



# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

AUGUST, 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



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**Outer Space or Inner Space?** The blue-tinted image at top is of a galaxy cluster in outer space. The gray-tinted image below is of the interior of a piece of Chuckawalla Agate contributed by Doug Arnold (Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Photo by Mark Nelson, PLS. Story on page 4.



## President's Message



Fellow Rockhounds, Our club is a member of the *California Federation of Mineralogical Societies* (CFMS). Once a year CFMS holds a show which is hosted by one of the 110 clubs associated with it. This year it was in Riverside hosted by Valley Prospectors (a gold mining group), and next year it will be in Ventura hosted by the Conejo, Oxnard, and Ventura Gem &

Mineral Societies.

At the CFMS show the various clubs have an opportunity to represent themselves in various ways. The club's newsletter is judged, Federation Representatives attend meetings, clubs and individuals exhibit cases for competition or for display. People volunteer to help set up or take down, demonstrate their talent and attend the banquet where the recipients of the CFMS grants are introduced and the winners of the competition are given their ribbons and plaques. The show is also a great place to visit with friends

you haven't seen in years and to visit the dealers booths.

Our Pasadena Lapidary Society was represented in several of these areas. First a congratulations to Mark Nelson for receiving a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for our newsletter, it is obvious that more than just our members appreciate the superb efforts he puts into making it a great one. I participated in the top-level wire wrap competition and received the 2<sup>nd</sup> place award!

Joe and I attended the Federation Director's meeting. The CFMS has 39 different committees composed of people from various clubs. These committees

## 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  
(909) 394-1276 Fax  
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

### July Board Meeting

by Linda Nelson, Secretary

Officers present: Marcia Goetz, Carolyn Duncan & Linda Nelson.  
Chairs/Members present: Vern & Sylvia Cliffe, Mark Nelson, and Joe Goetz.

A workshop host program was approved with Linda as host for July. Mark was asked to investigate fundraisers at Santa Anita Racetrack. The December meeting and ROTY were discussed. The board approved club business cards and the purchase of club shirts, hats and bags.

### July Meeting

Marcia outlined the need for a December Holiday meeting location and for Rockhound Of The Year. Three members were nominated this night. Linda reported \$51 collected for the CFMS Nickel Drive. Upcoming field trips were discussed. Members suggested themes for the 2013 Show. New members and guests were introduced and two new membership applications were received. At 7:35pm the meeting switched to the Silent Auction and it filled the rest of the evening!

### August Meeting

#### GHOST TOWNS

Joe Goetz will show Part 1 of a video on mining and other ghost towns.

The **opportunity drawings** will offer many nice items including a fine stone necklace donated by Jim Gersbach and a special drawing for each member wearing their blue & yellow name badge!

Club shirts, hats and duffle bags will be available for pick-up.

## 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:** 7:00 PM 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 Tuesday 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.

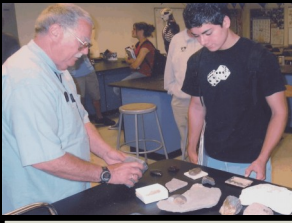


Ed's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTEACH

By Ed Imlay

Chair, Education Committee



Ed Imlay at a local school

In June I met with students at the E.O. Lawrence Elementary School in Garden Grove where I gave my Earth Sciences presentation and had a hands-on experience of interesting rocks. To schedule me for my interactive presentation to school

students, contact me at (626) 286-8215 or by email at edimlay@hotmail.com for details.

For the July meeting, members can display any items of general interest or for identification - including workshop projects, material from locations of recent or upcoming field trips, and the birthstone of the month: Peridot.



Editor's note: Peridot is named after the French word peridot, meaning gold, because the mineral can vary towards this color. Ancient papyri record the mining of these stones as early as 1500 BC. The main source of peridot in the ancient world was Topazo Island (now Zabargad or St. John's Island) in the Egyptian Red Sea. Much of the peridot in the U.S. comes from Arizona.

WORKSHOP



August 2012 - Will be our Ice Cream Social. Bring your favorite ice cream, cookies, treats and a folding chair. The club will provide soft drinks and water.

Repairs and new saw blades have been made to our shop equipment. Please ask one of the workshop hosts to check your operation of the equipment so that we know it is being operated correctly and safely. New members are asked to have an experienced member follow their equipment operation for three (3) workshops. Small fees are charged for the use of the saws and for workshop attendance to help offset our costs.

The Workshop Host for August is Mark Nelson. September's host is Joe Goetz. To offer to be a workshop host, contact our president, Marcia Goetz.

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. Contact a member or call 909-996-1784 for directions.

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Welcome New Members !!



Welcome Susan SooHoo and Haley Carter! Susan lives in XXX and Haley in Valley Village. Both were recruited by Tanner SooHoo and attended recent meetings and the Lavic and Cerro Gordo field trips! Welcome also to Michelle "Mickey" Moriarty who joins us from Oceanside! Share the lapidary and jewelry hobby. Invite your friends and neighbors to become members of the Pasadena Lapidary Society!



We are asking members to help with ideas and a location for the Tuesday, December 18th Holidays Meeting. It should be indoors (or well-lighted and heated), have close-in parking and offer tables and chairs and electricity for our group. At this meeting we will have a meal (pot luck), recognize member contributions and install officers and directors, and have a blind gift exchange. The club has a budget to cover some expenses associated with this meeting.

Marcia Goetz learned that the San Marino Masonic Center (where we have our annual show) is available and that we could have it all day if we wanted to incorporate a class such as beading, chain making or wire wrapping.

Send your ideas, locations and details to our Secretary (contact on page 2).



Meeting Refreshments: Thank you to those who brought refreshments to the July meeting. Susan and Tanner SooHoo volunteered to bring refreshments in August. Contact Trudy Krose at (323) 664-9598 to offer your help!



We are seeking nominations for our ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR. Rockhound of the Year is an honor given to current or former club members by their peers in recognition of their contributions and/or sacrifices involved with our hobby. This

honor was presented last in 2010 to members Joe and Marcia Goetz. Please email your nomination, along with a brief description of the person's activity in our hobby and contribution to our club, to our Secretary (contact info on page 2).

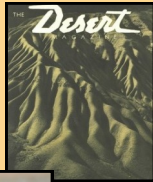


If you know anyone who is not feeling up to par, has been sick or lost a loved one? On the silver lining side of things, do you know who has achieved a goal, won a personal victory, or done something that deserves recognition? The Pasadena Lapidary Society has a Sunshine Committee to send cards and words 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 by email at mikekrose@roadrunner.com.



(Continued from page 1)

In last month's issue of Rockhound Ramblings I introduced Chuckawalla Slim, a self-described *Rockologist* from Pasadena, California. This led to a conversation with Doug Arnold, the president of SCRIBE (the bulletin editors organization) and a member of the Victor Valley (California) Gem and Mineral Club. Doug told me that he remembers reading about Chuckawalla Slim in an issue of Desert Magazine. He related his knowledge of **Chuckawalla Agate** and showed me the specimen pictured on the cover of this month's newsletter.



Doug Arnold's Chuckawalla Agate specimen



Doug said "This Chuckawalla Agate was collected by Jess Wait in the 1940s. He was an early member of Arrowhead Gem and Mineral and given to my parents, Alan and Phylis Arnold who were members of Pomona Rockhounds." — **Editor**

**Escape? Not Me!  
I'm Digging for Agate**

From British Columbia Rock & Gem via T-Town Rockhound 7/97 & others

(Continued from page 2)

gave reports at the meeting and were very enlightening. There is an AFMS and a CFMS scholarship recipient each year. The AFMS nominee is to be a graduate student, and the CFMS recipient is to be an under-graduate student - both are to be in the earth science studies. The young man who was the AFMS recipient was in attendance and the CFMS nominee is yet to be chosen for this year.

It was a great show! Now - it's almost time to think about our own show in March - and our show is **always** great!

'Hope you are enjoying summer!

..... **Marcia**

Marcia Goetz, President



Geode found at Lavic Siding by Hailey Carter 2012

**Club Shirts:** Your order is in! Come to the August meeting and workshop or Contact Mark Nelson at [mnelsonair@aol.com](mailto:mnelsonair@aol.com) or call (909) 592-1322 to arrange to pay for your shirt, hat or duffle bag.

**Dobell Ranch Petrified Wood**  
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AZ-77 south from the center of Holbrook. At the intersection of US 180, turn left for 12.6 miles. Turn left at a white sign for the historic visitors museum with a drawing of a female deer and a bell (Doe-Bell). Drive the old paved highway lined with petrified wood until it ends at the Dobell Ranch. Ask for Gordon Dobell or Tonya Black! Fill a 5-gallon bucket with petrified wood or select larger pieces for your own museum!

DoBell Ranch Petrified wood.  
- Photo by Editor.

Tonya Black

**Show a copy of this ad for a Special Rock Club Discount!**

## Rock Collector Organizing Tips

by Carolyn Duncan  
Pasadena Lapidary Society

Rock collectors are always looking for ways to organize their rocks. I'm no different, and after I got tired of having my rocks in piles in my back yard and decided to do some organizing. Here are some tips that work for me!

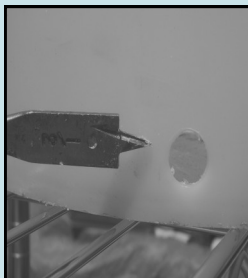
**Wood Shelves:** I bought some rocks at an estate sale, and at the end of the sale asked if they would sell me the cement cinder blocks and 2x6 boards that they used to make shelves. The stacked blocks make the uprights and the boards make the shelves. Simple but effective.

**Wire Racks:** I probably spend more time at Costco than I should, since they always seem to have interesting things. One of the best things I've bought at Costco is chrome-plated steel racks. These racks are clean, strong, easy to assemble and - since they are wire - allow drainage when it rains. These are the Costco 4-Tier chrome-plated steel rack, NSF-rated, 54"h x 36"w x 14"d at \$33.99 + tax. Costco item # 389481. Call and check if your local store has it, as it might be a seasonal item.



**Storage Buckets:** I find that 3 gallon soap buckets or 5 gallon utility buckets are great to store rocks in. The larger buckets are readily available at your local Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Lowes, or other store. The 3 gallon buckets can be had at institutions that do laundry, such as retirement homes. These don't get too heavy when I fill them with rocks and I can lift them onto the storage racks easily.

The problem with buckets is that, when it rains, they fill with water. Then your nice bucket of rock specimens gets ugly, grows algae and spawns mosquitos. What I do to remedy this is to drill drain holes in my buckets. I've found that by drilling the 1/2" holes in the sides of the buckets at the bottom - the holes are less likely to get clogged by grass or rock dust.



Try these tips and let me know how you like them! I'd appreciate hearing about your tips, also! Carolyn Duncan - gem.quest@verizon.net.

## Things To Know When Buying Turquoise Beads

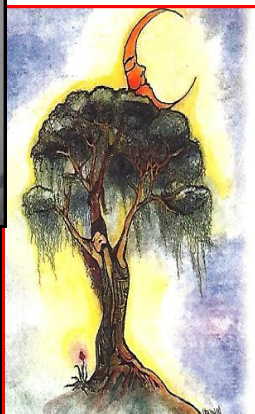
Turquoise comes in many quality grades and many types. About 90% of the turquoise in the market, American or Chinese, have been stabilized to improve the hardness since turquoise is a very soft mineral with a hardness of 4-5. Without being stabilized, the beads would break easily. Stabilized turquoise may be green or blue - depending upon the color of the original rough. Some turquoise is reconstituted, or ground up into a powder and then made into what's called "Block Turquoise". These beads may be misleadingly labeled as "natural turquoise".

Wholesale turquoise beads come in strands of 16 inches or longer. Some very high quality turquoise beads and large pieces are sold individually and it's hard to get wholesale prices on them.

There are some websites that advertise very low prices on their "Stabilized Turquoise" beads - without revealing that those beads are merely Howlite beads and not turquoise at all! Howlite is a mineral that's often mined very close to the turquoise mines and may have very similar characteristics as genuine turquoise except that howlite is naturally white. The absence of copper is what makes the stone white instead of the green or blue of genuine turquoise beads. These howlite beads are then dyed into turquoise and other colors, and sold as substitutes of turquoise and other beads. Because of the abundance of these howlite stones, the prices of these beads are much lower when comparing to genuine turquoise beads. Turquoise beads and howlite beads can be compared on our website or in our shop since we carry both of them.

Turquoise beads only come in colors of shades of green, blue and yellow - and they usually have black, brown or red veins that we call matrix running through the beads.

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Wendy Ansel

A Pasadena Lapidary Society Member



## FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz



Joe Goetz, Field Trip Chairman

This month we will take a trip back into prehistoric times when savage creatures roamed Southern California. We will see the bubbling pools of oil and water which trapped the unwary creatures and will visit their remains!

**Where:** Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits

**When:** Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 9:30am - 3:00pm

**Cost:** Seniors 62+, and college students with I.D. = \$6.75, Adults 18-61 = \$9.25, Youths 13-17 = \$6.75, Children 5-12 = \$4.25, Children 4 and under, EBT cardholders with I.D., CA teachers with I.D., and active military with I.D. = Free. This is a 15% discounted rate over regular admission.

**Meet:** 9:30am at the grassy circle directly in front (south side) of the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits - 5801 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, (323) 934-PAGE (7243).

**Parking:** The museum parking lot on Curson Avenue (east of museum) is \$7 per day and has some handicap parking. There is some free parking and \$1/hr metered parking on 6<sup>th</sup> street (north of museum)

**Activity:** We will have 1.5 hours for a self-guided visit the tar pits (maps will be distributed) where we can explore plants from the last Ice Age in the Pleistocene Garden, discover what an actual excavation site looks like at Pit 91, see the Columbian Mammoth statues at the Lake Pit, stop by Project 23 where excavators are currently working and will meet back in front of the Page Museum for a guided tour of the museum's fully articulated fossil exhibits discovered during Rancho La Brea excavations. The afternoon is free to remain in the museum, visit the gift shop, return to the tar pits or leave the museum/tar pits. Also in the area is the Los Angeles County Museum of Art [LACMA] [www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org), The Peterson Automotive Museum [www.peterson.org](http://www.peterson.org), The Craft and Folk Art Museum [www.cafam.org](http://www.cafam.org), The Zimmer Children's Museum [www.zimmermuseum.org](http://www.zimmermuseum.org), The Original Farmer's Market [www.farmersmarketla.com](http://www.farmersmarketla.com), The Grove [www.thegrovela.com](http://www.thegrovela.com), The Westfield Shopping Center at Century City [www.westfield.com/centurycity](http://www.westfield.com/centurycity), Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills [www.rodeodrive-bh.com](http://www.rodeodrive-bh.com), A&A Jewelry & Lapidary Supply - see info on page 7.

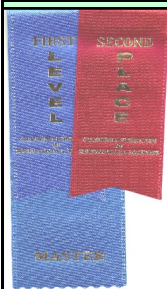
**Tickets need to be pre-purchased.** If you are going to attend the field trip, notify this month's field trip leader - Mark Nelson at (909) 592-1322 or [mnelsonair@aol.com](mailto:mnelsonair@aol.com).

..... *Somewhere in California going the wrong way*  
zteoG eoJ .....

**Editor's Quiz:** Juniors: How many dinosaur bones (approximately) have scientists found, so far, at the La Brea Tar Pits? Adults: Each month the calendar on page 8 shows the full moon. What is the full moon on the 31st called, and why? The first Adult and Junior Members to correctly answer this question will win a special prize at the August Meeting. Editor's contact info on page 2.

## FEDERATION NEWS

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



### Pasadena Lapidary Wins At CFMS Show!

Our president, Marcia Goetz was awarded Second Place in the tough "First Level" category for her display of wire-wrapped natural stones. The LED lighting of her display really set her display apart from the other exhibits.

Rockhound Ramblings and its editor, Mark Nelson, were awarded both First and Second Place among all bulletins of its size in our Federation of clubs in California, Oregon and Nevada. Thank you to all who submitted articles for our bulletin!

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The AFMS website notes a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news article that geologists have added a new period to their official calendar of Earth's history - the first in 120 years!



Ediacaran organisms appear after a series of ice ages that covered the Earth

The Ediacaran Period covers some 50 million years of ancient time on our planet from 600 million years ago to about 542 million years ago.

It officially becomes part of the Neoproterozoic, when multi-celled life forms started to take hold on Earth.



**FARRIN O'CONNOR  
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You can always tell a rockhound  
His neck is burned bright red,  
A bag at his side, he searches wide,  
A baseball hat on his head.

You can tell that he's a rockhound  
His car is caked with mud,  
it's riding low, cool places to go;  
He's got crystals in his blood!

You can always tell a rockhound  
There's often a kid by his side,  
Staring down and searching the ground,  
Plucking geodes from banks where they hide.

He's creating another strong rockhound  
As the youngster cries out with glee;  
He holds up a stone, and never alone,  
A camaraderie binds them you see.

So you can always tell a rockbound;  
A teacher, a friend, and a pop.  
A love he shares, and no one dares  
Tell them ever to slow down or stop.

For once you become a rockbound.  
It's a love that you need to share  
Take a kid along, one hardy and strong,  
'Cause that bag gets too heavy to bear!

You Can Tell a Rockhound by Betsy Oberheim  
1st Place Winner, 2011 AFMS Adult Poetry Competition.  
from RockBuster News, 9/2010,  
via The Backbender Gazette 7/2012

LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS:

4-5 - SAN DIEGO: 13th Annual Bead Bazaar; San Diego Bead Society; Scottish Rite Center; 1895 Camino Del Rio S; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5;

Look for the gem shows in the calendar on page 8.



9 - PASADENA: FLEXIBLE SHAFT BENCH TECHNIQUES. Farrin O'Connor Studio. Thursday, 1:00 - 5:30pm. \$76. Instructor: Margo Farrin. Students will be introduced to a variety of techniques and accessories: Cutting, grinding, polishing, and finishing jewelry at the bench. All levels. Contact info on page 6.

17-19 - SAN GABRIEL: San Gabriel Bead Company. Thai Silver Trunk Show & Bead Swap. Call for details - contact info on page 3.

24-26 - COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (weekend pass), children (11 and under) free. Free passes available at the PLS August meeting.

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

Do you ever yearn for cool temps and green hills and blue skies and ocean? August high temperature at 72°. Visit Delta One Lapidary! Contact info on this page.

Free psychic information of gems and lapidary stones. Visit Rocks and Runes in Burbank. Info on page 5.

Member - To - Member

Our Historian, Jim Gersbach, is asking for photos and news articles about the club. Send them to him at 2270 E. Orange Grove, Pasadena, CA 91104-4911.

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



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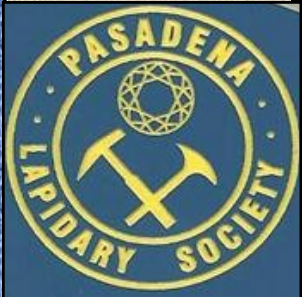
**August  
2012**

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

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**Rockhound Ramblings Awards**  
 2010 - 1st Place, CFMS New Editor  
 2010 - 2nd Place, AFMS New Editor  
 2011 - 1st Place Bulletin, CFMS  
 2011 - 2nd Place Bulletin, CFMS














Pasadena, California  
U.S.A.



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.

# August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 August - After Julius Caesar's grandnephew Augustus defeated Marc Antony & Cleopatra and became emperor of Rome the Roman Senate decided that he, too, should have a month named after him!			 Board Meeting	 2	 3 Columbus Sails 1492	4
5	6	7	8	9  1st U.S. Dollar 1792	10  Birth of Krishna	11
12  Workshop	13  Perseid Meteor Shower	14	15  General Meeting	16	17	18  Field Trip to La Brea Tar Pits
19 End of Ramadan 	20	21	22	23 1st Photo of Earth From Moon 1966 	24	25
26 Women Right To Vote 1920 	27	28	29	30	31 