The Polished Slab

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

April 2011 | **A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940** | Volume 71 Issue 4

Upcoming Events

Apr 28 - Board Meeting

Apr 23 - Taylor Mountain

Apr 30 - Garage Sale

May 2 - General Meeting

Wire Wrapping - each Monday except General Meeting night, 3 PM or 6 PM at the Shop

Silversmithing - each Tuesday, 5 PM at the Shop

Beading - Thursday, April 21st at 6 PM at the Shop.

See page 8 for more class information

Inside this issue:

General Meeting Minutes	2
Cuesta Fire Agate Mine Photos	4
Sunshine Report	5
Upcoming Shows	5
Bulletin Board	6
SNGMS Meeting dates & Directions to Shop and Meeting Location map	7
Classes	8
Shop Report	9
Birthday and New Members	10
Vendor Opportunities	11

President's Message

from Sue Moore

Greetings to my fellow rock-hounds:

April is starting off with our annual trip to Burro Creek, AZ, for some fun rock hounding and relaxing. Wes Bryant and Larry Grillett are the organizers of the trip and have reserved the group camp site for everyone. Sounds like a great trip.

In March, the club drove down to Oatman, AZ, to dig for fire agate at the Cuesta Fire Agate Mine. I had never been there before, so it was a real treat for me to see the area for the first time. We had around 20 people on Saturday, so we took turns in the hole digging for the beautiful stones. Glen Beye disappeared into the big hole and didn't come out until he had a pretty good size bucket of fire agates. Knowing that I would be back the next day with the Sunday group, I spent my time trekking around the hill sides picking up the fire agates off the ground.

If fire agates are left in the sun, they will lose their color, so most of the agates I found were clear, but I did pick up many that had lodged against the sides of rocks and were shaded from the sun.

On Sunday, we had a much smaller crowd...eight people in all. We arrived eager to get started. Since we did have a smaller group, the mine owner Don Nelson, gave us some guidance and we all got started. I was trying hard to not hurt anything, so Don had to give me a demonstration on using the big sledge hammer and the big chisel. After that, things went a lot faster.

We wore ourselves out and gathered up our tools and treasurers and drove down the hill into Oatman for a well-earned refreshment, and then continued on into Avi for dinner at their buffet. We will definitely recommend this outing for others. For contact information for the Cuesta Fire Agate Mine, contact me at sngms@yahoo.com.

On Saturday, April 30th, we will hold a fund raising "Garage Sale" at the shop. The hours will be 8:00am to 4:00pm. Start looking around your house for items to donate to the club for resale. It can be anything that you are tired of looking at! We will have a pricing session on the Friday before the event. Any items not sold can be taken back by the donor. Any questions, contact me at sngms@yahoo.com.

Board Meeting Summary - March 31, 2011

A quorum of the board was present.

The meeting opened at 6:00 P.M. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the board meeting were read and approved with one correction. Sherry Johnson will (NOT) pick up the mail at the post office.

Pat Skeary gave the treasurers report. A loss was noted this was attributed to the silver purchase which was made after the approval in the March regular meeting.

Board Meeting Summary - Continued

Pat Skeary made a motion to pay for the web page and the beading class supplies. The first approval was by Bill Moore, and seconded by Frank Auerswald. The motion passed without opposition.

Clare Breneman is back but still recovering from recent medical care. Clare will be formulating a draft for changes in the bylaws.

TRIPS:

Burro creek is scheduled for 6-10 April.

The GPAA Show is 16 April, volunteers are needed.

Taylor Mountain is planned for Saturday 23 April.

A garage sale for the club is planned for 30 April.

NEW BUSINESS

Faceting: Bob Skulsky is a faceter who started with Art Lory and improved his own style. Bob has agreed to bring our faceting machines up to working level, and teach at least one class at no charge to the club. Bob Skulsky presented a list of items needed to get the machines working properly. The present cost of supplies is around $600.00. Classes would be three hours once weekly for five weeks. The class would include one round stone and one rectangular stone. The membership will choose what class day is best. Saturdays from 5-8 or Tuesdays from 1-4.

Bill Moore made a motion to pay for supplies needed up to $1000.00 to get the faceting machines up to speed. Pat Skeary seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

Chuck Huebler presented a suggestion for a hot water flash heater $473.00. This item was tabled for reevaluation.

Chuck Huebler presented a request to pay for new wiring and lights in the shop. This item was tabled for discussion in the May meeting.

Discussion about the garage sale was brought up as a fund raiser. The date was set for 30 Apr. 2011. We will check with the business office for signs and details.

Sandy Cunninghan noted a show at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary on 16 April. There is a fee of $ 25.00.

The Gold Show at South Point is also 16 April and the table is free. Volunteers are needed.

Meeting was closed at 7:30

General Meeting Summary - April 4, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 P. M.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the meeting on 7 March 2011 were read and approved with the following correction. The correct spelling of the organization selling tickets for their fund raising project is, Shriners not Shiners.

The treasurer's Report was given by Pat Skeary who reported a loss for the month.

REPORTS OF COMMITTIES:

Membership is now 345.

The field trips are doing well. The two trips to collect fire agate were completed with several good specimens.

A trip to Taylor Mountain is scheduled for 23 April 2011. Bring your camera, a lunch, and a $5.00 donation. Gold specimens can be processed if you bring a five gallon bucket sample. Sign up with Glenn at 354-9808.

General Meeting Summary - Continued

Bill Hogan is coordinating our trip to Cave Lake Park outside Ely 10 – 13 June. Hotel reservations should be made well ahead of the trip.

Sunshine Report was given by Dottie Fusch. Doris Currington is recovering in Silver Hills after medical care. Doris is doing well and looking to go home within two or three weeks. Welcome back Clare Breneman who is back with us tonight.

Sherry Johnson reports that the California Federation of Mineral Societies will have its annual meeting and show in Anderson Ca. on 13-14-15 May 2011.

Sherry Johnson brought our attention to pending legislation that may close roads to mineral clubs. RS 2477 might do this. Sherry asks that we prevent road closures by contacting WWW.cfmsinc.org or Amlands.org.

Sandy Cunningham was not here tonight but left reminders for the Glass Bead Expo at Gilchrest Animal reserve. Tables are still available at $25.00 a day. There is also a GPAA, (gold club) show at the South Point. The GPAA has given a table to the SNGMS. Volunteers are needed to staff the table. Contact Sue Moore for details. Both shows are on the 16-17 of April.

The webmaster Jack Toogood is still working on a project to welcome new members.

The program for tonight will be given by Barbara Smigel, PhD. regarding gem identification. Barbara is a Professor at UNLV. Her class is Gemology for the layman. The class cost $95.00. The hours are 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. June 20-23. Contact MICHELLE.BAKER@UNLV.COM OR UNLV.CONTINUING.EDU

The speaker for next month will be Rick Bowersox. Rick is a member of the Southern Nevada Grotto of the National Speleological Society and Paleoclimatology. Rick has asked each of us to bring a rock to donate to the Cashman middle school students after next month's program.

Unfinished Business:

Garage sale will be held in front of the shop on 30 April 2011. Bring your items to the shop.

Sign up for the Faceting Class; choose first if we are to have the class on Saturday 5:00 – 8:00 P.M. or Tuesday 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. Some of you remember Bob Skulsky. Bob has agreed to fix up our machines and start a faceting class. The classes will cost $20.00 a night once weekly for five weeks. Bob will complete one round and one rectangular cut in that class.

Other classes continue:

Cabochons Saturdays with Chuck in April.

Silversmith and Inlays with Frank.

Wire wrapping on Mondays.

Clocks see Tom

Beading is on Thursdays.

Show and Sell: $5.00 gets a 6 foot long table. Bring your own lights.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM followed by the program on Gem Identification, The raffle, and the 50/50 drawing.

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P.O. Box 94744

Las Vegas, NV 89193

FIELD TRIP

Photos courtesy of Sue Moore

Cuesta Fire Agate Mine

Stabilizing with Opticon

http://www.peregrine-rocks.com/rocksmin/tips/bobs_how_to_seal_with_opticon.pdf

This step by step photo tutorial shows the process of stabilizing using Opticon two part epoxy resin. It has been used as a fracture sealant since the 1950s. It is a good choice for stabilizing opal and the tutorial will give you the knowledge to use it.

CFMS Field Trip to Kingston Mountains

April 23rd/24th 2011 Sat/Sun. 9am., Kingston Mountains in the Kingston Range, CA., clear and milky quartz crystals, and possibly amethyst crystals. Notify the field trip chairmen at least a week prior to the trip. Robert Sankovich 805-494-7734 rmsorca@adelphia.net or Adam Dean 909-489-4899 theagatehunter@verizon.net

Sunshine Report *from Dottie Fusch*

Please if you hear of any SNGMS member in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, death in the family or other need, call me—Dottie Fusch at 648-5886 (recorder on). Cards will be sent to let the member know that we care and wish them well.

Doris Currington is still recovering after medical care.

Lois Kapsner has been in and out of the hospital.

We were happy to see Clare Breneman and Bob Lofaro at the meeting after their recent medical problems.

Gemology For The Layman Class

Barbara Smigel, PhD, gave a very interesting and informative talk at the April 4th General Meeting. She teaches credit classes in gemology at CSN, as well as a Continuing Education class at UNLV. If you are interested in learining more about gemology, you may want to sign up for her "Gemology for the Layman" class. You may do so by contacting michelle.baker@unlv.com, or go to the UNLV website and click continuing education classes. The next class is June 20th through 23rd, 6:30pm to 9:00pm at the Paradise Campus.

Keep Trails Open to Public

lvfoweb@blm.gov

Please send your comments to the BLM regarding keeping the trails open to the public. Stop the closing of our public lands.

American Lands Access Association

http://www.amlands.org/

This website has information and links to let rockhounds and the public know the legislative and regulatory challenges and issues facing all of us, and to provide a way for them to be involved in the process.

Upcoming Shows

April 30 - May 1, Anaheim, CA - Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Avenue, Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun 10-4:30

May 13-15, Anderson, CA - 75th Anniversary CFMS Show & Convention, Shasta District Fairgrounds, Briggs Street (8 miles south of Redding) Exit 677 off Interstate 5 to Highway 273; 2.5 miles to Fairgrounds, Hours: Fri, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4

These are only a sampling of shows that are fairly close to the Las Vegas area. There are rock clubs throughout the United States and the computer is your friend in finding information about clubs and shows. Just search for the area you are interested in and rock club and you should find plenty to keep you busy, wherever you are going.

Some links that you may find helpful are: California Federation - http://www.cfmsinc.org/, Rocky Mountain Federation - http://www.rmfms.org/rock_shows_by_date.htm, and the Rock & Gem website - http://rockngem.com/showdates/

Bulletin Board

SNGMS Garage Sale: The club will be having a Garage Sale on April 30th at the Shop, with the proceeds going to SNGMS. Please bring your donations to the shop. Any items will be appreciated. This is not rock specific, any whatnots, doodads and other items are appropriate

For Sale: NeuCraft Casting Machine, metal enclosed, used 3 times only and a Burnout Oven used only slightly. Contact Mary at 339-0269

To place an advertisement on the bulletin board contact the editor at 702-631-5291 or email sngms_editor@yahoo.com

Discounts Available

All the establishments featured in this section offer discounts to SNGMS members. Be sure to show your membership card when making a purchase, and say that the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society sent you!

SNGMS 2011 Meetings

Mar	03 Board	July	28 Board
	07 General	Aug	01 General
	31 Board	Sep	08 Board
Apr	04 General		12 General
	28 Board		29 Board
May	02 General	Oct	03 General
June	02 Board	Nov	03 Board
	06 General		07 General
July	07 Board	Dec	Open
July	11 General		

All Meetings at 3111 S. Valley View Blvd. Bldg. E. Board Meetings at Shop, Suite 125, General Meetings at Suite 122.

SNGMS General Meeting

1st Monday of every month (2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday)

Non-members welcome!

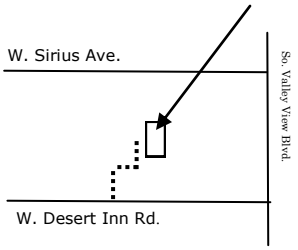
3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-122
Las Vegas, NV

Show & Sell	5-6 PM
Meeting	6-8 PM

Dis

3111 So. Valley View Blvd, Building E

Meeting Location
Suite 122
Shop Suite 125



Finding the Shop and General Meeting Location

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past So. Valley View Blvd. into the industrial park area. Drive past the building on your right, then jog right, then left and you will be in front of Building E.

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 (the unit next to the Shop). The owner of the unit comes in at odd hours and needs access to his parking spaces. There is ample parking across from the Shop that is not in front of any unit.

Raffle Donations Needed

Donations for the Raffle Table are always needed. As well as rocks, fossils, slabs, jewelry, and other rock club related items, Tom Skeary, the Raffle Table Chairman, welcomes white elephant type items in excellent condition. Help keep the Raffle Table exciting and profitable. You can bring your donations into the SNGMS Shop, where a box has been set aside to receive them, or contact Tom at 702-630-6796 to make other arrangements or for more information.

Clark County Paleontology and Geology Factoids *by Doris Currington*

Doris Currington gave a short Show & Tell at the January 2011 meeting. Her charts were not in a completed form that time. Hopefully, when she completes them they will look professional. Whether or not you attended the meeting, if you know of any interesting geological or paleontological Clark County information please pass it on to Doris so she can include it in her charts.

All the phylums are found in Clark County except two, and those two are found in our neighboring Esmeralda County.

Pre-historic Animals found in Clark County: vertebrates - 9; lower vertebrates - 17, birds - 11.

Main evidence of man 1,300 years ago, undocumented 40,000 years. Documented by charcoal and coprolite.

Our own original club member Harrington was involved in the Tule Springs Dig, Gypsum Cave and Overton Indian Restorations.

Invertebrates of Clark County: Cambrian: Trilobites, Track Traces and Worm Leavings; Ordivician: Receptaculities, Algae, Gastropods; Silurian: Algae, Shell Animals; Devonian: Algae, Ocean Animals; Mississippian and Pennsylvanian: all phylums but two; Jurassic: Dino tracks in Calif. only six miles from Clark County.

Oldest living trees exist in Clark County - the Bristlecone Pines.

Anyone wants to add more facts? Tell Doris Currington!

Classes, Classes, Classes!

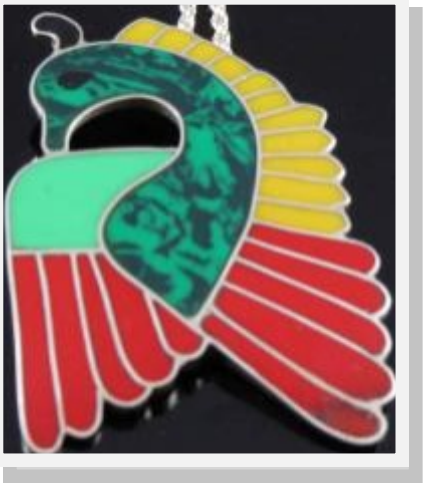
Wire wrapping, led by Sue Moore, meets on Mondays (except for the General Meeting night) at 3 PM and again at 6 PM. This month the projects will be: April 11 - Upside Down Cabochon, April 18 - Poker Chip Keyring or Pendant, and April 25 - Braided Bangle. Sign up with Sue Moore at 702-434-6072 to get on the email list to receive wire wrapping class information.

The beading class completed the herringbone necklace project from March. You may have noticed our President, Peggy Sue, wearing hers at the April meeting. This month the project is a netting enclosed cabochon necklace and the first meeting was held on April 7th. The next beading class will be April 21st at 6 P.M. Contact Pat Skeary at 702-459-2649 to sign up for beading or for more information.

Silversmithing meets every Tuesday at 5 PM. The class does not do group projects, but help is available to get you through your first basic project and then to help you, as needed, as you complete your own individual projects. Contact Frank Auerswald at 702-743-4840 for additional information.

As noted in the meeting minutes, the faceting equipment is being made functional and the faceting class is expected to start soon. The dates and times will be determined from the feedback at the meeting. Class size will be limited and, if you are on the sign up list, you will be contacted when a class slot is available for you. This is an exciting opportunity to study with Bob Skulsky. Examples of his faceting were shown at the Board Meeting, and they are extremely beautiful.

Frank Auerswald has agreed to teach a channeling (inlay) class if there is enough interest. Channeling involves making frames for stones and then cutting the stones to insert in the frames. This is another wonderful opportunity to learn a new technique. He expects the class to be 4-5 weeks and start after May 15th. All materials will be provided for a fee of $75.00. Examples of Frank's channeling work are shown in the accompanying photos. Classes will not begin until June. A sign up sheet will be available at the shop or send an email to sngms@yahoo.com.



Examples of the wire wrapping and beading projects are displayed in the SNGMS Shop, so come down and take a look. Wire wrapping, beading, and silversmithing classes have a very modest fee of $5.00 per session, that goes to the club. Other class fees may vary, depending on what is included in the class and the expected wear to the shop equipment. All classes are held in the SNGMS Shop.

Channeling Class Forming
Sign Up Now!

Shop Report

SNGMS Workshop Schedule

Sunday Monday Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12 noon-9 PM
Thursday*	12 noon-9 PM
Friday	12 noon-9 PM
Saturday	10 AM –9 PM

*Closed after 6 PM on the Thursday of the Board Meeting.

Supervisors will close the shop if no one comes in after two hours. The next shift supervisor will then re-open the shop.

Fees

Trim Saw $3.00 per hour, all other equipment is $5.00 per hour, after the first hour charges are pro-rated in 15 minute increments.

Shop Talk

from Chuck Huebler and Tom Skeary

Supervisors will be glad to help anyone who is unfamiliar with the equipment to learn, and to get certified.

For safety, users of the shop equipment are requested to wear closed shoes. They also need to wear eye protection and a mask and/or hearing protection, depending on their activity. Goggles, hearing protection, and masks are available at the shop. Wearing old clothes is recommended

BE SAFE!

Be mindful of what you are doing in the shop, as equipment (and You) can be damaged. If you don't know, or aren't sure of the equipment operation, ask for assistance. The supervisors are there to help you.

Receive a free slab, just use shop equipment to process it into cabochons.

If none of the listed times are convenient for you, contact Tom at 702-630-6796 or Chuck at 702-686-4186 and they will try to accommodate your schedule if possible.

Left: working on the Genies

Right: the saws are very much in use

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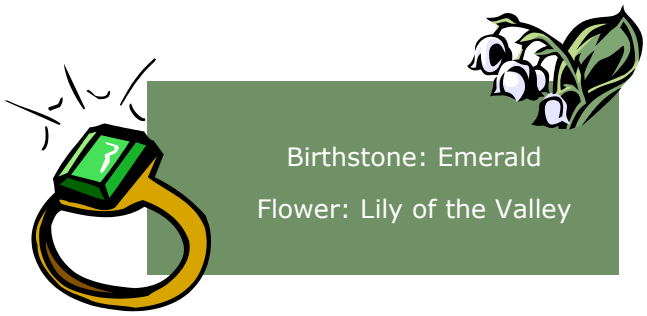
Your advertisement could be here.

For only $30 a year, or $18 for six months your business card sized advertisement could reach the SNGMS membership. Contact the editor at sngms_editor@yahoo.com or 702-631-5291 to arrange advertising.



Birthstone: Emerald

Flower: Lily of the Valley

Happy May Birthday!

If you have an May birthday please bring something for the refreshment table at the May meeting.

Marjorie Ader, Don Bowser, Wes Bryant, Patrick Bunting, George D Edwards, Brit Eliason, Linda Erwin, Nicholas Giles, Glenn Hale, Victor T Holmes, Charles Huebler, Ralph Hunt, Scott Klepzig, Linda Lewis, Linda Love, Joseph Lynch, Duane Matters, Kathy Mueller, Paul Nuell, David Seidner, Avis Tasker, Katalina Walker, Eugene Zeigler, and Lisa Zimmerman

Welcome New Members

A hearty welcome to members who joined or rejoined SNGMS during late March and April. We look forward to getting to know you better!

Gary L. Dudelston, Marieon Gaines, Hilary Grillett, Larry Grillett, Janine Illane, Rick Johnson, Athena Manasses, Steve Orr, Lynda Towers, Mark Towers, and James Wendel

Emerald Facts & Fancy

Facts: Emeralds are a variety of beryl. The green color comes from trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium.

Emeralds are found in many parts of the world including our own state of Nevada in Pershing County. The name of emerald is derived from Hebrew or Sanskrit, meaning green.

Top quality emeralds are even more valuable than diamonds.

As well as the May birthstone, emerald is the stone for the 20th and 35th anniversary.

Transparent emerald is extremely rare so emerald with occlusions, called garden, are tolerated.

Fancy: Emeralds have been said to give a supernatural ability to foretell future events. They have been believed to improve memory, intelligence, and eloquence.

Jerry Hesch, MHS, PT
The Hesch Method Bodywork
YouTube: jerryhesch
www.heschmanualtherapy.com
Hands-on care for acute and chronic injuries which oftentimes resolve in 1-3 sessions using a whole body approach.
Treating back & neck pain, pelvic pain, sacroiliac pain, sciatica, hip, foot & ankle, hip, knee, shoulder and rib pain
jerryhesch@cox.net (702) 558-6011 PST

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backyardgems@yahoo.com

Vice-President……..Jack Toogood……702-642-4788
sngms@yahoo.com

Secretary……..…..Glenn Beye *sngms_sec@yahoo.com*

Treasurer……..…..Pat Skeary……..……702-459-2649
sngms_treasurer@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian……Frank Auerswald

Three Year Board...Tom Skeary

Two Year Board…….Clare Breneman

One Year Board…….Sheri Johnson
Bill Moore

Committee Chairmen

Bulletin……..…..Lorrilee Stackhouse……..702-631-5291
sngms_editor@yahoo.com

Education……Mary Beth Paladino & Doris Currington

Federation……..Doris Currington
Alt. Federation……..Sheri Johnson
sngms_federation@yahoo.com

Field Trip……..Board of Directors
sngms_fieldtrip@yahoo.com

Financial Manager..George Messenger

General Shop ……..Chuck Huebler……...702-686-4186
Foremen Tom Skeary……702-630-6796

Historian……..Terry Beck

Hospitality……..Bob and Sue Lofaro

Inventory……Ronald Fetcho

Membership……..John Stackhouse & Mary Brandt
sngmsmembership@yahoo.com

Program……Board of Directors

Raffle……..Tom Skeary

50-50 Raffle……Bill Moore

Refreshments……Sue Dobson

Rock Stars……..Mary Beth Paladino……..702-255-1647
Rock Hounds *sngms_rockstars@yahoo.com*

Sargeant at Arms….Craig Tremmel

Show Chairperson…Board of Directors to manage shows; Sandy Cunningham is show information compiler

Committee Chairmen continued

Sunshine……..Dottie Fusch……..702-648-5886

Webmaster……Jack Toogood……..…..702-642-4788
sngms_webmaster@yahoo.com

Open Committee Chair Positions: Librarian, Publicity

Contact any Board member to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chairman to offer to help on their committee.

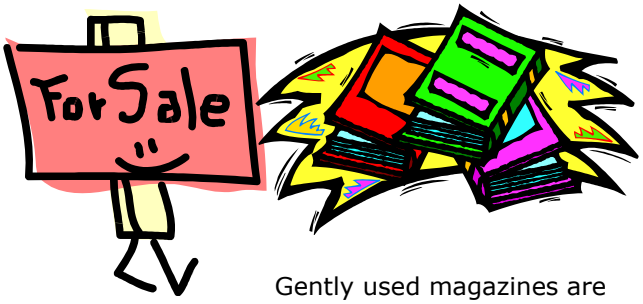
Vendor Opportunities

Feast of San Genaro: Located at the Silverton this year. Vendor booths start at $600.00. DEADLINE IS 4-21-2011. Google Feast of San Genaro and follow the vendor links.

GLDA Trade Show: To be held at the Mirage on May 30 - June 2. The website is http://www.glda.com/lasvegas_may.htm. See the website for more information.

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary Arts & Crafts Festival: April 16-17 9:30-5:00. Call Barbara Price at 702-505-5127 for more information and to reserve a booth.

GPAA Show: April 16 – 17 at the South Point Hotel. There may be free table space for SNGMS.



Gently used magazines are available in the SNGMS Shop for a $0.25 donation. Come in, browse, and leave with some useful and interesting information. The magazines include the subjects of Rocks, Minerals, Lapidary, and Beading.

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125

Las Vegas, NV 89102

Return Service Requested

April Diamond

Rocks-R-Us

www.sngms.com

If you forgot to pay your dues on time you can still maintain uninterrupted membership by paying a $5 reinstatement fee. Keep your membership uninterrupted. Contact the membership chairman, or pay at the SNGMS Shop.

The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit corporation, organized to educate ourselves and the community in the science and arts related to rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and nature in general. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the physical world, we can use it and protect it for future generations.

Club Mascot: Rock Wren

Club Gemstone: Turquoise

Club Logo: Rocks-R-Us

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing

Annual Dues: Individual - $20; Family - $30

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 3111 So. Valley View Blvd, E-122. No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.

Visitors are always welcome and bring a friend or two.

Polished Slab Advertising Rates

Ad Size	Six Months	Yearly
Business Card	$18	$30
Quarter Page	$48	$90
Half Page	$90	$170
Full Page	$150	$275

SNGMS Web Page Ads and Links to your Web Page are available for additional fees.

First month is free to club members. Ads must be paid in full prior to publication. Make checks payable to Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society. Mail to : SNGMS/Attn: Editor, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125 Las Vegas, NV 89102