

Volume 43 Number 04

April 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!

March was a good month for the club. On Mar 13th, Rex Cole gave an awesome presentation about the Geology of the Grand Mesa. On Mar 22nd, Mark Feil led us on a successful field trip to find petrified wood and agates in Yellow Cat. On Mar 27th, JoAnn gave us an interesting and educational presentation about how to use a Rolling Mill. Also in March, our instructors taught classes on Basic Lapidary, Filigree, Bracelet Making, Enameling, and Advanced Lapidary, thanks to Dave, Pam, Theresa, Karen, and Grete. Also thanks to the many people who helped with our Spring Cleaning projects on Mar 29th.

April is shaping up to be a good month, too. **April 4-6**, the nearby town of Green River, Utah, has a good-quality annual event called Green River Rocks. There is a lecture on Friday night, and field trips led by well-qualified experts. Field Trip sign-ups are in person, Friday at 4 pm. They will have a small rock show Saturday morning. If you are interested, see [www.greenriverrocks.com](http://www.greenriverrocks.com) for more info.

On **April 10th**, JoAnn and our Instructors will give an overview of the many different classes we teach. Do you know what Intarsia is? What are filigree and wire-wrapping supposed to accomplish? If you can handle Basic Lapidary, what more could you learn in Advanced Lapidary? They will tell us.

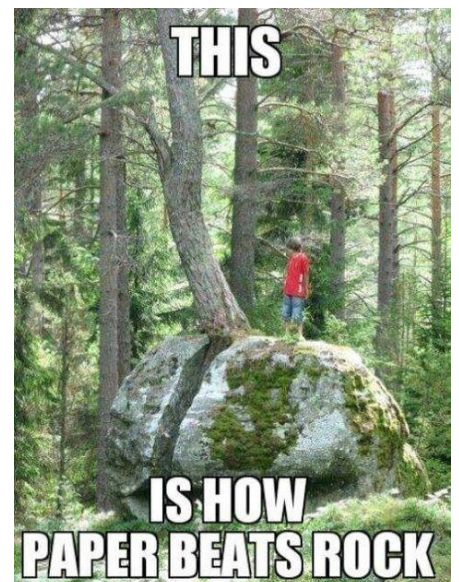
Don't miss our **Craft Fair** on **April 12th**, at the clubhouse, 9 am – 3 pm, where local artisans will display beautiful things for us, handmade from natural materials.

On **April 24th**, we have a special presentation from Pete Hetherington on Fossil Fuels and the Creation of the Modern World.

On Friday, **April 25th**, Cathy and Andrew Maddox will lead us on a field trip to Buckhorn Mesa. Sign up for that on Meetup.

Were you aware that our club has a Facebook page? John Keck has been doing a great job of keeping it frequently updated. Sometimes there is news about our club there. The rest of the time John has been posting beautiful pictures of rocks there. In the last 90 days, John has boosted the number of views to over 13,000, which is over 100% more visibility for our club than before. In other words, 150 people are looking at our Facebook page every day. We have over 1,300 followers. Maybe you would like to become one of them? Check it out here: <https://www.facebook.com/grandjunctionrockclub/>

Spring is coming. Pay attention to it! :- ) Steve Cable



Club Contacts					
Officers			Directors		
<b>President</b>	Steve Cable	970-312-1005	<b>1 Year</b>	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
<b>Vice President</b>	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	<b>2 Year</b>	Bruce Johnson	970-589-4091
<b>Secretary</b>	Kimber Johnson	970-589-4091	<b>3 Year</b>	Bill Balaz	970-260-1655
<b>Treasurer</b>	June Steely	801-540-0488	<b>Finance</b>	Michael Daniels	970-730-8439
			<b>Past President</b>	Jeff Southern	970-243-0953
Committee Chairpersons					
<b>Audit</b>	Bev O'Neal	970-623-2522	<b>Leaverite Editor</b>	Susan McChesney	970-589-9358
<b>Building Maint</b>	Paul Strot	720-439-0303	<b>Librarian</b>	Open Position	
<b>Compliance</b>	Bev O'Neal	970-261-5890	<b>Meet-Up</b>	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333
<b>Correspondence</b>	Kathy Ericson	970-623-2522	<b>Membership</b>	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864
<b>Decorating</b>	Linda Dunham	970-623-3610	<b>Nominating</b>	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333
<b>Display Cases</b>	Dave McCollough	970-549-7352	<b>Publicity</b>	Steve Cable	970-312-1005
<b>Education</b>	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333	<b>Scholarships</b>	Dave McCollough	970-549-7352
<b>Web Based Media</b>	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	<b>Shop Forepersons</b>	JoAnn & Greet	970-778-5333
<b>Field Trips</b>	Mark Feil	970-270-7440	<b>Show Co-Chair</b>	Dave McCollough	970-549-7352
<b>Hospitality</b>	open		<b>Supplies</b>	Kathy Ericson	970-623-2522
<b>Inventory</b>	Pat Martinez	970-434-9270	<b>Grab Bags</b>	Open Position	
<b>Facetors group</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 pickaxe) 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?** You can post and read notices on the bulletin board to your left 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](mailto:smcchesney64@gmail.com) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, please.**

**I must resign from doing the newsletter due to family health issues. If you are interested in taking over, please contact me at the email above or call me at 970-589-9358.**



## Lee's Tidbits

### World's Largest Continuous Dinosaur Trackway

This site, the West Gold Hill Dinosaur Track site, is now on public land, so anyone can visit it! Thanks to the US Forest Service, which was able to buy the land, the Charles family, who owned the land and were willing to sell it so the public could see it, and many fossil trackway experts and local volunteers, the site has been carefully studied and is now protected. This photo, courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution, shows the trackway.



Located above Ouray, Colorado, the tracks were made about 150 million years ago by a fairly small Sauropod dinosaur, a type of four-legged dinosaur with long necks and tails. The trackway is rare because it shows the dinosaur doing a "180" turn and because it has 134 footprints, making it the longest continuous dinosaur trackway in the world! The tracks are in a Jurassic formation that in our area is called the Tidwell, formed way before the Rocky Mountains pushed the area up. Then glaciers scoured off some of the rocks over it, exposing the tracks.

However, to see the trackway requires a tough, steep climb from Ouray to the site 1600 feet higher, on a trail called the Silvershield Trail. You need to be in pretty decent shape to make the climb. Local geologist and former running world-record holder Rick Trujillo grew up in Ouray and knew about the tracks, and then Fort Lewis College student Zane Goodell wrote his thesis on the trackway.

A team of fossil trackway experts was led by the former Dr. Martin Lockley, world-famous trackway expert, and Dr. Bruce Schumacher, a Forest Service paleontologist who has spearheaded the preservation of the Picketwire trackway in southeast Colorado. Joined by other local paleontologists and volunteers, including a couple of Grand Junction Rock Club members, they oversaw the uncovering of the largest part of the trackway that had been hidden under dirt and vegetation.

After many hours of careful sweeping, measuring, and documenting the trackway, scientists could tell that the animal was about a meter tall and traveling at roughly 2.5 km/hr. As the Forest Service's Schumacher says, "It's this amazing geologic story" that resulted in the tracks being exposed where they are.



# 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 Board Meeting 6pm	10 Cookie Meeting 7pm	11	12 Open Shop 9-12 Craft Fair 9-3
13 Advanced Silversmith 10-4	14 Wire Weaving 6-9	15 Wire Weaving 6-9	16 Open Shop 12-3	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 Buckhorn Mesa Field Trip 8-4	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)***



# May 2025



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

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			
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	

## Updates on the Lapidary Shop and Jewelry Studio projects:

Progress is moving along, or even a little ahead of schedule. To date:

### Lapidary Shop:

- Obtained building permit
- Electrical is finished.
- Plumbing is approximately 70% complete. ADA compliance is to be finished in the summer
- Fix the leaking roof and insulation planned for April.
- HVAC Mini split and related materials to be ordered next week

### Studio:

- Foundation/Building drawings in for engineering stamp
- Historic traffic data submitted to Mesa County Traffic to determine if a traffic study is needed.
- Site survey to be completed 3/28/25
- Site plan review submittal package and building permit application to be submitted the week of March 31.
- Site grading and moving of the shed are planned for April

## Club Donation

On Mar 15, 2025, Thom Ericson kindly donated the large plate of hemimorphite crystals shown in the picture below. There are also two hand-sized specimens of hemimorphite to go along with it. We placed that on an empty shelf in one of the display cabinets in the meeting room. Thank you, Thom, for donating these items for display in our clubhouse!



## Yellowcat field trip 3/22/25



Rob Hunter, Kay Wray, and Andrew Wenner with their petrified wood finds from the Yellowcat Field Trip.

## March 13, 2025, GJGMC General meeting minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Steve Cable

Members present: 53

Agenda presented by Steve

Pledge of Allegiance

Guests, new members.

Member updates, Pat, new pacemaker

April 12, craft show. Please grab a flyer and post it at a local business.

Speaker: Rex Cole, Emeritus Prof. Of Geology, CMU. Grand Mesa Geoscience Education, LLC. A presentation on the Geology of Grand Mesa, Colorado.

"Thank you for providing Numerous scholarships to CMU students," including Ian Shafer, a previous scholarship recipient and currently a Field Team Lead/Geologist at Navarro Research and Engineering

Excellent presentation on the volcanic story, erosion, glaciers, and landslides on the Grand Mesa. Less than 25% of the Grand Mesa volcanic field remains today.

In regard to the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, vote for the new jewelry studio, Steve talks about the absentee ballots that he granted to five members. The question is whether there should be an addition to the By-Laws that members should be allowed to vote for a closed vote (ballot) by absenteeism vs only in person.

Steve asked for a show of hands: those in favor, estimated guess 49. Those opposed, two. This is not an official vote, simply an inquiry.

Members' remarks: if you are absent, you cannot be part of the discussion, and have a factual reason for the way you are voting. If you have a medical reason or are out of state, those are valid reasons for an absentee ballot.

No Blue Book on display in the library, JoAnn printed out a book for members to have access to, allowing them to see the rules that govern the club.

Brag rocks: Jackrabbit Mine in Nevada

Moon Mountain Gems Rock & Crystal shop in Grand Junction gives a discount to GJGMC members.

Please visit them and help support a local business.

Future Events: Field Trips

*Overnights:*

June 20-24 Blue Forest

August 27-31, Creede CO

*Day trips:*

March 22 Yellow Cat

April Mica Mine Trail

April 25 Buckhorn Mesa

May 31, Blue Crystal Mine and Permian fossil

Septarianville Ut

Henry Mountains, Late fall

***Grounds clean up and fix up:*** Saturday, March 29th

Green River Rocks in Green River, Utah: The Best Geology Fest in the West. April 4-6. Free field trips and a pop-up market. Signing up for the field trips is on the first day of the festival.

Classes: JoAnn has classes on Meetup. There may be some additional classes. Please check the Meetup site.

Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club Facebook: 1,300 followers.

Donation of Malachite for Jr Rock Club.

Grab Bag drawing

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted: Kimberly Johnson

### **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 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 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 Thom Ericson at 623-2522 for information about the group or classes.

## Dues

**Dues are paid by calendar year and are due by January 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.

