



# The Prospector

## Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

GPA A Portland, Oregon Chapter



### PANNING DEMONSTRATION

#### FEBRUARY 20, 2021

Jim Erwin, our chapter's Vice President, had an opportunity to organize another panning demonstration, at his home in Estacada, for some members of The Fallen Outdoors, which is a Veteran's group that organizes outdoor activities for Veteran's – past and present – from all branches of the military.

Jim coordinated everything and had three panning stations set up in an area in his barn.

### February - March, 2021



in the GPA A and in our club. Each received a small gold pan, a snuffer bottle, a glass vial, and a bag of material to pan.

Hopefully, we will see some of them at our next chapter meeting – when we are able to have one!!

We owe a big Thank you to Jim Erwin for organizing and hosting this event.

Because space was limited, Jim asked a few members of the Board to participate. Those in attendance include Jim, Mike and Gretchen Lewis and Jerry and Carol Johns. Tim Snyder was also there to take pictures!

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Jim and Mike discussed the GPA A and our chapter. Then Jerry did a panning demonstration and a little later Mike discussed how to prepare the pan. Then the group broke up to have "one-on-one" time at the panning stations.

Jim had a variety of pastries available in the morning, along with coffee, and we enjoyed pizza for lunch.

The members of The Fallen Outdoors asked good questions and several expressed an interest



Five members of The Fallen Outdoors attended



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**PRESIDENT'S BLOG  
February-March, 2021**

**>>>>NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY or MARCH<<<<**

We will not be having PGPI chapter meetings in February or March because the Milwaukie Grange Hall remains closed. I am hopeful it will reopen in time for us to have a meeting in April!

We did manage to have a Board Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> in an outside covered area at Hammerle Park in West Linn, OR.

Several topics were discussed including the following:

- PGPI Vice President, Jim Erwin, suggested that PGPI rent a booth at The Sportsmen's Show, scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> – March 28, 2021, at the Portland Expo Center. We did not get enough volunteers to run a booth this year, however it may be an event we will want to revisit next year. Thank you to those who did volunteer to help with this event.
- We discussed having an outing – possibly in April – to Cape Disappointment on the WA coast - for black sand gold. I have since been informed that there may be new rules at Cape Disappointment that might impact our holding an outing there. I need to do some research regarding this matter. Beverly Beach was suggested as a possible alternative.
- We also discussed a possible outing at the chapter's claim near Baker City, Oregon – "TYROY". Jerry Johns has agreed to run the outing again this year.

- If there is enough interest in an outing, we will need to decide if we want a 1-week or 2-week outing.
- The available dates will be sometime between June 29, 2021 to July 20, 2021.

- We need at least 10-15 people to participate each week in order to justify the cost of the equipment.
- The first 2 days of the outing will be spent preparing the worksite and last 2 days will be spent doing reclamation work.
- We need 3 or 4 people to help with the preparation/reclamation work.
- It takes a fair amount of work and chapter money to coordinate and support an outing at TYROY. It also takes cooperation from everyone who attends the outing (or any outing for that matter) to insure everyone has the best time possible.
- The actual claims are on BLM land, which requires a special group event permit for camping. We didn't get one last year, and luckily the BLM did not question it. However, this year, we want camping done on the private property we have used in the past. It is about an eighth of a mile from the worksite.

Please contact Jerry Johns at [jerryjohns@gmail.com](mailto:jerryjohns@gmail.com) or me at the email below if you are interested in the outing at TYROY and your preference for one week or two.

Please direct questions or concerns about any of the above to my attention. Thank you!!

*Mike*

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# Cornstarch Replaces Cyanide In Clean New Gold Extraction Method

**Scientists accidentally discover a new way to isolate gold that is much safer than existing processes, which use toxic cyanide.**

By Rebecca Boyle

Reprinted from *Popular Science*

May 14, 2013

Gold, precious forever but especially lately, is a tricky metal. Bound up in consumer electronics, jewelry and the ores that it comes from, gold is difficult to extract, and most modern processes do it with a highly toxic combination of cyanide salts. The cyanide leaches the gold out, but the cyanide can seep into the ground, causing environmental problems and posing threats to human health.



Researchers at Northwestern University recently stumbled upon a solution that uses cornstarch instead. It involves some complex chemistry, but it's cheap, biologically friendly and nasty-ingredient-free.

Led by Sir Fraser Stoddart, a chemistry professor at Northwestern, the team discovered this method by accident when looking for something else. A postdoc named Zhichang Liu was trying to make three-dimensional cubes out of gold and starch, aiming to use them as storage containers for gases and small molecules. But a liquid mixture of dissolved gold-bromide salts and a starch-derived sugar didn't form

cubes, it formed needles. This was strange, so the team decided to try to replicate it and tested different forms of sugars.

Alpha-cyclodextrin, a cyclic starch fragment with six glucose molecules, is the best way to isolate gold, they found. "Zhichang stumbled on a piece of magic for isolating gold from anything in a green way," Stoddart says in a statement. The spontaneous bundle of needles is made of thousands of nanowires, each 1.3 nanometers in diameter, which contain a charged gold atom inside four bromine atoms.

The interaction between the starch fragment and the gold allows the precious metal to be selectively recovered from other materials, including platinum, palladium and others. The researchers already developed a process to isolate gold from scraps, and they hope this will lead to an environmentally friendly, cheap way to recover gold from anything. The research is published in *Nature Communications*.

The new **Washington Gold and Fish** pamphlet is now available. You must have it with you whenever you prospect in the state of Washington.

Download a copy to print here: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/hpa/types/prospecting>



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