

# The Prospector

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

GPAA Portland, Oregon Chapter



## Wesley's First Prospecting Trip

December, 2022

By John Robertson

Although Wesley, my 6-year-old son, had scouted areas in the past with me this was his first overnight trip. Before, I'd spent most of my time just watching him and making sure that he didn't try to catch a snake or swim in the pools of a creek.

Like most children, my son loves the outdoors. And, like most fathers, I believe growing children should get plenty of exercise and fresh air. With present day video games and movies, children tend to stay indoors and miss experiences that will make up their childhood. Computers are in the present and air and muscles need to be built—through play and activities the outdoors provides. My first mistake was in telling him of the upcoming trip on a Monday, instead of waiting until the day before we left. All week I heard of how much gold we would find and how rich we would be.

The dreams grew as the weekend drew near. At last, Friday night arrived, and he was bouncing off the walls of the house! After his bath, I allowed him to stay up for a few hours, in hopes that this would slow him down enough to sleep that night.

Long since forgotten was my first trip, but the excitement showing in his young face, and knowing that this trip would be a very special one, I began getting just as excited as he.

It was Saturday morning and I began loading the truck with tent, sleeping bags, the cooler with our food; but being a grown-up, there were a few items that I had overlooked. Items such as crayons and a coloring book for the boring times. And then there were the creature comforts that I had learned to do without, such as a portable toilet. (This was brought to my attention by my wife.)

With the truck finally loaded and a final trip taken to the bathroom, we began our adventure. After about

15 minutes the ride was already getting boring, and unable to settle down, the questions started. "Dad, are we there yet?" "No, but soon." Would be my reply. "Are we going to Alaska?" "Not this time, but we are going to the mountains." I said. "Will there be bears and snakes in the mountains?" "No, I don't think so." "Dad." "What, Son?" "I'm hungry." "OK, Son, we'll be there soon."

An hour and a half later, we arrived at our chosen area. We began unloading the equipment, but I knew that the best plan would be to set up camp first. There were threatening thunderstorms off in the distance. It was the logical thing to do. So, with the help of a six year old, the pitching of the tent started.

"No, Son, you can't get in the tent until I have all the poles in it. And don't take that turtle inside." "Are we going to sleep in here tonight?" "Yes, but not with that turtle."

Alternately taking photographs and trying to dig is not a job for one father. I soon found that this man who had no better sense than to take a small boy prospecting could not watch the child, focus the camera, and watch for snakes all at the same time. How many times had I answered the hundreds of questions about snakes, and would there be any where we'd be? Well, I found out that two minutes after arriving the whole idea of snakes was forgotten completely.

*Continued on pg. 4*

Editor's Note:

The New 49'rs prospecting club has a website full of entertaining stories.

<https://goldgold.com/category/gold-mining-adventures/gold-mining-adventure-stories>

Please check 'em out!

# Secretary's Report November 20, 2022

Eastridge Church  
14100 SE Sunnyside Rd.  
Clackamas, Oregon 97015

## 2022 Portland Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

### President:

Mike Lewis 503-413-9283  
gmlewis238@msn.com

### Vice President:

Cindy Wright 503-701-3073  
wc1378@q.com

### Treasurer:

Jim Erwin 503-519-6200  
jimerwin223@gmail.com

### Secretary:

Yolanda Kragerud 503-775-0886  
YKragerud@yahoo.com

### 2 Year Board Members:

Mark Kirk  
mvkirk@frontier.com  
Kelly Huffman 503-688-3544  
huffy54.outlook.com  
Charlie Foster 503-630-7669  
fostercr@rconnects.com

### 1 Year Board Members:

Rocky Tester Samuel Garcia  
Steve Kragerud Joe Weber

### Board Members at Large

Larry Sharp Gene Howard

### Claims

Jerry Johns 503-686-9422  
jerryjohns@gmail.com

### Hospitality:

Elaine Ruth 503-663-9087  
richard.ruth5@comcast.net

### Newsletter and Website:

Tim Snyder 503-481-1133  
WrshpMzshn@gmail.com

**Meeting** was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by President Mike Lewis who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendees** - 38 attendees and 3 guests were present.

**Treasury Report** - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasury Report that Jim read for the month of November.

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

**Gold Bags** - We are now selling three different size Gold Bags with different amounts of gold in them. The prices are now \$7 for the small, \$12 for the medium and \$20 for the larger size. If anyone is interested in buying some contact Ken Diddier.

**Second Barn Sale** - We had the second Barn Sale at Jim's house the end of October and made some more money for Elaine and our club. There are still some leftover items to sell so we will probably have another sale next year when the weather starts getting nice again.

**Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show** - The show dates are February 15th - 19th 2023 at the Portland Expo Center. We will be needing volunteers for the upcoming event so keep these dates in mind. We will have a sign-up sheet in the upcoming months.

**Gold Show 2023** - Everything is still up in the air about when and where the

show will be. We will let everyone know when we know.

**Treasure Trove Demonstration** - Dan Rouse brought in a bunch of his merchandise that he sells at his store. He had all kinds of stuff from Blacklight Flashlights to different brands of Metal Detectors. I always find it interesting with all the newest gadgets that are used for prospecting. I highly recommend taking a trip to his store at 10400 S.W. Allen Blvd. in Beaverton. Christmas is just around the corner and he has a lot of nice stuff that would make great Christmas gifts for that special someone if not for yourself.

**Election Results** - We had our Election and the results are: Treasurer is Jessica Harman. Two year Board Members are Ken Diddier, Jim Erwin, Sam Garcia, and Rocky Tester. Our one year Board Member is Dan Rouse. We still need someone to take the position of President or possibly two people. Please consider this because we want our club to continue in the future!

**Raffle for Painting** - We still have tickets available for the lovely painting done by Ken Diddier. Get your tickets while they last before we raffle it off in the near future. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

**Raffle** - The Raffle was held with \$1 and \$5 tickets. Rocky Tester was the lucky winner of the Gold Bag and the Gold Nugget.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by  
Yolande Kragerud, Secretary.



# PORTLAND GOLD PROSPECTORS, INC.

## PRESIDENT'S BLOG

December, 2022

✿**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**✿

Thank you to everyone who attended the November Chapter Meeting at the Eastridge Church.

Also, thank you to those who ran for Treasurer and for the Board of Directors positions. Congratulations to Jessyca Harman, the new Chapter Treasurer, and to the new and/or re-elected Board Members: Dan Rouse, Ken Didier, Jim Erwin, Sam Garcia and Rocky Tester. Your help with the Chapter is appreciated.

As mentioned at the November meeting, I have cancer. The treatment regimen includes 7+ weeks of radiation treatments at 5 X week, anti-hormone injections at 1 X 3 months. After the radiation, I will get oral chemo and other medications. The treatment timeline is 1 to 3 years. There are likely side-effects with the various treatments and meds. Doesn't sound like much fun, does it?

Because of my diagnosis and also because I have been President of PGPI for 5 years, it is time for a change. That being said, I will preside over the meetings in January and February, if I can. After that, I am hopeful someone else will step up to be President. We need new energy and new ideas!

Please note the President *assists* with planning and organizing chapter outings and events, helps with scheduling demonstrations and speakers for the monthly meetings, and presides over the monthly Chapter Meetings and Board Meetings, which are usually held after the monthly Chapter Meetings. Other responsibilities include making sure the Chapter Roster is kept current and making sure the Membership Cards are made and the proper Release of Liability forms are signed. The Roster and the Membership Cards, etc., could be done by

someone else in a newly created position. There are other responsibilities as Chapter President, including being the contact person for the GPAA and being the contact person for people who are interested in learning about PGPI – usually by phone or email.

As stated previously, if I can, I will help with the transition to a new President and will be available to help with questions or concerns going forward. There are several other members of the Chapter who are knowledgeable and helpful as well. Gretchen will help with the transition on the roster, membership cards, event sign-up sheets, etc.

>Please remember that Tim Snyder, who creates the chapter's monthly newsletters and handles the club's social media accounts and website, is interested in any stories related to prospecting from anyone in the club for publication in the newsletter. You can forward your story/information to Tim via email at [wrshpmzshn@gmail.com](mailto:wrshpmzshn@gmail.com)

>We also invite anyone at our meetings who has an interesting story to tell or something about prospecting to demonstrate or wants to show what they have found while prospecting, etc.– to let me know so we can either make time during the meeting or schedule time at the next meeting.

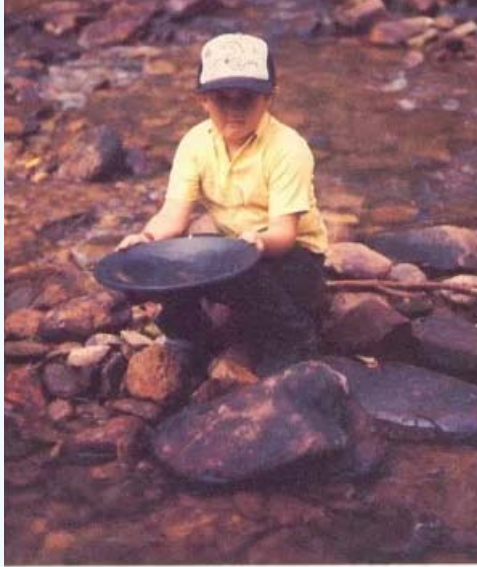
Hope to see you at the December's meeting! **Thank you and Happy Prospecting!**

*Mike*

Mike Lewis, President  
Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.  
503-413-9283  
[gmlewis238@msn.com](mailto:gmlewis238@msn.com)



Suddenly noticing that something was missing, I began searching for my son. I found him with his mouth stuffed with cookies. That's when I found out that any time there was peace and quiet, something was wrong. After telling him that it was not time to eat, and retrieving the "soon to be extinct" cookies, I found him a military trenching tool and started him on his first dig. I decided that would be a good time to find a safe hiding place to stow the food.



***Wesley panning out his first panful of concentrates from a sandbar.***

When the food was safely stored, I turned my thoughts to setting up the camp. I unrolled the sleeping bags and built the traditional campfire ring. I decided that helping me gather firewood would take his mind off food and maybe give him something to do for awhile. Using a length of rope,

I pulled dead limbs from a nearby tree and started breaking them up for the fire. Wesley helped as much as he could and for a change he began to really pick up an interest in what was going on around him. Showing him about building a fire and how to stack the wood, he was all for starting the fire right then. I explained to him that we would light the fire, but only when the sun went down, because of a lack of abundant firewood.

I knew that the only way that we were going to get any prospecting done would be to calm him down a little. I thought of letting him play in the creek, so we removed his clothes, and replaced them with his swimming trunks. He ran and jumped in a pool about six inches deep. He ran back out just about as fast as he'd run in, complaining about the temperature of the water. "Dad, that water is cold." "I know, but we have to get used to it so we can work", was my reply. Satisfied somewhat with my answer, but not with the cold water, he would play in the water until his lips turned blue and then run around camp until his blood started circulating again.

After an hour or so of splashing through clear Georgia mountain water, my energetic son had had enough. Rinsing off the mud and sand, I dried him and he

dressed. Once in his "camping clothes," we started our digging. Have you ever watched your son imitating the things you do? I watched Wesley as he dug into a sandbar and then later as we classified the material. Panning was a different story...After a frustrating hour and dozens of attempts, "By George, I think he's got it!" I could feel pride in my son. We worked side by side on the sandbar. Of course all the panning was done over a tub. Although we didn't find any gold, we were determined to find it the next day. Our plan was to work harder and not to play as much.

Evening was coming and we stopped our prospecting to light the fire and eat. I sharpened a couple of green sticks and we began roasting franks over the fire. When it came time to eat, however, there was an objection raised by my son, about the fact that ashes had landed on the franks. So, Wesley ate uncooked franks and chips. Well, so much for roughing it. I watched the fire, as men have done for millions of years, with their sons, and thought of how good it made me feel to have this time with him. As the pile of wood grew smaller and the darkness drew nearer, Wesley changed for bed. Crawling into his sleeping bag, he told me goodnight, and asked me to turn the lantern off, it bothered him. This from a boy that the night before, had insisted on having a nightlight at home. I smiled as I turned the lantern down. My son was throwing off some of his childhood fears and had grown some.

As I lay in my sleeping bag, I watched as the last flames of the campfire died, and I thought of how much my son had learned and the satisfaction of being the one to teach him. I drifted off to sleep.

About midnight I woke to thunder and lightning, with rain leaking in through the screen. I got up and zipped the fabric door. Returning to bed, I returned to the land of dreams. I was again wakened by yet another storm, and sat up for awhile, realizing that this was a series of storms. I decided, after feeling the runoff flowing under the tent floor, to check for leaks. There were no leaks, but the lightning was striking so close that I decided it was time to pack and leave. Waiting for the rain to slow, I grabbed my son, still wrapped in his sleeping bag and put him into the cab of the truck. I broke camp and started the trip home.

As we drove, I realized the decision I'd made was the right one. We passed through storms all the way, and it rained all the next day.

We had found no gold, but next time...we would bring our dredge and...well, that's another story. My son and I hope to see you and your family sharing an outing together soon.

**Jim Erwin** sends a reminder that we need volunteers to help at the Portland Sportsmans Show, Feb. 15 thru Feb. 19..

Hi Mike and Fellow Prospectors,

You must go check out Lawson Bar. This is a location you can drive a car to and work right next to your vehicle. The gold is plentiful.

Take Exit 102 off I5. (Gazzley rd)

Turn west road T's immediately.

Turn left onto Lawson Bar rd. Pay attention to speeds through the neighborhood

The road terminates on the bar.

There is good bedrock that has been scoured. There are always locations along the river to run a sluice

Most mining is done in an old channel through layers take the top grey material. The orange layer is a black sand layer that has set long enough to rust. This is the pay layer. Take that and just the top of the darker layer below.

This is ODOT land. No motors. no camping

There is camping at the casino exit 99. There is a county park called Stanton park that also has camping. Dispersed camping is not far in any direction as well.

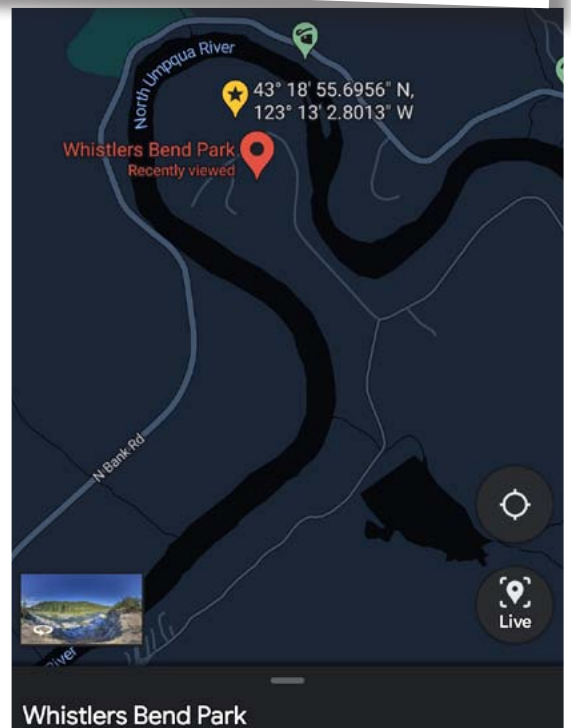
There are some good youtube videos of this area. it has become popular. It is also popular to classify while there, them take home to run.

#### ANOTHER SPOT

Whistler's bend. This is a county park in Douglas county off the North Umpqua. There is great camping there. it's open 365. There is good access to the river. you need to check out the satellite view

I'm unsure about my photos, I will send you a different email

Dan Rouse



# PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE

EST. 1990

A 501 (c) (3) Non - Profit Corporation



***PLP exists to "Represent and assist outdoor user groups and individuals interested in keeping public and private lands open to prospecting, mining and outdoor recreation through education, scientific data and legal means."***

**December 2022**

---

## **PLP Members Win “No Addition Argument” in CA State and Federal Court**

We thought this would be a good time to remind PLP Members who are reclamation dredging using the “dredge card”, the solid legal foundation that PLP laid for them to engage in cleaning up California waterways (other states in the works). For the very first time in California State court a small miner has won the “no addition argument”—this time against the CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

You may recall, PLP member Godfrey won the “No Addition Argument” against the Forest Service and the CA Water Board in 2015. That win occurred on appeal at the federal level in US District Court.

A second California gold miner Michael Osterbrink was charged by the Sierra County (California) district attorney. They claimed he had “polluted State waters with materials that are deleterious to fish” in violation of section 5650 of the CA Fish & Game code.

The case was heard by Judge Yvette Durant in November 2019. PLP’s legal researcher, Clark Pearson, provided expert testimony on behalf of Osterbrink. Pearson explained that the “addition” of a pollutant is clearly required to trigger the need for a permit, and no such “addition” occurred in this case. Pearson cited the Godfrey case as precedent to aid Judge Durant in her deliberations.

Most significantly, Mr. Osterbrink was found **NOT** guilty of violating section 5650 of the CA Fish & Game code which prohibits pollution of state waters with materials that are deleterious to fish and wildlife.

PLP cannot understate the importance of this legal decision in our present battles with the political powers of California. Regulators and Legislators in CA believe that miners are polluters—not so fast; how do we pollute if there are no foreign substances added or involved here? Judge Durant said something PLP has been saying for years:

***“I really think 5650, the intent of the Legislature there is to deal with situations where a defendant has deposited something new, a foreign substance. ...Here, there doesn’t seem to be any dispute that this defendant did not add anything new. So I am going to find Mr. Osterbrink not guilty on count 2.”***

You may recall that in 2015, PLP member John Godfrey won the “no addition” argument (count 5) fighting the Forest Service. (See <https://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org/accomplishments/>) In that case, the Forest Service even called a so-called “expert” lead engineer from the CA Water Board to testify that what Godfrey had done amounted to pollution—to no avail to the government. **Godfrey won in federal court.** While others did not recognize the magnitude of this important win, PLP was confident it was a solid argument that could also be won in California state courts. And **Osterbrink did win in California state court!**

Osterbrink’s decision has helped **get suction dredging legally returned to California** (we’re working on **Oregon**), and can help **miners in other western states as well.** Keep supporting our winning efforts, we need you to help us spread reclamation dredging across the country. A cleaner environment and happy dredgers, what could be better?

PLP has established a sound path for reclamation dredging in CA, and many PLP members have been following the PLP Dredge card instructions to the ‘T’. They have been successfully reclamation dredging for TWO SEASONS now without a single citation. No one who has followed these guidelines has been cited, because there is nothing to cite for.

PLP has for as far back as the 1990’s warned its members not to admit to the 402 or 404 permit system if you are sluicing or dredging. In a 2019 PLP newsletter we said: “Some miners are sending a mixed message to regulators and government agencies: I don’t pollute but please give me my pollution discharge permit”. PLP has kept its members in a safe legal position on this issue all the way back to the 1990’s over the litigation in Tulloch 1 and Tulloch 2 decisions. PLP will never support self-admitting dischargers when doing so falsely paints suction dredge miners as polluters and thus hurting the entire mining community.

Your PLP Board of Directors

The original. No compromise. Standing 32 years strong for Multiple Use on Public Land "RIGHTS"!

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>



## Sponsors and Member Businesses



**SUMMIT  
TRAILER**

Greg Swanson  
greg@summittraileremfg.com 503-804-8239

4530 NE 148TH AVE  
PORTLAND, OR 97230 971-279-2176

971-279-2006 summittraileremfg.com

Prospector's



Treasure Trove

[www.prospectorstreasure.com](http://www.prospectorstreasure.com)



**OREGON TRAIL CHAPTER  
KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

4TH TUESDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
12:00 NOON  
DENNY'S CLACKAMAS

P.O. BOX 25  
GLADSTONE, OREGON  
97027  
15815 SE 82ND DRIVE



**Menziesii Metals**  
Jewelry & metalwork  
**Cindy Wright**  
West Linn, Oregon  
503.701.3073  
Etsy; MenziesiiMetals



Sponsors of Tomorrow.™

**GOLD RUSH**  
Trading Post



**Chinook Winds  
CASINO RESORT**

1777 NW 44TH STREET • LINCOLN CITY, OREGON 97367-5094  
CASINO - 1-888-CHINOOK • (541) 996-5825 • FAX (541) 996-5852  
HOTEL - 1-877-4 BEACH 1 • (541) 994-3655  
[WWW.CHINOOKWINDSCASINO.COM](http://WWW.CHINOOKWINDSCASINO.COM)