



# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

APRIL 2023 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: ALYSON NISHIMURA



Photo by Sabrianna on Unsplash

## *~A Diamond is Forever~*

“A diamond in the rough,” “diamonds are a girl’s best friend,” “a diamond is forever.” The supply of diamond catchphrases is never ending, but why are diamonds so popular? Diamonds are the April birthstone and are known for their use in engagement rings or diamond encrusted jewelry. However, this was not always the case. This phrase “a diamond is forever” was part of a marketing strategy by De Beers, who started using this tagline in 1948 to increase their diamond sales after the Great Depression. The phrase was so popular that they have been using it ever since. Prior to 1948, diamond rings were not typical for engagement unless one was extremely affluent. This advertisement was so successful that De Beers was able to persuade an entire generation that diamond engagement rings were the official symbol of betrothal for all levels of wealth. In 1999, the Advertising Age crowned “a diamond is forever” as the Slogan of the Century. Who would have thought that a four word one-liner would be able to cement the diamonds position as an integral part of our society.

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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 is guaranteed to be published.

### Welcome New Members!

We are delighted to have new rock hounds join our society. We welcome Dianne Barone, Barna Laszlo, Rolf Mauermann, Torsten Mauermann (\*JR), and Drew Quintana.



If you haven't done so already, you pay your 2023 dues in person or send in via US postal service to our PO Box.

\$25.00 for adult member.

\$15.00 for 2nd adult member.

\$10.00 for additional adult or Junior member.

~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman

### Meetings

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

**General Meetings** – Every 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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## A Diamond is Forever

The term “a diamond is forever” refers this minerals strength and resilience. The word diamond is derived from the Greek word “adamas” which means invincible. Interestingly, the Greek word “adamas” is similar to the Latin verb “adamare” which means to love passionately.

Diamonds were popular among wealthy lovers in the 16th century because they were used in Scribbling Rings. These rings looked different from the engagement rings today because instead of setting a table faceted diamond in the scribbling ring, the diamond was faceted with a sharp point. The scribbler would use the sharp point to scratch love messages on glass. Only wealthy people could afford to engrave glass instead of writing their love letter on a sheet of paper. Queen Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots are two of the most famous scribblers. It is believed that Sir Walter Raleigh scribbled upon his queen's window “Fain would I rise but that I fear to fall,” to which Elizabeth replied “If thy heart fail thee, do not rise at all.”



While the common use of diamonds has changed overtime, this gemstone has proved to be a invaluable part of our lives and the lives of people who lived centuries ago. Although originally a marketing strategy, De Beers was correct, a diamond is forever.

~Editor

<https://www.cleanorigin.com/blog/the-iconic-a-diamond-is-forever-slogan/>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1047349/Treasure-hunter-finds-11th-century-gold-ring-rare-black-diamond-muddy-field.html>

### Leaverite

You might have started  
before you were nine  
you picked up a rock  
and thought ‘What a find!’

What they are and  
where they're from  
Are they worth the effort?  
Should you stay mum?

Or as an adult,  
a rock called from the street  
you picked it up and  
thought it was neat!

Out on a fieldtrip  
You've toiled for hours  
picking up rocks  
till you need a shower

How many years?  
How many stones?  
Some of them rock  
Some of them bones

Your bucket weighs a ton  
as you return to your car think-  
ing:  
identifying will be fun  
and your energy's sinking

If you're new to this fun  
You've ventured to ask  
What is this rock in the sun?  
Granite, shale, or glass?

You pull out your specimen  
book  
and flip through the pages –  
-imagining how this rock  
has survived through the ages

You've picked them up –  
yet wondered each time  
why you took them home  
when they ain't worth a dime.  
They come in shades of  
red, yellow and blue –  
beige, black, brown  
... so many a hue.

Somehow you can't find  
a fitting description  
You search and you search  
Till you have a conniption

If only you'd listened  
to your like-minded friends





Don't pick up! - They warned you  
about rocks without sparkle  
you're wasting your time  
you're not being artful!

You've seen them on fieldtrips,  
all over the ground  
Or on a show dealer's table  
at a price that will astound

Is it a Simili or Strass  
diamond?  
or a glass imitation?  
Does that Viennese turquoise  
Lead you to temptation?

Sure, it's pretty, you think  
As you drop it in your bag  
Like so many others,  
Its weight makes you drag

What's that dark rock ?  
It's metallic and long  
It might be a meteorite  
But it's a meteorwrong!

Although it looks good  
Your will you should harden  
Cuz once you get home  
It's just fit for the garden

SIGH- ...

It's not always easy  
It's not always fair  
But sometimes one has to  
Just Leaverite there!

~Liz Weston

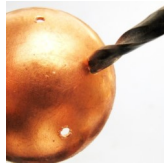
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### Brad's Bench Tips



#### DEBURRING A HOLE

When you drill a hole, there's  
always a burr produced on the  
underside of the metal. We all have  
our ways of removing them -  
typically by filing or sanding the



area smooth. But doing it this way will put scratches on your  
piece that will have to be polished off.

A quick way to remove the burr is to grab a drill that's two or  
three times larger than your hole. Simply twist it in the hole to  
cut off the burr. I usually do this twisting by hand, but if you  
have many holes to do, it's easier on your fingers to put the drill  
into a holder like a pin vice.

#### CLEANING STEEL SHOT

Steel shot in a vibratory or rotary tumbler works great to burnish  
and shine your finished silver pieces. But a common problem is  
how keep the shot clean. Carbon steel shot can get rusty if  
exposed to the air, and even stainless steel shot can sometimes  
develop a blackish coating that's hard to remove.

My solution of choice to clean the shot is Classic Coke. Just  
pour an ounce or two over the shot and let the tumbler run for an  
hour or so. A bad case might require a second cleaning. Some  
folks like to let the bubbles in the Coke dissipate before using it  
so that gas pressure doesn't build up in the tumbler barrel. I've  
heard that it's the phosphoric acid in Coke that does the trick.  
While you're waiting for the shot to clean up, just settle back and  
enjoy the rest of the Coke.

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

Happy Hammering!

~Brad Smith

### General Meeting - April 18, 2023

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

### Member-to-Member

Rock Rascal 6-inch trim saw, good  
condition asking \$150. This little saw is  
ready to go, but the blade is rusty so you  
might consider replacing. Contact Phil at  
818-926-3163 or [plkslahr@att.net](mailto:plkslahr@att.net).



Elizabeth Weston is looking to buy a small  
travel trailer or motorhome in useable  
condition. Contact her at 213-308-5558. If you have something  
to sell or are looking for something, e-mail Phil by the 15th of  
the month to have it included in the next bulletin. ~Phil Lahr

### BLM Meeting and Field Tour

The BLM website states that the Bureau of Land Management  
will host an in-person public meeting of the BLM California  
Desert District Advisory Council on Saturday, April 15, 2023  
from 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. at the Comfort Suites Barstow at 2571  
Fisher Blvd, Barstow, CA 92311. The meeting is open to the  
public with a public comment period scheduled at 1:45 p.m.

The BLM will also host a field tour on Friday, April 14, 2023  
from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and visit Stoddard Valley Off-highway  
Vehicle Area, Desert Discovery Center, and Sawtooth  
Campground. Members of the public are welcome on the field  
tour, but must provide their own transportation, meals, and  
water. To attend the field tour, please RSVP by April 7 to Kate  
Miyamoto at [kmiyamoto@blm.gov](mailto:kmiyamoto@blm.gov).

For more info, see <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-california-desert-district-host-advisory-council-meeting-april>

~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman

### Workshop – April 8, 2023

The April workshop will be held on Saturday, April 08, from 9  
am to 3 pm. Cost is \$5 for the full day or \$3 for a half day.

We have rows of saws and grinding and polishing equipment  
that can't wait to help you make your stones  
sparkle. Experienced members are available to assist.

We will also do a little chain maille this month. Phil will teach  
how to make a Byzantine chain from jump rings. For those  
ready to go beyond the basic chain, he can show you a few  
ideas to try. Rings will be provided. Some pliers are available,  
but if you have pliers, work mats, or magnification devices,  
bring them. We will start about 10:00.

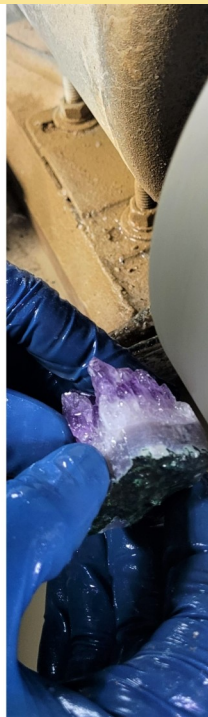
First timers and anyone who needs an orientation or help with  
learning to make cabachons needs to rsvp a few days in advance  
to Marcia at (626) 260-7239 to get directions to the workshop  
and allow us to schedule an instructor. Orientation will start  
about 9:30 am but come a little early.

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. The troll underneath the ramp  
didn't eat anybody last month. Let's keep our streak intact.

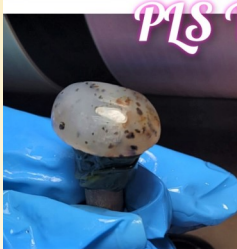
~Phil Lahr



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**March 21, 2023**  
**PLS General Meeting**



**March 11, 2023**  
**PLS Workshop**

### President's Message



Okay Rockhounds, who is getting a little tired of rain? I am, and I know that some of you are also, But, this means when we can get out to the fields we will have more new rocks to collect and slab/cab/tumble! Come to the next meeting and See What's On (For) The Slab(saws) -- apologies to the movie "Young Frankenstein".

The latest involvement by PLS was the STEAM night at Barnhardt School, near the Church where we meet. Lots of friendly smaller and larger people stopped by our table and discussed rocks/minerals and opals and other rock-related themes. If you have a rock or mineral that you are Really interested in and can talk energetically about, sign up and get involved next time they have such a night. Talk to Nancy Robb regarding signups!

Quick Question Time: What is the general feeling about having a training class or classes on First Aid and CPR procedures? This was brought this to my attention some time ago and I can't help but feel this may be a Good Thing, as we get out away from quick help access and may have a situation where first aid is required. My contact at the Red Cross tells me there are classes, both online and in person, available for First Aid and CPR. What do you think?

Sincerely,

~ David Lacy, President

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[PASADENALAPIDARY.ORG](http://PASADENALAPIDARY.ORG)