



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

APRIL 2025 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: MARCIA GOETZ

Phantoms in Quartz

A phantom inclusion in a gemstone would best be described as one or many layers of crystal points within a host material. During gem growth a layer of a different type of mineral gets deposited on the crystal and then conditions for new growth reoccur and the former material continues to grow, leaving evidence in the form of the mother crystal growth. Quartz seems to be the most prevalent gem material that they grow in. Since quartz (SiO_2) is the second most common mineral on earth and durable, a lot of the phantom specimens survive.

For instance, in the photo below (sorry for the bad picture) you can see the clear quartz at the top and a green area within the



quartz that mimics the crystal shape. This was collected in Owen's Valley, California by Joe and I. Looking at Mindat I found a photo taken of a crystal from Owens Valley with inclusions of the

same green which was identified as chlorite. The link to the Mindat page is: [Photo Gallery: Crystal Ridge, Johnson Spring, Tibbetts Mining District, Inyo Mts \(Inyo Range\), Inyo County, California, USA](#)

Christian Shulze shares the next four photos. This is a close-up of Amethyst Phantom in Quartz.



This one is referred to as Blue Smoke Phantom with some kind of lithium based inclusion.

The one on the right is a Smoky Amethyst Phantom. The shadowy crystal points within the larger clear stand out beautifully.



This last is a quartz with some ajoite inclusions and some kind of iron giving it yellow phantoms.

Specimen from Namibia.

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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 the following new rockhound(s) join our society in March 2025: Christine Gao, Troy Guajardo, Blake Lamb, Emily Osher, Andrew Papson, and Wolf Qualis.

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.

Please submit your 2025 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®

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APRIL 15th PROGRAM

An Unconventional Guide to Putting Together a Non-competitive Exhibit Case

This month's program will be presented by retired geologist Mary Pat Weber, who has been collecting minerals and displaying them at area shows for the past 20 years. Mary Pat's approach to building exhibit cases is that it should be fun, easy and interesting to the public. Putting together a non-competitive case for a local show that highlights your interests in the hobby does not have to be time consuming or expensive. Unburdened by the demands of competitive case rules and strict judging standards that emphasize what is wrong with an entry rather than its overall appeal to the public, Mary Pat is free to be creative and try new things.

Mary Pat prides herself on trying to put together a unique case for each show to give the public something different to look at. We have all been to mineral shows where you see the same cases over and over every year. Mary Pat will show us the materials and methods she uses to make her displays often from materials you probably already have.

In the final analysis it is not the number of points or ribbons earned that make a good case but rather the number of nose prints of children left on the glass.



STEAM Night at Barnhart School

David Lacy, President, and Mona Ross shared educational information with the students at STEAM Night on March 13th. The students at Barnhart who made the table sign tried to draw our logo as well.



**PLS Gem Show - Save the Dates & Plan to Lend a Hand**

September 19 - setup, September 20 - 21, open to the public

Our gem show is our public showcase of our creative skills, our favorite real-world hobby, and gorgeous minerals. We have a dedicated crew handling the many different areas - kitchen, kids area, dealers, demos, displays, raffle, and bargain stop. And we welcome your help!

We're ready to accept donations of large rocks to the Bargain Rock Stop area, or items for the show Raffle that you would be excited to win. Bring your items to our monthly meeting, to the workshop, or contact Sue Dekany (pls_secretary@protonmail.com) to arrange a pickup.

Never made a display case before? Attend other club's shows and get ideas, or talk to PLS members who have. It's easy and fun to set a theme, and bring organization to a part of your collection. Sue Pang is encouraging each of us to submit competitive displays to the May CFMS show in Antelope Valley. Wouldn't it be great for our show if we had many prize winning displays?

Next show meeting will be April 14, 7pm via Zoom. Email Sue Dekany to get the link.

Phantom vs Inclusion

A Phantom crystal is formed when some other mineral coats a crystal point maybe when the vug ran out of the chemicals for forming and then the conditions for the crystal to continue growing start again, leaving the outline of its growing process.

An inclusion is mineral or ore that gets trapped in a crystal while growing. An inclusion can also refer to stress fractures in a gem like a 'fingerprint', 'feather', or even pockets of liquid or gas. Amber may have an insect or plant inclusion.

MARCH FIELDTRIP—STODDARD WELLS

Below are PLS and other Rockhounds who collected tri-color marble and Verde antique in the morning. Afterwards, most rockhounds went shopping at the Victorville tailgate.



Photo credit
Chuie Nishimura

Tri-Color
Marble
area. Photo
taken by
Sue Pang

**April Workshop—Bola Encore**

Several people expressed interest in another opportunity to learn to make bolas. April is that opportunity. Ed Imlay will bring samples, fittings, and his expertise. You bring a large cabochon, coin or polished slab. Be there by 10:00.

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, April 12. 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.

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

Member-to-Member

Vintage Highland Park ten-inch saw in good condition. Needs blade. Asking \$300. Contact Armando



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

Notice! Education Chair Needs Help

Due to an ongoing illness of a family member, Nancy Robb needs help with educational outreach, community events, and the Children's area at the Gem Show. If you are able to help, please email her at nancyrobb@yahoo.com



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President's Message

Hi Rockhounds!

This is going to start out with a Big Shout of Thanks for all those who showed up at our clubs' storage facility last Saturday for "rock washing and sorting". Turned out that most of the rocks were in boxes of one sort or other and only a few select rocks needed a Real Washing. The rest were spread out and washed ad-lib and almost everything was dried in the sun. We (all of us who were there) especially want to Thank Sue Pang for bringing Goodies, such as Roast Pork (Chinese style), assorted crudites and fruit, egg-potato salad and Salmon/tuna(?) salad, and some Great breads.

You might touch base with Rex Nishimura and inquire about an April 6-9 Field Trip to Central CA - roughly near Coalinga along the I-5 Freeway. Word I got was that agate, jasper and maybe some jade would be on the "Items To Be Collected" list. From past experience, Rex does a good job scouting out some interesting places to go, so all you adventuresome people, RSVP to Rex (rexch8@yahoo.com) and Get Gone (but come back, especially with some hot-looking rocks!).

Old Business time:

Speaking of Hot-Looking Rocks, we (PLS) have been invited to the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club's Fiesta of Gems Show on June 28-29, 2025. It is free, but I am Sure you could find something to spend money on, as the description of participants looks interesting.

Their Gem Show email brought up the thought 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.

Next Show meeting is on a date TBD and is open to those who want to get involved.

Next General meeting is on April 15th and, according to Ferdie and the Birthstone list for Rock & Gem magazine, the Birthstone of the month is diamond. Anyone with a good looking stone is welcome to bring it and show it on the Display Table. 'Course anyone with a diamond of any size larger than +/- 1-16th" might just bring a magnifying glass or loupe so those of us with close focus issues can see it!

Openings for a 30-45 minute talk on a rock/mineral/stone/mineralogical processes/History of minerals or mineralogy/etc. are available and anyone interested is welcome to talk to Barna Laszlo our Vice President to schedule something. Speaking of the next meeting, I would also urge anyone who has a favorite rock/mineral/stone to give a talk on said rock/mineral/stone. It needs to be a short talk, just five minutes (or thereabouts) and PhD-level descriptions need not apply. It doesn't hurt and you can tell us what makes that rock/mineral/stone special to you.

Sincerely, David Lacy, President

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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