



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

NOVEMBER 2023 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: GINA MILLIGAN

November Birthstone

• Citrine •



The first uses of **citrine** in jewellery can be dated back to the Hellenistic Age (323-280 BC) in Greece. At one time it was used as a talisman against alcoholism, evil thoughts, overindulgences, scandal, libel, and treachery. Some also carried it as protection against plagues, epidemics, as well as venomous snake and reptile bites.



NOVEMBER STONES

Citrine
& Topaz





Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs

Officers

David Lacy, President dececelink@earthlink.net
 Sue Dekany, Secretary PLS_secretary@protonmail.com
 Philip Lahr, Treasurer plkslahr@att.net
 Sue Pang, Federation Dir. sp2019pi@gmail.com

Trustees Ellen Ferrell, Chris Kyte, Marcia Goetz

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Web Editor: Elizabeth Weston **Workshop:** Phil Lahr
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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.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee slate of officers for 2024-2025 is as follows. The nominations are:

President: David Lacy
 Vice-President: Barna Lazio
 Secretary: Sue Dekany
 Treasurer: Phil Lahr
 Federation Director: Sue Pang.

The nominating committee will be asking for nominations from the floor from the members at the November General Meeting. To be nominated from the floor the person being nominated must be acceptable to taking that position. The Directors for the 2 years will be prior presidents according to the Pasadena Lapidary Society Bylaws.

Meetings

Board Meetings – 1st Thursday of the month. Members welcome.
General Meetings – The 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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PLS Rockhounding At North Edwards Desert

“Woohoo!! What a beauty!” These were some of the most common words at the PLS October field trip to the North Edwards desert. Rock hounds like to gather together to have fun and nothing is more fun than finding rocks in the desert. On the night before the trip, I was so excited that I could barely sleep. I was up 10 minutes before my alarm and started packing. I sure was happy I started early, because the things I packed, like a pick and hammer, helped me to have a lot of fun. I finished packing my things and started help other people get their supplies in the car. Important stuff like donuts, water, and soda. We were on the road at 5:30 AM. We went to 3 spots, which all contributed to a memorable enjoyable day.

Our first spot was Jack-in-the-Box where we pulled out a dozen donuts and gathered signatures while we waiting for everyone to show up. There were 10 cars in our group and we then drove to one of my favorite spots, Brown Butte.

I like Brown Butte because the root beer agate is everywhere. Another reason why I like this spot is but also reminded me of my favorite drink, root beer. We even happened to have root beer inside the ice chest! There was so much root beer agate that I couldn't decide which rock to take. Torsten and I wanted to take them all, but decided to cull the rocks as we made our way up the hill. It was a tough decision choosing between root beer agate with sugar sprinkles or root beer agate straight. I think I prefer my root beer straight...and on the rocks with a little water. Water is essential for collecting root beer agate as all rocks look better wet. Even travertine looks plain and crumbly when dry, but it looks beautiful and solid when wet.

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It's Party Time!



Our annual Potluck Christmas Party will be 5:30 on Saturday, Dec. 16 in the Fellowship Hall at the Santa Anita Church located at:226 W. Colorado Bl., Arcadia 91007.

We need volunteers to help with set up beginning at 4. This is an RSVP-only event, so please see Mona Ross or Trudy Krose at the November meeting so we can take down your name, phone number, the number of people in your group and the dish you plan to bring. be sure to let us know you're coming so we can plan accordingly. See you all there!

- Mona Ross

WelcomeMembers!

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



Pasadena Lapidary Society
 PO Box 5025
 Pasadena, CA 91117-0025

Donations are always welcome!
 Renew your 2024 membership no later than December 2023.
 \$25.00 for adult member.
 \$15.00 for 2nd adult member.
 \$10.00 for additional adult or Junior member.

~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman



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Another thing which I am glad I brought is a ham radio. 2 other rock hounds, Mr. Tenny and Mr. Rob, also brought their ham radios. We put ourselves on a frequency which made it go from radio to radio. The radios were useful because cell service is slow and the ham radio service is fast in the desert. Ham radio communication is useful because a cell phone would take a long time to connect and the cars may have missed their turns by then. At the second spot, I called Mr. Tenny on the radio and arranged for a spot to drop off Miss Lucy's car. Cell service is very slow out there and it was convenient not waiting for a phone to connect. A funny thing happened as we were dropping off her car. Suddenly, a couple of strange cars began to follow our group. These cars didn't scare me but they did make me wonder where they were going because we were in the middle of nowhere. They followed us for a couple of miles all the way to our next stop, the Sierra Pelona travertine pit. Travertine makes great spheres and cabs. After our group got settled in, I figured out who the strangers were. It turned out that they were just another group of Barstow rockhounds looking for rocks and fun just like us. They shared their tools and we shared our rock pits. Mr. Ricardo dug and dug and dug, and eventually he pulled out several bowling ball sized travertine rocks. Everyone had fun because that's what rock hounds do.

I think everyone enjoyed the travertine dig because Mr. Chip and Mr. Rolf brought canopies to share. There's nothing better than taking a break in the shade drinking root beer. I could have stayed there all day but our time was short. Mr. Curtis and Mr. Chip used a bunch of heavy duty and high quality tools to get some huge pieces out of their holes. One was a 20 pound steel pry bar and a poker. This was the most dangerous tool because you could get stabbed if you weren't alert. My parents help me to prevent an avoidable accident which would have destroyed a fun outing. The Barstow club was very happy that they did not have to dig their own pits, and they probably pulled many pounds of rock after we left. Everybody received more than enough rock.

Next, we went to an agate spot near Castle Butte. Castle Butte agate is different from most agate places because there are many colors and types. I used the handy ham radio to contact Mr. Rob about what we found and where we were. The best find at this location was the bloodstone that was laying on the ground waiting to be picked up.

Next, we went to the Rio Tinto borax mine visitor's center in Boron. I learned about the mine and its history by watching a 15 minute video. I learned that the mine is 151 years old and there have been a lot of changes to it. It used to be an underground mine but now it's an open pit mine. In the old days, miners used to dig the borate ore by using huge tunnels and vertical shafts. This was dangerous work and I think it's safer not to have to go down into a dark and wet tunnel. Borate salts have so many uses and the visitor's center is a great place to learn about how geology affects everyday life. I had a lot of fun on this trip. I did have to take time to be safe but it was worth it, and I hope to go again.

- Daniel Nishimura

Rock Quote of The Month



Rocks and waters, etc., are words of God, and so are men. We all flow from one fountain Soul. All are expressions of one Love.

- John Muir

General Meeting - November 21, 2023

Our next meeting will be on November 21st and will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the Santa Anita Church located at: 226 West Colorado Boulevard in Arcadia, as usual.



Dr. Nicholas Gessler of Duke University will be speaking on all things meteorite.

November's rock talk will be about our Educational Program for schools and the community. Have you ever wondered how you can help? This month's talk will illustrate how even the newest members can participate.

Nancy requests that members bring clean egg carton (cardboard style, non-plastic, non-foam) to next meeting. If you've got some snacks to share, bring those along too. We always appreciate a variety of nibbles to nosh! And as they say, variety is the spice of life! It's also the spice of food...which, as I mentioned, we welcome!

November Workshop - Slicing, Shaping, and Shining

The next workshop will be held on Saturday November 11, from 9 am to 3 pm. Cost is \$5 for the full day or \$3 for a half day.

Bring your field trip finds and let's keep the saws and grinders busy. Saws, grinders, and other equipment as well as help using them will be available as usual.

The workshop is open to members age 9 and above. Minors must be accompanied by a member parent/guardian. 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.

Member-to-Member

We have a wide range of used equipment available. I am putting together a list with photos that I can send to interested parties. We have two working trim saws and a bare saw body, a Genie, the sphere maker, a few arbors, a vibrating lap, an anodizer, a 3-pound tumbler, a small grinding unit, and an 8-inch Frantom Combination unit. There are people considering purchase of a few of these items already, and many of these items need a little bit of maintenance or repair. I hope to do some of the repairs, but if you want to take them as is, the price will be lower.

If you are interested, call Phil at (818) 926-3163 for photos and more information.

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

- Phil Lahr

Rock Joke of The Month

Q: Why did the rock start going to the gym?

A: Because it wanted to be bigger and boulder!





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PO Box 5025
Pasadena, CA 91117-0025



President's Message



Okay Rockhounds, this will be the President's Message for whenever it gets out. August was an interesting month, what with the August Pasadena Lapidary Society Gem and Mineral Show! As most of you know, it took place on August 26th – 27th. Setup happened on Friday August 25th when volunteers came to help complete decorating the dealer tables, get the kitchen ready to feed the “worker bees” at setup and during the show, and “other duties as assigned” (for all you former members of the military/government workers), while those who were unafraid to get down on hands & knees strung and taped-down power cables. Others spent their time mixing up goodies in the kitchen or setting up tables & chairs. All were greatly appreciated.

Our successful show took a lot of hard work from setup to teardown and everything in between, but I'm sure all can agree that the rewards greatly outweighed the trouble. After all, where else can you talk to people about Condor Agates, Lapis Lazuli (both rough and polished), Emeralds, Opals, and a whole bunch of other rocks & minerals all in one room? For those who missed it, be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for our next show. They seem to get better with every passing year, so we know 2024 will be an unparalleled success!

And the show helped PLS grow, with some 20+ applications and waivers accepted with dues payments from attendees. I don't know what level this brings us to regarding membership numbers, but it is good to know that people are interested in our hobby. (For some of us, dare I say avocation, possibly mania?)

And while I've got your ear (eyes?), we need volunteers for the five-minute Rock Talks for the rest of the year, as well as next year. Let's keep the flow of interesting presentations coming. If you know something related to Lapidary/Rocks/Minerals/Geology/etc. and can put together an interesting presentation, let myself or Sue Pang or Marcia Goetz or Sue Dekany know, and we can schedule you. It Doesn't Hurt a Bit!

- David Lacy, President
Pasadena Lapidary Society