



Rockhound rambblings

SEPTEMBER 2016 | THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



#1 Gold All American Club Winner — Pasadena Lapidary Society —

On July 30th, at the 2016 Convention of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies the Pasadena Lapidary Society was named as the #1 Lapidary Club in North America! This award is presented to the lapidary club that has the best services for its members, junior members, the general community and is involved in education and governmental affairs affecting our hobby. **This is an accomplishment of which we can all be very proud! Let's show our pride by telling our friends and families about it and by coming together at this year's 70th Anniversary Celebration!**

Photo by Mark Nelson

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President's Message



Dear Members,

President Ellen Ferrell has been ill. We wish her a speedy recovery!

GREAT NEWS! Our club's activity in 2015 was reviewed by a committee of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Based upon what they saw, the Pasadena Lapidary Society was named the #1 Lapidary Club in North America! Among the activity that they considered was our service to our members, programs, educational outreach, bulletin, website, workshop, field trips, annual show, picnic, letters to legislators and our social media

presence. While Elizabeth Weston and I put the documentation together in the form of a Yearbook, it was a result of the participation of all of our members! I want to especially recognize Martha Wilson, Ed Imlay & Jennifer Nishimura, Joe & Marcia Goetz, Valerie Stathatos, Elizabeth Weston, Linda Nelson, Carolyn Duncan, Trudy Krose, Victor Castellano, the gang who helped rehab the Workshop, those who moved rock donations and all who wrote letters to our government officials last year! The 2015 yearbook can be reviewed at the home page of the web site.

In the AFMS National Competition for bulletin articles by Junior Members, our own Jennifer Nishimura won 2nd Place for her article on Jade Cove and Paolo Sanchez

won 3rd Place for his article on Iron Sand! What Outstanding Members!

Our Rockhound Of The Year program is also part of our award-winning status. **Don't forget to send in a ROTY nomination!**

Ed Imlay & Jennifer Nishimura have a great rock and mineral presentation for your child or grand-child's school. **Now is the time to talk to your child's teacher about having Ed and Jennifer into the classroom for this fun and interesting experience!**

I hope to see you all at the field trip, workshop and meetings!

Mark Nelson, Editor

Meeting and General Society Information

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Newsletter Articles, ads or corrections should be sent to the editor: Mark Nelson, P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena CA 91117-0025 or by email to pasadenalapidary at aol.com. (909) 996-1784.

August Board Meeting by Ed Imlay, Acting Secretary

There was no board meeting in August. The next board meeting will be Thursday, September 1st and is open to all members. If you plan to attend, please contact Ellen for the location and so we can insure plenty of chairs.

August Program Meeting

Jacob Tillman gave a presentation on Slag for Lapidary at the Rock Of The Month. It was a most interesting presentation!

Carolyn Duncan showed the conclusion of the great video about *Rhodochrosite* from Colorado and particularly the **Sweet Home Mine's**

world-class Rhodochrosite!

Mark Nelson was elected Secretary and the Board met briefly.

September Program Meeting

September will feature Patrick Keegan. Patrick is a renown expert in minerals of Southern California and he will be speaking on the minerals and trips into Searles lake with the Searles Lake gem and mineral club. He will have specimens and will prep us for the upcoming October field trip to Trona!

Our Rock Of The Month talk will be presented by Janie Duncan, who will introduce us to the world of lapidary-quality Ammonites!

Program Presenters Wanted

If you have enjoyed the presentations at our monthly meetings you are invited to help us to bring more great speakers to educate our members!

Contact our Vice President, Mona Ross, with your suggestions of topics, presenters or other ideas!

Come early at 6 p.m. and enjoy coffee and light refreshments by Cindy Lamarche's Hospitality Committee. Bring rocks and minerals for identification! The display table is for members to show items they have collected at recent field trips or in their travels.

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 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:

www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org
Email: pasadenalapidary@aol.com

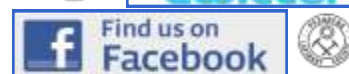
Board Meetings: 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the Castellano Building at 401 W. Colorado Blvd Monrovia, CA. A map and directions are on the website. All members are welcome to attend!

Program Meetings: 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Pasadena Central Library at 285 E. Walnut Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. 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 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month in our shop at 97 E. Montecito Ave., Sierra Madre. There are two sessions - from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. 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 are for adult members and junior members eight and older 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

hotmail.com

Jennifer Nishimura has joined the Education Committee to help give the presentation to youth groups. To schedule our very special educational presentation to your group or school contact Ed by phone at (626) 286-8215 or by email: edimlay at

Identification: Would you like to know the name of a rock you have acquired? If you can polish or knock a small window off of a corner without damaging the rest of the specimen, please do so to expose the inside. Set it on the display table at the rear of the meeting room with a note asking "What is this?" and ask me about it!

Display Table: At the September Program Meeting you may display items of general interest, workshop projects and items you collected on field trips. Celebrate our gemstone of the month - Sapphire - by wearing or displaying something made from the birthstone!

"A maiden born when autumn leaves
Are rustling in September's breeze,
A Sapphire on her brow should bind;
To bring her joy and peace of mind."

Source: Gregorian Calendar 1582

It's time to nominate our Rockhound and Junior Rockhound Of The Year!

The Rockhound Of The Year (ROTY) and the Junior Rockhound Of The Year (JROTY - ages 8 though 17) are persons whose contribution has been of significant value to the Society. It is the intent of the Society to recognize one or more of its members annually for each category. Any member of the Pasadena Lapidary Society can be nominated for this honor.

Nomination Procedure:

Persons wishing to nominate a person for the Rockhound or the Junior Rockhound Of The Year shall submit a nomination form. The nomination form is available on the Member Tools page of the web site. Submit one form for an adult nominee and a separate form for a junior nominee. Mail the form to the post office box or email it to pasadenalapidary at aol.com. All nominations must be received by October 1st, 2016.

WORKSHOP — Drilling Stones



The August workshop was well attended with 36 people braving the hot weather. Mark Nelson worked outside in the 100° weather and has the swamp coolers almost fully functional. Great job, Mark!

At the September workshop I will be demonstrating how to drill holes in rock pendants and pebbles using a Dremel, a small drill press and hollow-core diamond drills. Class will be held between the hours of 11:15 AM and 12:30 PM. If you have your own Dremel or piece you want to drill, bring it with you. Bring a selection of hollow-core diamond drill bits, such as those available from RioGrande.com who have very quick shipping.

If you are a prospective member who has not received a workshop orientation, please call me to be scheduled. 909-593-2781 gem.quest@verizon.net
— Carolyn Duncan, Workshop Chair

Welcome
New Members !!



Earlier this year the Board instituted a policy requiring prospective members to attend three Society functions, including a workshop visit. We welcome these new members who have completed the prerequisites! Welcome to Traci Anderson, Gloria Blancarte, George Bryant III (JR), Hamish Cullen (JR), Raquel Grijalva, Megan McHone, Michael Petit, Janet Petit, Chris Sauer, Ben Shutman, Shona Stewart, Alice Watkins, Eddie Wong and Linda Wong.



ROCK OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION

Janie Duncan will introduce us to lapidary-quality Ammonites - one of her favorite fossils! To sign up to talk about YOUR favorite stone or related subject contact us by email at pasadenalapidary at aol.com.



It is our 70th Year! Help us make a memorable celebration! To volunteer to help or to give suggestions contact Cindy Lamarche at (626) 833-8710 or by email at grammiecyn at verizon.net



Follow us on Twitter!

<https://twitter.com/pasalapidary>



Meeting Refreshments:



Program Meeting Refreshments — Thanks to Jennifer Jang and Elizabeth Weston for their treats at the August meeting! Victor Castellano and Brianna Casay have volunteered to bring refreshments at the September meeting! Check the schedule of volunteers on the Member Tools page of the web site.

To volunteer to bring refreshments ∞ Contact me at (626) 833-8710 or by email at grammiecyn at verizon.net.
..... Cindy Lamarche



Sunshine:

Carolyn Duncan is scheduled for her second eye surgery ∞ Ellen Ferrell is recovering from illness ∞ Bon Paphatsarang's mother-in-law has been seriously ill. On the happy side — Dave Kelty's home escaped the Pilot Fire, as did the Nelsons from a fire behind their home ∞ Jennifer Nishimura won 2nd place in the AFMS bulletin article contest ∞ Paolo Sanchez won 3rd place in the same national competition! ∞ The Pasadena Lapidary Society has a Sunshine Committee to send cards and words of comfort and support and congratulations to our members who are in need or are deserving of it. Call or email me! My contact info is shown above ∞ Cindy Lamarche.





Obsidian Wonderland-Glass Butte, Oregon

By Jared Nishimura, Pasadena Lapidary Society

Last month, my family and I took a trip to Oregon for rock hunting and the AFMS Convention. On our way back home, we made a stop at Little Glass Butte, which our rock hunting guide book said was a good obsidian hunting spot. Phil Lahr, another member of the Pasadena Lapidary Society, accompanied us there as well. Obsidian is an amazing rock, usually nicknamed volcanic glass, and has a 5 - 6 Mohs hardness, which polishes into extremely beautiful cabochons. Our trip to Little Glass Butte was amazing because there was obsidian everywhere, and we were satisfied with what we found!



Little Glass Butte is located in Central Oregon about 1½ hours from Prineville, and is known for gem quality rainbow, black, mahogany, gold sheen, and aurora borealis obsidian. There are multiple collecting sites which tend to yield better pieces of obsidian, but the entire ground on this butte is covered in volcanic glass.

Obsidian forms in quickly cooling lava. When the molten rock changes temperature quickly, the atoms inside are unable to arrange into a crystalline structure. Lava cools quickly on edge of the lava flow, in mid-air when explosively ejected from a volcano, and when it contacts water. The result is volcanic glass.

Minimal tools and provisions are required when hunting at Little Glass Butte and only a hammer and a pick are necessary for most stubborn pieces of obsidian. Water, sunscreen, safety glasses and a hat are also recommended because the obsidian reflects the heat and glow of the sun. Also, it is helpful to bring a spare tire since the roads are covered with sharp glass, and the tires could puncture easily. With these supplies, you are prepared for a good hunting day in Little Glass Butte.



Once you are there, be sure to look for Little Glass Butte's obsidian rivers! These streams of obsidian are about three feet wide and 300 feet long and seem to be eroding out of the summit. From the road, it looks like a shining black stream, full of premium specimens, winding its way up to the top of the mountain. Of course, no one knows for certain how the rivers came to be

here, but I suspect that molten lava was forced through fissures in the lava, forming vertical seams of obsidian which are now slowly eroding from the butte. Over time, geologic forces broke up parts of the obsidian and spread it across the butte. Obsidian rivers might be from these same vertical seams, broken and pushed up to the surface. We encountered several of these while driving to and from various spots and always stopped to look around and admire the beauty. They are definitely a sight to see in Oregon!

The many varieties of obsidian are each formed in a different way.



Mahogany obsidian is brownish black obsidian, formed when iron oxide laden brown obsidian swirls with the pyroxene laden black obsidian before rapidly cooling. These pieces make great cabochons as the swirls often make unique patterns.

Gold and silver sheen are formed by inclusions of mineral crystals, rock debris, or gas. When put into the light in a certain way, they can give off a sheen. These sheen obsidians (rainbow obsidian, golden obsidian, or silver obsidian) are named depending upon the color of the sheen or iridescence. These specimens are very desirable for the manufacture of jewelry.



The Butte must have endured many violent igneous processes to produce the multiple varieties of obsidian seen today. The most popular varieties, mahogany obsidian and the chatoyant gold sheen obsidian, are accessible by most cars and do not require hard rock mining. Other varieties, like Aurora Borealis obsidian require some digging.

Whichever is your preference, Little Glass Butte beckons all rockhounds with the promise of beautiful gem quality obsidian. The next time you drive up north, visit the premier obsidian collecting site, and gather a few rocks from this amazing butte!

Editor's Note: Several of our club members attended the AFMS Convention and Show in Albany, Oregon, including the Nishimura family, Phil Lahr, Tony and Sandie Fender and the Nelson's. The next AFMS convention will be June 9 - 11, 2017, at Ventura, California. Make plans to attend the show and field trips!

Dobell Ranch Petrified Wood Holbrook, Arizona

Great selection and prices on petrified wood! Open daily!



Tonya Black

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

Show this page or a copy for a Special Rock Club Discount!



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We support lapidary clubs!

Activities, Tips and Information

2016 AFMS Show - Albany, Oregon



Left: Hosted by the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NWFMS), everyone was in the spirit of the day!

Below: There was a table set with minerals and rocks that look like food.



Above: CFMS President John Martin was everywhere documenting the show with his camera.



Right: Jennifer Nishimura receiving her award for Second Place in the national bulletin article contest!



Left: Tony Fender receives the First Place Award for his beading display from AFMS President Matt Charsky.



The Blue Cut - as seen at our July field trip, and during the fire that started August 16th. Appreciate the opportunities that an active lapidary club can give us!

What did you find on a field trip, vacation or show? Send a photo and description of your find to the Editor by the 15th of the month! We'd all like to see them!

BB On-Pitch

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Activities, Tips and Information

Right: Mark Nelson receives #1 Gold All American Club Award for the Pasadena Lapidary Society from Judy Beck at the AFMS Convention!



Below: PLS members at a large petrified tree on the McDonald Ranch. L-R: Philip Lahr - Allyson, Chuie, Rex, Jared, Jennifer Nishimura - Mark & Linda Nelson.

Photo by Alex McDonald.



Clockwise from left at Richardson Thunderegg Ranch: Philip Lahr, Allyson Nishimura, Daniel Nishimura and Jared Nishimura



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FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz



Joe Goetz
Field Trip Chairman

Fieldtrip for Petrified Wood of Arizona

September 2nd thru 5th, 2016



Possible scene in what is now Arizona in the Holbrook area: The ground is wet and soggy, it's very humid as well. On the fringes of this swampy place are huge trees growing straight up - their canopies hiding the sky! Strange creatures - some small, scampering around - others huge, lumbering along. The ground shakes, the trees fall into the mud and they sink ever deeper into the mire and get covered up. There they lie hidden away, dead - yet another metamorphous is taking place! Water is penetrating the wood - dissolving it cell by cell. And yet minerals are replacing the wood fibers and leaving a record of the former life that was here so long ago!

The area is drying up and the mud is hardening. The tree silica dioxide and other minerals are hardening as well. Now, in the present day, the swamp has become desert. There small creatures are still scampering around. These are miniature versions of what once lived here. Now the most prevalent life here is humans and their favorite thing to do is to find and dig up rock - or in this case - colorful Arizona petrified wood - and Holbrook is the place to do it!

Bring all the necessary equipment, you know hats, durable pants, knee pads, shovels, rock picks, lots of water to drink and possibly to splash on yourself to cool down, a bag lunch and rain jacket. Contact Mark Nelson at (909) 996-1784 for details.

..Somewhere in California. . . Joe Goetz



Unfortunately no one correctly answered that Reginald Fulce was a member of our club at its first annual show and that his pride and joy was a jade sphere.



Congratulations to Allyson Nishimura for being the first Junior to answer that our 2016 Show was our 61st annual show! She won a hand-held electric polishing kit.

Prizes were awarded at the August Program Meeting!



Editor's Quiz

Juniors: **What was Jacob Tillman's favorite rock that he spoke about to the Pasadena Lapidary Society?**

Adults: In the feature article, what is the name of the location where the brownish-black obsidian was found, and what is the name of this obsidian ?

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 the next Program Meeting.

Email your answer to the Society's email address: [pasadenalapidary at aol.com](mailto:pasadenalapidary@aol.com)



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FEDERATION NEWS

By Joe Goetz

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The CFMS is looking for someone to serve as its Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Chair. This person should be organized and familiar with using email. **They don't need to have been a bulletin editor,** and they will have the chance to become acquainted with a number of very talented folks!

Once a year this person receives articles and bulletins for judging and distributes them to a panel of experienced judges, then receives them back, orders plaques and certificates for the winners and sends the top entries to the AFMS for judging. At the start of each month the BEAC is asked to submit his or her thoughts in a short article for the CFMS Newsletter. Mark Nelson is available to guide you through the process!

If you would like information about serving our Federation in this way, contact John Martin, CFMS President, by email: [plac at antelecom.net](mailto:plac@antelecom.net).

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



2016 AFMS Convention
Californians At The Convention



L-R: Cheri & Don George, Shirley Leeson, Susan Martin, Vivian Roberts, Tony Fender, Marion Roberts, Sandie Fender, Jennifer Haley, Margaret Kolaczyk, Linda & Mark Nelson, Burl & Pat LaRue. Behind the camera: John Martin, CFMS President

You Know You're A Rockhound If:

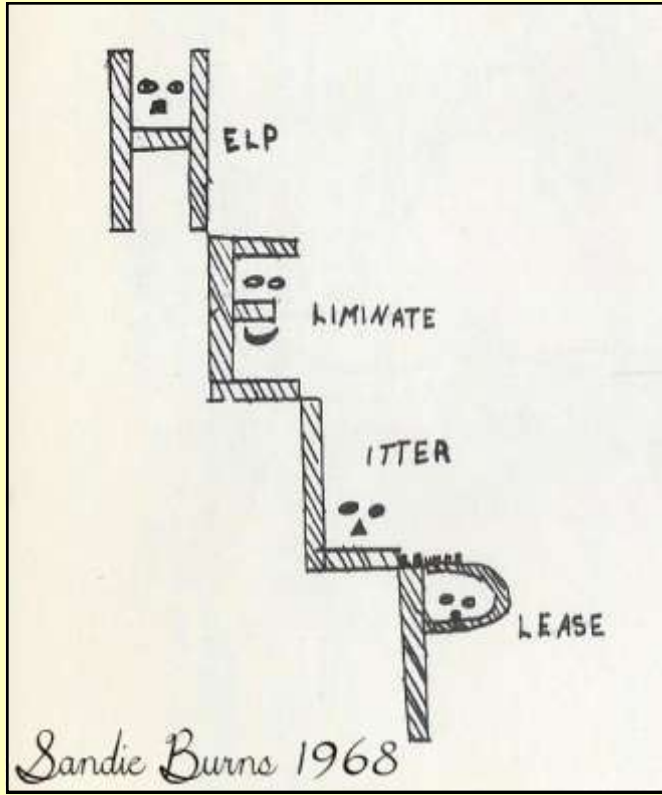
- You prefer barite roses to real ones.
- Your dream holiday destination is Coober Pedy or Far North Queensland.
- Your garage is so full of rocks that the car won't fit in.
- You collect Interesting specimens, including the brown unknown ones, just in case they might turn out to be something special.
- You've ever sorted through a mullock heap.
- You've ever dumpster dived at a marble warehouse.
- You color co-ordinate your clothes and shoes to match your gemstone pendants.
- The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- You like to examine the rocks in your driveway.
- You treasure ancient, fossilized animal dung.
- You spend hours searching the ground while everyone else around you gets bored.

Courtesy of owlcation.com/stem/Lapidary-Jokes-For-The-Discerning-Rockhound



TIPS, HINTS AND SAFETY

Pick Up Some Litter When On A Field Trip!
Reprint of a 1968 poster by Sandie Burns Fender, Pasadena Lapidary Society



LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS



September 16-18 — PLACERVILLE: 77th CFMS Show & Convention Hosted by the El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society, at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive. Hours: Fri - Sun 10 - 5 daily Website: www.cfms2016show.com

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



18 — Los Angeles: UCLA Meteorite Series lecture. 2:30-3:00pm. Calcium-Aluminum-Rich Inclusions: The Solar Systems First Rocks - by Professor Kevin McKeegan. UCLA Slichter Hall Room 3853 595 Charles Young Drive East, Los Angeles.

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

28 - October 2 — YUCCA VALLEY: Hi-Desert Rockhounds at the Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree, 6225 Sunburst Street Hours: 9 - 6 daily. Website: www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gem.html

1-2 — BORON: Mojave Mineralogical Society Boron Recreation Park, 26998 John Street Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4

1-2 — VISTA: Vista Gem & Mineral Society Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

8-9 — TRONA: Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society SLGM Show Building, 13337 Main Street. Hours: Sat 7 - 5; Sun 7 - 4 Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

9 FALLBROOK: Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Building, 123 West Alvarado Street Hours: 9 - 4 Website: www.fgms.org

15 — WEST HILLS: Woodland Hills Rock Chippers First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way Hours: 10 - 5 Website: www.rockchippers.org

★ Oct 15-16 — WHITTIER: Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 daily Website: wgmsca.com



Save used postage stamps for the CFMS! Only 2 months left in stamp drive!

Why throw these mini works of art away? Former CFMS President Dick Pankey leads the Federation's effort to help fund the cure for cancer through the donation of used postage stamp for international collectors. Please help this effort by collecting as many stamps as we can between now and the end of October. Cut about 1/2" around each stamp and put them in a zip-lock baggie. Give them to President Ellen Ferrell at any Society function!

Articles and photographs printed in this bulletin are as credited to their author. Items not so credited are written by the Editor and are not an expression of the Pasadena Lapidary Society. 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.



Society logo items are available through Marcia Goetz, Acting Membership Chair. 626-914-5030 Email: joenmar1 at verizon.net.

Vests = \$10, T-Shirts = \$15, Hats = \$11 and replacement member badges = \$9 (specify either magnet or pin mount)

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Members are welcome to place a FREE message for items or services wanted, for sale or for trade. Email submissions to: pasadenalapidary at aol.com or by fax to (909) 394-1276.

SEPTEMBER
2016

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

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



Pasadena, California
U.S.A.
Founded 1946

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 a Gold Medal All American Club, affiliated with the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Our editor is a member of the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors.

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Board Meeting 	2 	3
4 	5 LABOR DAY 	6	7	8 Nativity of Mary 	9 Statehood September 9, 1850 	10
11 Workshop 	12	13 	14 Rosh Hashannah 	15	16 Full Moon 	17
18 	19	20 Program Meeting 	21	22 Autumnal Equinox 	23 Yom Kippur 	24 Eid al-Adha
25	26	27	<p>The largest battle flag ever flown at that time was sewn by local flagmaker Mary Young Pickersgill for the defense of Baltimore during our second war for independence from Britain. George Armistead, the commander of Fort McHenry, specified "a flag so large that the British would have no difficulty seeing it from a distance". The Star Spangled Banner — September 13th, 1812</p>			