

Volume 43 Number 01

January 2025

LEAVERITE NEWS

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

President's Message-Welcome to 2025!

December was a good month for the club. Although I could not attend the Christmas party myself, people tell me it was a good time – the food was good, and the Sweet Adelines were delightful as always. The club approved some new officers for the coming year: JoAnn Piburn for Vice President, Michael Daniels for Financial Director, and Bill Balaz for 3-year Director. Also, in December, there were classes on how to make a spinner ring, wire wrapping, and lapidary, thanks to Andrea and Grete. A bit of somber news to pass along too though, that long-time previous club member Connie Duncan's husband, Bob, passed away on Dec 5th.

Looking back over the whole year of 2024, I think our great instructors led 31 classes. Our instructors and shop stewards are all volunteers, so if you used the shop or took a class, I hope you let them know your appreciation. And I think we had 10 field trips. Plus 4 potluck dinners, a Craft Fair in April, the Members Rock Sale in June, and the Fall Rock show. And the Junior Science Rock Club. And we replaced the water heaters. And more. It seems like a full year to me. We can do so much because so many of you volunteer to help the club in many different ways. Thank you.

It is the New Year now, time to 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). Address: GJGJC, PO Box, 953, Grand Junction, 81502. I could talk for a long time about all the benefits and features of being part of our club. I hope you will continue to be part of it!

On **January 9th**, we will have an important meeting to plan the coming year. Ken Kloska will go over our budget for the coming year. I want to look at the upcoming calendar of events with you and ask which ones you want to continue, or new ideas you might have. Bruce Johnson will have an update for us from the team planning the Shop Expansion Project. Before the city will give us a permit, they say they will need to do a site inspection. If they recommend any improvements, which we expect would be small if any, we would need to develop a remediation plan before we can proceed. We cannot plan a vote to approve the project until that issue is resolved. Bruce will tell us more about it.

On **January 23rd**, Gail Saunders from the Ouray County Historical Society will visit us in person for a presentation on the Mining History of Ouray County. I am looking forward to that!

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

I don't know everything we will decide to do in 2025, but I know I will be happy to do it together with you! Steve Cable

Officers			Directors		
President	Steve Cable	970-312-1005	1 Year	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
Vice President	JoAnn Pilburn	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	243-0953
Committee Chairpersons					
Audit	Bev O'Neal	623-2522	Leaverite Editor	Susan McChesney	970-589-9358
Building Maint	Paul Strot	720-439-0303	Librarian	Open Position	
Compliance	Bev O'Neal	261-5890	Meet-Up	Steve Cable	970-312-1005
Correspondence	Kathy Ericson	623-2522	Membership	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864
Decorating	Linda Dunham	623-3610	Nominating	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333
Display Cases	Dave McCollough	549-7352	Publicity	Raechel Kolb	970-257-7831
Education	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	Scholarships	Dave McCollough	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	Barbara Pounds	970-596-9851	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 only for paid members. 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 the GJGMC? You can post and read notices on the bulletin board to your left as you enter the main door of the clubhouse. Please be 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 send it to me via email: smcchesney64@gmail.com no later than the 15th of the month.



Junior Science Rock Club News

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 9th, 5:00 - 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. (Note the start time change to 5:00 pm!) Activities will center around methods of rock and mineral identification.

At our December meeting, 13 members transformed river rocks into imaginative desert cacti using pots, paints, foam, glue, and artificial flowers. The results were as varied as our members. Projects were topped off with desert sand for that final touch of authenticity and stability.

Opportunities for GJGMC members to contribute:

The focus in 2024 is on increasing our ability to accurately identify specimens. Developing an eye for what to look for when out hounding on a hillside comes from looking at a lot of rock. Please consider your collections and how we might benefit from seeing what you felt moved to bring home.

JSRC utilizes the AFMS curriculum and badge program as its foundation. There is no fee for participation. Parents or adults interested in enrolling children or grandchildren into the program please find enrollment forms and information on the GJGMC website.



Lee's Tidbits

One of the most fun places to rock hunt is in old mine tailings. The first hard-rock silver mine developed in Colorado was the Saints John Mine in Summit County, at 10,479 feet. Besides silver, the mine produced zinc, gold, copper, and manganese. And beautiful pieces of sphalerite, galena, pyrite, manganite, and barite.

But the mines, associated mills and smelters, tramways, and ore chute, which operated intermittently from the 1860s to the 1930s, caused so much pollution in Saints John Creek that fish and other aquatic life couldn't survive in the drainages below the mines. The mine still has a draining adit and tons of waste rock dumps, mill tailings deposits, and the water running through that picks up pollution and it runs right into Saints John Creek. The streams at the mine then drain into Denver's drinking water supply and contain lead, arsenic, cadmium, zinc, and several other metals. Soil lead concentrations at the surface of the waste pile are very high - up to 11,400 mg/kg and arsenic levels were also very high. Solving that problem is a big issue since the mine was abandoned long ago.

The State of Colorado and the Environmental Protection Agency have come up with a creative way to remove the pollution from the streams. They partnered with Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc. (formerly Climax Molybdenum), Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, US Forest Service, the US Geological Survey, Summit County, local property owners and others. A nice example of government collaboration and problem-solving! Climax/Freeport needed to remove pollution from its huge mine, but realized it would be more effective for them to remove metals upstream, such as from this mine, so they participated in the cleanup.



Polluted water was diverted away from the mine tailings and into lined channels, and away from rivers. Tailings piles were removed and revegetated. Throughout, the agencies took extra steps to preserve historic ruins and machinery on the site. Wetland areas were restored by planting over 14,000 container-grown native species, 4,800 willow cuttings and 750 trees, and a native wetland seed mix. The cleanup is a multi-year project, planned to be finished next fall.



Now people can still collect rocks and see the old machinery, but hopefully also catch fish in the rivers below!

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)***

January 2025



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

Hi GJGMC,

Pat Nichols from New Dimensions asks if one of our club members (you!) would be interested in giving a talk to the New Dimensions group on "Gems & Minerals in Western Colorado", OR a similar subject.

They are trying to finalize their instructors and schedule by early January, so I will send this out to you now rather than wait for the next regular newsletter on January 1st.

More information about New Dimensions and her invitation is in the message below.

If you are interested in doing that, you can respond to her using her contact information below.

Speakers from New Dimensions have given presentations at our club meetings in the past. It is great that people in our community of Grand Junction are so interested in learning new things.

Thanks for considering it! Steve Cable

Message from Pat Nichols:
Hi Steve,

I got your name from my husband, Scott Perrin, who shared a talk with the GJGMC earlier this year. I am on the curriculum committee for New Dimensions Lifelong Learning (<https://www.newdimensionsgj.org>), a local program that offers classes in a wide range of academic and community topics to lifelong learners ages 50+. This past fall term, we had 400 students who attended 86 classes taught by our amazing volunteer and community instructors. I am reaching out to see if you or someone from your club (could be more than one person) might be willing to do a talk on Gems & Minerals in Western Colorado for our spring term, which runs from early February to mid-March.

Class sessions typically run 90 minutes to two hours and instructors will be able to choose a day and time that works best for them. Usually, we meet in churches, museums, and sometimes the university but maybe it might be possible to meet at your facility since it looks like you have displays there that would be of interest.

Please let me know what you think, and then we could set up a short call to discuss further. We are working to finalize our instructors, classes, and class descriptions by early January.

Thanks so much for your consideration!

Pat Nichols Perrin
pat.sunup@gmail.com
(303)949-9672

The GJGMC thanks these generous supporters of our club!



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	4	5 Open Shop 12-3 Board Meeting 7pm	6 Cookie Meeting 7pm	7	8 Open Shop 9-12
9	10	11	12 Open Shop 12-3	13	14	15 Open Shop 9-12
16	17	18	19 Open Shop 12-3	20 General Meeting 7pm Field Trip Planning Meeting	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	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;				

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	

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.

