

Volume 42 Number 05

May 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!

April was a great month for our club. Hopefully, I can remember it all. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, our Spring Craft Fair was successful, most importantly for our vendors, who completely filled our clubhouse with beautiful things for us to see. Thank You to Kathy for organizing that event. On April 11, Dan Kile shared with us the beauty of his 54+ years of prospecting and collecting rocks in Colorado – Thank you Syl Spaeth for arranging that time with Dan. On April 25<sup>th</sup> we watched an interesting presentation about Metal, in particular gold, copper, and steel, which reminds me that technology has some good innovations in store for us. Some of us had classes in Lapidary and Bracelet Making – thank you Grete and Theresa for teaching those! And JR and Deidre led us on a rockhounding field trip to look for agates north of Moab that we always enjoy.

Please join me in welcoming these new members in April!

Bill and Cindy Balaz  
Lynn and Jay Fletcher  
Mark Jonjak

Guin Deadman  
Julia Gaertner  
Daniel Littlefield

And several previous members rejoined us – welcome back!

Gordon (Tiny) Blasdel  
Robert Myers  
Nina Williams

John Hedrick  
James Sebela  
Gail Yamamoto

We have a great month of May planned for you. On **May 4<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a field trip to look for Barite near the Book Cliffs. At our club meeting on **May 9<sup>th</sup>**, Scott Perrien will join us at the clubhouse to tell us about the Origin of Gemstones. On **May 19-23**, we will have a multi-day field trip to look for Topaz, Trilobites, and Geodes near Delta, Utah. On **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, we will have our Spring Potluck, and hopefully, several people will be able to show us things they found on our field trips.

On **June 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will watch a recorded presentation on the Detroit Mine, which has extended the world-famous Sweet Home mine near Alma, where they find such beautiful rhodochrosite, the Colorado state mineral. Saturday, **June 15<sup>th</sup>** will be our Member's Rock Sale. If you would like to sell rocks, gems, geodes, or fossils, space is free. We let the club have 25% for advertising the event. If you sell nothing, it costs you nothing! Please let me know before May 15<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in space. There will not be a club meeting on **June 27<sup>th</sup>** – it is summertime! Enjoy a summer evening!

One day I went to the grocery store. I forgot to take in my reusable grocery bag (again!) so when I went through the checkout line, the bagger asked me if I wanted paper or plastic. I told him either one was OK with me, and I asked him to choose for me. He said, "No Sir! Baggers are not allowed to choose, because actually it is impossible. Baggers can't be choosers!"

Best wishes to find beautiful things wherever you are!

Steve Cable, GJGMC President 2024

## SECRETARY'S CORNER

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

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:

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a field trip to look for Barite near the Book Cliffs. At our club meeting on

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**, Cookie Meeting - Scott Perrien will join us in person at the clubhouse to tell us about the Origin of Gemstones.

**May 19-23**, we will have a multi-day field trip to look for Topaz, Trilobites, and Geodes near Delta, Utah.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, General Meeting we will have our Spring Potluck

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

**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 come in the main door of the clubhouse. 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](mailto:smcchesney64@gmail.com) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, please.**



## Lee's Tidbits

### Dinosaur Ridge – Dinosaur tracks and fossils

One of the most unique sites in Colorado is Dinosaur Ridge, located just before you get to Denver. It has over 300 dinosaur tracks and is where the world's first Stegosaurus fossil was found. (Only half a dozen specimens are on display throughout the world, one of which is at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science!) It's free to see and is a National Natural Landmark, thanks to the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, who worked for years to make it into a site everyone can enjoy. Big thanks to geologist Betty Rall for her work there and to co-founder Dr. Martin Lockley!

The rock layers are fascinating as well. There are fossil dino bones from the Jurassic age, about 150-200 million years ago. The dinosaur tracks were made later, in the Cretaceous, about 100 million years ago. They are in a rock layer called the Dakota Group (lots of exposures of that around Grand Junction!) and include carnivores and plant-eating duck-billed dinosaurs. There are so many tracks because the ancient Cretaceous Seaway covered much of Colorado, and dinosaurs walked along the shoreline, leaving tracks in the sand. There are also ancient fossil crocodile footprints.

You can see the tracks on a 2-mile round-trip paved trail open to hikers, amblers, and bicycles, with interpretive signs throughout. You can also take a bus tour. A quarter of a million people come each year to see these world-famous tracks.

You can take an amazing virtual tour of the whole site, with lots of places to click on for extra info, at <https://dinoridge.org/visit-dinosaur-ridge/dinosaur-ridge-trail/>

According to the Dinosaur Ridge website, "The original caretakers of the lands we now call Jefferson County Open Space Parks include the Tabeguache and Moghwachi bands of the Ute Nation, the Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes, and other Indigenous Peoples. Their knowledge, resilience, and cultural and spiritual ties to these lands inspire us to continue their legacy by practicing informed stewardship, providing equitable access, teaching sound outdoor ethics, and treating nature and humanity with respect."

Check out [www.dinoridge.org](http://www.dinoridge.org) for lots of info, including a newsletter and info on becoming a member if you want to support their preservation and education work. But most of all, stop off next time you drive to Denver!

### FYI:

The Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter is pleased to announce that they will be hosting a symposium **June 13th – 16th, 2024**, at the Mines Museum of Earth Science at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. The symposium theme will be "**Mineral Oddities: Twinning, Inclusions, Pseudomorphs, and More.**" All who are interested in minerals and mineralogy are welcome to attend. For more info, see: <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium/>

**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)**

# 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 Field Trip for BookCliffs Barite
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 10-4 Field trip near Delta, Utah	20 Basic Silversmithing 6-9 Field trip near Delta, Utah	21 Basic Silversmithing 6-9 Field trip near Delta, Utah	22 Open Shop 12-3 Field trip near Delta, Utah	23 Field trip near Delta, Utah General Mtg + Potluck 7pm	24	25 Open Shop 9-12
26	27	28	29 Open Shop 12-3	30	31	1
2	3	Notes: Multi-day field trip will look for Topaz, Trilobites, and Geodes near Delta, Utah				

# June 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Open Shop 9-12
2 Bracelet Making Class 10-4	3	4	5 Open Shop 12-3 Board Meeting 6pm	6	7	8 Open Shop 9-12
9 Bracelet Making Class 10-4	10	11	12 Open Shop 12-3	13 Cookie Meeting 7pm	14	15 Open Shop 9-12 Members Rock Sale
16	17	18	19 Open Shop 12-3	20	21	22 Open Shop 9-12
23	24	25	26 Open Shop 12-3	27 No Meeting today	28	29
30	1	Notes				



## Junior Science Rock Club News

No information was submitted this month.

### Club Contacts

Officers		Directors			
<b>President</b>	Steve Cable	970-312-1005	<b>1 Year</b>	Sylvester Spaeth	970-846-2973
<b>Vice President</b>	Open Position		<b>2 Year</b>	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
<b>Secretary</b>	Kimber Johnson	970-589-4091	<b>3 Year</b>	Bruce Johnson	970-589-4091
<b>Treasurer</b>	June Steely	801-540-0488	<b>Finance</b>	Ken Kloska	303-915-9318
			<b>Past President</b>	Jeff Southern	243-0953
Committee Chairpersons					
<b>Audit</b>	Bev O'Neal	623-2522	<b>Leaverite Editor</b>	Susan McChesney	970-589-9358
<b>Building Maint</b>	Dave McCollough	549-7352	<b>Librarian</b>	Open Position	
<b>Compliance</b>	Bev O'Neal	261-5890	<b>Meet-Up</b>	Steve Cable	970-312-1005
<b>Correspondence</b>	Kathy Ericson	623-2522	<b>Membership/Badges</b>	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864
<b>Decorating</b>	Linda Dunham	623-3610	<b>Nominating</b>	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333
<b>Display Cases</b>	Dave McCollough	549-7352	<b>Publicity</b>	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
<b>Education</b>	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	<b>Scholarships</b>	Dave McCollough	549-7352
<b>Web Based Media</b>	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	<b>Shop Foremen</b>	JoAnn & Ed	970-778-5333
<b>Field Trips</b>	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864	<b>Show Co-Chair</b>	Deidre O'Callaghan	303-324-5559
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jan McCollum	245-9749	<b>Supplies</b>	Kathy Ericson	623-2522
<b>Inventory</b>	Pat Martinez	434-9270	<b>Grab Bags</b>	Open Position	
<b>Vests</b>	Linda Sims	314-2970	<b>GJ Facetors Club</b>	Casey Trump	970-250-9890

Classes	Instructors	Phone #	Open Shop
Adv. Lapidary	Thom Ericson	623-2522	Shop Chairmen: JoAnn Piburn & Ed Raymond
Beginning Lapidary	Ed Raymond	250-2967	Shop Supervisors: JoAnn Piburn & Ed Raymond
	Grete Raymond	433-0016	* Previous Instruction in use of equipment in
Bracelet Making	Theresa Pytell	639-2903	is required before using any tools or machines
Casting	Cindy Teare	462-6806	in the shop.
Chain Making	JoAnn Piburn	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	250-9890	*Slab saw fee is \$.25 per square inch.
Faceted Stone Setting	Theresa Pytell	639-2903	
Filigree	Pam Bersch	242-3134	
Intarsia	Sue Smith & Val Medeiros	245-5602	
Opals and Turquoise	Thom Ericson	623-2522	
Wire Weaving	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	
Wire Wrapping, basic & adv.	Instructor needed		
Silversmith, Basic & Adv.	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	
	Theresa Pytell	639-2903	

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.** 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](mailto: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](http://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.

