



**Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors**

  
**May / June 2023**

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE** 

Volunteers are what keep our chapter moving forward. We have a core number of committee chairs persons and officers that are necessary to make things run smoothly. But we also need volunteers and participants for several events, outings, etc. Not everyone wants or is able to participate in everything which is understandable.

We try to provide a variety of things for folks to help with. Please try to help where you can, and a big “THANK YOU” to those who do help out. It takes all of us to make this fun.



**DAYBREAK PARK OUTING**

We have an outing scheduled at Daybreak Park on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> from 10-3. Bring your lunch, beverage, chair and mining equipment. Don't forget your gold and fish book and know the rules. Sign in and get a raffle ticket for a mining related prize.





## **GARAGE SALE APRIL 15, 2023**



I would like to thank the following people for working the garage sale.

Set up: Jeff and Kerry Wooldridge, Mike Ouackenbush, Mike Kersteter, Steve and Edna Nelson.

Sale , Mike Ouackenbush, Mike Kersteter, Steve and Edna Nelson. Ann Erickson, VanMeter Hord, Charlie Hord, Carol Brown,

Doug Buckendahl, Lloyd Nelson, Abraham Escobad, Bob and Velvet Klienfelter, Pat and Dave Wagner.

A special shout out to Wayne Woolsey who works at the event center but spent his break and lunch times helping out.

We made some very good connections with community members, taught panning, intro SWWGP to folks, gave out mining info and made a little money in the process.

We also made some new chapter friends in the process.

Next Garage sale Nov.4, 2023. Mark your calendar and please plan to help.

### **EQUIPMENT DONATION**

I wanted to thank Toni and Kim Bellwood for the equipment donation for our chapter member's use.



The equipment belonged to her dad who was a gold miner and passed away. He wanted his equipment to go to us for all our members to be able to use. These folks sought us out at the garage sale to make arrangements for the donation.

Dennis is making sure everything is in working order and will be taking it to our storage unit. We will be inventorying all the equipment so our members can check it out.

### **POLKA DOT AGATE**

We had an outing scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> Sat. but there were only 6 people signed up. Since we want to represent as a chapter we have decided to reschedule this outing to a different date when more folks are available to go. Stay tuned for a new date.



### 3 MONTH RAFFLE

We will be drawing our 3 month raffle winners at our June meeting. Prizes are a metal detector, piece of gold, and gemstone box. Tickets are 41 each or 6 for \$5. Write phone and name on ticket. Must be legible. Winner need not be present to win but prize must be claimed by July 12, 2023 or prize will revert to chapter.



### OUR CLAIMS



Someone has posted intent to claim on our claim. I have verified with both BLM and Skamania county that these are indeed ours and not available. All fees have been paid and we are in good standing.

I am in the process of trying to contact this person to let them know that they have posted on the wrong claim. I am assuming this is a mistake on their part.

If you run into anyone on our claims saying that this is their claim. Please be tactful not confrontational. The claims have Ron Koppi and Myself, Debbie Witcher list as the claim owners. We of course represent the chapter's interest.

As always fill out a maintenance slip and not any info about this person you can. Please let me know right away.

This sometime happens with folks meaning no harm and is an honest mistake. I will deal with it as a listed owner. Any questions contact Debbie W.



### SouthWest Washington Gold Prospectors General Meeting Minutes April 2023

The meeting was called to order at 2:03

1 guest was in attendance

3 new members were introduced

Ken had tickets for a 1 oz bar of gold for sale at 10.00 per ticket

The March minutes were read, a motion to accept was made and passed

The treasurers report was read, a motion to accept was made and passed

A GPAA membership will be given away at the June meeting

We have signed up for the next garage sale on Nov. 4th

A couple is allowing our chapter to prospect on their property at Sunset Falls. You have to sign up to be in attendance

There will be no meeting in May

There is a May 6th outing at Coos Bay, let Debbie know if you would like to attend

There will be more outings at Daybreak Park. Jun 25th, Jul 22nd and Aug 20th

There is a 1.47 gram nugget, Metal detector, Gem box, and a Chinook Winds package for the next 3 month raffle so far

There will be a picnic in Sept. date TBD

There will be a Opal/Sunstone outing with Rick Beehler sign up sheet



## **COOS BAY/MERYTLE POINT**

A great big thank you to the following people who took the time and at their own expense to make the trip to Merytle Point to teach kids gold panning. For many of them this was the first time they had panned and they also got to keep the gold. Wayne Tipping, Bob and Carol Brown, Betty and Norm Erickson, Doug and Lou Buckendahl. This is an all-day event and we served over 150 young people and we talked to a lots of parents and adults too.

We have been invited back again next year. The Date is the first Sat. in May.

We need more members to participate, or we may not be able to do this event next year. This is part of our education program so please consider taking part.

I want to give a special thank you to Betty and Norm Erickson who were kind enough to give me a ride there and back.

Thank you again to all who participated, this is a very worthwhile event.

## **SUNSET FALLS OUTING**

We met Lisa and Brian at the garage sale and they invited our group to their home for an outing. This is private property and is a closed outing to those who signed up. Parking is limited and Lisa will be providing lunch.

For those who signed up you should have received an email with driving directions and a map.

Lisa and Brian run business from this property, so it is important not to disturb them. They have a locked gate and guard dog.

Any questions call Debbie W.

## **WASHINGTON SMALL SCALE MINER'S ACTION GROUP**

I met Dennis Peterson at the Daybreak vendors outing and asked him to speak at our chapter meeting as part of our continuing education.

His talk was very informative.

Many of us wanted to become a member of this group and help support the continuing efforts of mining rights. Instead of each of us joining separately for \$25 each, we thought it would be better to join as a chapter for \$300 and pool our money. We will take a collection at the next meeting. Some folks may want to join as a chapter and individually so we will have some applications available.

## **DRAWING FOR A GPAA MEMBERSHIP**

If you are not a GPAA member and would like a chance at a membership provided by SWWGP for chapter members, we will have a raffle drawing for that membership at our June 11, meeting. Be sure to get your free raffle ticket at the meeting. Must be a member of SWWGP and be present at the meeting.

Hello Everybody,,,,

My name is Rock hound Rick,,,,, I am a ROCKaHOLIC !,,,,,

In the beginning stages, a Rockhound, may just collect stones because they are pretty on the outside,, but then,, the disease starts to lock deeper inside of you,, you wonder, WHATS INSIDE ! Then you make the mistake that everyone has done, you get a big hammer and break it open, then discover, OH NO, Look at how pretty the rock was inside, yes, your realize that you should have cut it open instead of breaking it.

Now you are pressed further as a Rockaholic, this article will show how far some will travel to learn more about making Mother Nature's Treasures into a beautiful Gem Stone.

There are so many facets of the lapidary world that it is so hard to not keep busy playing with rocks. Actually we the Rock hounds, carry more than one hat to cover our lifestyle as a Lapidarian.

A beginning stage with this disease, LOL, yes sometimes you may be told that you picked up the ROCKHOUND VIRUS. It starts so simply and grabs you so bad that you find yourself watching the ground,, no not looking for money,,,, there has to be an nice rock,, just around the corner,,humm,, maybe in that flowerbed, LOL, you will be surprised where your eyes wander to next.

Well this article is to show you some things that may help you get into another facet of the Lapidary Fields. Yes,, PUNs ! all over here.

Are there more than 50 ways to turn a Rock into a Gemstone. I bet there are far more ways to turn a rock into a gemstone than 50.

This article is to show everyone a group of Rock hounds furthering their skills in the Lapidary world.

YES,, with time, you may go on to that next step beyond to what nobody has ever seen before,,WHAT'S INSIDE THAT ROCK, something nobody has ever seen.

Welcome to our first experience as a Faceter. In learning from someone with class 10+ skills, we all had High Hopes and open minds to go to that next step beyond just picking up a rock. Capturing the beauty of one of Mother Nature's Treasures with new skills is something we all hope will become easier while we are learning from someone with good skills.

## **DAYBREAK OUTING WITH VENDORS**

We followed up the garage sale with a vendor sponsored outing at Daybreak Park on April 22, 2023 Got a chance to mingle with some new and old chapter members. Lots of fun.



Lisa taking the first step in preparing the stone to put it on a Dop stick. The first side must be flat to apply it on the dop stick.



Michelle brought in her older piece of equipment. The manufacturer may have made it in his garage, but the facets cut with it came out sparkling like they were supposed to. Here Jeff helps setting the machine up for cutting a Sunstone.



Brian who was a bit more educated in using his equipment was set up and running before we got there. He had been working on learning for a short time, but was eager to learn more from Jeff and how to implement some of the cuts that make Jeff's stones so remarkable.



Here, I am using an old Raytech-Shaw faceter. I had contacted the manufacturer last week in the need of new Dop sticks and they were able to get me a new set in just a few days. It was quite an education for the first time setting up and using my old machine.



Carilyn came in with a machine that sparkled with shine. Assembling it was a challenge for the first time. If I remember correctly there was a part missing that slowed things down. Once assembled, she was soon making cuts on



Jeff with Hans after giving Lisa a tour of the many many kinds of stones available to buy in Neukomm's Rock & Gem Gallery in Corvallis Oregon

If you can't find what you want, Call Hans Neukomm @ 541-936-1715, 2259 NW 9<sup>th</sup> St. Corvallis, Or 97660

They do have classes for young and old !



Jeff's patience in teaching everyone was commendable. With Michelle's machine being so old, Jeff's skills in his field of expertise were greatly appreciated. It was like everyone had a different kind of machine. Jeff knew how to take care of all of them and the operators too.



Jeff, just visiting from OHIO, to sell at one of the many shows in the area and then to offer lessons on faceting classes too. He knew where and what all the stones were in Hans Rock & Gem Gallery

I wish to thank not only both Jeff and Hans for the hospitality and patience, but a special thank you is extended to all who were at the faceting class when we were all there.

Sincerely, Rockhound Rick

<b>Executive Board</b>	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Assistant Secretary	Van Meter Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
Treasurer	Deana Yoakum		deana3325@gmail.com
Assistant Treasurer	Michele Quackenbush		quacky@pacifier.com
<b>Board of Directors</b>	(Elected )		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
	Maurine Koppi	3609079295	koppi@comcast.net
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Tammy Binford	503-766-7814	kaycbear99@gmail.com
	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhounstool1966@yahoo.com
	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net
	Van Meter Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
<b>Claims Chair</b>	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
<b>State Director (WA)</b>	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
<b>Committees / Chairs</b>	Appointed by chapter President		
<b>Education</b>	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
<b>Equipment Manager</b>	Don Spillman	360-773-8708	Golddigger357@outlook.com
<b>Fundraising Coordi-</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant			
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant			
<b>Picnic, Holiday Din-</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Librarian</b>	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
<b>Membership</b>	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhound-
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
<b>Outing Coordinator</b>			
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	bettyerickson13@yahoo.com
<b>Sargent at Arms</b>	Steve Keesee		None
	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	
<b>Sunshine</b>			
<b>T-Shirts</b>	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net
<b>Historian</b>	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant			
<b>Gold Buyer</b>	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
<b>PayDirt</b>	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.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>			
<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</b>	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant			
<b>Facebook</b>	Rick B		
Assistant			
<b>Raffle</b>	Kerry Wookdridge		
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
<b>Chapter Store</b>	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Chapter mailing address: 5400 NE Highway 99 STE G Vancouver WA 98665			

## Links

Website: [www.SWWGoldProspectors.org](http://www.SWWGoldProspectors.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SWwashingtonGoldProspectors>

Gold and Fish Book: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/mining/>

HPA Rulemaking web page: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/hpa/rulemaking/>

GPAA <https://www.goldprospectors.org/>

[HPA application process.](#)

<http://mylandmatters.com/>

### FACEBOOK EDUCATION LINKS HERE

<https://www.facebook.co/SWwashingtonGoldProspectors>

Let Mark know if you have something that you would like to buy, sell or trade to post in the newsletter..





## OUTINGS CALANDER

Since Ronda is not able to work on outings at this time, I have taken it over until we have another volunteer. John will still be working on gold outings.

We have some of the scheduling for the outings etc.

This is only a partial schedule and more will be add. Any suggestion you have will be welcome.

June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, draw 3 month raffle

June 17<sup>th</sup> father's day outing at Polka-Dot-Agate mine **To be re-scheduled**

June 25<sup>th</sup> Daybreak Park

July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

July 22<sup>nd</sup> Daybreak Park

Territorial days waiting for date.

Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> meeting

Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> Daybreak Park

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting

Sept.17<sup>th</sup> picnic at daybreak, 3 month raffle drawing

This is only a partial list:

Still working on the following,

More outings at Lewisville, Daybreak, Our Claims

Bingo Bus

Spin it off factory (local)

Sunstones

Fossils

Rice Rock Museum

Cape Disappointment

????????????? Suggestions please

Again this is only a partial schedule. All outings, events etc. are weather dependent.

