

Volume 42 Number 12

December 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!

November was quite a month for the Club. At the Club meeting on Nov 14th, we watched an IMAX video on the T-rex dinosaur. Before that though, we had business to discuss. Deidre presented a progress report from the Building/Museum Committee, and we hope they continue making progress in the foreseeable future. We also discussed the proposed Shop Expansion Project.

Be sure to save the date, December 12, for the annual Christmas party. We will have a potluck dinner starting at 6 PM. 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 afterward 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.

At the Dec 12th Christmas Party, we will also vote for a couple of open Board positions. Bill Balaz has volunteered to be a future 3-year Board Director. Michael Daniels and JoAnn Piburn are willing to be our Vice President. To be clear, we will only have one Vice President, and they will coordinate the different activities of that role between themselves as a team.

Our next discussion about the Shop Expansion project is planned for our next regular club meeting on **Jan 9th**. In case you are unaware, the club is considering a significant expansion of the Shop sometime in 2025, which would allow us to separate our Silversmithing and Lapidary workspaces.

Pam Bersch kindly let me know about the history of our buildings: [The property was procured in 1968 and construction of the clubhouse was started in 1970. The "shop" was dismantled at Grand Junction Steel in 1998 and the reassembly was finally completed in 2001 as a storage building. In January 2002, lapidary equipment was moved from the clubhouse \(where we had classes\) into the "Shop".](#)

This is the biggest decision the Club has made in over 20 years. I'm glad to see so many people are speaking up and asking questions about this project. Please plan to join our **Jan 9th** meeting when the Board would like the general club membership to vote on it.

Need an idea for a Christmas gift? Maybe consider giving: To your enemy..., forgiveness. To your opponent..., tolerance. To a friend..., your heart. To a customer..., service. To every child..., a good example. To an older person..., time together. To all men..., charity. To yourself..., respect!

Best wishes for a meaningful Christmas.
Steve Cable, GJGMC President 2024

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

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.

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.



Lee's Tidbits

Geologic Hazards We Don't Think About

Rocks are not interesting just because of their beauty. Colorado's Geological Survey notes a "range of Colorado's geological hazards, including avalanches, falling rocks, landslides, mudslides (debris flows), swelling soils, sink holes, mine subsidence, and flooding". Our Grand Junction area has to deal with several of these – rocks falling on our highways, swelling soils that can damage homes, of course, flash floods... But one was catastrophic – The 2014 West Salt Creek Landslide that claimed the lives of three local men.

Just southeast of Collbran, it was the longest landslide in Colorado's historical record. The geology that caused the landslide has been extensively studied by local Colorado Mesa University geology professors, especially Dr. Rex Cole, whose specialty is Grand Mesa's geology. Professors Verner Johnson, Andres Aslan, and the Grand Junction's Gem and Mineral Club's own Dr. Bill Hood, provided key research on the area. And CMU's David Wolny provided seismometer data that showed exactly when the first precursor events started happening. Just before the May landslide, a very heavy snow had fallen and right before the event, a heavy rainstorm occurred. But it took the geology to make the landslide happen.

Grand Mesa is made of a hard basalt cap with very weak rock layers underneath it. There is a layer of gravel called the Goodenough Formation, and below that Green River Formation shales. (The same formation as the one on Douglas Pass with the nice leaf fossils). And under that is a mudstone/sandstone formation called the Wasatch. When these lower layers became water-saturated, a block of rock that was a remnant of an earlier slide, tilted back into the hillside and the rocks below slid out, causing the whole hillside to collapse.

Scientists studying the landslide estimated that the volume of rock that moved was about 17 MILLION cubic yards and the 2-mile-long slide accumulated in a matter of minutes, traveling at up to 80 miles per hour. It is hard to say whether the area above the slide will be stable in the short term. The area below and around the slide is full of active gas wells, but the state and county have monitored the area in the hope of detecting any future problems before they happen. One of the main programs of the Colorado Geological Survey and CMU geology department is studying the local geology to understand hazards and how they can be avoided.



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)**



Junior Science Rock Club News

No news this month from our younger members but here is a great opportunity for those in higher education.

For students wanting to further their education in the fields of Paleontology, geology, and related fields, Hells Creek Paleontological Society is offering a \$1,000 scholarship. It is open to both members and non-members and the HCPS scholarship flyer will be attached to the newsletter for those who are interested. Applications will be accepted from January 1 to March 31, 2025.

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	TBD		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 Learn to make a spinner ring 12-4	9 Advanced Silversmith Wire Wrapping 6-9 pm	10 Advanced Silversmith Wire Wrapping 6-9 pm	11 Open Shop 12-3	12	13	14 Open Shop 9-12
15	16 Advanced Silversmith Wire Wrapping 6-9 pm	17 Advanced Silversmith Wire Wrapping 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				

January Calendar is under construction



Ken Kloska has unneeded mineral specimen display pieces that he would like to offer for sale to club members. The first photo shows small display boxes for displaying thumbnail specimens. Some of the display boxes are pre-used but are in like-new condition. The second photo shows eight different display box flats for displaying thumbnail specimens. It also shows several hundred small glass vials. These are excellent for showing small placer gold and gem specimens. Also pictured are a variety of larger mineral specimen display mounts. In the right background are plastic display stands. Except for several of the thumbnail display boxes, these items have never been used before. Ken would like to offer the entire contents from both photos for a reasonable price. Proceeds would be donated to the club. If you are interested, please let Ken know. His details are as follows: email: kloskacolo@gmail.com, Cell: 303-915-9318.



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.

The GJGMC thanks these generous supporters of our club!

