

Volume 43 Number 03

March 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!

February was a good month for the club. On Feb 13th, we had our Chili Cookoff. Congratulations to June Steeley and her Coconino Chili for First Place. The Montana Chili and Kathy's from Scratch tied for 2nd. And the Green Chili and the Dickerson Chili tied for 3rd. Plus there were desserts, salads, and abundant yummy-ness. Then we saw a great video on the (Geologic) History of Colorado Through Time. On Feb 20th, Mark Feil led our Field Trip Planning meeting. The field trip leaders are now collecting more info about interesting destinations. On Feb 27th we had a General Meeting to vote on the Shop Expansion Project. Please see my separate report about that later in this newsletter. Also in February, our instructors taught classes on Basic Lapidary, Basic Silversmithing, Advanced Lapidary, and Advanced Silver Recycling, thanks to Dave, JoAnn, Grete, and Theresa.

On **Mar 13th**, Rex Cole will talk about the Grand Mesa. Besides being a well-respected Professor Emeritus from CMU, Mr. Cole has written a book called The Geology of the Grand Mesa, which should be very informative. On **Mar 27th**, JoAnn Piburn will tell us how to use a rolling mill properly.

On Saturday, **Mar 29th**, we will have our annual Spring Cleaning and Workday. We want to spruce up the grounds around the clubhouse (trim bushes, and kill weeds). We have a gutter that needs some stabilization. We have some fluorescent lights on their last legs that I hope we can replace. Some of us can help JoAnn with cleaning in the Shop. If you can help out for a few hours, it will be a big help to us, AND it will help our clubhouse and grounds look good for the Spring Craft Fair on **April 12th**.

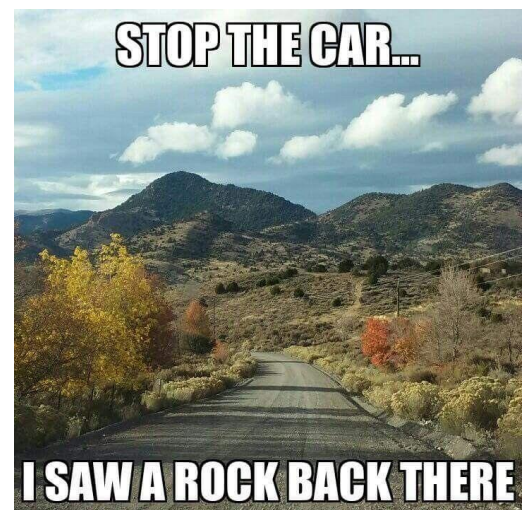
Jack Morris from the Last Chance Mine says, "I am looking for summer help and taking resumes for the Last Chance Mine outside of Creede Co. Send resume and photo to jack@lastchancemine.com We need to replace and add a tour guide for mine tours and a helper for continued preservation of our 1891 mine Training. Rustic housing is provided. May 2025 to Oct 2025. Visit the website lastchancemine.com Thank you, Jack Morris"

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). You can bring it to a meeting, or mail it to our Membership Director: **Melissa Moroni, 2460 I Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505**. I hope you will continue to be part of our club!

Please join me in welcoming new members:

Melissa Aday, Robert Berry, Eric Cook, David Desenberg, Bernadette Fuoco, Trevor Grosse, Jennelle and Jeff Kemp, Timothy Lyons, Julie Morning, and Mike Springsteel.

Marching-On! Steve Cable



GJGMC Shop Expansion Election Results

At our General Meeting on Thursday, Feb 27th, 2025, Bruce Johnson gave us a good presentation about the Shop Expansion Project, aka the Jewelry Studio.

After some discussion, we asked the club members to vote on several questions. We had 75 people who signed in, and 5 people who did not sign in, for a total of 80 votes. Then 4 volunteers counted the votes. On some questions, they counted 1-3 votes differently. All questions were decided by margins of over 30 votes, so those differences were not significant. I have recounted the ballots myself, and I attribute the differences to the ballots sticking together. You can count them too if you want.

Question 1. Should the furnace be replaced as part of the lapidary shop upgrade?

Estimated cost \$4,650.

Yes: 63 No: 17

During the discussion period, Austin volunteered to investigate alternatives that might save money. One way or the other, we plan to replace that furnace.

Question 2. Are you in favor of building a new jewelry studio?

Yes: 72 No: 8

Therefore, the club is overwhelmingly in favor of building the jewelry studio. It was not unanimous. The people who voted No have legitimate concerns that we can respect. Nevertheless, we will go forward with this project.

The remaining questions were counted for the 72 people who were in favor of it.

Question 3. Vote for only one of the following three items:

A) New Jewelry Studio - \$34,500 15' x 23' ID, sink only	1 vote
B) New jewelry studio - \$36,105 15' x 27' ID, sink only	54 votes
C) New jewelry studio - \$38,305 15' x 27' ID, ADA Bathroom	17 votes

Therefore we will plan to build the 27' long studio, without the ADA bathroom.

Question 4. Accept Polaris Surveying's proposal for a Site Survey -costing \$1,900 and authorize the project manager/president to proceed.

Yes: 72: No: 0

Question 5. Should future annual budgets include a portion of membership fees to help pay back studio construction costs?

Yes: 59 No: 12 Abstain: 1 (no vote marked)

Later in the meeting, Michael Daniels presented the Annual budgets to the club, both the Operating Budget and the Capex Budget. The members approved those unanimously by acclamation with none objecting.

Many thanks to Michael Daniels, Bill Balaz, and Bruce Johnson for the months of hard work they have put into planning for this project and budgeting for the coming year. ~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 the one 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 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: smchesney64@gmail.com no later than the 15th of the month, please.

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 Forepersons	JoAnn & Greet	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			



Lee's Tidbits

The History of Lapidary

There was a time (thousands of years, actually!) when we did not have Genies, grinding wheels, tumblers, faceting machines, flat laps, Vibralaps, and all the other machines we couldn't do without today!

But people, as long as we have been human, have been attracted to beautiful rocks and shapes and enjoyed decorating themselves with them. The first jewelry we have evidence of used existing materials, but with holes drilled in the stones, wood, or shells to wear. Often the small stones would be hand-rubbed against harder rocks to smooth the edges – something that must have taken quite some time!



Early stone (steatite) Cherokee trade beads, From ancientpoint.com

Early examples we know of are from the Middle East, India, Africa, Europe, and elsewhere. Turquoise, amazonite, apatite, lapis, and Carnelian were collected in huge trade networks. Early lapidarists had an excellent understanding of the properties of the rocks they used. They were able to use chert points, hand sawing, and heat treatment to hand drill holes and shape stones. But even through the 1800s, people sometimes used a setup as simple as a glass plate with grit on it, or sandpaper of decreasing

grit size, to polish rocks. This was done by hand and was a slow process, as illustrated in an old RocknGem magazine!



Then versions of grinding machines came into use. Sometimes a hand crank turned a wheel which the stone was held against. Or a foot-pedal-turned wheel was used. Wood-spool capping machines were some of the earlier ones.

Now there is no end to the nice machines you can buy. But if you want to give no-machine lapidary a try, there are complete instructions here for making cabs using just sandpaper. (It takes a while!)

<https://rockseeker.com/how-to-polish-rocks-with-sandpaper/>

New Studio

The Club approved the new Studio by an overwhelming majority in Thursday's general meeting. Many thanks to all who attended and voted. As mentioned, this is just the beginning, as Bruce and Co, will be initiating the groundwork. Many of the Club members have already volunteered to assist to help cut costs. Any donations would be greatly appreciated, and going forward, there will be a container labeled "Studio donations" at each of the meetings at the check-in table. Any proceeds will be directly credited to the Studio and not directed to the General Fund. Thanks in advance!!

Volunteer Opportunities:

ZOOM Experts:

We are looking for some volunteers to set up a link as well as the PC for Zoom transmission on the nights of the Meetings (Wednesday Board, and second and fourth Thursdays). I believe once you have the account log in you can set up the meeting and generate a link. The link would need to be sent to either Steve or Kimber for member distribution.

There would be minimal set-up time for pre-post meetings.

If you would like to volunteer, please send your details to either myself (dmikey54@gmail.com) or JoAnn Piburn (jopiburn@gmail.com). Thank you in advance.

Word Press Experts:

We are looking for some volunteers to review the present website (secure member log-in site) to determine if a set of read-only folders can be established. There will be folders for previous year's meeting notes, general correspondence, Club documents and reports, and possibly a few others, yet determined.

If you would like to volunteer, please send your details to Grete Raymond (getoilsllc@gmail.com) or myself (dmikey54@gmail.com). Thank you in advance.

Classes	Instructors	Phone #	Open Shop
Bracelet Making	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	Shop Chairperson/Supervisor:
Casting	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	JoAnn Piburn & Greet Raymond
Chain Making	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	* Previous Instruction in use of equipment in
Enameling	Karen Sayre	402-960-7370	is required before using any tools or machines
Faceting	Casey Trump	970-250-9890	in the shop.
Faceted Stone Setting	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	* Sign in each time you use the shop.
Filigree	Pam Bersch	970-242-3134	* Help with the clean up before leaving.
Intarsia	Sue Smith & Val Medeiros	970-245-5602	*Shop fee is \$5/session for EVERYONE.
Lapidary, Beginning	Dave McCollough	970-549-7352	*Slab saw fee is \$.25 per square inch.
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	

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 Enameling class 6-9	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 Open Shop 9-12
30	31	Notes				

GJGMC Spring Indoor and Outdoor Craft Show

April 13, 2024, from 9 AM to 3 PM

Admission is free and open to the public, a food truck will be available

Vendors wanted. Contact Kathy Erickson at 970-434-3033 for more details

Booth fees are due by March 31st

(leave a message with call-back information)

April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5 Open Shop 9-12
6	7 Basic Lapidary 9-4 Wire weaving 6-9	8 Basic Lapidary 9-4 Wire Weaving 6-9	9 Open Shop 12-3	10 Cookie Meeting 7pm	11	12 Open Shop 9-12 Spring Craft Fair 9-3
13 Advanced Silversmith 10-4	14 Wire Weaving 6-9	15 Wire Weaving 6-9	16 Open Shop 12-3 Board Meeting 6pm	17	18	19 Open Shop 9-12
20 Advanced Silversmith 10-4	21	22	23 Open Shop 12-3	24 General Meeting 7pm	25 Advanced Lapidary 9-4	26 Open Shop 9-12 Advanced Lapidary 1-4
27 Prong Set Cabs 10-4	28	29	30 Open Shop 12-3	1	2	3 Open Shop 9-12
4	5	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)***

Classes	Instructors	Phone #	Open Shop
Adv. Lapidary	Thom Ericson	970-623-2522	Shop Chairmen: JoAnn Piburn & Greet Raymond
Beginning "Fast" Lapidary	Ed Raymond	250-2967	* Previous Instruction in use of equipment in is required before using any tools or machines in the shop.
	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	
Bracelet Making	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	* Sign in each time you use the shop. * Help with the clean up before leaving.
Casting	Cindy Teare	970-462-6806	
Chain Making	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	*Shop fee is \$5/session for EVERYONE. *Slab saw fee is \$.25 per square inch.
Cuttlebone Cast	Judy Nason	250-9128	
Enameling	Karen Sayre	402-960-7370	
Faceting	Casey Trump	970-250-9890	
Faceted Stone Setting	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	
Filigree	Pam Bersch	970-242-3134	
Intarsia	Sue Smith & Val Medeiros	970-245-5602	
Opals and Turquoise	Thom Ericson	623-2522	
Wire Weaving	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	
Wire Wrapping, basic & adv.	Joyce Trump	970-255-8045	
Silversmith, Basic & Adv.	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	
	Theresa Pytell	303-229-9216	

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.

