

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

APRIL, 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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An Ancient Threat Rises From The Ashes

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

Hope you are enjoying the leprechauns and the pail of gold they left you! What? They didn't?

Well, we can find our own treasures in our back yards in the form of rocks - and I'll bet you have a few! Leprechauns surely wouldn't understand how the treasure of wonderful agate from our favorite hunting

places could be better than their ol' pot o' gold. March also brought treasures from our annual gem and mineral show!

The show started with our work day on Thursday to apply some TLC (tender loving care) to our display cases - they were sanded to get the splinters off, stained, waxed and polished. We are truly fortunate to have had members who, in the 1950s, took the time to make the beautiful cases we have - and also to have members now who came to help out at the work party to

make the cases last even longer! Special thanks Dave Kelty, Phil Lahr, Ed Imlay, Mark and Linda Nelson, Carolyn Duncan, Marléné Kyte, Trudy Krose, Tanner Soo Hoo, Ralph and Rebecca Fregoso, Florence Zinzun and Joe Goetz for all their hard work (in the parking lot in the hot sun) to work on the cases. Did everyone notice that some of our cases have bright new LED lighting! That was done that day also!

There were superb gems to be found on the kitchen menu and Chris and his team worked magic with ordinary food supplies.

..... Continued on page 3

Meeting and General Club Information

Officers

Marcia Goetz, President
(626) 914-5030
joenmar1@verizon.net

Carolyn Duncan, Vice President
(909) 593-2781
gem.quest@verizon.net

Linda Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer
(909) 592-1322
lnelsn@verizon.net

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

March Board Meeting
by Linda Nelson, Secretary

Officers present: Marcia Goetz, Carolyn Duncan & Linda Nelson
Chairs/Members present: Vern Cliffe, Sylvia Cliffe, Drew Wilson, Chris Kyte, Mark Nelson, Dave Kelty and Ed Imlay.

Final details for the show were discussed. Ballots were opened by Carolyn Duncan, counted by Marcia Goetz and certified by Linda Nelson to decide the question of where our members wish to meet each month. The

majority of ballots indicated a preference to keep our meetings at the Pasadena Central Library.

March Meeting

We watched the fascinating video from CFMS that tells the story of a tree's journey from a prehistoric living giant through the eons of metamorphosis to enter a new life as petrified wood!

April Meeting

MICRO MOUNTS

Our own Dr. Robert Housley of Cal Tech will introduce us to his world of beauty. While larger crystals are

often cracked and dinged, microscopic crystals are often perfect. Small minerals often form in vugs where they are protected from damage. Micromounters are accustomed to seeing flawless crystals and undamaged formations. Most minerals do not form large crystals. Of the 4000+ minerals known, the vast majority form only microscopic crystals. Add to that, nearly all newly discovered minerals are available only as microscopic crystals. **DON'T MISS IT!**

Membership Information and Meeting Locations

Membership per calendar year is \$20, \$15 for a second adult member in the same house. Junior members and the third or more members at the same house are \$10. Initiation fee is \$2.50 per person and membership badges are \$7.50. Renewals are due by the October General Meeting and delinquent after December 31st. Mail checks for membership to P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena CA 91117-0025.

Board Meetings: 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the One West Bank, 1 E. Foothill in Arcadia. All PLS members are welcome to attend.

General Meetings: 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month at the Pasadena Central Library at 285 E. Walnut Street. **Guests are welcome!**

Field Trips are scheduled each month. Refer to the bulletin for date, location and information.

Workshops and instructions are offered in our well-equipped shop in Pasadena to all club members - normally on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Refer to the bulletin for hours and the calendar for date changes. Eye protection, closed-toe shoes and machinery safe practices

are mandatory for all participants. Call a board member for the workshop address

Workshops and field trips are for adult members and children with direct parental supervision.

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

Advertising - a business card size ad is available for \$99 per year or \$10 per edition. Submit text, logos, business card or other copy to the editor at the address or email listed on this page.

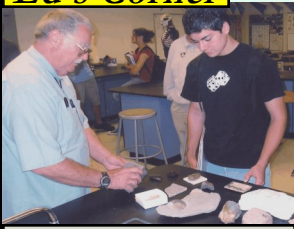


Ed's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTEACH

By Ed Imlay

Chair, Education Committee



Ed Imlay at a local school

This is a perfect time to schedule me for my interactive presentation to school students. Contact me at (626) 286-8215 or at edimlay@hotmail.com for details.

Please bring items to display at the April meeting. Members can display any items of general interest or for identification, workshop projects, material from locations of recent or upcoming field trips, and the birthstone of the month: **Diamond** →



WORKSHOP

As the second Sunday is Easter, this month's Workshop is on April 1st. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a quiet workshop to focus on your special project, since some of the club will be attending the rescheduled Lavic Siding field trip. Watch the bulletin for Carolyn Duncan's 2x2 Rosary Wrap chain necklace class at the May Workshop. Workshop hours are from 1:30 until 5PM. Parking is on the west side of street - please park compactly along the curb so that others will have room to park behind you. Alternate parking is available next door to the workshop in a paved lot behind the buildings on Foothill Boulevard. Call 909-455-4360 for directions.

LIBRARY

Our club has a great collection of lapidary research books in our lending library. If you are interested in a list of the titles or in checking out the books, contact our Librarian, Dave Kelty, at 909-337-2047 or by email at davidakelty@hotmail.com.

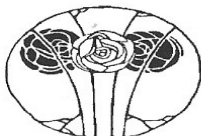


Thanks to Joe and Marcia Goetz for their generous gift of the banners that were placed at the front of the building during the Annual Show. This saved the club \$150 in show sign expenses!

President Marcia Goetz' continues to care for her mother following the death of her step-father.

If you know anyone who is not feeling up to par, has been sick or lost a loved one? On the silver lining side of things, do you know who has achieved a goal, won a personal victory, or just something that deserves recognition? The Pasadena Lapidary Society has a Sunshine Committee to send cards and words of comfort and support and congratulations to those members who are in need or are deserving of it. Notify Trudy Krose at 323-664-9598 or at mikekrose@roadrunner.com.

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**Welcome
New Members !!**



Several fine people applied for membership at the Show and their applications are being submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. **Look here** in the May issue of Rockhound Ramblings for their names and come to the April meeting to meet and welcome them to our Society! Share the lapidary and jewelry hobby. Invite your friends and neighbors to become members of the Pasadena Lapidary Society!

..... Continued from page 2

The information we got from watching others in our club demonstrate their areas of expertise was an intellectual treasure. The cases displays were great this year...our members create so many and diverse things and have such varied interests that walking through the display room is a treat.

The sand scoop and treasure wheel had a lot of business - where else can you get rocks and gems for so little and have so much fun?

Raffle prizes are treasures of themselves! Visitors walking in the door couldn't believe the magnificent items donated by our generous members and dealers.

Our dealers brought their own pots of gold for members and visitors to explore and some of us took the opportunity to fill our pockets with some of this treasure.

Grab Bags were filled with treasures that would delight the child in all of us and our members were there to tell what kind of rock was found in the bag. An added bonus at this table was that kids got to get a free rock and star stamped on their hand!

Our set-up day and take-down evening went well this year, thanks to many hard-working members who came early and stayed late.

What I learned from coordinating this year's show is that our real treasure is in our members. It is **you** who make the club's show a success. Not a leprechaun's imaginary gold, but our member's hearts of gold!

See you at the April meeting!

Marcia Goetz, President



(Continued from page 1)

After sleeping for many decades, an ancient threat rises from the ashes! Under the topic of field trip safety, I learned something interesting during my recent biennial Emergency Medical Technician re-certification course provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Many of the L.A. County Sheriff's EMT's are mountain rescue specialists and, among other things, the course updates these EMT's on hazards facing potential rescuers. One of the new hazards is the widespread growth of a plant that threatens the unwary with weeks of pain, irritation and suffering.

injection or other treatment options should blisters develop.

When in the field avoid contact with the plant! Wear gloves, long sleeves and pants. Wash your tools at the end of the day and wash your gloves and your outer clothes separately from other laundry.



Plant without blooms

Wash skin thoroughly with soap and water after contact with the plant or with clothes. I suggest that field trip leaders in California include this plant in their field trip safety briefings on potential site-specific hazards. Editor

Resources:

- <http://www.socaltrailriders.org/forum/general-discussion/59360-poodle-dog-bush-toxicity.html>
- <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jul/24/local/la-me-poodle-dog-bush-20110724>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turricula_%28plant%29



Blooms at end of stalks.

The Poodle Dog Bush, or *Turricula parryi*, is endemic to the Californias and is now being found in chaparral from the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley southwards to Baja California. In the last year authorities in areas such as the Angeles National Forest and in Orange County reported hikers' complaints of severe reactions to contact with this colorful plant. Those hikers told of wandering through fields of beautifully colored purple flowers.

Those search and rescue members that I spoke with described the plant as having puffy and colorful flowers and leaves reminding them of a poodle dog's trimmed tail. Stimulated by intense heat, the plants are erupting in areas where forest and brush fires have burned away the other vegetation that was once dominant and which kept the poodle dog plant dormant. Often mistaken for Lupine or Phacelia, clusters of lavender shaded flowers top stalks of up to 8 feet long with slender leaves of 1.5" - 4" long. The leaves and stalks have fine hairs. On the tips of these fine hairs is a sticky chemical compound of benzoic acid that produces a most unpleasant reaction in humans. These sticky hair can be deposited on clothes or skin after the slightest contact with the plant. It is believed that breathing the air around the plants can be dangerous to lung tissue, similar to poison oak. These hairs are on the leaves and stalk all year long and the toxic effects are not seasonal.



Plants in bloom.

Those search and rescue members that I spoke with described the plant as having puffy and colorful flowers and leaves reminding them of a poodle dog's trimmed tail. Stimulated by intense heat, the plants are erupting in areas where forest and brush fires have burned away the other vegetation that was once dominant and which kept the poodle dog plant dormant. Often mistaken for Lupine or Phacelia, clusters of lavender shaded flowers top stalks of up to 8 feet long with slender leaves of 1.5" - 4" long. The leaves and stalks have fine hairs. On the tips of these fine hairs is a sticky chemical compound of benzoic acid that produces a most unpleasant reaction in humans. These sticky hair can be deposited on clothes or skin after the slightest contact with the plant. It is believed that breathing the air around the plants can be dangerous to lung tissue, similar to poison oak. These hairs are on the leaves and stalk all year long and the toxic effects are not seasonal.

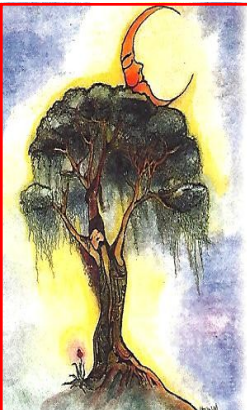
Skin contact with this plant's needles results in a delayed outbreak of intensely irritating rash, blisters, itching and pain. Search and rescue squad leaders described it to me as being ten times worse than the most severe case of poison oak dermatitis. The effects can last for a month and the current best-treatment products for poison oak - Zanol and Technu - have little effect. Experts recommend over-the-counter pharmacy products containing hydrocortisone and seeing your doctor for a cortisone

CALENDAR TRIVIA

Did you know that Friday the 13th will not occur again in April until 2018? The ancient Babylonian Code of Hammurabi omitted the number 13 in its list of laws. Written in 1,700 B.C., it suggests ancient Babylonians considered the number 13 to be unlucky.

Patriot's Day, the third Monday in April, commemorates the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. This battle began the American Revolutionary War. It also honors the "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere", that evening when Paul Revere rode through town warning the colonists that "The Red Coats are coming!" Did you know Paul Revere was a silver-smith?

Refer to the calendar on page 8 for more interesting events.



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Wendy Ansel

A Pasadena Lapidary Society Member

How can I tell whether my gem stone is natural or CZ?

By Dale "Cougar" Armstrong



Really, there is no sure way to determine between these stone types without gemological equipment. One option is to send valuable, questionable stones to the GIA (Gemological Institute of America). Any good gemstone identification book will tell about a natural gemstone's properties, including any natural inclusions or flaws (such as feathers, silk, lily pads, etc.) that you can look for by using either a microscope or

a 10x loupe. Of course, there are a few home tests that are not to be counted on, such as:

- Hold a cut stone to the sun, table toward your eye. if you can see straight through it, it is a form of glass, because glass reflects light, while gem material refracts light.
- Weigh it: Diamonds weigh more than cubic zirconium.
- Does it have flaws or inclusions? Lab stones (aka "synthetic") are no different than natural stones, except that lab stones are perfect: they have no flaws or inclusions.
- The warmth test: If you hold a stone to your upper lip and it stays cold, it is a rock; if it gets warm really quickly, it's plastic; and if it warms slowly, it's glass.

One of the least expensive ways to help identify gemstones is to use a combination short and long wave, ultraviolet light, as described in this awesome book: **Gem Identification Made Easy**, by Antoinette Leonard Matlins. (If the link doesn't pull up, go to books.google.com, and search for "Easy gemstone identification tests".)

You could also find and join a local Rock and Mineral Club. There you will meet people with all types of knowledge about rocks, gems and fossils, as well as those with lapidary and jewelry making interests. Like me, they are always happy to "talk rocks."

TEMPLATES

Bench Tip By Brad Smith



Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc, but if you need other

shapes, it's easy to make your own. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic, copper or brass.

Minerals & Earth Resources

By Jim Brace-Thompson
CFMS Past President



Today's kids are "wired-to-learn" via computers, the Internet, and the Google search engine. Here are a few helpful sites to check out that will aid an understanding of minerals and earth resources.

United States Geological Survey - www.usgs.gov. The United States Geological Survey. Go to their "Education" section. They have a nice link to the "Earth Science Information Center" where experts will answer kids' earth science questions via the U.S.G.S. education web site - www.usgs.gov/education/

UCSB - www.geol.ucsb.edu/L2/Outreach-FR.html. Geology departments at universities are wonderful resources. Some have community outreach programs and will send professors into the classroom and/or lead group tours of university collections by advance arrangement.

Mineral Information Institute - www.mii.org and **Women in Mining** - www.womeninmining.org. The web sites of the Mineral Information Institute and the Women in Mining organization both provide a wealth of information and resources on minerals, uses of minerals in everyday life, and careers in the earth sciences. Both also offer links to other interesting earth science sites.

Crystal Shapes - www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hall/1410/mobile.html. A terrific, hands-on way to illustrate crystal shapes is by making models by folding colorful construction paper, cardstock, or thin cardboard and pasting or taping them together. Cut-out patterns for making such models may be found on this site.

Growing Crystals - www.amfed.org/kids_links.htm#crystals. After learning about crystal shapes, this link on the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies site takes you to sites providing recipes and instructions for growing crystals.

Friends of Mineralogy - www.friendsofmineralogy.org. Friends of Mineralogy promotes, supports, and protects the collection of minerals and works to further the recognition of the scientific, economic, and aesthetic value of minerals and mineral collecting. Their web site contains past newsletters and links to the Mineralogical Society of America, the American Geological Institute, the web site of Rocks & Minerals magazine, the Mineralogical Record, and others.

Mineral Gallery - www.theimage.com. This web site allows you to wander through a Mineral Gallery of gorgeous gemstones to learn about the chemical properties of nearly 200 different types of minerals.



FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz



Joe Goetz, Field Trip Chairman

Our April Field Trip will be April 21st and 22nd to the Castle Butte and Four Corners area. There are large agate fields at both locations, as well as jasper and jasp-agate, bloodstone and palm root. Also there is a seam of green/white agate material with a rootbeer colored agate in the center. This requires some digging. We will be camping near the Four Corners area. Directions: Take the 15 Fwy north and exit the 395 just before Victorville. Take Hwy 395 approximately 43 miles to the intersection at the Hwy 58. Just before the intersection there is a trailer with ANTIQUES written on the side. Enter the large lot right after the trailer on the right and there is a dirt road in the corner. There will be signs posted to the camp from there. Look for the PLS/WGMS or P/W signs. The road is a little sandy and bumpy but should be easy enough for any vehicle. 4-wheel drive should not be needed but high clearance is preferred. Most of the rock will be surface collecting but you might want to bring some digging tools and bars - especially if you go for the root beer agate. It can be pretty chilly this time of year so wear layers of clothing, gloves, hat and sunscreen.

We will be joining members from North Orange County, Whittier and Monrovia. This is a great opportunity to get to know other rockhounds, so I hope we have a good turnout. There will be a pot-luck dinner Saturday night, so bring something to share and a folding chair! There are plenty of motels in Victorville if you elect to motel-camp. Typically we will be leaving camp around 8:30AM and monitoring FRS radio frequency 14-0. Hope to see you there!

As always, call or email me to let me know you are coming in case there is a change of plans or for detailed directions - 626-914-5030 or joenmar1@verizon.net. Lost somewhere in California

Wrong way Joe.....

Tourmaline Dig Field Trip - Saturday, April 28

We are planning a field trip to the world's most famous tourmaline mine, the Himalaya Mine near beautiful Lake Henshaw in San Diego County, 20 miles east of Pala. Over 200,000 lbs. has been produced since 1898 including quartz crystals, lepidolite, topaz, morganite, and other pegmatite minerals. Dig your own pink and green California tourmalines from dump truck loads of tourmaline-bearing ore brought down the hill to allow easier access for the public. "Digging" involves shoveling ore-containing dirt into your 5-gallon bucket and pouring it into a sifting screen on a wooden bench. The results have been quite good in the past. This is a fee-to-dig location. The fee for our group depends on how many sign up, and is expected to be \$50 to \$60 for adults, children 12 years old and younger are free. Space on this field trip is limited. Mark Nelson will coordinate the trip. Contact him to reserve your place at (909) 592-1322 or mnelsonair@aol.com.

FEDERATION NEWS

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The CFMS President, Susan Chaisson-Walblom of the Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club, has as her theme the **Year of Education & Communication**. She offers this information on *The Formation of Quartz*: "Quartz is usually the last mineral to crystallize, and typically fills in the spaces between other minerals in rock formations. It is colorless and reflects the surrounding mineral colors. Quartz needs heat and water to form. According to the Mineral Information Institute, quartz can form in two ways - in open cavities, in rocks and deep within the earth. When it is formed in open cavity rocks, quartz takes the shape of six-sided (hexagonal) prismatic crystals. When it is formed within the earth, it usually crystallizes in small, round masses. Quartz may be found in metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks."

Save The Date: The 2012 CFMS Show and Convention will be held July 13-15, 2012 in Riverside, California.

Read the entire articles at: www.cfmsinc.org/newsletters

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

AFMS International Relations Chair Bob Jones is no stranger to the world of travelling and writing. As Senior Consulting Editor for Rock & Gem Magazine, his contributions are always eagerly awaited and often the first thing read by subscribers. Now, he's taken some of his magazine articles, expanded them, added numerous anecdotes and photographs and produced "The Frugal Collector, Volume I", a fabulous new book. Chapters include information about a variety of minerals that most mineral lovers would want in their own collection with an eye towards keeping acquisitions affordable for all.

Bob's easy writing style, selection of photographs and comments, make this volume a "must have" for any home library. The volume is available from Rock & Gem, the official magazine of the AFMS.

The AFMS Convention will be held in Minnetonka, MN the weekend of July 26-29. Read the latest AFMS newsletter at: <http://www.amfed.org/news>



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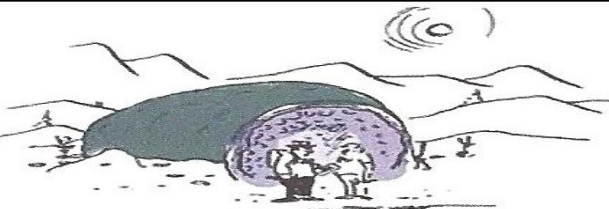
This is a true "hidden gem" for those interested in lapidary and jewelry work. A fully-stocked store with books, tools, beads and findings awaits you. Learn how to make jewelry from nothing-to-finished in their one-day classes. See upcoming classes and instructors at www.farrinoconnordesign.com/classes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



Mohs Hardness Scale

Different methods are used to describe the relative hardness of minerals. Commonly used and internationally known is the Mohs Scale, devised in 1812 by the German mineralogist Friedrich Mohs (1773-1839). He selected the ten minerals on the scale because they were common or readily available. The scale is not a linear scale. It groups minerals by discovering which ones will scratch harder minerals. Mohs arranged his ten minerals from the softest material (talcum) with hardness 1 up to the hardest material (diamond) with hardness 10. When we work to identify an unknown mineral we will often use the scratch test to find out which group of minerals our unknown specimen falls into. This chart reflects Mohs' scratch test scale.

Mineral	Mohs relative Hardness	Scratch Test	Rosival absolute Hardness	Vickers kp/mm^2
Talc	1	scrapeable with fingernail	0.03	2.4
Gypsum	2	scratcheable with fingern.	1.25	36
Calcite	3	scr. with copper coin	4.5	109
Fluorite	4	easily scr. with knife	5	189
Apatite	5	still scr. with knife	6.5	536
Orthoclase	6	scr. with steel file	37	795
Quartz	7	scratches window glass	120	1,120
Topaz	8	scratches quartz	175	1,427
Corundum	9	scratches topaz	1,000	2,060
Diamond	10	scratches corundum	140,000	10,060



"This map says there's suppose to be geodes around here."

via Gneiss Times 6/02
Gem-N-i.org 8/10

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LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS:

March 31 & April 1: TORRANCE, CA. South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society. Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-4pm.

Look for the gems in the calendar on page 8.



6 Farrin O'Connor Design. **FREE CLASS** - Pearl Stringing, using Matinee Specialty Pearls.

Friday, 1:00 - 4:30pm. Students will select several unusual specialty pearls and learn the basics: Proper choices of stringing silk thread, how to attach bead tips, a clasp and extender. All levels. Our kit is a requirement. Instructor - Phoebe Conn. See ad on page 6 to reserve a seat.

13-22: San Gabriel Bead Company. *Vintage Lucite Trunk Show*. See our ad on page 3.

20, 21 & 22: INDIO, CA. Shadow Mountain Gem & Mineral Society. Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center, 46500 Van Buren Street. Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Daily.

Please plan to attend one of the shows listed on this page, and wear your club badge when you do! - Editor

21 & 22: THOUSAND OAKS, CA. Conejo Gem & Mineral Club. Borchard Park Community Center, 190 Reino Road (at Borchard Rd). Hours: 10am - 5pm Daily.

27-29: COSTA MESA, CA. Gem Faire, Inc. OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7, children <12 free.

28 & 29: LANCASTER, CA. Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Lancaster High School, 44701 - 32nd Street West. Hours: 9 am - 5 pm Daily.

Member - To - Member

Jim Gersbach is looking for a used faceting machine. Contact him at (626) 577-6773 or at tenomo@netscape.net.

Linda Nelson is looking for a small mining ore cart. (909) 592-1322.

Members are welcome to submit an ad for items wanted, for sale or free to other members. Submit a non-commercial ad of three lines to the editor by email at mnelsonair@aol.com or to the address on page 8.



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**April
2012**

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Vice President - CFMS South

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.

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Workshop	2	3	4  Board Meeting	5	6  Full Pink Moon	7  Passover
8  Easter	9	10	11	12	13  Sikh New Year	14 
15 	16  Patriot Day	17	18  General Meeting	19	20 	21  Field Trip to Castle Butte
22  Field Trip to Castle Butte	23	24	25	26  Take Your Daughter to Work Day	27  Arbor Day	28  Field Trip to the Tourmaline Mine
29 	30	<p>April became the fourth month of the Roman calendar by Roman King Numa Pompilius about 700 BC. Its name is from the Latin aperire, "to open", in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open".</p>				