

# South West Washington Gold Prospectors Newsletter

## April 2018



Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on Sunday April 8th.

The board meeting will start at 12:45 and the general meeting will start at 2:00.



### Membership Committee

When signing in for attendance at the SWWGP meeting please be sure to verify name, address, and phone number. If you are a current GPAA/LDMA member be sure to give us your membership number. Let Mark know if you are not receiving chapter emails.

Edna Nelson  
503-307-0852  
rockhound-  
stoo1966@yahoo.com

### Presidents Message

Whew!!!! The Gold and Treasure show is over and was a great success. I want to thank each and every one of you who helped with the show. Without you it would not have been a success. I appreciate all the work you guys did and want to say a great big "THANK YOU" to all of you. You are my heroes. We will have a report on the show at the next meeting April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Your President, Debbie Witcher



### Thank You

Jeanne Gieg would like to give a big thanks to all who helped her in the kitchen at the gold show. A special thank you to Nick, and Sharon for taking over on Sunday and cleaning up when she had to leave early .

### Reminder

This is a reminder to have everyone sign in at the membership table. Attend 3 meetings, outings, events in any combination and you will be a member. No dues, or joining fee. Just fun. Please remember to give us your phone number and e-mail address. We will not be sharing that information with anyone. Only the President and Secretary are authorized to use it for official communications. It is against the bi-laws for anyone to use the info for personal use.

<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>(Elected )</b>		
	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Dale Long	503-665-4717	alelongsmailgmail.com
	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Matt Barner	360-909-9424	Matthew.barner@gmail.com
	Tammy Binford	360-449-2714	kaycbear99@gmail.com
<b>Claims Chair</b>	<b>(Elected)</b>		
	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
<b>State Director (WA)</b>	<b>(Appointed by GPAA)</b>		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
<b>Committees / Chairs</b>	<b>Appointed by chapter President</b>		
<b>Education</b>	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
<b>Equipment Manager</b>	Don Spillman	360-635-2308	
<b>Fundraising Coordinator</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
<b>Picnic, Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Librarian</b>	Dave konti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Membership</b>	Edna Nelsom	503-307-0852	rockhoundstoo1966@yahoo.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Outing Coordinator</b>	Bill Birdwell	360-263-1749	obill15@comcast.net
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Ron Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Norm Erickson	503-801-1452	None
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	bettyerickson13@yahoo.com
<b>Sargent at Arms</b>	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
<b>Sunshine</b>	Anne Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
<b>T-Shirts</b>	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Dennis Clevenger	360-281-6338	dennisc@pacifier.com
<b>Historian</b>	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Debra Lee	360-624-6565	deborah35@me.com
<b>Gold Buyer</b>	Prestin Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com

Other committees will be formed as needed. Please let Debbie Witcher know if your name was missed or if you would like to serve.

<b>GPAA Points</b>	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
<b>Name Tags</b>	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Awards</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
<b>Picnic and Holiday Dinner</b>	Jeanne Geig	360-673-3179	jeannegeig@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
<b>Facebook</b>	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
Assistant	Richard Pluff jr	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
<b>Raffle</b>	Jim Erickson	3602603225	aerickson@q.com
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-694-7557	harmonica@msn.com
Assistant	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Dale Long	503-665-4717	alelongs@gmail.com
Assistant	Prestin Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com

## Education

The April education will be on the Gold and Fish book. Preston is asking that you bring your copy to follow along with.

If you have a topic or idea for future education or would even like to share your knowledge on a topic or piece of equipment please let Mark know.



## T-SHIRTS

Maurene Koppi has a variety of t-shirts for sale, Lots of colors and sizes. She can also do special orders such as jackets , sweat shirts etc, Want something you don't see? Just ask her.

## Election Committee

We need to have some members sign up to work on the election committee and refine the election process. You will make recommendations to the general membership as well as the Board of directors. This will probably involve 1-2 hrs of your time. The committee will be chaired by one or more members of the executive officers. We will set a meeting time and place that works for the majority of the committee members. We need at least 10 members signed up. The more the better.

Questions contact Debbie Witcher

## Chapter Store

Our chapter store is up and running. We will have mining supplies and gold dirt bags at a good savings. You can also special order. Dennis Witcher will be in charge of the store.

The following is just a small list of what the chapter store will be offering.

Gold pans

Scoop Spoon

Classifier base and different size screen inserts

Mini sluice

Black sand magnet

Mini starter kit

Snuffer bottles

Gold panning starter kits

Tom and Perry cleanup kits

Classifier bundles

Stuffed Donkey

George Buzzard Massie founders coin

GPAA window decals, Patches, Bumper stickers

Jack Swick's river rocker plans

And more to come



## COOS Bay

We need about 15 folks to sign up to help out the youth outreach folks at their annual event in Coos Bay on Sat. May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This is a Sat. only event. We will be teaching gold panning (Go figure) to young people. There will be approx.. 150-200 kids in attendance to learn all kinds of outdoor activities. There is dry camping available at no charge, and lunch will be provided on Sat. This is an activity that is near and dear to Randy Harpers heart so lets get singed up. Of coarse we can have more than 15 folks.



## Gold's Nobility is Timeless

by: Michael Greyslock

Some of us find gold, some collect, others invest, but none of us are owners. Our place is as stewards of the noble metal. Its birth is from a time and occurrence beyond our comprehension and its future is eternally beyond our understanding. But, for the briefest of moments we may enjoy and possess the opportunity to be a part of a creation that will endure for all time without ever losing its permanent glorious qualities.



An element of contradictions, gold remains incorruptible while maintaining a unique ability to corrupt those around it. If we remember our humble place as a footnote in its lifetime we can appreciate our place as steward for a nobility to last the ages of the universe. A privilege afforded to us at a time when all it takes to buy this opportunity is paper with a life expectancy of between four and 15 years.

Those of us privileged enough to discover a gold nugget understand the difficulties and rarities of such moments. We have a connection with each piece. There is nothing else like it. In order for us to continue experiencing such moments we may have to part with our prizes. Since much time, energy and effort went into each discovery, we may have difficulty in letting go. Likewise, much time energy and effort went into the ability to purchase these prizes for collectors and investors as well. We all have made a sacrifice to enjoy a brief moment with eternal beauty.

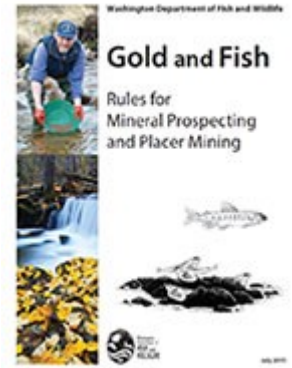
Meekly, gold allows us to mold it into whatever shape we so desire. However, what we see on this page is creations eons in the making and to be appreciated for their individuality and natural beauty. As we all are, the nuggets here are born from stars at the moments of their greatest power. From these moments, time unimaginable brought it to be a part of our same home world and has thus intertwined our courses. What we do with it is our own choosing.



Spoken from one who has found some of the nuggets on this page, I hope we all appreciate them for what they are, and if we choose to make something from them may we only seek to enhance their qualities. Our time is short and all too often filled with ugly things. Gold's time is forever a witness to the beautiful things in our world and we have a special opportunity to be a part of that eternal testimony.

## Gold and Fish Book

Everyone need to remember to keep the gold and fish book with you at all times when you are looking for gold. Be sure to look over and read the rules. Chapter members are available if you have any questions about the rules. You don't want to be fined or worse, especially if you don't have it with you.



## Raffle

When you buy your raffle tickets check out the new ticket dispenser that Jim Erickson made. Great job Jim!

What will be our "surprise" raffle prize this month???



## Our Claims

These are not shared claims. They are for our chapter members in good standing only. Our claims manager Preston Griffin has information available for you. Be sure you park in the proper areas (no parking on the road) and take a trash bag with you to carry out any trash you may find. Please give us a report on what you find, gold, trash, a fun outing, etc.

And as always keep your gold and fish rule book with you.

## Welcome

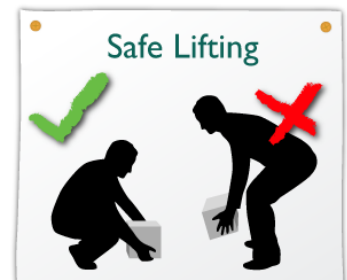
Debra Lee is going to be assisting Jeff Wooldridge with the Historians duties.

Don Spillman has agreed to take over the equipment managers job.

## Safety

February's safety topic will be on Safety Tips on proper lifting techniques.

Ron would also like to see who would be interested in taking a CPR class.



## New Equipment

This is a list of the new equipment that was chosen with our points. We met as announced after last months meeting and made our choices. This was open to all if you want something else you can let me know, but please do not complain about what was chosen. We will be getting some more equipment In the future and will take recommendations into account.

2- four stack gold cubes

1-Carolina trammel

1-Mountain goat trammel

1-Martin Water table

1-King dry washer combo

1-hivac complete dry washer system

1-desert fox variable system

1-power vac system



we also have:

a shaker table

suction system

2 metal detectors

various pans

and there is equipment being stored at Randy Harpers House.

We will be moving that to storage and have an inventory of that as well.

You are responsible to provide you own batteries, gas, etc.

There will be a deposit required for you to check out the equipment. You will get your deposit back when the equipment is returned clean and in good working order. If equipment is damaged, you will be required to replace it or have it repaired.

You will be allowed to check out equipment for 2 weeks at a time on a 1<sup>st</sup> come 1 serve basis. If you want it for a longer time and there is no one on the waiting list you may have it for a longer time. We just purchased almost \$7000 worth of equipment with our points and it is important to make sure it is taken care of and lasts.

This equipment is for Chapter members only.

Any questions, please contact Debbie Witcher

	<b>Scheduled Events</b>
March 31	Daybreak Park Outing 9:00
April 8	April Board 12:45 and Chapter 2:00 meetings
April 21	Prospecting outing (location TBD)
May 2	Coos Bay Children's Fair, Coos Bay Oregon Teaching children to pan, campout, try the rivers Contact Randy Harper 503-849-5109, or Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215
May 13	May Board 12:45 and Chapter 2:00 meetings
May 26	Prospecting outing (location TBD)
June 10	June Board 12:45 and Chapter 2:00 meetings
June 23	Prospecting outing (location TBD)
July 21	Prospecting outing (location TBD)
August 4	Picnic (Lewisville Park)
August 25	Prospecting outing (location TBD)



## RAFFLES

We have had great feed back from you on our raffles. Both the regular raffle and the secret raffle. We have a really sweet secret raffle prize planned for this time, so come to the meeting and buy your tickets.

Remember tickets sales are part of what helps to support our Chapters expenses, Rent etc.

Jim Erickson is doing a fantastic job with the raffle!



## Tidbits

- ◆ A one-ounce gold nugget is more rare to find than a five-carat diamond.
- ◆ Gold is so heavy that one cubic foot of it weighs half a ton.
- ◆ Gold can be hammered so thin that sunlight can shine through it.
- ◆ A single ounce of gold can be drawn into a wire 60 miles long.
- ◆ Gold is used in window glass and astronaut helmets to reflect infrared rays while allowing sunlight to pass through, and at the same time keeping it cool.
- ◆ In every cubic mile of sea water there is 25 tons of gold! That's a total of about 10 billion tons of gold in the oceans; however, there's no known way to economically recover it.

## In Need of Treasurer

Mark is filling in as treasurer for the time being until we have a new volunteer. Mark as you know is not only the chapter secretary, but also newsletter editor, so it is important that we find a volunteer to fill this position. If you are interested or have any questions please talk to Debbie, Mark, or Patti Long who was a previous treasurer.

We will go over what is involved and expected with this position.

## GPAA Kits

We still have a couple of GPAA kits with membership, and remember if you are renewing your membership to be sure to let the GPAA know to credit our chapter with your membership.

They are also giving out 50 year pins this year if you renew



## Gold—The Most Useful Metal

Of all the minerals mined from the Earth, none is more useful than gold. Its usefulness is derived from a diversity of special properties. Gold conducts electricity, does not tarnish, is very easy to work, can be drawn into wire, can be hammered into thin sheets, alloys with many other metals, can be melted and cast into highly detailed shapes, has a wonderful color and a brilliant luster. Gold is a memorable metal that occupies a special place in the human mind.

When Spanish explorers first arrived in the "New World" they met the native South Americans. These two cultures had been separated by a vast ocean, they had never touched one another, they spoke different languages and lived entirely different lives. Yet they had one thing in common - they both held gold in highest esteem and used it to make some of their most important objects.

Throughout the history of our planet, almost every established culture has used gold to symbolize power, beauty, purity, and accomplishment. Today we continue to use gold for our most significant objects: wedding rings, Olympic medals, Oscars, Grammys, money, crucifixes and ecclesiastical art. No other substance of the same rarity holds a more visible and prominent place in our society.

### **Jewelry: The Primary Use of Gold**

Gold has been used to make ornamental objects and jewelry for thousands of years. Gold nuggets found in a stream are very easy to work and were probably one of the first metals used by humans. Today, most of the gold that is newly mined or recycled is used in the manufacture of jewelry. About 78% of the gold consumed each year is used in the manufacture of jewelry.

Special properties of gold make it perfect for manufacturing jewelry. These include: very high luster; desirable yellow color; tarnish resistance; ability to be drawn into wires, hammered into sheets, or cast into shapes. These are all properties of an attractive metal that is easily worked into beautiful objects. Another extremely important factor that demands the use of gold as a jewelry metal is tradition. Important objects are expected to be made from gold. Pure gold is too soft to stand up to the stresses applied to many jewelry items. Craftsmen learned that alloying gold with other metals such as copper, silver, and platinum would increase its durability. Since then most gold used to make jewelry is an alloy of gold with one or more other metals.

The alloys of gold have a lower value per unit of weight than pure gold. A standard of trade known as "karatage" was developed to designate the gold content of these alloys. Pure gold is known as 24 karat gold and is almost always marked with "24K". An alloy that is 50% gold by weight is known as 12 karat gold (12/24ths) and is marked with "12K". An alloy that contains 75% gold by weight is 18 karat (18/24 = 75%) and marked "18K". In general, high-karat jewelry is softer and more resistant to tarnish, while low-karat jewelry is stronger and less resistant to tarnish - especially when in contact with perspiration.

Alloying gold with other metals changes the color of the finished products (see illustration). An alloy of 75% gold, 16% Silver and 9% copper yields yellow gold. White gold is an alloy of 75% gold, 4% silver, 4% copper and 17% palladium. Other alloys yield pink, green, peach and even black-colored metals.

Other uses are Financial Coinage, Bullion, Electronics, Computers, Medical, Glassmaking, Gold Gilding and Gold Leaf

## Sign up sheets

We have sign up sheets at the attendance/membership table for outings and events we are participating in. Also sign up sheets help us to gauge interest and participation in outing, events, and committees.

Committees are set up by the Chapter President based on interest and/or need.

The Vice President will preside over committees as deemed necessary or the chapter President will appoint a chairperson.

## Sunshine

Please let Ann Erickson know of anyone who might be under the weather, in the hospital, or just need a feel good card.

Remember to let us know of anyone with a new addition to their family as well.

[aerickson@q.com](mailto:aerickson@q.com)



## Collection for Veterans

Don't forget that we are continuing to collect food, toiletries, warm clothes for veterans. Pet food for their animals. Please bring your donations. Boxes will be provided.



## 2018 Picnic

The date for the picnic will be Aug. 4, 2018 at Lewisville Park in Battleground, WA. Dogwood shelter starting at 9am to dusk or sooner.

This is during dredging season so we need to have some qualified people be in charge of the dredge. As always we can pan etc.



## Club Name Tags

Any club members that would like a plastic name Tag made for them can place an order at the next meeting.

Cost is \$8.00 for each tag that includes up to 2 lines of engraving. Questions?

Contact David Conti  
[user764554@aol.com](mailto:user764554@aol.com)  
360-256-0892



## SWWGP MONTHLY MEETING

The Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors' meetings are the second Sunday of every month beginning at **2:00 pm** at: Minnehaha Grange Hall #164 4905 Northeast St Johns Road Vancouver, Washington

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods and equipment as well as hands-on demonstrations and practice. There are also outings to enjoy the pleasures of gold prospecting and the great outdoors.

Become a member of the Southwest Washington Chapter of the Gold Prospectors' Association of America. GPAA membership is not required to be a member and SWWGP membership is FREE!

For information contact: Debbie Witcher – Chapter President,

[ddwitcher@yahoo.com](mailto:ddwitcher@yahoo.com) or  
360-695-3215 or visit  
[www.swwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.swwgoldprospectors.org)

## Buy Sell Trade

Have something to sell or give away? Looking for something to buy? This is a free service to our Chapter members. Please send an email to Mark Mattila with the information and pictures at [chipper49@outlook.com](mailto:chipper49@outlook.com)



Asking \$275.00 any question please text 971-244-3210 John Rehder or call Tammy Binford.  
360-601-6855



## Generator for sale

New, never used

~~\$500.00~~ 450.00

Contact Mark Mattila  
360-609-6813  
[chipper49@outlook.com](mailto:chipper49@outlook.com)

## March 2018 SWWGP General Meeting Minutes

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 2:20
- ◆ The secretaries report was read, a motion to accept was made and passed
- ◆ The treasurers report was read, a motion to accept was made and passed
- ◆ Myron is putting together an outing to White's the third weed in April
- ◆ Richard reported out on the Albany Sportsman show
- ◆ Rich Beehler presented certificates for the panning contest
- ◆ A storage unit has been acquired in Ridgefield just off from I-5
- ◆ There was a request for an equipment manager
- ◆ There will be monthly outings (at least) starting in April. We will at least have an outing the following weekend after the regular monthly meeting
- ◆ Our chapter store is now open
- ◆ Pay dirt from Colorado is available for 12.00 per bag
- ◆ Randy Harper reported out on what a pleasure it is to participate at the Coos Bay outing coming up
  - ◆ May 5th, lunch will be provided and 15 people are needed
- ◆ A motion was made and passed to provide vials for the Coos Bay outing
- ◆ Help was requested for the raffle
- ◆ There is need for someone to volunteer for the historian position
- ◆ There is need to someone to volunteer for the treasurer position
- ◆ There is a sign in sheet available for an outing to the Polka Dot mine
- ◆ There was a reminder for chair leads to turn in a monthly report for the newsletter
- ◆ There will be a Chinook Winds bingo bus trip sometime in June
- ◆ There was a report out on the current status of the Gold show and that 25 people are needed for setup
  - ◆ Volunteers will be reimbursed for parking if you are working Saturday and Sunday at the show
- ◆ Emily Riedel has re-arranged her travel plans to help save the chapter quite a bit of money
- ◆ Myron has donated a Whites metal detector for a children's free raffle so we can track children's attendance
  - ◆ The monthly safety report was on the dangers of crossing rivers and streams
- ◆ The monthly education was on part 2 of reading rivers and the dangers they contain

**Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.  
Members may advertise free by submitting a business card.**

Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal  
Pickup

Topside Mining

Northwest Detector Sales  
503-936-1443

9 Cent Color Copies  
360-896-7220

Creekside Prospecting

Roaring Camp  
209 296-4100

Whites Metal Detectors  
1-800-547-6911

Armadillo Mining

Spin it Off

Chinook Winds Casino & Resort

Fossickers

Thrive Life

Quick Badge

Danas classic Flowers and  
Gifts

McCord's Vancouver Toyota

Danner Boots  
877-432-6637

Danas Classic Hair Supply

AKAU Lodge  
760-500-1329

Lost Adams  
541-340-0931

Packwood Prospecting and  
Mining Supply

American Mining Supply

Designs of all kinds  
360-892-5597

Nayhely's Place  
360-571-7088

The Gold Lab

Gold Getter

Wilson Brothers

Avon Products—Bug Guard  
971-212-5996

AAA Precious Metals  
503-253-8591

Sportsman's Warehouse  
360 604-8000

Oregon Treasure Trail Society

Pro Caliber

Please support these vendors as they support us with contributions and in many cases discounts. We will be doing interviews with many of them so we can get to know a little more about them.