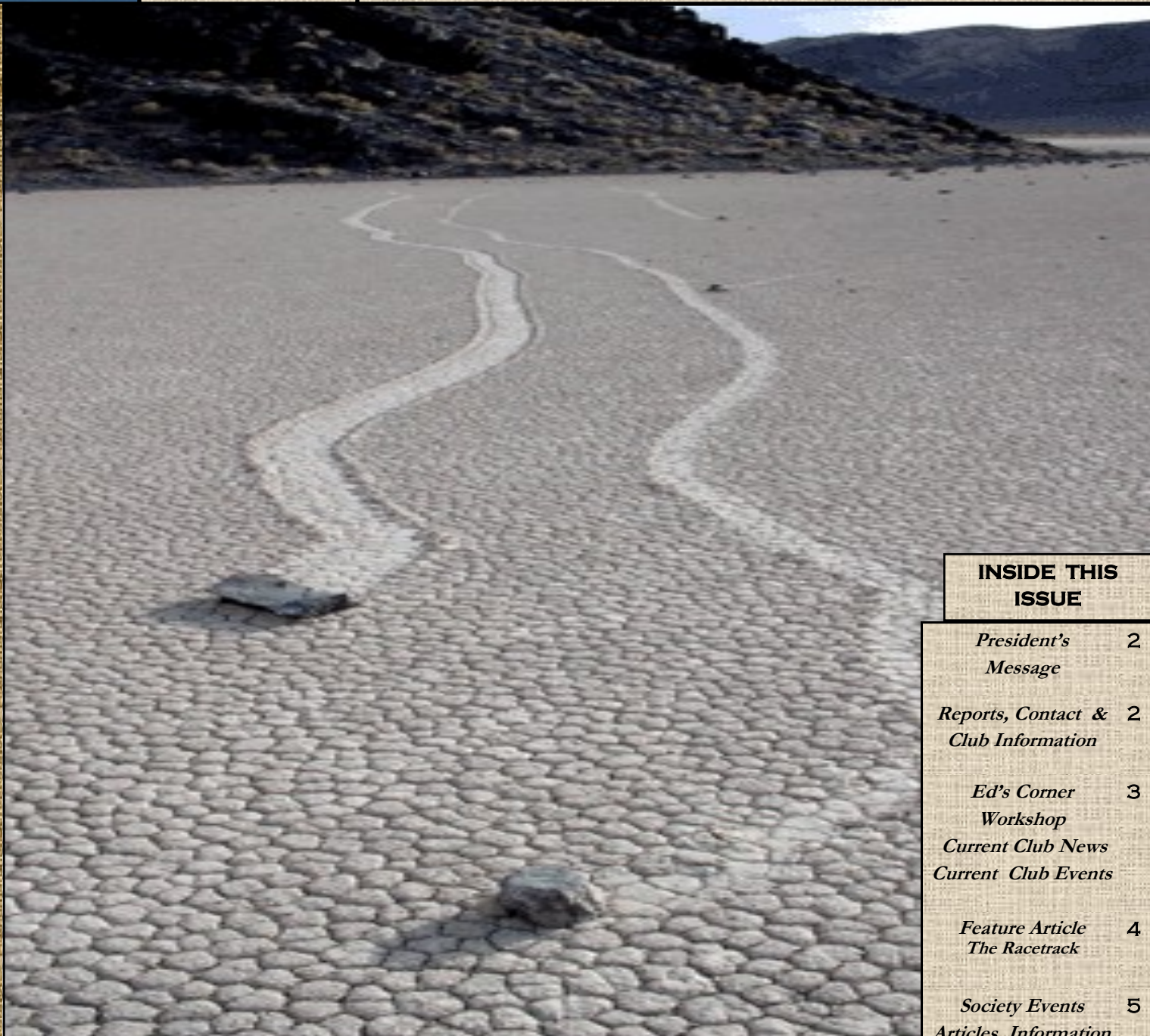


ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

APRIL 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



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The Moving Rocks of Death Valley. Nestled in a remote valley between the Cottonwood and Last Chance Ranges, the Racetrack is a place of stunning beauty and mystery. The Racetrack is a playa--a dry lake bed--best known for its strange moving rocks. It is a mystery as to how the rocks, some weighing hundreds of pounds, actually seen the rocks move - but the long meandering tracks left behind in the mud surface of the playa attest to their activity. Theories range from hurricane-force winds to shifting ice on the normally-dry lake surface to UFO force fields. For years the Race Track has been a source of wonder. Now it may be partially explained!

Photo by the U.S. National Park Service.

Continued on page 4



President's Message



Dear Members,
We had a wonderful show last month! We had many of our members there to help out. Without their efforts we could not have made the show what it was this year. And - I think we all had a good time while we worked!

I want to be sure to thank all of the committee chairs for their tireless and diligent work. Our committee chairs are

the backbone of the show and their vision and efforts make the show work.

The visitors to the show were impressed and we had a significant number of people attend. Visitors were heard to say *oohh* and *aahh* when looking at the cases. **YUM** was also a word heard often by those who ate from the kitchen. Those who visited the demonstration area were surprised with what the club members could do. I have always felt that PLS has the best raffle prizes and they were exceptional this year - as always.

Our grab bags were great also. The kids area was busy with young folk scooping and spinning and loving what they got. The silent auction went well and much of the rock found new homes. We had some new members sign up and we welcome them to the Society! My thanks and appreciation to **ALL** who pitched in - for **YOU** made the show a success!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the April program meeting!

..... **Marcia**
Marcia Goetz, President

Meeting and General Club Information

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(626) 914-5030
joenmar1@verizon.net

Martha Wilson, Vice President
(626) 798-9085
marthaansley@gmail.com

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

March Board Meeting
by Linda Nelson, Secretary

Officers/Directors present: Carolyn Duncan, Marcia Goetz, Joe Goetz, Ed Imlay, Chris Kyte, Linda Nelson, Mark Nelson, Martha Wilson. Absent: Jennifer Jang & Elizabeth Weston. Also present: None. A CD for \$10k was opened at One West Bank. Committee reports were presented and discussed. The Society still needs a room for our board meetings. *A full report of the meeting is available on the Member Tools page of the web site.*

March Program Meeting

"Rock Talk"

Janie Duncan, the owner of Janie's Jurassic Jewelry and president of the Monrovia Rockhounds, spoke at our program meeting. Janie is renown for her informative Rock Talks, History of Beads, Organic Beads and a History of Buttons. Everyone enjoyed her talk and agreed that it was one of our best program presentations. We hope that she will do another of her "talks" at a future meeting!

April Program Meeting

How The Earth Was Made - Martha Wilson, will show an award-winning History Channel video about the creation of our planet over 4 billion years ago!

Ed Imlay will have a display table available for members to show items they have collected at recent field trips or in their travels are welcome to bring rocks and minerals for identification.

Come early at 6pm and enjoy coffee and refreshments by Trudy Krose's refreshments committee.

Membership Information and Meeting Locations

Membership per calendar year is only \$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.

Website: pasadenalapidarysociety.org

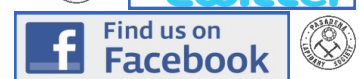
Email: pasadenalapidary@aol.com

Program Meetings: 6:45 - 8:45 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the Pasadena Central Library at 285 E. Walnut Street. Doors open at 6pm. **Guests are welcome!**

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

Workshop: The use of the club's equipment is available to members from 9am to 5pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month in our shop at 123 E. Montecito Ave., Sierra Madre. There are two sessions - from 9am to 1pm and 1pm to 5pm. Equipment proficiency is required and instruction is free. Fees are \$3 per session or \$5 for a full day. Bring lunch!

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.

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.

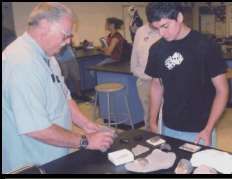


Ed's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTEACH

By Ed Imlay

Chair, Education Committee



Ed Imlay at a local school

Jennifer Nishimura will be helping me with presentations to youth groups! To schedule my special 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 (polish a corner) to reveal the interior (if it will not damage the appearance of the specimen).

Display Table: For the Program meeting, please display any items of general interest, especially: workshop projects and items you collected at the field trip, or the month's birthstone. For fun, wear something to the meeting containing this month's birthstone - Diamond! Did you know that the Arabic and Hebrew birthstone this month is Sapphire?

She who from April dates her years,
Diamonds shall wear, lest bitter tears
For vain repentance flow; this stone,
Emblem of innocence, is known
..... Gregorian Calendar

WORKSHOP

This Month's Workshop Program:



This month is New Member Orientation. We will be hosting our new members and introducing them to the Workshop. Preference in cutting, polishing and working on stones will be given to our new members. Remember that all members must have a signed release on file and verify that they have read and understand the workshop rules and safety policy. Let's see what we can create from our Lavic Siding Field Trip!

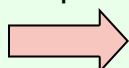
Work on your projects this month. Experienced help will be available. There may be a special "how to" presentation at the workshop after new member orientation.

Call me if you have any questions at (909) 593-2781

Carolyn Duncan
Workshop Chair



Let's cut and polish our Lavic Jasper!



Welcome New Members !!



Welcome to our new members - Victor Castellano, an investigator; Linda Desbrow, a pharmacist; Crystal Drysdale, Yang Lu and Virginia Kennedy, retired; Rose Figueroa, a retired teacher; Leah Garza, a teacher; Tristan Hubbard and his mother, Stephanie Pereda, a supervisor; Fumie Onisawa, a horticulturalist; Sarah Romanek, a silversmith; Jill Terashita, a veterinary technician! Welcome back Cal Matthews and Lorraine Bauchiero! 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



No one stepped up to talk about their favorite rock this month! To be scheduled to talk about an interesting rock or mineral please sign up at the monthly meeting or email Martha Wilson.



Follow us on Twitter!



https://twitter.com/pasalapidary

Meeting Refreshments:



Program Meeting Refreshments — Thanks to Becky Fregoso and Jennifer Jang for March's refreshments! Lisa Griffy and Paolo Sanchez are scheduled for the April meeting!

To volunteer to bring refreshments ∞ Contact me at (323) 664-9598 or by email at mikekrose@roadrunner.com. Trudy Krose



Sunshine: Our prayers are with Elizabeth Weston following her brother's death while skiing at Mammoth. Pat Oronoz is recovering from shoulder surgery and Judy Scott from injuries sustained by a fall. Jodia McLeod and Ellen Farrell escaped injury

following automobile accidents. Martha Wilson will be caring for her sister following surgery. Carolyn Duncan, William and Denise Davis participated in the Fish for Food which provides fresh fish for the non-profit Food Share of Ventura County - a member partner of Feeding America. William Davis has been awarded the Dr. Herman Epstein Special Service Award by the Los Angeles Rod & Reel Foundation in recognition of his work to provide the experience of fishing for disadvantaged, disabled and troubled children. 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.



The Moving Stones of Death Valley

By Mark Nelson, Pasadena Lapidary Society

DEATH VALLEY is a place of stark contrasts. It is a wild wilderness of low valley floors crusted with barren salt flats and rugged mountains rising as much as 11,000 feet. It claims the lowest elevation in North America, at 282 feet below sea level and the hottest air temperature ever recorded on our planet - 134°. It has areas of man-made splendor, such as Scotty's Castle, and natural wonders such as Ubehebe Crater and The Race Track. It is the largest U.S. National Park outside Alaska at 3.4 million acres

The mystery of the moving rocks of Death Valley may have been partially solved. Cousins Richard Norris, 55, a paleobiologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and James, 59, a research engineer, launched their "Slithering Stones Research Initiative" in 2011.

In that year they prepared some rocks, similar to some of the smaller ones on the lake bed, and imbedded a GPS transmitter in a cavity in the rocks prepared for that purpose. They returned in 2013 on a cold December 20th to inspect the instruments. "We found the playa covered with ice," Richard recalled. "We also noticed fresh rock trails near shards of thin ice stacked up along the shoreline."

The following afternoon, "we were sitting on a mountainside and admiring the view when a light wind kicked up and the ice started cracking," he said. "Suddenly, the whole process unfolded before our eyes." The cracking sounds were ferocious. An ankle-deep, frozen lake in Death Valley National Park was breaking apart under sunny skies.

As cousins Richard Norris and James Norris watched, a light wind began moving huge floes of ice across the surface of the water and into rocks weighing up to 200 pounds. Propelled by the ice masses, the rocks began to slide across the slick, muddy bottom of the normally dry lake bed, known as the Racetrack playa.

Their time-lapse photographs provide the first clue to what may be the answer of the moving rocks of Death Valley. See the video, titled The Slithering Stones of Racetrack Playa, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyHcs7B2Zk, courtesy of Geology.com - or Google: geology.com/death_valley_racetrack.

Thanks to input from PLS member Tom Traeger and L.A. Times reporter Louis Sahagun for input on the article.

Blue Pearls of New Zealand



Paua shellfish is a variety of abalone that is indigenous to New Zealand's coastal waters. The fish is edible and considered a delicacy and the shell has traditionally been used in local craft and art work. Paua or Blue pearls grow inside the abalone and are a unique New Zealand gem. Those Paua pearls occurring naturally will be one of a kind and tend to be uneven in shape and color.

The cultured abalone pearls are typically spectacularly iridescent and are grown inside the abalone within a controlled and sustainable marine hatchery environment. A special process is used to insert blisters onto the shell of the Paua to stimulate the growth of these distinctive pearls. The nacre layers grow over the blisters to produce the beautiful variety of colors. The pearls are harvested after several years of growth.



Elizabeth Weston

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2015 Annual Show

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Hawaiian Islands in stone!



Marléne Kyte
Rockhound Of The Year !!



Junior Rockhounds at work!



Sound and Silent Auction Corner



Photos by Mary Kirmil

This year's Demonstrations were exceptionally popular!



March Field Trip to Lavic Siding

Right: Dottie Jacobs holds huge chalcedony rose found near the Thulite hill.

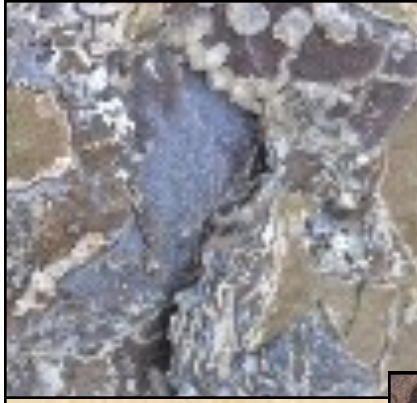


Beautiful desert sunrises!



Left: Michelle Vandebroek examines a vein of exquisite crystals - shown below in detail.

Below: Agate swirls around pockets of crystals in the South Cady Mountains.



Cactus join the desert flowers in bloom in March!

Photos by Joe Goetz and Mark Nelson. Plan on making your own memories at the April Field Trip!





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FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz



Joe Goetz
Field Trip Chairman

Field Trips !

By Joe Goetz



Kramer Junction / Hills

The fieldtrip for April is to the Kramer Hills where agate of many kinds have been found in the past. There are moss and flower agates as well as jasper, some petrified palm and opalite. There is a large area to explore and who knows what we'll find (the best stuff has been found when we were "lost"). There is great collecting right there at the junction as well. Typically, where we camp is not 30 feet away are some of the widest seams of agate I have ever seen.

We will be collecting for the better part of two days - Saturday and Sunday. We'll be using the camp site as a starting point for going to some of the surrounding areas - Castle Butte, Opal Mountain or North Edwards or the area near the borax mine - so you know it won't be boring. It could just happen that we all might be "popping wheelies" on the way home. The dates are April 24th (Arbor Day, is it a holiday?) 25th and 26th 2015. Details, maps and information can be found on the **Calendar page** of our web site.

Call me to let me know that you are attending the field trip - (626) 260-7239. **I hope to see you out there!**

..Somewhere in California. . . Joe Goetz



Congratulations to Danielle Sanchez for knowing that the giant gas columns of the Eagle Nebula are known as the "Pillars of Creation"!

Congratulations, also, to Debbie Sanchez for knowing that she can call Armando Pedroza with Forest & Sun arborist for information on Petrified wood features for my backyard pond.

Prizes will be awarded at the April Meeting!

Editor's Quiz



Juniors: Who says Arabs and Hebrews don't have things in common? Name one thing from this month's bulletin that these two cultures share.

Adults: Where would I go to compare equipment manufactured by both Covington and Graves?

The answers to this month's quiz can be found in this bulletin. The first Adult and Junior Members to correctly answer these questions will win a special prize at this month's Program Meeting. Email your answer to pasadenalapidary@aol.com or call the Editor.



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FEDERATION NEWS

By Joe Goetz & Elizabeth Weston

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Jim Brace-Thompson

Jim Brace-Thompson is heading the California Federation in it's support of the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America merit badge program. The FRA program offers 20 badges for kids to earn by doing activities spanning the full range of our hobby - from taking field trips and collecting to lapidary work, writing newsletter articles, learning about minerals, fossils and meteorites, gemstone lore and legend, and more. Jim says that "any child earning 6 badges symbolically graduates from a "future" rockhound to a full-fledged rockhound and is awarded a Rockhound badge. Since I began the Badge Program 10 years ago, 442 kids have earned that distinction. But there is another award that is far more special and exclusive. Any child earning all 20 badges becomes a Rock Star, earning an AFMS pin and having his/her name featured on a Rock Star Hall of Fame on the AFMS website.

Our Society is interested in creating such a program here! If you are interested in leading or helping to lead this program within our Society, please let us know at pasadenalapidary@aol.com.

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of reviewing which desert roads should be closed in order to limit access to areas that we consider good for rock collecting.

This is our opportunity to go out to rockhounding areas AND make your voice heard...

*Richard Mueller wrote on LA Rocks: On just one I click, Afton Canyon Subregion (You can enlarge the map-wilderness study area) I see that AC9606 and AC9616 will be blocked if the area is made into a wilderness area. I do know that 100's of you in the past have collected angel wing agate, tube agate, jaspers, saginite, fluorite and many other great rocks from this area from . Please!!! Let the BLM know all the areas/roads you do not want closed. Input from Rockhounds is needed NOW. Here are two things you can do: Attend any of the four BLM meetings scheduled in the next month -- Thu, Apr 2, in Victorville, Thu, Apr 7, in Lone Pine, and Wed, Apr 15, in Yucca Valley; Write a comment letter (email to: cawemopa@blm.gov). If you Rockhound or just recreate in the Mojave Desert please visit the ALAA WEMO Page at: <http://www.amlands.org/6652/362434.html> Please become familiar with the plan and attend one of the up coming meetings to make the voice of the Rockhound be heard! **This rockaholic thanks you!***

A Rockhound Legacy

By Mark Nelson, Pasadena Lapidary Society

Last month I went into the lobby of One West Bank, in Arcadia, to help our Treasurer facilitate our Society's newest time deposit. I spoke with New Accounts representative Oscar Toledo and I noticed that he had a polished piece of agate on the stand of his computer monitor. I inquired about it and he said that Mr. Vern Cliffe had given it to him and he always has it at his desk "to remind him of rock collectors like Mr. Cliffe". Vern Cliffe was an active member of our Society for many years. He passed away from a fall a few years ago and left quite a legacy. He was known to carry a pocket full of tumbled stones to give away and tell people about the Pasadena Lapidary Society!



TIPS, HINTS AND SAFETY

Tools You Can Use

By Linda Nelson



The Treasure Scoop: This long scoop is made of lightweight aluminum with a nylon-vinyl grip that makes it ideal for use under brush, rocks, or in water. Optional 36" or 42" length to reach under plants and into crevices. Can be used as a walking stick or balancing stick to help ford streams and climb hills. <http://www.kingsleynorth.com/>



Rock pick hammer: I've seen them at Quartzsite and discount tool places for \$20, and they are fine for most of what we do. It is my opinion that the best rock hammer for the money is the one made by Estwing. You can get it at Home Depot for \$33.99:

<http://www.homedepot.com/p/Estwing-22-oz-Solid-Steel-Rock-Pick-Pointed-Tip-and-Blue-Vinyl-Shock-Reduction-Grip-E3-22P/203075856>



A good starter tool is something like the EZ Dig Mini Pick and Trowel. \$15.97 at Home Depot.

"Nothing happens until something moves" A. Einstein

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— Mary Kirmil —

Member, Pasadena Lapidary Society



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LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS

10-12—VISTA, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Vista Gem and Mineral, Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum; 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave.; Fri. 10 am.-5 pm, Sat. 10 am-5 pm, Sun. 10 am -5 pm; Admission is Free; Free Parking and admission to museum.

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



11-12—MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; CA State Mineral Museum and Mariposa Club, Mariposa Fairgrounds; Highway 49 and Fairgrounds Rd.; Sat. 10.00-5.00, Sun. 10.00-4.00; Adults \$3, Students \$2 Seniors & Children = Free; www.camineralmuseum.com

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

18-19—THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Conejo Gem & Mineral Club, Borchard Park Community Center; 190 Reino Road at Borchard Road; Sat. 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM-5:00 PM; Exhibits and sales of gems, jewelry, rocks, minerals and fossils, Special youth activities. Lapidary & Jewelry making demonstrations. Silent auction, door prizes, plant sale and snack bar. FREE admission and parking. Web site: www.cgamc.org

Member - To - Member

From my collection: Chocolate diamond, brilliant cut, 0.23 ct, for \$70. Jim Gersbach at 626-577-6773 or tenomo@netscape.net.



Apartment Needed: Does your retired family or church member want a little extra income by renting a guest apartment or casita to a responsible single club member? Let's help our own! Dr. Davis Coghill 626-391-7296 is in need of one.

From the show take down: I am missing a Phillips screwdriver similar to this one. Has anyone seen it? Rex Nishimura 818-790-9972



Thanks to Jay and Kathy Valle for making a guest apartment at their home available to me! Sheryl Aitken.

Members are welcome to place a **FREE** message here for items or services wanted, for sale or for trade.

Email submissions to: pasadenalapidary@aol.com or call the Editor.



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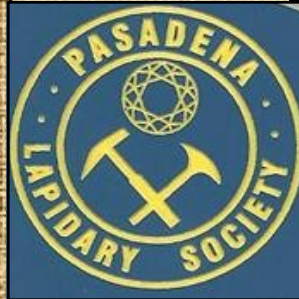
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APRIL
2015

The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
Bulletin Editor:
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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



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.






















Sparkling crystals cover this specimen of jasper collected near Lavic Siding. Don't miss this month's Field Trip!



The Pasadena Lapidary Society is affiliated with the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Our editor is a member of the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors.

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  International Tatting Day	2	 Passover begins at sundown	4  Full Moon Total Lunar Eclipse
5  HAPPY EASTER	6	7	 Birthday of Buddha	9	10 	 Civil Rights Act of 1968
12  Workshop	13	14  Board Meeting	15	17  Remember	18 	
19 	20	21  Program Meeting	23  Earth Day	24  Lyrids Meteor Shower	25  Kramer Junction Field Trip	
26  Kramer Junction Field Trip	27	28	30  Rivdan - Baha'i		 April 24th, 1184 B.C., the Greeks enter Troy hidden inside a giant wooden horse.	