

Volume 42 Number 11

November 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!

October was a good month for the club. Our great instructors taught 5 classes on Lapidary, Enameling, Findings, Filigree, and Chain-making. Thanks to Grete, Karen, JoAnn, and Pam. We had two good programs on Amazonite and Mexico's Mineral Mines. We had two successful field trips to look for Azurites and Baculites.

We will have a program on **Nov 14** about the T-rex dinosaur. November is less active for the club while we take time for Thanksgiving. Hopefully, you will include the GJGMC on your list of things for which you will be thankful. I sure will.

Be SURE to save the date **Dec 12** for the annual Christmas party. We will have a potluck dinner, and a few members have kindly volunteered to cook a ham and a couple of turkeys for us. The Sweet Adelines will sing for us, which is always delightful. There is no obligation, and if you have the means, bring a few dollars and we will pass the hat after to help support their group.

At the December Christmas Party, we will have a special drawing for anyone who has 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.

The club is considering a significant expansion of the Shop sometime in 2025, which would enable us to separate our Silversmithing and Lapidary workspaces. We hope this will make the shop experience quieter and more productive. Hopefully, we can also help catch up on the backlog of students wanting to take classes. The club will have to vote on it before that goes forward.

We have a volunteer to be a future 3-year Board Director – Bill Balaz (Thanks Bill!) That will be something else we can vote for. The club would also greatly benefit from a volunteer to plan future programs (a Vice President), and a volunteer to recommend financial strategies for us (a Financial Director). If you are willing to volunteer for something, I hope you will let me know!

Whenever we vote for something official, we need to have a quorum of members present. At our current membership level (295!), we need to have 50 people present to make a quorum. Hopefully, we will have 50 members present on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> to vote on those things.

Please join me in welcoming these new members: Effie Coombs, Mark Kennedy, Alma Sue Kenney, Dave and Mary Lord, and Hannah Wenner,

Which dinosaur knows the most words? The Thesaurus!

What should you do if you find a dinosaur in your bed? Find another place to sleep!

Steve Cable 😊 GJGMC President 2024

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>	Rachel Kolb	970-257-7831
<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

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

**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.**

## **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 Casey Trump at 970-250-9890 for information about the group or classes.

**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!

## **Notice:**

Lee Cassin has kindly provided some items to auction at upcoming club meetings. The first box will be auctioned at the Nov 14<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Theresa Pytell will bring the box of items for your inspection before that meeting starts.

Theresa says the items to be auctioned at the Nov 14<sup>th</sup> meeting include:

A smith torch with two tips. The small tip is extra and is hard to come by. The 2-stage regulator, hose, and tips. New is a \$265 value plus a small tip.

Approximately 2.5 ounces of fine silver bezel. Scrap value: \$78 which would be way more than that from Rio Grande.

Texturing hammer - \$15 New value

2 bezel pushers - \$5 new value

The whole box would be approximately \$363 new! Proceeds from auctioning this box would go towards scholarships for CMU students.

Here is a picture of these items:





## Lee's Tidbits

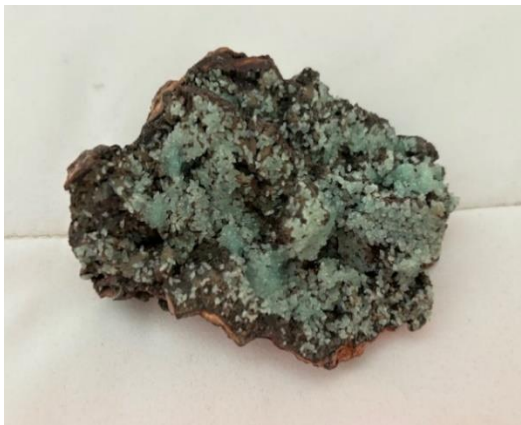
Smithsonite – a beautiful blue mineral worth collecting!



Smithsonite, named after the person who originally funded the Smithsonian Institution, has a botryoidal appearance (looking like bubbles), sometimes with radiating needles. New Mexico is famous for its Smithsonite. It's a zinc carbonate – zinc being the 4<sup>th</sup> most common metal mined, after iron, aluminum, and copper. You have probably heard of galvanized cans, the zinc used as a coating to keep the metal from rusting. It's used in car bodies, bridges, sunscreen (zinc ointment), and ointments (calamine lotion). It also makes up almost all of today's pennies, which have

only a thin coating of copper. But in mining zinc, sadly, many beautiful specimens of Smithsonite went into smelters!

Pure Smithsonite is clear, but it usually has small amounts of different impurities, which give it many colors, but the blue-green, above, is the most sought-after. It forms when hot waters full of dissolved minerals form other zinc compounds, which are converted into Smithsonite by fluids circulating through those ores.



This specimen is from Mexico from the famous Santa Eulalia District.

Besides the beautiful specimens, Smithsonite is also used by lapidary artists to make spheres, carvings, and cabochons. If you ever get a chance to go to the New Mexico Bureau of Geology Mineral Museum in Socorro, just south of Albuquerque, NM, they have gorgeous specimens! Many are from the famous Kelly Mine in the Magdalena District in Socorro County, NM. Admission is free and for info, you can call (575) 835-5490 or go to [geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/](http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/) for more information.

***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 Wire Wrapping Class 6-9 pm	12 Wire Wrapping Class 6-9 pm	13 Open Shop 12-3 Board Meeting 6pm	14 Cookie Meeting 7pm	15	16 Open Shop 9-12
17	18 Wire Wrapping Class 6-9 pm	19 Wire Wrapping Class 6-9 pm Basic Silversmith Class 6-9 pm	20 Open Shop 12-3 Basic Silversmith Class 6-9 pm	21	22	23 Open Shop 9-12
24	25	26 Basic Silversmith Class 6-9 pm	27 Open Shop 12-3 Basic Silversmith Class 6-9 pm	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29	30
1	2	Notes				

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	303-229-9216	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	303-229-9216	
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	303-229-9216	

# December 2024



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



## Junior Science Rock Club News

No updates submitted for this newsletter. Please remember to get your news items to the editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Or at the very latest, by the 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

## 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.

## 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.

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***The GJGMC thanks these generous supporters of our club!***



