

Live Events

Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club Gearing up for its 77th Annual Show in September.

by Sharon Sullivan

The 77th annual Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club Show will take place at the Mesa County Fairgrounds in western Colorado, September 23 and 24. Saturday's show will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday the event takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Thirty-eight rock collectors from around the nation, as well as a few international vendors will convene in Grand Junction to show, sell, and give demonstrations

related to the hobby of rock collecting. Demonstrations may include polishing stones, making jewelry, and silversmithing techniques, said the gem and mineral club's publicist Scott Warren.

There will also be silent auctions and various kids' activities offered both days.

Jewelry, beads, gems, rocks, minerals, crystals, fossils, petrified wood, and agates are among the items that will be on display and for sale during the event. A vendor from Africa brought opals one year, said Warren.

"We'll also have our rock doctor (retired Colorado Mesa University faculty Bill Hood) present to help identify rocks for people," he said.



The Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club was founded during the 1930s, by member Pam Bersch's grandfather.

While the bulk of club membership is from western Colorado's Grand Valley, members also come from eastern Utah, Warren said. The club meets the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 6:30 p.m. at its clubhouse, 2328 Monument Road in Grand Junction.

The club sponsors single- and multiday field trips throughout the Rocky Mountain region. And each month the club hosts a guest speaker to talk about a subject related to geology and the hobby of rock collecting. Recent presentations included one regarding meteorites, and another about the geology of Canyonlands National Park, said Warren. Workshops on various rock and gem topics are also presented throughout the year.

"Our mission is to involve people to understand earth science," Warren said.



Proceeds generated from events like the gem and mineral show go toward the club's operating expenses, as well as scholarships for CMU students. Additionally, the gem and mineral club funds various local youth programs.

Cost to attend the gem and mineral show is \$5 for the general public, and \$4 for seniors and military personnel. Children 12 and under can attend for free.

For more information visit the web site: www.grandjunctionrockclub.org

And make sure to mention you read about it in *Moab Happenings*.

Celebrate 117 years of Melon Days

by Robin Hunt

Green River looks to celebrate their 117 annual Melon Days Festival September 15-16.

Through the hard work of the melon growing families in Green River, tasty, flavorful, delicious melons are something to celebrate!

Green River Watermelons are world renowned, and the community, visitors, family and friends get together for melon-munching fun every September.

Join in the Melon fun! Activities like a softball tournament, 5k Run, golf tournament, melon carving contest, concert, melon photo contest, bounce houses, pony rides, and much more ensure fun for the whole family!

Learn more at melon-days.com or search Melon Days on Facebook & Instagram.

In the meantime, pick up your melons any time from Dunham Farms or Vetere Farms by visiting their melon stands along Main Street in Green River.



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