

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

JUNE 1, 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY



SPECIAL INTEREST INSIDE:

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- ◆ Projects
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From one of the humblest of life forms, the mollusk, comes **THE PEARL** -- a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. Ancient civilizations had many stories to explain the origin of June's birthstone, such as the Greek belief that pearls were the hardened tears of joy that the goddess of love shook from her eyes as she was born from the sea. According to Arab legend, pearls were formed when oysters were lured from the depths of the ocean by the beautiful moon and then swallowed moonlit dewdrops. And the Ancient Chinese thought that these gems originated from the brains of dragons.

Non-nacreous melo pearls (**the orange one at the lower left of the photos**) are produced by melo

volutes, which are found along coastal areas of Myanmar as well as Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Occurring in a range of colors, the most prized is the intense orange hue like that of a ripe papaya. These pearls exhibit a silky flame-like structure and a porcellaneous luster that make them very attractive. Like conch pearls, melo pearls are truly rare and have become collector's items both in the east and the west. However, in Myanmar there is no written literature or historical references regarding melo pearls. Very few people know about them and dealers and collectors in these pearls are equally rare.

The scientific explanation for natural pearls is almost as mystifying as folklore. See **Page 7**

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President's Message



The months of this year are moving fast, and summer is almost here. Therefore, we need to start thinking again about Pasadena Lapidary Society,

business. We are having a post-topic meeting on the Show of 2010. This

Meeting will be on June 05, 2010 at Joe and Marcia Goetz' home - 755 W. Dike St. in Glendora at 10:00am.

I call on the membership to ask for volunteers. We really need a committee (a couple folks, at least) for Hospitality: they will help *find* individuals who can bring the next month's refreshments to the general meetings.

We as a club also need a Sergeant-of-Arms, Publicity, and finally, All

American. These are all outstanding posts we need to fill for the betterment and benefit of all Club Members.

Those of us that are long-time members, we must remember to try very hard to talk with the newer members and especially potential new members. We as a club want to share our knowledge, so we need to take the time to make the club appealing to new members, so we can share and pass on our knowledge, as was a founding purpose of our club.

June Meeting and General Information

FAIR USE NOTICE. This publication may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

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

Door Prizes

Our Door Prizes for the month of June will be all rough stones each weighing in about 3-4 pounds and will include: rhodonite from Rosemond, Ca, rainbow obsidian from Altura, CA, silver onyx from Calico, CA, petrified wood from Arizona, red-green moss agate from Maury Mts. OR, and opalized wood from Gabbs, NV.

These stones can be taken to the workshop and be slabbed,

cabbed and polished. or just admired.

..... *Sylvia Cliffe, Door Prizes*

Program

Marcia Goetz will narrate a slide show of this year's field trip to Quartzsite. If you have been interested in going but did not know what you will see - this is the program for you.

Ice Cream Social

At the JULY (NEXT MONTH'S) meeting. Members are asked to bring ice cream and an item for the Silent Auction.

Talent Wanted

Your workshop committee is seeking members willing to teach lapidary classes at the workshop. Please give Drew Wilson a call.

Membership and Meeting Locations

Membership per calendar year is \$20 per individual, \$15 for a second adult member in the same house. Junior members and third or more members at the same house are \$10. Included is one copy per family of the monthly club newsletter. Renewals are due by the December General Meeting. Mail membership checks to P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena CA 91117-0025.

Board Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the One West Bank at the northeast

corner of Santa Anita and Foothill in Arcadia. All PLS members are welcome to attend.

General Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Sierra Madre Masonic Lodge, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre. Guests are welcome!

Field Trips are scheduled each month. Refer to the newsletter for weekend and location.

Workshops are offered to

all members - normally on the first Sunday of each month at Drew Wilson's home. Refer to the announcement in the newsletter for the hours. Location is 252 Bella Vista in Pasadena.

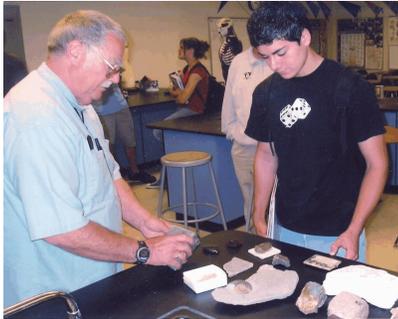
Workshops and field trips are for adult members and children with parental supervision. Eye protection and closed-toe shoes are mandatory for all participants.

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



Ed's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



Ed Imlay at local schools

Ed Imlay displayed "Thank You" notes from Lawrence School students and a digital frame with photos from the 2010 PLS Annual Show.

If you know of a class that would like a presentation from Ed, please contact him at edimlay @ hotmail.com.

DISPLAY TABLE

At the April meeting Vern & Sylvia Cliffe displayed a sphere made from Graveyard Point plume agate and also rough cut Thulite

Chris Kyte brought quartz from Crystal Ridge (May's Field Trip) and tourmaline from the Pala mines (April's Field Trip) and thulite - found in Owens Valley..

All members are invited to display any items of general interest, workshop projects, the monthly birthstone or material found at the locations of recent field trips.

What Are Dendrites ??

Dendrites - crystalline, black, fern-like patterns that resemble forest scenes - have captured the fancy of collectors for centuries. Dendrites produce an amazing original work of art by Mother Nature.



You may have heard the term dendrite or more likely the adjective, dendritic, used when describing a gemstone and wondered exactly what it was. They are attractive patterns, usually black or dark brown that are seen in many types of gemstone material. They are most often associated with agates but are sometimes found in quartz, opal, limestone and other stones. They are sometimes called picture stone or painted stone. The patterns occur naturally due to the

presence of iron and manganese oxides. Dendrites are the branch-like formations of manganese oxide crystallizing within the stone.

Metaphysically, these mineral dendrites symbolize growth or change. The word *dendrite* comes from the Greek word for "tree" because a dendritic inclusion in a stone looks like a branching tree or at least like some type of plant life. They are often said to look like ferns or moss and many people mistakenly speculate that they are fossil imprints of moss. Actually dendrites are inclusions of manganese crystals.

They are formed when manganese rich water seeps into tiny crevices in rocks and the manganese crystals are deposited in intricate branching patterns.



JUNE WORKSHOP / LAPIDARY CLASSES

The Workshop/classes this month will start at 1pm and end at 7pm and will focus on individual projects you have or want to start. Also, we will be having a pot-luck!. Bring your own main dish/meat) and please bring a side dish for sharing with others.

A-M -- Please bring Salads

N-Z -- Please bring chips/snacks

Plan on spending a great afternoon with friends and fellow Rockhounds.

..... Drew Wilson / Workshop Chairman



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FIELD TRIPS



What fun at the tourmaline mines in April! Marcia and I met Becky, the dig manager and were soon met by Mark & Linda Nelson, Mark's sister Jill and nephew Kelley, Caroline Duncan, Charlotte Bane, Paul, Julie and Sienna Wendling, Susan & Gregor Jittlov and family.

Lots of green, some pink and watermelon tourmaline and quartz crystals were sifted from the dig pile. They had unscreened material for sale at \$100 a bag (about a five gallon bucket size).

Paul bought two bags and what he was pulling out was very encouraging. Sunday morning we met Chris and Marlene Kyte, Davis Coghill, Ed Imlay and Jim Gerbach and we headed



to the Blue Lady Mine. Everyone had a good time exploring. Some pencil lead thick pieces of blue tourmaline and a fair amount of other interesting material was collected.

BIG BEAR ADVENTURE JUNE 26

Did you like this month's article on Dendrites? June's is a one-day field trip perfect for the beginner or the whole family - and dendritic limestone is high on our list of specimens to collect. We will meet at 8:30am at the Big Bear Discovery Center located on the north shore of Big Bear Lake at 41397 North Shore Drive, Highway 38, in Fawnskin - (909) 382-2790.

We will be visiting a historic cemetery, the Lucky Baldwin Mine, a copper mine, and other interesting sites. We'll seek copper ores, azurite, malachite, and tiny double-terminated quartz crystals - in addition to dendrites!

Directions: This is a scenic two hour drive from Pasadena. Take the 210 Freeway 55 miles east. Merge onto CA-330 N

MOON TRIVIA - If you are planning to collect the alternate birthstone - moonstone - by the full moon, your opportunity is on our field trip day - Saturday, June 26. In our country this moon is variously known as the Rose Moon, Flower Moon or Strawberry Moon.

toward MTN RESORTS for 28 miles. CA-330 will become CA-18/Rim Of The World Highway. When Hwy 38 becomes North Shore Drive continue 4.7 miles to the Discovery Center. If you get turned around or need to contact Joe, call the Goetz field trip cell phone at (626) 260-7239.

CFMS FIELD TRIP

For those who missed the PLS April Field Trip or want more of the same - you have another opportunity in June! The Southern Region of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is leading two days of sifting for tourmalines, quartzes, kunzites, morganites, garnets, lepidolite and aquamarine. at the Pala area mines. Saturday, June 26, we will be at the Oceanview Mine and at the Himalaya Mine on Sunday.

TIME: As set by each individual mine. PLEASE check their websites.

COST: Both mines are pay sites. Cost will be determined by number of CFMS attendees.

RESERVATIONS: Each mine has a limited number of spaces so reserve early. The Oceanview can accommodate 75 spaces, the Himalaya 50 spaces. First come, first served. Use the mine websites for locations, directions, mine info, costs and reservation information.

WEBSITES:

Oceanview: www.digforgems.com
Himalaya: www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com

When making on-line reservations please put (CFMS) next to your name for tracking purposes and notify either Shep or Adam that your reservation was made. We will meet each morning at the individual mines at the appointed times.

Attendees of last year's trip found tourmaline crystals weighing over 60 grams. Please see www.cfmsinc.org and click "field trips" for pictures and reviews of last year's tourmaline trip.

For further information and reservation confirmation:
Adam Dean @ (909) 489-4899 or e-mail him: theagatehunter@verizon.net

or Shep Koss @ (661) 248-0411 (Home Phone) or e-mail: freudonetoo@yahoo.com



ROCK & MINERAL TERMINOLOGY - PART FOUR

cleavage - The tendency of certain minerals to break along distinct planes in their *crystal structures* where the bonds are weakest. Cleavage is tested by striking or hammering a mineral, and is classified by the number of surfaces it produces and the angles between adjacent surfaces.

cluster - Dense agglomeration of crystals.

columnar - Aggregate defining a mineral which has parallel, slender, compact, adjoining crystals.

compaction - the process by which the volume or thickness of sediment is reduced due to pressure from overlying layers of sediment.

concretion - Aggregate composed of a mass of small crystals that become cemented together, resulting in a rounded, odd form.

conglomerate - A rock composed of particles more than 2 millimeters in diameter and marked by the roundness of its component grains and rock fragments.

coprolite - Fossilized animal excrement embedded in rock.

coxcomb - Aggregate composed of flaky or tabular crystals that seem adjoined from a base; with grooves between long, slender, arc-like crystals.

crazing - Condition in opal that causes it to form small, internal cracks, and in some severe cases will eventually disintegrate the opal.

cryptocrystalline - Composed of tiny, microscopic crystals.

crystal - A mineral in which the systematic

internal arrangement of atoms is outwardly reflected as a latticework of repeated three-dimensional units that form a geometric solid with a surface consisting of symmetrical planes.

LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS:

5-6--GLENORA Glendora GEMS; Goddard Middle School; 859 E. Sierra Madre; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, demonstrations, displays, door prizes

18-20--SANTA MONICA Gem & Jewelry Show, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$8

2010 AFMS/CFMS Gem Show
HIDDEN TREASURES
 Hosted by: North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
June 18th, 19th & 20th, 2010
 Fri, Sat & Sun 10am-5pm
 Located at:
Southern California University of Health Sciences
 16200 E. Amber Valley Drive
 Whittier, CA 90604
NOCGMS supports the youth of La Habra!
 For more information, visit our website at: www.nocgms.com
 Show Chairman: Don Warthen (562) 946-0828 or odwarthen@verizon.net
 Dealer Information: Ofelia Warthen (626) 330-8974 or odwarthen@verizon.net

Activities listed:
 Jewelry & Gems
 Fossils
 Displays
 Raffle Prizes
 Games
 Food
 Kid's Room

FREE Parking

18-20--WHITTIER Don't miss the annual AFMS/CFMS show - which this year is in our own back yard! Hosted by the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Show Building: So. California University of Health Sciences, 16200 E. Amber Valley Rd., Whittier (www.scuhs.edu); Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, children under 14 free; speakers, field trips, display cases, raffle, kids' room, demonstrations, vendors, supplies, jewelry, beads, fossils, gems; contact Don Warthen at (626) 330-8974. e-mail: odwarthen@verizon.net
 Web site: www.nocgms.com

19-20--CAYUCOS 46th annual show; Cayucos Gem & Mineral Show; San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club; Cayucos Vets Hall, 10 Cayucos Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission.



ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

The Pasadena Lapidary Society is pleased to announce that two of our own have been chosen to receive state and national honors from the CFMS and AFMS as "Rockhounds of The Year". The June 2010 CFMS Newsletter (available on-line at www.cfmsinc.org) has the confirmation of the award.

Joe and Marcia Goetz were nominated and have been selected to be The Pasadena Lapidary Society's for Rockhounds of the Year 2010.



Marcia and Joe are long time members who have served in a number of offices over the years. Their positions have included field trip leaders, show chairmen, treasurer and vice president along the way.

During last four years, Joe has been President, twice elected for two year terms, while Marcia has been Treasurer during that same period of time. Despite the demands of being an officer during those four years, they have held secondary



positions as field trip leaders and hosted committee meetings, club fund raisings and yard rock sales at their home. In addition to their excellent service to the Pasadena Lapidary Society they continue to give of their time to assist with the growth and development of other gem and mineral societies in Southern California.

The Pasadena Lapidary Society members are grateful for their energy, leadership and devotion to the continuing success of the club and its future.



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classes. See upcoming classes and instructors at

www.farrinoconnordesign.com/classes

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via T-Town Rockhound 7/97 & others



The Pearl, Continued When an irritant, such as a small parasite or a fish lodges in the flesh of an oyster, mussel, or clam, a protective substance called "nacre" is produced. Over years, layer upon layer of shimmering nacre coats the intruder, creating a lustrous pearl. Natural pearls are relatively rare, so a process evolved in which a piece of shell or bead was placed inside a mollusk to stimulate the production of nacre. This results in a cultured pearl, which accounts for about 90 per cent of the pearl industry.

Pearls have been a passion and even an obsession of people throughout the ages. They have been ground up and used in cosmetics and as a medicine to treat heart and stomach conditions. Some cultures swear by pearls as an aphrodisiac. These gems have adorned crowns, clothing, and temples, and were said to be a favorite of Cleopatra.

Once only those with royal status once wore pearl jewelry. But eventually these gems were seen among all classes of people. They continue to be viewed as a mark of taste and refinement as well as a symbol of purity, and they are often given to celebrate a marriage or the birth of a child. Pearls are nature's perfect gift, suitable for all ages, and elegantly worn with everything from jeans to an evening gown.

Alternate Birthstones:

June has two alternate birthstones. The first is **Moonstone**, a type of feldspar named because of its uncanny resemblance to the iridescent sheen of the moon. Varying in color from clear to blue-white or peach, it was considered by ancient civilizations to be a sacred stone, bestowing the wearer with great spiritual understanding. Some believed that the Moonstone could even make a person invisible! Mined in Sri Lanka, Brazil, India, Madagascar, and the United States, a gift of this stone is symbolic of health and longevity.

The second alternate birthstone for June is **Alexandrite**. A yellowish or brownish green in color, this gemstone has the unique characteristic

of changing color to a red hue when exposed to a glowing light source, such as candlelight. Because of this quality, it has been characterized by poets as "an emerald by day, a ruby by night." Alexandrite was first discovered in the Ural mountains in 1830 but is mined today primarily in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Burma, Madagascar and Tanzania. It is a rare and expensive gemstone, symbolic of joy and good fortune.

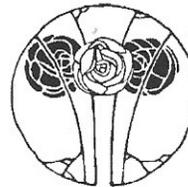
SPECIAL THANK YOU

This club is a non-profit organization. We depend on the income of dues, the monthly raffle, donations and our newsletter advertisers to bring the benefits of membership to you.

THANK YOU to those members who added an additional contribution to the club when they renewed their 2010 membership.

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Harold Vannatta who donated \$100 to the club in addition to a family membership for he and his brother, Mike.

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Pearls In Ancient Texts

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all he had, and bought it”. Matthew 13:45-46, A.V.

In India, ancient Hindu texts repeatedly refer to pearls, stating in one place that the god Krishna discovered the first pearl.

In ancient Egypt, mother-of-pearl was used for decorative purposes as far back as 4000 BC.

JUNE 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Board Meeting	3 1st U.S. Space Walk 1965 - Ed White	4	5 Post-Show Meeting.
6 Work Shop	7	8	9	10	11	12
D-DAY						
13	14 	15	16 General Meeting	17	18	19
20 	21 1ST DAY OF SUMMER	22	23	24 	25	26 FIELD TRIP to BIG BEAR
27	28	29	30			

**June
2010**

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 REQUESTED**



Pasadena Lapidary Society is affiliated with the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies.