

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Newsletter

Letter from the President

As I write my last "letter from the President", I'm reminded of all the amazing people that make our club so special. All the great outings and priceless friendships pure as gold.

We've covered a lot of ground together, and we're just getting started. The strength of the club lies in its members and their willingness to give of themselves, what they can, to strengthen the body as a whole. What I've learned about the GPAA, only confirms my respect for the Vision that the Buzzard had years ago. That dream is being shared by countless prospectors around the world. To be a small part of that bigger picture has greatly enriched my life. I thank you for entrusting me with your time and with the club. Thank you all who have helped get SWWGPA on the map.

We have a very exciting future ahead of us. However we must work together to maintain the rights we have left. Our opposition has an organized effort to overcome us. If we stand strong on the truth and stay united as a team, we can and will maintain our rights.

We have new leadership coming soon. I ask that you give them the same respect you'd like for yourself. Remember this is a member driven club, we're all on the same team. I look forward to seeing you all again for our Dec 13th meeting and Holiday Dinner. Thank you for the last two years team. Let's make the next two even better. Randy Harper – President SWWGP

DECEMBER 2015



December Education Topic

Just enjoy the Season and the great dinner. And be sure to thank all the volunteers for their hard work in making the December meeting such a great year-end party.

December Holiday Dinner

The SWWGP Holiday Dinner will be held on December 13, 2015, at the St. Johns Grange Hall. The dinner will follow a short Monthly Meeting which will include the election of Officers and Directors.

If you have not signed-up to bring something please call Co-Chairs Debbie Witcher (360-693-3215) or Maurine Koppi (360-254-9309).

If you are not sure what to bring call Maurine and she can tell you what we need. We are adding something new this year. We will be having door prize drawings (no charge). When you sign in you will be given a ticket for prizes redeemable during the dinner. Should be lots of fun. If you would like to volunteer to help set up, decorate, etc. for the dinner please be here by 12:30. Any questions please call Debbie Witcher (360-695-3215).

Food Donation Raffle Tickets

Bring a can of food (cat or dog food), hand it to Steve Lewin and receive a raffle ticket for a "gold nugget"!!!!!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

With the new year there will be a number of Chair Positions and other volunteer opportunities. So sign-up early.



November Education Program — Bill Adams Discusses Mining Districts

Bill "Lost" Adams spoke to the SWWGP Membership regarding the value of reestablishing "Mining Districts". The Minerals Mining Advisory Council is working to get the "historic" mining districts reestablished or resurrected in order to provide the gold panners, placer miners and small lode miners with input and a vote in managing the public lands in specific mining areas.

In order for a "mining district" to have a "place at the table" with government agencies you need to own a mining claim in the originally established district.



The original General Mining Law of 1872 established gold panning and mining on federal lands is to be interpreted on the "basis of inclusion rather than exclusion" of miners and mining is a "right, not a privilege". The structure of the Mining District in Federal Law gives the actual district directors a voice in the formulation, interpretation and administration of mining laws on public lands,

For additional information you can go to the websites for the "Mineral and Mining Advisory Council" (www.mineralsandminingcouncil.org) and ICMJ Prospecting and Mining Journal (www.icmj.com) which have articles on recent legislation and the effort to restore the mining rights of individual prospectors via the authority vested in "mining districts".

DECEMBER SWWGP MEETING WILL HAVE ANNUAL ELECTION & DINNER

Please plan to attend the December SWWGP Membership Meeting. This is your chance to elect a President and Secretary for the next two years and the Board Members for 2016. Remember nominations will be accepted until the voting begins. There will be a great dinner with activities, games, prizes and good fellowship—so please plan on attending. If you want to help with the set up and preparations please arrive about 12:30.— **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

2015 Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| President | Randy Harper | 503-849-5109 | rh82065@hotmail.com |
| Vice President | Steve Lewin | 971-212-5996 | goldpan123@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer | Ken Didier | 360-604-2701 | ky02kid@peoplepc.com |
| Secretary | Larry Hellie | 360-601-6388 | hhrc2@comcast.net |
| Claims Chair | Steve Lewin | 971-211-5996 | goldpan123@yahoo.com |
| Education Chair | Steve Lewin | 971-211-5996 | goldpan123@yahoo.com |
| Equipment Mgr | Randy Harper | 503-849-5109 | rh82065@hotmail.com |
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| Director | Richard Pluff, Jr. | 503-957-6884 | magicdragn1956@hotmail.com |
| Director | Waylon St. Clair | 360-921-6918 | waylonst3@gmail.com |
| Director | Debbie Witcher | 360-695-3215 | ddwitcher@yahoo.com |

Treasurer's Report for November 2015

Beginning balance for the month was \$7107.02 Income for November was \$637.75 Our expenses were \$2238.02 which leaves a balance of \$5506.75 as of November 30, 2015.
Ken Didier—SWWGP Treasurer

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: Randy Harper – Chapter President, rh82065@hotmail.com or 503-849-5109 or visit www.swwgoldprospectors.org

US Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals: New Controversial Waters of the United States Rule is Blocked Nationwide

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has issued a nationwide stay to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps from redefining Waters of the United States (or WOTUS). The government agencies attempted a controversial rulemaking to "clarify" their jurisdiction over non-navigable waters. In essence, the agencies were attempting to take regulatory control over temporary waters such as ditches, ponds and seasonal washes.

"[W]e conclude that petitioners have demonstrated a substantial possibility of success on the merits of their claims. Petitioners first claim that the Rule's treatment of tributaries, "adjacent waters," and waters having a "significant nexus" to navigable waters is at odds with the Supreme Court's ruling in *Rapanos*, where the Court vacated the Sixth Circuit's upholding of wetlands regulation by the Army Corps of Engineers. Even assuming, for present purposes, as the parties do, that Justice Kennedy's opinion in *Rapanos* represents the best instruction on the permissible parameters of "WOTUS" as

used in the Clean Water Act, it is far from clear that the new Rule's distance limitations are harmonious with the instruction.

Moreover, the rulemaking process by which the distance limitations were adopted is facially suspect. Petitioners contend the proposed rule that was published, on which interested persons were invited to comment, did not include any proposed distance limitations in its use of terms like "adjacent waters" and "significant nexus". Consequently, petitioners contend, the Final Rule cannot be considered a "logical outgrowth" of the rule proposed, as required to satisfy the notice-and-comment requirements of the APA, 5 USC §553....As a further consequence of the defect, petitioners contend, the record compiled by respondents is devoid of specific scientific support for the distance limitations that were included in the Final Rule. They contend the Rule is therefore not the product of reasoned decision-making and is vulnerable to attack as impermissibly "arbitrary or capricious" under the APA, 5 USC §706(2).

The court continued:

What is of greater concern to us, in balancing the harms, is the burden—potentially visited nationwide on governmental bodies, (continued on p.4)

LIBRARY CORNER

Just a reminder that books checked out from the SWWGP Library need to be returned at the next monthly meeting following check-out. The Library was established to provide information to all the SWWGP members so timely return of borrowed materials means everyone has an opportunity to read the books.

The Library has received two new books this month: "*Roadside Geology of Northern California*", David A. Alt and Donald W. Hyndman, Mountain Press Publishing, Missoula, MT, 1975 and "*Roadside Geology of Montana*" by the same authors and publisher, 1986.

The "*Roadside Geology of Northern California*" (244 pages) contains detailed information on the location of California Mining Districts, Dredging Districts and maps of the roads leading to these areas. The book focuses on the geology of Northern California from the Oregon State line south to Interstate 80 and US Highway 50 which runs from the Bay Area to south Lake Tahoe. This area includes the major placer mines in California. Of particular interest to gold prospectors are the descriptions beginning on page 109 which deal with the "mother lode" country from Sacramento to Lake Tahoe. Other areas of geologic interest to prospectors include Placerville to Sierra City, the Feather River Canyon and the Trinity River Gorge.

The "*Roadside Geology of Montana*" (426 pages) has information on lode and placer gold mining particularly in Section III—"Southwestern Montana, Isolated Ranges, Spacious Valleys". This Section discusses the major placer areas of Montana from Philipsburg and Butte to Virginia City, Helena and Bozeman. The area south of Philipsburg is known for producing very good quality sapphires. The Butte area is world famous for copper and the Yellowstone River and eastern Montana are loaded with fossils. The information contained in this book provides a guide to discovering the mineral treasures of Montana. These books were donated by Marsy and Larry Hellie.

SWWGP NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The SWWGP November General Meeting was called to order by Randy Harper at 2:15 p.m. Sunday, November 8, 2015. The membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Randy Harper welcomed guests who introduced themselves.

The Secretary's Report was read from the November Newsletter and the minutes were approved as read. The Treasurer's Report was read from the November Newsletter and approved as read.

Nominations for President, Secretary and Board of Director Positions:

Nominations for President: Debbie Witcher

Nominations for Secretary: Larry Hellie

Nominations for nine Board Members: Matt Barner, Bob Brown, Ann Erickson, Jim Erickson, Jeanne Geig, Daniel Keesee, Dale Long, Richard Pluff Jr.,

There were no new nominations for Officers or Board Members at this meeting.

Nominations will remain open until the actual election on December 13, 2015.

Education Program: Bill "Lost" Adams, discussed the importance of re-establishing "mining districts" as a balance against environmental and governmental actions to limit or eliminate our right to mine for gold.

The SWWGP Bylaws remain under review by the GPAA. There are several issues requiring clarification or modification at the GPAA level. GPAA has agreed SWWGP should conduct an election for Officers and Board Members at the December General Meeting. All candidates for election must be GPAA Members-in-Good-Standing and only GPAA Members-in-Good-Standing may vote for Officers and Board Members.

Following a refreshment break the monthly raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned.

Gold and Treasure Show Committee Meeting

The Gold & Treasure Show Committee met on Saturday, November 14, 2015, at the offices of Designs of All Kinds. Various members volunteered to organize specific portions of the upcoming show. Committees established include "media", "advertising", "exhibitors", "financial", "operations", "host site", "raffles", "volunteers", "security", "setup and takedown", and "panning activity". The next Gold & Treasure Show Committee meeting will be at 1:00 p.m., January 3, 2016 at the Minnehaha Grange Hall.

Committee members in attendance included: Lucas Britt, Dennis Church, Ken Didier, Jim Erickson, Randy Harper, Maurine Koppi, Ron Koppi, Steve Lewin, Dale Long, Mark Mattila, Pat Staat, and Debbie Witcher from SWWGP and Ken Burns, Dave Chiara, Melinda Dorning, Jerry Johns, Dorthy Ruth, Elaine Ruth and Richard Ruth from PGPI.

To volunteer or get additional information SWWGP members should contact Larry Hellie (360-601-6388) or Debbie Witcher (360-695-3215).

PICTURES FROM THE 2015 GOLD & TREASURE SHOW



MATERIALS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Matt Barner and Norm and Betty Erickson have provided interesting articles for the SWWGP Newsletter and I thank them for their interest and support. I am always looking for first-person articles and other materials for our members' education and entertainment. If you have an article or want a topic researched or drawing or photo included in the Newsletter just send me a note at "hhrc2@comcast.net" or call me (1-360-601-6388.) Larry Hellie—Newsletter Editor

NOVEMBER RAFFLE ACTIVITIES

Pictures from the November Raffle including ticket sales, drawing the winning tickets and happy winners displaying their prizes. Remember the raffle is the primary source of funding for SWWGP and helps pay for activities throughout the year.

The December raffle should be the highlight of the year with lots of gold, gems, equipment and other items in the raffle and, in addition, bags of "pay dirt" will be for sale as Christmas presents.



SWWGP CALENDAR

December 2015

- 13 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 25 — Christmas
- 31 — New Year's Eve

January 2016

- 01 — New Year's Day
- 03 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 10 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 18 — Martin Luther King Day
- 21 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting

February 2016

- 07 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 14 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 15 — Presidents Day
- 18 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 21 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 27-28 — **GPAA Gold & Treasure Show**

Las Vegas, NV

March 2016

- 06 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 13 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 13 — Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

April 2016

- 03 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 9-10 — **GPAA Gold & Treasure Show**

Portland EXPO Center

- 10 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 16-17 — **GPAA Gold & Treasure Show**

Monroe, WA

- 17 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 21 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting

May 2016

- 01 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 08 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 08 — Mothers Day
- 15 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 30 — Memorial Day

June 2016

- 05 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 11-12 — **GPAA Gold & Treasure Show**

Boise, ID

- 12 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 14 — Flag Day
- 16 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 19 — Fathers Day

July 2016

- 03 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 04 — Independence Day
- 10 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 21 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting

August 2016

- 07 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 14 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 18 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 21 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

September 2016

- 04 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 05 — Labor Day
- 11 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 15 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 18 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting

October 2016

- 02 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 09 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 16 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting

November 2016

- 03 — Brownsville Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 10 — Marine Corps Birthday—(Semper Fi)
- 11 — Veterans Day
- 13 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 17 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 24 — Thanksgiving Day

December 2016

- 04 — Brownsville Monthly Meeting
- 11 — SWWGP Monthly Meeting
- 15 — Auburn Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 20 — Portland Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 25 — Christmas Day
- 31 — New Year's Eve

Auburn, 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm. River Estates Club House, 3611 I St NE, Auburn, WA (253-833-2255)

Brownsville, 1st Sunday, 1:30 pm. Brownsville Fire Department, 600 E Blakely Ave, Brownsville, OR (541-990-5148)

Portland, 3rd Sunday, 12:00 pm., Milwaukie Grange, 12015 SE 22nd, Milwaukie, OR (503-258-8553)

Vancouver, 2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm. Minnehaha Grange 4905 NE St Johns Road, Vancouver, WA (360-601-6388)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

May Santa fill you "gold pan" with nothing smaller than these nuggets!!!!



US Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (cont.)

state and federal, as well as private parties—and the impact on the public in general, implicated by the Rule's effective re-drawing of jurisdictional lines over certain of the nation's waters. Given that the definitions of "navigable waters" and "WOTUS" have been clouded by uncertainty, in spite of (or exacerbated by) a series of Supreme Court decisions over the last thirty years, we appreciate the need for the new Rule... In one sense, the clarification that the new Rule strives to achieve is long overdue. We also accept that respondent agencies have conscientiously endeavored, within their technical expertise and experience, and based on reliable peer-reviewed science, to promulgate new standards to protect water quality that conform to the Supreme Court's guidance. Yet, the sheer breath of the ripple effects caused by the Rule's definitional changes counsels strongly in favor of maintaining the status quo for the time being. *Prospecting and Mining Journal, December 2015.*

(Personal Commentary) This "new Rule" is clearly an attempt by the federal agencies to further the environmentalists agenda and prevent all panning or placer mining in any waterway, i.e., a pond, a ditch, a seasonal wetland or other water source.—Larry

Tip #7 You can get basic maps that show roads, rivers, creeks, mountains, and land ownership at any BLM or Forest Service office. However, once you have keyed in on a specific area to explore, consider getting the 1:24,000 scale topographic maps. They are extremely detailed and often show mines, prospects, and mine tailings that are not shown on the more generic maps. There are even apps that you can get for your smart-phone that will give you access to quality maps right on your phone.

Useful Court Cases

US vs. McClure (.pdf) February 2, 2005. The Forest Service cited the miner for "use or occupancy of national forest system land without special use authorization".
US vs. Lex & Waggener (.pdf) May 2003. The Forest Service cited the miners for "taking possession of, occupying, or otherwise using National Forest System lands for residential purposes without a special-use authorization, or as otherwise authorized by Federal law or regulation."
State of Wyoming & Colorado Mining Association v. United States Department of Agriculture (.pdf) August 2008. Judge Clarence A. Brimmer rules that the Clinton-era Roadless Rule is invalid.
(Recent favorable Federal Court decisions)

Gold in Nevada

Nevada is currently the #1 gold-producing state in the U.S. While the initial discovery occurred when gold was found near Gold Canyon near Virginia City, the later discovery of lowgrade deposits in 1861 by the Newmont Mining Corporation are what solidified Nevada as the most mineral rich state in the U.S. Known as the Carlin Trend deposits, these ores alone have more value than any other mineral resource in the country. For the modern day gold prospector, Nevada's vast public lands provide excellent chances for future discoveries.

Gold can be found in every county in Nevada, though many of the gold deposits are so fine, such as the Carlin deposits mentioned above, that their extraction is out of reach for the average prospector. It would be wise to focus efforts in areas that are known to produce coarse-sized gold, large enough to be captured by standard prospecting techniques such as panning, dry washing, and metal detecting.

It is also worth mentioning that Nevada is a very arid state, with limited water available. Much of the gold prospecting here is done with metal detectors and dry washers, since no water is required to extract the gold. Common methods like sluice boxes and suction dredges are of little use for most of the gold rich areas of this state. In the northern part of the state, Humboldt County has been a prospector's paradise for years. Gold can be found throughout the county, and it is well known for several rich areas that produce very large nuggets. Explore the Dutch Flats, Rebel Creek, Maryville and Winnemucca Districts, as all have produced several thousand ounces of gold. Using a metal detector around old dry wash areas can be especially productive, as many gold nuggets were lost by the old timers using this method. The Awakening, Gold Run, Paradise Valley and Warm Springs Districts were also large producers.

To the east in Elko County, numerous mining districts are found, each producing thousands of ounces of gold and silver. Most of the richest areas are in the northern part of the county, near the Idaho border and the town of Mountain City. The Alder District near Wildhorse Reservoir was worked in the 1870's. In the Aura District, placer gold can be found in Sheridan and Columbia Creeks. The Charleston District is located in the Jarbidge Range, with gold mining on 76 Creek, Badger Creek, and along the Bruneau River. Hammond and Coleman Canyons both produced placer gold. The Van Duzer District near the town of Mountain City produced significant amounts of gold, with several large gold nuggets being reported. Numerous other districts are scattered throughout the county, with most production coming from lode mining.

Pershing County is known to be one of the best mining areas in the state. Known for placers often near the surface, a significant amount of gold has been found here. The early miners used dry washers to hunt for gold, but many prospectors today prefer to use metal detectors to locate "patches" of nuggets not yet found. The well known Rye Patch Placers is one of these areas, which has produced much gold since its initial discovery in 1938. Other productive placers include the Seven Troughs, Sawtooth, Placeritas, and Rabbit Hole. These are favorites of metal detectorists since gold lays on bedrock only a few feet from the surface. Dun Glen and Willow Creeks are also rich placer gold areas. Much of the recorded gold here comes from lode mines. Other districts worth exploring include the Sierra, Rochester, Humboldt and Unionville Districts. The overall richness of this county almost guarantees that plenty of gold is left in the ground awaiting discovery.

White Pine County has good gold prospecting opportunities, and like

the rest of the state, its remoteness and harsh climate has limited its exploration. No doubt there are many undiscovered mines yet to be found. In the northwest part of the county is the Bald Mountain District. Some large nuggets have been found here, but high elevation and little water has limited its exploitation. The Osceola District had seen extensive mining, including some hydraulic mining done in Dry Gulch. Several mines can be found in the vicinity of Ely, Nevada, which produce both lode and placer gold.

Nye County is one of the largest and most mineral rich counties in Nevada. Numerous gold districts are scattered throughout, and one of the largest gold mines in the U.S., the Round Mountain Gold Mine, is located here. Water is definitely a limiting factor in this county, with most of the early mining done with drywashers. Much of the gold production from this county comes from lode mines. Some notable districts include the Manhattan, Bullfrog, Jackson, Johnnie, Tonopah, Tybo, and Union. Numerous other districts can be found in Nye County, which have each produced thousands of ounces of gold as well as silver. This is a vast region with very rich mineral potential.

Mineral County, as you might expect from the name, has a rich mining history. The vast majority of gold from this area has come from lode deposits, and as a byproduct of silver mining. The Aurora, Candelaria, Garfield, Gold Range, and Hawthorne Districts were all producers. Lots of old-timer workings can be found in this county.

Lander County is home to the Battle Mountain District, where both lode and placer mining has produced significant gold. A favorite area to use a metal detector, large nuggets of several ounces can be found very near the surface. Bullion, Mud Springs, New Pass, and Reese River Districts are all worthy of investigation. Keep an eye out for silver ores.

In the southern corner of Nevada, both Clark and Lincoln Counties have less mining activity than the central and northern parts of the state. Still, gold has been found here. Most has come as byproduct of large silver mines rather than from small scale placer mining. In Clark County, check out the Eldorado and Searchlight Districts. In Lincoln, the famous Delamar Mine is extremely productive, but all gold comes in the form of lode. The Eagle Valley District had a small amount of placering done, and may be worthy of investigation.

Eureka County is home to the Carlin Mine, one of the richest gold mines in the U.S. The Buckhorn, Eureka, and Maggie Creek Districts are all worth investigation. Lynn District, home to the Carlin Mine, is found in the Tuscarora Mountains and many creeks nearby have been placer mined. Esmeralda County has an abundance of prospecting opportunities. South of Tonopah is the Goldfield District, which has produced several million ounces of gold from lode deposits. Check out the Divide, Klondyke, Silver Peak, Sylvania, Tokop, and Tule Canyon areas. Much of the gold came from lodes, but some placers were worked by the Chinese as early as the 1870's.

Gold and silver are abundant throughout Nevada. Many of the smaller counties surrounding Reno and Carson City have excellent mining opportunities. In Storey County, the famous Comstock Lode produced fabulous amounts of both silver and gold. Lyon County is believed to be the home to the first gold discovery in Nevada, with continued productivity to this day. Douglas County has fewer gold deposits than its neighbors to the north, but gold can still be found here. In Washoe County, the Olinghouse District produced many thousand ounces of gold. Smaller prospects can be found throughout the county, but the overall gold production is less than most other areas of Nevada.

A few general points about prospecting in Nevada. Most prospectors today are searching for placer gold, but it should be quite apparent that "The Silver State" has more than gold. Keep an eye out for rich ores that may have valuable silver and gold values. That strange rock that you kick out of the way when you are gold prospecting might be the key to the

(continued on page 6)

Gold in Oregon

In Douglas County, check out the areas around Myrtle and Cow creek. Quines and Last Chance Creeks, along with the South Umpqua River and all waters that drain into it have been producers. Both placers and lodes have been worked here, along with numerous hydraulic operations.

Jackson County is a great area to prospect. Well over ½ million ounces of gold have come from this county since its initial discovery in 1852. Check out the Applegate River, along with Sterling, Palmer, Willow, and Elk Creeks. Gold can be found in all waters in this area.

Josephine County has produced plenty of gold in the past. Check out the Illinois River and Josephine Creek, along with Galace and Althouse Creek. Basically all creeks in this county have the potential for gold. Check for old placers, hydraulic pits, and lode mines. Curry and Coos Counties also have plenty of gold. Mining on the Sixes River will yield gold, and the Oregon beaches in this area also yield very fine gold. Look for black sand deposits.

Eastern Oregon was the other major gold producer in Oregon, with nearly 2/3 of the total production coming from a few counties in the northeastern section. A gold belt covers an area roughly 100 miles long and 50 miles wide, covering much of Baker, Grant, and Union Counties. The area is covered with old gold mines, hydraulic and hand placer areas, and valleys churned up by bucket line dredging. The eastern side of the gold belt starts along the Snake River next to the Idaho border. From the town of Huntington up to the base of the Wallowa Mountains, several mining districts contain gold. The Burnt River along Highway 84 has gold, and most major drainages that flow into it will too. Some of the lower elevation areas have limited water, so mining methods may be limited to early season when spring runoffs are at their peak.

Further to the west, the Blue Mountains are a fantastic area for prospecting. The Powder River drainage upstream from the town of Baker has had extensive mining done since the early 1860's. Bucket dredges worked the Sumpter Valley for several years, and churned up miles of valley floor. Gold can still be found in these old tailing piles. In fact, the old dredges were designed to discard larger material, so many large nuggets and specimens were lost.

Other areas to check out include the old mining towns of Granite, Bourne, Greenhorn, and Susanville. The famous Armstrong Nugget was found in Buck Gulch in Susanville. The gold belt continues westward toward John Day, Oregon. The John Day River and the headwater drainages are all worthy of exploration. The majority of creeks throughout this area will produce placer gold, and thousands of mines and prospects still have gold across Eastern Oregon.

(www.goldnuggets.com)

Gold in Nevada (continued from page 5)

discovery of the next multi-million dollar silver mine. Also, much of the gold in Nevada is actually Electrum, a gold/silver alloy that has a much duller gold color. Don't ever toss an unknown metal away until you are sure of what it is.

It is also worth emphasizing that Nevada is one of the most sparsely populated states in the U.S. It has an extremely harsh climate, with cold winters and hot summers. Water can be hard to find in many places. Rough roads, snakes, cactus, mountain lions, are all present here. Use extreme caution when venturing into Nevada's extensive backcountry.

(www.goldnuggets.com)

Tip #8 Never go "off-road" prospection without notifying someone of your intended plan. Let them know 1) where you will be, 2) when you are leaving, and 3) when you plan to return. Always carry extra fuel, water, food, clothing and shelter and an adequate first aid kit.

Gold in Montana

Montana has a rich mining history, and the state is ranked as the 7th largest producer of gold in the United States by the US Geological Survey. The vast majority of gold districts in Montana are in the western part of the state, near the border of Idaho. The geological conditions are more favorable in the rugged mountains along the Continental Divide than the flatter two-thirds of the state.

The first gold discoveries in Montana occurred in 1852, but it was the major strike on Grasshopper Creek in 1862 that brought gold seekers into the southwest corner of the state. The town of Bannack (west of present day Dillon, Montana) was built and soon thousands of miners were scouring the creeks and hillsides for the yellow metal. By the spring of the next year, huge gold deposits were found in Alder Gulch at Virginia City.

Modern day prospectors will be right at home in Montana. The state has produced thousands of ounces of gold each year since the initial discoveries here over 150 years ago. There are hundreds of locations that gold can be found in the state, much of it on federal lands open for mineral exploration. As mentioned previously, with a few exceptions, most of the richest gold bearing areas will be found in the western part of the state. Search for old mine sites and rich gold bearing creeks with historic placer gold productions. A few are well known areas are listed below:

- The creeks and rivers near the old towns of Bannack and Virginia City still have gold to be found.
- Missouri River near Helena, Montana, site of the Last Chance Gulch gold strike.
- The headwaters of the Clark Fork of the Columbia River near Butte Montana. Much of the gold production in this region has come as a byproduct of the massive copper produced from this area.
- The Highland Centennial Nugget was found not far from Butte, and weighed over 25 ounces.
- Confederate Gulch east of the Missouri River between Helena and Townsend. This was one of the richest placers in Montana history; some gravels reportedly paid over \$1000 per pan!
- Nearby areas also include Boulder Creek, Cement Gulch, Montana Gulch, and Montana Bar. Hydraulic operations were operated on much of the ground in this area.
- The Ottawa District in western Montana produced rich placer deposits in Silver Creek, and many lodes have also been found since.
- Rich lode deposits were found in the Georgetown District west of Anaconda.
- Far east of most of Montana's gold districts is the Kendall and North Moccasin Districts in Central Montana. Much of the gold here was in the form of low grade ores.
- The Radersburg on the eastern flank of the Elkhorn Mountains. Placer gold is present in many of the creeks in this area.
- The Jardine District is located north of Yellowstone National Park. It has extensive hardrock deposits, and has also produced its fair share of placer gold as well.
- The entire area around Cooke City, Montana has significant gold. Much of it can be found in small lode deposits and prospects that are scattered around the region.

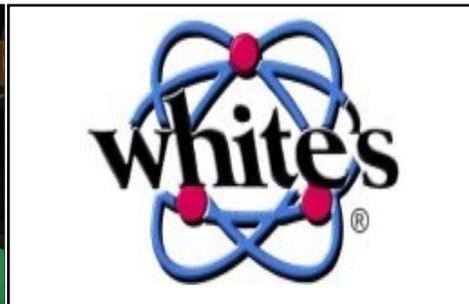
Montana is a huge state, and there is no doubt that many rich gold deposits are yet to be discovered. Large gold nuggets have been found here, so a metal detector would be an ideal prospecting tool if you are searching for gold. Panning, sluicing, and dredging will all produce gold if you find a good area. Remember that although Montana has a significant amount of public lands open to prospect, much of the richest and easiest accessible areas are already claimed. Respect the rights of mineral claim owners by always getting permission before doing any prospecting. If you are only panning or using a small sluice box, claim owners will often grant you access to do some prospecting.

SWWGP 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

SWWGP had a very exciting and busy year!!! 21 new members were greeted in May. SWWGP and PGPI combined for an educational "gold panning" at OMSI, a beach placer outing at Cape Disappointment, and several outings to Copper Creek and Lewisville Park. In-line with the mission of educating members and the general public SWWGP had presentations from Steve Lewin (outing hygiene), Chris Cosby (Gold Getter), dredging construction and use, Bill Adams (importance of mining districts), David Chiara (The Thumper) and a CPR Class coordinated by Ron Koppi.



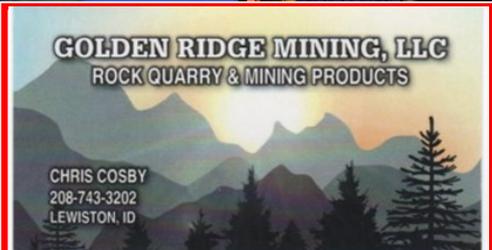
Thanks to these companies for supporting SWWGP activities. SWWGP members may advertise free by submitting a business card.



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- Sportsman's Warehouse
- Whites Metal Detectors

**Portland EXPO Center
April 9-10, 2016**



Chris Cosby announced the "Gold Getter" is now available. Just mail a check made out to Chris Cosby at 3032 Cypress Street, Lewiston, ID 83501. Cost is \$49.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. Orders must be received by December 12, 2015 in Lewiston to receive the "Gold Getter" by Christmas. (208-743-3202)

