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# Geological Society of Nevada Southern Nevada Chapter Newsletter

August 2004

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## “The Rarest Soils, Do They Matter?”

**DATE:** Thursday, August 26, 2004

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Patrick Drohan (UNLV)

**LOCATION:** Room 102 Lilly Fong Geoscience Bldg.

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. Presentation

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*Geological Society of Nevada,  
Southern Nevada Chapter  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 4010  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-4010*

***Welcome Back!*** Well it's hard to believe that the summer is over already but we are very excited to start another great year of GSN meetings. I hope that everyone had a nice summer and is ready to get back into the swing of things with the Southern Nevada Chapter. The other officers and I had hoped, and planned, on having a summer meeting but alas, we were unable to find a speaker that was available – so we'll try again next summer. Our new year of speakers is almost set with talks on varying subjects from soils to geophysics! We will have a meeting every month from now until next May, including the month of December (a new thing for us). The schedule of meetings is set for the last Thursday of every month except November and December when it will be held the third Thursday of the month. The change in schedule for November and December is to avoid the Thanksgiving and winter holidays. We hope that everyone will be able to attend these meetings. Hopefully we will also have a fall field trip. We are looking for those scientists who do work in the area to show-off their stuff! Again, all us officers look forward to seeing you this fall!

*See You Soon,  
Robyn*

**FROM AMY:**

Hello everyone! I hope that you all had a productive and/or relaxing summer (whichever applies). It looks like we are going to have a great line-up of speakers for the next several months and I have even started looking for speakers for spring 2005. It looks like Jon Price (Nevada State Geologist) will be speaking to our group in January, so look for information on that coming soon!

Also, as Robyn has stated before, we are looking to increase our membership in our local chapter so if you know of anyone who would be interested in our organization please invite them to a meeting or have them share their email address so we can get information out to them.

I am very excited about the upcoming year and hope that everyone else is also! I look forward to seeing you all again AND if anyone has suggestions how we can improve our meetings or would like to suggest speakers please contact me. See you soon!

**FROM THE TREASURER:**

Our account currently has \$860.34. The only money we receive is from the \$5.00 per member chapter dues that we usually receive in one lump sum in the spring. The past few years we have been getting fewer and fewer members, thus our checks have been less and less each year. We have gone from over \$660.00/year to just over \$500.00 last spring. We spend over \$100.00 for food and refreshments at each meeting.

We received additional money last year from several paid advertisements put in the newsletter, and a few generous people paid for food and refreshments at a social hour.

Hopefully this year our membership will increase and we can have a few of our meetings sponsored. We hope to build up a reserve like we have had in the past.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

It's nearing that time of year again. The membership year for GSN is from October 1 to September 30. Please be sure and renew your membership on time. If you are not currently a member and would like to become one, regular membership is \$30 and student membership is only \$15. For \$5 more you can become a member of the Southern Nevada Chapter. Our chapter relies on this money to pay for food and refreshments at our monthly meetings, and any expenses related to future field trips. As usual we welcome everyone to our meetings, but if you are planning on being a regular attendee, please help us out and join. An application can be downloaded via a link on our website, or one can be picked-up at a meeting. We would like everyone to know how much we appreciate all of our members and the support they provide for these meetings. The meetings offer some very interesting talks as well as socializing and networking with area scientists and student scientists. We can't wait to see you!

**FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS:**

If you are a currently enrolled, full-time geology student you can have the main GSN dues waived for membership. We are working out the details on how this can be accomplished and we will let everyone know before dues are due on October 1. This waiver only covers the main membership; the \$5 chapter dues is still due. As mentioned previously, we rely on the chapter dues to pay for our social hour. If you obtain a waiver for membership, please also join our chapter and help keep us going! For more information contact Amy Brock.

## **PARKING:**

We would like to remind everyone about the parking rules near the Lilly Fong Geoscience Building, and throughout campus. A permit is required to park on campus from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. There are metered spaces throughout campus as well as free parking near Swenson and Harmon. The spaces in front of the Geoscience building are reserved for vehicles with faculty/staff permits from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. but student permits are allowed after 5 p.m. Daily permits can be purchased at the Public Services Office. We are sorry if you receive a ticket but unfortunately there is nothing we can do to fix it. For more information please visit UNLV's website at <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/parking/>.

## **FIELD TRIP INFORMATION:**

Our chapter has been trying for a while now to set up a field trip and we seem to be having some trouble finding willing trip leaders. There is so much interesting work being done in Las Vegas and surrounding areas that would make for a wonderful day trip for our chapter members. If anyone would like to show-off their field studies, we would be more than happy to set up everything so that all the leader would have to do is tell us about their research. There is a great interest among our current members for a field trip in the fall and we hope to make this interest happen!

It's been a while since our chapter has filled the position of Field Trip Chairperson. This person would be in charge of finding field trip possibilities and arranging the field trip. If anyone is interested in this position please email, phone, or talk to us at the meeting.

## **SPEAKERS:**

If you are interested in presenting your research at a future GSN meeting please feel free to contact Amy Brock at 702-895-3583 or [alb@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:alb@unlv.nevada.edu).

## **ADVERTISEMENTS & MEETING SPONSORS:**

GSN is a non-profit organization. That last statement means that all of our operating expenses are paid for with member dues. Our tight budget makes it difficult to plan for food and refreshments at our monthly meetings. A few years ago we had to switch from mailed newsletters to email newsletters to cut costs. If your business would like to sponsor social hour at a GSN southern Nevada chapter meeting or place a paid advertisement in this newsletter and on our website please contact Jim O'Donnell at [jim.odonnell@cox.net](mailto:jim.odonnell@cox.net). Everyone would appreciate the gesture and it would be good exposure for an area business. Please see our current advertisements at the end of this newsletter and support our sponsors.

## **ON THE WEB:**

The Southern Nevada Chapter of GSN is on the **WORLD-WIDE-WEB** at <http://geoscience.unlv.edu/GSN/gsnsc.htm>! Please visit our site for updates on meetings, speakers, events, field trips, membership, symposia, and just for general information including contact information. If you have any suggestions, changes, or input please feel free to email Robyn at [robynhowley@yahoo.com](mailto:robynhowley@yahoo.com). You can also visit the main GSN website at [www.gsnv.org](http://www.gsnv.org).

## **ON A SADDER NOTE:**

GSN has lost several long-time members this past summer that we feel we should recognize and remember.

~Floyd "Stretch" Petersen~  
~Vic Kral~  
~Lyle Taylor~  
~Tom Thomas~

## **VOLUNTEERS:**

MINExpo International will be holding the world's largest mining exposition in Las Vegas at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Monday September 27 through Thursday September 30. GSN has a booth rented for the duration of the exposition and has asked the Southern Nevada Chapter for volunteers to "man" the booth from 9-5 during those dates. We would like to set-up a volunteer schedule for the meeting so that there will be someone at the booth at all times. The job of this person is to pass out information about the Geological Society of Nevada. This is a great opportunity for our chapter members to get out and meet miners from all over the country. We have 4 complimentary badges for anyone who wants to volunteer. Students are admitted free to the exposition. If you have some time available, a few hours here and there, please volunteer. Contact Amy Brock for more information.

## **WINDOW TO THE WORLD GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA SYMPOSIUM 2005:**

Every 5 years GSN holds this symposium in conjunction with the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology, Society of Economic Geologists, and the U.S. Geological Survey. This symposium will be held May 15-18, 2005 at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel and Casino in Reno/Sparks, NV. In addition to presentations, the symposium also includes field trips and a trade show. Previous symposia have been extremely successful. We encourage everyone, including students to consider presenting their work at this important meeting. Abstracts are due September 1 2004. For more information on this symposium please visit [www.gsn2005.org](http://www.gsn2005.org).

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## **THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER**

**The Rarest Soils, Do They Matter?**  
DR. PATRICK J. DROHAN

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We do not currently have an abstract for this talk but one will be available at the meeting and online in a few days.

### **Speaker's Background & Education**

Patrick received his B.S from Rutgers University in 1992. Following graduation, he worked for the USDOJ Bureau of Land Management in Kremmling, CO (river ranger and fire crew), the USDA Forest Service in Fairplay, CO (initial attack engine foreman), and Penn State University (forestry and hydrology technician). In 1994, he started his M.S in Environmental Pollution Control at Penn State working on water chemistry changes associated with land use, geomorphology and insect defoliation. After finishing his M.S. in 1996, Patrick stayed on at Penn State to work on his Ph.D, which included an examination of soils, geomorphology, climate and biotic factors associated with an episode of sugar maple decline in northern Pennsylvania between 1979-1989. He was formerly employed at Shepherd College (now University) in Shepherdstown, WV (2000-2003) and in the Department of Environmental Studies at UNLV (2003-2004). Patrick recently joined the Geoscience faculty in the summer of 2004.

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