

Volume 42 Number 04

April 2024

LEAVERITE NEWS

Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club
2328 Monument Road P.O. Box 953
Grand Junction, CO 81502

President's Message

Hello to the GJGMC! Spring is springing. I am glad to see some trees are flowering. March was a great month for the club. We recognized JoAnn and Don Piburn as our Rockhounds of the Year. We had two club meetings on Color in Minerals, and Yellow Cat Redwood. Our instructors taught skill classes in Silver Smithing, Fast Track Lapidary, Faceted Stone Setting, and Enameling – Thank you JoAnn, Grete, Theresa, and Karen! The Kids Club took a field trip over to Floy Wash. And it snowed at least twice in March. What a month!

Thank You to those who came to help with Spring Cleaning on March 30th, which spruces up our grounds in preparation for the upcoming Craft Show. Many thanks also to Jan McCollum and Kathy Ericson who defrosted the refrigerator, and straightened up the cleaning closet a few weeks ago!

Also in March, the Scholarship committee (Dave McCollough and Alan Emmendorfer) interviewed 5 CMU Geology students for scholarships from the club. Dave said, "All of the five interviewed were serious about their pursuits in Geology-related fields. The three we chose are working and also incurring student debt. Their determination is notable." At our March 28th club meeting, scholarships were awarded to these students: Mackina Chamberlain, KennaLee Worster, and Coral Copenhaver.

The nearby town of Green River, Utah, will be having an event **April 5-7**, called Green River Rocks with a lecture, outdoor rock show, and field trips. More info about that is here:

<https://www.greenriverrocks.com/>

At our club meeting on **April 11th**, we will see a presentation from one of the Great Courses on Practical Geology: Collecting Minerals and Crystals.

Saturday, **April 13th**, will be our annual Craft Show at the clubhouse. Kathy Ericson has been working super hard to arrange that. Also, at the Craft Fair, I plan to sell our 60+ old vinyl chairs currently in storage in the container for \$1 each. You can let me know if you as a member would like them now before we offer them to the public. Some look better than others. They look like this:>



At our club meeting on **April 25th**, we will see a presentation from Nova on Treasures of the Earth: Metal, for example, gold, copper, and steel.

Steve Cable, GJGMC President 2024

The speed of light is constant. But the speed of time keeps getting faster!

Officers			Directors		
President	Steve Cable	970-312-1005	1 Year	Sylvester Spaeth	970-846-2973
Vice President	Open Position		2 Year	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
Secretary	Kimber Johnson	970-589-4091	3 Year	Bruce Johnson	970-589-4091
Treasurer	June Steely	801-540-0488	Finance	Ken Kloska	303-915-9318
			Past President	Jeff Southern	243-0953
Committee Chairpersons					
Audit	Bev O'Neal	623-2522	Leaverite Editor	Susan McChesney	970-589-9358
Building Maint	Dave McCollough	549-7352	Librarian	Open Position	
Compliance	Bev O'Neal	261-5890	Meet-Up	Steve Cable	970-312-1005
Correspondence	Kathy Ericson	623-2522	Membership/Badges	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864
Decorating	Linda Dunham	623-3610	Nominating	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333
Display Cases	Dave McCollough	549-7352	Publicity	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
Education	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	Scholarships	Dave McCollough	549-7352
Web Based Media	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	Shop Foremen	JoAnn & Ed	970-778-5333
Field Trips	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864	Show Co-Chair	Deidre O'Callaghan	303-324-5559
Hospitality	Jan McCollum	245-9749	Supplies	Kathy Ericson	623-2522
Inventory	Pat Martinez	434-9270	Grab Bags	Judy Nason	250-9128
Vests	Linda Sims	314-2970			

SECRETARY'S CORNER

This section is dedicated to our new members. Welcome aboard!!

New members:

Shelly Hurt
Amanda Moore
Eric and Meghan Nedvecki – welcome back!
Elizabeth Paroni
Karen Rowe

Please join our club Meetup group for the most current announcements. Go to Meetup.com. Search for Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club. There are two groups. The group with our logo (the blue pickax) is for paid members only. This is where Field Trip RSVPs are registered, classes are announced, and club speakers are scheduled with the details for how to connect remotely from Zoom (if preferred). For help joining Meetup, call Steve Cable, our current president. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact any board member or instructor. We are excited to have you in our club and look forward to seeing you at our events, classes, and trips. <https://www.meetup.com/Grand-Junction-Gem-and-Mineral-Club-Members/>

Upcoming Events:

Cookie Meeting – April 11, Collecting Crystals and Minerals
General Meeting – April 25, Treasures of the Earth (Gold, Copper, Steel)

Check the posted calendars and MeetUp for other coming attractions, classes, and events.



Junior Science Rock Club News

The April meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2nd, 5:00 - 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. GJGMC member, Steve Cable, GJGMC president, will be presenting "Rock Tumbling".

A field trip is planned for April 6th to be led by Pam Bersch and members of JSRC. They will be organizing the trip to an area of the Bookcliffs north of Grand Junction to collect barite.

Melissa Moroni gave us a great hands-on presentation about "Fossils of Ohio" at the March meeting. She had a large collection of fossils to look at and handle. She also provided everyone with their own fossil brachiopods to add to their collections. Our thanks to Whitney Acker for creating and donating fossil record-keeping booklets for JSRC members. Everyone got to fill out a specimen card from their booklet for Melissa's addition to their collections.

Luckily, Melissa and I stumbled upon someone's donation of horn coral out on the rock pile. We sorted through and gathered enough specimens for kids to choose a favorite and our extras will be saved for Kids Korner. Thank you to whoever dropped off the coral. JSRC could use more information to fill in specimen cards if someone wants to come forward and share the specifics.

On Saturday, Sylvester Spaeth led a group of 10 out to the Floy Wash area. Stops were made at three different locations along the way. JSRC members collected selenite, jasper, and agate to add to their rock collections. On the way back, a stop was made to search for sharks' teeth and fossils before heading out. Our thanks to Sylvester for leading us, it was a great day.

How can GJGMC members support JSRC?

JSRC has great interest in day field trips and opportunities for rock collecting. Anyone interested in leading a trip specifically for JSRC please contact Melissa Moroni or Pam Bersch. Trips can feature geological land formations, quarry sites, collections of minerals/fossils, or rock art.

A reminder to everyone: we are always in need of donations of specific minerals, fossils, and rocks for the kids to add to their collecting experience. (We aren't always available to search the rock pile and get lucky.) Please contact Pam Bersch or Thom Ericson if you have something that might work for the kids - (like Horn Coral).



Lee's Tidbits

Colorado's State Mineral - **Rhodochrosite**

Colorado has become world-famous in recent years because of the Rhodochrosite mined from the Sweet Home Mine near Alma, Colorado. The beautiful red rhombohedral crystals are both gorgeous and extremely expensive, due to the very high cost of getting the crystals out.

According to the Colorado Geological Survey, rhodochrosite is a manganese carbonate, $MnCO_3$. It is too soft to be used in most jewelry. CGS says, "The rhodochrosite crystals from Colorado are valued solely for their own intrinsic and natural beauty." It can also be massive or radiating in shape and is sometimes more tan than red. CGS says that "Colorado's translucent red variety is prized the world over, commonly bringing prices in the tens of thousands of dollars..."

Earth's largest rhodochrosite crystal, the *Alma King*, is on display at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). This 6.5 in (16.5 cm) crystal was collected in 1992 from the Sweet Home Mine, high in the Mosquito Range west of the old mining town of Alma in Park County."



The crystal, according to the DMNS, is the size of a football!

The Sweet Home Mine used to be a silver mine and tragically, they used to discard the rhodochrosite when they were mining the silver!

High school students from Platte Canyon High School near Bailey, Colorado were studying minerals and petitioned the state legislature to name rhodochrosite as our state mineral, which it did in 2002.

A completely different type of rhodochrosite, banded rhodochrosite, is found in Argentina and is common in lapidary work. It is still soft but its beautiful banded pattern makes beautiful jewelry and vases.

Check the Colorado Geological Survey for lots of good articles on Colorado minerals, including their "Rock Talk" magazine that you can subscribe to, and their "Teachers Corner" with great information on Colorado rocks and minerals!

BOARD MEETING – Second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM

COOKIE MEETING – Second Thursday of the month, cookies at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 PM.

***GENERAL MEETING – Fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM
B.Y.O.S. (bring your own snacks)***

Classes	Instructors	Phone #	Open Shop
Adv. Lapidary	Thom Ericson	970-623-2522	Shop Chairmen: JoAnn Piburn & Greet Raymond
Beginning "Fast" Lapidary	Ed Raymond	250-2967	
	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	* Previous Instruction in use of equipment in
Bracelet Making	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	is required before using any tools or machines
Casting	Cindy Teare	970-462-6806	in the shop.
Chain Making	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	* Sign in each time you use the shop.
Cuttlebone Cast	Judy Nason	250-9128	* Help with the clean up before leaving.
Enameling	Karen Sayre	402-960-7370	*Shop fee is \$5/session for EVERYONE.
Faceting	Casey Trump	970-250-9890	*Slab saw fee is \$.25 per square inch.
Faceted Stone Setting	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	
Filigree	Pam Bersch	970-242-3134	
Intarsia	Sue Smith & Val Medeiros	970-245-5602	
Opals and Turquoise	Thom Ericson	623-2522	
Wire Weaving	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	
Wire Wrapping, basic & adv.	TBD	TBD	
Silversmith, Basic & Adv.	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	
	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	

Do you have items to buy, sell, or trade related to GJGMC? You can post and read notices on the bulletin board to your left as you enter the clubhouse's main door. Please make sure your notices contain your name and contact information as well as the date posted. And make sure to pull the notice once your item is bought, sold, or traded. Thanks!

If you would like to contribute a story of interest to the club via this newsletter, please have it to me via email: smcchesney64@gmail.com no later than the 15th of the month, please.

April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3 Chain Making 6-9	4 Chain Making 6-9	5 Fast Lapidary 9-4	6 Open Shop 9-12 Fast Lapidary 1-4
7	8	9	10 Open Shop 12-3 Chain Making 6-9	11 Cookie Meeting 7pm	12	13 Open Shop 9-12 Craft Show 9-3
14 Bracelet Making Class 10-4	15	16	17 Open Shop 12-3 Board Mtg 6pm Chain Making 6-9	18 Chain Making 6-9	19	20 Open Shop 9-12
21 Bracelet Making Class 10-4	22	23	24 Open Shop 12-3	25 General Meeting 7pm	26	27 Open Shop 9-12
28	29	30	1 Open Shop 12-3	2	3	4 Open Shop 9-12
5	6	Notes				

May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
28	29	30	1 Open Shop 12-3	2	3 Fast Lapidary 9-5	4 Open Shop 9-12 Fast Lapidary 1-4	
5 Advanced Silversmith Class 10-4	6 Basic Silversmithing 6-9	7 Basic Silversmithing 6-9	8 Open Shop 12-3 Board Meeting 6pm	9 Cookie Meeting 7pm	10	11 Open Shop 9-12	
12	13 Basic Silversmithing 6-9	14 Basic Silversmithing 6-9	15 Open Shop 12-3	16	17	18 Open Shop 9-12	
19 Advanced Silversmith Class 10-4	20 Basic Silversmithing 6-9	21 Basic Silversmithing 6-9	22 Open Shop 12-3	23 General Meeting 7pm	24	25 Open Shop 9-12	
26	27	28	29 Open Shop 12-3	30	31	1	
2	3	Notes					

AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year (ACROY) - 2024

Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club (GJGMC), Colorado

The GJGMC is proud to recognize JoAnn and Don Piburn as our 2024 Rockhounds of the Year. They have been members of the GJGMC for 20 years. Don assists the Club as needed and supports JoAnn in her dedicated service to the Club. JoAnn serves the Club in many capacities. She has led the club's educational programs as the Education Chairperson for more than 10 years. She also just finished a 3-year role as a Trustee on the Club's Board of Directors. She was especially active in revising the club's Bylaws and Operations Manual. In addition to her diverse assistance with the Club's operations, she stands out in her commitment to the Club's ability to offer lapidary and jewelry-making classes in our onsite Rock Shop. As Education Chairman she secures instructors to teach a variety of classes of interest to Club Members. As the Class Scheduler, she reports, at every

Club Meeting, on class scheduling and how members can enroll in a specific class. At the Club's annual Rock Show, JoAnn coordinates the display of items made by class members and the demonstration of lapidary and jewelry-making techniques for Rock Show attendees. JoAnn also serves as a Shop Chairperson and Foreman. In these roles, she 1) oversees the scheduling and use of the Shop for classes and by members on Open Shop Day, 2) performs maintenance of rock machines and jewelry-making equipment, and 3) helps maintain the Shop's inventory of supplies and tools. In addition to all of her coordination and support for Classes and Shop activities, JoAnn possesses considerable jewelry-making expertise that she generously shares with members as a Class Instructor. JoAnn teaches classes in basic and advanced silversmithing, chain making, and wire weaving. The ability of the GJGMC to offer a variety of lapidary and jewelry-making classes is due to the dedication of JoAnn and her Class Instructors who greatly add to the vibrancy and appeal of our Rock Club. The Club members greatly appreciate JoAnn and Don, and especially, JoAnn's extraordinary contributions to the GJGMC.



GJGMC Volunteer Opportunities. by Steve Cable

In a club as big and active as ours, there are lots of different ways people can help our club succeed. Volunteering helps the club and is also a terrific way to meet club members, make friends, and make a difference.

Some of our activities are bigger than others and need more help. As long as everyone helps with something, things seem to magically come together, and we have fun along the way. I think that most people are willing to help with something if they know what they are getting into. Below are a few descriptions of current volunteer opportunities we have available.

Grab Bag Coordinator – This person works with additional club members to prepare and sell grab bags for sale at our fall rock show. Grab bags are especially fun for the children. During a typical year, this person would arrange for an adequate number of bags to be sewn. They would procure the kinds of specimens that are suitable for grab bags, which the club pays for. We put ribbons on a certain number of bags to designate special prize winners. Many members of the club are glad to help with stuffing the bags, and grab-bag stuffing is a good club activity at our summer cookout. This year we are fortunate to have an ample number of bags already stuffed for this year's show, but we are growing and will need more.

Advertising Coordinator – This person arranges for publicity about our public events, especially the Fall Rock Show. They also help get the word out about our spring Craft Show and Members Rock Sale events. There are multiple different places and methods we use to notify the public about our club events, including social media, print publications, and other organizations. Our current Advertising

Coordinator has successfully advertised our events for multiple years now, so we know what channels work the best, and we already know who to contact for arranging publicity. We could use a helper.

Vice President – This person invites speakers to talk to our club. You might think, “I don’t know anyone,” and I thought that myself. But if you are interested in the world around us, and ask people if they would be willing to talk to us, there are a surprising number of people who will. Everyone knows talented and informative people who could talk to us if someone invites them. We had 31 people I was able to arrange as speakers over the last couple of years, and the acceptance rate was about 85%. If you ask them, they may come. People love to share what they are passionate about. The Vice President also takes care of our bag of keys, which is an important, but straightforward thing to do.

Fortunately, none of our volunteers work alone. Everyone helps each other, which makes everything we do a lot easier. Our club has so many wonderful volunteers, and dozens of ways you can help. If you would be willing to help the club in any way, thank you, and we can talk more.

Club Information

The Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The clubhouse is at 2328 Monument Road, Grand Junction, CO. Our mailing address is P. O. Box 953, Grand Junction, CO 81502. We are a nonprofit, 501(c3) tax-exempt, educational organization. Our purpose is exclusively educational and social: To increase and disseminate knowledge of the earth sciences, specifically minerals, gems, rocks, artifacts, fossils, and similar subjects; To promote and perpetuate knowledge of the lapidary arts; To encourage field trips; To encourage greater public interest and education in gems, fossils, and minerals, cooperating with established institutions in such matters. The Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in our club building. November and December meetings will be on the second Thursday only. Our Annual Rock Show is held on at the Mesa County Fairgrounds in September. Classes and workshops are offered throughout the year. Upcoming events are listed on MeetUp and posted in the newsletter.

The Facetors’ Group

The Facetors’ Group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:30 am. They have a Project of the Month and a People’s Choice. They also have teachers available for one-on-one classes. Contact Thom Ericson at 623-2522 for information about the group or classes.

Dues

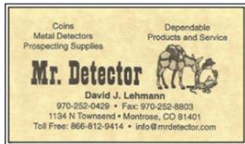
Dues are paid by calendar year and are due by Jan 1st. Please pay your dues at the meeting or send a check made out to Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club, P. O. Box 953 Grand Junction, CO 81502. Prospective members should attend one general meeting to obtain a membership application. New members joining after July 1 will pay half for the remainder of the year.

Adult Member - \$40.00 (18+), 2nd Adult, same household - \$10.00 Children under 18 years, same household - No Cost

The Leaverite News is your newsletter. Articles, ideas, and news should come from club members. If you are an officer, teacher, director, or committee chairperson, plan to **submit monthly updates by the 15th of each month** to smcchesney64@gmail.com. *Leaverite News is published by the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Articles printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club, or the editors. We are not responsible for the authenticity, safety, or reliability of publications. All articles/photos are included in accordance with fair use for research and education. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea, venture, or exploration in the field. We request corrections and/or additions to articles.*

Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Website and Meetup

Our website, www.grandjunctionrockclub.org, contains our meeting information, the Leaverite Newsletter, Classes, Field Trips, and Photo Gallery. The Club is also registered as the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club on **Meetup**. Meetup is an online application that brings people of common interests together. Our meetings and field trips are posted on MeetUp at: <https://www.meetup.com/Grand-Junction-Gem-and-Mineral-Club-Members/> Paid Members should click "Join this group" in red and answer the questions that pop up. Once your status is confirmed as a paid member, you will be given access to our other private Meetup which includes specific field trip information, and other information needed by paid members. If you have any problems call Steve Cable at 970-312-1005.



PHOENIX HERITAGE MINERAL SHOW

JUNE 1-2 '24
SAT 9A-5P
SUN 10A-4P

- 35+ QUALITY VENDORS
- COMPETITIVE & GUEST EXHIBITS
- SAT NIGHT DINNER & AUCTION
- DEMONSTRATIONS
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- GEODE CRACKING
- RAFFLES



FLUORITE
8.5CM H
OKORUSU MINE, NAMIBIA
PHOTO BY JEFF SCOVIL

PHOENIX SHRINE AUDITORIUM
552 N. 40TH ST. PHOENIX, AZ
\$5 CASH ENTRY / \$3 MEMBERS
12 & UNDER FREE / FREE PARKING

