



# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JULY 2022 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: ALYSON NISHIMURA



## *~The Mystery of the Crowley Lake Columns~*

In 1941, the Los Angeles Water and Electricity Department completed Crowley Lake Reservoir (located near Mammoth California) as part of construction of the Long Valley Dam. When the water level of the lake decreased, strange column-like rock formations were seen on the eastern shore of Crowley Lake. These spiraling columns are up to twenty feet tall, vary in color, and are ringed at one foot intervals. For thousands of years, these pillars were hidden by soft rock and were exposed by the continuous pummeling of the lake's waves. Crowley's columns were seen as an unexplainable natural wonder until geologists at UC Berkeley successfully cracked this decade-old case.

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## Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs

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**Editor:** Alyson Nishimura [pasadenalapeditor@gmail.com](mailto:pasadenalapeditor@gmail.com) Send articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 August

The show for this year has been rescheduled for **August 20-21, 2022**. It seems so long ago that we were able to hold our show and in fact the last one was the CFMS show and convention at the L.A. County Fair Grounds. That was lots of fun and work.

Nancy Robb is collecting cardboard egg cartons and small rocks for the children's area. If you can assist with this, contact [nancyrobb@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyrobb@yahoo.com)

To volunteer, email [marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com)

## Meetings

**Board Meetings** – 1st Thursday of the month. Members welcome to join.

**Program Meetings** – 3rd Tuesday of the month

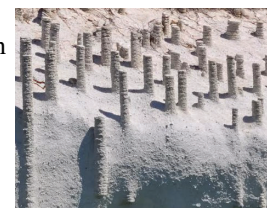
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## The Mystery of the Crowley Lake Columns

In 2015, researchers used X-ray analysis and electronic microscopes to discover tiny spaces throughout each of the columns. These columns are held in place by erosion resistant minerals that are likely related to a large volcanic explosion. Researchers determined that the columns were created as cold water percolated down into, and steam rose out of, hot volcanic ash. Snow fell on top of the tuff rock deposits from the eruption. This hot, porous material caused the snow to boil and resulted in consistently spaced convection cells that are similar to heat pipes. Geologists believe that there are as many as 5,000 columns within three square miles, some of which are still buried.



The Crowley Lake Columns are on the east side of Crowley Lake off Highway 395. They are accessible with a 4 wheel drive vehicle (or by crossing Crowley Lake with a boat). The columns are only visible late Fall, through Winter, and early Spring. At times other than winter, the water will too high to view the pillars. If you're ever in Mammoth, be sure to check out this geological phenomenon!  
 ~Editor



Source: <https://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-adv-volcanic-columns-mystery-20151115-story.html>

## Field Trip Recap

The Bluff Cove field trip began at 8am for the 8 early birds who were offered plums from my backyard and a choice of tumbled root beer agate. 2 more rock hounds found us as we started down the hill, and 7 more joined later. It was unexpectedly sunny, helping us see the agate chunks between the cobbles. Everyone enjoyed the tide pools (due to the extra low tide) and watching crabs and anemones in their natural habitat. We had the whole expanse of the shore to explore and found lots of barite bearing rocks, agates, serpentine and glaucophane. By 11am the group was done and many of us continued to King's Hawaiian for a tasty and companionable lunch.  
 ~Sue Dekany

## Member-to-Member

Christian Schulze and his nephew are looking for a used rock tumbler. Christian can be reached at [christian.w.schulze@gmail.com](mailto:christian.w.schulze@gmail.com). If you would like to advertise or are looking for something, email Phil at [plkslahr@att.net](mailto:plkslahr@att.net) by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the newsletter.





## Field Trip-Saturday, July 9 2022 Flint Knapping and Paleo Tool Demonstration

The month of July will feature an educational trip to Chilao School, 40 minutes from La Canada. (Note that Chilao School and Chilao campground are different locales.) We'll be learning how to make spear tips, arrowheads, hatchets, and knives similar to what prehistoric man used thousands of years ago. This paleo tool get together is casual; there is no schedule for instruction, hence there is no official meet up time. You can arrive and go when you please. I recommend getting there by 10AM.



Bring a chair, deer antlers and copper tipped tools, a shade umbrella or canopy, safety glasses, leather gloves, and a willingness to learn. Reading glasses help. PLS will supply obsidian slabs to practice on.

Though the field trip is Saturday only, we'll be camping ¼ mile down the road at Chilao campground on Friday night so we can get an early start on Saturday. There will be a potluck at the school or campground on Saturday night. Expect daytime temperatures in the 80's and nighttime lows in the 50's.

There is no charge, but a small donation to the nonprofit Redbird/Chilao Conservancy is recommended.

Please rsvp to [rexch8@yahoo.com](mailto:rexch8@yahoo.com) for additional important information.

~Rex

## General Meeting-July 19, 2022

July's general meeting will be an Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction. It has been about ten years since we have had an ice cream social and I am looking forward to it! The ice cream will be provided by the society. We are asking members to bring toppings to share – things like chocolate chips, sprinkles, etc. If it is sugar-free, please mark it as such. The silent auction items will be from donations, so if you have something nice to donate, please do so. The program portion will be informal in which we encourage members to bring their favorite rock and tell their story about it. The meeting will be at the Santa Anita Church on Colorado street in Arcadia at 7pm. See you there!

## Welcome New Members!

We are delighted to have new rock hounds join our society!

Welcome to Ashley Atkinson, Genna Battagin, Simona Boneva, Brian Clawson, Sawyer Clawson, Caspian Flint, Curtis Kan, Lynn Kan, Natalie Kan, Kristin Naran, and Anna Shen.



~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman

## Inspiration Unearthed-August 20 & 21

The upcoming show is almost here!!! The last show we hosted was the CFMS Show and Convention in 2019! Hopefully we remember how to put on a show. Time is getting short so we will hold our first in-person show meeting June 25. That gives us less than 2 months to plan the show.

We have started receiving donations for the raffle, and remember I said I was going to make a blue necklace? Well, I finished it and am attaching a picture as proof. We always have a great raffle and I'm sure this one will be the same. If you have a donation, you can bring it with you to the meeting, workshop, or the Friday of show set up.



Joe Goetz is organizing the Display Cases set up so let him know if you want to put in a case. We may have less room for cases this year so it will be important to get your name in.

Armando Pedroza is doing the Silent Auction and has asked for donations (see prior month's newsletter).

The Kid's Games are being organized by Nancy Robb. Nancy and Mona Ross are looking for volunteers for the Kid's Area and Grab Bags. You can sign up at the meeting.

Ellen Ferrell is working on the dealers and we have filled up and many on the waiting list.

Also, raffle tickets, flyers and bookmarks have been ordered and our advertisement is in Rock & Gem.

It's Almost Here!

~Marcia Goetz

## Workshop-Saturday, July 9 2022

July will be all about getting our new members oriented and started on their first cabachon while old members enjoy time on the saws, grinders, and other equipment. The tables will be available to work on other projects as well.

First timers need to rsvp a few days in advance to Marcia at (626) 260-7239 to get directions to the workshop and reserve a space in the orientation and Cabbng 101 classes. Please arrive at 9:00 am because orientation starts shortly afterward.

The July workshop will be held on Saturday, July 9, from 9 am to 3 pm. It may close early if it is too hot or participation is low. Cost is \$5 for the full day or \$3 for a half 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.



Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.  
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Marcia being awarded the Golden Bear Award

Congrats to Curtis and Paolo on graduating!



Genna's Barite find!



Group Photo



Sea Anemone



MacFarland's Slug



Dear members,

July means we are halfway through the year! Unbelievable! Several people joined Ed's class on creating bola ties. As the members left, they showed off their stylish bola. We are blessed to have received a donation of bola making supplies so our members could create these ties. We encourage them to wear their bola to our meeting!

Thanks to the generosity of the Santa Anita Church, we used the larger room for last month's general meeting. We may continue to use the larger room if PLS provides volunteers to help the church on several occasions throughout the year. We will have a schedule of those dates soon and are very grateful for this opportunity.

The REALLY BIG thing, of course, is that we are having our show August 20 and 21 with set up on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There is more information about this in the show article in this bulletin.

Sincerely, Marcia Goetz, *President*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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