trip was to the Stoddard Wells where we attended the Tailgate show and went rock hunting for Tri-color marble. Despite searching in a well-known location, there was a plethora of colorful pieces to find.



Member-to-Member

We have a few pieces of donated equipment still for sale to members. The HP combo unit pictured would be a great starter unit for someone with space and willing to make minor repairs. There is also a faceting trim saw, a dry arbor, and a small dual barrel tumbler. Email Phil at plkslahr@att.net for details.



Do you have something to sell or are you looking for something in particular? Get the word out to your fellow members and maybe they can help. Currently, there are members looking for cabbing units and saws. Send your message by the fifteenth of the month to have it included in the newsletter.

Brad's Bench Notes



LAYOUT TOOLS

Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision on a piece is important, good layout techniques are essential. These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes in the right place, to achieve correct angles, and to cut pieces the correct length.



I like crisp sharp lines to follow, so I often coat surfaces with a dark marker and scribe my layout lines onto the metal. A square makes quick work of checking right angles or marking where to cut, and the thin center punch helps me mark a place to drill holes exactly where I want them.

Finally, a good set of dividers is probably my favorite layout tool. They let me quickly mark a strip for cutting, swing an arc, and divide a line or curve into as many equal segments as I need. I keep at least one set of dividers in every toolbox.

INVENTORY RECORD

In an ideal world each of us who sells their jewelry has a good record with photos of all pieces in our inventory. We use it for insurance purposes, to record the cost to produce, to note where the item was sent out on consignment, and maybe to store descriptive text for marketing. Eventually, we note in the record when the piece was sold and for how much.

It's nice to also have good pictures of each piece, but sometimes we don't have time for a full-on photo session. In situations like this it's worth doing a quick group shot with the help of a phone, a camera, a scanner, or even a color copier. The quality is at least sufficient for an accurate identification in case a piece is lost.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Workshop— October 10, 2021

Our well equipped workshop is open the second Sunday of the month. The October workshop will be on the 10th and open at 9 am. We will be open until at least 1 pm. If you would like to use the workshop later than that, please let us know. There are ongoing discussions as to what hours we can support and what our members find useful.

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 North Edwards, CA 7AM, October 30, 2021

The month's field trip will be to Brown/Castle Butte, the Sierra Pelona travertine claim, and the Rio Tinto visitor center in Boron. This area is known for a variety of minerals, and we hope to find agate, bloodstone, travertine onyx, ulexite, kernite, and petrified wood. High clearance truck or SUV is recommended. For more information, please contact me at rexch8@yahoo.com with the subject line "North Edwards field trip."



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(Above) I see Saint Paul praying, do you?
This makeshift statue is the remnants of a
Joshua tree and was spotted on our field
trip to Stoddard Wells.

Thanks to Chuie Nishimura for the pictures from
our September rock trips!



Hello Fellow Members,

It was wonderful to see so many attending the General Meeting in September. We had a great program and a superb speaker, Professor Rossman. Thank you Michelle Vandebroek for setting the program up. I am sure everyone enjoyed, I sure did.

Our General meeting in October will be October 19th on Zoom. I do hope that by November we can have an in-person meeting. It would be good to see everyone. Zoom has been fun, but I believe we are all looking forward to seeing friends and fellow members in person.

Workshop will be October 10th from 9 am until 1 pm. We probably have new members that need orientation for the workshop. Orientation and Cabbing 101 will begin at 9:30 am. Please be on time for everyone's convenience.

We have heard from a few members that they are not getting email messages from PLS. There is usually a message sent out a day or two before the monthly program meeting giving the Zoom link and sometimes additional messages if there is any important message to get out before the next newsletter. We have no way to know if you are not getting club emails unless you tell us. Before you do, check the spam or bulk mail folder in your email. Some people have found messages directed there. In this case, moving the message to your inbox and possibly putting the sending address in your contact list, will usually solve the problem. Otherwise, please contact me and I will ask our webmaster to check the mailing list.

Enjoy this Fall weather. We are getting a little relief from the intense heat we suffered all summer. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in October.

Sincerely, *Ellen Ferrell, President*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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