

Newsletter

South West Washington Gold Prospectors July 2020



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

JULY ACTIVITIES CANCELED

All activities and meetings for July are canceled.

No meeting---as of the writing of this message the grange is still closed. We need to move into stage 4 before we can hold in-door meetings.

There will not be a picnic in July.

No cape disappointment 4th of July adventure with Scott Long.

Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meeting TBD

Board meeting will start at 12:30 and the general meeting will start at 2:00.

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!

Minnehaha Grange Hall #164
4905 Northeast St Johns Road
Vancouver, Washington

For information contact:
Debbie Witcher – Chapter President,
ddwitcher@yahoo.com or 360-695-3215 or
visit www.swwgoldprospectors.org

OPEN BOARD POSITION

We have an open board position and anyone who has been a chapter member for at least 6 months and is willing and able to give time to the chapter on meeting, can run for that position. It is an elected position for a 2year term. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please contact Debbie 360-695-3215 or Jeff 360-907-2602.

BOARD MEETING FOR AUGUST

The board will meet in Aug weather we have a general meeting or not. We have business to take care of.

Mark will send out an e-mail as to the time and place if we are not able to meet at the grange. All precautions will be taken as well as social distancing and required wearing of masks will be observed.

NEWSLETTER

As you probably know Mark as newsletter editor and I work together on the newsletter. I write chapter info up and he does the rest. With no meetings or activities we are running out of information to publish, sooooo-----here is what we are asking of you. We would like you to email Mark any stories or information that might be of interest to the chapter members. I know most of you have some extra time on your hands right now so if you could write a story, tell something of interest etc. and e-mail it to Mark that would be great. And as a reward if your item is published in the August newsletter you will receive a piece of gold. Items must be marked no later than July 27, be sure to include your name, and phone number so you get credit and just in case Mark needs to contact you. I am sure all of you agree with me that Mark does an excellent job and we are lucky to have him.

Mid Valley is still planning on holding their outings at Quartzville on July 24,25, and 26 as well as Aug 30-Sept.8. Of course this is all dependent on the social distancing etc. Space is limited. Contact Roy 541-990-1148 for questions and reservations. Be sure to stay updated with him in case it is canceled. These outings are a lot of fun.

4th of JULY PAY DIRT SPECIAL

This special is good for the entire month of July.

This special includes:

5 bags of paydirt 2 bags Colorado, 2 bags California, and 1 bag Roaring Camp and a mining bucket to carry it in and use..... al for the price of \$50, reg price is \$65 a savings of \$15. This is good as long as the supply lasts, no limit.

Single bags available at reg. chapter price of \$12 each.

Contact Debbie 360-695-3215 to make arrangements for pick up and to reserve your special.

A new state law (bill), [ESHB 1261](#), now prohibits motorized and gravity siphon aquatic mining in some areas where it has historically taken place. It passed during this year's legislative session and mandates new permitting requirements.

On June 11, 2020, motorized and gravity siphon aquatic mining is prohibited in waters of the state that are critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act for salmon, steelhead, or bull trout, and all fresh waters of the state with designated uses of salmonid spawning, rearing, and migration.

Motorized and gravity siphon aquatic mining may still be allowed in areas that are not designated as salmonid habitat (potential use areas). See the [interactive map](#) of possible mining locations, called potential use areas. In potential use areas, operators of motorized or gravity siphon aquatic mining operations must now apply for and be issued an individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) water quality permit from Ecology to demonstrate compliance with the Clean Water Act. This is in addition to obtaining a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

What if I have a current HPA permit?

Starting June 11th, 2020 you will need both a HPA permit and an individual NPDES permit to legally conduct motorized and gravity siphon aquatic mining activities in a potential use area. Motorized and gravity siphon aquatic mining activities are not allowed in critical salmon habitat regardless of if the water from the mining activity is returned back (discharged) to the water body or to the ground.

Are there any types of mining allowed in the prohibited areas?

Yes. Non-motorized mining activities, such as gold panning, are still allowed in critical salmon habitat areas. These activities do not require an individual NPDES permit from Ecology, but will still require a HPA permit or approval under the Gold and Fish pamphlet from WDFW.

What should prospectors who were mining before June 11, 2020 do if they believe they should be issued a NPDES permit even though they're working below or above the ordinary high water mark in prohibited waters?

If you believe you qualify for a permit and are mining in or near waters that will become prohibited on June 11, 2020, please contact us using the information provided below to discuss the specifics of your mining operation. If we believe that your activity may be allowed under the new legislation, we will advise you to apply for an individual NPDES permit. After you submit your application, we will then conduct an in-depth review of the proposed discharge to make a final determination.

What are the permits required by the new legislation?

If you would like to conduct motorized or gravity siphon aquatic mining in the potential use areas you will need to:

- 1) Apply for and be issued an individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from Ecology. This will include the requirements you must follow in order to discharge water to surface water bodies, like lakes or streams, or to the ground during the mining process. Please note that you must apply for a NPDES permit at least 180 days prior to the start date of your mining operation. Visit Ecology's webpage (see below) for more information on applying for this permit.
- 2) Apply for a HPA permit from WDFW. For WDFW's HPA permit: go to <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/hpa>. For more information about WDFW's permits, please refer to its [rules for mineral prospecting and placer mining webpage](#). You must include a copy of a NPDES permit issued to you for each location at which you are proposing to operate or a letter from Ecology saying a permit is not required.

For additional information on the implementation of this legislation, please see our webpage or contact us.

For more information or questions, please contact:

Mark Peterschmidt

Department of Ecology e-mail: mark.peterschmidt@ecy.wa.gov

Phone: 509-454-7843

Ecology's webpage: <https://ecology.wa.gov/mineral-prospecting-and-placer-mining>

Or visit WDFW's website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/hpa/types/prospecting>.

Executive Board	(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
Treasurer	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
	Maurine Koppi	3609079295	koppi@comcast.net
	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Scott Long	971-219-1079	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
	Tina Long	503-544-3695	treasuretrove67@hotmail.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
Claims Chair	(Elected)		
	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
State Director (WA)	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Committees / Chairs	Appointed by chapter President		
Education	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
Equipment Manager	Don Spillman	360-773-8708	Golddigger357@outlook.com
Fundraising Coordi-	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
Hospitality	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Tina Long	503-544-3695	treasuretrove67@hotmail.com
Picnic, Holiday Din-	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Librarian	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Membership	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhound-
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing Coordinator	Scott Long	971-219-1079	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
Safety Officer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Norm Erickson	503-801-1452	None
	Betty Erickson	503-801-1452	bettyerickson13@yahoo.com
Sargent at Arms	Daniel Keesee	360-269-2341	None
	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Sunshine	Ann Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Webmaster	Dennis Clevenger	360-281-6338	dennisc@pacifier.com
Historian	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Deborah Lee	360-624-6565	deborah35@me.com
Gold Buyer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
PayDirt	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.			

GPAA Points	Bob Brown	360-576-0213	photogal01@comcast.net
Name Tags	Dave Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Awards	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Picnic and Holiday	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Leigh Anne Chavez	503-531-2770	ohwell1956@yahoo.com
Facebook	Rick Beehler	360-601-6855	rickbeehler@ymail.com
Assistant			
Raffle	Jim Erickson	360-260-3225	aerickson@q.com
Assistant	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Chapter Store	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

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>

Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.

Pro Caliber	McCord's Vancouver Toyota	AKAU Lodge 760-500-1329
Designs of all kinds 360-892-5597	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	Dana's classic Flowers and Gifts	Northwest Detector Sales 503-936-1443
Danner Boots 877-432-6637	Danas Classic Hair Supply	Oregon Treasure Trail Society
Lost Adams 541-340-0931	Packwood Prospecting and Mining Supply	American Mining Supply
Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup	Topside Mining	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	

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.

2020 Scheduled Events

Jul 4th Cape Disappointment outing, Camp out beach mining (Reserve space asap) Contact Scott or Tina Long
12th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
18th Chapter Potluck Picnic, Daybreak Park, Contact Debbie Witcher or Jeanne Gieg

Aug 9th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
15th Chapter Claims outing, (members only) Contact Scott Long
15th Daybreak Park outing 10:00 am Contact Debbie Witcher
22nd Daybreak Park outing 10:00 am Contact Debbie Witcher

Sep 4th—7th Camp out and mining with Mid-Valley chapter, to sign up contact Roy or Wendy Holtz 541-890-6214
13th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
18-20th Burnt River LDMA camp outing, Contact Debbie Witcher or Bob Brown

Oct 11th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg.
31st Nominations close for Nov elections (Treasurer, Vice Pres. And 5 board positions)

Nov 8th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg. Elections

Dec 13th 12:30 Board mtg. 2:00 General mtg. Holiday Dinner