

Volume 42 Number 10

October 2024

LEAVERITE NEWS

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

President's Message

You will be glad to know the 2024 GJGMC Fall Rock Show was a success. Total attendance was **1,664**. Although not a record for us, it is a lot, and it is enough for the club to continue operating and growing for the coming year. The weather apps kept forecasting rain, but when it finally came, it was at 2 AM - Perfect! What was a record though was the number of volunteers. I am aware of **86** people who helped us put on the show. That is a lot of volunteers. There are probably more. We had volunteers for Tickets, Grab Bags, Geodes, the Kids Korner, Demos, Membership, Golf Carts, Logistics, Hospitality, Florescent Rocks, Silent Auction, Advertising, and Security. To all of you volunteers - you are amazing. We cannot thank you enough.

At the December Christmas Party, we will have a special drawing for anyone who volunteered at some point during the year. The Board invites anyone who appreciates our volunteers to donate a nice item for this drawing, like a collectible specimen or something handmade. I will put those items on display in the case we have in our hospitality room.

Also in September, Pam led a fun field trip to see the Crystal Geyser and collect red, agatized snails. On Sept 12, our RMFMS regional representative, Liz Thomas, talked about the RMFMS Convention coming to our town in 2025. On Sept 26, we learned some things about Collecting Minerals and Crystals. And we had classes on Wire Wrapping, Silversmithing, and Bracelet Making, thanks to Grete, JoAnn, and Theresa.

Get ready for October, because... Time Marches On! **Oct 5th** we will look for azurite at the Senorita Mine. **Oct 12** we will look for baculites around the Book Cliffs. RSVP on Meetup (and tell me if you don't know how!). On **Oct 10th** and **Oct 24th**, we will have two regular club meetings, one on Joe Dorris' Amazonite, and another on Mexico's Major Mineral Mines.

The club is considering a significant Shop expansion sometime in 2025, enabling us to separate our Silversmithing workspace from the Lapidary workspace. We hope that will make the shop experience quieter and more productive, and hopefully help catch up on the backlog of students wanting to take classes. It is a big project, and the club will need to vote on it. More info will be presented at the October club meetings.

This fall will also be time to vote for a new Trustee. Syl Spaeth has been a Trustee for 3 years. (Thanks Syl!!) We also still need a VP. If you are interested in either position, please let me know. We plan to announce the nominations on Oct 10th, so that we can vote for them, plus vote on the Shop Expansion, on **Nov 14th**.

Club Member Barbara Galloway told me: *"I've provided the link below to a fascinating article about some amazing trilobite fossils, the most detailed ever found and how they were so well preserved."* <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/stunning-trilobite-fossils-soft-tissues>

Many thanks to these GJ businesses who recently made donations to our club: **Moon Mountain Gems** (by 2nd and Pitkin), and **Colorado Legacy Coffee Roasters** (by Sams Club).

If you can believe it, 49 people have become new members since the last newsletter. They will be listed later in this newsletter. I try hard to learn people's names, but it might take me some extra time to learn that many. Don't worry though! We have plenty of extra chairs!!!

In the meantime, every day is a gift! Best wishes to enjoy every day of October that you can!
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/>

Please welcome these new members!

Christina Ammerman	Kelly Baldwin	Rhonda Bivens
Lorrie Chavez	Joey Christiansen	Robert Clare
Johnnie Farmer	Randy Foster	Clare Gilbert
Glenna and Bret Grandbouche	Susan Haines	Michael and Heather Hutchinson
Adele Israel	Jen Jackson	Aaron Jolly
Rene Kinyon	Cindy and Mike LeBaron	Sue and Brian Leimkeuhler
Jeanne Marie	Merritt Martin	Becky McGuire
Robert and LeeAnn Morrell	Atis Muehlenbachs	Lois and Durward Pifer
Barbara Pounds	Crystal Rea	Tyler Reyes
Jessica Robinson	Bob Sammons	Danielle Sanders
Jim and Ann Schwietert	Morgan Siviert	Tom Sims
David Smith	Donna Stout	Patricia Studhalter
Rich and Jan Thompson	Rick and Melissa Thompson	Dan Tomasko
Tiara Tucci		

Check the posted calendars and MeetUp to see coming attractions, classes, and events. MeetUp has the most up-to-date information.

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 no later than the 15th of the month, please.



Junior Science Rock Club News

JSRC September 2024 News

The next JSRC meeting will be held October 1st at 5 pm at the Club House at 2328 Monument Road. Fossils will be the unit this month with Melissa Moroni presenting. Members are encouraged to bring the results of their geode experiments to share with everyone. (Someone please take pictures for the website)

A big **thank you** to the families who volunteered at Kid's Korner over the weekend for the **78th Gem and Mineral Show**. It's an anxious time preparing for this event but it is always so enjoyable interacting with visitors. Who knew spinning a bicycle wheel could be so fun?! Gem trees were again the stars of the wheel. Additionally, we revived the Rock Box activity and were pleased with the response from visitors. For the low price of \$5, visitors got to choose 12 specimens with labels from 22 options to begin or add to their rock collections. Thank you to all the adult collectors who provided specimens for this activity. 300 bingo cards were distributed in the vendor Geode Bingo Blackout game. **(Kids remember to use your volunteer form to record your hours towards your volunteer pin.)**

September's meeting focused on geodes and how they are formed. After watching a video about how geodes are created and all the different types, everyone created an environment to grow crystals using eggshells as the "vug". This unit dovetailed with the bingo blackout event for the rock show featuring famous geodes from around the world. Members bagged mini geodes from Kentucky with a label and then picked one to add to their own collection. A big **thank you to JoAnn Piburn** for opening the shop and cutting geodes for anyone wanting to see what was inside. Participants at the rock show completing their bingo cards got to choose a mini geode from this same collection. (A big **thank you to Jeff and Summer** at the geode booth for cutting geodes for visitors playing bingo blackout.)



Lee's Tidbits

Want to learn how gemstones like emeralds and sapphires form, and where to find them? If you like to listen to podcasts while you drive, here's a great site with dozens of cool rock and gem-related podcasts: <https://www.geologybites.com/lee-groat>

In this particular one, we learn from a Canadian geologist about places where he has found beautiful emeralds, sapphires, and bright blue spinels. The sapphires were discovered by two Nunavut brothers on Baffin Island and later made into a 48-sapphire brooch for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee celebration. Canadian professor Lee Groat and colleagues studied the rocks where the sapphires were found. They concluded that they formed in a marble-like rock and that it took a specific "recipe" of temperatures and pressures over history to make the sapphires. Specifically, three separate events produced the sapphires: first, the parent minerals were formed, but then they were altered, and finally a chemical reaction resulted in corundum – which is what sapphire is. Now the scientists think they can tell where else to look for these gems. The scientists say that the geology where they are found is similar to that of Kashmir and Myanmar, world-famous for their gems.

Dr. Groat has also found nice emeralds in the Yukon and Ontario. Emerald is a type of Beryl (which also includes aquamarine). Colombia had been thought to be the prime source of emeralds, but in 2010, some were found in Canada. It takes another specific "recipe" of fluids, minerals, pressures and temperatures to form these emeralds.

He has also found beautiful blue spinels on Baffin Island, and peridots – now being found by using drones.

They also study the red beryl deposits in Utah – another unique set of conditions that produced the beryl. The presence of all these gems tells geologists the history of the specific area – whether there was a collision between ocean and continental plates, mountain-building episodes, faults, or volcanism.

Check out these podcasts, [geologybites.com](https://www.geologybites.com) to learn about everything from the geology of planets in other solar systems to diamonds to radioactive waste disposal, to Banded Iron Formation rocks, and more!

October 2024



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

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)***

November 2024



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

Club Contacts					
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 McColbough	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 McColbough	549-7352	Publicity	Raechel Kolb	970-257-7831
Education	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	Scholarships	Dave McColbough	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	Open Position	
Vests	Linda Sims	314-2970	GJ Facetors Club	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 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 under 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 problems, call Steve Cable at 970-312-1005.

The GJGMC thanks these generous supporters of our club!

