



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

OCTOBER 2022 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: ALYSON NISHIMURA



Photo by Christian Schulze

~A Spooky Surprise~

I was walking in the desert, a few nights ago, when I stumbled upon a rock, that was bright aglow! And when a UV light, was shone around, fluorescent rocks lit up the ground! I hope you read that to the tune of the Monster Mash because Halloween is almost here! And what better representative of the Halloween spirit than fluorescent minerals? The term “fluorescence” is derived from the mineral fluorite as that is where the phenomenon was discovered. Minerals such as fluorite, calcite, and gypsum, fluoresce in a multitude of bright colors. These minerals do not glow in the daytime and are only visible when ultraviolet light is shone on them. The light is absorbed into the rock where it will react with chemicals, excite electrons in the mineral, and emit an ominous glow.

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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.

General Meeting-October 18, 2022

The October general meeting will occur at 7 pm at The Santa Anita Church, 226 Colorado Street, Arcadia, CA.

Did you know that Pearls have a rich history in the Americas? Take a journey with Linda Queally into the story of Pearls from the Americas and see how they've been interwoven with Mermaids over the years. It promises to be an evening of fun and fantasy!

Linda Queally works in acrylic and fine art paper on claybord in her vibrant mystical paintings, and with cultured pearls and mixed metals in her simple, elegant jewelry designs.

Meetings

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

Program Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month

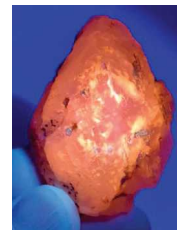
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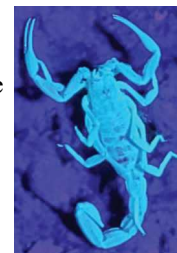
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A Spooky Surprise

The charged electrons jump to a higher orbital of the mineral's atomic structure, and when the electron falls to its original orbital, energy is released in the form of light.



I've always dreamt of finding a fluorescent boulder (witchful thinking, I know) but all I find are fluorescent minerals resting in piece-es. When searching at night, be careful not to pick up a fluorescent scorpion! This one was spotted scuttering across the desert floor while searching for fluorescent minerals in Quartzsite, AZ. If you do see one, creep calm and carry on.



In honor of a spooky October, Ferdie Sanchez and Christian Schulze are planning to set up an extra display table at the October general meeting to display fluorescent minerals. UV lights will be provided. Please bring your fluorescent minerals so we have pumpkin to talk about! See you there!

Brad's Bench Notes



TWISTING WIRE

Twisting wire can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Foredom should do well.

Just make a little hook out of coat hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Grip the free ends of the wire in a vice and slip the looped end onto your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist.

Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with variable speed.



SOLDERING PRONGS

I often use prongs to hold an irregular cab or other object on rings and pendants. But prongs can be a little tricky to solder. You have to find some way to hold them all upright while soldering, and the simple butt joint that looks strong sometimes breaks when you start to bend the prong over the stone.



There's nothing worse than having a prong break off when you're setting the stone *#~*!

I solved both problems with one little trick. It keeps the prongs in position for soldering, and it gives you a stronger joint at the same time.

Locate and center punch the position for each prong. Then drill holes a little smaller than your prong wire. Sand a small taper on the ends of your prong wires and stand them up in the holes. The wires support themselves, soldering is easy, and the joint is stronger because of the increased soldering area.

Happy Hammering!

~Brad Smith

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Field Trip to Stoddard Wells, November 5, 2022

There will be a one-day field trip to the Stoddard Wells area on November 5th. Items found include Verde antique, tri-color marble, agate, and blue dolomite. A high-clearance vehicle is required. Please arrange your ride before the trip or contact Joe Goetz as he may be able to help. For more details call Joe Goetz 626 260-7239.



Workshop-October 8, 2022

We lucked out and the hot spell broke just before the September workshop. At least six members took Cabbing 101 and several completed their first cabochon. All equipment is running, and October should be a good month to attend.

The October Workshop Class will be "WIREWORK 101". Examples of wirework will be provided along with internet references for additional study. Following the presentation of basic terminology / history of wire, and description of wire working tools, some of the techniques will be demonstrated. Class will start about 10:00 once sign-ins and orientations are done.

The class will conclude with the option of participants making a simple wirework pendant. The following items are required to complete the project:

TOOLS: A set of jewelry pliers.

PENDANT: 1 large bead + 1 or 2 smaller beads; about 6" of #20 wire.

A limited selection of beads & wire will be provided.

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 Cabbing 101 classes. Please arrive at 9:00 am because orientation starts shortly afterward.

The October workshop will be held on Saturday, the 8th from 9 am to 3 pm. 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.

Welcome New Members!

We are delighted to have new rock hounds join our society. In addition, we would like to welcome back former member(s) who rejoined our society.



Reminder: We are accepting your 2023 dues beginning in October.

Kate Adams, Deborah Beaser, Gloria Biesterfeld, Victor Castellano, Leona Chu, Joshua Chu (*JR), Fred Diaz, Inari Diaz (*JR), Ana Escalante, Becky Fregoso, Ralph Fregoso, Nick Hempfer, Matilda King (*JR), Robert King, Soo King, Gina Milligan, Skye Moorehead, Christopher Pfau, Sherri Pfau, Sara Quan (*JR), Tasha (*JR), Kenneth Sereno, Nick Taminich, Penelope Townsend, Daphne Traeger, Emily Traeger (*JR), Eric Traeger (*JR), Jasper Traeger (*JR), Laurel Traeger (*JR), Tom Traeger, Mary Jo Varney, Lucia Yang, Devin Yeh (*JR), Sasha Yeh (*JR), Shikun Karl Yeh.

~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman

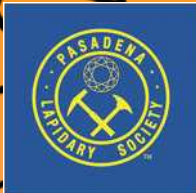
Barnhart School Carnival – Saturday, October 22

Save the date for the Barnhart School Annual Carnival, Saturday, October 22 from 11 a.m.-4p.m. at the Santa Anita Church and Barnhart School grounds at 226 Colorado Street, Arcadia (the same address of our monthly meetings).

This fundraiser will feature carnival games, vendors with a variety of items, and food trucks/booths. One booth will feature Nancy Robb selling her now-famous PLS egg carton rock collecting kits and Mona Ross selling her beaded jewelry. This is a great opportunity for parents and students at Barnhart School to become acquainted with PLS. To help make this event successful, we need donations of egg cartons (cardboard, dozen size), volunteers to help Nancy at the booth to help and hand out information on PLS, and volunteers to sign up for a two-hour shift to work the church snack booth. Please bring the egg cartons to the meetings or workshop.



Contact Mona Ross at 626-437-0150 (preferably by text message) to sign up to volunteer. Come on by to enjoy the Carnival, bring some kids, add to your rock collections, and start your holiday shopping.



Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
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Dear members,

Some of us are still in the midst of digging out from the show. It's quite amazing how many boxes of things have to be either returned to the PLS storage, our own storage, or returned to other people after a show. Since we're not a feather collecting club, the things that are returned are on the heavy side.

One thing coming up is a carnival at the location we hold our meetings. The carnival is sponsored by the Barnhart School and there is an article you will find that will tell you all about it in the bulletin.

Also in this newsletter will be a short field trip announcement. The area we're going to is Stoddard Wells which is just past Victorville. It's a one-day trip that will start early and end early because the days are shorter.

I have informed the PLS Board of my intention to resign as president effective December 31st. Joe and I have things that we need to do and we're not getting younger. The club is now in the position where we've had quite a few in-person meetings and we have had our show which was quite successful. We are regaining our mojo and your next president will be great.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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