

# The Prospector

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

GPAA Portland, Oregon Chapter



May. 2018



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## PRESIDENT'S BLOG

MAY, 2018

Hello, fellow prospectors!

Thank you to everyone who attended our chapter meeting in April – There were over 50 people in attendance, which is fantastic!

As many of you know, the chapter had an outing at The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals on April 21st. The museum, located off Hwy 26, at Exit 61 (Helvetia Road/Brookwood Parkway), is in a house built by Richard and Helen Rice. The house contains wonderful displays of rocks, gems, silver, gold, and rare and petrified woods, as each room has been converted into colorful, unique and informative displays. We had 19 members of the chapter in attendance, and while we didn't have a guide, everyone seemed to enjoy the self-guided tour of displays both in the house and in an additional building nearby. Thank you to all who attended!

Please remember the outing on May 5th, at Cape Disappointment in Washington, just north of

Astoria, OR. Jerry Johns and Jim Erwin are running the outing; they have e-mailed detailed information to those who signed-up to attend. I look forward to seeing you there, if you are able to come.

On another note, please make sure we have current contact information on the chapter roster. If you need to make changes, please either fill out an index card and put it in the blue box or note the information on the roster itself. Thank you.

I have also put out a suggestion box – for any thoughts, ideas, constructive criticisms, etc. that you have regarding the chapter. We received some great ideas from one member last month, which I will address at the next chapter meeting on May 20th. Hope to see you there!

Thank you and Happy Prospecting!

Mike Lewis  
President  
Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

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**Congratulations Sarah for winning  
the big nugget in the quarter drop!**

## Chapter Minutes – April 15, 2018

Meeting called to order by President  
Mike Lewis at 1:30 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was  
conducted.

**Attendance** - 54 attendees and 1 guest  
were present.

**Meeting Minutes** - A motion was  
made and seconded to accept the  
Secretary's Report of the previous  
month as written and published in  
the April newsletter. The motion was  
approved by the members present.

**Treasury Report** - a motion was made  
and seconded to accept the Treasury  
Report for March. The motion was  
approved by the members present.

**Webmaster** - A motion was approved  
and seconded to accept the offer  
from Tim Snyder to be our new IT  
person. He will be updating our  
website and continue to do a great  
job on our monthly newsletter. He is  
also going to set up a Facebook page  
and possibly other stuff to get our  
chapter more exposure so we can  
build up our attendance.

**Highbanker Raffle** - Ken Burns won  
a Highbanker at the Gold show and  
it is going to be raffled off. We are  
selling the raffle tickets for \$10 each  
and will only sell 25 tickets. Once the  
25 tickets are sold some lucky person  
will win it.

**Tyroy** - Jerry talked about what we  
are going to need for this years Tyroy  
outing. We are going to need an  
Excavator, Porta Potty's, Dump trailer  
and seed. This will cost \$3000 so a  
motion was made and seconded.

**Claims** - Richard Ruth talked about  
the mixup of missing the deadline for  
the proof of Labor for Maintenance  
at our Lewis River claims. The cost  
is going to go up in the near future  
to file for claims so Richard is going  
to hurry and refile the correct  
paperwork before this happens and  
before we lose the claims. A motion  
was approved and seconded to

combine claims 1 & 2 as a single claim  
and claims 4 & 5 as another claim for  
a total of 2 claims.

**Rice Museum** - Our Rice Museum  
outing is scheduled for Saturday April  
21st everyone interested in going  
will meet in the parking lot there at  
11:00 A.M. People will pay their own  
admission and we will possibly have  
a group tour. Numerous phone calls  
have been made to set this up but  
we haven't heard back from them  
about the group tour which costs an  
additional \$150.

**Cape Disappointment** - The Cape  
Disappointment outing is scheduled  
for Saturday May 5th. Jerry Johns and  
Joe Wood are going to coordinate  
the outing. People interested in going  
need to sign up and will be contacted  
with the details.

**Outing Coordinator** - We are in  
need of Outing Coordinators. We  
need people that are familiar with  
the different outings that we will be  
having this year to take on the role of  
planning them.

**Volunteers** - Mike Lewis thanked  
the kitchen crew including Elaine  
Ruth, Dorothy Ruth, Betty Bench and  
Vicki Weber. He also thanked Steve  
Kragerud for being the Librarian.

A Raffle was held with \$1 and \$5  
tickets. Betty Bench won the \$5 raffle  
for the Gold Nugget.



Mike Lewis adjourned the Meeting at  
2:45 P.M.

Submitted by Yolande Kragerud,  
Secretary



## Come join us at our next meeting.

May 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 Mike Lewis,  
gmlewis238@msn.com or visit  
[www.portlandgoldprospectors.org](http://www.portlandgoldprospectors.org).

**All veterans** are invited to New Seasons Market on Sunnyside Road each Thursday morning at 9 for coffee, snacks and maybe some stories!



### GOLD

Ace of Diamonds Mine,  
Liberty, Kittitas County  
Washington, U.S.A.  
Rice Museum  
RM#7198

Au



EFLR #3 SW Corner

EFLR #2 NE Corner

EFLR #3 SE Corner

EFLR #1 SE Corner

EFLR #2 SE Corner





## Bedrock Nugget Hunting: Tools of the Trade

by Jack Geck

Nugget hunting on bedrock has been the subject of several recent articles in this publication. As a guide to those who are thinking of taking up this activity or those who currently practice this trade, I have created a listing of the primary tools and equipment I use when nugget hunting. Many other hunters have fine-tuned the tools they use to find nuggets. As you gain experience you will tailor the number and types of tools you carry on your hunts.

The following is a list of tools and other equipment that I use for nugget hunting; it is not all-inclusive by any means.

### TOOLS & OTHER EQUIPMENT TO CARRY

Backpack	Gold Detector	Spare Battery
Coil	Headset	Pin Pointer
Tool Bag & Belt	Gold Pan	Underwater Viewer
Crevice tools	Clear Plastic Tubing	Hammer
Chisel	Snuffer Bottle	Screw Drivers
Spoons	Knife Scraper	Forceps
Super Magnet	Flashlight	Small Brush
Knee Pads	Gloves	Eyeglasses
Smart Phone	(NOTE: This list is not all inclusive.)	

These are the items I carry when I hunt for nuggets. I use most of them throughout the day. It may seem like a lot to carry, but when you have a need for a specific item you will either have it or can improvise using one of the other items. Based on the items below, you can select those you feel will make up your own kit. The main thing to remember is that each item adds weight to your backpack, so if you can get multiple uses from a single tool it will save weight and more importantly save your back.

Here is how I use each of the items:

**Backpack.** Select a backpack that is comfortable, well-padded and sized to carry your tools, food and water. You will be wearing it on long hikes and up and down steep ravines. Everything I use to hunt with will fit in my pack except my detector.



(Left) Detector and backpack, loaded and ready to go. (Right) The author's friend Jim works to free a bedrock target.



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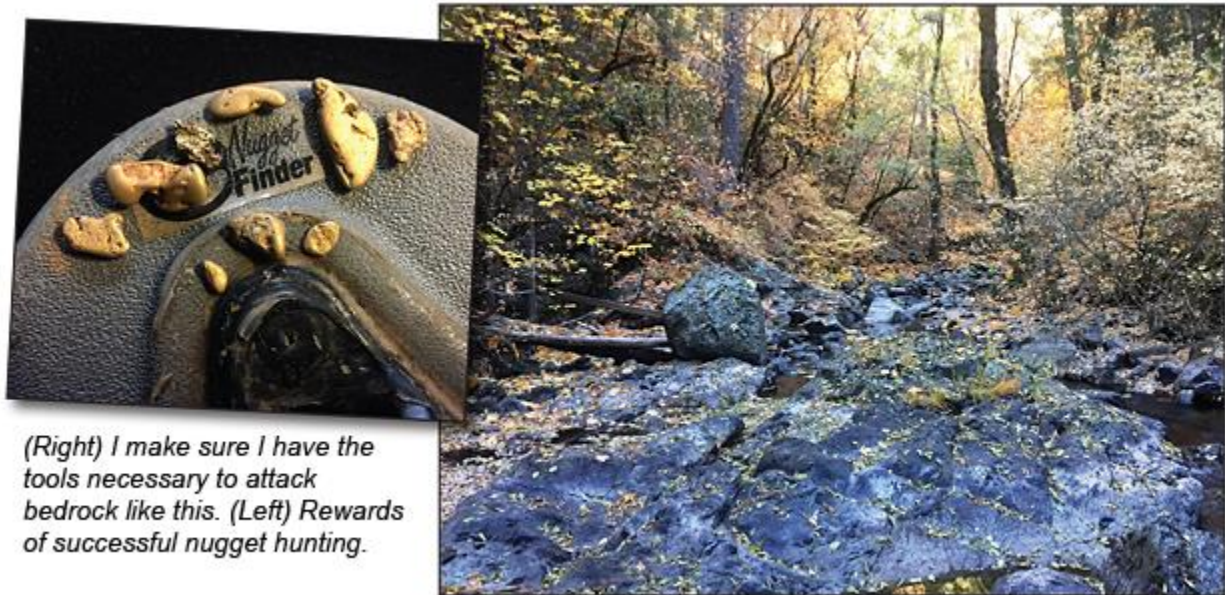
**Gold Detector.** Select the best that you can afford and learn to use it before taking it into the field. Take lessons or a class if available. Most of the reputable detector dealers offer a class and field training on their detectors. Choose a detector that is appropriate for the area and type of gold you are hunting. I use a pulse induction (PI) but many others use Very Low Frequency (VLF) units. I also use a signal amplifier and I carry a spare battery just in case (and I have used it, too). I also use a VLF detector to help find gold that my PI has a hard time finding. Know what kind of gold is in the area you will be detecting and use the appropriate equipment.

**Coils.** Select a coil that is appropriate for your intended hunt area. The choices are “mono,” “elliptical” or “Double-D,” with varying sizes for specific uses. I use a 6” x 8” mono coil that allows me to cover a small area at a time and get into small openings between rocks and under tight spaces. The larger the coil, the deeper it detects, but a large coil is harder to maneuver in tight spaces. Many coils are not waterproof, so take a little precaution and spread some waterproof sealer around any cable connections, attachment points and coil covers to keep that water out of your coil.

**Headset.** Use a headset that fits well and works well with your detector. Some have separate audio controls, which is helpful if you need a boost in one ear, and some are moisture resistant for working in inclement weather.

**Pin Pointer.** A pin pointer is essential in my arsenal. It aids greatly in locating small nuggets and helps me select the proper area to chisel in rock after I have located a potential nugget with my detector. Not all pin pointers are the same. Select a good, high-quality one that is compatible with your detector to avoid cross signals when you use it. I recommend one that is waterproof since a lot of detected nuggets are near water or under water.

**Tool Bag and Belt.** I recommend that you use a small tool bag that attaches to a good, strong belt. It should be capable of carrying an assortment of tools that are readily available when you are separated from your backpack. I utilize a tool bag that was designed to carry shotgun shells. It is deep enough to hold the tools I use the most and rugged enough to take serious abuse. It also has a strap that goes around my thigh that minimizes flopping around.



*(Right) I make sure I have the tools necessary to attack bedrock like this. (Left) Rewards of successful nugget hunting.*

**Gold Pan.** Carry a small gold pan, 10 to 12 inches in diameter. Use it to collect material that you remove from cracks and crevices when you are digging out your signal. Pan this material after you have retrieved your target. You may be pleasantly surprised at the amount of gold it contains. The pan can also be used to clear murky water or transfer water to flush dirt from cracks and crevices.

**Small Pick.** A small pick is necessary for prying tightly packed gravels or removing overburden. I carry one in my backpack and only require it occasionally, but when I need it I'm very glad I have it.

**Underwater Viewer.** I have a homemade unit. It is great for viewing in water up to two feet deep, which is about as far as I can reach. It makes targets easy to find in clear water. I also use it to transfer water to flush out cracks and crevices.

**Crevice Tools.** Crevice tools are indispensable for removing loose or tightly packed material from cracks and crevices. I carry two of these—one large and one small. They can scrape out material and be used to spoon

out material from narrow holes and cracks. I use a short piece of clear plastic to cover the sharp pick-end of the tool. This tubing protects me and my pack from serious damage from the sharp end of the tool.

**Clear Plastic Tubing.** Utilize this tubing to flush fine sand and dirt out of cracks and crevices either by blowing air through it or connecting it to a water sucker tool and using the water to blast out a crevice.

**Hammer.** I generally use a rock hammer, but I recently lost it on one of my prospecting trips. Now I use a claw hammer, which I find works just as well as the rock hammer. Go as light as you can with this since it is one of your heaviest tools. I recommend a 20-ounce hammer.

**Chisel.** I recommend a 10-inch cold chisel, though you can use a smaller one or a different style as long as you are comfortable with it. I use it to open cracks and crevices and to chip around a target so as not to damage the nugget. Keep it sharp and check the cutting edge after each prospecting trip.

**Snuffer Bottle.** You'll use this to suck up gold particles and small nuggets from cracks, crevices, bedrock, and out of your gold pan. I also use it to store the nuggets that I find with the detector. I haven't had any problems fitting a nugget through the screw-on opening, but I hope I do soon!

**Screwdrivers.** I utilize three screwdrivers—a fine-bladed, 4-inch model for scraping a narrow crack or cleaning around a nugget; a 10-inch with a slightly bent tip for cleaning material out of a crack or crevice; and a 16-inch for prying and clearing larger rocks and hard, packed material.

**Spoons.** I carry two spoons, including a small, long-handled iced tea spoon for scraping and removing material from deep, narrow cracks, and a soup spoon for scraping and moving material I plan to pan.

**Plastic Scoop.** I use a commercial plastic detecting scoop. It can be used to scoop water from a small pool of

water, scrape gravel away from a target, or to hold gravel that I'm trying to separate from my target.

**Water Sucker.** I use a homemade sucker that I made from clear, plastic, 1.25-inch tubing and a squeeze bulb. It has a 10-inch copper tube that slides in and out of the tube for easy packing and it allows me to reach into deeper crevices. It fits into my underwater viewer for easier packing in my backpack. This sucker can be used to clean water out of small pools, to suck small material out of cracks for panning, to loosen material, or to blast cracks and crevices.

**Knife Scraper.** This is a homemade crevice tool I use to clean out the narrowest cracks and crevices and to retrieve those really flat nuggets that may be deep in the rocks. I wrote an article last year describing how to make this tool. ("Detecting: Small Creek Yields Good Gold," Nov. 2016 issue.)



*Tools of the bedrock nugget hunter.*

**Forceps.** Use forceps to grip and retrieve nuggets and small pieces of gold from crevices and cracks or bedrock. It is easier and safer to use this tool to pick up small gold without dropping it.

**Super Magnet.** The super magnet I use is also a homemade tool. I've attached a super magnet to a short piece of one-half-inch PVC pipe that I utilize to sweep through the material where I've located a target. Sweeping the magnet through the loose material removes any magnetic material, then I check it with my detector again to see if the target remains. It may save you time while looking for a good target in a trashy spot.

**Flashlight.** I use my flashlight to search underwater when I use my underwater viewer. The water is frequently cloudy and the light helps to see more clearly. I also use it in the rocks where there are shadows. Sometimes you come across a portal that you might want to take a peek in. Or, if you are late returning to your car, a little extra light can help you find your way.

**Small Brush.** I carry a little brush to sweep an area after I have retrieved a signal (nugget) to collect the remaining material for panning.

**Knee Pads.** You will find a lot of signals in bedrock areas and spend a considerable amount of time on your knees searching and retrieving. Having a good set of kneepads will make you more comfortable and your knees will thank you.

**Gloves.** Your hands are going to suffer when digging in gravel, grabbing at branches and rocks, and moving around hillsides and streambeds. Protect your hands when you can.



**Eye Glasses.** Even if you don't wear glasses, I recommend wearing safety glasses when chipping rocks. Magnifying glasses work great when trying to recover very small gold. I always carry the highest power reading glasses I can find.

**Smart Phone.** A smart phone can act as a communications device, a guide if you load topographic maps on it, and a photographic record. You might want to take another look at that crack where you recovered that large nugget, call a friend, mark a location, or find your way home.

I've added a few extras you can either carry with you or leave at your vehicle depending on how far away from your vehicle you are going to wander. These items include ore collection bags, duct tape, bug spray, toilet paper, a dive mask and a first aid kit.

As I mentioned at the beginning, this is a list of items I carry in my kit. The list is not all-inclusive, but it's what I feel are necessities. And don't forget food and water. A major factor to consider is weight. After you decide what to carry to accomplish your goals, you will always be looking for ways on how to reduce that weight. Consolidation or multiple uses for your tools will help. Nugget hunting generally involves long hiking trips into remote and sometimes steep canyons. The less you weight you carry, the more pleasant the experience can be.

The biggest secret to finding gold with your detector is to become familiar with how to use that detector and to get the coil over gold.

If you have any recommendations on tools to use or ways to improve detecting methods, please share them with others. Good luck, and get out there and find those nuggets.

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*Jack Geck is retired from the US Coast Guard and has used metal detectors for many years. He is currently working in a hard rock mine and has used several types of PI metal detectors while prospecting in the Foresthill area of Northern California. He welcomes questions or comments via email at [coasty14@gmail.com](mailto:coasty14@gmail.com)*



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## 2018 Events Calendar – Subject to change as year progresses.

May 5th:	Beach Mining – Cape Disappointment (Low tide – 10:54am)
May 20th:	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
June 10th:	Day Break Park - East Fork of the Lewis River
June 17th:	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
June 22th-July 8th:	TYROY – Come for a day or the whole two weeks
July 15th:	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
August 5th:	Dredging, high banking, sluicing: on the chapter claims – East Fork Lewis River
August 19th:	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
August 24-26th	Garage Sale – Only if we can get enough big ticket items to make it value added.
Sept 9th:	Direct One in Washington or North Fork Santiam outside Salem
Sept 16th:	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
Oct 13th:	Weather permitting; Beach mining - Low tide 9:20am
October 14th:	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
November 18th:	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm
December 16th:	PGPI monthly meeting 1:30pm



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