

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY, INC.



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See details on page 6

DIAMONDS

From the ancient Greek
ααδδάμμας or adámas...
"unbreakable".



More than just carbon.
See the Program on
page 2

Sapphire is the birthstone for September. Shown here, the Bismarck Sapphire gets its name from Countess Mona von Bismarck who owned the 98.6-carat deep blue Sri Lankan sapphire since the time she purchased it, perhaps during her visit to Sri Lanka in 1926, which was one of the stopovers of her worldwide honeymoon cruise with her millionaire husband Harrison Williams.

The Bismarck Sapphire is a 98.6-carat cushion-cut sapphire with a combination of desirable characteristics such as the deep cornflower blue color, well proportioned-cut, good transparency, and perfect clarity. Because the cut is said to be perfect and well proportioned it is believed that the sapphire had been re-cut at Cartier's in the United States or in Europe after it was purchased as a cut and polished stone in Sri Lanka, which has a cutting tradition as old as its ancient mining industry.

Sri Lanka always sold its gemstones as cut and polished stones even in ancient times, and never sold any gemstones in the rough. But, one of the disadvantages of this ancient cutting industry was that the cutters always tried to maximize for quantity at the expense of quality. In 1967 Countess Mona von Bismarck gifted the invaluable necklace to the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution - who provided this photo.

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President's Message



The last month or two we have had such beautiful weather. As we start towards the end of summer, I would like to start thinking again about Pasadena Lapidary Society, and the crucial business we have at hand.

As the president of our group, I make a plea to you - our valuable members. The club needs people to step up and help fill the club's open positions.

We, as a non-profit corporation, must legally have a "Secretary".

We also need a person to do the occasional job of "Publicity".

For the club to run smoothly we need a "Membership" chairperson.

Finally, to make our meetings as enjoyable as possible we need a couple of folks for "Hospitality".

Don't worry, someone will work with you on each of these positions. See page 6 for what is involved.

This is your club so please, each of you, help us keep these key responsibilities filled.

Thank you
...Drew Wilson, President

August 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

Door Prizes

Did you need *another* reason to attend the September club meeting? Sylvia and Vern Cliffe have prepared **GREAT** drawing prizes. For the Main Prize you have your choice of either black Montana Plume Agate or Jade with iron crystals. The other prizes will be Australian Chrysoprase, Flame agate with angelwing, Stringer moss agate from Friday

Ranch, Montana moss agate, Moss/plume agate from Graveyard Point Oregon, Opalized wood from Gabbs Nevada and Oregon Picture Stone.



Diamonds - beyond the stunning Hope Diamond (on left) or being "a girl's best friend", what do you really know about the

glittering stone? How common is it? Where are most found? Are they found in the U.S.? What qualities make diamonds desirable? What else are they used for?

Bring your questions to the meeting. The program for September will be a **fascinating** presentation on Diamonds given by Dave Svenson.

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

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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

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 for a nominal fee - normally on the first Sunday of each month at Drew Wilson's home. Refer to the newsletter for hours and the calendar for date. Location is 252 Bella Vista in Pasadena.

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

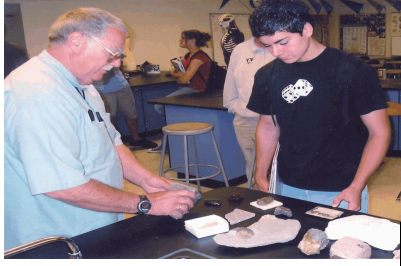
The Annual Show is held the second weekend of March at the Masonic Hall, 3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino.



Ed's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

by Ed Imlay



A visit to Carver School in San Marino is scheduled for January 2011.

If you know of a class that would like a presentation from Ed, please contact him at edimlay@hotmail.com.

Ed Imlay at local schools

DISPLAY TABLE

For the September 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: Sapphire.

At the September meeting members and guests are invited to display any items of general interest. If you have a rock that you can't identify, bring it and members will tell you all about it!

ANGELS WANTED

By Mark Nelson

How do you want to be remembered in life? How about after life? Consider taking steps now to make an impact that will be felt for generations to come!

Many of us who subscribe to the "LA Rocks" yahoo group recently saw the 16" Huntington rock saw for sale for only \$500. Wouldn't that be a nice addition to the club's workshop? Unfortunately, except for donated equipment, the club is not in a financial position to take advantage of such bargains. Our dues, door prize drawings, workshop fee and annual show just cover the expenses of the newsletter, workshop maintenance and meeting hall.

To truly accomplish our mission, to provide educational and personal enriching experience opportunities to our members and the general public, depends on funding. - plain and simple.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have an income-generating non-profit foundation with assets that would enable the club to accomplish its mission aggressively? One great way to do this is through estate planning. A simple codicil (modification) to a will expressing the writer's instruction that \$5,000 or more be donated from the writer's estate would work wonders with our mission.

In next month's bulletin we will publish a sample one page codicil for our members to use to become an "Angel".

There will be no PLS field trip in September due to the illness of trip leader Joe Goetz. The Searchers club is sponsoring an interesting field trip to the Calico area Sept. 25 & 26. Members may receive trip details at the general meeting or by contacting Joe Goetz at joenmar@verizon.net or 626-914-5030.

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP TO FEATURE SPECIAL CLASS!

Our monthly workshop will on September 5th from 1:30 pm until 5:30 pm (no early birds, please).

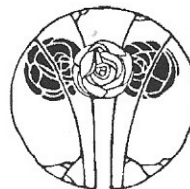
SPECIAL CLASS: This month Corrine Imlay, will demonstrate **crochet beading**. Members requested her to do this class because of the beautiful results of crocheting achieved in just one afternoon. Instruction begins at 2:00pm. Materials: Crochet Hook - size D / 3 (3.25mm), craft wire (soft) - #26 or #28, beads or pearls - 2mm to 4mm, wire Cutters.

This would be a good time to visit San Gabriel Bead Company. Take this bulletin into their store and ask their advice for beads suitable for crocheting. See their ad below.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU I wish to thank all those that help set-up the workshop and those that helped with the breakdown. We had quite a group of members at the August workshop. I know we all appreciate Chris Kyte who brought fruit and ice cream.

..... Drew Wilson / Workshop Chairman
(626) 298-1534 or todrew@sbcglobal.net

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The Sapphire

By Mark Nelson

As shown in the 423 carat Logan Sapphire (right), the striking deep blue of a quality sapphire is reminiscent of a cloudless night sky. Ancient civilizations believed that the world was set upon an enormous sapphire, which painted the sky blue with its reflection. This legend, as well as the belief that the ten commandments were inscribed upon tablets made of sapphire, gives September's birthstone a royal place among gemstones.




Named after the Greek word "sapphirus", meaning blue, Sapphires have long been a favorite among priests and kings, who considered them symbolic of wisdom and purity. These gemstones are prominent among the British Crown Jewels, and Prince Charles chose this as the engagement stone for his fiancée, Princess Diana.



In ancient times, Sapphires were thought to be protective against envy, and even against poisoning. A common belief was that a venomous snake placed in a Sapphire vessel would rapidly die! Ground to a powder, the blue stone was believed to cure colic, rheumatism and mental illness, and to strengthen eyesight.



 **MOON TRIVIA** - September 23rd is the month's full moon. The name of **Full Corn Moon** is attributed to Native Americans because it marked when corn was supposed to be harvested. Most often the September full moon is actually the **Harvest Moon**.

The Star Of India

The *Star of India*, at 563 carats, is the largest and most famous star sapphire in the world. Formed some 2 billion years ago it was discovered, allegedly, more than 300 years ago in Sri Lanka where excellent sapphires are still to be found in deposits of sand and gravel left by ancient rivers.

The presence of the mineral *rutile* in the *Star of India* gives the stone its milky quality. This also yields the star effect, as tiny fibers of the mineral, aligned in a three-fold pattern within the gem, reflect incoming light in the star pattern. This effect is known as *asterism* and, along with color, is one of the characteristics that makes star sapphires so highly prized. Such stones are

Sapphire In Ancient Texts

Greek texts tell us that Prometheus was the first to wear a sapphire crystal; he rivaled with Zeus and stole the crystal away from Cacus.

The ancients of Persia believed that sapphires were small bits of the foundation of the earth, while the sky was a reflection of its amazing colors.

Jewish ancients believed Sapphires are a crystal of fire and Moses placed it in the breastplate of Aaron. It is also one of the twelve crystals mentioned within the walls surrounding the New Jerusalem.



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Wendy Ansel

A Pasadena Lapidary Society Member



Continued from page 4

polished in the domed shape you can see here, called a cabochon, to best reveal the star, which moves with changing angles of illumination and observation.



Philanthropy And Theft

In 1900 the famous industrialist and financier J. P. Morgan, a founding patron of the American Museum of Natural History on Central Park West in Manhattan, presented the *Star Of India* sapphire to the Museum.

On October 29, 1964, the famous golf-ball-sized stone was stolen, along with several other stones, including the *Eagle Diamond* and the *de Long Ruby*. The thieves unlocked a bathroom window during museum open hours, climbed in that night, and found that the sapphire was the only gem in the collection protected by an alarm — and that the battery for the alarm was dead. So they raked up the stones and fled the same way they came in. The stones were valued at more than \$400,000. Within two days, the notorious cat burglar, smuggler and one-time surfing champion - Jack Murphy (also known as "Murph the Surf"), was arrested along with two accomplices. They later received three-year prison sentences. Some months later, the uninsured *Star of India* was recovered in a locker in a Miami bus station. While most of the other gems were also found, the Eagle Diamond was never seen again.

Today, the *Star of India* is one of the most renowned objects in all of the Museum's collections.

What An Interesting Gem - The Sapphire

The sapphire is one of the two or three gem-varieties of corundum, with another one being the red or deep pink.

Although blue is their most well-known hue, sapphires can be made up of any color of corundum except for red (red ones are called rubies). Sapphires may also be colorless, and they are also found in shades of gray and black.



The cost of natural sapphires varies depending on their color, clarity, size, cut, and overall quality - as well as their geographic origin, oddly enough. Significant sapphire deposits are found in Eastern Australia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, East Africa, and in



North American at a few locations - as in near the Missouri River in the region around Helena, Montana (like the green Montana sapphire shown here). Sapphire and rubies are often found together in the same area, but one gem is usually more abundant.

Blue sapphires are evaluated based upon the purity of their primary hue. Purple, violet, and green are the most common secondary hues found in blue sapphires. Violet and purple can contribute to the overall beauty of the color, while green is considered to be distinctly negative. Blue sapphires



with any amount of green as a secondary hue are not considered to be fine quality. Gray is the normal saturation modifier (or mask) found in blue sapphires and has a distinctly negative effect.



The 423 carat (85 g) Logan Sapphire (at left) seen in the National Museum of Natural History, in Washington, D.C., is one of the largest faceted gem-quality blue sapphires in existence.



The Pasadena Lapidary Society Getting Involved For Fun and Experience

By Mark Nelson

This month's President's Message makes the statement that this is your club. The Farley Free Dictionary defines a club as "An organization composed of people who voluntarily meet on a regular basis for a mutual purpose". In a way that's also a sort of employment, or a job, if you look at it. A business is composed of people, who are there voluntarily, on a regular basis, and for a mutual purpose. Hopefully, we are working at a job that gives us both personal gratification and experience. Did you know that getting involved in your club's operating structure will do both?

Volunteering and doing a function within our club can do three things: first - it is vital to enable the club to function and to serve its members; second - it gives the volunteer (you) the payment and personal gratification of doing something important to others and to the club; third - it gives you work experience that can be applied in the workplace. Think of it. If you are applying for a job and need experience in managing employee data - if you had worked with Membership in the club you would have experience and a reference. Similarly with a job requiring corporate affairs and executive secretary experience (our club's corporate secretary), or with advertising, marketing, publicity or public relations (our club's publicity person). It just so happens that we have openings in these areas. No experience at these jobs is necessary. The previous person will help train you. There is no charge for the education. Here is what is involved:

SECRETARY - The Secretary is both an officer of the club and a California corporate officer of our corporation. He or she attends the one hour board of directors meeting on the first Wednesday of the month and the general meeting on the third Wednesday. The secretary records the highlights of the meetings, notes any policy changes in the Policies Manual, and helps the President with the meeting agenda for the next meeting. The secretary signs on the corporate checking account and approves the meeting minutes. Prerequisite: Basic skills with a word processing program and email.

MEMBERSHIP - The Membership Chairperson keeps the list of membership updated. This person makes guests feel welcome at the meetings, gets their name and address and sends them an invitation to join the club along with a copy of the monthly bulletin. He or she works with the Treasurer as memberships are renewed and new members

join. Prerequisite: Basic skills with a word processing program, Microsoft Excel and email.

PUBLICITY - The Publicity Chairperson maintains a list of newspapers and magazines that will publish our annual show and special events. When we need to make an announcement of an upcoming event that is open to the public this person emails the information to the publications for their Local Events Calendar section. Prerequisite: Basic skills with a word processing program and email.

HOSPITALITY - The Hospitality Chairperson has a really fun job - getting snacks to the general meeting. All of our members are willing to bring in beverages or snacks for the break between the business meeting and the program. All this person has to do is coordinate one or two members each month to bring something. With 75 members this amounts to two members bringing something for one meeting every three years.

If you, your spouse or family member would like to apply for one of these positions please contact the Vice President, Chris Kyte at number on page 2 or at ckyte60@att.net.

FEDERATION NEWS

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
The annual Fall Business meeting and election of 2011 Officers will be held November 12 - 16, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Plaza Park Hotel in Visalia, CA. Our Federation Chairman generally attends. Others from the club are welcome. See details at www.cfmsinc.org or contact the Editor.

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
As you know the 2010 AFMS Regional Convention was held here in La Habra, California. The AFMS has announced that the 2011 Regional Convention will be held June 7th - 10th in Syracuse, New York.



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ROCK & MINERAL TERMINOLOGY - PART SEVEN from Inland Lapidary.com

globular - The term globular is used as a synonym of botryoidal, but sometimes describes any rounded agglomeration, such as botryoidal, reniform and mammillary.



granite - A pink-colored, felsic, *plutonic* rock that contains potassium and usually sodium feldspars, and has a quartz content of about 10%. Granite is commonly found on continents but virtually absent from the ocean basins.

hardness - The degree of resistance of a given mineral to scratching, indicating the strength of the bonds that hold the mineral's atoms together. The hardness of a mineral is measured by rubbing it with substances of known hardness and is rated on the MOHS Scale.

host mineral - Mineral that is the chief constituent of a particular rock.

igneous, igneous rock - Of volcanic origin. A rock made from molten (melted) or partly molten material that has cooled and solidified.

inclusion - Materials that are locked inside a mineral as it is forming.



jet - Coal that can be polished and used for ornamental purposes.

karst - A landscape created when groundwater dissolves pockets of limestone, dolomite or gypsum in bedrock. Karst is characterized by caves, sink-holes, disappearing streams, and underground drainage.

lanthanides - Group of elements, very similar in chemical properties, thought to be extremely rare

and are also called "rare earth elements". They take up numbers 57 through 71 on the periodical table. The six marketable sources of these very valuable and useful elements are found in only two places on earth. - five are in China and one is in San Bernardino County, California.

lichen - Plant-like colonies of fungi and algae that grow on the exposed surface of rocks. Lichen grow at a constant rate within a single geographic area.



Review the seven series of definitions before coming to the October meeting, where Dave Kelty will present his ever popular "Rockhound Trivia" program.

LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS:

September 3-5--SANTA BARBARA. "Gem Faire". Earl Warren Showgrounds/Exhibit Hall, 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; weekend pass \$5

11-12--DOWNEY. Delvers Gem & Mineral Society; Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission

24-26--SAN BERNARDINO. Orange Belt Mineralogical Society; Western Regional Little League Ball Park, 6707 Little League Dr.; Fri. 9-dusk, Sat. 9-dusk, Sun. 9-dusk; free admission; rocks, jewelry, tools, lapidary display, education, kids' event, kids' club, silent auction, raffle, workshop

October 3 - 5 FALLBROOK. Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility, 123 West Alvarado Street, Hours: 10 - 4 Daily



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**September
2010**











**The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
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1475 Paseo Maravilla
San Dimas, CA 91773-3908**

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**



The Pasadena Lapidary Society is affiliated with the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Our editor is a member of the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors.

September 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Board Meeting 	2	3	4
5 Work Shop 	6 Labor Day Holiday 	7	8	9 Rosh Hashanah 	10	11
12 Grandparents Day 	13	14	15 Meeting & Program 	16	17 Constitution Day 	18
19	20	21	22	23 Full Moon 	24	25 Field Trip 
26 Field Trip 	27	28	29	30		