

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

MARCH, 2013

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



The seawater color of this beautiful crystal has given this gemstone and March Birthstone its name - "AQUAMARINE" - from the Latin word for seawater. This month we will learn about the subtle colors, historic lore and today's lapidary uses.

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President's Message



Dear Members,

This month we are busy doing things for the Annual Show. The February general meeting was well attended and I demonstrated how to cover a case liner. I want to thank Sylvia Cliffe, a very experienced exhibitor, for explaining options for setting up a case to show off your items. A guest, Craig Hall, came to the meeting and submitted a membership application!

I can really use your help at the show! Set up involves setting up tables, getting

the electrical hooked up and lots of other stuff. Taking down is the same thing in reverse. We need people to relieve others so they can get away for a break or lunch.

Ed has a few spots available at the demonstration tables - it is a fun place to be! You get to meet people who are interested in learning and are appreciative of your expertise.

Joe and Drew are accepting prizes for the Raffle Display. Ralph and Becky Fregoso need silent auction items (clean slabbed or clean rough rock, books or miscellany you think someone may bid on). Contact me and I'll have your donation picked up, or you can bring it to the show or the workshop.

Drew is organizing the cases in the display room for our regular and junior members. Our cases are beautiful, items display well in them and they are FREE. Ed Imlay will be organizing the Club Case again this year, so if you have a piece you want to show off in the club case bring it on Friday.

I'm looking forward to the March general meeting when our guest speaker will be one of the women who created the Ramaura cultured rubies. They created quite a buzz in the gemology world when they created the rubies. It will be a treat to have them at our meeting.

See you all soon! *Marcia*

Marcia Goetz, President

Meeting and General Club Information

Officers

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

Carolyn Duncan, Vice President
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gem.quest@verizon.net

Linda Nelson, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer
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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

February Board Meeting by Linda Nelson, Secretary

Officers present: Marcia & Joe Goetz, Carolyn Duncan.

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

Officers/Directors Absent: Linda Nelson, Vern Cliffe, Jim Gersbach, David Kelly and Trudy Krose.

The directors approved expenses, reviewed CFMS news affecting corporations, approved new members, discussed membership issues and items pertaining to next month's Annual Show.

February Meeting

Marcia Goetz spoke of Ametrine at the ROTM. Sylvia Cliffe and Marcia reviewed how to wrap a liner cover and to arrange display items in our club show display cases. Junior Matt Lamb won the Editor's Quiz in both the Junior and Adult categories. A membership application was submitted by Craig Hall. Membership cards, rosters and handbooks were distributed to all members and copies of Board Meeting minutes were available.

February Meeting

At this month's meeting we will be treated to a representative of the Ramaura Company. Their Cultured Ruby represents science at its very best. Using a technique that mimics nature, they create a ruby that is astonishingly like natural ruby, inclusions and all!

Their cultured Rubies, Alexandrites and Emeralds are thrilling lapidary enthusiasts and jewelers. We will learn about the process and have an opportunity to purchase examples of these fine gemstones!

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.

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, flat-heel shoes and machinery safe prac-

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

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.

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.

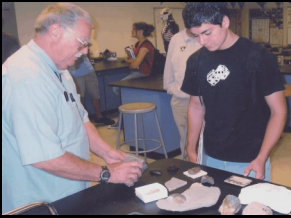


Ed's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTEACH

By Ed Imlay

Chair, Education Committee



Ed Imlay at a local school

Rock 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" to reveal the interior (if it will not damage the appearance of the specimen).

For the March meeting, please display any items of general interest, workshop projects, material from locations of recent or upcoming field trips, and the birthstone of the month: **Aquamarine**.

This month I will be presenting my interactive presentation to a group of Cub Scouts in San Marino. To schedule a presentation to a group, your child's scout group or school contact me at (626) 286-8215 or by email at edimlay@hotmail.com for details.



WORKSHOP



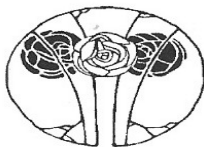
At the March workshop we will be finalizing last minute show stuff like grab bags, sand scoop and spinning wheel prizes. If you have donations for the raffle, silent auction, sand scoop or spinning wheel please come and donate them or help us bag them!

The workshop is available for you to work on your projects or to finish one that you have underway for the show. Tables are available for your use. The smallest trim saw has been converted to a water coolant and a third should be in operation soon. There is no per-cut fee for the use of the trim saws.

The workshop date is on the calendar. Workshop hours are from 1:00 until 5PM. Parking is on the west side of street - please park compactly along the curb - allowing space for others 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 the workshop address and directions.

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**Welcome
New Members !!**



Welcome to our newest members - Debbie Rosario-Sanchez, Joshua and Danielle Sanchez as members. Debbie is the wife of Ferdinand "Ferdie" Sanchez and we know Joshua and Danielle from our field trips. They are a great addition to the PLS family!

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

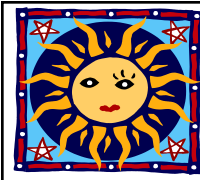
Each month our members present a rock or mineral to the club at our monthly general meeting. Members are asked to volunteer to give a 5-minute presentation on a rock, mineral, or other item of lapidary or jewelry interest at the monthly meeting. This is open to both adult and junior members. This month's birthstones are aquamarine and bloodstone. Examples of these gems would make a great display. To be scheduled contact Carolyn Duncan.

Meeting Refreshments: Martha Wilson, Ed and Corinne Imlay are scheduled to bring refreshments to the March meeting! Help make the meetings fun with your favorite light snack or goodie. Sign-ups for future meetings on the list at the back of the meeting room or by contacting me at (323) 664-9598 or by email at mikekrose@roadrunner.com to offer your help!

..... Trudy Krose



**Find us on
Facebook**



Sunshine: Fred Elsnau will be undergoing surgery that will limit his ability to help at the Annual Show. Wish him a speedy recovery!

Tanner Soohoo (Junior) continues his success in selling his jewelry creations on Etsy.com. Congratulations, Tanner! We're proud of you!

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 cover page:

This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones.

This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil where, in 1910, the largest ever aquamarine was found - weighing 243 pounds! It is also found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and in Mozambique. In the 19th century sea green varieties of the stone were the most popular but, today, the more blue the color the more valuable the stone.

There are many myths and legends about the aquamarine stone.

Karren Vitt created this aquamarine pendant for her daughter-in-law



it holds 4 birthstones, including aquamarine for her daughter-in-law's March birthday.

ensuring the safe and prosperous passage across stormy seas. In Medieval times, the stone was thought to reawaken the love of married couples. It was also believed to render soldiers invincible.

The Sumerians, Egyptians, and Hebrews also admired and valued aquamarine greatly. It was a symbol of happiness and everlasting youth. In the early Christian era the aquamarine was identified with the Apostle, St. Thomas, because it "imitated the sea and the air" and the Saint was said to make long journeys by sea, even to India, to preach salvation. Identifying a certain jewel with

Greenish-blue Aquamarine Trillion (38.42ct)



wrapped in 14kt gold filled wire by Joan Madouse

one of the twelve apostles was a common practice at that time. William Langland's *The Vision Concerning Piers and the Plowman*, from 1377, mentions the aquamarine as an antidote for poison. This antidote was widely known throughout Europe. Because there was a wide amount of poisonings among royalty at the time. The gem was in popular demand just for that purpose. It was not necessary to pulverize the stone, as it was with other gemstones. Simply wearing the stone as a pendant or in a ring was just as effective.

According to folklore, aquamarine would bring victory in battles and legal disputes.

The gem was also credited with curing belching and yawning and was considered especially effective for curing ailments of the jaws, throat, stomach, liver and toothaches. Aquamarine was also used in ceremonies in the belief that it would bring rain when needed, or visit



13 CARAT AQUAMARINE COCKTAIL RING W/ DIAMONDS & 14K WHITE GOLD AT ERAGEM.COM

drought upon their enemies. When worn as an amulet, it was believed to bring relief of pain and to make the wearer friendlier, quicken the intellect and cure laziness. The ancient philosopher Pliny paid tribute to this gem of vitality, stating, "the lovely aquamarine, which seems to have come from some mermaid's treasure house in the depths of a summer sea, has charms not to be denied."

Cover photo of an aquamarine from Pakistan was provided by Wiresculpture.com where Joan Madouse and Karren Vitt are regular contributors.

Would you like to learn how to incorporate your own aquamarine into a beautiful piece of jewelry? Take a class taught by Martha Wilson (see ad below). You can meet Martha at our monthly field trips where she is a frequent participant.

Jewelry Making Classes



Take lapidary to the next level! Learn to set & wire-wrap stones, make your own wire link, head pins & jump rings. Acquire sawing, texturing, cold joinery and other basic silver metalsmithing skills!

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

Classes are \$50 for 5 weekly sessions - plus basic tools & materials
Spring sessions start January 10th, 2013 at 6:30pm

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

Bumblebee Agate

This material from Indonesia is becoming quite popular. It is sold as Bumblebee Agate or Bumblebee Jasper. Analysis online at a gemological web site quotes the miners in correspondence with a contributor. It is mined from sulfur vents.

Their speculation on probable composition and viewing with a microscope shows the following: The material is anhydrite (gypsum), sulfur, hematite, in a matrix of volcanic tuff (welded ash). It also may have plumose calcite and ilmenite. While the miners claim they can call it agate because it could have some opaline silica, conclusions indicate the silica content is negligible so certainly does not qualify as an agate.



The material is the most expensive anhydrite sulfur you can buy at a dollar a gram, it can decompose and make sulfuric acid which will rot your jewelry mounting, and is softer than even travertine making it useless for jewelry. It is all about marketing.

Essentially the material is decomposed volcanic ash, which is another name for siliceous mud with sulfur, yet the material is dominated by anhydrite. If it was mostly mud, we would call it Biggs Jasper and charge even more for it. Keep in mind agate forms at a pH greater than 6.5, typically around 8.5 in alkaline conditions, and sulfur forms in extremely acidic conditions of pH 4 or less, so there is no significant silica that can be deposited in these vent conditions. In fact, it would take microscopy to find any silica.

As submitted by Bob Rush to the Lapidary/Gemstone Community Forum via The Rockhound Aug 2012



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Igneous Rock Hidden Message Puzzle

Thanks to a suggestion by Hailey Carter

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| TRACHYTE | | |

HIDDEN MESSAGE: Start at the top and write the unused letters in the spaces below to reveal the hidden message.

 -----!

www.MiniMeGeology.com

March Birthstone - Aquamarine. According to Pasadena Lapidary Society member Wendy Ansel of **Rocks and Runes** "this beautiful greenish-blue gem speaks of courage and leadership. A protection stone for sailors, it combines the gentle soothing essence of the sea with the strength of nature herself. This stone enhances the communication process". See Wendy for more information!



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FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz

LAVIC FIELD TRIP
MARCH 16 & 17, 2013



Joe Goetz
Field Trip Chairman

The field trip for March is to the area of fabulous Lavic Jasper in a wide range of colors and shades. It is one area where you can step out of your camper or car and start collecting just by bending over and picking up the piece you want. The supply of jasper seems almost endless. We are also near the Cady Mountains with all of its agates, pink and green Thulite and assorted minerals. Whether this is your first time or one of many times over the years, it is a great place to go! As always, call me at 626-914-5030 to let me know you are coming in case there is a change of plans or if you have questions (or email me at joenmar1@verizon.net. On the day of the field trip you can call me at 626-260-7239.

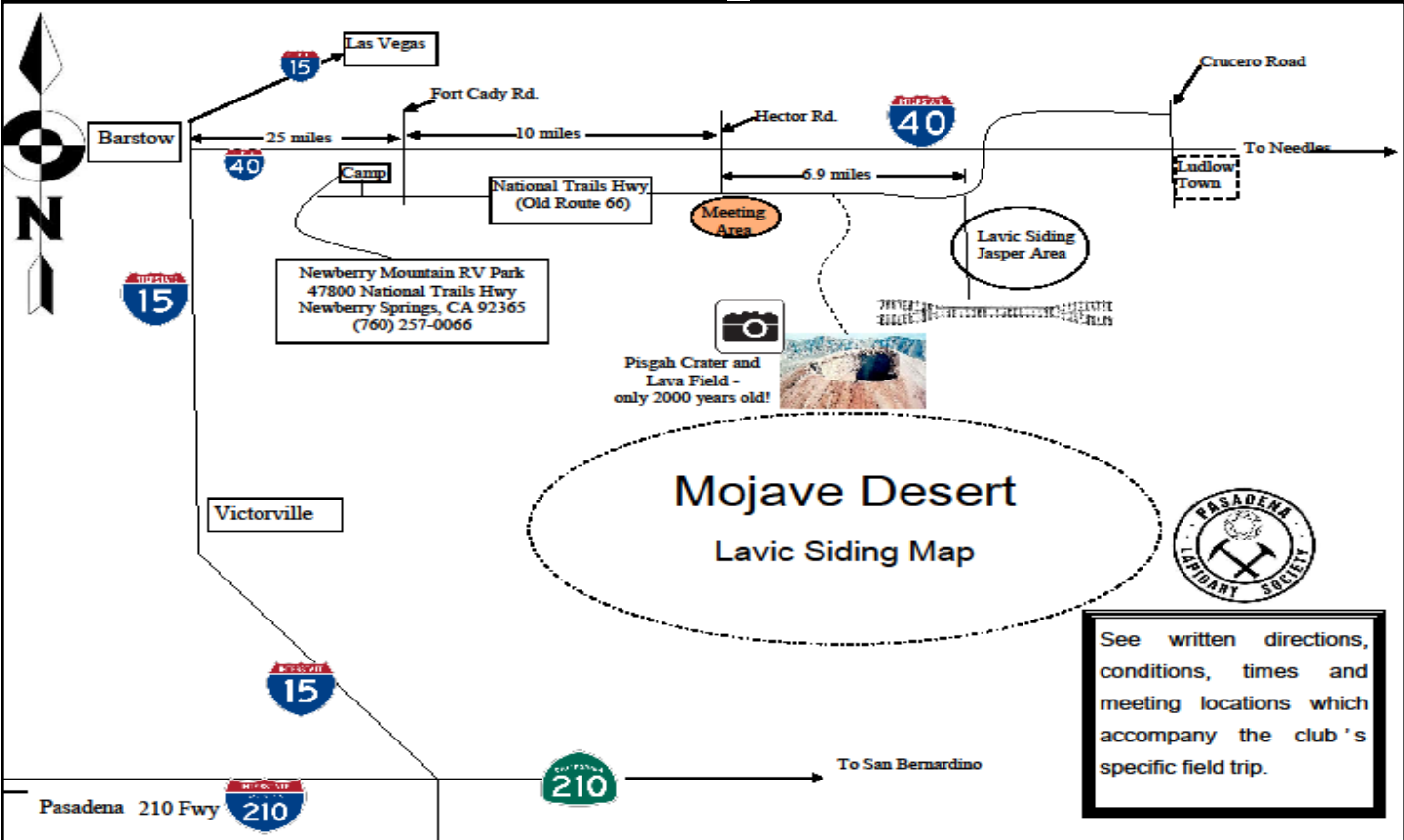
MEET at 9:00 AM for orientation and sign-in on the south side of Interstate 40 at the Hector Road off-ramp. We'll explore various spots here. From the meeting spot we will caravan west to a safe crossing over the tracks then

make a number of stops.

WHERE TO STAY: There is camping at a number of "undeveloped" spots near Lavic. The Newberry Mountain RV park also permits tents and has showers and toilets - and there are many motels in nearby Barstow. We are planning a potluck on Saturday night - so bring your favorite dish. If the weather permits we'll have a campfire. It just isn't camping without a fire!

VEHICLES: High clearance vehicles and SUVs are recommended, or we can carpool to the collecting sites. The sites cover a vast area bounded by the Pisgah Crater lava field, the railroad tracks and a dry lake.

WHAT TO BRING: Refer to the list in your Member Handbook. Collecting bags/buckets, rock hammer, spray bottles. This is the heart of the Mojave and the weather can be unpredictable, this time of year, so dress accordingly. Bring lunch and a lot of drinking water. This widespread field offers no shade. Gas and food are available in Ludlow. Treat the desert with respect - tread lightly and pack it in / pack it out. *Lost somewhere in California — Joe Goetz*



See written directions, conditions, times and meeting locations which accompany the club's specific field trip.



Editor's Quiz

Juniors: This bulletin's cover shows an aquamarine crystal. What is the alternate birthstone for March?

Adults: On page 8 the date of the full moon is noted. What is the name given to this full moon? Why is it so named?

The first Adult and Junior Members to correctly answer these questions will win a special prize at the March Meeting.

The Editor's contact info is on page 2.

FARRIN O'CONNOR DESIGN 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 at: www.farrinconnordesign.com/classes Or call them at (626) 796-5300. Free fenced parking.

**FEDERATION NEWS****CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

CFMS will hold a class on how to improve your exhibit or display. Dee Holland and Shirley Leeson will be at the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society's 51st Annual Show taking place March 2-3 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds in Ventura, California. They'll give a brief overview of competitive exhibiting on Sunday afternoon (most likely around 1:00 PM) followed by constructive critiques for anyone seeking tips on how to improve their displays.

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

AFMS NEWS BRIEFS: Our friends Ray and Jo Anna Ritchey, of the Monrovia Rockhounds, have been honored as Rockhounds of the Year. The AFMS Annual Show will take place with the Southeast Federation's show Sept. 20 - 22 in Jacksonville, Florida.

**FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE
Next Eight Months**

APR 20: Molycorp - tour the only rare earth mine in the U.S. Option for additional collecting on Sunday.

APR 27: Tourmaline collecting near Pala.

MAY 25, 26 & 27: Kramer Junction area over the Memorial Day Holiday weekend. Collecting dendritic agates, jasper, bloodstone, white opal, petrified bog showing many nice reeds, twigs and grasses and opalite. Petroglyph viewing.

JUN 15: Big Bear - collecting copper minerals, druzy and quartz crystals.

JUL 13: Pacific Palisades - collecting barite and other material.

AUG 17: Museum trip - Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center and Alf Museum of Paleontology

SEP 14: Lompoc Area - including Jalama Beach. Collecting petrified whale bone and other specimens.

OCT 12, 13: Searles Lake Gem-O-Rama. Collecting pink halite and hanksite. This can be a one, two or three-day trip.

These trips were planned for members of the Glendora, Monrovia, North Orange County, Pasadena and Whittier clubs. Other clubs are invited to participate! Dates and venues are subject to change.

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 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:

March 2-3 ARCADIA: Monrovia Rockhounds; L.A. County Arboretum; Ayers Hall, 301 Baldwin Ave.; Sat. 9-4:30, Sun. 9-4:30; adults \$8, seniors and students \$6, children \$3.


Look for the gem shows in the calendar on page 8



2-3 VENTURA: Ventura Gem & Mineral Society; Ventura County Fairgrounds; 10 W. Harbor Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; member and guest displays of gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts, lapidary and jewelry making demonstrations, door prizes, silent auctions, Country Store, dealers, children's activities.


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

8-10 VICTORVILLE: Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Stoddard Wells Road Tailgate 12 miles East of I-15; last 7 miles graded dirt road. Hours: 9 - 5 daily. Tele: (760) 243-2330

 **9-10 SAN MARINO:** Pasadena Lapidary Society; San Marino Masonic Center; 3130 Huntington Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; "Rocks Through The Ages", member displays, lapidary demonstrations, dealers, minerals, rough material, jewelry, gems, collectibles.

23-24 TORRANCE: South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society; Ken Miller Recreation Center; 3341 Torrance Blvd., entrance on Madrona Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; door prizes, special guest exhibitors and demonstrators, fluorescent mineral show, petrified forest display, polished stones, slabs, rough rock, Artisans Store featuring hand-made jewelry.

Member - To - Member

 Mature and responsible rock collector seeks guest house, property oversight position or other accommodation with private living quarters. Reply to Dr. Davis Coghill (626) 391-7296 or dcpsyd@gmail.com. References upon request.

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 or to the address on page 8.



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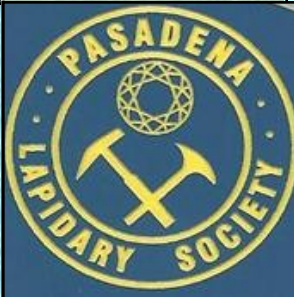
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March
2013

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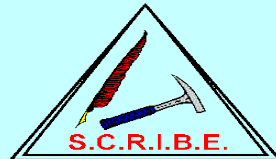


OUR MISSION

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.

Rockhound Ramblings Awards

- 2011 - 1st Place, CFMS
- 2011 - 2nd Place, AFMS
- 2012 - 1st Place, CFMS
- 2012 - 2nd Place, CFMS
- 2012 - 6th Place, AFMS



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.

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Workshop	Sunday Morning March 10th Daylight Savings Time Starts Set Clock Ahead 1 hour at 2am			Telephone Invented 1876	1	2
10 Annual Show	4	5	6	7	8 	9 Annual PLS Show
11 Annual Show	12 Board Meeting	13	14	15 Ides Of March	16 Lavic Area Field Trip	
17 Lavic Area Field Trip	18	19 General Meeting	20 Spring Equinox	21 Yosemite Discovered 1851	22	23
24 Easter	25 Passover Starts	26	27 Full Moon	28	29 Good Friday	30
31 EASTER	1 Passover Ends					