

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

FEBRUARY, 2014

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY · PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



The Empress of Uruguay Amethyst is said to be the largest amethyst geode, or cathedral, in the world! Located in the Crystal Caves at Atherton Tablelands in Cairns, Australia, the Empress is part of Australia's most spectacular private mineralogical collection with over 600 specimens on display. Ed Imlay, our Educational Chairman, notes that Amethyst is the birthstone for February - but how did it become known as a birthstone? See the story on page 4.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Club News, Contact & Club Information</i>	2
<i>Ed's Corner Workshop</i>	3
<i>Current Club News</i>	
<i>Current Club Events</i>	
<i>Feature Article: History of Birthstones Our Active Earth</i>	4
<i>Recent Club Events</i>	5
<i>2014 Field Trips</i>	
<i>Field Trip</i>	6
<i>Editor's Quiz</i>	
<i>Federation Reports</i>	
<i>Tips & Information Shows</i>	7
<i>Member-to-Member</i>	
<i>Calendar</i>	8



President's Message



Dear Members.

As we enter February our focus turns to our club's upcoming regular show in March.

At our workshop in January you would have thought we were Santa's Elves the way we were busy making and bagging things for the show. Grab Bag filling is pretty much done except for the tumbled slabs and some rough

material. A **GREAT JOB** to everyone who was there to help – we make a **great team!**

Quartzite will be over soon and Joe and I were able to make it out to pick up some tumbled stones to donate to the club for the sand scoop. While there we found a dealer who had a great price on a 24" diamond saw blade for \$500 (plus tax). It was installed by Ralph Fregoso and Mark Nelson during the January workshop and is working just fine.

Work on the CFMS show continues. The show committee is working on details to make it a successful and fun show. Some of the committee members (Chris Kyte, Ralph & Becky Fregoso, Elizabeth Weston, and Joe and I) visited the Fairplex to speak with their show coordinator and the person who will help with the publicity at their end. We took a tour of the building again from a public address system perspective and to help us resolve some of the floor plan questions.

..... **Marcia**

Marcia Goetz, President

Meeting and General Club Information

By Linda Nelson, Secretary

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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

January Board Meeting

Officers present: Marcia & Joe Goetz, Martha Wilson and Linda Nelson.

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

Officers/Directors Absent: Dave Kelty.

The board approved the purchase of a blade for the 24" saw at \$500 and the purchase of a 6" trim saw for \$125 and \$406 for parts and overhead lighting for the workshop saw room.

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: 7:15 PM on the second Tuesday of the month at the Plymouth Campus of the Monrovia Adult School. Map and directions are on the website. All PLS members are welcome to attend.

Website:
www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org

January Meeting

Joe Goetz entertained us with interesting facts about Tourmaline for his "Rock Of The Month" talk.

This was followed by Martha Wilson who gave a power-point presentation on the history and shows of Quartzsite, Arizona. This was particularly helpful to those club members who were attending the shows that same weekend.

It was noted that, due to a remodel of our board meeting place at One West Bank, future board and show committee meetings will be held at the Plymouth Campus of

the Monrovia Adult School. The board meetings will begin at 7:15pm. See a map and directions on the Calendar page of the website.

February Program Meeting

In anticipation of the club's annual show in March Marcia Goetz and Sylvia Cliffe will be showing how to make liners for the club's display cases (free to members for the show) and the best ways to show off your specimens and creations. A case reservation form and a pattern for the case liners is on the Annual Show page of the website.

Safety: 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 adult supervision.

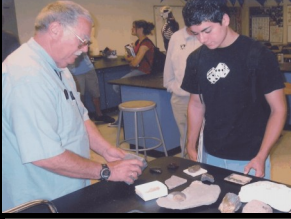
The Annual Club Show is held the second weekend of March at the Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino.

2014 California Federation Show - is being hosted by our club! May 30th - June 1st 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

To schedule my educational presentation to your group or school contact me by phone at (626) 286-8215 or by email at edimlay@hotmail.com.

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).

Display Table: For the February meeting, please display any items of general interest, especially: workshop projects, material from locations of recent or upcoming field trips, and the birthstone of the month: Amethyst.

Did you know that Amethyst, the February birthstone, derived its name from the Latin word amethystus, borrowed from the Greek word amethystos 'not drunken' (because the stone was believed to prevent intoxication)?

WORKSHOP



Program: 10am - 11:00am. Linda Nelson will instruct members how to make attractive and stylish necklaces from ladder ribbon. She will provide free material to the first 20 members to sign up for the instruction at the workshop. Bring a pendant and bale to hang from your necklace.

We will complete the grab bags and continue with individual projects as well as jewel trees and elastic cord bracelets. We need to have a substantial number of trees and bracelets for both shows.

— Carolyn Duncan, Workshop Chair

The Shows Are Coming !

The most important events of the year will be here before you know it! The Pasadena Lapidary Society show is first - on March 8th & 9th.

Here is where we need help:

- Greeter
- Raffle Table
- Treasure Wheel
- Sand Scoop
- Grab Bags
- Free Rocks for Kids
- Display Room Docent
- Membership/Info



- Set-up Thursday 4-7pm
 - Set-up Friday 9am-noon
 - Take-down Sunday 5pm
- We need as many hands as we can get for the set-up and take-down. Members are asked to take one or two 2-hour shifts during the show. Contact Mark Nelson for available slots.

Welcome New Members !!



Welcome Diane Kreinbring to our Society! Diane's eager to develop her lapidary skills and apply her artistic talents. 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

Briana Casay will talk about the remarkable gem - Tanzanite. To be scheduled to talk about an interesting rock or mineral please sign up at the monthly meeting or contact Martha Wilson.



Meeting Refreshments:

Thanks to Trudi Krose and Linda Nelson for the January refreshments! Mary Kirmil, Ed and Corinne Imlay are scheduled for February's meeting. Thanks also to all who signed up last month! We still need volunteers for June, September, October and November. Contact me at (323) 664-9598 or at mikekrose@roadrunner.com to sign up to bring something to a future meeting! Trudi Krose

Website: The Pasadena Lapidary Society's web site is now active! Your comments, suggestions and input are welcome. We will have a page of close-up photos of your artistic creations as well as photo pages showing the fun things the club has done! Members are welcome to submit photos for the website by mail to the club or to pasadenalapidary@aol.com. www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org



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THANK YOU to Elizabeth Weston who donated a membership fee in memory of her father.



Sunshine: Our thoughts and prayers are with Hailey Carter whose stepmother passed away from complications of the H1N1 influenza. Michelle Carter was the sister-in-law of Susan Carter SooHoo and the aunt of Tanner SooHoo.

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 Trudi Krose at 323-664-9598 or by email at mikekrose@roadrunner.com.



The History of Birthstones

By Mark Nelson, Pasadena Lapidary Society

In our lapidary hobby we often refer to the birthstone of the month, but who decided on this tradition? The first century Jewish historian Josephus proclaimed a connection between the twelve stones in Aaron's breastplate (known as the Foundation Stones and representing the twelve tribes of Israel) with the twelve months of the year, and the twelve signs of the zodiac. Theologian and historian St. Jerome (347 – 420), referencing Josephus, said the stones would be appropriate for Christians to use. Between the years 700 and 1000 religious treatises were written associating a particular stone with an apostle and his virtue.

The practice became to keep twelve stones and wear one a month. Wearing a single birthstone is only a few centuries old, with experts placing the origin in either in eighteenth century Poland or Germany in the 1560s.

In 1912, in an effort to standardize birthstones, the National Association of Jewelers met in Kansas and officially adopted a list. There have been a few modifications to this list over the years - resulting in the current list of primary and secondary birthstones recognized in most parts of the world as shown in the chart below.

Cover photo use by permission of The Crystal Caves. Amethyst Photo on page 8 used with the permission of The Geode Gallery <http://www.geodegallery.com>.

Our Active Earth - Mt. Sinabung Erupts

From your Editor as reported by the Associated Press

MOUNT SINABUNG, Indonesia (AP) -- On Saturday, February 1st, 2014, a series of huge blasts and eruptions thundered from this 8,530-foot high volcano in western Sumatra, sending lava and pyroclastic flows up to 2.8 miles away.



Photo by IBN Live

Authorities, believing the seismic activity to be subsiding, were caught off-guard and had not evacuated nearby communities, allowed nearly 14,000 people living outside a three-mile-wide danger zone to return home after volcanic activity decreased. The death toll is still being reported.

Month	15th- 20th century	1912	2013
January	garnet	garnet	garnet
February	amethyst, hyacinth, pearl	amethyst	amethyst
March	heliotrope, jasper	heliotrope, aquamarine	aquamarine, heliotrope
April	diamond, sapphire	diamond	diamond
May	emerald, agate	emerald	emerald
June	cat's eye, turquoise, agate	pearl, moonstone	pearl, moonstone, alexandrite
July	turquoise, onyx	ruby	ruby
August	sardonyx, carnelian, moonstone, topaz	sardonyx, peridot	peridot
September	chrysolite	sapphire	sapphire
October	opal, aquamarine	opal, tourmaline	opal, tourmaline
November	topaz, pearl	topaz	topaz, citrine
December	heliotrope, ruby	turquoise, lapis lazuli	turquoise, zircon, tanzanite



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Quartzsite Field Trip

By Ellen Ferrell



Left: Bruce Lamarche, Davis Coghill and Mark Nelson at our camp in the Scaddam Wash.



Right: Christine and Joel Turead's dog proved to be a great camp companion.



Left: After a morning cup of coffee Carolyn Duncan, Ellen Ferrell and Charlotte Bane were ready for the mineral shows.



Right: Hailey Carter is ready with a gem scoop stick!



Left: Field Trip Leader Chris Kyte led us to several fruitful collecting areas!

Bottom: after a day of collecting it was nice to stop, drink some cold water and compare finds.



Photos by Ellen Ferrell

2014 Field Trips Set

Reported by Joe Goetz, Field Trip Director

On January 18th, representatives of the North Orange County, Pasadena and Whittier clubs met to set multi-club field trips for 2014. The complete schedule and expected minerals can be found on the Calendar page of our website.

- FEBRUARY 15th -17th: BAXTER WASH
- MARCH 22nd & 23rd: LAVIC SIDING AREA
- APRIL 26th & 27th: PINTO BASIN
- MAY 17th: WRIGHTWOOD
- JUNE: CERRO GORDO
- JULY 12th: PALOS VERDES
- AUGUST 2nd: LOS OLIVOS
- SEPTEMBER 20th & 21st: JALAMA BEACH
- OCTOBER 11th: SEARLES LAKE
- NOVEMBER 1st & 2nd: WHITTIER CLAIM AREA
- NOVEMBER 28th - 30th: WILEY WELL AREA
- DECEMBER 6th: HIMALAYA MINE TOURMALINES
- JANUARY 24th & 25th: QUARTZSITE ARIZONA SHOWS

Scouting Pinto Basin

By Carolyn Duncan

Frank Wynn, of the North Orange County club, had been to the northern parts of Pinto Basin and Jay Valle of the Whittier club had been to the southern portions. But neither had been there recently, nor had I. On February 1st Mark Nelson



Frank Wynn.



Photos by the Editor

and I joined these other club members to scout out potential lapidary and mineral collecting areas. The desert views were spectacular, as the photo to the left shows.

There were many abandoned mines giving testament to the hardy nature of gold miners of years past.



Abandoned Mine



In the end, the combination of eroding roads and scarcity of lapidary minerals will cause us to re-think this location as one of this year's field trip destinations.



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Joe Goetz
Field Trip Chairman

FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz
Baxter Wash February 15th & 16th, 2014



Baxter Wash is at the eastern side of Afton Canyon and there is a lot to collect! Among the agates there are red, yellow, blue, plume & sagenite agates. There is also jasper, opalite, calcite rhombs, chalcedony roses, amygdules, green fluorite and much more.

The camping area will be again the overflow (group) camping area above the Afton Canyon BLM Campground. This is an easy field trip to do as a long one-day outing or as a weekend field trip. Each morning we will have a briefing at 8:30am and leave the camp at 9am. Barstow is an hour and 50 minutes from Pasadena via the 210 Freeway to I-15 north. There are lots of discount motels in Barstow. The Afton Canyon Campground is 45 minutes from Barstow.

Some of us (including me) will be staying in a motel in Barstow and joining the field trip each morning. Make sure you call me at (626) 260-7239 before the trip and each day of the trip to let me know you are coming so I can guide you to where the group will meet. Click on the **Baxter Wash** link for this month's field trip on the Calendar Page of our website to see a suggested packing list, some value motels and a map to the campsite.

This is an opportunity to collect material and build friendships. There will be a potluck dinner on Saturday evening and a campfire - weather permitting.

Having an adventure somewhere in California..... *Joe Goetz*



Editor's Quiz

Juniors: What was the subject of January's Rock Of The Month talk?

Adults: What two great deserts blend together in the transition zone known as Pinto Basin?

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 Chris Kyte for being the first to correctly identify the minerals that make up Septarian Nodules - Calcite, Aragonite, and Limestone. A prize for this answer to the December Quiz will be awarded at the February meeting!



Unfortunately, there were no correct responses to Editor's Quiz for the month of January. Better luck this month!



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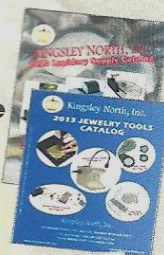
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FEDERATION NEWS

by Joe Goetz, Federation Director

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

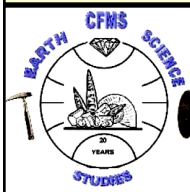


SCRIBE, the organization representing lapidary society bulletin editors held its annual meeting on Saturday, January 25th in the Quartzsite, Arizona, Seniors Center. Author, screenwriter and editor Gene Stirm (photo at left) was the guest speaker.

CFMS Thulite collecting trip 2014 WHEN: February 22nd Saturday. MEET at 9:00 A.M. at the hotel/restaurant parking lot in Ludlow south of I-40 for orientation and sign in. This is the heart of the Mojave Desert and the weather can be unpredictable at this time of year so dress accordingly. This trip may be canceled at the last minute due to bad weather, so please feel free to contact Adam Dean at theadgatehunter@verizon.net or (909) 489-4899 the night before if weather is questionable. We will be collecting Thulite that has a nice pink color and works well for Spheres, Carvings and slabs. For more information see the report in the CFMS Newsletter for February at <http://www.cfmsinc.org/newsletter/news2014/002newsFeb14.pdf>

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

The AFMS is offering training to people who would like to learn to be exhibit judges or for exhibitors who want to improve the quality of their displays. Thursday, April 10th through Sunday morning April 13th during the Ogden, Utah, Club's annual show. The registration form is available at the same CFMS website link as listed in the article above.



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>.



HINTS, TIPS AND SAFETY



Eye Safety at the Workshop and Field Trip

by Mark Nelson, CFMS Safety Chair

Insurance company statistics report that about 2,000 eye injuries occur every day in the workplace in the U.S. Most of these injuries occur from objects are smaller than the head of a pin. Most workplace injuries occur where safety eyewear isn't required, or left up to the individual to decide if they'll wear it. Many of those injured on the job didn't think they needed to wear protective gear, or were wearing eyewear that didn't provide adequate protection.

The risks in the lapidary hobby are no different than those in other workplaces. In our lapidary shops we have spinning wheels loaded with carbide or diamond specks - grinding tiny particles off of stones and metal. On field trips we reach through branches and chip at rocks with a steel pick hammer.

Remember: Protection of our eyes is OUR responsibility!

Here's a quick checklist to help avoid shop and field trip workplace eye injuries:

1. Foremost - wear safety glasses that fit well and that wrap around the sides of your eyes.
2. Make sure you know how to properly use machines.
3. Always brush, shake, or vacuum dust and debris from hats, hair, forehead, or your brow before removing protective eyewear.
4. Don't rub eyes with dirty hands or clothing.
5. Clean eyewear regularly.

First Aid for Eye Injuries

Specks in the Eye: Don't rub the affected eye; Flush the eye with lots of water; See a doctor if the speck doesn't wash out, or if pain or redness continues.

Chemicals in the Eye: Immediately flush the eye with water or drinkable liquid; Open the eye as wide as possible; Continue flushing for at least 15 minutes; Seek immediate medical attention if pain or redness continues. There are some powdered chemicals and acids for which flushing is not recommended, so know the treatment for your particular chemicals.

Cuts, Punctures, and Foreign Objects Embedded in the Eye: Unlike with specks of dust or metal, be sure not to wash out the affected eye; Don't try to remove a foreign object stuck in the eye; Seek immediate medical attention!

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LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS

FEBRUARY 15 - 24: INDIO, CA - Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral Society and San Geronimo Mineral & Gem Society - Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival - 46350 Arabia Street. Hours: 10 - 10 daily.

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

Farrin O'Connor Design is offering a vacuum casting system for sale. Included in the set is a powerful 7CFM vacuum pump unit, a domed vacuum table, and a casting chamber. Also there are a bunch of accessories like a perforated flask, steel adjustment flanges, and rubber gaskets. It is capable of production casting.

They paid more than \$2000 for the equipment and are offering it for sale at only \$900. It was hardly ever used as they decided to out-source their castings. If interested, call them at (626) 796-5300.

Let them know you learned of the equipment in the Pasadena Lapidary Bulletin!



Member - To - Member

Small commercial quality freezer, 34"h -21"w-27"d, 110v - \$50. Also small computer desk \$25. Call Trudy or Mike Krose (323) 664-9598.



12v, 13sms LED bulbs for an RV. Have (10) at \$5 ea. Take one or take all. Mark Nelson (909) 996-1784.



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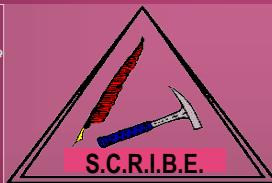
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OUR MISSION

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.

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	The first known depiction of a heart as a symbol of romantic love dates to the 1250s. It occurs in a 'miniature illustration', decorating a capital S, in a manuscript of the French <i>Roman de la poire</i> . In the miniature a kneeling lover offers his heart to a damsel.					1	
2 Candlemas 	3	 Confederate States Formed 1861	4	5	6	7 Winter Olympics 	8 Boy Scouts 1910 
9 Workshop 	10	11 Board Meeting 	12 Abraham Lincoln born Feb. 12 1809 	13	14 Full Moon 	15 Field Trip to Baxter Wash 	
16 Field Trip to Baxter Wash 	 Presidents Day Holiday	18 Program Meeting 	19	20 John Glenn orbits the Earth 1962 	21	22 Shadow Mountain Gem & Mineral Show at Date Festival 	
23 Shadow Mountain Gem & Mineral Show at Date Festival 	24	25	 Golden Gate Bridge Construction starts 1933	26	27	28 Maha Shivaratri - Hindu 