



Happenings Sept 2026

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Portland, Oregon



Finding Gold in Oregon

The Gold Is Still Out There! When most people think about finding gold, their minds often wander to the famous California Gold Rush. But Oregon has its own long and fascinating history of gold mining—and the best part is that **people are still finding gold here today!** Oregon's gold story began in the mid-1800s. Gold was discovered in southwestern Oregon in the early 1850s, and prospectors soon began

working on the streams and tributaries of the Rogue River, Applegate River, and Illinois River. Gold discoveries also spread into northeastern Oregon, where places such as Auburn, Canyon City, Baker County, Sumpter, and Granite became important mining communities.

But you don't have to travel back to the 1800s to experience Oregon's gold country.

So Where Is the Gold?

Gold can be found in several parts of Oregon, including **southwestern Oregon, northeastern Oregon, and portions of the Western Cascades**. Historically, both placer gold—gold deposited in stream gravels—and lode gold from the original rock sources have been mined throughout the state. For the recreational prospector, placer gold is often the most accessible. Instead of digging into solid rock, you're looking for gold that has weathered out of its original source and been transported by water. And that's where learning to read a creek becomes important. Gold is heavy. Much heavier than the sand, gravel, and rocks around it. Moving water can carry

lighter material downstream while the heavier gold tends to settle in places where the water slows down.

That's why experienced prospectors pay attention to places such as:

- Inside bends of streams
- Bedrock cracks and crevices
- Behind large rocks and boulders
- Natural gravel traps
- Old stream channels
- Areas where the character of the creek changes
- Concentrations of black sand

Finding the right location is only part of the challenge. **Knowing where to dig can make all the difference.**

Start Small

One of the great things about gold prospecting is that you don't need a lot of expensive equipment to get started.

A gold pan, classifier, small shovel, snuffer bottle, and a little patience can teach you a tremendous amount.

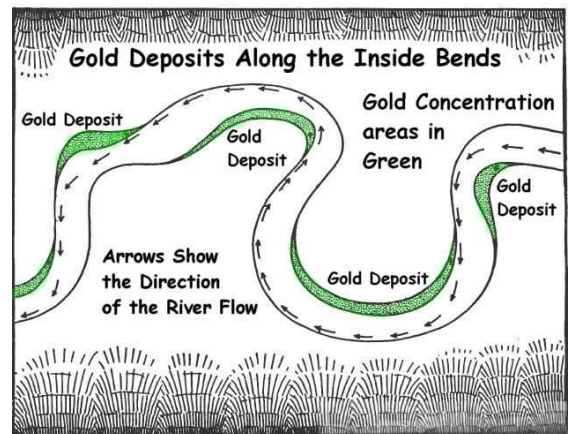
Put some material in your pan, add water, and begin washing away the lighter material. As the gravel disappears, the heavier minerals—including black sand and, if you're lucky, gold—begin concentrating in the bottom of the pan.

That first tiny piece of yellow can be surprisingly exciting.

It may only be a speck.

It may look like a tiny piece of glitter.

But when you realize that **you found it**, everything changes. Suddenly, the hours spent moving gravel make sense.



It's Not Always About How Much Gold You Find

One of the things that makes prospecting special is that success isn't always measured in ounces. Sometimes it's finding a new place to explore. Sometimes it's learning how a particular creek moves into material. Sometimes it helps a new prospector recover their first piece of gold.

And sometimes it's simply spending a day outdoors with friends, digging in the dirt and talking about where the gold might be hiding. Every outing teaches us something. A little color in the

bottom of a pan can lead to another test hole. Another test hole can lead to another location. And every trip adds to our experience as prospectors.

Oregon's Gold History Is Still with Us!

Evidence of Oregon's mining past can be found throughout the state. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries maintains an extensive collection of historical mine records, maps, claim records, reports, and other documents dating back to Oregon's early mining days.

Some of those old mining districts produced enormous amounts of gold. Others produced just enough to keep prospectors coming back. And that's something today's prospectors have in common with those who came before us.



We are still looking.

The tools may have changed, but the basic idea hasn't. Find the right ground, Read the creek, Move the material, Check your pan. And keep looking.

The Next Piece Could Be Yours

There are no guarantees when it comes to prospecting. You can spend an entire day digging and come home with almost nothing—or you can find a few little colors that make the whole trip worthwhile. That's the adventure. Oregon still has gold country. It still has creeks, rivers, old mining districts, and places where prospectors can learn, explore, and enjoy the search. So, the next time you are standing beside an Oregon creek with a shovel in your hand, take another

look at that gravel. There just might be a little piece of Oregon's gold history sitting at the bottom of your pan.

Keep your pan full, your eyes open, and your hopes high. You never know where the next little piece of gold will come from!

General Club Meeting This Sunday

@ 1:30pm Sept. 20 2026

Sunnyside Grange 13130 S.E. Sunnyside Rd. Clackamas, Oregon 97015



The PGPI Annual Potluck & Picnic Is ON!

We finally have a date, time, and location, so grab your calendar and mark it down now! Come join your fellow club members for a fun afternoon of good food, good conversation, and of course... plenty of GOLD TALK! There's also talk of adding some games and a raffle, so you won't want to miss it!

POTLUCK & PICNIC INFORMATION

Date: September 27th

Location: Hammerle Park 1505 Lewis St. West Linn, OR 97068

<http://westlinnoregon.gov/parksrec/hammerle-park>

Arrive: Around 12:00–1:30 PM

Eating Time: Around 1:30 PM

We recommend arriving around 12:00 or 1:30 so everyone has time to get settled, visit with friends, and get the food ready before we start eating. We rented the shelter also, in case it decides to turn wet.

The Club Will Provide: Hot Dogs Hamburgers Drinks Condiments All you need to bring is a favorite dish to share, a chair, and yourself!

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

To help make sure we have a nice variety of food, we're making a few suggestions based on the first letter of your last name:

A – H | SIDE DISHES & SALADS Potato Salad • Macaroni Salad • Pasta Salad • Fruit Salad • Coleslaw • Casseroles • Baked Beans • Meatballs • Spaghetti • Macaroni & Cheese • Rice • and more!

I – P | APPETIZERS Deviled Eggs • Vegetable Trays • Fruit Bowls • Chips & Dip • Cheese & Crackers • Little Smokies • and more!

Q – Z | DESSERTS Pies • Cakes • Cupcakes • Cookies • Brownies • Bars • and more!

BUT REMEMBER... THESE ARE ONLY SUGGESTIONS!

If you have a favorite dish, family recipe, or something you just really enjoy making, feel free to bring it! You don't have to stick to the list above. We'd love to see some of your favorites make an appearance at the picnic. Most importantly, come hungry and ready to have a great time!

Most importantly, come hungry and ready to have a great time! Bring your chair, appetite, and your best gold stories, and let's make this year's picnic one to remember!

We Hope to See Everyone There!
Come for the food... stay for the friendship,
fun, and GOLD TALK!

For more info and driving instructions



Club Board Member's 2026

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PLINKO and the WATER DROP is back!

New rules, BIGGER prize! Now it's only .25 so bring your spare change. Every center drop you get is a raffle entry, and the only way to get an entry is to get a center drop. The prize this month is a \$30 pay dirt bag. BUT wait for it, a member has donated something very unique. So, this month there will be 2 prizes! The first raffle ticket drawn will have their choice, the pay dirt or the unique item. The second ticket drawn will get what's left.

What is Plinko you asked for?

Plinko is a simple game of chance where a disc is dropped down a pegged board, bouncing until it lands in a prize slot. A similar concept exists in Japan's pachinko, where metal balls fall through pins to win prizes.

WANTED: The club is in need of an Activity Coordinator.

We need someone to help and coordinate upcoming club activities. This is a great way to help and be a larger part of our club. We have a job description available for those interested.

Want to be a GPAA member?

An exclusive deal is still available to members.

3-Years membership for the price of 1 year!

Embark on a thrilling gold prospecting journey with the 3-year GPAA membership. Granting access to over 90,000 acres of rich mining claims. Additionally, benefit from exclusive tools, a supportive community, and expert guidance for a rewarding adventure.

3-full years for only \$155 That's only \$51.60 per year.

Plus, get a bunch of free stuff!



No Minutes for this newsletter, due to not being enough present Board Members at the Meeting.
Check website or meeting minutes when available.



*The club is currently looking for a couple used
AirPot Drink Dispensers for use at club meetings and outings
If anyone has one setting around and would like to donate it to the
club? It would be greatly appreciated. See Ted or Kathy.
503-679-3620*



If you would like your business card to be displayed here and you're a current member?
Please let Ted know at the next club meeting. So we can get you added.



PGPI Website



Newsletter Signup



GPAA 3 Year Deal