

Volume 43 Number 02

February 2025

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!

January was a great month for the club. On Jan 9th, it was great to talk with you about our plans for the coming year. On Jan 23rd, we heard a great presentation from Gail Sauders about the Mining History of Ouray County. Our great instructors taught classes on both Basic and Advanced Lapidary, and both Basic and Advanced Silversmithing, with many thanks to Dave, Grete, Andrea, and JoAnn.

I am always glad to see February arrive because it means that I survived January without becoming a complete icicle. Yay for February!

On **February 13th**, at ***6:30 PM***, we will have our first potluck of the year, a Chili-Cookoff. Note the earlier start time, so we don't eat late. Chili is a great comfort food during the cold winter. Or bring a topping or something to refresh your palate if you prefer. Name your chili so that we can vote for it, and you might win glory and fame! If you have made something or have a nice rock, bring it to show, and we will love to see it after we eat.

In February, besides the regular club meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays as usual, we will have a special meeting on Thursday, **February 20th** at 7 pm. Our incoming Field Trip Coordinator, Mark Feil, will lead that meeting to help us plan field trips for the coming year.

Please join us on Thursday, **February 27** at 7 PM for a presentation by Julia B. McHugh, PhD, Director of Paleontology at the Dinosaur Museum in Fruita. Her presentation will be on the Mygatt-Moore Quarry in nearby Rabbit Valley.

Now that it is 2025, please send in your dues if you haven't already. \$40 for an individual, \$50 for a household (people who are related, not simply a house). You can bring it to a meeting, or mail it to our Membership Director: **Melissa Moroni, 2460 I Road, Grand Junction, 81505**. I could talk for a long time about all the good benefits and features of being part of our club. I hope you will continue to be part of it!

Please join me in welcoming new members Cheryl Brown, Stacie Draper, Pam Hibbs, Jerome Kistro, Amber Ottley, Max Ray, Lee Ann Showalter, Sarah Smith, Terry Troha, and Joe Wezensky!

Do you know what rock formation you live on? You might like to go to www.macrostrat.org. They show a geologic map of the entire world. See if you can find Grand Junction, and zoom to your address. Double-click on your location, and read all about it. This also might be interesting to check before going on a field trip.

2025 is off to a good start!

Steve Cable

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 for coming attractions, classes, and events.

Do you have items to buy, sell, or trade related to GJGMC activities? Post and read notices on the bulletin board on the left wall 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.

Grand Valley Gem & Mineral Museum information

Greetings from The Museum building committee,

We think it will be of value to the membership to follow along in our efforts to raise awareness and investment in our new building and museum. Following the museum committee meeting on Jan 14, 2025, the committee has decided to engage a professional, part-time fundraiser to help in the effort to raise the necessary funds for the project. This individual and associated costs will come from grant money we will apply for shortly.

As those of you who have attended recent meetings are aware, the video portion of our fundraising efforts is complete, and we are putting the finishing touches on the prospectus portion of our presentation.

We are about ready to start seeking a sponsor for our new building and museum after many months and years of rezoning and research. If any of our members have contacts that we can add to our current list of corporations or individuals that we might contact as potential funding partners, please let us know.

Thank you all for your support in helping to bring our club solidly into the future.



Lee's Tidbits

Diamond Mine in Colorado???

Everyone has probably heard about the place in Arkansas where you can pay to hunt for diamonds. But Colorado also has a diamond deposit! It was even commercially mined from 1996 to 2001. Supposedly the nation's biggest diamond deposit, the Kelsey Lake diamond mine produced mostly small, irregular diamonds. However, two of the larger ones are on display at the Smithsonian! But the big question is, why on earth are diamonds in this one spot in Colorado with no others around (as far as we know!)

In the 1960s, CSU geologists were studying some weird rocks north of Ft. Collins – weird because rodents liked to tunnel through them and they contained unusual minerals... minerals found only where there had been really high temperatures and pressures – like deep underground. Students studied them by doing the familiar process of putting some polishing grit on a plate and grinding them flat to look at under a microscope. Something very weird happened, instead of the grit grinding down the rocks, the rocks ground grooves in the plate. In other words, the rocks contained minerals harder than coarse grit. They were diamonds!



This Wikipedia photo shows some of the tiny diamonds.

When geologists mapped where these rocks were, they found they were in volcanic pipes called Kimberlite pipes (from the place in South Africa where they were first found). The rocks form deep underground and then are brought close to the surface by deep volcanoes.

One of the coolest things about these diamonds is being discovered by geologists at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. They've opened up a whole new understanding of how our mountain ranges and continents formed over time. They have even let us figure out that Earth's water didn't come from comets but from rocks. Scientists figured that out by analyzing tiny amounts of minerals included in the diamonds. Their studies have also helped predict where other diamond deposits might be.

Some of the deposits are on private land, but there are some spots on public land that you can hike to. One is the Chicken Park group of pipes in the Roosevelt National Forest north of the Prairie Divide. Another accessible pipe is the Green Mountain kimberlite, on Boulder City Parkland east of Green Mountain, south of Flagstaff Mountain. The deposits tend to be in areas of the forests with fewer trees, because of the minerals in the rocks. Don't expect to find any big diamonds, but it's kind of fun to know the deposits are there!



Junior Science Rock Club News

JSRC Summary Report for 2024

Junior Science and Rock Club, JSRC, provides geological programming for children ages 5 to 18 through a curriculum developed by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, AFMS. Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club sponsors this program and provides meeting space, storage space, and financial support for the programming provided. A team of volunteers works together to provide activities and presentations centering around geology and its related aspects. AFMS supports JSRC with badges of recognition for the various units and activities completed.

A total of 39 children ages 5 to 18 enrolled in JSRC activities during 2024. The club met a total of 9 times. The average attendance per meeting was 11 children with a high of 23 and a low of 2. (There was an unanticipated conflict with public school start-up programming for the scheduled August meeting.) During the year four AFMS curriculum units were presented with three topics added to reflect our area and local interests.

This year featured a presentation made by a parent/child team. Additionally, there were four special speakers including a maps unit presented by CMU instructor Cassandra Fenton. There were 6 field trips offered throughout the year attended by JSRC families.

Kids Korner at GJGMC's Annual Rock Show was managed and supervised by JSRC parents and kid volunteers. Three activities were provided to the public, Spin the Wheel game, Start your own Rock Collection activity, and a Block Out Bingo game. This year's show theme was Rock 'N Roll with the bingo game featuring geodes from around the world. Completing a bingo card earned players a mini geode. Kids volunteering record their hours towards earning their volunteer pin from the local club.

Changes were made in 2024 to improve the programming provided for kids. After one of two co-leaders retired, a request was put out to the club membership for new volunteers. During that interim, the July meeting was canceled due to a lack of adult coverage. We now have a team of 5 volunteers working together to provide support for JSRC.

There are several elements to JSRC: programming and special speakers, attendance and document management, badge program and record-keeping, correspondence, field trips, and hands-on activities planning. These elements are now spread out amongst the team and travel plans should no longer affect the JSRC schedule. In an attempt to continue to meet the needs of our families, we sought input into issues around scheduling and attendance. RSVP requests have been added to notices and announcements to better anticipate attendance and supply requirements. We have also begun posting meeting dates and programs in 3-month blocks to keep parents better informed.

GJGMC members provide expertise in geology and present programs at meetings including sharing their collections. They also support the club with donations of minerals, fossils, and rocks. Kids learn about each sample and then add it to their rock collections at home. Pertinent information is provided for inclusion on the specimen labels. Member donations also support the rock show "Start your own Rock Collection" activity. Thanks to everyone who has participated in and supported JSRC during the 2024 year. Without your continued participation JSRC could not go forward.

Sincerely submitted, Bev O'Neil Beth Kloska Mary Kay Hughes Judy Nason Melissa Moroni



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29 Open Shop 12-3	30	31	1 Open Shop 9-12
2	3 Basic Lapidary 9-4	4 Basic Lapidary 9-4	5 Open Shop 12-3 Board Meeting 7pm	6	7	8 Open Shop 9-12
9	10 Basic Silversmith 6-9 Wire Wrapping 6-9	11 Basic Silversmith 6-9 Wire Wrapping 6-9	12 Open Shop 12-3	13 Chili Cookoff Meeting 6:30 pm	14	15 Open Shop 9-12
16	17 Basic Silversmith 6-9 Wire Wrapping 6-9	18 Basic Silversmith 6-9 Wire Wrapping 6-9	19 Open Shop 12-3	20 Field Trip Planning Meeting 7 pm	21 Advanced Lapidary 9-4	22 Advanced Lapidary 1-4
23	24 Basic Silversmith 6-9	25 Basic Silversmith 6-9	26	27 General Meeting 7pm	28	1
2	3	Notes BE SURE TO SIGN UP AND PAY FOR CLASSES VIA MEETUP APP. PLEASE CONTACT THE INSTRUCTORS WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS: JoAnn: 778-5333;				

March 2025



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

Club Contacts

Officers			Directors		
President	Steve Cable	970-312-1005	1 Year	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
Vice President	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	2 Year	Bruce Johnson	970-589-4091
Secretary	Kimber Johnson	970-589-4091	3 Year	Bill Balaz	970-260-1655
Treasurer	June Steely	801-540-0488	Finance	Michael Daniels	970-730-8439
			Past President	Jeff Southern	970-243-0953
Committee Chairpersons					
Audit	Bev O'Neal	970-623-2522	Leaverite Editor	Susan McChesney	970-589-9358
Building Maint	Paul Strot	720-439-0303	Librarian	Open Position	
Compliance	Bev O'Neal	970-261-5890	Meet-Up	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333
Correspondence	Kathy Ericson	970-623-2522	Membership	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864
Decorating	Linda Dunham	970-623-3610	Nominating	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333
Display Cases	Dave McCollough	970-549-7352	Publicity	Steve Cable	970-312-1005
Education	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	Scholarships	Dave McCollough	970-549-7352
Web Based Media	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	Shop Foremen	JoAnn & Ed	970-778-5333
Field Trips	Mark Feil	970-270-7440	Show Co-Chair	Dave McCollough	970-549-7352
Hospitality	open		Supplies	Kathy Ericson	970-623-2522
Inventory	Pat Martinez	970-434-9270	Grab Bags	Open Position	
Facetors group	Casey Trump	970-250-9890	GJ Facetors Club	Casey Trump	970-250-9890

Classes	Instructors	Phone #	Open Shop
Bracelet Making	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	Shop Chairmen: JoAnn Piburn & Grete Raymond
Casting	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	Shop Supervisors: JoAnn Piburn & Ed Raymond
Chain Making	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	* Previous Instruction in use of equipment in
Cuttlebone Cast	Judy Nason	250-9128	is required before using any tools or machines
Enameling	Karen Sayre	402-960-7370	in the shop.
Faceting	Casey Trump	970-250-9890	* Sign in each time you use the shop.
Faceted Stone Setting	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	* Help with the clean up before leaving.
Filigree	Pam Bersch	970-242-3134	*Shop fee is \$5/session for EVERYONE.
Intarsia	Sue Smith & Val Medeiros	970-245-5602	*Slab saw fee is \$.25 per square inch.
Lapidary, Beginning	Dave McCollough	970-549-7352	
Lapidary, Advanced	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	
Opals and Turquoise	Thom Ericson	623-2522	
Silversmith, Basic	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	
	Andrea Gromeaux-Schnaith	317-407-5603	
Silversmith, Advanced	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	
	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	
Wire Weaving	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	
Wire Wrapping	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	



Our fellow club member, Syl Spaeth, would like to sell the following equipment:

"6" Inland swap top with two tables. One saw table, One flat lap table
All in good shape with several diamond lap plates and a diamond saw blade.

Asking price is \$150.
Call 970-846-2973"

Sent by RMFMS:

Please look around your club to see if any of these jobs would match up with one of your members. Better yet, send it out to all your members. Who knows, maybe one is just waiting on a job to do. We really need your help with this.

Available committee positions include Fluorescent Technical, Fossil Technical, Lapidary Technical, Mineral Technical, Public Relations, Webmaster, Webmaster Contest Chair, Website Contest Chair, and Colorado State Directors

It is important that we try to have a full set of officers and committees so the Rocky Mountain Federation can run at its highest standards of commitment to the clubs. To do this, we need volunteers to step up and take some positions.

As far as the technical committees, might get one phone call a year to answer a question. The Public Relations will need to do a bit more. Writing reports for the newsletter is one great way to get information for each club. The Webmaster will be the hardest job. Maintaining the website and keeping it updated is very important but one big necessity for us is to keep every club informed of everything. The State Director is a great job because you get to communicate with each club in your state. Keeping them updated and informed of everything within the Federation. As well as helping them with shows if they need you.

All these jobs are very fulfilling as someone who has held many jobs within the federation, I can tell you it is a blessing to see all the good you can do. If you would like one of these positions or more information about them please reach out to our current president, Jim Gray at 307-260-6442 or jimgray@wyoming.com. If you have any questions, he can answer them for you or you can always reach out to me at Liz Thomas, mygemsrock@gmail.com.

Thank you

Liz Thomas, RMFMS Secretary

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; Fostering 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 at the clubhouse on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. November and December meetings will be on the second Thursday only. Our Annual Rock Show is held 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. There are also teachers available for one-on-one classes. Contact Casey Trump at 970-250-9890 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 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 problems call JoAnn Piburn at 970-778-5333.



The GJGMC thanks these generous supporters of our club!

