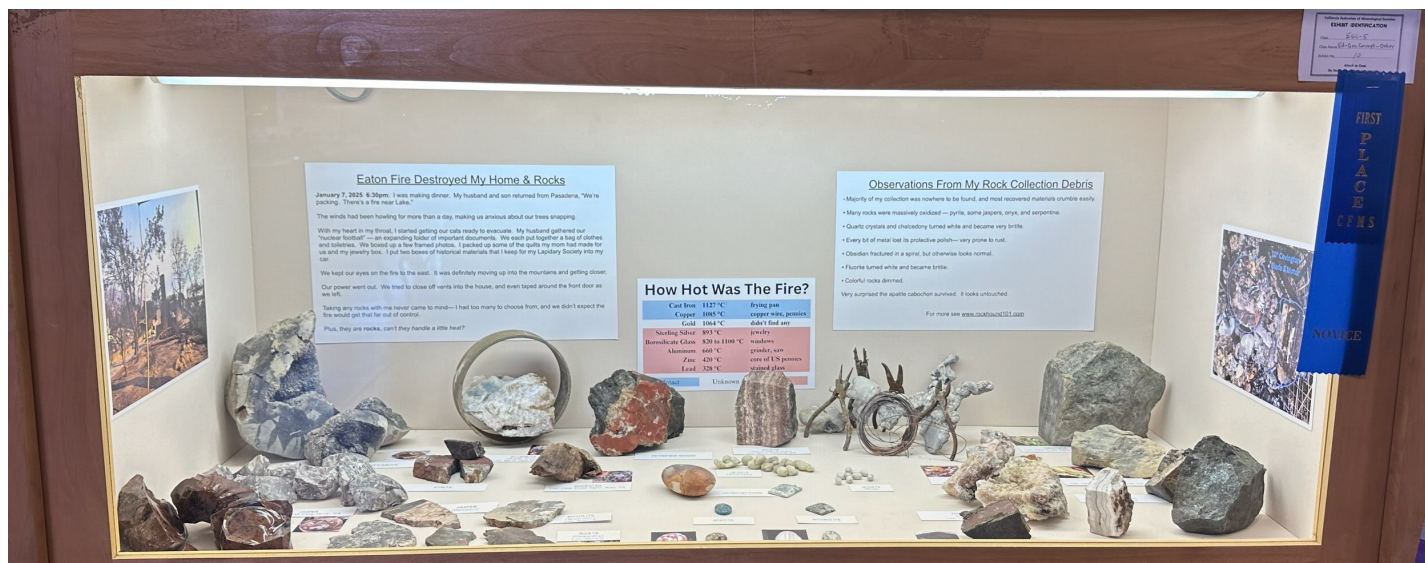




ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JUNE 2025 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: MARCIA GOETZ

Sue Dekany - Winner at CFMS



This year's CFMS Conference was held in Lancaster and hosted by the Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Society on May 10-11. Sue Dekany, PLS Secretary, says that due to Sue Pang's encouragement, she had been working toward being able to enter a competitive case. Sue advises it's a good idea to read the Competitive Display Rules on the AFMS website so you know the minimum number of display items needed in your target division and what would be considered 'out of class'. (<https://amfed.org/contests/Rules>)

After the Eaton fire, Sue's accumulated work was trashed, but she thought the remnants would make an interesting educational display. This past Mother's Day weekend she set up her Novice-Educational-General Concept-General Audience display showing her rocks that had been cooked in the fire.

The result? Double win: Best of Show in the Novice category, and President's Award. Sue is planning to show the same material at our annual show, so keep an eye out in September.

Sue's Observations From Her Rock Collection Debris

- Majority of my collection were nowhere to be found, and most recovered materials crumble easily.
- Many rocks were massively oxidized — pyrite, some jaspers, onyx, and serpentine.
- Every bit of metal lost its protective polish— very prone to rust.
- Obsidian fractured in a spiral, but otherwise looks normal.
- Quartz crystals turned white and became very brittle.
- Fluorite turned white and became brittle.
- Chalcedony turned opaque white.
- Colorful rocks dimmed.

Very surprised the apatite cabochon survived. It looks the same as before the fire.



Above: Sue Dekany with both her trophies

Photo credit Sue Pang



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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 two new rockhound(s) join our society in May 2025: Noah Epstein and Ethan Hedric

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

Contact Sue Pang if you want to order a club t-shirt or vest.

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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General Program, Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Capturing Content: A basic introduction into crystal photography.

Christian Schulze, a PLS member and owner of Hotspells Rocks & Minerals, will show us the basics of how he captures image content through video and photography. We'll cover basic studio set up, equipment, mineral prep, photography tips, and digital labeling.

Two comparison photos below (from Christian) show a good photo compared to one that can be improved on with the knowledge that Christian is planning on sharing with us.



CFMS Golden Bear

The award is presented only for recognition of outstanding services to the CFMS. This year two Pasadena Lapidary Society members were awarded the honor. Congratulations Tony and Sandie Fender!



Photo credit Sue Pang

PLS Gem Show Preparation Meeting

Show Dates: September 20-21, 2025, Arcadia Masonic Lodge

Our newer members may not have had the experience of helping to put on a gem and mineral show before. Pasadena Lapidary has held 65 since we incorporated in 1949. At the show we have educational games for kids, we sell grab bags with rocks, we have tables where we demonstrate various aspects of our hobby, hold a raffle with great prizes, have dealers who sell various products, and a kitchen to keep your energy up while volunteering.

June Show Prep meeting on Zoom scheduled for June 23, at 7 pm. Contact Sue Dekany, pls_secretary@protonmail.com for Zoom link.

The raffle at our PLS show is one of our club's biggest fundraisers each year. Its success is dependent upon the generous donations of our members and our vendors. Please consider donating a rock related item to this year's raffle...we are requesting prizes with a value of \$25 or more. If you would like to donate something, contact Curtis or Lynn Kan. Thank You.

**FIELD TRIP**

Report and photos by Bill Walls

On Saturday, May 17, our long-awaited field trip to Ludlow, CA finally arrived. Almost 20 PLS members pulled into the Dairy Queen in Ludlow at 8AM with buckets and hammers ready to go. After a short safety meeting, we were off to the first stop. All eleven vehicles pulled out of the parking lot and headed east down the I-40. We made it to the harrowing turnoff where Rex Nishimura was waiting for us to make sure we didn't miss our exit. We traveled a few miles on a dirt road and arrived at the thulite and agate spot. We all headed off to search for treasures and our first find of the day was a Panamint Range rattlesnake, with its unique markings. A large part of the group went on up the ridge to the little canyon where the agate was waiting. I watched as many buckets were filled. As we gathered at the vehicles to head back to the Dairy Queen, Chip Metz, with the help of others, removed a huge boulder of thulite. It required a chain and tow straps to get it up the hill. Next, we were off to Lavić for a quick lunch and for some jasper hunting. Once again, we started filling buckets with some of Lavić's finest treasures. I believe everyone enjoyed the trip, I enjoyed leading the caravan and seeing all the happy hunters.

**June Workshop**

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, June 14. 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. I don't have a weather forecast for workshop day yet, but 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

TidBit: Elizabeth Weston shared an article with me about 'What Creatures Make these Rare Ocean Gemstones? The article is about colorful sea urchins. While we were talking I looked up sea urchins in jewelry and sure enough, there are some very creative rings and necklaces using sea urchins. The article on sea urchins can be found at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/colorful-sea-urchin-photos>. Hmmm, I wonder if my niece would like a....

Member-to-Member

Lortone combo unit with 5-inch saw and space for two wheels. This unit runs, but you will need new grinding wheel, expanding drum, water supply, and misc. items to get it into service. Will require changing belts between smoothing and polishing steps, but is still probably the least expensive, smallest footprint cabbing solution beyond doing it all on a small flat lap. Asking \$150.

We also have Lortone inclined flat lap with 6-inch disks. The spin-on foam-covered head could be used with sanding disks for polish stages and hard lap disks can be used with the primary head. No disks included. Foam pad and water tubing need replacement. Asking \$60.

We also have a PMC kiln, a couple tumblers, 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 or others that have been advertised recently.

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





Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
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President's Message

Hi Rockhounds! Speaking of doing a job for PLS, we who joined the Field Trip on Saturday May 17th (all 15+ of us) had an interesting time finding Just The Right rock and taking it back to the cars. Should note that getting to the site for agate, up above the Thulite fields, was "Interesting" even in a car. Something about no level spots, uneven rock placement, and not much in the way of "road" to guide us. BUT the drive was really worth it, as some Gorgeous agate was found up in "them thar hills".

Old Business time:

The Gem Show emails & postcards I keep getting reminds me 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 Monday June 23 at 7pm - via Zoom. Let Sue Dekany know if you want to attend.

Next General meeting is on June 17th and, according to the Birthstone list for Rock & Gem magazine, the Birthstone of the month is/are Pearl, Moonstone, or Alexandrite. Anyone with a good looking stone is welcome to bring it and show it on the Display Table. 'Course anyone with a stone of any size between 1/16" and 1/4" might just bring a magnifying glass or loupe so those of us with close focus issues can see it! Below 1/16th inch, please bring a microscope - binocular eyepieces preferred.

As was said in my last several Messages, 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