

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors News

Volume I Issue 4

Southwest Washington Gold

July 2012

June's Nugget Winners

By Kameron Mitchell



This month's nugget (as were many of the previous months' nuggets) was donated by D & K Detector & Prospecting Sales. We thank them so much for providing us with these prizes and for the other ways they support us. Please thank them by patronizing their store. See our website for their discount. The June nugget was won by Richard Hewitt (pictured below left). The special Fathers Day nugget was provided by our Raffle Chair Steve Lewin. We thank him for this act of generosity as well as for all he does for our club. This nugget was won by Randy Bunting, (below right).



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Lewisville Park Mini-Outing a Success - By Kameron Mitchell

On Saturday, June 16 at 10 in the morning, the Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors had their first outing (or mini-outing if you will) at Clark County's Lewisville Park located just under two miles to the north of Battle Ground. The purpose of this outing was threefold: learn panning techniques, find gold, and have fun! This outing definitely met those goals!

We had a very good turnout with 39 members signing in. Members are reminded that to maintain your membership in good standing, you must participate in three activities per year. The manner in which we keep track of your

standing in the club is through the sign-up sheets. Please remember to sign up at each meeting and outing to credit your participation.

The beautiful morning, under blue skies, began with our Safety Officer, Bill Ray, presenting us with a short lecture on safety precautions. Although panning seemingly is a simple and safe endeavor, there are some very important things to keep in mind. Most importantly, **river rocks are slippery!!** Additionally, they are heavy, so use proper lifting techniques to save your back. Other topics broached were the use of a good pair of gloves, the use of sunscreen, the wear-

ing of eye protection when appropriate, and fill in your holes to mention a few.

Steve Lewin presented a short bit on the Gold & Fish Book.

I was up the river a bit when some excitement occurred. It seems the park security man wanted to rewrite the rules. Fortunately, Steve showed his boss the rules, they had a small discussion, and all was well after that.

After the lectures, folks new to panning were paired up with more experienced panners. They were shown probable areas to pan based on reading the river and shoreline considerations.

They dug their materials, classified them down, and panned out the lighter material. What they found at the bottom of their pan was a lot of magnetite but also a few specks of gold! That is always a good thing! Although panning is an easily understood process, certain techniques ensure a panner will retain all the gold they (continued on page 3)



The President's Adit - Opening Message



It was nice to see everyone who came to the last meeting.

I would like to thank the kitchen staff for all of the work they do. They are greatly appreciated for keeping all of the good stuff for everyone to eat. Also I would like to thank all who have brought cookies and snacks to the meetings.

I also would like to thank everyone that came to the outing that we held at Lewisville Park on the

16th of last month. My wife and I were able to show up at 330pm there were still 10 or 12 people there. Sorry we could not get there sooner to see everyone but I had to work that day. I heard that there were around 40 people that showed up **GREAT JOB!!** I also heard that everyone had a great time and all left with some gold. I would like to thank Steve Lewin, Steve and Daniel Keese, Bill Ray, Randy Harper, and Scott Atkinson for helping to

train and show people how to pan. Thanks to all of you for taking care of the holes that were made. Also thanks to Bill Ray for giving a safety talk before the outing started and to Steve Lewin for the talk that he gave on what equipment was going to be used.

MY THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PAN TURN GOLD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SEE YA'LL AT THE NEXT MEETING ON JULY 8TH AT 100 PM.

The Nugget Patch — Editorials

By Kameron Mitchell

Read the Gold & Fish Book

I have read the Gold & Fish Book a number of times, but it always amazes me what I have forgotten. I guess I get complacent thinking I know enough. I think it behooves all of us, including me, to re-read and truly study what is in the book. When an "official" approaches you about panning in a stream, are you confident that you can explain, and verify in the Book, that what you are doing is in accordance with the law? You should be!

What we did June 16th at Lewisville Park was prospect without timing restrictions. What does this mean? It means we may "prospect year-round in all waters of the state except lakes or salt waters". You may only use hand-held tools such as hand-operated winches, pans, spiral wheels, sluices, concentrators, mini rocker boxes, and mini high-bankers (within certain size limitations). You may use winches only on un-embedded boulders or large, dead woody material.

It is somewhat confusing when the book says "You may work within the wetted perimeter" (§ 3, pg. 10) but then says "You may not excavate, collect, or remove aggregate from within the wetted perimeter" (§ 5 (b), pg. 10). So which is it?! What this is referring to are two different operations. You may put a sluice or pan (work) within the wetted perimeter or stand there while obtaining aggregate elsewhere, but you must get your material from outside the wetted perimeter,

that is, in the "frequent scour zone". This zone is where the stream flows frequently, but is dry at the time you are working there. Whenever you are working in the wetted perimeter, always be careful to not disturb any fish or redds.

Also, you may not obtain your aggregate from the toe of the slope leading to the frequent scour zone or from any unstable slope.

This is just a part of the Book but I hope it helps a little.

ExClaims! — Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The trip to Kernsville CA, although for other business, brought us through and by several GPAA claims, so we planned a bit of extra time to do some detecting and panning. First stop, Yreka, where I used to live (see picture to the right of the Yreka miner) and then off

to Kernsville for another project and some prospecting. We got in real late and nothing was open, so we found a claim overlooking the Kern River and with a full lit moon, it was majestic even at 2 am. The sun coming up over the mountains woke us and we set out scratching and digging. With

no water on the site, we took our concentrates with us back for a closer look. If I may suggest planning an event like this into your regular schedule, it's quite rewarding and refreshing. With color in the pan and business all done, we headed home planning the next trip.

Randy Harper 6-22-2012

Randy, Andy & Yreka miner



Promising Prospects — Outings & Events

Upcoming Meetings:

- July 8, 2012
- August 12, 2012
- September 9, 2012
- October 14, 2012
- November 11, 2012
- December 9, 2012
- January 13, 2013
- February 10, 2013
- March 10, 2013
- April 14, 2013
- May 12, 2013

OUTINGS

- There is an outing planned for July 14 at Lewisville Park near Battleground. A Clark County Parks pass is required. (See **DYK** on the last page.) Prospecting will be done before and after the Potluck/Barbecue, which is scheduled for noon.
- There is a “work party” outing planned at Al Lewis’s Blue Moon claim July 27, 28, and 29. We will help clean up the campground and claim area and then we will be free to prospect for the elusive gold.
- On August 4th, there will be another mini-outing (one day) at Sunset Falls campground on the East Fork Lewis River. A National Forest Recreation Pass is required. (See **DYK** on last page)
- On August 18th a day outing is planned on GPAA’s and Steve Lewin’s Copper Creek claims.



Outings Coordinator
Steve Lewin

(continued from pg 1)
worked so hard to dig up. Also, it takes a lot of practice to get proficient at it. There are very few who can say they were really good at panning from their very first pan.

As the day progressed, the public dropped by and were interested in what we were doing. One boy, I believe, caught the gold bug! Randy Harper helped him dig up some material and pan it down to the heavies as his father and sister looked on. (See picture by Randy Bunting to the right.) And lo

and behold! There were four specks of gold at the bottom! The gold was sniffed up and was put in a vial, which was then given to the boy.

Isn't this what it's all about? I'm not sure who panned out the gold in the photo to the right, but our Raffle Coordinator is planning on a special raffle for those who attended the outing and the prize will be that gold. Other pictures of the fun can be seen below.



Randy teaching panning techniques



Gold Photo by Steve Lewin

Photo by Rosalie Mitchell



Photos below by Randy Bunting



Rich Placer Deposits — Educational Articles

Resources Coalition Miners Rally - By Kameron Mitchell

There are many organizations in the US that are working toward retaining our use of our public lands. One organization, that is in our own neck of the woods, is the Resources Coalition. Their website is www.ResourcesCoalition.org where you can find out more about them.

The purpose of this corporation is "for the education and defense of ... the public to use public lands as they relate to Small Scale Mineral Prospecting and Mining."

In part, their "mission is to bring about a consensus on the usage of public land through education and respect for private property without endangering the basic freedoms of our country."

Each year they put on what is called a "Miners Rally". This year's rally will be held on August 24 - 26th, in Liberty, WA. The Resources Coalition will be providing the following at the 2012 Miners Rally with **FREE** admission to the public:

- Educational Presentations and Lectures

- Hands on Equipment Demonstrations

- Observe area Placer Claim Operations

- Meet reps of WA Prospecting & Mining Assns. & Clubs

- Purchase Equipment

- Metal Detector Night Hunt

- Food Available Onsite

- Chili Cook-off Competition

- Pot Luck Dinner Saturday

- Raffle for Metal detector Package, Gold and other Prizes

- Music

- Mercury and Lead collection point

- Free Tent and RV Camping

- Additional Lodging and Restaurants available nearby

- Resources Coalition Annual Meeting

If this sounds of interest to you, you should plan on attending the Resources Coalition Miners Rally in Liberty.

D Y K ??? Did You Know" - By Kameron Mitchell

1. One penny weight equals 24 grains which equals 1.552 grams.
2. 20 penny weight equals one Troy ounce.
3. 12 Troy ounces equal one Troy pound.
4. There are approximately 165 pans of gravel (at 20# per pan) in a

yard of gravel.

5. Alluvial placer gold is that which has been deposited by a stream.

6. Eluvial placer gold is that which is moving down a slope from a lode through erosion, rain, freezing, and other effects.

The Tailings Pile — Other Notes of Interest

- The club voted to purchase a small public address system that could be used at meetings and outings to aid those of us who have difficulty hearing. The Board authorized Judy Stevens to purchase the system.
- The club proposed to have a swap table where members could bring items to either sell or trade and giving the club five percent from the transaction or what seems right. I will be starting a "want ad" section in the newsletter and all are invited to send or give me an ad for items they want to sell or want to buy.

- The Equipment manager, Robert Gregory, is requesting donations of all and any equipment you may wish to give to the club for use by its members. Please see him directly.



- A silent auction is to begin at our regular meetings starting next month. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the next meeting.
- You may not know that many of the Clark County Parks require an entry fee of \$3 per car. An annual pass is available

for \$40. Be aware that these parks include Lewisville, Salmon Creek/Klineline Pond, Daybreak, and others that may be ones we would visit to pan for gold. A \$10 discount is available for an annual pass to those who are 62 or older.

- The National Parks annual pass is \$80; a pass for seniors over 62 is \$10 for life!; children under 15 are free. See their website for more information.
- The Northwest Forest pass is \$5.00. An annual pass is \$30.00 and is honored at all Forest Service operated recreation sites in Washington and Oregon.

Concentrates — Meeting Minutes Highlights

Business Meeting 6/10/12 (unofficial minutes)

Meeting minutes and Treasurer's report were read and approved. Claims Chair Steve Lewin reported that there is no new information on the work party for the GPAA Copper Creek claim. He will lead a group this Saturday, June 16, to Lewisville Park, Daybreak, and/or Copper Creek for panning. White's Metal Detectors has donated a large box of items for our raffles. Steve acquired 20 Washington Gold and Fish pamphlets for those members who don't have one. He also brought a large blue water bottle with the plate attached in the bottom for members to drop quarters into. Those who land a quarter on the plate will win a GPAA hat. Finally, a silent auction will be started next month on items donated by members.

Bylaws Chair Pat Locnikar

reported that the committee has met and nearly finished working on the bylaws. One more meeting is anticipated before the July meeting to finish the drafting. The proposed bylaws will then be distributed at the July meeting, as well as being emailed with the next newsletter. The club will then vote on adopting the bylaws at the August meeting. Safety assistant Randy Harper reminded members that your hands get soft when wet. Be sure to have first aid items handy to fix cuts and scrapes.

The first three Newsletters were printed in black and white and were available for those who don't have email addressees.

Our web master Rosalie Mitchell reported that there are links on the website to businesses that will give mem-

bers discounts.

Education Chair Myron Hastings provided information warning of dangers when prospecting in certain abandoned mines such as cave ins, poisonous gasses, booby traps, etc. President Al Lewis stated he has a limited amount of maps to the Blue Moon claim he and his wife own. He will allow persons who are Members in Good Standing to go there. A work party will be scheduled there at the end of July. He needs to document \$140 worth of work on the claim annually.

A motion was made and seconded to purchase a public address system. Following a discussion, the motion was passed.

A request was made for anyone who has equipment that they want to donate to the

club to please get it to the equipment manager.

President Lewis stated he has received requests for us to do demonstrations at several locations. Discussion involved finding local groups and targeting audiences of kids rather than seniors. This will be discussed by the board and the Education Chair.

Librarian Ernie Stinson described the books and magazines available and requested additional materials. A motion was made and seconded to give a \$1 raffle ticket to anyone who brings in a bound or hardback book.

Steve Lewin conducted the raffle. The gold nugget donated by D&K was won by Richard Hewitt. An additional Father's Day gold nugget donated by Steve Lewin was won by Randy Bunting.

The Panning Gourmet

One Pot Supper

By Pat Locnikar

Ingredients

2¼ cups	Water
1	Bouillon cube (vegetable or chicken)
¼ cup	Dried vegetable <u>flakes</u>
¾ cup	Minute brown rice
¾ cup	Wheat spaghetti (break into 1" pieces)
12 oz can	Chunk chicken
10¾ oz can	Cream of Mushroom soup

Directions

Put water, bouillon cube, and vegetable flakes in a 2 quart pot. Bring to boil over high heat. Add rice and spaghetti pieces. Bring back to a boil, then cover pot and reduce heat; simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add chicken and soup then continue cooking over reduced heat until chicken is hot, stirring frequently to prevent scorching.

Serves 2 to 3.

[Check www.swwgoldprospectors.org for more recipes!]

**Southwest Washington
Gold Prospectors**

Meets 2nd Sunday every month at 1:00 pm
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JOIN US !!

All interested parties are invited to attend one of our monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods, and equipment as well as some hands-on practice. Soon there will also be outings to enjoy the pleasures of prospecting for gold. Become a member of one of the newest chapters of the Gold Prospectors Association of America. There are no membership fees and GPAA membership is not required to join in the fun.

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To: