



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

DECEMBER 2018 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY™ • PASADENA, CA



How a Practical Man Designs Jewelry

by Karl Stull

“I do bolas,” says Ed Imlay when you ask about his ideas on jewelry design. Most men in the Pasadena Lapidary Society wore bolas when Ed and Corinne Imlay joined the club in 1993. One of Ed’s mentors in PLS was Dick Crotty, a past president (1974–1975), and he favored bolas.

But what’s with “bola”? Don’t most people call them bolo ties? They’re called bola ties, Ed explains, after the vaquero’s *bolas*, a rope with a stone or iron ball at each end, for hobbling cattle. So there is a story behind what Ed does with rocks and wire.

It’s a story of materials and tools. The materials include a rock – which may be shaped and polished according to its hardness, colors, interplay with light, etc. – and material for the setting, such as sterling silver wire. Tools often play a special role. Ed is a retiree from JPL, and inclined to think about various ways to accomplish the mission.

For example, the twisted-wire border around the picture jasper (top left) is done with a drill – an old-fashioned hand drill with a crank wheel. You bend a length of wire in half over a cup hook, and clamp the ends of the wire in the chuck. Pulling the wire slightly taut, crank slowly. As twists advance up the wire toward the cup hook, you maintain even spacing between the twists by adjusting how hard you pull on the drill. As shown in the photo, the twisted wire is wrapped around an inner border of bezel

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

We are at the end of the 11th month this year, and we have had lots of fun and accomplished many things. We had an outstanding show in March and a fun-filled picnic in June. We had some great field trips to interesting places. We learned new things at our workshop and heard some wonderful speakers at our general membership meetings. It has been a great year.

December will bring fun-filled days with the Jewel Tunnel open house and our Christmas Party coming up. Susan Carter and her committee are working hard to make this a great afternoon and evening of crafts, a potluck dinner, and awards – followed by a gift exchange. This will be a great time to be with rockhound friends and catch up on what they have done this year.

November was an action-packed month. Some of our members had a parking lot sale of their arts and crafts and enjoyed their time together, while making a little money. Carolyn Duncan had the workshop going as always, with Chris Kyte manning the welcome/sign-in desk at the front door.

Marcia and Joe Goetz, Tony and Sandie Fender, and I attended the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual meeting in Visalia, November 9–11. Tony was installed as the new President for 2019, and Marcia was installed as 1st Vice President/President-Elect (she will serve as President in 2020). Joe Goetz was appointed as the Safety Chairman for the coming year. I will continue my term as Secretary for 2019.

It was a good meeting, and we heard from many CFMS officers and committee chairmen about what they were doing for the betterment of member societies. Comprised of more than 100 societies, the Federation takes care of liability insurance for its members and provides information about public land issues – to keep us informed and confident that we will be able to do our rockhounding in the future. CFMS assists with legal questions, providing guidance on tax matters and required filings to maintain our nonprofit status, which is very important.

December will be a great month for PLS and the PLS family. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings and events scheduled for this month and in the coming year.

Have a wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas!

— Ellen Ferrell, President

Pasadena Lapidary Society™

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Annual Show	Ellen Ferrell	Marcia Goetz (cochair)
Bulletin	Karl Stull	Display Table Ferdie Sanchez
Education	Joan Harrison	Field Trips Joe Goetz
Historian	Karl Stull	Hospitality Elizabeth Weston
Librarian	Jennifer Jang	Membership Marcia Goetz
Publicity	Mona Ross	Elizabeth Weston (social media)
Sunshine	Ellen Ferrell	Technology Ben Shutman
Ways & Means	Phil Lahr	Webmaster Eugene Kim
Workshop	Carolyn Duncan	

Membership

Membership per calendar year is \$25; for a second adult at the same address, \$15; further adults, \$10. Junior members are \$10. Initiation fee is \$10 per person (nonrefundable).

Renewals are due in October and delinquent after December 31. Mail checks to PO Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025.

Meetings

Board Meetings – 1st Thursday of the month

7 p.m. at Matt Denny's Ale House
145 E Huntington Dr, Arcadia
PLS members are welcome.

Workshop – 2nd Sunday of the month

Fees are \$3 for half-day, \$5 for a full day. Equipment instruction is required; also liability waivers, eye protection, and closed-toe shoes. Bring lunch!

Junior members 9 and older are welcome with adult supervision.

Program Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month

Doors open at 6 p.m. Meeting is 6:30–8:45 p.m.
Pasadena Central Library, 285 E Walnut St.

Contact Us

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Send articles by the 15th for publication in next month's issue. Very short items can get in as late as the 22nd but are not guaranteed to make the next issue.

Next page: *Christmas tree by Sylvia Cliffe, in bloodstone.*

Holiday Party – December 15



Come one, come all! Make plans now! PLS is holding its Holiday Party at the United Methodist Church of Monrovia, 140 East Palm Ave. There are two large parking lots, and the building is wheelchair-accessible.

We're going to enjoy crafting, starting around 2:30 p.m., and a rousing game or ten of Rock Bingo, courtesy of Janie Duncan.

There will be appetizers to nosh on. Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m.

If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift worth approximately \$15.

Finally, we would like to encourage our members to think of those less fortunate and participate in the food drive. If you can, bring a can! – *Susan Carter, Holiday Party Chair*

Artisans Boutique



Left: Carol Burton, outstanding signage. Gloria Biesterfeld, cases of turquoise. Mona Ross said about this necklace, "It brings colors together – Boulder Opal, tigereye, pietersite..."

Above: "I like finding things that have been forgotten, and elevating them," says Megan McHone. Akira Atobe (hat) and Tatsuo Nagashima, geodes and more. Valerie Stathatos, glass (detail iridescent glass). Mireya Morales, new member showing her work with pride. Sylvia Cliffe, sales leader. With editorial apologies, there were also excellent displays by Janie Duncan, Ellen Limeres, and Phil Lahr and Ben Shutman at the PLS table.

How a Practical Man Designs Jewelry *Continued from page 1*

wire, which came with a patterned edge from the manufacturer. Together they form a border with the look of craftsmanship.

A different tool creates S-shaped loops around the Owyhee jasper bola (page 1, bottom left). The Owyhee Mountains are on the Oregon-Idaho border. The tool is a dowel with two nails driven into one end. A bola maker with a quiet mind and good hands can reel off yards of this edging by wrapping flattened wire from nail to nail, turning the dowel, slipping the newly formed loop off the nails, and repeating the process to form the next loop. The width of the loop is determined by the diameter of the nail shank. To make spikes instead of loops, use needles instead of nails and pinch with pliers. The pinched loops on this page (at right) may remind you of cowboy spurs.

Sometimes it is not the tool but the material that guides a design. The turquoise bola on page 1 might appear to be a free-form opposite of the other two bolas – the work of an artist who cares not a fig for regular shapes or precise intervals. But in its way the turquoise is as thought-out and engineered as the other two. Being a fragile piece, the turquoise was not a good candidate for machining into shape. In fact, the stone has a crack, which is traced exactly by the protective arm of silver near the bottom. The whole stone gains stability from sitting in a recess cut into the ironwood backing. The upper arm meanders across the turquoise like a river, and so makes the most of its hold as a diagonal brace.

The Ed in Education

Ed learned about the two-nail dowel tool in a class taught by master jeweler and PLS member Bon Paphatsarang. He picked up other techniques and skills from Dick Crotty, George Snyder, and Vern and Sylvia Cliffe, among others, and became a teacher himself – in fact, a mainstay in PLS education programs. A perennial visitor to area classrooms, he chaired our Schools/Education Committee for more than two decades, and was chosen by CFMS in 2017 to award its college scholarship.

New members of PLS meet Ed in their Workshop orientation, where he teaches Cabbing 101. Earlier this year, he taught a Workshop class on “One-Wire Cab Wrapping” – a culmination of long thought about what to do with the eight loose ends in a traditional cabochon wrap (see the May 2018 newsletter). Over the years, Ed has become known as a kindly and patient teacher.

“No one ever accused me of being patient at JPL,” Ed recalls. He looks back with pride on his work at the NASA facility – notably on a system for doling out spoonfuls of command data to the *Galileo* spacecraft (portable-computer memory back then was measured in hundreds of bits, enough for *Donkey Kong*). But he never regretted choosing a different way to live, taking early retirement and then the rockhound road with PLS.

At the 2017 PLS Annual Show, where he was demonstrating wire-wrapping, Ed met a man who had found an interesting rock on the beach and wanted to know if there was a way to polish it by hand. Ed suggested a source for diamond grit and outlined the steps for polishing. But was it practical, the visitor asked, or would hand polishing take too long? Ed considered, having spent more than a few hours polishing rocks by hand. He said, “It will teach you patience.” ♦



Yermo Field Trip Snaps



CLAST FROM THE PAST



On field trips, George and Mona Snyder rode in their famous Baja Bug. With oversize wheels and tires, the Baja Bug gained four inches of ground clearance for rough roads.

PLS past president Tony Fender (1996–7, 2002–3) remembers first meeting George Snyder: “At one of the first PLS shows that I went to, he was displaying a beautiful sterling silver necklace. I asked him if he would make one for me that I could give to Sandie, and I was stunned when he said no. He then said come over to his house next Saturday and he would teach me how to make it. That was my introduction to George, and I have been silversmithing and chain making ever since.”

Marcia Goetz remembers meeting George by happenstance – before she was a PLS member – at an auto repair shop. She noticed his ring, and he told her about qualities of fire agate.

George Snyder was born in Idaho in 1916 and joined PLS in 1957, serving as field trip leader, show chairman, and president. He died in 2007. ♦

Left, top to bottom: There were 10 cars in the caravan, seen here at our second stop on Saturday, near a streambed known for red agate. Our first stop was the Whittier claim, where new member Nathaniel Rowe obliged with an action pose at a face with seams of onyx. Joel and Christine Tureaud came away with a foot-long specimen of onyx (photo: Christine Tureaud).

On Sunday, we headed north of the I-15 in search of silver lace onyx. Ellen Kim – likely the most agile member of PLS today – found a double-threaded sample near the top of a rock slide. Meanwhile, as the humans gathered at a tailgate to ogle an agate-bearing semi-boulder, the Tureauds’ French Brittany spaniel Dixie reflected on the meaning of it all.

Get the PLS emails everyone else is getting

Send an email to info@pasadenalapidary.org to confirm we have your correct address. You'll receive updates on rock sales, field trips, and more. But not one speck of spam.

Workshop – December 9



Faceting – See How It's Done

Cabs have colors, but a faceted stone catches light. And holds the eye. Although there aren't as many rockhounds skilled in faceting now as in the old days, a few are working to preserve the art. At the December workshop, we'll see a presentation of the basics by Ed Imlay, including a demonstration on his faceting machine and several samples of faceted stones.

Topics will run from planning to polish and steps in-between: how many facets, at what angles, how deep... You're going to know your way around a pavilion and crown. Be there!

Workshop hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Half day is \$3, all day \$5. Park on the street or in the lot on the east side of the building.

Entrance is on the *west* side of the building, down the walkway between buildings. Do not use the ramp in the parking lot.

For directions, please call me at **(909) 593-2781** or email gem.quest@verizon.net. – Carolyn Duncan

Welcome, New Members



Jessie Perez loves turquoise. She became interested in rocks after meeting Janie Duncan about a year ago, and helped at Janie's display table at the Artisans Boutique in November. Jessie is an active volunteer at church and likes to shop thrift stores for lapidary treasures.

Nathanial Rowe (see photo on page 5) is a print production manager for One & All, an ad agency serving many nonprofits. He likes science, and an interest in rocks led him to PLS. His fiancé Samantha Poepping accompanied Nathanial on the Yermo field trip. She does silversmithing at home and may soon be a PLS member.



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2019 CFMS Annual Show & Convention

Hosted by The Pasadena Lapidary Society
Fairplex, Pomona March 8-10, 2019



What Goes in the Grab Bags?

Much more than rocks! At PLS, we give a lot of thought to our grab bags and how to make the best ones. We start with the fabric, trying to find a colorful and fun variety that will make the bags irresistible to the kid that resides in each of us.

Next we have a sewing bee (lots of fun) where we cut the fabric, sew each bag, and stack them with care – until it's time to fill the grab bags at the workshop, like Santa's elves! We fill them with a slew of things: rock collected on field trips (like Lavic jasper, chalcedony roses, agate, or onyx), identified crystals or minerals, a polished slab or polished stones... Everything in the bags is donated by members of our club.

We'll be stuffing grab bags at the workshops in January and February. We'd love to have you join in. Contact Mona Ross or Marcia Goetz for information. Come prepared for fun!

– Marcia Goetz, Show Co-Chairman



Mireya Morales, Marcia Goetz, Chris Kyte – their machines buzzing at the grab-bag sewing bee. Photo by Trudy Krose.

Are You a Grinder or a Grinch?



Start grinding for just \$150 (to members only). PLS has an 8" combo unit with two grinding wheels, an expanding drum wheel and a lap at the right end. It comes with a metal cabinet in good shape (a shelf needs replacing).

OR START SLABBING for just \$150. We have a 16" saw on a stand – waiting to start cranking out unique holiday gifts! Contact Armando Pedroza: **(909) 455-6800**.

Farewell, 2018

Time to pay dues for 2019. Mail your check to Pasadena Lapidary Society, PO Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117.

Education Outreach



PLS Brings Space Rocks to School

Pasadena Lapidary Society presented at the Washington Elementary STEM Magnet School's Astronomy Night on November 15. The Pasadena students, with their friends and families, happily examined small iron meteorite fragments from Campo del Cielo (Argentina) and Sikhote Alin (Siberia). They also examined stony meteorite fragments from North Africa, and had fun figuring out which one was really a bit of look-alike granite hiding out among the other stony fragments.

The slightly lighter color on one side, a little less weight, and a lack of magnetic attraction were the clues that gave the imposter away!

To schedule a classroom presentation by an experienced club member, contact **(323) 640-4394** or liveoak180@yahoo.com.
– Joan Harrison

Display Table: Ferdie Sanchez coordinates the Display Table at monthly meetings. Share items of rockhound interest, workshop projects, or rocks from field trips. If you have a rock you'd like to have identified, put it by the Display Table "What Is This?" note. Knocking a corner off the specimen may provide helpful clues.

Rock and Gem Shows

December 1–2 BARSTOW: Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society, Cora Harper Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Rd. Hours: 10–5 daily. www.mdgms.net

A FIELD TRIP IS LIKE SHOPPING. YOU SEE MANY THINGS YOU LIKE. THEY DON'T ALL GO IN THE BAG. – SUE PANG

Lookin' to start something? How about your own rockhound business: PLS Field Trip Taxi. Your business card might say...



Door to door, or meet customers at base camp. Your choice. Set your own prices. Advertise FREE in this here newsletter.

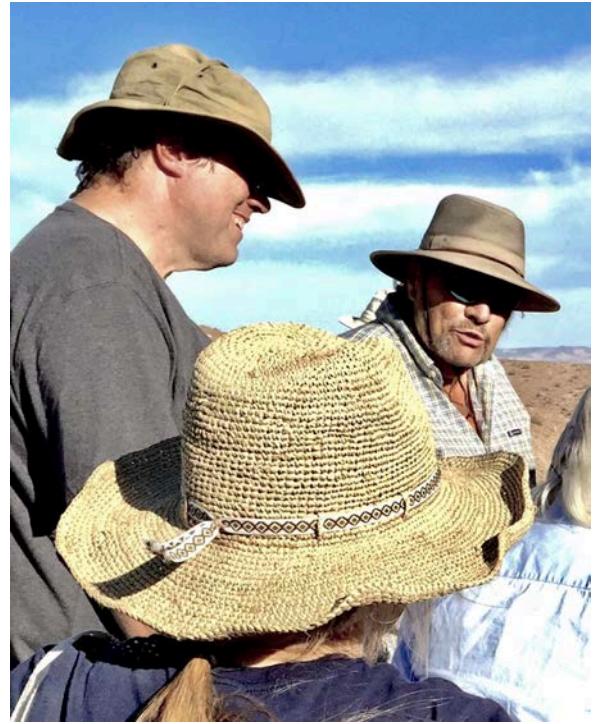
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 2018						1  Gem show
2  Gem show	3	4	5	6 Board mtg PLS members always welcome	7	8
9 Workshop Faceting Demo by Ed Imlay	10	11	12	13	14	15 PLS Holiday Party Details on page 3
16 New Madrid (MO) earthquake, 1811, magnitude 7.5–7.9	17	18 No program mtg this month	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30		31				



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A dragon rampant in rhodochrosite, cabbed by David Lacy.



From the Yermo field trip: A six-inch chunk of mixed jasper and agate, found and photographed by Eugene Kim; at right, a conglomeration of cool hats, with Steve Cady, Ellen Limeres, and Clint Eastwood (or Joe Goetz). More field trip photos on page 5.