

Newsletter



South West Washington Gold Prospectors January 2020



Presidents Message

A new year is upon us and we are off to a great start. We have outings scheduled thru September and are working on more. Should be several things for everyone. We know the Gold and Treasure Show will be here soon, March 20-21, and that we need all hands on deck to make this a success. We are having it at the Clark County Event Center again this year. We have not had bad weather yet, but in the event we do, please make sure we have correct phone number and E-mail for you so we can contact you if necessary. I will see you all at the next meeting, Jan. 12th Sunday. Have a Happy New Year!!!

Debbie

Everyone is welcome to our next board and general meetings on Sunday January 12th.

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

Raffle Donations

As most of you know our chapter is a non- profit so we do not charge dues etc. Our profits from the sale of raffle tickets as well as the chapter store, pay dirt, and t-shirts help to support the chapter. Any donations to the chapter are tax deductible (Debbie has the paperwork) and are greatly appreciated. Also the monies from the gold show and bingo bus trips go to support the chapter. Any questions or donations see Debbie.

Meeting Changes

We have voted to cancel the April meeting as it falls on Easter Sunday. The May meeting has been moved to the 3rd Sunday. The regular scheduled meeting falls on Mother's day. We are going to hold our reg. meeting in July which is also our picnic month. Please make a note of these changes.

Banner

Thank you to Dan Keesee and Steve Keesee for putting up our club meeting banner. After 3 years the winds destroyed our other one.



Crock Pots and Air Pots

Thanks to all of you who have donated crock pots we have what we need, however, we are still in need for a couple of air pots. If you have one you are not going to use please consider donating it.

Kitchen Help

Jeanne and Debbie wanted to say a big “thank You” to everyone who helped with the Christmas Dinner set up and clean up. A special thanks to Bill Adams and Sharon Stewart for overseeing the dinner.

False Messages

We are again continuing to have our members harassed with false texts and e-mails. Neither I nor any board member will send a text or -mail to any member asking them to spend money or get items for anything. Please ignore these messages. It appears someone does not have a life and needs to pick at us. We have become aware of where these may be coming from and are looking into it. The Chapter has safe guards in place to protect the chapter's funds.

Gold Show Shirts

Please sign up for your gold show t-shirt. If you are working the show you need a t-shirt. This also will give you free entry to the show. We ask for a \$5 donation for each shirt. Designs of all Kinds supply the shirts and what we collect helps to defray the shirt cost. Each shirt is around \$20.

Work Schedule

Please sign up to help with the show. We need folks for set up on Friday approx. 8:30 – 12:30. Some vendors may need help also. Also lots of help for tear down on Sunday about 1 1/2 hrs. Sat. and Sun. we also need lots of workers. Signup sheet at membership desk. If you have a preference on Days, Hrs. and work area please put that on the sign- up sheet. I will do my best to put you where you prefer.

Gold Show Tickets and Vendor Packets

Gold show tickets are available for us to sell. \$5 before the show. We make \$2.50 per tickets for the chapter. You do not have to buy the tickets. But you are responsible for the monies. See Patti Long or Debbie W. for tickets.

Vendor Packets

Vendor packets are available, see Debbie. Remember vendors are what help to draw the people to the show. Not only that, the more vendors we get the more the GPAA is able to help with advertising etc. Any business can be a vendor not just a gold related business. If they also want to be a chapter sponsor they will have a spot on our shirts, banner, and newsletter for 1 year. Lots of free advertising.

Flyer

Carol Brown is working on the flyers for the show. They should be available by the Jan. Gold show meeting.



ZEBRA MUSSEL



Federal, state, and tribal governments join forces to practice emergency response should invasive mussels infest Washington waters

OLYMPIA – State, federal, and tribal governments have come together for the first on-the-ground exercise in the Columbia River basin to prepare for an infestation of quagga and zebra mussels.

QUAGGA MUSSEL



Invasive quagga and zebra mussels are small, non-native, freshwater mollusks that have caused significant environmental and economic harm in the United States. Recreational activities are considered the primary cause of mussel spread in the United States.

“Zebra and quagga mussels have not been found in Washington waters, but they have been found on equipment transported across state lines. In the past two years alone, we have intercepted more than 50 boats with mussels attached,” said Allen Pleus, aquatic invasive species manager at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Officials estimate it would cost more than \$100 million each year to keep Washington’s power and water infrastructure running, in addition to causing catastrophic ecological damage.

“The Columbia River is the last great river basin in the continental United States that doesn’t have quagga and zebra mussels in it. These mussels would have devastating impacts to virtually every aspect of life in Washington, from raising the cost of electricity, drinking water, and food, to threatening endangered salmon in the Columbia River and our vibrant outdoor recreation economy.”

How WE Can Help

Clean: When leaving the water, clean all equipment that touched the water by removing all visible plants, algae, animals, and mud. This includes watercraft hulls, trailers, shoes, waders, life vests, engines and other gear.

Drain: Drain any accumulated water from watercraft or gear, including live and transom wells, before leaving the water access area.

Dry: If transporting watercraft from outside Washington State, clean and dry everything. Once home, let all gear dry fully before using it in a different water body.

Avoid Fines: The penalty for transporting aquatic invasive species in Washington State can range from a \$500 fine to a class C felony. Boat owners should call the Aquatic Invasive Species hotline at 1-888-WDFW-AIS (1-888-933-9247) before their trips for guidance on if they need free decontaminations for their boats, trailers or equipment.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Permit: WDFW also reminds operators of watercraft not registered in Washington State, seaplanes, and commercial transporters of specified vessel types, that they must buy an aquatic invasive species prevention permit. These permits are valid for one year and may be purchased for \$24 [online](#) or from any of WDFW’s authorized [license dealers](#).

For more information on aquatic invasive species in Washington, visit the [WDFW website](#).

Established by the Legislature in 2006, the Invasive Species Council is tasked with providing policy-level direction, planning, and coordination for combating harmful invasive species and preventing the introduction of others that may be harmful. Learn more at [invasivespecies.wa.gov](#).

December Meeting



Washington's petrified woods are some of the finest in the nation. The woods not only represent a broad range of colors and patterns, but also represent a wide range of identifiable species. Species identified include redwood, oak (more than 10 varieties), cypress, elm, maple, willow, cedar, poplar, chestnut, alder, birch, persimmon, laurel, and ginkgo. The preserved woods have been used to make cabochons, table tops, pen bases, and other objects of art.

Deposits in the State also furnish a selection of agates that include moss, blue, and carnelian. The blue agate from Kittitas County, known as Ellensburg Blue, is highly prized by local lapidaries.



Buy Sell Trade

If you have any prospecting related items to trade, sell or are looking for a good deal let Mark know to publish it here.

Sunshine

Please let Ann Erickson know of anyone who might be under the weather, in the hospital ,or just need a feel good card. Remember to let us know of anyone with a new addition to there family as well.

aerickson@q.com



South West Washington Gold Prospectors General Meeting Minutes December 8th, 2019

Meeting called to order at 2:08 pm

There were 4 guests in attendance

Secretary report was read, a motion to accept as read was made and passed

Treasurers report was read, a motion to accept as read was made and passed

Patti has gold show tickets to sell

A motion was made and passed to cancel the April meeting due to Easter

A motion was made and passed to re-instate the July meeting

The outing calendar for the following year has been published. There is still a need to additional outings and leads.

The Burnt River and Scotts River outings are for multiple days and there is a 25.00 per person fee

The new banner is in place for the grange

The feather banners are here and up

The next gold show meeting will be January 4th at Elmers

Washington has added a \$10,000 fine for violating the new dredging law

The chapter will not be obtaining a chapter dredging permit for all members. This would make the chapter as a whole liable for any violations. Each person wanting to dredge or high bank will need to file an individual application for a permit. We will have a template to use for those wanting help.

The picnic will be July 18th at Daybreak Park in 2020

1 new chapter member was introduced

If you have a current certification card for CPR/AED training, see Ron Koppi for an identification pin to wear at meetings and outings

We are working on putting together maps for the claims

A representative from the grange will be presenting at the January meeting to discuss their need for a board member

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)		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	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	971-219-1079	treasuretrove67@hotmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360 903 2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Tammy Binford	360-449-2714	kaycbear99@gmail.com
	Edna Nelson	503-307-0852	rockhoustoo1966@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	971-219-1079	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	503-754-0612	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	harmonicaajeff@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	360-694-7557	harmonicaajeff@msn.com
Assistant	Deborah Lee	360-624-6565	deborah35@me.com
Gold Buyer	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddWitcher@yahoo.com
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	photogalo1@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

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/>



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

Jan	4th	Gold show planning meeting		
	12th	12:30 Board mtg.	2:00 General mtg.	
	18th	Cape Disappointment outing, Contact Scott Long—Possibly Fri, Sat, Sun		
Feb	9th	12:30 Board mtg.	2:00 General mtg.	
Mar	8th	12:30 Board mtg.	2:00 General mtg.	
	20th	Gold show setup Clark Co. Events Center 8:30 am Lunch provided		
	21st	Gold show 9:00-5:00 Lunch provided		
	22nd	Gold show 9:00-5:00 Lunch provided		
	23rd-24th	Cape Disappointment outing, Contact Scott Long — filming, demonstrations, Mike Pung, Dave Urick, Chris Cosby, possibly Kevin Hoaland and maybe more, Contact Debbie Witcher or Rick Beehler		
	28th	Daybreak Park outing 10:00 am, Potluck lunch at 12:00, Contact Debbie Witcher		
Apr	17th, 18th, 19th	Glass Butte Oregon, contact Debbie Witcher or Rick Beehler (Regular mtg. Cancelled)		
May	15th—24th	Roaring Camp (tentative) Contact Debbie Witcher, Scott or Tina Long		
	16th	Daybreak Park outing 10:00 am Contact Debbie Witcher		
	17th	12:30 Board mtg.	2:00 General mtg.	
Jun	5th, 6th, 7th	Scotts Bar outing, pre register with Debbie Witcher, camp fee is required		
	14th	12:30 Board mtg.	2:00 General mtg.	
	19th, 20th, 21st	Opal dig outing, Southern Or. Dry camp, Contact Debbie Witcher or Rick Beehler		
	26th, 27th, 28th	Sunstone dig outing, dry camp, Contact Debbie Witcher or Rick Beehler		
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

