

Newsletter



South West Washington Gold Prospectors October 2020



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We are all hopeful that this year will end with no more turmoil. As we approach a new year I feel we are all being tested. Hopefully the fires and covid-19 have not affected any of our members. We are resilient and will look back on 2020 and be grateful for our families and friends. I am looking forward to starting our meetings and outings soon.

In the meantime hang in there, stay safe and healthy.

Until next month,

Your President,

Debbie W.

P.S. Remember to VOTE



TRICK OR TREAT-----CLAIM YOUR TREAT

Starting Oct. 24th we will have pay dirt available at a special price of \$10 per bag. Guaranteed to have gold in them and as an extra treat one in every twenty five bags will have an extra, larger piece of gold added to it.

You can reserve the number of bags you want. Call Debbie W 360-695-3215 or e-mail me at ddwitcher@yahoo.com and tell me how many you are going to purchase. Pay dirt will be available starting Oct. 24th, 2020 for purchase. They will be available until a pre-determined number are sold. Pay dirt is sold thru the store and proceeds benefit the chapter.

ROADS CLOSED

Our claims director Preston Griffin has reported that the roads leading to our claims and the GPAA claim our closed due to the fires in the area.

Don't forget when the roads open and you are able to visit the claims to give us a report on when you went there, any maintenance and clean up you did, and the approx. Amount of time you spent doing it. We need that info. For maintenance reports for the state.

SPONSORS

Please support our sponsors when you are able. Let them know you are a member of our chapter. Some are able to give you a small discount.



GRANGE STILL CLOSED

The Grange remains closed per government requirements concerning the size of gatherings. I keep checking with Phillip every month for an update. We are all ready to start meetings etc. We have looked into virtual meetings but it has been determined that is not possible.

CLAIM YOUR GOLD

Write a story, submit something of interest, etc. for the Nov. newsletter and claim your reward. So far Tom Fest, Ron Koppi, and Rick Beehler have submitted items and claimed their reward. Will you be next?!

REFUND OF DEPOSIT

When we made arrangements for outings at Burnt River and Scotts River LDMA camps, we had to put up a \$250 deposit for each.

I have been in touch with GPAA asking to have our deposits returned since we were not able to hold the outings due to Covid restrictions. I last spoke to Sam on Fri. 10/9/2020 and he is looking into it for us. We should be able to add the monies back into our treasury soon.

I know many of us are looking forward to having chapter outings at the LDMA camps in the future. It will also give our members a chance to see what a LDMA membership can offer its members.

EQUIPMENT

Just a reminder we not only have our library materials available for check out but we have our equipment available as well. You can check out equipment for a month at a time. This is a great way to try something to see if you like it or not before you make a purchase. Contact equipment manager Don Spillman first 360-773-8708, if unable to reach him you can contact Dennis Witcher 360-695-3215 or Ron Koppi 360-921-3833.



THIS MONTHS FEATURED BOOKS



Treasure Trails and Buried Bandit Booty
Lost Treasures of American History
Searching for the Golden Rainbow
Miners
The New Successful Coin Hunting
The Old West
The Hunt For Amazing Treasures
Extreme Prospecting
A Guide to Gold Panning in Utah
Contact Dave Conti 360-609-1149 or Debbie W 360-695-3215

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Outside my window, a new day I see and only I can determine what kind of day will it be.
It can be busy and sunny, laughing and gay, or boring and cold, unhappy and gray.
My own state of mind is the determining key, for I am the only person I let myself be.
I can be thoughtful and do all I can to help, or be selfish and think just of myself.
I can enjoy what I do and make it seem fun, or gripe and complain and make it hard on someone.
I can be patient with those who may not understand, or belittle and hurt them as much as I can.
But I have faith in myself, and believe what I say, and I personally intend to make the best of each day.

Words we all might like to live by.

Submitted by Debbie W.



Follow that Gut Feeling

Projects to complete and hunger for more time in the Outdoors, it is quite a competition of deciding which comes first,,,,,sometimes !

I had an urging desire to get up in the hills to pick one last bucket or two of Huckleberries, but there was one project that did override the last trip to pick berries.

Getting up early, I jumped into that project of fixing the awning on my trailer and after hastily putting my tools away at 1:30 I was compelled to head for the berry fields in the hills, over 60 miles from my house. I knew that I wouldn't have a lot of time, but I did know right where I could find good berry picking.

Upon arriving I found that one variety of Huckleberries were very scarce and since those were my preferred variety, I moved to a little higher elevation,,in following my gut feeling, I didn't have to go far. The amount of time I had to pick was limited by what Mother Nature was giving me, she was considerate and kept the clouds to a minimum, thus allowing me to pick till after dark. Normally I would have quit as it got dark, but I was also picking Salmon berries that were right in the same area, since these are much lighter in color, you can see them as Mother Nature is turning the lights out. I was satisfied with the bucket and a half of Huckleberries and the quart and a half of Salmon berries, so finally forced myself to STEP AWAY FROM THE BERRY BUSHES , yes when the picking is so plentiful it is hard to walk away from bushes loaded with berries.

My hunger for berries had me walking back to the truck in the dark and walking through Mr Black Bears garden of berries didn't bother me,, it was promised to the last bear that woofed at me that since I am so old and toughened through the years, I had informed that last bear of my tough nature and sour disposition, that should she decide I was to be her meal for the day, that I would bring her great bouts of stomach discomfort. I was sure she had spread the word to leave me be and that even an old coyote wouldn't touch me.

Finally, heading down the twisty bumpy one lane road it took me half an hour to get back to the chuckhole riddled Forest Service road. Off I go thinking that my gut feeling had led me onward to a fruitful outing in the woods.

The timing of our steps in life are important, if not for us, just possibly for those who we chance to meet along our path.

Hardly had I gone a mile when I see the headlights of a vehicle off in the woods, so I slowed down a bit and then see someone waving a small flashlight. I stopped to see what might be wrong and the fellow tells me that their two wheel drive rig is stuck in the sand and asks if I could help, well my answer is sure, no problem.

In this troubled world we are there to help others, but this too had the possibility of someone setting me up to steal what I had. This type of thing has happened before, so my 9mm insurance package went into my back pocket just for security.

They were back off the main road at least 60 yards and at the beginning of that road was a 2 and a half foot divot across the road, it was too narrow for my long wheelbase to cross and you could almost hear the worry in the guys voice as I explained why I couldn't get any closer. He was worried about his girlfriend in HER car who was experiencing her first out in the wood outing that had turned into a tearful one for her.

Well knowing I would get high centered and stuck myself, I backed up as close to the edge of that divot as I could and proceeded to dig out all of the fixings we needed to get them out. I had a tow strap, a logging chain, several trailer safety chains, and my chain come-along. So we got all of these connected and you could see the poor guys jaw drop, still not long enough to connect. I then dig in my truck hoping to find one more strap that I knew I had, but finally came to the conclusion that it must be in my camper. Feeling a bit discouraged myself, my mind clicks when I look up at my half-ton boom mounted on my truck, so we start unwinding the cable on the winch, but it was still to short !

I had to back up 3 more inches, then once connected, I double check his wheels and pulled out wood blocks from in front of the tires and have him put the car in drive, but informed him to not touch the gas, then I gained some line and tension with the come-along and some line on the booms winch. Once the tension was good, I told him on my walkie talkie that it was time for the truck to finish the job, putting it in 4wd it was as easy getting them out as I thought it would be.

The smile that now showed on that young ladies face and hug was quite a reward. They actually thought I was St Nick!

I proceeded to ask them, didn't you have a shovel, what about a blanket. Any snack foods or water? Trying to impress upon them that being prepared can be very important.

I left them both smiling and feeling better with their vehicle on solid ground and gave her a birthday present , the extra shovel that I had in the back of my truck.

That Shovel is now in her car to be a reminder for her to be prepared when you go out in Mother Natures backyard.

Follow your Gut feeling, it could lead you to a reward that will be a Treasure to be remembered !

Follow me on Facebook and see what Gut Feeling I might have next ! I have a vision of a Dream Mat for someone on my Facebook page !

Rockhound Rick

MEMBER LOST

Our chapter has lost another member. Kevin Ford has passed away. We will add his name to our remembrance plaque.

Executive Board	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff Wooldridge	360-907-2602	harmonicaajeff@msn.com
Secretary	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Treasurer	Patti Long	503-320-3854	palong48@gmail.com
Board of Directors	(Elected)		
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	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
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Membership	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhound-
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
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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	harmonicaajeff@msn.com
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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
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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>

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Please do your best to support our chapter sponsors in any way you can. Many of them have been extremely hard hit by the shutdown. Some of them are not open for business at this time, but please keep them in mind for the future. Many are able to do business over the phone or on line. Below is a partial list of our sponsors. Designs of all Kinds, Vancouver Toyota and RV., Chinook Winds, AKAU Lodge, Roaring Camp, Dana's Classic hair Design, Prestige Minerals and Gems, River Gold Designs, Armadillo Mining Shop, Packwood Mining Supplies. These are just a few of our sponsors.

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
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Ron Farnsworth Scrap Metal Pickup	Topside Mining	The Gold Lab
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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.

