



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

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75th Birthday Memories — *Remembering a Great Fieldtrip*

What was your motivation when you joined Pasadena Lapidary? Was it for the educational meetings or perhaps the workshop? Maybe the field trips? Whatever it was probably had the same motivations that those starting our Society had back in the 1940s.

As a new member you learned about rocks and minerals at the meetings. Then you may have attended the workshop. At the workshop you found that others had been on field trips and collected the rocks that they were working on. Then you may have decided to go on field trips. I think this is how many people have progressed in the hobby. Field trips are a great way to build memories with your family and your new friends, and soon you are able to recognize the type of formations that a particular rock comes from.

I think one of the most memorable field trips that I remember was the one to Mariposa. We went over a Thanksgiving weekend so we had several days. We were able to stay on the Mariposa fairgrounds, where they have a grassy area and the RVs and tents were allowed to camp there. We also rented the building and had access to the kitchen for making things — like Thanksgiving dinner (important), and we also were able to get warmed up inside the building because it was very cold outside.



Left: Taking turkey from oven

Right: (clockwise from left) Hungry Rockhounds Sylvia & Vern Cliffe, Arlene Billheimer, Tony Fender, Vince and Ruth Jurell, Ed Imlay



Our field trips were to collect garnets, chialstolite, mariposite and soapstone. To get to the soapstone we crossed the Merced River and then followed a dirt road up the steep side of the mountain, and then when you got to the top the road was so dusty that the vehicle in back of you disappeared into a cloud of dust. The field trip leader had to drive slowly so that people could see where they were supposed to follow.

We then went to an area we had been told had mariposite and we all got several pieces, however, the best mariposite collecting (we later found out) was on the fairgrounds in a large pile and the maintenance person said we could take pieces from that pile.

The other trip took us to a creek that had garnets in the bank and after that we drove further along that same road to find the chialstolite (crossrocks). The chialstolite found in the road bank is surrounded by pasture land that had a lot of cows on it. The other highlight of the trip was a guided tour at the Mariposa Gem and Mineral Museum and we were all in awe of the beautiful gold crystalline specimens and the working model of a mine.



Left: Joe Goetz digging in bank for garnets

Right: Ed Imlay examining garnet find in Marcia Goetz' hand





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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!

Invite a friend to join PLS! Applications can be obtained at the general meeting or on the website on the membership page. 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.

Fun Fact: Did you know that a snowflake is considered a "mineral". It is as it fits the mineral definition of being inorganic, a solid, has a regular crystal structure, is made by nature and has a predictable chemical formula.

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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Front page continued:

A side trip to the Raymond Granite Quarry was fantastic, as we had a tour of how granite slabs are quarried, the saws used, and the cutting and polishing warehouse. The blocks from the quarry wall were huge and were broken away by using 'chisels and feathers'. A series of holes are drilled in a straight line and the feathers are put into them, then a chisel is placed between each set of the feathers. The chisel is then hammered on several times and gradually the pressure splits the rockface. At the quarry they hammered the chisels in and left them overnight and in the morning the split happened. That huge block was then transported to a large building which housed a 10-wire saw. The wire was miles long and doubled back on itself several times to cut the huge chunk to smaller slabs. They also had 6-8 foot circular saws for some of the cutting. The slabs were then transported to the cutting and polishing building where sink tops, etc. were cut and then polished. After the tour we were allowed to go on the tailings pile and pick out granite slabs. One of our past-presidents, Gale Poulson, got a slab big enough for her 'gravestone', and luckily several members helped her get it to her car.

February General Meeting

The February 20, 2024 meeting will be in the Fireside Room, not the Fellowship Hall.

Phil Lahr will give a presentation on tumbling. He will talk about the basics...machines, grits, and processes involved. Phil will also have samples of rock polishing in various stages so you can see and feel the differences in the stages. This should be a good educational program for new rockhounds and a good refresher for older ones.

Nancy Robb is planning to continue the history talk, and Sue Pang will give a talk on the February birthstone, Amethyst.



Below: Field trip attendees in Quartzsite

Right: Daniel Nishimura (probably window shopping) in Quartzsite

Photos from Rex Nishimura





1st Time to QIA Pow Wow Show in Quartzsite by Sue Dekany

Shirley Wong and I headed out to Quartzsite on Thursday morning, staying until Saturday afternoon. With an hour left in the Pow Wow, Shirley and I headed over. We toured the inside booths before closing time.

Friday colorfully dawned and we returned to the Pow Wow in earnest. I've watched a couple rockhounds on YouTube and I've coveted many materials they have access to. Would I find those here? Our very first booth was a guy from Wyoming selling North Platte river-tumbled jade. Yet, I spied 2 banded iron cabs on his table. I asked if he had any rough? Yes, indeed!

Next, I had a blast poking through bins of slabs. I selected a slab of Turkish stick agate, Ocean jasper, Tiffany stone, Willow Creek jasper, and a Turkish seam jasper.

Further along I was captivated by cabochons made from copper minerals. There were about 8 made of covellite, a blue and silver colored material from Butte, Montana. Who can resist beautiful polished cabs metallicly glinting in the sun?

As we wound through the rows I gravitated to slabs, rough, and polished pieces. I had little interest in opal, gems, fossils or made jewelry. Pow Wow is so big, it's good to skip booths. We barely made it from one side to the other in a full day, and I missed a row.

Other treasures I brought home: 2 Howardite slabs, and 3 small pieces of rough Dead Camel jasper from Nevada; a small piece of super colorful petrified wood called Sierra Spectrum; a slab of new material from Mexico called Cherry Orchard; a rough chunk of Indian Blanket jasper from Utah; and a stunner of rough and colorful banded flint from Ohio.

We were exhausted by closing time and retreated to our club camping site to recover.

Pow Wow is a great show because so many vendors from around the US and the world attend. You have easy access to incredible materials. I found much from my wanted list, and more I had no idea existed. I'd recommend bringing something to roll your purchases around in. If QIA would install massage chairs, Pow Wow would be perfect.



Tiffany stone, Howardite, Cherry Orchard, Sierra spectrum pet wood

Workshop – Saturday, February 10, 2024

February Workshop - Faceting Free for All

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, February 10, from 9 am to 3 pm. Cost is \$5 for the full day or \$3 for a half day.

Saws, grinders, and other equipment, and help using them will be available as usual.

Kevin Koppers will be assisting those with faceting equipment learn to use it. Bring in your equipment and see what it can do. It would be helpful to know how many are coming and what type of equipment you are bringing. Email Phil (plkslahr@att.net, message title PLS FACETING) and I will forward to Kevin.

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 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.
~Phil Lahr

Member-to-Member

Carol Burton, a long time PLS member, is selling much of her large hand curated collection which includes cabochons, raw gems and minerals, crystals, towers, gem skulls, arrowheads, fossils and many more good quality gems and fossils. Carol chose each item carefully. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS SALE!!!

The sale will be held over three days.

-Friday, Feb 23, 8am to 4pm, is for lapidary club and wholesale dealers with prices 50% off retail

-Saturday, Feb 24, 9am to 4pm, is open to the public with prices 25% off retail.

-Sunday, Feb 25, 9 am to 3pm, is open to the public with prices 50% off retail.

The sale will be held in the backyard at **10406 Miloann St. Temple City, CA 91780**. Park on the street and walk down the driveway to the redwood gate at the back. For further information, email Carol at cmburton17@gmail.com.

We still have lots of equipment, particularly tumblers. Submittals for the next bulletin should be sent to Phil by the 15th of the month. Contact information is on page 2.

~Phil Lahr



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President's Message

Hi Rockhounds! It has been a busy time since I wrote last. We have started off 2024 with our first Board meeting, our first General meeting, our first Workshop, and our first Field Trip (if it didn't get washed out!). Not a bad start for our 75th year in existence. Speaking of that, what are your thoughts on the history of PLS? I think we should print up some articles of the "You (or I was) Are There" type from some of our members that have been with PLS for a while. We need to do Something to celebrate the fact of 75 years in existence as it's not every day that an organization lasts that long, if any do.

Speaking of things lasting, Get your dues in soon, as your membership can lapse and the Bulletin will quit coming if you don't. We have a lot of members these days and it would be a shame if we lost anyone due to non-payment of dues.

Members Be Advised! The February 20th General meeting will not be in the Fellowship Hall at the church due to some changes in occupancy on that date. LA County Registrar of Voters is having a class for Poll Workers on the 20th and the room may not be available. However, nothing is set in epoxy now so Stay Tuned for further information as it becomes available. An email note is being discussed to inform all interested parties as to where the meeting will be held. If you are interested in attending, please let me or any Board member know, as room wherever we have available may be limited and we need to know who is coming and how many.

~ David Lacy, President

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