

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors October 2026

Next Meeting October 11th 2:00 pm, Board Meeting 12:30 pm



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is thinking about arriving. There is fire danger in some areas. Once the rain starts the rivers and creeks should ramp up so be alert. We will have elections in November. Our chapter is in great shape with lots of members, lots of volunteers, and a solid treasury.

See you at the meeting!

Debbie W.

President

GPAA

Remember to join or renew your GPAA membership and have them credit our Chapter.



ELECTIONS

We will be holding elections at the November. meeting. All nominations must be in no later than October 31 at midnight to Debbie W., Tony Hess, or Mike Quackenbush. If you have any questions, please ask a Board member.

The open positions are President and Secretary. Also, there are four Board positions that are all for a two-year term.

CALENDAR

We are working on the 2027 calendar and need your suggestions for trips, events, etc. Please let Debbie W. or Jamie know what you think would be of interest to Chapter members.



OPALS AND SUNSTONES



If you are interested in going to the opal and sunstone mines at the end of June, please sign up. This does not obligate you to attend, but gives us an idea of how many are interested in going. Please indicate if you would want to ride in the vans, are driving yourself, or would like to carpool. For questions, please see Jamie or Debbie W.

MINERS RAFFLE

Here are the prizes for the next Miners raffle.



Chinook Winds 2-night stay and \$100 dinner certificate

Pay Dirt valued at \$100 donated by Dan Rouse of Prospectors Treasure Trove

One pound .999 fine copper bar

Nugget Bucket

Custom made quilt 45" x 61" and a pillow donated by Lou Buckendahl

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Winners need not be present to win. Print name and phone number legibly, please.

CHINOOK WINDS CASINO DAY TRIP

We will be taking two 15 passenger vans on a trip to Chinook Winds Casino on Wednesday, October 21st. Vans and seats will be assigned.

The cost is \$30 and is nonrefundable per person, which includes round trip transportation and Bingo with cash prizes. Please pay Mike at the meeting. There will be snacks provided.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and regular raffle with nice prizes on both vans. As always, tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

The casino will give each person in our group \$10 in free play and a \$3 food credit. This will include those who are registered in our group but prefer to provide their own transportation.

If drivers wish to donate the \$30 to the event, that is greatly appreciated as this is a fund raiser. See Debbie W. or Mike with any questions. We still have about 6 open seats.

PICNIC

The picnic was a great success, and everyone had a good time. It was nice to see some old friends and some new ones too. We had about 75 folks there this year. A special thanks to Doug Buckendahl for securing a donation of a Bar-B-Que from Lowe's in Longview. Also, Doug and Lou did a great job cooking. Steve Keesee again this year loaned us his sound system. Thanks Steve!

CHAPTER APPAREL AND NAME TAGS

For apparel, please see Maurine Koppi.

For name tags, please see Sharon (Queenie) Garden.

We also have pay dirt for sale, please see Dennis with the Chapter store.

Also, a big "Thank You" to everyone who helped to set up, tear down and clean up. Your help contributed to making it a big success.

COOS BAY KID'S DAY

We have been asked to teach panning at the kid's day event at Myrtle Point on Saturday, May 1, 2027. We will need at least 12 panners.

My thanks to everyone who has helped for the past several years. See Debbie W. with any questions.



BE THE REASON SOMEONE SMILES TODAY. THERE IS POWER IN KINDNESS.

ROADS ARE OPEN

The roads to the GPAA claim and member claims are now open. They were closed due to fires in the area.

If you want to go to the claims owned by our members, Tanner, Jamie, or Chris Burns you must get their permission. The Chapter does not own these claims.



EXECUTIVE BOARD	(Elected)		
President	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Tony Hess	360-253-6641	hesskidd@msn.com
Secretary	Van Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
Treasurer	Mike (Michele) Quackenbush	360-608-5345	quacky@pacifier.com
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant		
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	(Elected)		
	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
	Charlie Hord	360-910-8414	batray@comcast.net
	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net
	Van Meter Hord	360-699-2174	vmeter@comcast.net
	Lisa Young	503-260-2698	Lbw.young@gmail.com
	Michael Kersteter		
Claims Chair	Preston Griffin	360-903-2054	griff11546@gmail.com
State Director (WA)	(Appointed by GPAA)		
	Steve Lewin	971-212-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Committee / Chairs	(Appointed by Chapter President)		
Education	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Equipment Manager	Dennis Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Fund Raising Coordinator	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Assistant	Vacant		
Hospitality	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Vacant		
Picnic/Holiday	Jeanne Gieg	360-673-3179	jeannegieg@gmail.com
Assistant	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Vacant		

Librarian	Queenie (Sharon) Garden	360-839-4802	sharongarden@gmail.com
Membership	Lisa Young	503-260-2698	Lbw.young@gmail.com
Newsletter	Mark Mattila	360-609-6813	chipper49@outlook.com
Outing Coordinator	Jamie Louie	971-212-5664	jamlou@comcast.net
Assistant	Vacant		
Safety Officer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Steve Keese	360-269-2341	None
Sargent at Arms	Steve Keese	360-269-2341	None
Sunshine	Ann Erickson	503-801-1452	annerickson5755@comcast.net
T-Shirts	Maurine Koppi	360-907-9295	koppi@comcast.net
Web Master	Jan Hurtubise	360-571-2473	eyedocmebe@comcast.net
Historian	Vacant		
Assistant	Vacant		
Gold Buyer	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Pay Dirt	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Name Tags	Queenie (Sharon) Garden	360-839-4802	sharongarden@gmail.com
Awards	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Facebook	Vacant		
Assistant	Vacant		
Raffle	Tammy Binford	360-980-9070	kaycbear99@gmail.com
Assistant	Charlie Hord	360-910-8414	batray@comcast.net
Assistant	Ron Koppi	360-921-3833	koppi@comcast.net
Assistant	Vacant		
Chapter Store	Dennis 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.			
Chapter Mailing Address: 5400 NE Highway 99, Ste G, Vancouver, WA 98665			

Links

Website: www.SWWGoldProspectors.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southwestwashingtongoldprospectors>

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: <https://wdfw.wa.gov>

Land Matters: <http://mylandmatters.com/>

Thanks to these companies for supporting our activities.

Designs of all kinds 360-892-5597	McCord's Vancouver Toyota	AKAU Lodge 760-500-1329
AAA Precious Metals 503-253-8591	Creekside Prospecting	Roaring Camp 209 296-4100
Whites Metal Detectors	Armadillo Mining	Spin it Off
Chinook Winds Casino & Resort	Fossickers	The Gold Lab
Quick Badge	Gold Getter	Northwest Detector Sales
Danner Boots	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	Prospectors Treasure Trove Dan Rouse 971-708-8699

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.