

# ROCK WRITINGS

Official Monthly Publication of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 45, Number 2

Nevada City - Grass Valley, California

April 2011

## President's Message by Jan Longacre

Hello Everyone,

I was pleasantly surprised we had such a good turn out at the meeting with all the snow still around. Sue did a very good program on flint-knapping. We have 3 new members Gwen Fissel and child, and David O'Donnell. WELCOME. There are some good shows coming up plus some good trips, hope you get to enjoy some. GREAT JOB ON THE BULLETIN!!!

*Jan*



large obsidian flakes flew! She also showed us how the Indians might have used the smaller chips for other tools, and provided an informative handout on her talk. Thank you, Sue, for a very educational and interesting evening! For information on classes she teaches, see [www.ObsidianDesigns.com](http://www.ObsidianDesigns.com) or visit her Trading Post on Hughes Road.



## March's program

March's program featured Archaeologist "Arizona" Sue of Phoenix Obsidian Designs teaching about "Conchoidal Fracturing – The Key to Flintknapping." In her live demonstration, we learned about how to examine our parent material for the "topography"- where the best place is to make a hit and how it may fracture. We also learned what a striking tool looks like; how to angle your blow; what a "Hertzian Cone" is ("the specific geometric shape which the fracturing shock waves follow"); what characteristics make for good flintknapping material and much more. In her demonstration, many

## April's Program

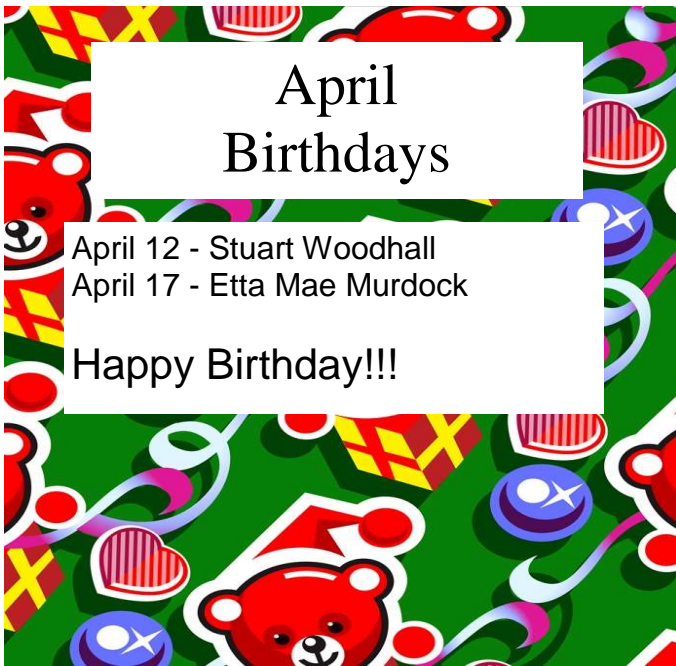
### Confessions of a Psammophile

April's Program will be presented by Vicki Black. What is a psammophile? Come to the meeting and find out!

### April Calendar of Events

April 1	April Fool's Day
April 15	`Cause I'm the Taxman!
April 22	Earth Day
April 29	Arbor Day

**April Birthstone: Diamond**



## April Birthdays

April 12 - Stuart Woodhall  
April 17 - Etta Mae Murdock

Happy Birthday!!!



Just spoke to Mary Tucker, our Sunshine reporter, and she said to say, "Everyone seems to have weathered the weather"

Mary Tucker is our Sunshine reporter. Mary would like any news you would like to share with our members reported to her by calling (530) 265-8320.

## Helpful Web Sites

CO-OP [www.ourfieldtrips.org](http://www.ourfieldtrips.org)

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)  
Forms, newsletters, shows, etc: Use menu links at top of page

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

### CO-OP Member Clubs:

Amador Co. Gem & Mineral Society	<a href="http://www.amadorgemandmineral.org">www.amadorgemandmineral.org</a>
Calaveras Co. Gem & Mineral Society	<a href="http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org">www.calaverasgemandmineral.org</a>
El Dorado Co. Gem & Mineral Society	<a href="http://www.eldoradomineralandgem.org">www.eldoradomineralandgem.org</a>
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society	<a href="http://www.orovillerocks.com">www.orovillerocks.com</a>
Fossils for Fun Society	<a href="http://www.fossilsforfun.org">www.fossilsforfun.org</a>
Mother Lode Mineral Society	<a href="http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com">www.motherlodemineralsociety.com</a>
Nevada Co. Gem & Mineral Society	<a href="http://www.ncgms.org">www.ncgms.org</a>
Roseville Rock Rollers	<a href="http://www.rockrollers.com">www.rockrollers.com</a>
Sacramento Mineral Society	<a href="http://sacramentomineralsociety.org/">sacramentomineralsociety.org/</a> (*)
Stockton Lapidary & Mineral	<a href="http://www.stocktonlapidary.com">www.stocktonlapidary.com</a>
Sun City Lincoln Hills G&M Soc.	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/lincolnhillssuncitygems/home">http://sites.google.com/site/lincolnhillssuncitygems/home</a> (*)
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society	(working on a new site)

(\* Recent change to URL/Domain Name)

**Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
Board Meeting Minutes**

March 1, 2011

**Meeting called to order by** President Jan Longacre  
at 6:15 pm

**Members present:** Terry Bartels, Vicki Black, Dan Chaplin, Julie-Anne Lay, Jan Longacre, Nancy Spurgeon

**Minutes from February Board meeting:** Not approved due to lack of quorum

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer not present. February was a quiet month.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Nancy brought a list of 2010 members who had not renewed their membership. She will call to remind them but the official deadline has passed to remain on the roster. Two new applications were reviewed and accepted by the board members present but not approved due to lack of a quorum. They will be addressed at the next meeting.

**Bulletin:** Huge thanks to Todd Lawson, Lori Woodhall and Nancy Spurgeon for putting a great newsletter together, printed and mailed out. Everyone was very appreciative. Nancy reminded the Board that the submission deadline for articles for the bulletin is 5 days after the last meeting.

**Field Trips:** All co-op trips are on the flier and in the bulletin. April 9<sup>th</sup> is the Fossils for Fun museum trip to Madera. Our club co-op trip is to the Lindka Mine, Austin, NV on June 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Vicki and Terry are also leading a club trip to Talapoosa Mtn, Silver Springs, NV on April 16<sup>th</sup> for agates. Co-op meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup> at the El Dorado club and all members are welcome.

**Federation:** No report

**Historian:** Emma brought the 2009-2010 album to share with members

**Show Chairman:** The Club will not be charged for parking for the Show.

**Webmaster:** No report

**Picnic:** No report

**Program:** Next month Dan Chaplin will give a presentation on Plate Tectonics

**Continuing Business:** The new t-shirt/sweatshirt order arrived.

**New Business:** The Board discussed the need to review the membership fee to determine if that covers membership expenses and the Board also needs to update the written Constitution and Bye Laws. The Club has been invited to attend a science evening at Scotten School on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm to share information about the club and our activities. Julie-Anne and Alex Lay and Dan Chaplin will attend and all members welcome.

**Meeting adjourned:** 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie-Anne Lay, Secretary,  
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

**Dear California Mineral Clubs and Societies,**

On February 20, 2011, Diamond Dan Publications will release our brand new mineral coloring and activity book, "Minerals From California." Please go to our website to see some sample pages. The cost will be 80 cents/copy. You can place your order by email or phone.

Darryl Powell  
Diamond Dan Publications  
P.O. Box 143  
Manchester, New York 14504  
585.278.3047 or 585.289.4936  
[www.diamonddanpublications.net](http://www.diamonddanpublications.net)

**Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
General Meeting Minutes  
March 1, 2011**

**Meeting called to order** by President Jan Longacre at 7:10pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance:** 26 members and 0 guests

**Sunshine:** No report

**Birthdays:** Happy Birthday to the March birthdays

**Kids Rock Drawing** by Terri Bartels

**Program:** Knapping with Arizona Sue

**Minutes from February Board meeting:** Approved as printed in bulletin.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jan Longacre read out the account totals. All accounts are healthy

**Correspondence:** No report

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Two new applications for Gwen Fissel and David O'Donnell.

**Bulletin:** Big thanks to Todd, Lori and Nancy for printing the bulletin.

**Field Trips:** April 9<sup>th</sup> Fossils for Fun trip to Madera County museum to view the fossil collection. April 16<sup>th</sup> NCGMS club trip to Talapoosa Mtn for agates. May 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Memorial weekend trip to Hampton Butte, OR. NCMGS co-op trip to Lindke Mine, Austin, NV June 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

**Federation:** Jan Longacre has \$1 raffle tickets for the CFMS Show.

**Show Chairman:** The club will not be charged for parking during the Show in October.

**Webmaster:** No report

**Hospitality:** No report

**Historian:** Emma brought the 2009-10 album to share

**Picnic:** No report

**Program:** Next month Plate Tectonics by Dan Chaplin

**Continuing Business:**

New club t-shirt/sweatshirt order has arrived. Thanks to our members Jan Pattee and Robin Chambers for giving us a great deal on the shirts and printing.

**New Business:**

The club is invited to attend a science evening at Scotten School on March 10<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm to promote our hobby and provide information about the club. All members welcome to attend and talk to kids and families.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,



## CO-OP MEMBER & OTHER FIELD TRIPS FOR 2011

Contact your club's field trip leader for further information and revisions. CO-OP website also has information:  
[www.ourfieldtrips.org](http://www.ourfieldtrips.org) (Password is needed.)

These trips are open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.

Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.

Remember to wear your name badge and sign in with the field trip leader.

A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site, contact field trip leader for any further insurance requirements.

- April 2            Coulterville, CA for mariposite (fee dig). NBFT Contra Costa Society, Joanne Caskey
- April 20-24      Topaz Mt. Delta, UT for topaz, geodes and other minerals. Roseville Rock Rollers Society and CFMS Field Trips North, Jim Hutchings, Gordon Standlee, Jim Barton
- May 7 & 8        Stonyford, CA for jasper. Sutter Buttes Society, Gerry Hill
- May 13-15        Anderson - CFMS SHOW & CONFERENCE  
 Sponsored by: Superior California Gem & Mineral Society, Shasta Gem & Mineral Society and Paradise Gem & Mineral Club; Show to be held at Shasta District Fairgrounds, Anderson (near Redding, CA - Off Highway 273); Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4; [www.superiorcal.com](http://www.superiorcal.com) Forms are on this site.
- May 21-22        **Jackson - Fossils For Fun Society**, Kennedy Mine, 12954 Kennedy Mine Road; Hours: 9 – 5 daily; [www.fossilsforfun.org](http://www.fossilsforfun.org)
- May 28-30        Central OR for petrified wood, limb casts, obsidian, thunder eggs, other minerals. Inter-Regional Rendezvous (AFMS) Doug True and Dick Pankey
- June 11, 12      Linka Mine, Austin, NV area for fluorescent minerals, other minerals, graptolites. Nevada Co. Society, Vicki Black
- June 17-20      Black Rock Desert, NV for limb casts, petrified wood, jaspers, opal, calcite. Calaveras Co. Society, Bob Young
- June 25, 26      Meadow Lake, (Truckee are) CA for chalco & arsenopyrite, viewing petroglyphs. El Dorado Co. Society, FT Leader TBD
- June 29/July 4    Madras, OR for annual Pow Wow for various collecting trips. Sacramento Mineral Society, Joe Shook
- July 16, 17      Middlegate, NV for fossils, petrified wood and tour of Ichthyosaur State Park. Fossils for Fun Society, Debbie Bunn
- July 23, 24      Sump and Monte Cristo, NV for minerals. Sacramento Mineral Society, Joe Shook
- Sept. 11         Grimes Pt./Fallon area, NV for jasper, agate, rhyolite. Amador Co. Society, Marty Carswell

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**A Nevada County Gem & mineral club**  
**FIELD TRIP TO TALAPOOSA MT., SILVER SPRINGS, NV AREA**

- This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.
- Remember to wear your name badge and sign in with the field trip leader.
- CO-OP website has information: [www.ourfieldtrips.org](http://www.ourfieldtrips.org) (Password is needed).
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.

All non-CFMS members must provide proof of personal liability insurance (homeowners or renters).

**TRIP LOCATION** - Talapoosa Mountain, NV (Silver Springs area)

Vehicle Access & Parking - #3 - 4 Vehicle access and parking good for most vehicles and RV's. This is a gravel road and weather can affect conditions. There is no specific handicap parking.

Collection Site - #5- ¼ to ½ mile trail to site with moderate difficulty, there is material in and around parking area.

**DATE** - April 16th 2011

**COLLECTION MATERIAL** - Agate cutting material (good sized float and seams)

**LEADER** - Vicki Black 273-8995

**MEMBER'S GUESTS:** Allowed with proof of liability insurance/waiver

**MEET** - Saturday morning 10:00 a.m. at the Silver Strike Casino in Silver Springs, NV. Casino is located on corner of Hwy 50 and Hwy. 95A junction (flashing stoplight). We are meeting in the dirt area of the parking lot in front of the casino (closest to the highway).

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP** - The collecting/camp site is located on the top of Talapoosa Mountain in the flat area near the communications towers. To get to Talapoosa Mountain, turn right on Ruby Lane (off Hwy. 50 East) a few miles after Silver Springs and the intersection of Hwy. 50 and 95A.

**VEHICLE REQ'S** - Passenger vehicles OK - high clearance desirable.

**CAMP/FACILITIES** - This will be a one day trip For those who wish to camp; however, dry camping at the collecting site is ok. or there is also camping available at nearby Lake Lahontan State Park.

**TOOLS** - rock hammer, collecting buckets (heavier tools for seams optional)

**SAFETY CONCERNS** - Sunscreen, Water, and watch for rattlesnakes.

**CLIMATE/WEATHER** - It will be warm during the day and very cool at night.

**CLOTHING** - Bring layers,

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**A FOSSILS FOR FUN SOCIETY FIELD TRIP  
TO THE FOSSIL DISCOVERY CENTER OF MADERA COUNTY**

**WHEN** – Saturday, April 9, 2011.

**LEADER & CONTACT INFO** – please call by Wednesday, April 6th.  
Debbie Bunn, (916) 929-6665 (H), (916) 798-3362 (Cell)

**MEMBER'S GUESTS** – Allowed.

**COLLECTION MATERIAL** – this is a tour of the museum.

**PROPOSED SCHEDULE** - meet at the museum for the tour which starts at 10 a.m. and could be several hours.

**MEET** – at the Fossil Discovery Center,

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE** – take Highway 99 south to just south of Chowchilla, exit Avenue 21 ½. Go west several miles to the Fossil Discovery Center, # 19450 Avenue 21 ½. (Phone (559) 288-1157.

**OTHER REMARKS** – the Fairmead site has over 15,000 fossils recovered, including mammoths, saber-tooth cats, camels, giant sloths, antelopes, horses a half million years old. Learn about the natural history of the Central Valley. Go to the internet site for the Fossil Discovery Center for further information.

**FEES** - \$6.00 for guided tour.

**LUNCH** – bring your lunch.



## INTER-REGIONAL ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS AND FIELD TRIP

May 27 – 30, 2011  
Hampton Butte, OR

The Northwest and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies are hosting an Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Central Oregon over Memorial Day Weekend 2011 for Petrified Wood, Agate and Obsidian!! And all AFMS society members and guests are invited.

**Directions:** From the South – Traveling east or west on US 20 turn north on Van Lake Rd. (mile marker 52) go north approximately 16 miles. Watch for camp signs as you approach Camp Creek road. Road is a maintained gravel road.

**Facilities:** The campground is a large pasture. This is a “dry camping” area and with porta potties. It can accommodate all sizes of motorhomes and trailers and is also very good for tenters. You will be camping on private property and need to follow some basic rules: No off road except camp area, no cutting of fire wood and NO ROCK COLLECTING ON THE RANCH. If you have questions check with camp host.

**Collecting Trips:** The organized collecting trips will start on Friday morning. All trips will leave at 8:30 AM, SHARP !!!, from the campground. We will be running a maximum of 50 collectors to three separate locations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You will have to sign up each day on a first come first served. THREE TRIPS WILL BE LEAVING FOR THE THREE LOCATIONS EACH OF THE THREE DAYS.

### **Schedule:**

**Thursday, May 26:** arrive at camp, welcome potluck dinner and get together with camp fire.

**Friday, May 27:** Daily Field Trips #1 Hampton Butte #2 Paulina Area #3 Camp Creek Area  
*Evening:* BLM \* Talk on Geology of the Area, USFS \* Newly Discovered Calderas, Camp Fire

**Saturday, May 28:** Daily Field Trips #1 Hampton Butte #2 Paulina Area #3 Camp Creek Area.  
*Evening :* All Rendezvous Potluck Dinner and Camp Fire

**Sunday, May 28:** Daily Field Trips #1 Hampton Butte #2 Paulina Area #3 Camp Creek  
*Afternoon and Evening:* Rock Swap, Wood identification by Walt Wright.

**Monday, May 30:** Daily Field Trips Glass Butte. Open Day you may go to any of the collecting areas.

**Tuesday, May 31:** Break camp to head for home or other adventures

Plan on several potluck dinners, and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good material. Please notify one of the Federation leaders early, but no later than May 20 if you plan to attend. E-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share, trade or sell.

Come join us for a great Inter-Regional Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Doug True  
Richard Pankey

Northwest Federation California Federation  
**dtruefossils@yahoo.com**  
**dickpankey@juno.com**

406-670-0506  
925-439-7509



# CFMS 2011 SHOWS

## April 2-3 - LANCASTER, CA

Antelope Gem & Mineral Society  
Lancaster High School  
44701 - 32nd Street West  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Rod Skillings (661)400-5198  
Email: rodneyskillings@ymail.com  
Email: av\_gem@yahoo.com

## April 2-3 - LEMOORE, CA

Lemoore Gem and Mineral Society  
Trinity Hall  
470 Champion Street  
Hours: 10-6 daily  
Judy Pereira (559) 924-4052

## April 9-10 - MARIPOSA, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society  
Mariposa Co. Fairgrounds  
Fairgrounds Road  
Hwy #49, 1.8 miles South of Mariposa  
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
Diane (209) 742-7625  
Email: mineralmuseum@sti.net

## April 9-10, PARADISE, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society  
Elks Lodge  
6309 Clark Road  
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4  
Manuel Garcia (530) 877-7324  
Email: mmpg@earthlink.net  
Website: www.paradisegem.org

## April 15-17 - SAN JOSE, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
334 Tully Road  
Hours: Fri 9-5; Sat & Sun 10-5  
Frank Mullaney (408) 265-1422  
Email: info@scvgms.org  
Website: www.scvgms.org

## April 23-24 - SANTA CRUZ, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society  
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium  
Corner of Church and Center St  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Dean Welder (408) 353-2675  
Email: wdewanwelder@yahoo.com  
Website: www.scmgs.org

## May 6-8 - BISHOP, CA

Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society  
Tri-County Fairgrounds (Robinson Bldg.)  
Corner of Sierra Street & Fair Drive  
Hours: Fri. 6pm-10; Sat. 9:30-4; Sun. 10-3  
Francee Graham (760) 876-4319  
Email: franceem@quet.com

## May 7-8 - RENO, NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society  
Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall  
1350 N. Wells Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4  
Ann Johnson (775)544-4937  
Email: ann.johnson.e@gmail.com  
Website: www.renorockhounds.com

More shows can be found on the CFMS web site:

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>



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## Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society



### 2011 ELECTED OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Jan Longacre
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Dan Chaplin
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Julie-Anne Lay
<b>TREASURER</b>	Todd Lawson
<b>DIRECTORS</b>	Kim Moore Snakes Hoffmann Terry Bartels

### 2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<b>FEDERATION DIRECTOR</b>	Vacant
<b>FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS</b>	Vicki Black Tony Kampitch Emma Lay
<b>HISTORIAN</b>	Emma Lay
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	Melba Sagaser
<b>LIBRARIAN</b>	Alex Lay
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Nancy Spurgeon
<b>PARLIAMENTARIAN</b>	Vacant
<b>CLUB PICNIC</b>	Anita Wald-Tuttle
<b>JUNIOR PROGRAM Asst</b>	Kristy Lawson
<b>JUNIOR PROGRAM Chairperson</b>	Melba Sagaser
<b>PROGRAM</b>	Dan Chaplin
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	Robert & Joyce Emerson Kim Moore
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	Birthday Honorees
<b>SHOW CHAIRMAN</b>	Kim Moore
<b>SHOW CHAIRMAN, ASSISTANT</b>	Marty Patton
<b>SHOW DEALER CHAIRMAN</b>	Joyce Emerson
<b>SUNSHINE</b>	Mary Tucker
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	Todd Lawson P.O Box 565, Nevada City, CA. 95959
<b>WEBMASTER</b>	Todd Lawson

<http://www.ncgms.org/>

### Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings

The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society holds two meetings every month with certain exceptions. The membership is informed of exceptions during meetings and through Rock Writings. You are welcome to attend any meeting.

#### **Executive Committee Meeting:**

First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.  
Golden Empire Grange Building  
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

**Tues. April 5, 2011**

#### **General Membership Meeting:**

First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.  
Golden Empire Grange Building  
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

**Membership Dues:** Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are \$20.00 for singles and \$25.00 for families. For more information or an application, contact Membership Chairman Jonathan North (916) 768-0137. \*Deduct \$5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email\*

#### **NCG&MS is a non-profit organization that has these objectives:**

- ♦ to promote the study of mineralogy, geology and fossils.
- ♦ to encourage the collection of minerals and gems.
- ♦ to foster the study and practice of the lapidary arts.
- ♦ to provide field trips to mineral localities.
- ♦ to promote good fellowship, education and recreation.



NEVADA COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. (AFMS)  
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. (CFMS)



PERMISSION TO REPRINT ARTICLES IS GRANTED IF CREDITS ARE GIVEN.

ARTICLES WITH NO CREDITS ARE WRITTEN BY THE CO-EDITORS: Todd Lawson, Lori Woodhall, Nancy Spurgeon

**Please send Exchange Newsletters & Newsletter Submissions to: Todd Lawson, Co-Editor**

12621 Digger Pines Circle, Grass Valley, CA 95949 or Email: [todd.lawson@gmail.com](mailto:todd.lawson@gmail.com)



Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
PO Box 565  
Nevada City, CA 95959-0565

First Class Mail



*April 2011*

## **General Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
Golden Empire Grange  
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley**

**April Program**

*Confessions of a Psammophile*

**\*\* Bring a Friend! \*\***