

## Gold is Hidden in the Sands of Southern Oregon's Beaches

August, 2017



The beach sands of southern Oregon contain a hidden treasure that many people are completely unaware of... gold!

I'm not talking about pirate's treasure, old coins or lost jewelry. Instead it is rich placer deposits of fine gold that are naturally occurring throughout the beaches ranging from the California border up towards Florence, with the richest deposits found around Coos Bay and Gold Beach.

You may not see much mining activity today, but when the first discoveries of gold were made

here as early as 1852, there was an influx of miners to the area searching for gold within the beach sands.

Read more at: [Rare Gold Nuggets](#)  
August 24, 2016

Another terrific article: [77 Gold Prospecting Tips](#)

### Come join us at our next meeting.

August 20th at 1:30pm.  
Milwaukie Grange hall  
12015 SE 22nd, Milwaukie, OR

The Portland Gold Prospectors meetings are the third Sunday of every month beginning at 1:30pm. All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. Become a member of the Portland Gold prospectors, Inc a chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of America.

For info contact Jerry Johns,  
[jerryjohns@gmail.com](mailto:jerryjohns@gmail.com) or visit  
[www.portlandgoldprospectors.org](http://www.portlandgoldprospectors.org).

### Help Wanted!

Please join us in August & September for important volunteering information. This is a very important call for help and we would appreciate your engagement.

### Presidents Blog August 2017

We are approaching the heart of the summer and the weather has been challenging the past few weeks. We still went through with our two outings August 5th and 13th though and attendance was better than I had expected. I hope everyone has been getting out and prospecting as much as I have this year. It has been a truly bountiful year in the rivers and the company has been exceptional.

I want to extend a special invitation to all of our members to the August, September and October meetings. We need your help to fill many open positions and with elections coming up in November, I will be making a special plea for your engagement. We are a 100% volunteer organization and your help is appreciated and needed to keep our great chapter up and running next year.

Happy Prospecting,

Jerry Johns

President

Portland Gold Prospectors Inc.

### A couple online resources:

**The Ore Bin**

<http://www.oregongeology.org/pubs/OG/OBv33n05.pdf>

**Beach Placers of  
the Oregon Coast**

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1934/0008/report.pdf>

## 2017 Portland Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

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### **Newsletter**

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## Chapter Minutes – July 16th

**Start time:** 1:30pm

**Members in attendance:** 38

The president led the group in The Pledge of Allegiance

**Visitors:** 2

The **minutes** from the June meeting were posted in the newsletter. A motion was made to approve the minutes with one correction of a name that was misspelled. The motion was approved

The **Treasurer** read the monthly treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve them as read. It was seconded and approved.

**Correspondences:** A TV talent agent requested some late breaking help from those with metal detectors to help sweep a hillside for an upcoming show. A sign up was passed around and given to the talent agent.

**Membership:** There are three levels of membership for the chapter:

**Level 1** is to be a chapter member. To do this you must attend at least 3 meetings, outings or functions in a given year. At least one of these must be a business meeting. There is no additional cost beyond the 3 attendances to be a member.

**Level 2** GPAA – We are a chapter of the GPAA and as such, all officers must be members of the GPAA. All chapter members are encouraged to join the GPAA, but that is not a requirement.

**Level 3** LDMA – The LDMA is an Elite level within the GPAA and allows special access and discounts to functions and mining claims.

**GPAA state director:** No attendance from GPAA this month.

**Newsletter:** Thank You to Tim Snyder for taking on ownership of the newsletter. His first edition was in June and it was excellent.

To get the newsletter mailed to you, please add your e-mail to our sign in roster. If you are still not getting it, please verify the address on the roster is accurate. We can also mail it via US Postal service to members for \$15 a year. That price covers the cost of postage.

**Library:** Joe Weber

If you have any books you would like the chapter to purchase, please request from librarian. We have an annual budget for this.

You may check out anything from the library if you are a chapter member. Please return the next meeting so others can also check it out.

**Chapter outings for 2017:** A lot of time was spent discussing the recent TYROY outing. We had 24 people show up during this outing and lots of fun and gold was found.

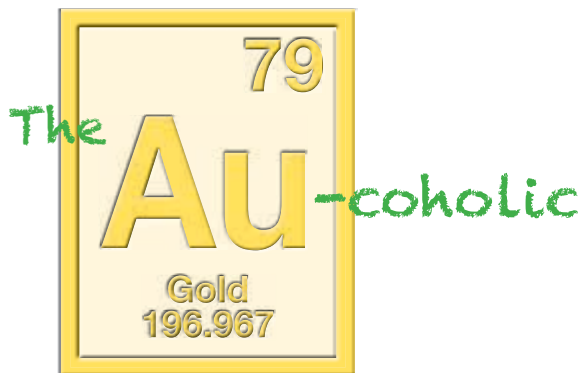
We have two separate outings coming up for August. Please see our events calendar for details.

**Education:** Joe Weber demonstrated his gold smelting home kit. The President brought roughly an ounce of gold that Joe used and produced a Gold Bar from it. It was a neat little kit that Joe picked up at the gold show and it worked remarkably well.

**2018 Gold and Treasure show:** The President discussed output from the first meeting. There is still lots of opportunity for volunteers. Please let him know if you are interested in supporting this year.

The **Raffle** was held and the meeting was closed at 3:20pm.





### Step 3 Become a REAL Environmentalist

The term “environmentalist” has become anathema to a lot of us. They’re the ones who want to cram us all into solar powered cities leaving the land to revert to a happy, peaceful, untrodden (except by environmentalist wackos), Walden-like utopia. Peaceful, huh? Ever watch a hawk chase down a sparrow through a thicket? How’s that for bloodlust and terror?

Wow, that escalated quickly.  
Whew. Now back to my point:

For me, caring for the environment means encouraging people to live with, not banning people from, the outdoors. I don’t want the cotton-pickin’ government blocking me from lands and activities that I have the right to enjoy.

At the same time, it makes me really unhappy to see the mess left behind by thoughtless campers, hikers and mountain-bikers. At my first visit to the PGPI claim on the East Fork of the Lewis River, I picked up and brought out lots of spent shotgun shells and other trash. I didn’t have to do it, I wasn’t paid to do it, I wanted to do it. That, to me, is real environmentalism. Taking care of the wilderness God gave us. Not by government fiat, but for the love of the outdoors and to pass it down to future generations.

There’s a lot of red-faced shouting against dredging for gold. They claim we’re messing up the streams for the fish. (Do they buy fishing licenses to actively help with fish protection and re-establishment? I think not.) Have they ever seen the fish go happy-crazy when we stir up the nutrients from the bottom. Do they know how much lead and mercury we remove from the streams?

Which reminds me of something: I have heard that the Sierra Club collects millions of dollars from the government for removing lead and other contaminants from the streams. And how do they do it? By dredging! (Please someone let me know if I have incorrect information here.)

Fish make me happy. Whether I see them through the faceplate of my mask, or have them on the end of my line. Or in my smoker. I don’t have any desire to damage their breeding grounds. So I’m careful when I set up in a stream. I think prospectors and fish can coexist successfully.

*Opinions expressed by the AU-coholic are not necessarily those of Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc. I hate disclaimers.*



## 2017 Events Calendar

**August 20th:**

PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**Sept 9th:**

Chapter claims on the East Fork of the Lewis River.

**Sept 17th:**

PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**Oct TBD:**

Beach mining – weather permitting

**October 15th:**

PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm

**November 19th:**

PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm -  
**ELECTIONS**

**December 17th:**

PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm



**Truncated octahedral crystals  
of pure gold.**

*photo R. Tanaka on flickr  
via Amazing Gelogist ‘s  
Facebook page.*



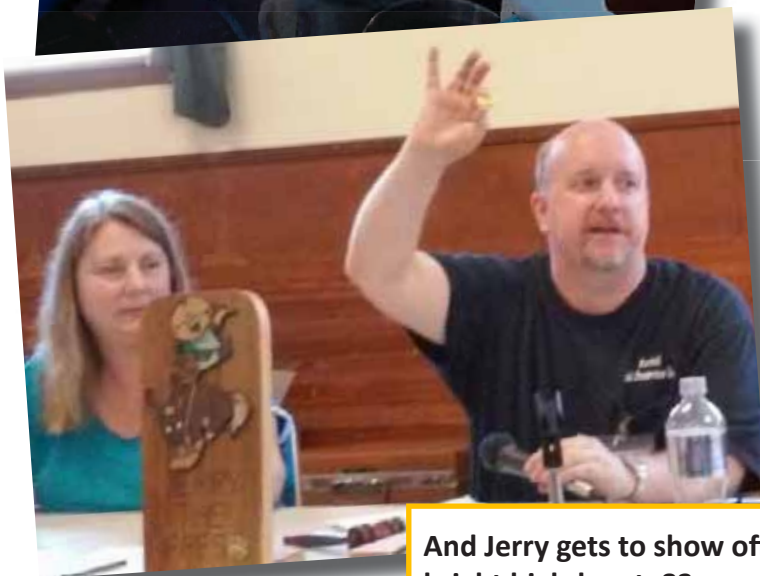
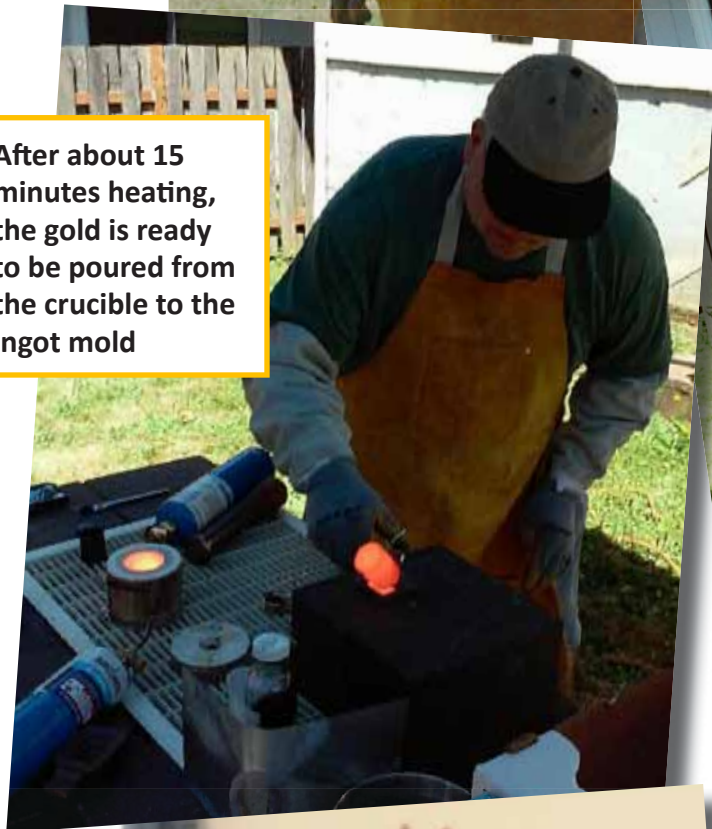
Joe Weber describes the process of purifying gold. He brought in the smelting furnace he purchased at the Gold and Treasure Show.



## Joe the Smelter

Jerry Johns brought in .86 oz of gold dust and flakes. Joe mixed in flux and heated it in a furnace powered by two propane torches.

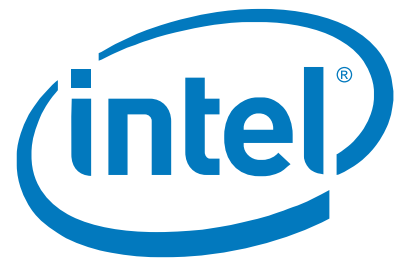
After about 15 minutes heating, the gold is ready to be poured from the crucible to the ingot mold



And Jerry gets to show off his nice bright high-karat .83 oz gold ingot! The thing feels real heavy. :-)



## Thanks to our 2017 Gold Show sponsors



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