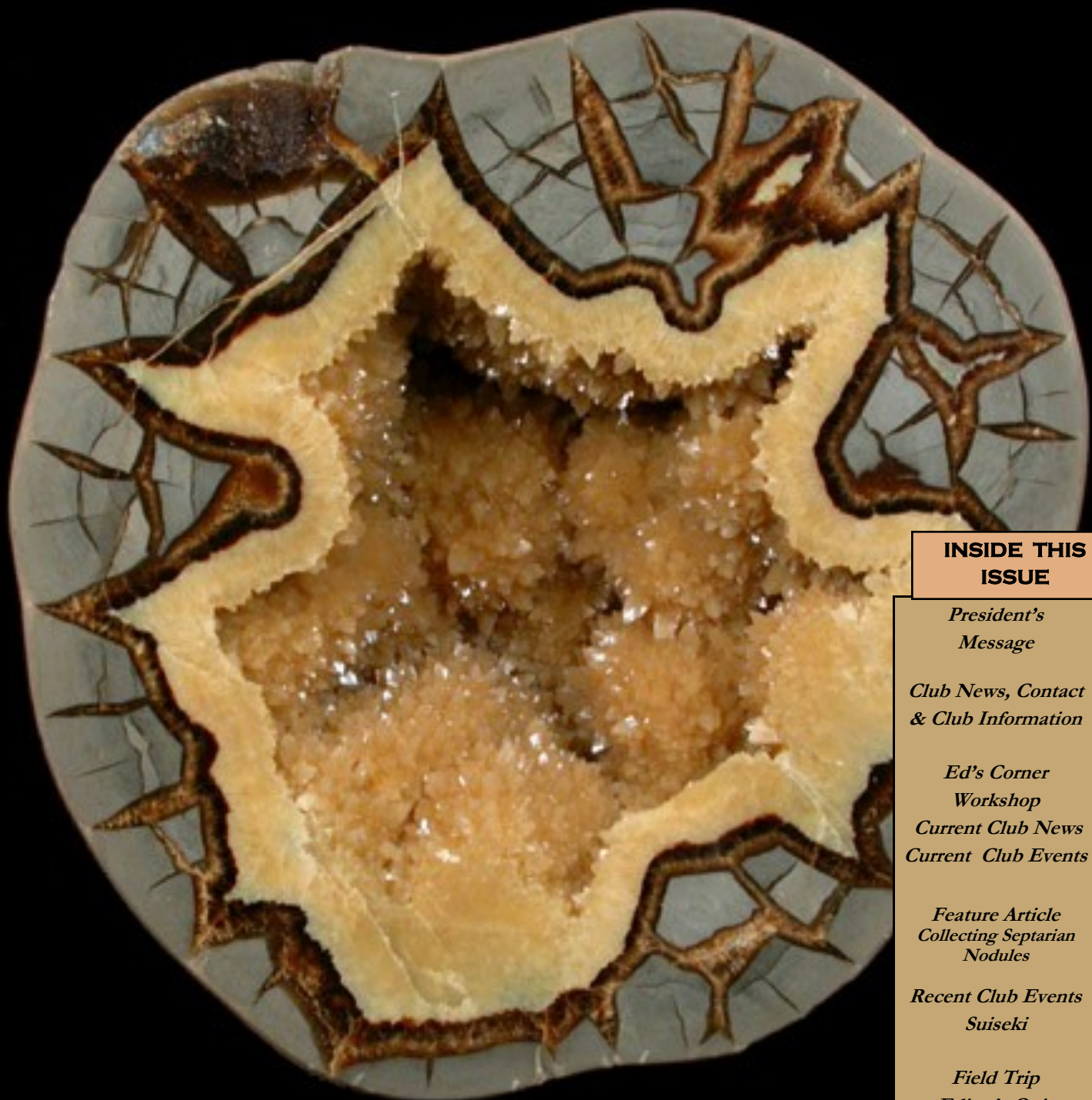




# ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

DECEMBER, 2 013

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY · PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



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**A Septarian Nodule** in all of its spectacular glory is a must-have for many rock and mineral collectors! This beautiful specimen, from the on-line mineral museum of John Betts, shows a glittering crystal calcite core.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## President's Message



Dear Members,

This year we have been busy and next year looks like it will be the same! However, at this time of the year it is good to reflect on people and things you are thankful for. I am thankful for a supportive and great group of people that make up the Pasadena Lapidary Society! Everyone has something to share with the group, from the youngest of

members to those of us who are young at heart. We also enjoy each other's company. Thank you all for being a member and a grateful thanks to those who serve on the Board - who help plan and carry out our society's business.

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) held its Annual Meeting in Visalia on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of last month where they elected new officers for 2014. Joe Goetz, our Federation Director, Linda & Mark Nelson and I attended the

meeting. When the agenda was the show for 2014 the four of us put on a short skit to advertise the show and tried to make it memorable so no one would forget it. We were entertaining and were rewarded with applause and laughter. See the photos on page 5. Don't forget that our December meeting will be held at the San Marino Masonic Hall!

See you there!

..... *Marcia*

Marcia Goetz, President

## Meeting and General Club Information

By Linda Nelson, Secretary

### Officers

Marcia Goetz, President  
(626) 620-7239  
joenmar1@verizon.net

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

Linda Nelson, CPA  
Secretary/Treasurer  
(909) 592-1322  
(909) 394-1276 Fax  
lnl@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](mailto:mnelsonair@aol.com)

### November Board Meeting

Officers present: Marcia & Joe Goetz, Carolyn Duncan and Linda Nelson.

Chairs & Members present: Chris Kyte, Ed Imlay and Mark Nelson.

Officers/Directors Absent: Jim Gersbach and David Kelty.

The board approved the CFMS Show and Society web sites. Membership applications were approved as was the purchase of a new 24" saw blade for \$100 from Chris Kyte.

### November Meeting

Elections were held for our 2014-2015 officers:

President: Marcia Goetz  
Vice President: Martha Wilson  
Secretary: Linda Nelson  
Treasurer: Linda Nelson  
Federation Director: Joe Goetz  
3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee: Carolyn Duncan

Elections also selected our 2014 Rockhound and Junior Rockhound of the year:

ROTY: Mark & Linda Nelson  
JROTY: Paolo Sanchez

Following the business Mona Ross presented her Rock Of The Month talk on Opals, with color handouts and samples on the stage for members to view. This was followed by a short video on opal mining in Australia. Member dues were receipted by the Treasurer and Tim Dirks became a member!

### December Meeting

Next month's meeting and installation of officers will be during the Holiday Party at the San Marino Masonic Hall. See details in this month's bulletin insert.

## 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 \$2.00 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 second Tuesday of the month at 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.

**Workshop** and instructions are available to members from 9am to 5pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month in our well-equipped shop at 123 E. Montecito, Sierra Madre. Refer to pages 3 and 8 for classes and date confirmation.

Liability waivers, eye protection, closed-toe, flat-heel shoes and machinery safe-practices are

mandatory for all participants.

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

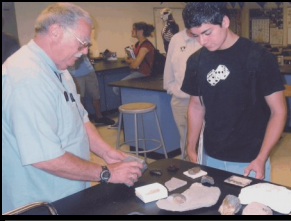
**The Annual Club Show** is held the second weekend of March at the Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino.

Our club is proud to host the 2014 California Federation Show May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup> at the L.A. County Fairplex in Pomona!

**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**



Ed Imlay at a local school

**EDUCATIONAL OUTEACH**

**By Ed Imlay**  
Chair, Education Committee

I gave a presentation last month to the San Marino Cub Scouts, and am talking with the teachers at Longfellow Elementary School in Pasadena, and Clifton Middle School in Monrovia about presentations to classes at their schools.

**Display Table:** There will be no display table in December because of our special meeting/holiday party.

**Identification:** Would you like to know the name of a rock you have acquired? Set it on the table at the rear of the meeting room with a note asking "What is this?" If the interior of the stone is not evident, chip a small piece off or "window" it to reveal the interior (if it will not damage the appearance of the specimen). To schedule my presentation to your group or school contact me by phone at (626) 286-8215 or by email at edimlay@hotmail.com.



According to the American Gem Society, the three birthstones associated with December are Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise.

**WORKSHOP**



The workshop is on the second Sunday of the month at 123 E. Montecito Street in Sierra Madre. There are two sessions - from 9am to 1pm and 1pm to 5pm. Fees are \$3 per session or \$5 for a full day. Bring your lunch! The project of the month is Gem Trees!



Member participation is the most important reason for a club's success - but so are dues! Please consider helping our club's costs by adding your husband, wife, child or close friend to your PLS membership! See rates on page 2.

*Thank you to Camille Rutkowski and Drew Wilson whose dues were the first to be sent in - that's really special!*

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**Welcome New Members !!**



Welcome Jo Anna and Ray Ritchey, Tim Dirks, Ellen Ferrell and her granddaughter Hannah Grani to our Society! Share the lapidary and jewelry hobby. Invite your friends and neighbors to one of our monthly meetings to learn more about the Pasadena Lapidary Society!



**ROCK OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION**

Due to the Holiday Meeting/Party there will not be a rock-of-the-month talk in December. To be scheduled to talk about an interesting rock or mineral please sign up at the monthly meeting or contact Carolyn Duncan.



**Meeting Refreshments:**

Thanks to Elizabeth Weston and Debbie Sanchez for the November refreshments! Your favorite light snack or goodie helps to make the program meeting even more entertaining and interesting! Contact me at (323) 664-9598 or at [mikekrose@roadrunner.com](mailto:mikekrose@roadrunner.com) to sign up to bring something to a future meeting! ..... Trudy Krose

**Our CFMS Show has a Web Site!**

[www.cfms2014show.com](http://www.cfms2014show.com)



**Sunshine:** Our thoughts and prayers are with Vern Cliffe, who is hospitalized following a fall. Members are asked to direct their inquiries to his daughter, Sandie Fender.

**Carolyn Duncan** lost her close first cousin to lung cancer and joined the family for services in Iowa.

**Fred Elsnau** will undergo cancer surgery early this month.

**Mark Nelson** was recognized by the Sheriff's Department for 40 years of service.

**Pat Oronoz** is recovering well from being rear-ended in her car last month.

Do 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, 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](mailto:mikekrose@roadrunner.com).



(Continued from page 1)

### Collecting Septarian Nodules by Paolo Sanchez Pasadena Lapidary Society

Septarian nodules are named after the Latin word *septum* ("partition" - referring to the cracks in the rock) and were formed 70 million years ago during the Cretaceous period when great volcanic eruptions killed a lot of sea life - burying them in layers of mud. Since the sea life were chemically attracted to the mud they formed mud balls. As the oceans receded the mud balls dried and cracked. And, since the mud balls had high amounts of bentonite in them, they also shrank in size, causing the cracks to be closed off from the surrounding environment. As the decomposed sea shells seeped into the cracks in the mud balls calcite crystals formed. Soon, the outer walls of the calcite formed a thin layer of aragonite - separating the calcite from a limestone outer shell.

Today, these nodules can be found in southwestern Utah, just east of Zion National Park. On our 2013 family summer vacation trip we decided to go to the different National Parks in Utah. After coming from Canyonlands National Park, my family and I took a small detour and stopped at a rock shop in the town of Orderville on our way towards Zion National Park. The rock shop, called "Joe's Rock Shop", isn't like the usual rock shops that we've found. We learned that this rock shop was featured in the rock-hounding guidebook that we were using. The guidebook told that the shop manager owns a claim where we could find septarian nodules - not too far from the shop! All we did was check in with the shop manager, Ken Caruso, who said there was no fee required and who gave us a map to the claim and to the place where we can look for them. He also told us that they are always open to rock club field trips.

I already have some septarian nodules in my rock collection, but this was the first time that I actually got to find my own nodules, which made me excited!

So my family and I went to the site, which was on some rugged hills behind a cattle ranch. The roads to the site are rocky, and it

is rugged terrain, so it's recommended that you have a four-wheel drive when you're getting there. Even though it is sometimes muddy, the finds are worth it. At the time we got to the site, the ground was crispy and dry, which gave us an advantage.

We decided not to dig for them since we only had a short time there. Once we got out of our vehicle I spotted a septarian nodule - but it was all shattered and broken. Then my sister, Danielle, and my mother and father found huge nodules with very little imperfection! Danielle found the largest, which was really heavy. She couldn't carry it, so my dad had to carry it for her. I found some interesting shards of septarian, but I was seeking more of the full, intact rock that I always see in the gem books. We discovered that some of our finds had fossilized shells embedded in them, which surprised us! After about thirty minutes we gathered a bucket-load of nodules and left the site to continue our vacation trip. We didn't have as much time to search for nodules as I would like because we were on a tight schedule - plus it was about to rain by then. Overall, the trip was fantastic and I wish that we can go there again!

The next time you travel to Utah save some time to stop at Joe's Rock Shop and you will find your own Utah septarian nodules!




Paolo Sanchez with septarian nodules collected in Utah.

Editor's note: We appreciate members' articles in the bulletin. Paolo is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and is a regular participant in club field trips, meetings and workshop. He was selected as our club's 2014 Junior Rockhound Of The Year!

A special thanks to John Betts of John Betts Fine Minerals for his generous use of the spectacular cover photo.

See his website at: <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/>



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Instruction is by Pasadena Lapidary Society member **Martha Wilson** though the Monrovia Adult School.

Classes are \$50 for 5 weekly sessions - plus basic tools & materials  
Sessions are starting each month.

To enroll go to: <http://www.mcasweb.com> or call 626-471-3035



# Pasadena Lapidary Society Where Fun and Science Combine

**CFMS Directors Meeting  
November 8, 9 - at Visalia, CA.**



Our president leads the Pasadena Lap Band at the CFMS Meeting!



"Gold Mine" Joe Goetz and his faithful broomstick horse!

CFMS photos by John Martin  
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club



Linda Nelson's 6' gem-covered paper mache cornucopia float had gems spilling from its opening!



Marcia made a giant copy of the CFMS Show flyer and floated it with helium balloons before the directors.



Davis Coghill, Carolyn Duncan, Linda and Mark Nelson collect chalcedony for our 2014 Show on a recent Shadow Mountain Gem & Mineral Society field trip.

Photos by the Editor

Danielle Sanchez with a completed cabochon at the November workshop.



← What did you name your brown tarantula, Linda?



← Carolyn instructs on the use of the newly donated Kingsley North polishing units.

The Workshop is a great place to learn to turn rocks to art. →



## Suiseki - The Art of Viewing Stones

Information provided by Camille Rutkowski and Mark Nelson

The Empress Suiko introduced Suiseki, or stone appreciation, to Japan during her reign from 554 - 628 AD. Suiseki are ornamental stones called viewing stones, small stones that may resemble a much larger landscape or natural form or pattern. "Viewing stones" are small, natural rocks that evoke an emotion depending on the viewer's mood, state of mind and life experience. Some stones may suggest a landscape scene such a mountain or a cliff containing a water fall or may suggest a human or animal figure or may have patterns reminiscent of other natural scenes, such as a flock of birds in flight or celestial views. See [www.aisekikai.com](http://www.aisekikai.com) for more information.



The members of California Aiseki Kai will present their 24<sup>th</sup> annual exhibition of viewing stones at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in Friends Hall - 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA - December 26 through January 2, 2014 (closed New Year's Day). The hours are from 10:00 am until 4:30 pm and parking is free.

**What do you do with stones in your garden? In our January bulletin landscape designer Armando Pedroza will offer suggestions for showcasing your inventory lapidary rocks! Please send your photo of your home rock features, gardens and sitting areas with a brief description to the editor!**



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Joe Goetz  
Field Trip Chairman

## FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz

Hi Fellow Field-Trippers! As you know this month is inherently busy with preparations for the Christian and Jewish religious holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah and spiritually significant days for Muslims and Buddhists. Families are making plans to attend year-end company events and to spend time visiting or hosting family.

These events are followed almost immediately by New Year's and our January field trip to Quartzsite and the QIA Pow Wow January 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014!

Accordingly, we will not have a field trip this month. Plan to attend the Holiday Meeting and Party on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>!

Would you like to help select next year's field trip destinations? The annual multi-club field trip planning meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. The location of the meeting will be announced in the January bulletin.

Having an adventure somewhere in California.....

Joe Goetz



### Newsletter



### Editor's Quiz

**Juniors:** Name one significant scientific tool that was invented on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1714. Why was it considered so important to science?

**Adults:** What are the three principal mineral components of a septarian nodule?

The first Adult and Junior Members to correctly answer these questions will win a special prize at the Meeting. See Editor's contact info on page 2.



Congratulations to Naomi Seeger for knowing that Michael Crichton authored a novel in 1990 which based its plot on cloning animals from simple strands of DNA salvaged from mosquitoes which fed on dinosaur blood. The novel was made into the movie by the same name: **Jurassic Park**. A Suseiki prize of a Picture Stone from Liaoning Province, China in a wooden stand was awarded at the October meeting!



Unfortunately, there were no correct responses to the Junior Member quiz! Better luck this month!

## FEDERATION NEWS

by Joe Goetz, Federation Director

### CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



2014 CFMS President Jennifer Haley (Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society) thanks 2013 President Bud McMillin (Mother Load Mineral Society).

Last month I represented our club at the California Federation's Annual Meeting where new officers were elected 2014. The new officers are President - Jennifer Haley; 1st Vice President/President-Elect - Tom Burchard; 2nd Vice President - Robert Sankovich; Treasurer - Margaret Kolaczyk; Secretary - Kim Campbell Erb.

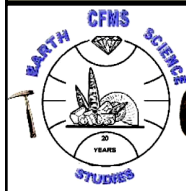
Pasadena Lapidary Society member Mark Nelson was appointed as the Chair of the Safety Committee. His articles will appear in the monthly CFMS newsletter.

(Photo by Nancy Brace-Thompson, via the Mother Load Mineral Society)

### AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The next AFMS Show will be hosted by the Rocky Mountain Federation in Tulsa, Oklahoma on July 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>. These shows are well worth the effort to attend! Mark your calendar and make plans to be part of the fun!



## CAMP ZZYZX 2014

Reservations are now being accepted for the ZZYZX Earth Sciences week March 30 - April 6, 2014. Zzyzx is in the Mojave

Desert near Baker, California. Classes Include: Cabochon Making, Faceting, Wire Wrap Art, Soft Stone Carving, Silver Smithing, Chain Making, Lost Wax Metal Casting, Ming Trees, Beading, Glass Bead Making, Dichroic Glass Fusion, Enameling, Precious Metal Clay, Intarsia and Inlay. Not all classes are offered at every session.

The fee for the week is \$375 and includes your room or RV space, three meals per day and classes. Zzyzx has a meal hall, lapidary classrooms, a shower building and dormitory rooms. Bring any creature comforts you may desire (lamp, throw rug, ice chest, etc). Rooms are limited and couple's rooms fill early - so if you are planning to attend now is the time to send in your reservation. Contact: Camp Zzyzx Registrar, Audrey Harvey, 3363 Tuxford Place, Thousand Oaks CA 91360-4626, 805-492-2253. Reservation forms are available at the ES Camps tab at <http://www.cfmsinc.org>.

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**HINTS, TIPS AND SAFETY**



Richard Peterson  
TGMS

**Tips by Richard**

*By Richard Peterson*

If you polish your cabs on a leather buff and you are not getting the same good old shine, check your leather for glaze. If it is packed down and hard and you do not want to change the leather, try this!

Take a wire brush and brush the leather against the grain until it fluffs up. Recharge your leather with your polish compound and you are ready to polish. In your spray bottle that you wet your wheel with, add a little vinegar. The acids in the vinegar will help your shine a little bit.

*Thanks to Richard Peterson and our friends at the Timpanogos Gem and Mineral Society of Provo, Utah (TGMS Oct '13) for this great tip!*



**INVENTORY RECORD**

*By Brad Smith*

In an ideal world each of us has a complete pictorial record of all pieces of jewelry in our inventory. We use it for insurance. We use it as a record of what was sent out on consignment. We use it to remember which items we are taking to a show. And eventually, we use it as a record of what we have sold. Unfortunately, we don't always have time to take good pictures for an inventory. In situations like this I've been able to make a quick record with the help of a color copier. Simply place a number of pieces face down on the glass and make a copy. The quality is more than sufficient for an accurate record.

*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at facebook.com/BenchTips/or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.com.*



Estwing rock picks are made in the USA and are now available in a variety of sizes at Frontier Ace Hardware, near our workshop - 297 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA. (626) 355-3365.

Articles and photographs printed in this bulletin are as credited to their author. Items not so credited are written by the Editor. Photographs not credited are from the public domain or from the Editor and are used for educational purposes. Articles and photographs submitted for publication are welcome and must be received by the 15th of the prior month. The Editor reserves the right to edit any article submitted for publishing.

**LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS**

**DECEMBER 6 - 8 - PASADENA.** International Gem & Jewelry Show; Convention Center 300 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91101 Friday 12PM-6PM, Saturday 10AM-6PM, Sunday 11AM-5PM. Admission \$8, free admission to all active duty military and veterans with current military identification (offer includes immediate family).

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



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

13 - 15 - SAN BERNARDINO. Orange Belt Mineralogical Society; Western Regional Little League Ball Park, 6707 Little League Drive. Hours: 9 am to Dusk daily. Free admission.

13-15 - COSTA MESA. Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults and students (12 and up) \$7, children (11 and under) free; fine jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair, hourly door prizes. A limited number of free passes will be available at the December Workshop - ask for them when you check in!

**JANUARY 3-12 - QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA:** Annual show; Tyson Wells Show Grounds; 100 W. Kuehn St.; Daily 9-5; free admission; dealers from around the world. Web site: www.tysonwells.com.

**Member - To - Member**

Wanted: Small apartment or casita to rent. Dr. Davis Coghill - (626) 394-9706.

Wanted: Used mining ore cart with wheels. Linda Nelson - (909) 851-4407.

**Members are welcome to place a FREE message for items or services wanted, for sale or for trade. Email submissions to the Editor.**



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December  
2013

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OUR MISSION

The Pasadena Lapidary Society serves to educate its members and the community in mineralogy, earth sciences and training in the lapidary and jewelry arts – while promoting sound mineral resource stewardship based on environmental awareness and ethical behavior. The Society fulfills its mission year-round which may include field trips, lapidary workshops, outreach presentations, public mineral displays, an annual show, and monthly informational meetings open to the public.



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.

# December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 1968 First Heart Transplant South Africa 	4	5 Happy Hanukkah  Last Day of Chanukkah	6	7 
8 Workshop 	9	10  Board Meeting	11	12  Our Lady of Guadalupe	13  Geminids Meteor Shower	14  Annual Meeting/Party
15 1290 BC Ramses II becomes Pharaoh of Egypt 	16	17  Program Meeting Full Moon 	18	19	20  1951 First nuclear power generator. Powers 4 light bulbs!	21  Winter Solstice
22 Mercury Thermometer Invented 1714 	23	24	25  Christmas Day	26  Kwanzaa Begins	27	28
29	30	31  New Year's Eve	 New Year's			