



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

NOVEMBER 2024 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® EDITOR: MARCIA GOETZ

'IMPERIAL' TOPAZ



IMPERIAL TOPAZ—NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE

'Imperial' Topaz is found in several locations around the world, however, this one comes from the Ouro Preto region of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The colored crystals found in that area are the red to pink to yellow and orangish hues which are the colors that 'imperial' topaz describes and its color comes from impure elements in its structure, as opposed to being colored by a chemical in its elements. Other locations where this type of topaz can be found are in the Ural Mountains of Russia and Zambia, Africa. At one time it was to be used by emperors only.

It is thought that the name topaz came from Topazios Island, but that island doesn't seem to have any topaz on it. The island is now called Zabargad.



Terminated crystal end



Crystal shape looking down

Topaz is an $\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)(\text{F},\text{OH})_2$ (Aluminum, Silicon, Fluorine, Oxygen, Hydrogen) gemstone with elongated, vertical striations. An 8 on the hardness scale but brittle with perfect cleavage makes it an easily fractured gem. You can expect these to have eye visible inclusions and fractures.

'Imperial' topaz is considered different from the 'precious' topaz which is clear, brown and yellow. The blue topaz is heat-treated or irradiated to get those colors. Most of the Imperial Topaz from this Brazilian region are not heat treated or irradiated, but can be affected by sunlight and fade.

The photos on the side show the crystal structure. Top one shows the termination and the lower one shows the crystal structure.



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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 October 2024. Note: *JR denotes Junior member. *F denotes former member. Amber Castellanos, Jennifer Du, Carey Johnson

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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November's Program

Renee Newman presents 'The Diversity of American Gems, Western States'

Renee's PowerPoint will include gems from California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Nevada, and Idaho. However, it will focus on the most notable ones such as tourmaline, jade, benitoite, sunstone, opal, turquoise, chrysocolla, fire agate and Four Peaks amethyst, and the places where they are mined.

Members of the Pasadena Lapidary Society are fortunate to live near areas with a diversity of gems. For example, the distance from Pasadena to the Oceanview mine in San Diego County is only 105 miles. There you can dig for tourmalines, kunzites, morganites, and aquamarines, and take a jeep tour of Chief Mountain where you can see the currently active mines. Historically that area was important. From 1898 until 1911, it was the world's largest producer of tourmaline and it is still producing high quality material. Renée's presentation will also briefly discuss other mining areas in the Western states.

Renée Newman is the author of books that show readers how to visually evaluate the quality of gems. She has written multiple books on gems and jewelry. The books will be available for sale at the meeting for a discounted price. Bring cash or check. For more information about Renée and her books go to www.reneenewman.com. You can connect with her on Instagram @reneenewmang and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/renee.newman.5648/>

Highlights of the October workshop:



Ed Imlay teaching a class

Workshop library cleanup!! The dirt and dust was removed from the books, chairs and table. Thanks to Sarah and Tessa Quan and Warren Cha for volunteering their time and talent to take on this job.



Beautifully banded agate was cut.

**BLUFF COVE FIELD TRIP by Curtis Kan**

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, a mixed group of twelve older and newer PLS members met up at the Bluff Cove Trail Head for a fun morning of rockhounding. It was a beautiful, sunny October morning with little surf, so we had the entire cove (and street parking) to ourselves! Bluff Cove is known for its blue/green glaucophane, root beer agate and its abundance of colorful tumbling material. Even though we arrived with the rising tide, we were all able to find plenty of glaucophane and root beer agate and many other fun treasures. Sue P. found this special smiley face rock... amazing what nature can create! Carey J. found an incredible banded agate and I found a complete abalone shell! Before we headed back up the trail to our cars, we were able to line up all of our favorite finds on a driftwood bench for a group picture to help us remember how lucky we are to live in Southern California.

**BAXTER WASH FIELD TRIP**

The Pasadena Lapidary Society is going to Baxter Wash for Thanksgiving weekend. That's November 29-December 1, 2024. (Friday-Sunday) This location is about an hour north of Barstow. We'll be exploring the Baxter Wash area, deep into bighorn sheep and mountain lion territory, and hopefully we'll return with semi-precious gemstones. This is a rugged off road trip featuring narrow creosote lined trails and poorly marked roads. High clearance 2wd can make it to base camp, but 4wd drive, preferably high clearance, is required for collecting. There is a semi-flowing river, but we won't be collecting there, as the water is not potable. This is totally dry camping.

We might have more people this year compared to last year, and space is limited. Reserve your spot ASAP. Please email me for more information or updates.

Rex Nishimura rexch8@yahoo.com

November Workshop—Wire Wrap 102

The next workshop will be held on Saturday, November 9. 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 a half day.

Ed Imlay will present the second half of "Wire Wrap 102" at the November workshop. Using techniques presented in October, make a pendant by "wrapping" a cabochon with one or two strands of wire. If you do not have a suitable cab, wrap a coin (quarter-size or larger)

You will need a ruler and a set of jewelry pliers. Wire (#20 or #21 for the bundle, and #22 for the binding if doing a two-wire wrap) is available at the workshop. An RSVP to Ed at edimlay@hotmail.com would be appreciated.

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

PLS has a small Lortone combination unit and inclined lap from a recent donation. The combination unit has a six-inch saw, a six-inch diamond wheel and a 6 -inch by 2.5-inch drum. It might be a nice machine with the drum upgraded to an expanding drum or replaced by one or two grinding wheels. It is 25 inches wide and 20 inches deep. The lap has an inclined 6-inch diameter face and one disk. Asking \$220 for the combination unit, \$80 for the lap or \$250 for both.

Contact Phil (plkslahr@att.net) if you want more information on any of these items.

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

DUES ARE DUE

Reminder! Your membership expires in December. Please submit your 2025 membership dues to Sue Pang at the October or November General Meeting, Workshop, or send to:

Pasadena Lapidary Society
PO Box 5025
Pasadena CA 91117-0025

\$25.00 for adult member.

\$15.00 for 2nd adult member.

\$10.00 for additional adult or Junior member.



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President's Message

Hi rockhounds!

A bunch of thoughts floating in the back of my mind for this message. First, I was not at the October General Meeting, as I was in getting some Medical Stuff done, But I heard that the meeting went Very well thanks to a lot of work by my fellow PLS officers. If you see any of them at Workshop or next General Meeting, say "Thanks". I know I will!

Second, Pictures from the Palos Verdes Field Trip were sent out, but I don't know about the distribution. After looking at them, my thoughts are that the Abalone shell was Beautiful (and the first I have seen from the beach in a Long Time), the "Smiley Face" rock was/is cute, but the Banded Agate specimen reminds me of "Sam" the eagle on Sesame Street! Anyone else have an image they would like to share?

Last, the November General Meeting will feature Renee Newman speaking on "The Diversity of American Gems, Western States". If anyone has ever heard her speak before they will know she is Very knowledgeable on her subjects and writes a Good book on the same. Check out her books on gems!

And, also, voting for Rockhound of the Year will take place at the November General Meeting.

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



Sincerely, David Lacy, President

Email: info@PasadenaLapidary.org Instagram: /PasadenaLapidary
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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