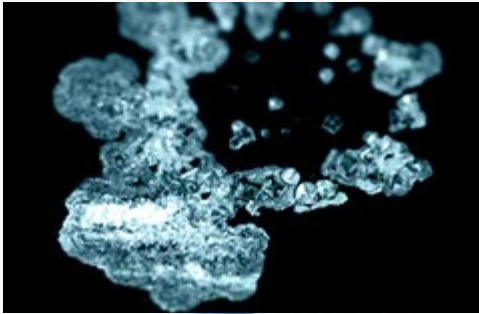


# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

MARCH 1, 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY



**The March Birthstone is Aquamarine**, (from Lat. *aqua marina*, "water of the sea") is a clear blue or turquoise variety of beryl a blue semi-precious stone that has been called a blessing to sailors, travelers and to marriage. Ancient legends claim that aquamarine, a form of beryl, was found in a mermaid's treasure trove and was blessed by the god of the sea. It was treasured by sailors and travelers for its supposed ability to protect them on long voyages. The stone was said to gain its power from being immersed in bright, sunlit water. The aquamarine is also linked with youthfulness, purity, hope and harmony.

With a long history of legend and myth that link it to the sea, the semi-precious stone aquamarine has been worn by royalty as far back as Ancient Egypt and earned a place in the legends of Greece and Rome.



Today, it is the official gemstone for birthdays in March. It is a favorite of newlyweds & designers and is almost as popular in fashion jewelry and engagement rings as the classic ruby, emerald and sapphire.

Continued on page 6 ...

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- ◆ Rock and Gem shows
- ◆ News concerning the hobby

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## President's Message



Your Club Board needs volunteers to help with club function positions. As president, I'm asking for your help for the upcoming of "COLOR

OF GEMS" show. Our experienced Show Co-Chairs will show you what needs to be done to make this year's show an exceptional experience for our members and visitors. We have an exciting show to look forward to, and with your help, and your laughter and smiles we can have a great time and you will find

yourself enjoying being a happy member of a wonderful lapidary society.

..... *Drew Wilson*

**P.S. Note the time change for the March Workshop on Page 3.**

## Club News

**FAIR USE NOTICE.** This publication may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

We are making such material available in our efforts to advance the educational understanding of the amateur jewelry fabrication and rock collecting and hobbies and the environment in which such specimens are found.

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**Newsletter Articles** or corrections should be sent to the editor: **Mark Nelson**, 1475 Paseo Maravilla, San Dimas 91773. (909) 592-1322 or to [mnelsonair@aol.com](mailto:mnelsonair@aol.com)

### New Newsletter Features

**Terminology:** Starting with this issue, PLS readers will be seeing the first of a series on lapidary-related terms, definitions and photos.

**Shows:** The newsletter will feature shows for that month which are within an hour's drive from Pasadena. If you are travelling, check out other show dates and locations at [www.rockngem.com/showdates](http://www.rockngem.com/showdates)

**Field Trips:** In order to provide our members with the opportunity to attend day trips we will be seeking interesting opportunities from the CFMS and other local clubs.

**Bulletin Sponsors:** Beginning with the April issue of Rockhound Ramblings we will be carrying paid sponsorship information from businesses who have unique goods and services to offer our readers. You are encouraged to mention the newsletter when you

patronize their business. Let the editor know of a business that you would like to see included in the newsletter.

**Member Want Ads:** Members who are looking for a special item or are interested in selling rocks or equipment may have the opportunity to place an ad in the bulletin. If you are interested please contact the editor - see box in left corner of this page.

## Membership and Meeting Locations

**Membership** is \$17 per calendar year and includes one copy per family of the monthly club newsletter. Renewals are due by the December General Meeting. Mail membership checks to the address on page 8.

**Board Meetings** are held at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the former IndyMac Bank on 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 Center, 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. Refer to the

announcement in the newsletter for the hours. Location is 252 Bella Vista in Pasadena.

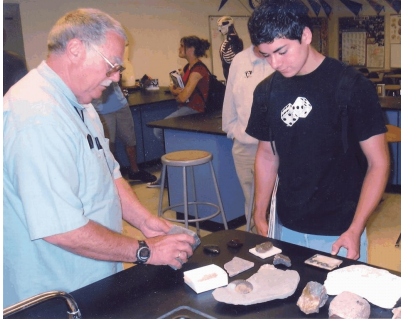
Workshops and field trips are for adult members and children with parental supervision. Eye protection and closed-toe shoes are mandatory for all participants.

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



## Ed's Corner

### EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



Ed Imlay at local schools

**Ed Imlay** has a very effective "beginners rock collecting" presentation for grade school classes and is available with as little as 30 days notice.

If you know of a class that would like a presentation from Ed, please contact him.

### DISPLAY TABLE

Each month at the general meeting there is a MEMBER'S DISPLAY TABLE. For the March meeting, please display any items of general interest, especially: workshop projects, material from locations of recent or upcoming field trips, and the birthstone of the month - Aquamarine. This is also an opportunity to bring an unknown rock, fossil or mineral for identification by other members. Bring a little sign asking for help identifying it and bring lighting and a cord if you can. - *Ed Imlay.*

## The ANNUAL SHOW IS COMING - by Joe & Marcia Goetz



### 2010 "Color of Gems" Club Show



Wow!, the "Color of Gems" show is almost here. I hope you have let Drew Wilson know if you are going to put a display to show off what you have made, collected or silver picked (purchased).

Ed Imlay is recruiting people to demonstrate their specialties. Sylvia Cliffe is collecting prizes for the raffle - she is looking for prizes the club will be proud to raffle.

Carolyn Duncan is asking for help at the host/hostess table where we greet our guests and also have the grab bags for sell.

We have 150 grab bags sewn and Jan Goodwin is going to sew 150 more.

Chris Kyte is "cooking up" a kitchen menu that will make us hungry. Kevin Birnbaum is going to be in charge of the sand scoop again this year and it attracts many children (we all know we can't help but run our fingers through the sand to see what's in there). It is looking like a great show!!

There are always things to do on Friday to help with the setup, jobs that arise during the show and, of course, on Sunday for the teardown. Please don't shy away, the more the merrier.

..... **Joe and Marcia Goetz**

## MARCH WORKSHOP

This month is an important month because we are getting close to our annual show! Members, you are invited to attend the workshop to finish your prizes for the raffle or work with your own projects. Remember, we have lots of room in the workshop -- 15 or more can work easily together and get projects done. Please note the **Time change on the workshop.** The March workshop will be on March 07, 2010 starting at [1:30pm to 5:00pm]

Drew Wilson – Workshop Chairperson

## Field Trips



### LAVIC SIDING

March 21st and 22nd, 2010

Wouldn't it be nice to go to a place where you could camp and collect in the same spot? Well that place is

Lavic siding - off the I-40.

After a good night's sleep you step out of your tent or RV with a cup of coffee in hand and you wonder where you'll go to do some collecting. It's then that you realize all you really need to do is bend over and pick-up the very stone you're there to collect!

That's right - the stone is jasper, it comes in green, red, orange, various shades of brown, yellow. Some are mixes of these colors and others have agate "windows" with flecks of color in them.



Polished Jasper

You'll have this chance on this fieldtrip! Now you may think you're limited to this one area - well this isn't true at all! If you go up the road which you had driven down the day before and check the

washes that run north to south, you'll probably find even larger pieces of jasper.

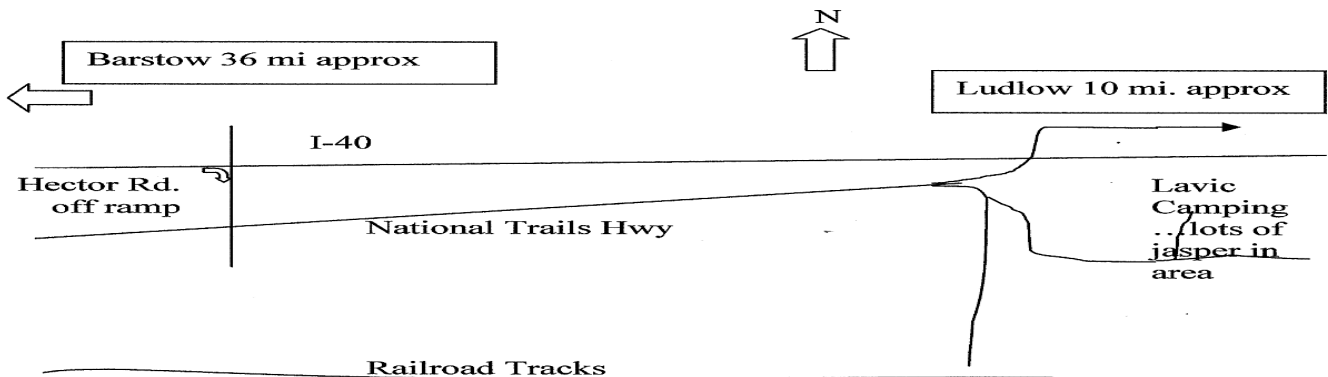
Across the freeway are the Cady mountains, a treasure trove of stones and minerals to collect. Minerals such as, psilomelane, gypsum and copper to name a few.

Agates of plume, moss, banded and fortification, as well as jaspers of all colors possible, similar to what is found in camp. You could quite literally spend a week or two exploring and still not find everything that is out there.

This is a good trip for both the first-timer or the veteran rockhound; there is lots of stuff to collect. It's only 2-1/2 hours from Pasadena, so come for the day!

Typically we will be leaving camp (FRS radio channel 14-0) to the collecting sites around 8:00AM. On Saturday evening we will have a potluck dinner at 4:30PM. Hope to see you there!

..... Somewhere in California going the wrong way ..... *Joe Goetz*



**MOON TRIVIA** - If your are collecting Jasper or Aquamarine by the light of the full moon, the full moon for this month, March, will be at 2:25am on the 30th. In our country this moon is variously known as the Sap Moon, Crow Moon and Lenten Moon.

A mineral collector walks into a bar with a pail of crushed limestone .... and says "I'll have a beer, please, and one for the road"!



## ROCK & MINERAL TERMINOLOGY - PART ONE

**Abrasion** A form of mechanical weathering that occurs when loose fragments or particles of rocks and minerals that are being transported, as by water or air, collide with each other or scrape the surfaces of stationary rocks.

**Alluvial fan** A triangular deposit of sediment left by a stream that has lost velocity upon entering a broad, relatively flat valley.



**Alluvium** (alluvial) Eroded material that gets carried downstream by the current of the stream or river. Alluvial deposits are areas in streams or rivers where alluvium does not continue flowing downstream, thus forming a deposit.

**Alpine cavity** a synonym of **Vug**, a cavity in rock that is lined with long, slender crystals. A vug forms when air pockets form in cooling magma and allow crystals to form in the hollow area.



**Amber** Fossilized pine resin, many times used for ornamental purposes.



**Amygdule** A small, bubble-like mass formed from volcanic igneous rock that solidified and a bubble of gas got trapped in the interior.



**Amorphous** Without a crystalline shape.

**Andesite** The dark, aphanitic, extrusive rock that has a silica content of about 60% and is

the second most abundant volcanic rock on the planet. Andesites are found in large quantities in the Andes Mountains, hence the name.

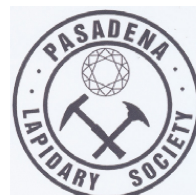


## LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS:

**6-7--ARCADIA**, Monrovia Rockhounds; LA County Arboretum, 301 S Baldwin Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; adults \$7, students and seniors \$5, children \$2.50; more than 15 vendors, rocks, gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, wire wrapping, findings, beads, grab bags, Treasure Wheel, Fossil Find. Web site: [www.moroks.com](http://www.moroks.com)

**6-7--VENTURA**, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society; Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, displays, gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary art, demonstrations of lapidary arts and jewelry making, door prizes, silent auctions, "Country Store", children's activities Web site: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**13-14--SAN MARINO**, Indoors Show, "Colors of Gems"; Pasadena Lapidary Society; San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; raffle, sand scoop, demonstrators, vendors, jewelry, gems, rough material, beads, findings, mineral specimens, collectibles; contact Marcia Goetz, (626) 914-5030; e-mail: [joenmar1 @ verizon.net](mailto:joenmar1@verizon.net)



**18-21--SAN BERNARDINO**, Tailgate show; Orange Belt Mineralogical Society; Western Regional Little League Ball Park, 6707 Little League Dr.; Thu. 2-8, Fri. 8-8, Sat. 8-8, Sun. 9-7; free admission; silent auction, bulk rough, raffle, dealers, lapidary-related items, jewelry. Web site: [www.meetup.com/Jewelry-Making-for-Fun-and-Profit](http://www.meetup.com/Jewelry-Making-for-Fun-and-Profit)

**27-28 TORRANCE**, South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Torrance Recreational Center - 3341 Torrance Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4 Website: [palos-verdes.com/sblap](http://palos-verdes.com/sblap)



## Aquamarine, continued

Like most gemstones, aquamarine has been attributed with a long list of healing and magical powers. Aquamarines are said to: give strength and courage; bless sea voyages; help marriages to flourish; bring wealth and happiness; protect from the devil; heal land; strengthen the aura; restore youthfulness; heal eyesight, breathing problems, seasickness and hiccups; promote trust, peace, sympathy and kindness. The aquamarine is used in meditation to awaken the pineal gland and activate higher consciousness and balance.



The Ancient Egyptians wore aquamarines to protect their vital energy, carving the stones into the form of animals. The Romans used the gemstone as a cure for laziness, evil, and a handful of physical ailments, including vision: Emperor Nero is said to have used aquamarines as a vision aid, long before the invention of eyeglasses.

Aquamarines are clear, with few inclusions, and occur in a variety of shades and hues from clear pastel blue to a deep blue-green or dark blue like the clouded sea. Darker aquamarines are sought after and are usually the most costly. The gemstone has always been popular with monarchs and the wealthy, but North America didn't take notice of the aquamarine until an exquisite heart-shaped stone was presented to Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Teddy Roosevelt's daughter, at her wedding in 1906.



The aquamarine is a popular choice in modern jewelry and a favorite of designers for its hardness, clarity, and delicate color. The aquamarine makes a stunning choice in settings with

diamonds and other light stones. It is equally striking when set against black pearls, onyx, or other dark gemstones.

The symbolism and history of the aquamarine makes it a perfect choice for an alternative engagement ring. Its color flatters most skin tones so it is often worn in large pendants and earrings. In addition to being the birth stone for March, aquamarine is the traditional gemstone for 19th wedding anniversaries.

Aquamarine was originally mined in Madagascar, but today sources of aquamarine are found in the United States, Nigeria, Angola, Zambia, China, and elsewhere in the world. Most of the finest aquamarines in jewelry come from Brazil. It occurs at most localities which yield ordinary beryl, some of the finest coming from Russia. The gem-gravel placer deposits of Sri Lanka contain aquamarine. Clear yellow beryl, such as occurs in Brazil, is sometimes called aquamarine chrysolite. When corundum presents the bluish tint of typical aquamarine, it is often termed Oriental aquamarine. The deep blue version of aquamarine is called *maxixe*. Its color fades to white when exposed to sunlight or is subjected to heat treatment, though the color returns with irradiation.

The pale blue color of aquamarine is attributed to  $Fe^{2+}$ . The  $Fe^{3+}$  ions produce golden-yellow color, and when both  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$  are present, the color is a darker blue as in *maxixe*. Decoloration of *maxixe* by light or heat may be due to the charge transfer  $Fe^{3+}$  and  $Fe^{2+}$ . Dark-blue *maxixe* color can be produced in green, pink or yellow beryl by irradiating it with high-energy particles (gamma rays, neutrons or even X-rays).



In the United States, aquamarines can be found



**Continued from page 6 .....**

at the summit of Mt. Antero in the Sawatch Range in central Colorado. In Wyoming, aquamarine has been discovered in the Big Horn mountains, near Powder River Pass. In Brazil, there are mines in the states of Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo and Bahia. The Mines of Colombia, Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania and Kenya also produce aquamarine.

The biggest aquamarine ever mined was found at the city of Marambaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, in 1910. It weighed over 110 kg, and its dimensions were 48.5 cm long and 42 cm in diameter.



**Ancient March Birthstone Poem - "The Aquamarine"**

*"By her who in this month was born ...*

*... No gems save Aquamarines shall be worn"*

*"They will ensure her constancy,*

*True friendship and fidelity."*



ROUGH SERPENTINE

**CALIFORNIA STATE ROCK**

California has a greater number of minerals and a wider variety of rock types than does any other state. **Serpentine**, a shiny, green and blue rock found throughout California, was named the official State Rock in 1965. It contains the state's principal deposits of chromite, magnesite, and cinnabar. California was the first state to designate a State Rock.

**Aquamarine In Ancient Texts**

Aquamarine, say many ancient texts, was the stone used in the foundation of their sacred cities. The Bible mentions it as the foundation stone of the City of Heaven and why shouldn't it have been? The sea blue shimmer of the pale stone is as reminiscent of the sky as it is of the ocean. Why shouldn't they believe that the sky is the aquamarine footing of Heaven itself? From the foot of heaven to the depths of the sea, the aquamarine is treasured - and quite literally. Pieces of aquamarine were counted among the treasures of Roman Emperor Titus. The High Priest of the second temple of the Israelites was said to have worn two aquamarines, one on each shoulder, each engraved with the names of six of the tribes of Israel. From *Exodus 28:20* A.V. we read: "And in the fourth row a beryl (aquamarine), and an onyx, and a jasper; they shall be set in gold in their enclosings."

**What do you call a fish fossil with no eyes ???**

..... A fish fossl 🙄

Some of the rockhound humor in this publication is copywrited and used courtesy of Larry Rush:  
larryrush@worldnet.att.net



# March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>Board Mtg 7:30pm</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>Work Shop</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13 <i>PLS Annual Show</i>
14 <i>PLS Annual Show</i>	15	16	17 <i>Meeting &amp; Program 7:30pm</i>	18	19	20 <i>Lavic Siding Field Trip 8am</i>
21 <i>Lavic Siding Field</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**March  
2010**

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 P.O. Box 5025  
 Pasadena, CA 91117-0025

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