



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

MARCH 2025 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: MARCIA GOETZ

Neptunite



Neptunite was first found in 1893 in California. The Benitoite Gem Mine on Mt. Neptune is where benitoite was found and the neptunite was found also as an associated mineral. The two minerals often grow on the same matrix and make fantastic stunning specimens.

Neptunite has been found in only a few locations besides California - Russia, Italy and Japan and all associated with the mineral natrolite and a few other minerals associated with alkaline and rich in potassium and sodium and low in aluminum. Due to its relative rarity and striking presentation, neptunite is a favorite collectable mineral.

Neptunite is a dark black to reddish-brown color crystal. It grows as an elongated or granular crystal and has a hardness of 5.5 to 6 on the Mohs hardness scale. Research says it is usually transparent to translucent.

Neptunite has a complicated chemical composition: $\text{KNa}_2\text{Li}(\text{Fe}^{2+}+\text{Mn}^{2+})_2\text{Ti}_2(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{12})_2(\text{OH})_4$. It has an interesting composition of potassium, lithium, sodium, manganese, iron, titanium, oxygen, hydroxide and silicate.

Close up of a crystal





Officers and Trustees

Officers

David Lacy, President	deeceelink@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 the following new rockhound(s) join our society in Jan and Feb 2025. Note: *Change from Junior member to adult member. Alyson Nishimura*, Benoit Ollive, Nancy Price, Raymond Price, Ling Shao, Teresa Shao, Kathryn Tyson.

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

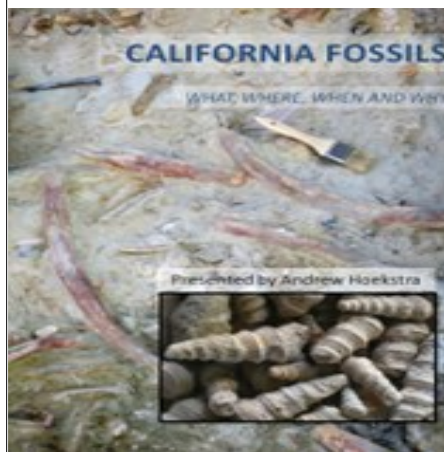
Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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.

March General Meeting Program

What fossils can be found in California, and where are they found and why? Emphasis will be on fossils you can collect and those found in Southern California (and nearby Nevada).

Andrew Hoekstra has been an officer and editor of the Delvers Gem &



Mineral Society for ten years, and has served as officer or editor for other clubs including the Southern California Paleontological Society. He has led field trips and given talks at clubs and public libraries. He volunteered at the Invertebrate Paleontology Department of the Museum of Natural History. He has been involved in Public Lands issues, representing rockhounds, including regulations regarding fossil collecting, and was

a member of the CFMS Public Lands committee.

REMEMBERING RAY RITCHIE

Ray Ritchie 1945-2024

Pasadena Lapidary Society is saddened by the passing of Ray Ritchie of Monrovia, CA on December 5, 2024. Ray was born in San Francisco, CA on January 3, 1945. He attended high school in Bangkok, Thailand while his father was employed with Pan American Airways. He was 79. Ray is survived by his wife, Jo Anna Ritchie. They were married 59 years. Ray and Jo Anna were quite active in Monrovia Rockhounds for many years. They joined PLS in 2000. Ray and Jo Anna have donated a large number of items for PLS shows throughout the years, including rocks, minerals, jewelry and stone

planes that Ray made. It has taken several years of rock sales to remove the collection of rock that was in their backyard. Ray was fond of letting you know what each of the rocks were and educating you on its location if he knew. It is likely that most of us have one or more of Ray's bracelets in our collections. Ray and Jo Anna were made Honorary Members by our club years ago. Both Ray and Jo Anna attended our show this past August. Ray will be remembered for his substantial generosity to PLS.

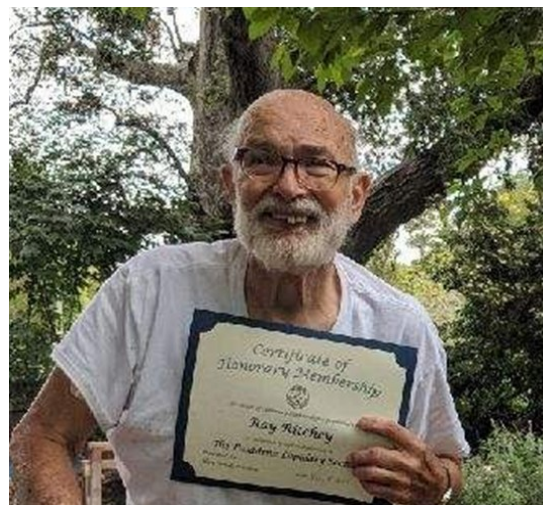


Photo is of Ray and the PLS Honorary Membership Certificate



2025 PLS Show!!

PLS Gem Show Opportunities!

This year's show will be held September 20 & 21. We will setup on Friday, the 19th. Put these dates on your calendar! We are again at the Arcadia Masonic Lodge.

- We have lots of ways for YOU to participate in bringing our Show to the public:
- Be the person who collects, and creates a display to showcase what is made at the PLS Workshop. You also clean up the case afterwards and return items to owners.
- Be the person who gathers the club awards (at the Workshop) and displays them inside the Club case at the show. You also clean up the case afterwards and return items to the Workshop case.
- Sign up to create and craft the display case memento for this show with Marcia. We're looking for 2-3 people to have fun with this.
- Be the person who will make the (reimbursed) purchase of the drinks and chips for the kitchen area ~ one week prior to the show.
- Be the person who will organize food items for the Hospitality area (for our dealers and volunteers).
- Be Phil Lahr's apprentice on the financial side. Learn his systems and help him as needed.

Please contact the show chair, Sue Dekany, at PLS_Secretary@protonmail.com to sign up or ask questions.

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

February's workshop creations:



Upper left: Cab by Benoit O.

Upper right: Sphere by Kevin K.

Lower left: Bolo ties by Daniel N taught by Ed Imlay

Lower right: Cabs by Bill Walls

March Workshop

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, March 8. 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.

Because this date is the same as the Tri-color marble field trip, attendance may be a little lighter. If you have been wanting to get some time on the saws or grinders, come take advantage of a little more elbow room.

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.

Member-to-Member

This month's featured item is a workbench size Harbor Freight 5-speed drill press. It would be much nicer for production drilling than the gem drills, has a quarter horsepower motor and the chuck can take up to half inch diameter. Probably good for core drilling too. Appears to be in very good condition. Asking \$50.



We also have a PMC kiln, a couple Foredoms, a faceting machine, and a couple older grinders 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 or 818-926-3163) 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.

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



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



President's Message

Hi Rockhounds! This will be a short message, as things around the Lacy house are stacking up and something Needs To Be/Get Done! FYI, there is a Field Trip planned for the weekend of 8-9 March, going to visit the Tri-color marble area. Of course, this is also the weekend of the Workshop, but don't let that stop you from "rolling around in the dirt" as my wife terms it. RSVP to Rex Nishimura for full details.

You might also 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 and Get Gone (but come back, especially with some hot-looking rocks!).

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 March 15th and is open to those who want to get involved.

Next General meeting is on March 18th and, according to Ferdie, the Birthstone of the month is aquamarine. Anyone with a good looking stone is welcome to bring it and show it on the Display Table. 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.

Enough Said,

Sincerely, David Lacy, President

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
PASADENALAPIDARY.ORG