



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

MARCH 2023 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: ALYSON NISHIMURA



~The Road's End~

Somewhere out there is my road's end. What will I find? Armageddon? Angels? Rock nirvana? During February's field trip, PLS had the rare opportunity to take a glimpse into the future—the road's end.

This ambitious 750 mile trip took us to 3 renowned rock hunting locations—the Turtle Mountain Wilderness near Lake Havasu, Oatman, AZ, and Lavic Siding near Ludlow, CA.

The first road ended in the Turtle Mountain Wilderness, north of Vidal Junction. Here, a BLM sign prohibited further vehicle entry. Though no vehicle could pass, foot travel and collecting was allowed, so we all donned our hiking shoes and headed for distant foothills about a mile away. Under the shadow of "A-OK" Hill, we found hundreds of chalcedony roses. Though I desperately searched for a pink rose to give to my precious wife, I came up short. The plan was for me to get on my knee and ask, "Will you accept this rose?" All I could find was pure white, ear shaped roses from tiny snail size to 6" Dumbo, the elephant sized pieces. No pink. However, in the midst of my ear search, I discovered a double ear shaped piece which looked just like an angel.

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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 is guaranteed to be published.

Welcome New Members!

We are delighted to have new rock hounds join our society. We excitedly welcome Richard Beard, Vanessa Dickens, Jerry Fitzgerald Jr., D.J. Gervais (aka Dower J. Gervais), Ricardo Gonzalez, Benjamin James, Lynn Lahr, Charles Metz, Jason Moloney, Sarahi Nuno, Maggie Sung, Josephine Wang, and James Wolf.



As a reminder, you can renew in person or via US postal service to PO Box 5025 Pasadena, CA 91117-0025.

\$25.00 for adult member.

\$15 for 2nd adult member.

\$10 for additional adult or Junior member. ~Sue Pang

Meetings

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

General Meetings – Every third Tuesday of the month.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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The Road's End

She had a delicate body with billowing wings. Further exploration yielded a couple more angelic pieces. The end of this road was a field of white angel agates.



We packed up our camp and headed to Lake Havasu. The Lake Havasu dry camp wasn't really a rock collecting site. It was just a place to rest up for the next day's trip and to watch a very special night time show. One week per year, the City of Lake Havasu hosts a pyrotechnics convention, whereby fireworks and fireworks shows are put on display for the benefit of city managers from across the country. While the shows were being marketed to the cities, we were treated to a stream of grand finales, with each vender trying to outdo his competitors.



The streets were packed with revelers, so we went to the road's end for the best viewing. We parked our cars in a secret wash near the park, and hiked through some tunnels to a smooth veranda of desert glazed rock. There, just a few hundred yards from the launching zone, we set up chairs and blankets, snacks and drinks, and witnessed the best fireworks shows of our lives. The blasts lit the surroundings like daylight, showering us with thousands of multi-colored shooting stars. A grand finale is great, but a close-up of 3 grand finales put an exclamation point at the end of a special day.

The nights get cold in the desert, as 72 degree daytime temperatures quickly dropped in the 50's. By 9PM, we were exhausted and headed back to camp. The next morning, we packed up and headed to Oatman, AZ.



Every Oatman citizen knows about fire agate. They either sell it, prospect for it, or guide for it. We passed 2 commercial fire agate mines, one of which was guarded by a gentleman who looked like Wild Bill Hickok. Old Bill stood guard over his fire agate claim while his paid customers searched for the precious gemstones. We picked out a spot near his claim and started prospecting. I heard PLS members chipping away at fire agate deposits imbedded in what looked like rhyolite.

After a while, a loud screeching echoed down the canyon. The screech was followed by a wheezing sound and then another screech. Some

of our members thought it was the call to return to base and began heading back to the cars.



I certainly hope I don't sound like that!



The sound turned out to be a donkey, or burro, loudly complaining about being disturbed by tapping of our hammers. Apparently, even burros have something to say about fire agate. We packed up, but before we could leave town, a group of 7 burros came to town's end to wish us safe travels. I wasn't sure if a donkey saying goodbye was an insult or just geniality, but they were an affable bunch and probably happy to see us leaving.

For most of us, the last road ended at Lavic Siding near Ludlow. Lavic Siding borders the 29 Palms Marine Combat base and we drove right up to the "Do Not Enter" sign.

Here, in the DMZ, we collected colorful jasp-agates and watched a group of 100 military vehicles practice for Armageddon on the desert floor. We watched in awe from 3 miles away as troop carriers and assault vehicles raced across the desert at perhaps 40 mph. We left them alone and thankfully, they did likewise.



Photo by Brian McMahon on Unsplash

We had a great campfire that last night as we burned our remaining logs, and made plans for the final leg of our journey. The next morning, we awoke at dawn, culled our rock pile, and did a final search of the hillside for bright red jaspers. We then cleaned up the camp and were on the road home by 9AM. It had been a great trip and we collected some great rock. It takes extra effort to find the road's end, but the results can be phenomenal. For this trip, our roads ended in fields of chalcedony angels, shooting stars, a glimpse of Armageddon, and pockets full of gems and memories. Yes, the road's end is where dreams come true. Good luck on your next rock hunting adventure.



'til next time, Rex

Thanks to Chuie Nishimura for the pictures!

Donations of Rocks for Kid's Area Needed

Because of YOU, the Childrens' Area at the 2022 show was a success!

The egg carton rock collections were a hit, and they inspired many young rockhounds. So let's do it again! Last year we had over 70 varieties for the children to choose from. Most of us have extra rocks hiding at home which would be perfect for these collections.



Remember, they must fit into an egg carton. Bring your donations to the workshops, meetings, or I can go to you. If you have any questions please email me at nancyrobb@yahoo.com.

Thank you for supporting the education of future rockhounds!

~Nancy Robb

Member-to-Member

Highland Park Combo Unit. Needs restoring but the motor is included. \$100, used. Call Armando at 909(455)-6800

If you have something to sell or are looking for something, e-mail Phil at plkslahr@att.net by the 15th of the month to have it included in the next bulletin.

~Phil Lahr



General Meeting - March 21, 2023

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

Sue Dekany will present the rock of the month talk on Septarian Nodules.



Paolo Sanchez will present the general program on the elusive Lapis Lazuli from Mount Baldy. Paolo will discuss the science behind lapis, its significance to lapidary, and his adventures in search of one of the only lapis mines in North America. Paolo has been an active member of the Pasadena Lapidary Society since 2011, yet his passions for geology and rockhounding stems from kindergarten. He has written numerous award-winning articles on minerals and has been a guest speaker for various CFMS programs across California. He has received his bachelors in Geology and Geophysics from UC Berkeley and is now pursuing a PhD in geochemistry studying mineralogy and petrology at Caltech.

Junior or adult members interested in presenting a five minute "Rock of the Month" presentation should contact Christian at christian.w.schulze@gmail.com. See you there!

~Christian Schulze

Workshop – March 11, 2023

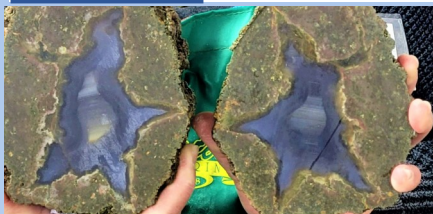
The March workshop will be held on Saturday, March 11, from 9 am to 3 pm. Cost is \$5 for the full day or \$3 for a half day. This month we will stick to cutting, grinding and polishing. Parts are in hand for a couple pieces of equipment that need repairs and they should be back in service early in the day. Saws and grinding and polishing equipment will be available as usual. The sphere maker and marble maker could use a little love as well. We are happy to help you with the equipment and improving your skills. Just ask.

First timers and anyone who needs orientation or help learning how to make cabachons needs to rsvp a few days in advance to Marcia (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 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 or the troll underneath may try to eat you. Seriously, just don't.

~Phil Lahr



Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
PO Box 5025
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Feb 11, 2023 PLS workshop



Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to members of PLS for your thoughtful memorial gift in recognition of my mom, Cecelia Weston's passing. I know many of you had occasion to socialize with her when she accompanied me to PLS meetings, shows and Christmas parties. She delighted in the friendly exchange and being part of our club's activities. I am beyond grateful to be in the company of so many wonderful and considerate people in our club, and the friendships that have developed, I treasure deeply.

~Elizabeth Weston

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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