



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JANUARY 2025 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: MARCIA GOETZ

Crystal Frogs !!??

Article by Christian Schultze, PLS Member

Have you ever seen a real crystal frog before?

This is one of the most significant discoveries of fossils in North America in recent times, (and anywhere else for that matter). This specimen is part of a very limited new find from Owens Lake, California. When Hurricane Hillary hit southeastern California in 2023, the flooding washed toads and other organisms into Owens Lake, which is usually dry with precipitate minerals on the surface of the dry lake bed. These organisms later desiccated and were replaced with the mineral Trona (sodium sesquicarbonate dihydrate). The life-like appearance of these fossils owes the highly-defined features to rapid mineralization, that happened before the tissue deteriorated. Many of the soft tissue features were preserved in these fossils, that are usually lost in fossils with longer mineral replacement time-frames. As the water in the lake bed evaporated, it left behind Trona, which forms through precipitation. What was once organic material (the toad) is now a mineral (Trona).

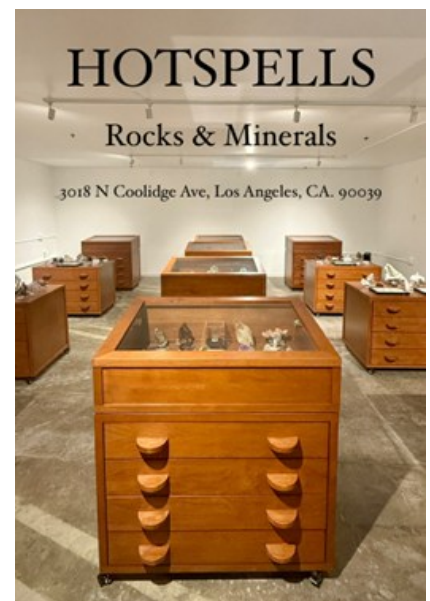
(Information cited from Earth Treasures <https://www.facebook.com/earthtreasuresource?mibextid=wwXlfr>)



I welcome you to come see this mineral specimen and many more at Hotspells Rocks & Minerals, my very own rock and mineral shop in Frogtown, Northeast LA! Just a block from the LA River bike path, this shop is a treasure trove of stunning natural mineral specimens from around the world.

But it's more than just a shop—it's a community! Get ready for exciting events like educational lectures, hands-on workshops, and epic field collecting trips. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just rock-curious, there's something for every budget and passion.

Mark your calendars: we officially open in January 2025 with weekend hours (11 AM–4 PM). Follow us on Instagram (@hot_spells) or visit hotspells.com to stay in the loop. And here's the best part: all local rock club members get 20% off in-store—just bring your club badge!





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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 rock hound(s) join our society in December 2024. Note: *JR denotes Junior member. *F denotes former member. Verity Freeborn, Jenny Juarez, Henry Kamp, Adalyn Rivera (*JR), and Bert Vogler, Michael Guajardo.

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.

Reminder: your membership expires in December. 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.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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January General Meeting Program

Augustynolophus Morrisi (aka 'Auggie')...What is that you say?? It's a dinosaur—the California State Dinosaur. This duck-billed hadrosaur lived around areas of California some 66 million years ago in the Cretaceous period.

Karol McQueary will be the speaker at our meeting to tell us the funny story of how we got a California State Dinosaur. Karol McQueary is a retired teacher, principal, volunteer dinosaur bone preparator, and past president of the Southern California Paleontological Society. Although she has collected minerals for most of her life, her interest in fossils began when she retired from the Los Angeles Unified School District. She joined a fossil club and started volunteering at the Natural History Museum in their Dino Lab, as well as in their Dino Hall. Karol still loves teaching, though, and looks for opportunities to share her love of science whenever she can. When the opportunity came up to help California get its own state dinosaur, Karol enlisted the aid of the kids in the Paleo Society as well as the students at her former school. Their efforts on behalf of our new state dinosaur, *Augustynolophus morrisi*, are the topic of her talk.

The 5 Minute Talk will be Common Sense Safety Around Lapidary Equipment and During Fieldtrips. At Sue's work, she is a trained volunteer Safety representative and will share some of her knowledge with us.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The PLS Holiday Party on December 7 was well attended and the hall was decorated for the season. There was lots of food to eat and friendships to enjoy.



The festivities included a gift exchange at the end of the evening. As usual, getting a rock was the best gift: even a specimen of coal would make a rockhound happy!

December Workshop - Gem trees were made by members (top and bottom right). The Sphere cutting is still in progress (top middle). Amygdaloids from Baxter Wash (bottom left). Earrings made by Ed Imlay (middle left)..



**POW WOW FIELD TRIP**

Happy New Year! It's Pow Wow time.

The Quartzsite Pow Wow is one of the biggest rock shows in the west and runs from Wednesday, January 15th to Sunday, the 19th. It's in Arizona, the home of the mighty saguaro cactus. Though the Pow Wow rock show is a field trip in itself, the official field trip (where we collect stuff) is Saturday, January 18th. Quartzsite is known for agates, jaspers, chalcedony roses, hematite, barite, and alunite. We'll start at 9AM and be back in Quartzsite by 1PM. Please RSVP if you plan on going.

Dry camping is free at Quartzsite and there are thousands of people dry camping everywhere. Nevertheless, it's easy to find a spot of your own. A small group of us will be dry camping in Scadden Wash for the weekend. Please join us for an evening around the campfire.

High clearance is not needed for camping at Quartzsite, but is needed for all field trips. We should be able to work out a ride so you won't need to drive in the field, but you have to let me know beforehand. Please email me for more details at williamwalls5691@yahoo.com.

Feature Articles for some of the upcoming bulletins:

The feature article this month is by PLS member Christian Schultze. We hope other PLS members who have businesses will also contribute a feature article sharing their knowledge on a fossil, mineral, technique, etc. that would be of interest to the society. At the end of the article, the information about their business can be shared.

Editor

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

Highlights of the December 2024 Holiday Party Meeting

Joe Goetz and Marcia Goetz were awarded PLS Life Membership. A few months ago, PLS members nominated them per PLS Bylaws Section 2, Article III, section 2. In Nov 2024, PLS board members approved their Life Member status. At the Nov general meeting, PLS members voted and approved their Life Member status. Both Joe and Marcia combined have served in many leadership positions including PLS President, PLS Vice-President, PLS Treasurer, PLS Secretary, Fieldtrip leader, Bulletin editor, PLS Show Chairman, CFMS Federation Director and PLS Trustee. At the CFMS level, Marcia served twice as CFMS President and she is active in several CFMS committees. They have contributed many volunteer hours to PLS, and unselfishly helped PLS financially.

Also, congratulations to Curtis Kan for receiving the Rock Hound of the Year Award and Daniel Nishimura for receiving Junior Rock Hound of the Year Award.

Sue Pang

January Workshop—Cut and Cabbing

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, January 11. 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 are tentatively scheduled for a bola workshop in February and hope to show other stone setting methods later, so get yourself some cabochons ready to go.

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

Cabbing machine in very good condition. Has five 6-inch wheels in good condition. Asking \$1500. Contact Armando

PLS has a few older grinders that would work well for someone handy, and even a sphere machine that could get you spinning with a little work. Also, a variety of tumblers ready to go, a PMC kiln, and a couple Foredoms. Contact Phil (plkslahr@att.net or 818 926-3163) if you want more information on these items or others that have been advertised recently.

Looking for a part time job? Christian Schultze is looking for a part-time/intern to help at his shop on weekends. Contact him at christian.w.schulze@gmail.com

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





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President's Message

Hi Rockhounds!

A bunch of thoughts concerning the past year and all the places we have gone and stuff we have done, both in the field and in the Workshop.

Our 75th Anniversary party was a great hit with those who attended. What with all the cake and other goodies present, we had food and fun and did a good job celebrating the Big 75! Not bad for a bunch of People Who Like (and lick) Rocks!

The Annual Holiday party was, as usual, one of the bigger food fests of 2024, if not the biggest. Seems to me that this group likes to cook, share food with others, eat, and talk rocks. We also had a few awards to give out, as Curtis Kan received the Rockhound of the Year award and Daniel Nishimura got the Junior Rockhound of the Year award, And The Goetz' Got their Life Membership Certificates (In Absentia), as they were unable to be present. Darn shame, as they have put in a Whole Lot of time/money/leadership in the Society. Thanks, Joe and Marcia!!

We are going to start off 2025 with a (planned) Field Trip/collecting spree to/at Quartzite on January 18th+/- . PLANNED: The PLS version of the trip will be on the 18th as a Saturday local area jaunt, starting at 9AM. Bill Walls has offered to lead this and has suggested that we gather at Scadden Wash for dry camping and (probably) some sort of post-collecting get together. Please RSVP Bill (see elsewhere in this Bulletin for contact info) if you are interested in going on this trip. 'Course, if you also want to wander around Quartzite and "collect" a few Choice or Prime rocks/slabs/other good stuff..... !

I hope all of you had a fun Christmas/Holiday season and are ready to get going on collecting & slabbing & grinding/polishing & creating Great Jewelry for yourself and others. I will be glad to get back at it myself, as the weather gets warmer and the Field Trips get organized. Can't Wait for it!

That's all for now, but Keep On Rockin'!

Sincerely, David Lacy, President

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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