



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JULY 2023 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: GINA MILLIGAN



Ruby is the birthstone for the month of July & gets its name from the Latin word for red, *ruber*, meaning red. It is one of the four precious stones along with diamond, sapphire and emerald. Ruby is the third hardest gemstone--with a Mohs rating of 9--after diamond and moissanite. For centuries, rubies have been mined, collected, traded, treasured and used in fashion, such as the breastplate of high priests and to adorn weapons. . "Blood red" rubies are considered the most valuable. In some ancient cultures, ruby gemstones were used to cast lots to predict the future. Famous rubies include a ruby and diamond ring by Van Cleef and Arpels from Elizabeth Taylor's collection that set a record for price per carat: \$4.2 million/8.24 carats.



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Editor: Gina Milligan rockhoundramblings@gmail.com Send articles by the 15th of the previous month for publication in next month's issue. Note: no article is guaranteed to be published.

Welcome New Members!

We are delighted to have new rock hound(s) join our society in June 2023. Dan Jarshow, Desmond Montoya, and Sotero Delgado.



Congratulations to Alyson Nishimura and Jennifer Nishimura. Alyson graduated from high school; Jennifer with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from California Baptist University.

Invite a friend to join PLS! There is a \$10.00 initiation fee. Please pay in person or send in via US postal service to our PO Box.

\$25.00+\$10.00 for adult member.
 \$15.00+\$10.00 for 2nd adult member.
 \$10.00+\$10.00 for additional adult or Junior member.

Meetings

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

General Meetings – Every 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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Ruby: Unparalleled Beauty & History

For centuries, rubies have been at the forefront of luxury and lore alike, but its visual appeal is only the tip of the iceberg for this beauty! With its Biblical



references (8 of them: Job 28:18, Prov. 3:11, 8:11, 20:15, & 31:10, Isa. 54:12, Lam. 4:7, Ezek. 27:16), or cases of mistaken identity, you'll want to discover some of the intrigues behind July's birthstone.

Rubies are made of corundum, which comes in many colors. Although all are technically sapphires, the blue variation is the only one commonly referred to as such.

Until the early 19th century, red spinels were thought to be rubies. Famous examples of this mistaken identity include "Timur Ruby" and "Black Prince's Ruby".

Historically, rubies have been thought to symbolize power and protection. When worn as a talisman, ruby was believed to help protect warriors in battle. Perhaps this is why ruby red slippers were used as a symbol of protection and magic for Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*? According to folklore, people of ancient India believed rubies would help them be at peace with their enemies.

Some famous rubies include the "Rosser Reeves Star Ruby," the "Edwards Ruby" and the DeLong Star Ruby. The most expensive ruby ever sold was the "Hope Ruby" (pictured) which weighs 32.08 carats and sold for \$6.74 million.

~Editor

Brad's Bench Tips



If you've forgotten to use dental floss and got your stone caught in a bezel, there's one thing you can try before starting to pry.

Find some sticky wax or beeswax, roll it into a pencil-sized cylinder and stick the end onto the top of the stone. Mold it well, and yank.



But if the stone is really stuck, there are two other tricks—but each with risks and consequences. The first is to pry open the bezel with a sharp razor blade, being very careful not to wrinkle or tear the bezel. If you try this, make sure to pry gently in several passes around the stone.

The last solution is to drill a small hole into the bezel setting from the back side so you can push the stone out. Note that this does leave a hole, but in some cases you can use it to saw out a design under the stone.

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

~Brad Smith



PLS at CFMS Show

June 23-25 Paadena Lapidary Society participated in the California Federation of Mineralogical Studies (CFMS) show in Lodi, California at the Lodi Grape Festival.

Congratulations go to:

Alyson Nishimura, who impressed judges and took first place as Editor of our Bulletin, "Rockhound Ramblings", as well as winning the CFMS Junior Achievement Award, Ages 12-18, and also — that's right, folks, we're not done celebrating Alyson yet— took second place in the Junior Bulletin Contest



with her article entitled, "A Spooky Surprise". Way to go, Alyson!



Clearly, Alyson doesn't fall far from the tree, as her father, our very own Rex Nishimura was the third place winner of the adult CFMS Bulletin Contest for his original article entitled, "PLS Gets Back On Track".

Congrats to our winners and thanks to everyone who participated this year. We celebrate you!

General Meeting - July 18, 2023

The upcoming meeting will be Pasadena Lapidary Society's annual Ice Cream Social! We held this tradition for many years, but had to discontinue when we held our meetings at the library. Now that we've moved to the Santa Anita Church, we can enjoy the event again!

The club will supply the ice cream: both regular and sugar-free vanilla, **but it is up to the members to bring the toppings**. I've managed to squirrel away some sprinkles and a chocolate syrup for the occasion, but that's all we've got, so be sure to bring your favorites!

During the meeting, I will be do a presentation on our show. Many of our members haven't been to one of our shows, so we'll do a slide show as an introduction. Many members have sent me photos, so it should be wonderful!

Also during the meeting, we'll hold a silent auction (in lieu of our usual meeting raffle). Please bring an item if you have one to donate. We always enjoy our silent auctions!

- Marcia Goetz

Member-to-Member

Here's an opportunity to get a great microscope for your lab. This American Optical One-Ten Illuminator Model 1130 is gently used, apparently in very good condition & includes extra eyepieces & a few other attachments in a sturdy case. These retail for \$1200 new, but seem to sell quite a bit lower used. We're doing something a little bit different than usual here: We'll take bids through the end of the month with a minimum of \$200 & a "buy it now" of \$400. Contact Phil for more information or pictures, to take a look or make a bid.

If you have something to sell or are looking for something, e-mail Phil at phil4b@yahoo.com or text 818-926-3163 by the 15th of the month to have it included in the next bulletin. ~Phil

PLS Annual Gem Show- August 26-27, 2023

Hello PLS members! Just a note that the Gem Show is coming up soon (August 26th and 27th) & we still need volunteers for just about any job. See the sign-up sheets at the workshop or the General Meeting on the third Tuesday of the month (July 18).

Before the Show happens, a lot of work needs to be done on getting the show set up. Again, see the sign-up sheets at the Meeting or Workshop. Set-up will begin early Friday, August 25. It will be an all-day project, but if you can only be present for a few hours, "C'Mon Down" & we'll be glad to see you! Any help is greatly appreciated!

~David Lacey, President

Workshop - Sunday July 8, 2023

The July workshop will be held on Sunday, July 8, from 9 am & may close early at 1, depending on help available, attendance & temperature. Cost is \$5 for the full day or \$3 for a half day.

Martha Wilson's class is rescheduled to August & one or two follow-up classes are planned.

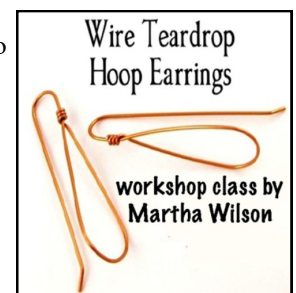
For experienced people, the regular equipment will be available for your cutting & grinding enjoyment.

Several of our regular trainers & helpers will be missing this month, so we don't know as of "press time" if we can support first-timers. If this is you, RSVP early & we'll let you know if we can find someone to step in.

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.

~Phil Lahr





Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
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President's Message



Hi, Rockhounds! Just a note to say that the Gem Show is coming up August 25-27th and we still need volunteers for just about every job. See the sign-up sheets at the Workshop when or if you come, or at the General Meeting on Tuesday, July 18th at the Santa Anita Church in Arcadia (detailed address information inside bulletin).

Speaking as the head of the Security Detail, we can always use another "Deputy" to walk around and keep things running smoothly. And this year, we have fancy badges, thanks to a donation from one of last year's Deputies! The only qualifications are: a pair of open eyes for spotting issues we might need to address, and the ability to talk to dealers and visitors about subjects ranging from information about PLS, the show or related goings-on, and whatever information or question clarification vendors and attendees may need.

Before the show begins, a whole lot of work needs to be done to get things ready for the doors to be opened wide to the public. If you can lend a hand, see the sign-up sheets at the General Meeting. We'll be starting work early the Friday before the show (August 24th), and although it will be an all-day project, if you've only got a few hours to spend, "C'mon down," as they say. We'll be grateful for the help!

~ David Lacy, President

Editor's Note

Hello fellow PLS Members,

I am the new Editor of the PLS Bulletin and already I've fallen behind. I assure you, I'm usually quite adept at staying on top of things. Unfortunately, the last couple of weeks have been overwhelming due to a family emergency. Moving forward, I'd like to have things in place well in advance of each meeting. As such, if you'd like to submit an article and/or photos for inclusion in the next bulletin, please email rockhoundramblings@gmail.com and I'll get on it as quickly as I can.

Thanks to Alyson Nishimura for setting the bar so high! I'll do my best to prove worthy to the challenge! - *Gina Milligan*