

# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JULY 1, 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY



## 2010 SILENT AUCTION

It's time for the Silent Auction! Great deals and fun to be had! Bring an item to add to the auction and your favorite ice cream or cookies to share at the July Meeting!

**Clockwise From Top: (1) The "AFRICAN JEWEL", 5.77cts Madagascar Pigeon Blood Red Ruby. Marquise cut and Internally flawless. (2) The Delong Star Ruby. 100.32 carats. In 1964 the Delong Star Ruby was the object of an infamous burglary, carried out by Jack Murphy, known as Murph the Surf. Following a ransom payment of \$25,000 the Delong Star was found at a designated drop off site - a phone booth in Florida. (3) Rubies are popular for jewelry settings, such as this one in white gold. (4) Go to page 4.**

Like a perfect red rose, the Ruby's rich color speaks of love and passion. Called the "Rajnapura" or King of Gems by ancient Hindus, July's birthstone is among the most highly prized of gems

throughout history. The Ruby was considered to have magical powers, and was worn by royalty as a talisman against evil. It was thought to grow darker when peril was imminent, and to return to its original color once danger was past - provided it was in the hands of its rightful owner!

Rubies were thought to represent heat and power. Ancient tribes used the gem as bullets for blow-guns, and it was said that a pot of water would boil instantly if a Ruby was tossed into it. Ground to powder and placed on the tongue, this crystal was used as a cure for indigestion.

The word Ruby comes from the Latin "ruber," meaning red.

..... Continued on page 7

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## President's Message



It's July, the start of the "dog days of summer" is upon us. Warm to hot days for us to enjoy the coolness of air conditioners and fans.

Could this be a good time to start

thinking about helping at next year's show? Are there projects that you have not worked on in a while, you'd like to tackle? We enjoy the summer for "down time" (in the rock collecting sense), so it's a good opportunity to pick up that project you've wanted to work on and come to the Work Shop to finish it.

On a more difficult note, I have received a letter of resignation from our Secretary, Cal Matthews, due to

personal reasons. Cal will continue as secretary until I can find another secretary. Cal, from the board of directors, we thank you for your hard work. Can I get a volunteer from the club to serve as our Secretary? Call me at the number listed on this page.

*...Drew Wilson, President*

## July Meeting and General Information

### Officers

Drew Wilson, President  
(626) 298-1534

Chris Kyte, Vice President  
(626) 794-0519

Cal Matthews, Secretary  
(626) 798-7481

Mark Nelson, Treasurer  
(909) 996-1784

### Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction!

Celebrate National Ice Cream Month by bringing your favorite ice cream to share at the club's Ice Cream Social! The Social and Auction will start at 7:00 pm, so come a little early.

Members are asked to bring items for auction that are associated with the rock-hounding field (ie: stones,

slabs, tools or field trip accessories).

Bid sheets containing the name or description of the items and the opening price will be available on the tables where we will set items for view and bidding.

Silent auction items can be viewed through most of the meeting to allow members and guests to write in their name and bid amount. Other people can increase the bid by

placing a higher amount on the line below the most recent bid.

At 8:15 the bidding will close and the successful bidders will be able to pay for their items and take their treasures home!

**GOOD LUCK** and have fun!

*..... Sylvia Cliffe*

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**Newsletter Articles** or corrections should be sent to the editor: **Mark Nelson**, 1475 Paseo Maravilla, San Dimas 91773. (909) 996-1784 or to [mnelsonair@aol.com](mailto:mnelsonair@aol.com)

## Membership and Meeting Locations

**Membership** per calendar year is \$20 per individual, \$15 for a second adult member in the same house. Junior members and third or more members at the same house are \$10. Included is one copy per family of the monthly club newsletter. Renewals are due by the December General Meeting. Mail membership checks to P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena CA 91117-0025.

**Board Meetings** are held at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the One West Bank at the northeast

corner of Santa Anita and Foothill in Arcadia. All PLS members are welcome to attend.

**General Meetings** are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Sierra Madre Masonic Lodge, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre. Guests are welcome!

**Field Trips** are scheduled each month. Refer to the newsletter for weekend and location.

**Workshops** are offered to

all members - normally on the first Sunday of each month at Drew Wilson's home. Refer to the announcement in the newsletter for the hours. Location is 252 Bella Vista in Pasadena.

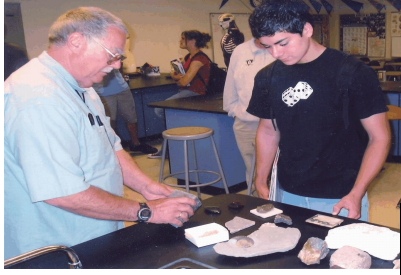
Workshops and field trips are for adult members and children with parental supervision. Eye protection and closed-toe shoes are mandatory for all participants.

**The Annual Show** is held the second weekend of March at the Masonic Hall, 3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino.



## Ed's Corner

### EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



#### Ed Imlay

If you know of a class that would like a presentation from Ed, please contact him at [edimlay@hotmail.com](mailto:edimlay@hotmail.com).

Ed Imlay at local schools

### DISPLAY TABLE

There were a lot of things to see at the May meeting. The Fenders brought glass jewelry fashioned from Mt. St. Helens volcanic ash.

Chris Kyte brought Owens Valley beryl and thulite. Vern and Sylvia brought emeralds and quartz, and Ed Imlay brought indicolite.

### The First American Gold Rush: The Forgotten Gold Rush by Jackie "Georgia Peach" Fisher, Austin Gem & Mineral Society From: *The Stone Chipper*, 6/09

When people think of the so called "Gold Rush." they usually envision miners and donkeys headed west to California or north to Alaska, but there was an earlier rush to riches in America - in Georgia in 1829. Prior to the Georgia Gold Rush of 1829 there was knowledge of gold in north Georgia. American Indians possessed gold which they said came from the mountains. There were also reports that the Spanish and French mined gold in north Georgia from 1560-1690.

A rich belt of gold was found in what was later to become Dahlonega in 1828, and the Georgia gold rush started in 1829. Dahlonega comes from the Cherokee language meaning yellow money. By 1830, 4,000 miners produced 300 ounces per day from an area on Yahoola Creek. By 1831 an estimated 15,000 miners were in Dahlonega.

An Act of Congress in 1835 established the United

States Mints in Dahlonega, Georgia and Charlotte, N.C. These mints coined only gold. The mints existed for only 24 years and ceased operation during the Civil War.

Gold from Dahlonega had a silver content of less than 5% which caused the coins to have a greenish gold hue. The fineness standard was .900 so the silver was left in the gold from Georgia. When gold from California was brought to the mint, the silver content was around 15%. so silver was removed, possibly resulting in an orange gold color. If gold content exceeded .900. copper was added to achieve .900 fineness.

By the early 1840's mining shifted to working on deposits. When miners heard of the California Gold Rush, many left. Some 500 mines in 37 counties produced gold for many more years. An estimated 870,000 troy ounces were produced between 1828 and the mid 20th century - when commercial production ended.

### JULY WORKSHOP / LAPIDARY CLASSES

July's Workshop will be on the second Sunday, July 11 at 1:30pm.

I am pleased to share that Cal Matthews will be leading this month's lapidary class. He will be teaching beading techniques. You can work on a project at the workshop and it will be yours to take home to finish and keep.

Drew Wilson / Workshop Chairman (626) 298-1534



**Navarro's Creations**  
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(626) 577-2077

Let Emily Navarro create something for you! Bring her a picture or sketch of your dream design for a free quote.



## FIELD TRIPS



Did you like the flower on the cover page? The desert was in bloom during our Memorial Day Field Trip to Owens Valley. This is only one of the many beautiful flowers that were blooming that

weekend.

There were members and guests from the Pasadena and Whittier clubs. The camping area at Glacier View was excellent, although a bit windy around sundown.

We collected spessartine garnets near Bishop, fossils near Big Pine and Lone Pine and a return to Crystal Ridge for a variety of crystal formations. A short drive into Nevada brought us to an area of opalized petrified wood and another site for obsidian. On Monday we went over Wingate Pass to another quartz crystal collecting area. Everyone had a great time!

may buy your pass there. We'll try our hand at panning until early afternoon.

Two-wheel drive cars are fine. In addition to your gold pan you may want to bring a bucket, shovel, a plastic mortar mixing tub a little larger and deeper than your gold pan, an extra gold pan, plenty of drinking water, sunscreen, a broad brimmed hat, lunch, beverages, a change of shoes and pants and a folding chair. Joe will demonstrate his favorite panning methods and it should be a fun day.

*" ..... Finding great places to collect while lost ...." Joe*

### CFMS / AFMS INFORMATION



The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Future Rockhounds of America program reaches out to children to fan whatever budding interest they may have in rocks, fossils, and lapidary arts. They do this through a merit badge program of rewarding educational achievement in rock-related fields.

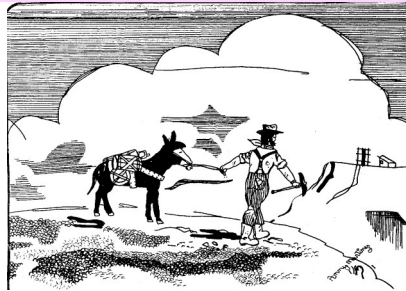
The AFMS has extended an offer to the Pasadena Lapidary Society to be a part of this program. The program consists of an FRA Membership patch, 15 badges (Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, Leadership, Earth Processes, Earth in Space, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Stone Age Tools & Art, Gold Panning & Prospecting, and Rocking on the Computer), and a "Rockhound Badge" for kids who earn 6 of the 15 badges. A guidebook with simple requirements for each of the 15 badges makes it easy for youth leaders to sign off on activities as junior members complete them.

We need members who would like to help administer this program. Please reply to the Editor if you have an interest and we can discuss the details.

### GOLD PANNING JULY 10

#### Thar's Gold In Them Thar Hills!

This month "Wrong Way Joe" and his mule, Spot, are leading a field trip to pan for gold on the East Fork of the San



Gabriel River. On Saturday the 10th we'll meet between 8 and 9 AM along the river across from The Oaks picnic area (where the club panned two years ago). The Oaks is just east of Camp Williams where you should be able to buy the Forest Service Adventure (parking) pass. If the USFS Information Station at the mouth of San Gabriel Canyon is open you

**MOON TRIVIA** - July 20th is National Moon Day, in celebration of the first lunar landing by Armstrong and Aldrin on this day in 1969. Where were you on this day? If you are planning to collect this month's birthstone - the Ruby - by the full moon do so on July 26th. See page 8 for calendar.



## ROCK & MINERAL TERMINOLOGY - PART FIVE

desert pavement - A closely packed layer of rock fragments concentrated in a layer along the Earth's surface by the *deflation* of finer particles.

desert varnish - A thin, shiny red-brown or black layer, principally composed of iron manganese oxides, that coats the surfaces of many exposed desert rocks.

dichroic / dichroism - Literally means "two colors". A mineral that exhibits one color when viewed from one angle but a different color when viewed from a different angle is said to display dichroism.

dodecahedron - Twelve sided polyhedron; all sides are equidimensional and either rhombic or pentagonal. If the dodecahedron is composed of rhombs, it is known as a rhombic dodecahedron, or simply as a dodecahedron. If it is composed of pentagons, it is known as a pentagonal dodecahedron or pyritohedron. Minerals shaped as dodecahedrons belong to the isometric system. Minerals with this property are described as dodecahedral.

doubly terminated - Exhibiting a pinched crystal figure on both bases.

druse - Cavity in a mineral or rock filled with protruding crystals. The hole is either completely filled with crystals or just partially.

drusy - Aggregate composed of prismatic crystals protruding from a cavity or wall.

extrusive rock - An *igneous* rock formed from *lava* that has flowed out onto the Earth's surface, characterized by rapid solidification and grains that are so small as to be barely visible to the naked eye.

facet - A desired surface displayed in a gem. It

may grow naturally but is usually hand cut. This definition includes the meaning of a specific cuts for gems.

faceting - Cutting from a rough stone into a gem, creating a facet

### LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS:

July 2-4--PASADENA, CALIFORNIA: Show; International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc.; Pasadena Convention Center, 300 E. Green St.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$8; open to the public Web site: [www.InterGem.com](http://www.InterGem.com)

July 10-11--CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA: 49th annual show, "Fiesta of Gems"; Culver City Rock & Mineral Club; Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 27 vendors, rough and polished rocks, minerals, jewelry, beads, demonstrations (glass lampwork bead making, faceting, precious metal clay), half-day classes, kids' games, books, magazines, hourly drawings, grand prize raffle; contact Robert Thirlaway, 28602 Mt. Whitney Way, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275, (310) 213-7677; e-mail: [thirlawr@earthlink.net](mailto:thirlawr@earthlink.net); Web site: <http://culvercityrocks.org>

July 17-18--SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Bead Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; weekend pass \$5; Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)



By Ernston Barnhart...Rock Buster News 2/00  
via Golden Spike News 3/00



## Jewelry Pliers and Wire Wrapping Supplies: Basic Tools You Need...And Don't Need

By Chris Telden

Are you finding interesting rocks, crystals and fossils on field trips or rock and gem shows? Consider wire wrapping techniques to show off your find. Wire wrapping, a versatile technique used in many jewelry projects, is one of the easiest jewelry making skills you can learn. Since you need not deal with soldering, glues, ovens, fire or epoxies, you'll find you need only a minimum of work space and can make wire wrapped jewelry anywhere - even at home. And because the technique uses an absolute minimum of equipment and tools, buying professional quality jewelry pliers and other wire wrapping supplies won't break your pocketbook.

Best of all, you needn't pay for expensive formal training. You can teach yourself or take an affordable class through a shop such as Farrin O'Connor Design (see ad on this page).

### Basic Wire Wrapping Tools

You will be told by "reputable" sources that you need ten, twenty, even thirty special tools and pieces of equipment to wire wrap jewelry. Not true. I myself started small and built up my collection of tools and supplies as I needed them. Here is my advice for what you should get if you want to give wire wrapping a fair try, but don't want to spend thousands of dollars on fully equipping your shop. Then, after you've had some experience, you can buy the tools you know you'll need.

### Jewelry Pliers

Jeweler's pliers are the most important tools you can own if you do wire-wrapping. The prices for the jewelry pliers you'll need to wire wrap range from about \$7 to about \$80 per tool.

### Round-Nose Pliers for Jewellery Making

Round-nose Pliers: Round nose pliers are used for making loops and wrapping wire. The cheap round nose pliers are worlds different from the quality, more expensive brand. I used a cheap pair of round-nose pliers for about a month before I had to give it up or give up jewelry making. Not only are they the

wrong size, mar the wire like nobody's business, and get easily misaligned, but they don't last very long.

This is one tool you should not go cheap on. Get the best--I'm personally a fan of the Lindstrom brand for all my jewelry making pliers, but you may find other brands work as well. Lindstrom is the only brand of quality that I've tried.

### Flat-nose Pliers for Jewelers

Flat-nose Pliers or Chain-nose Pliers: These pliers are used for bending and manipulating wire, crimping beads, and holding wire in place while



**FARRIN O'CONNOR  
DESIGN**

146 W. Bellevue Drive, Pasadena

This is another "hidden gem" for those interested in lapidary and jewelry work. A fully-stocked store with books, tools, beads and findings awaits you. Learn how to make jewelry from nothing-to-finish in their one-day classes. See upcoming classes and instructors at [www.farrinoconnordesign.com/classes](http://www.farrinoconnordesign.com/classes) Or call them at (626) 796-5300. Free parking in a fenced lot.

making scrolls, hooks or loops. My big secret is that I use only a flat-nose pliers. I've never owned a chain-nose pliers for jewelry making.

When I was shopping for flat-nose pliers, I could not find a Lindstrom or quality one, so I bought a cheap \$7 one--and I have to admit it did the job perfectly. What I wanted it to do was hold the wire without marring it too much, and smush crimp beads, and its shape was sufficient to do this. I never found it necessary to get an expensive (\$50-\$80) pair, though I have needed to replace it a couple of times. .... Enjoy the hobby!



... **Ruby Continued** ... It is a variety of the mineral Corundum, and is found as crystals within metamorphic rock. Corundum is the second hardest mineral, after Diamond. It comes in a variety of colors, and is considered a Sapphire in any color except red, which is designated as a Ruby. Rubies range in hue from an orange red to a purplish red, but the most prized gems are a true red in color. Large sized Rubies are very rare and valuable.

The history of Ruby mining dates back more than 2,500 years ago. The most beautiful crystals are thought to be from Burma, but quality Rubies are also found in India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Kenya, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States.

A ruby's red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. Prices of rubies are primarily determined by color. The brightest and most valuable "red" called Pigeon Blood Red, commands a huge premium over other rubies of similar quality. Next to color follows clarity. All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as "silk".



Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, simulants, or substitutes. Usually the rough stone (shown at right) is heated before cutting. Almost all rubies today are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. However, rubies that are completely untreated but still of excellent quality command a large premium.



Some rubies show a 3-point or 6-point asterism or "star". These rubies are cut into cabochons to display the effect properly. Asterisms are best visible with a single-light source, and move across the stone as the light moves or the stone is rotated. Such effects occur when light is reflected off the "silk" (the structurally oriented

rutile needle inclusions) in a certain way. This is one example where inclusions increase the value of a gemstone. Furthermore, rubies can show color changes — though this occurs very rarely — as well as chatoyancy or the "cat's eye" effect.

*The glowing ruby shall adorn  
Those who in warm July are born  
They will be exempt and free  
From love doubt and anxiety.*

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### The Ruby In Ancient Texts

The Bible refers to the ruby as adorning the Breastplate of Aaron as well as being a crystal mentioned by the Prophet Isaiah in his book of prophecy.

Mentioned in Sanskrit texts, the ancient Hindus were so enchanted by the color of Rubies that they called them Ratnaraj "the king of gems".

Ancient Ceylonese legends (modern day Sri Lanka) relate the story of the destruction of their demonic King Ravana. They believed that after his demise, his blood set into Rubies resulting in their intense red color.

In the 13th century, the renowned explorer Marco Polo wrote that Kublai Kahn, the Mongol Emperor of China, once offered an entire city for a Ruby the size of a man's finger.

**July  
2010**



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 REQUESTED**



The Pasadena Lapidary Society is affiliated with the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies.

# JULY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			July Is National Ice Cream Month 	1	2	3 Start of Dog Days Of Summer 
4 	5 HOLIDAY 	6	7 7:00 PM Board Meeting 	8 Liberty Bell Cracks. 1835 	9	10 FIELD TRIP 
11 1:30 PM Work Shop 	12	13	14	15	16 Apollo 11 takes off for the Moon 	17
18	19	20 First lunar landing 	21 7:00 PM AUCTION and ICE CREAM SOCIAL	22	23	24
25	26 Full Moon 	27	28	29	30	31