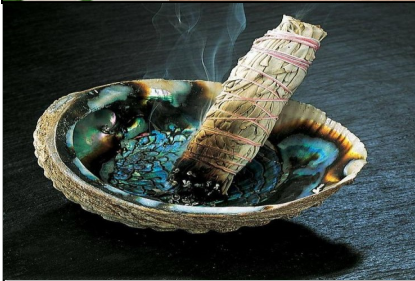




ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

SEPTEMBER 2023 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: GINA MILLIGAN



Abalone are large gastropod mollusks that inhabit the cold waters of California. While other species live elsewhere across the world, there are seven abalone species in California: white abalone, black abalone, red abalone, green abalone, pink abalone, pinto abalone, and flat abalone. These highly sought-after mollusks have been ingrained in Californian culture for centuries.

The earliest users of abalone were the Native Americans who left the earliest middens (piles of abalone shells) about 12,000 years ago. Many Native American tribes, including the Chumash, the Valley Yahi, the Hupa, the Yokuts, the Ohlone, and the Wiyot tribes valued and utilized abalone. For many of these tribes, abalone hold deep spiritual meanings, or meanings which can only be understood through ceremonies, songs, or stories, passed down over generations.

In modern times, many have come to believe that abalone shells are filled with calming energy. They can be very soothing and bring great healing energy. Abalone Shells are believed to bring guidance, and calm emotions. Abalone Shells are a sacred symbol of the sea. They can help strengthen love within relationships and foster interpersonal harmony. Abalone Shells aid in releasing any negative feelings and ease stressful situations, which may be why they're often incorporated into sage-burning practices.



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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 Members!

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.

~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman

Lost & Found!

An apron was found on the stage at the Masonic Lodge during our Gem & Mineral Show. Our President, David Lacy, has it and will bring it to the General Meeting on September 19th to return it to its rightful owner.

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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The Best Gem Show In The West

6:30 AM. After months of planning, the day was finally here. We rubbed the sleep out of our eyes, cracked our knuckles, and jumped into the car. Upon arriving at the Masonic Center, we were greeted by several dedicated rockhounds waiting in the parking lot and raring to get started. The morning was cool, but we knew it was just a matter of time before the sun made an appearance. As we unloaded boxes of supplies from cars, Trudy Krose brewed coffee. The coffee was so essential that it was referred to as AED defibrillator stages 1 and 2. Fortunately, we only needed stage 1 to complete the job!



After repairing and assembling the club cases, members began filling showcases with their treasures. As I wandered around, a rose seemingly out of Beauty And The Beast caught my eye in a case filled with chalcedony roses Sue Dekany had collected from the

Turtle Mountains. “Where did you find these?” I asked. “On the fieldtrip with your Dad,” came her reply, “I don’t think you were there.” Huh. I don’t remember anything that nice coming back to our house.

Across the table, Janie Duncan was setting up her case on Round Tuit. She gave me a round disc of wood with the word “TUIT” engraved on the side and told me, “This is a prized possession”. The Urban Dictionary explains that “the Round Tuit is a true gem of an artifact, with an illustrious history. If you have located one, you must cherish and protect it, for its ethereal beauty cannot be properly articulated within the stringent limitations of the current languages of mere mortals. Blessed are those who hold a coveted Round Tuit, for they will never again have to fall victim to the age-old adage, “I will do (menial task) when I get around to it.”



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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



(continued from p.2)

I welcomed everyone to the show and offered every guest a tumbled rock, which most of them were thrilled about. However, my favorite interaction occurred when a guest rejected my offer. As I stood by the door, I spotted a lady walking up to the gem show wearing a Metallica shirt. I opened the door and said, "Welcome to the show! Would you like a rock?" She smiled broadly and replied, "I already rock!"



An hour later, another lady came, walked into the show with a quick step and a determined look on her face. She strutted up to the information table and said, "I work for Los Angeles County," which was enough to gain our full attention. Was there a problem with our show? The woman explained that she was developing an app called Agents of Discovery for educators and students and needed to find a piece of the California State Gem, benitoite, in its raw form. She had been on several digs and had searched all across the county for this specimen, but came up short every time. She hoped we'd be the answer to her benitoite prayers. Unfortunately, we did not know of any dealers selling benitoite since it is such a rare mineral. The woman had come too far to give up now, so off she went to ask each of the vendors herself. To our surprise, she returned later with a huge smile on her face because she had located a dealer who could sell her a piece of benitoite. Another happy customer!

After a riveting raffle, everyone pitched-in to break-down and clean-up. Although I saw many people leaving with black buckets full of rocks from the silent auction, there were several buckets of rock to load into the trucks and haul away to be stored. As I was moving the rocks, I heard one member say to her husband, "Why couldn't you collect stamps? They're so much lighter than rocks!" While carrying rocks into Nancy Robb's backyard, I stopped to admire a 150 year old oak tree which was surrounded by its petrified ancestors. I suppose one could call it a circle of life! It was that realization which drew my mind to a metaphorical synchronicity: the petrified wood surrounded the living tree in the same way that the experienced rockhounds seek to mentor and raise up the next generation to appreciate this hobby. With all the rocks put safely away, the 2023 PLS Gen Show had officially come to a close, and what a success it was!



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-Alyson Nishimura

Rock Quotes of The Month



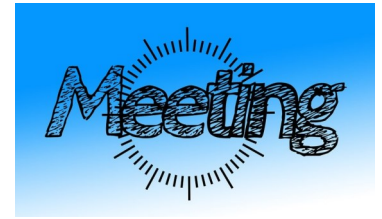
"If it weren't for the rocks in its bed, the stream would have no song." - Carl Perkins

"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 - September 19, 2023

Our next meeting will be on September 19th and will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the Santa Anita Church located at 226 West Colorado Boulevard in Arcadia, as usual.



We're honored to announce that Louis Hernandez of Abalone King will be our presenter that evening. He has considerable knowledge about abalone, many years of experience in buying and selling, and has also created his own materials.

And our monthly raffle is back. Be sure to bring a few extra bucks so you can enter the drawing. And if you've got something nifty, interesting or otherwise cool to contribute to the prizes, bring them along and donate them at the raffle table. It's wonderful to have some variety on the table!

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. Sorry. I couldn't resist that one.

Workshop - Saturday, August 12

Our next workshop will be held on Saturday, September 9, from 9am - 3pm, but may close early if temperatures are uncomfortably hot. Cost is \$5 for the full day, or \$3 for a half day.



Martha Wilson will be teaching a class on wire linking at 10. We will be making chains using the wire linking technique. All materials and tools required will be provided, but feel free to bring your own beads, materials and tools, if you'd like. This is an important foundational jewelry making technique. Attend if you're able.

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 at all times. First-timers and anyone who needs an orientation to help with learning to make cabochons must 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 around 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



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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. People who were not afraid to get down on hands & knees to string power cables, complete decorating the dealer tables, help getting 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), Did get down on hands & knees/mixed goodies in the kitchen/set up tables & chairs and were greatly appreciated.

Lots of work during Setup as well as during the Show, But the rewards greatly outweighed the trouble. After all, where can you talk to people about Condor Agates, Lapis Lazuli (both rough and polished), Emeralds, Opals, and a whole bunch of other rocks & minerals? For those who missed it, there is next year for PLS or another show going on somewhere presented by someone (But be sure to support our Gem Show!).

New members were also signed up during the Show, with some 20+ applications and waivers accepted with dues payments. 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 (Avocation? Mania??

We need volunteers for the five-minute Rock Talks for the rest of the year and for next year. Let's keep the flow of interesting presentations coming, so if you know something related to Lapidary/Rocks/Minerals/Geology/etc. and can do 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

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