



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

AUGUST 2025 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: MARCIA GOETZ

PLS' 65TH GEM AND MINERAL SHOW COMING SOON

Save the Dates!! - Set Up on September 19 and show on September 20-21

Please include us in your plans for the upcoming show. For those who are new, we have been holding shows since the 1950's. It's a great way for us to show off our love of rocks and minerals through our display cases, raffle prizes, kid's games, demonstrations, and silent auction. Many people don't know the beauty of an agate or opal and are astonished how wonderful they can be. The Chairperson of each committee has submitted a blurb of how you can help.

Did you know our lapidary art form dates back to the stone age when someone drilled a hole through a stone? Wow, and we are still doing that now. In easier ways though, as mechanically minded people have found other ways to drill and then found they could polish and then probably someone wore it around their neck and now look what we're doing. We are showing off our stuff at a show. We hope you can come and enjoy it and also give a hand. The show chairs have submitted a description of their section.

Before you enter the building you will meet Ferdie Sanchez, Greeter Chair, or one of the volunteers. Ferdie says a show greeter is one of the simplest yet most important portions of our society. The goal is to welcome everyone, share a kind word, offer a smile, lend a helping hand to people as they enter our show, guide people where important areas are and say a big thanks as they leave.

Next you will find the Membership and Information table. Sue Pang, Membership Chair, and Steve Cady are there to offer help for someone seeking membership. Also, at same table is Chris Kyte, Information Chair who has been in the society so long he can answer almost any question. Chris can provide you with society information and advise you where you might find what you're looking for at the show, in addition to being able to tell many stories of what PLS has done since about 2000. (Chris Kyte is a former PLS President.)



Moving along you will find the Raffle Table. Curtis and Lynn Kan, Raffle Chairs, will have set up the tables with cases full of raffle prizes, the raffle tumbler, and spots for visitors and members to fill out their raffle tickets. It's always interesting to listen in on what people are saying they wish they could win. Curtis and Lynn say the raffle is a fun aspect of our show and we would love to have your help! We will be selling six raffle tickets for \$10 or individual tickets for \$2. We encourage buyers to purchase tickets in groups of six for the best value! The drawing will commence at 2 pm on Sunday, September 21,



2025, but the winner need not be present. Winners who are not present during the drawing can pick up their prizes at our next general meeting or other arrangements will be made for prize delivery. We encourage all participants to come to the next PLS general meeting to enjoy our hobby throughout the year! If interested, please sign up for a slot to help sell tickets on either day of our show. Additionally, we are still seeking donations for the prize drawing. Let us know as soon as possible if you would like to donate any rock or mineral specimens, lapidary pieces, jewelry, or lapidary related items with a minimum value of \$25. Donations for the raffle can be brought to the August or September general meetings or workshops. Please contact Chuie Nishimura (rexch8@hotmail.com), Curtis Kan or Lynn Kan regarding raffle ticket sales, prize donations, or any other questions. Thank you for your support of PLS!

In the same foyer area are the Grab Bags, Kids Games and the PLS Bargain Stop (renamed from Silent Auction).



Monna Ross, Grab Bags Chair says the Grab Bag table at the show is part of the Kids Corner, where members sell our club-made grab bags to all sorts of rockhounds of all ages. Potential customers are not allowed to peek inside before buying, but

they can feel the weight of the bags to determine what might have more rocks, minerals, slabs or crystals in them. The bags are sold for \$5. The grab bag table may have other rock related items such as Diamond Dan coloring books for sale as well. We will be stuffing the bags at one of our workshops. Please sign up for a two-hour shift.

PLS Bargain Stop (formerly Silent Auction) - Chair: Armando Pedroza encourages fellow members and reminds us that our show is approaching and we are asking everyone to take a good look at what they have collected. Donations are a very big part of the Silent Auction success and economic recovery for what goes into putting on a successful show. Armando looks forward to receiving your calls for donations. Please feel free to call for setting up a pick up date and time or dropping off rocks.

List of possible donation items: Sellable rocks, Slabs, Mineral Specimens, Books and magazines

Family Fun Kids' Area—Nancy Robb, Chair says the kids area is a favorite for rockhounds of all ages. We need your help and your donations. If you have spare specimens (that are small enough to fit in an egg carton), please consider donating them. We also need rock related prizes. (Nicer specimens, books, jewelry) Please consid-





Officers and Trustees

Officers

David Lacy, President deceelink@earthlink.net

Barna Laszlo, Vice President blaszlo0911@gmail.com

Sue Dekany, Secretary PLS_secretary@protonmail.com

Philip Lahr, Treasurer plkslahr@att.net

Sue Pang, Federation Dir. sp2019pi@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

Bulletin: Marcia Goetz

Publicity/SM: Elizabeth Weston

Display Table: Ferdie Sanchez

Sunshine: Mona Ross

Web Editor: Elizabeth Weston

Workshop: Phil Lahr

Membership: Sue Pang

Hospitality: Mona Ross

Webmaster: Ben Shutman

Librarian: Lucia Yang

Ways & Means: Curtis Schurer

Annual Show: Sue Dekany

Contact Us

Email: info@PasadenaLapidary.org **Instagram:** /PasadenaLapidary

Facebook: Pasadena Lapidary Society

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

Editor: Marcia Goetz marcia.pls.emails@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.

Membership!

We are delighted to have new rockhound(s) join our society in June 2025: Alison Kmetko, Bryden Landberg (*Jr), and Stacey Landberg. July 2025: Kate Adams, Paulina Lavyash, Ed Moore, Ruben Ramirez, Gabe Trejo, and Phuong Truong.

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.

PLS Membership dues: \$25 for Adult member, \$15 for 2nd Adult member, \$10 for additional adult or Junior member.

~Sue Pang, Membership Chairman

Meetings

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

General Meetings – Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Santa Anita Church, 226 W. Colorado Blvd., Arcadia, CA 91007

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

The name Pasadena Lapidary Society (PLS) and its associated logo are registered trademarks of The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc. © 2022 The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc. Text, images, and other content in this publication are property of The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc., except for content that is in the public domain or is used with permission of the copyright holder or qualifies as fair use under copyright law. *Rockhound Ramblings* is available on the PLS website and may be freely linked to, but other distribution or re-publication, in part or whole, is prohibited unless written permission is granted by The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.

er signing up to help during the show. Junior members are also welcome! These are the activities at the kids' area: Wheel of Fortune—spin and win a rock related prize. We have a mystery box and a grand prize. Sand scoop : Fill the scoop as high as you can, sift it to find tumbled stones and if you're lucky a prize! Rock Collections : Start your first rock collection or add to an existing one. We hope to have over 60 different types of gems and minerals!

In the main room we have our Dealers, Snack Area, Show Cases and up on stage are the Demonstrators.

Chui Nishimura, Show Cases Chair, says showcases are a great attraction at the show and an excellent way to display your finds and creations, or

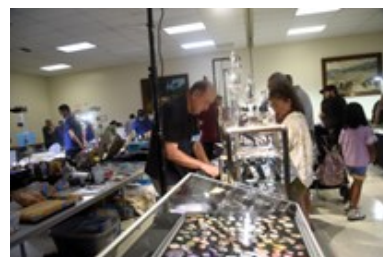


explore a geological topic. Those with showcases are encouraged to prepare a question that may be included in the kid's Scavenger Hunt questionnaire. In addition to the individual showcases, we will have a collaborative Field Trip showcase made up of materials club members have found on field trips.

During the show, we would really appreciate volunteers who can help kids find the Scavenger Hunt responses, discuss some of the wonderful materials in the showcases and periodically clean the showcase glass. Applications for Showcases and liner dimensions can be found on PLS's website at pasadenalapidary.org. Click on the Membership tab and scroll down to 'Member Information' where you will find links to "Applications for Show Display Case" and "PLS Showcase Information". Feel free to reach out to Chui Nishimura (rexch8@hotmail.com) with any questions. We are looking forward to your participation to make the show a great success!

Workshop Display Case Coordinator, Sue Dekany, is looking for items made at least partially at the PLS workshop. You can show off your wire work from this year's classes, slabs you cut, cabochons, spheres and more. Did you finish a faceted stone after Kevin's faceting class? Tell Sue D. what you want to display in the workshop case as soon as you know. She's going to make a numbered listing of the items including who provided each. You can bring the item(s) to the Friday show setup day, or you can give it to Sue at the September workshop, But please, she'd love to make a listing of the items so don't wait till the last minute to tell her what you are bringing. Items will be returned to you! Thanks for showing off what we do at the workshop.

Our Dealer Chair, Rose Pedroza has been lining up our Dealers for this year. She tells us there will be some changes in who our dealers will be. We are looking forward to seeing and spending our time looking at the goodies and deciding which of those goodies we want to buy.



Demonstrations are fun to watch. Here is where we can connect with visitors who are curious about how we create our treasures. Many visitors spend an hour or more watching and talking to our talented members. Of interest to most visitors is that we can actually form a stone into a cabochon, or turn a stone into a necklace. Joan Harrison is our Demonstration Chair and she encourages those who enjoy sharing their interests to contact her at valleyoak180@gmail.com.



Finally, the Snack Area. Trudy Krose and her team



will be working closely together. Starting with inventorying the supplies and creating our shopping list to provide our World Famous PLS Lapidary Chili to the hungry members, vendors and visitors.

The menu will be the same as last year with chili, hot dogs, hot dogs with sauerkraut, nachos, and various chips and drinks. If you would like to donate donuts for the mornings please feel free to do so (please let us know). Volunteers are needed for the "pick up" window—no cooking required.



Volunteers will enjoy a lunch on Friday, the set up day, with many thanks to Janie Duncan who has volunteered to donate sandwiches and salads. Coffee, drinks and goodies will also be available as part of our Hospitality area for volunteers and vendors. Call Marcia to help in the Kitchen.

August Workshop

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, August 9. Door opens at 9 am and we need to be cleaned up and out by 3 pm. Cost is \$5 for the full day or \$3 for half day. We may close early if temperatures are extremely hot.

Saws, grinders, and other equipment and 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 cabochons 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, Workshop Chair

GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 19TH, 2025

"Sword and Stone" with Tony Swatton

Tony Swatton is a self-taught blacksmith and armorer with over 35 years of experience. Known for crafting historically accurate and fantasy-inspired weapons and armor, his work has appeared in films and TV series like Pirates of the Caribbean, Thor, and The Mandalorian. Swatton is also the creator of the popular YouTube series Man at Arms, where he recreates famous pop-culture weapons. He has conducted demonstrations and classes worldwide, sharing his expertise in blacksmithing and bladesmithing. His Burbank business, The Sword and the Stone, is highly regarded in the industry for its craftsmanship and innovation.



Bench Tips from Brad Smith: EMERY BOARDS

I feel the key to getting a lustrous polish on your jewelry work is having a good selection of sandpaper handy for pre-polishing before going to the buffer. I generally start around 400 grit and then go to 800 and 1200. While some projects do require sheets of sandpaper, my favorite way of sanding small jewelry items is to use emery boards, the ones you use for doing your nails. I like the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface. These nail boards are inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company, at your local drug store, or from Amazon.

Member-to-Member

6" capping machine in good condition Missing one polishing wheel the other five are in good condition. Asking \$975. Photo right.



Also, an upright Covington wet belt sander in good condition. Needs water valve. Takes 3" x 24" belts. Asking \$150. Photo below.



Tumblers are gone except for one tiny but sturdy one. We still have the Lortone combo unit with 5-inch saw and space for two wheels and the inclined flat lap. We also have a Frantom Combo unit, and a two-head sphere machine that would be good projects for someone willing to do a little mechanical work. Contact Phil (plkslahr@att.net) if you want more information on these items.

Do you want to advertise your equipment here? Submittals for the next bulletin should be sent to Phil by the 15th of the month.

Too Large For Our Monthly Display Table

In September 2021 a 683-pound single sapphire was found in Ratnapura, Sri Lanka. It has been named Queen of Asia and could be worth more than \$100 million. The Queen of Asia has a bluish gray hue, but since it is not cut yet the determination of color saturation and clarity throughout the stone is undetermined.

Graph from thesrilanka.lk





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



President's Message

Hi Rockhounds!

Last PLS General Meeting was the Ice Cream Social (YUMMEE!). And, YES, I brought some Twohey's Dark Chocolate Fudge Sauce for anyone that wanted/craved it. Said I.C.S. General meeting was on July 15th and if you missed it... According to the Birthstone list for Rock & Gem magazine, the Birthstone of the month was Ruby, but instead of a Display Table, there were several items on tables up for a "Silent Bid" type purchase, and three Silent Auction tables with a Whole lot of other various goodies. Even got some of them for myself as well as a few donations for my Gem Show President's Showcase on lab-made/non-natural minerals & gems. Non-Subtle Hint! Get hold of Chuie(sp) Nishimura or Sue Dekany for case registration.

It's getting towards nomination time and also time for PLS officer's elections (November). I will be choosing the Chair of the Nominating Committee prior to the August Board Meeting. Then at the August Board Meeting the Board appoints two from themselves. In August we will then ask for nominations from the general membership for two more to serve on the committee. The nominating committee shall cease to exist following the elections at the November meeting. The committee may be reappointed by the President or by the Board of Directors in the event of a vacancy in an elective position.

Another biggie will be the ROTY for 2025. Barna will have nomination forms for you to fill in and submit. The ROTY (adult and junior) are kept secret and the award is given out at the Christmas Party.

Old Business time: The Gem Show emails & postcards I keep getting reminded that planning for the next PLS Gem Show has started. Those of you who might be interested in helping set up, participate in the Show, or just help break down the Show can start thinking about where you would be interested in helping. We have signup sheets available at the Workshop and the General Meeting, so sign up soon so we can continue the good -- No, Great! Gem Shows. Next Show meeting is on Tuesday, August 28th at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Anyone who is involved or are interested in what it takes to get a Gem Show started is welcome to attend. Let Sue D. know if you want to attend.

Sincerely, David Lacy, President



Email: info@PasadenaLapidary.org Instagram: /PasadenaLapidary
Facebook: Pasadena Lapidary Society

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
PASADENALAPIDARY.ORG