



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

OCTOBER 2023 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: GINA MILLIGAN





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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 has come up with a slate of officers for 2024-2025. The nominations are:

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

The nominating committee will be asking for nominations from the floor from the members. To be nominated from the floor the person being nominated must be acceptable to taking that position. We will also take nominations from the floor at the November meeting prior to the vote. 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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Welcome Members!

We are delighted to have new rock hounds join our society in September, and we warmly welcome back some former members:



Kathleen Abraham, Mumu Aung (former member), Oliver Babcock, Kerry Cawse-Nicholson, Claudia Brown Coulter, Langston Coulter (*JR), Mark Coyne, Nina Coyne, Misty Dini, Sarah Fair, Carly Good, Evie Harel, Sara Hicks, Joey Hoang, Nader Islam, Claire Lake, Jeff Lee, Catherine Li, Bill McRight, Maia Nicholson (*JR), Terence Nicholson, Wendy Pyle, Raul L. Rojas, Kenneth Salmon, Mark Stuhlman, Kevin Trommer, Terry VillaSenior, Ronald Walters, Jean Wong, Matt Wong, Annie Yang, Susan Zhang, John Zoraster (former member).

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. Extra membership donation is always welcome.

Let's plan ahead. 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.

*(Note: *JR denotes Junior member).*

~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman

October's Featured Gem:

Padparadscha Sapphire (Cover photos)



Since spooky season is upon us and the world seems festooned in shades of orange, I thought it would be fun to feature one of my personal favorites: the Padparadscha Sapphire. I originally fell in love with them sometime in the 90's—and I distinctly remember when. I was in a department store at the Santa Anita mall when I saw it: a gorgeous gold ring with a huge

stone which, to my hungry eyes, looked exactly the color of a watermelon Jolly Rancher candy! It was love at first sight. Shortly thereafter I began sleuthing out information about my new candy-colored object d'arte, and that's when I became truly captivated.

These extremely rare stones are strikingly beautiful and almost no other colored stone compares to this unique mix of pink and orange. Sunsets, lotus flowers and tropical fruits – the color range of a padparadscha falls within a mix of 2 colors: pink and orange.

“Padparadscha” is an ancient Sanskrit word used to describe the color of a tropical lotus flower. One of the rarest *gemstones* of the world, Padparadscha sapphires are rivaled by no other gemstone species or color substitute.

The term “padparadscha” is derived from the Sinhalese word for an aquatic lotus blossom, which has an unusual salmon color. Many agree that padparadschas straddle the color boundary between pink and orange. Some padparadscha sapphires are not evenly salmon colored, but rather color zoned with pink and yellow. Honestly, I love them in any hue!

by Gina Milligan



PLS Rockhounding At Bluff Cove

It was a beautiful late September morning as approximately 40 PLS members and guests gathered at Bluff Cove in Palos Verdes for an leisurely morning of rockhounding.



After taking a group photo at the top of the trailhead, we eagerly walked down the steep dirt trail, armed with empty bags and buckets, and ready to discover the cove's hidden treasures. The ocean was calm, the wildflowers were still blooming and the weather was perfect.



We spent the next couple of hours filling our bags with blue/green glaucophane (aka blue schist), root beer colored agates of all sizes and some beautiful shells.

Many members also picked up bags of trash as it was coincidentally the California Coastal Clean Up Day.



Shirley Wong and some friends were able to relax on a nice log while enjoying the ocean views and the crackling sound of the waves retreating through the cobble. Terry Villasenor, a new PLS member, found one of the best root beer agates of the day. Barna Lazlo sat on an interesting cream colored rock that sounded like glass. After a bit of investigation, I think it was possibly porcelanite.



Unfortunately, our morning had to come to an end and we all headed back up the trail with full bags and nice memories

By Sue Pang and Curtis Kan

Rock Quotes of The Month



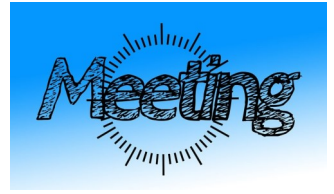
"If it weren't for the rocks in its bed, the stream would have no song." - Carl Perkins

"The person who turns over the most rocks wins the game. And that's always been my philosophy." - Peter Lynch

"The knowledge from an enlightened person breaks on the rocks of ignorance." - Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

General Meeting - October 17, 2023

Our next meeting will be on October 17th and will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the Santa Anita Church located at: 226 West Colorado Boulevard in Arcadia, as usual.



The scheduled presentation the Amethyst deposits of Thunder Bay, Ontario. The largest commercial deposits of amethyst in North America occur near the Canadian border in Southern Ontario. Unlike the more common Brazilian amethyst, this material is unique due to inclusions of red hematite in the outermost layers of the crystals.

Dick Weber first visited these deposits in the 1970s while studying for his graduate degree in Geology at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Dick and Mary Pat have returned to these deposits several times over the years and on two recent visits was given special access to the workings of the deposit by the mine owners. As part of this presentation they will display some of this highly prized amethyst from their personal collections.



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!

- Marcia Goetz

Member-to-Member

Genie Gem Maker for sale: \$1500. Three new Niva wheels and trim saw attachment with new blade included. Call for more information if interested. Armando: (909) 455-6800. Good deal here. Check out the prices on new models to see just how sweet a deal this is!

The sphere machine advertised last month is still available. It includes a crate of grinding cups in a wide variety of sizes. This one will take a bit of elbow grease, but will come at a great price (to be decided). Call Phil at (818) 926-3163 for photos and more information. This is something which doesn't show up very often, so scoop it up while the gettin' is good!

If you have something to sell or are looking for something, email 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 was the sedimentary rock collection so cheap?

A. Because it was on Shale.





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Earth's Messages

By Karina Dove

From the sleeping dream stone, a message from the past.
Rose quartz with turquoise eyes speaks of things that last.
In my hand I grip solid core, unlike fossils deep in caves,
shadows under silent cliffs, teardrops from silver moon days,
stalagmites dripping crystal rain

Turquoise a blueing canvas, bits engrained in stone henge days,
Patterns from stars over seas etched in a geode daydream,
Postcards from totem clouds, water, sky, earth and fire,
Celtic circle, a rooted desire.

A face of the ancient of days embedded from Eden's heart,
waiting, just waiting for a hand to dig deep in red clay sand,
decipher what the omens say.
I see a portrait of mother earth,
sonnets the archangels sang
and unicorns tread underway.