GPR Website Link: www.goldprospectorsoftherockies.com

THE GOLD NUGGET

August 2015

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



We finally made it back from Alaska. It was an interesting experience. We left with lofty goals and dreams of gold and returned with experience and not all that much gold, at least not what we had hoped for. Oh, we did find gold, just not as much as we would have liked. But then, prospecting is a gamble. You never know what you will find. And Alaska is governed by three primary principles. Those are time, distance and transportation. It takes time to get anywhere because there are tremendous distances involved. And transportation dictates how you get there. Roads are not everywhere, so if you can't drive or take a boat to get there, you will have to fly. And those things can be expensive however you

choose to go and try your luck.

I learned that today's prospecting is an ever changing endeavor. And, thanks to all the gold prospecting shows on TV, there is not so much public land accessible anymore and certainly not as much as there was just 5 years ago. You have heard me often use the term 'mining the miners'. And Alaska is definitely becoming a haven for miner mining. Crow Creek is a classic example of that today. A limited length of stream is made available for a fee and they give you a bag of sand as well. You don't get to try the good area, that is kept to themselves while you compete for elbow room with 25 to 30 car loads of tourists all looking for gold and that Alaskan experience. The result is a small area seriously overworked and a disappointing experience. And many of the areas/locations that were accessible just a few years ago, have all been claimed up by folks who recognize the gold mine (no pun intended) potential that each claim has. They don't have to work it. They simply advertise it for lease and charge you a four figure fee (or more) and let you work it, often taking a percentage of the gold on top of the fee. You are responsible for any required permits of course.

We found most of the better known gold producing areas of renown to be so overworked as to be a waste of time to even try. Crescent Creek, Colorado Creek, Quartz Creek, Crow Creek, Bird Creek, Bear Creek, Willow Creek, and on and on and on. We did find gold on the beach near Kenai. We did find gold on Resurrection Creek. But even that area has changed. A mere 10 years ago or less, you could prospect more than 10 miles of the creek. But today, we were forced to work a mere one half mile of creek that has been heavily worked. Even so, we managed to do as well as most people even though we were limited on equipment. Seems the folks we had contacted who promised us some equipment had to sell it or just didn't have it when we were there. That certainly made it harder. We had indications that folks we contacted had recently prospected certain areas only to find that it had actually been 8 years ago and nothing was the same anymore. Locations accessible just 5 years ago were now all claimed up and/or posted. We put 1600 miles on our vehicle (remember that thing about distance and time..?) and actually spent far too much travel time which was merely wasted time. Bottom line was that split 6 different ways, the gold we found didn't go too far and was pretty disappointing in a way. But in another sense, like I said before, prospecting is a gamble and no more than that. We did it the hard way and I am sure that each of the guys would tell you that the experience was as good in many ways as it was bad in other ways. Will I go back? Sure I will, and as soon as I can. I had the privilege of working with 5 gentlemen who were all good hard working people. We had never been in close quarters such as this together before and though minor issues came up from time to time, we resolved them amicably and made the situation work as best as we could. Bottom line is that even though we were armed, nobody got shot nor did anything ever even get that close. And I believe we are still friends. That says a lot right there..! And there is always the Alaskan wildlife. I could tell you about the moose that looked in our RV window during supper one evening, or another moose that tried to look in the sluice box while we were working and then tried to sniff the back of the neck of one of the guy's, but then, those are stories for another time.

Alaska is still the last great frontier. But the greed of man is changing it even more and more and even more so today. Yet it is so utterly immense and the sights to see so spectacular, and the potential so great, that it is still worth it to experience even a small part of it. If you haven't done it, you just have to do it. And do it before it's too late to do it, for both you and, maybe, for Alaska, the Last Great Frontier!!

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your search...!. And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured 'Yaller Gold'!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at inslong945@msn.com. Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!



The V.P. Corner by "Klondike" Mike



Here is the next few areas in Colorado were you can check out. Again these areas have great mining history, you can Check them out for yourself, remember to check for Private land.

Alamosa County. Blanca = West Blanca elevation 12,000 feet has many area mines with dumps that has gold on them.

Baca County. Springfield = Southwest of Springfield 45 miles, at Canrizzo or Estelene creeks, in exposures of white sandstone, you can find gold with copper minerals.

Nederland, = North of Nederland on Route 160 to Ward, turn east onto the Sugarloaf-Sunset road for 7 miles to the Oregon Mine. This mine produced gold in sulfide ores.

Chaffee County = Chaffee County Borders the Continental Divide near central Colorado. Chaffee County produced 370,000 gold ounces, largely from lode mines, but with small amounts from placers and base metal mines. The main area of interest is in the gravel bars and benches all along the Arkansas River from Buena Vista southeast 25 miles to the Fremont County line and near Granite, which is close to the county line 15 miles northwest of Salida. There are many placers, Cold Run Gulch, Gilson Gulch, Oregon Gulch, and Ritchey's Patch, you will find rich history and all had abundant placer workings. There are many small mines scattered throughout County that produced lode and-by-product gold. Remember private land, and also if you have any questions you know how to reach me at 720-443-9545. (KLONDIKE). Mike H.

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Linda Luchtenburg



The August Meeting will feature a nine nugget give away totaling 10.3 grams of gold with the largest nugget being a beauty of 2.8 grams. We will also be selling final tickets, as always, for the 'special nugget', and it will be given away in the August meeting. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase tickets for these nuggets in which your chances of winning are far better than the Colorado Lottery.

Notice: Tymkovich Meats Parking Now Closed

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Tymkovich has informed the Clubs that we can no longer permit parking behind his business for prospecting. He stated quite clearly that it was through no action or conduct of any Club member and that he and his family have had no problems from any of our members ever and that our members have always treated him and his family and their property with great respect. However, his insurance carrier became aware that we were using his back lot for parking and advised him to cease and desist or face a major increase in his insurance liability costs. Therefore, we will need to find alternative places to park and access the Creek. There is ample parking farther East at Lafayette Park and some limited parking available at the Broadway Business complex, just south of 70th and Broadway. We will be looking into other locations and advising accordingly.

Planned GPR Meeting Programs:

Aug 19 This month we will be showing History Channel DVD of the "<u>Klondike Gold Rush</u>". This 50 minute program will highlight what the 'Old Timers' went through in the search for gold in Alaska.

Sept 16 This month will be a presentation from the A&E Channel titled "<u>Inca Gold</u>". This 50 minute DVD highlights an expedition into the Ecuadorian wilderness in search of a legendry gold horde of 750,000 pounds.

Oct. 21 We will show a presentation by the History Channel titled "<u>The Mystery of the Afghan Gold</u>", a 50 minute dvd which chronicles the discovery of one of the words most fabled treasurers and its loss a few decades later.





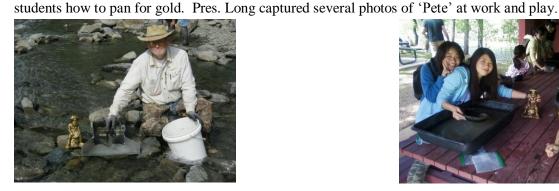
IN MEMORY

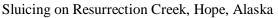
The Club is saddened to learn of the passing of two of our members. **Gina Fielding** passed away on June 27, 2015, and Russel Frey passed away on July 6. Both members had been with the Club for a number of years and always enjoyed being around fellow prospectors.

They will be missed, but we know they have finally found the 'Mother lode' in heaven. Rest in Peace.

Where is 'Prospector Pete', the GPR Gold Miner?

'Pete' was most recently in Alaska on a two week expedition searching for gold with Pres. Long and GPR members, Mike Hurtado, Brandon Luchtenburg, John Johnson, Jack Meineke and George Sullivan. He fished for halibut off Homer, Alaska, dug for gold on the beaches of Kenai and later on Resurrection Creek near Hope, Alaska. He had several encounters with moose and a small black bear and saw many bald eagles and even some dahl sheep. He traveled over 1600 miles on his adventure and even found a little gold while he was at it. When 'Pete' returned home, he went to Idaho Springs to teach 29 Japanese exchange







Panning for gold in Idaho Springs, Colorado

Board Meeting Minutes From July 2015

	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	John Johnson
2	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston		Terry Weatherly	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
	Linda Luchtenburg	X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll		

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: By Pres. Long at 5:53 pm

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Yes Corrections: none.

Approved as read/corrected: Yes

Treasurer's Report: Questions: None Approved: yes **Correspondence:** 9 phone calls, 6 e-mails, 2 mailings Webmaster: Total Hits 140998 Hits for last month 323.

Committee Reports: No reports due.

Unfinished business:

- Continued discussion of the pending loss of our web site host and the replacement process. We are leaning 90% towards Host Gator.
- LLC Process still pending. BoD annual book updates pending.

New Business: None at this time.

Planned Outings for 2015:

- July 22 Panning Demo w/ Japanese Exchange students in Idaho Sprgs.
- July 31, Aug. 1,2 Prospecting Outing, 3 days, Leadville.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

August 16, 1896, gold was discovered in the Klondike by what member of the Tagish people?

2015 GPR Board of **Directors Members**

President

James Long

Vice President

Mike Hurtado

Secretary/Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2013)

Joe Shubert (2011)

1 Year Board Members

Joe Fortunato

Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning



- Aug. 8 Beginners' panning/sluicing Class, 9a, 38th and Youngfield, St., Wheatridge.
- Aug 22 Prospecting Outing, Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9a.

From the Board: Pres. Long announced the recent deaths of two of our members, Gina Fielding and Russell Frey. There was little else to discuss. None of the other Board members had any items to discuss. BMs LL, TW and JS were unable to attend tonight.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting August 19, 2015 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting August 19, 2015 at 7:00pm **Tonight's general meeting program**: We will be showing part two of a two part National Geographic Channel video titled "Lost Gold of the Dark Ages.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:46 pm.

General Meeting Minutes From July 2015

- 1. Meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. **Pres. Long** then announced the evening program which will Part two of a 2-part video presentation by the National geographic Channel titled "Lost Gold of the Dark Ages".
- 3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1148.90 an ounce, silver at \$15.09, platinum at \$1021.00 and palladium at \$639.00.
- 4. Web hits for last month were 418.
- 5. **Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg** reported that the Club remains very comfortable in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, be sure to buy tickets for the 15.1 gram 'Special Nugget' drawing that is now on sale. This is an Arizona nugget that was a metal detector find. We will be drawing a lucky winner at the August meeting, so be sure and get your tickets before the final drawing.
- 6. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who have now taken over the Membership Table reported that we had 74 members in attendance. There were also 2 guests present. The meeting attendance was 78.
- 7. Pres. Long read the 'Question of the Month', which was "What 16th century treaty summit became known for the lavish displays of wealth by the participants?"
- 8. **Pres. Long** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the '**Finds of the Month**' table and everyone was encouraged to check them out and vote accordingly during the break. Remember, only one entry per person per category. Winners of the Finds of the Month for tonight will need to be saved for competition in November.
- 9. **Dennis White** announced the Cache Clue #2.
- 10. **Tim and Tina Fleming** advised that they had lots of stuff in the **Club Store** for sale. Members were encouraged to support the Club by buying Store products.
- 11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership of the upcoming Outings.
 - July 22 **Panning Demo** in Idaho Springs for a group of Japanese Exchange Students. Time to be determined.
 - July 31, Aug. 1,2 **Prospecting Outing**, 3 day event, Lake Fork, Leadville, \$5 per person per day, \$2 a night for camping, bbq on sat night at \$5 per person.
 - Aug. 8 **Beginners panning/sluicing class,** on Clear Creek, 38th and Youngfield, Wheatridge, 9am.
 - Aug. 22 **Prospecting Outing,** Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, Colo., 9am.
- 12. **Pres. Long** also informed the membership that the Panning Demo for the Japanese Exchange students held in Idaho Springs on July 22 went very well. There were 27 students who learned to pan for gold. He also reported that we were still in the process of selecting a new web host for our web site and that the Board was actively investigating new providers. We are about 90% on going with a firm that indicates our web site will not have to undergo any changes from its current format. That is a good thing. President Long then had the sad duty to announce the deaths of two of our members, **Gina** Fielding and **Russell Frey**. This is always a tough thing to do as all of you are like family and I take these things very hard. We will miss them...!! There was nothing further from the floor.
- 13. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:18pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:36pm.



- 14. **Pres. Long** announced that there were 22 winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was "**The Fields** of Gold 1520". The extra drawing tickets were passed out to the lucky winners.
- 15. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
 - Best Jewelry John Johnson with a cross necklace found in Lakewood while metal detecting.
 - **Best Coin Joe Johnston** with a 1941 Liberty dime found while metal detecting.
 - Best Artifact Walt Nowakowski with an old shovel head found in Chicago Creek, Idaho Springs.
 - Best Bottle Lloyd Lauck with a Duffy's bottle he found in clear Creek at Youngfield.
 - <u>Most Raw Gold</u> **Mike Hurtado, John Johnson, George Sullivan** with some gold from Resurrection Creek, Alaska.
- 16. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR**, **GPAA** and **Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they can choose to donate the tickets back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Linda Luchtenburg**.
- 17. **Pres. Long** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
- 18. **Pres. Long** thanked **Chris and Joe Kafka** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. With the number of attendees skyrocketing recently, this really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
- 19. The scheduled **Program for August** will be a video presentation entitled "The Klondike Gold Rush", a presentation from the History Channel.
- 20. Until next time, remember to prospect safely, live long and be grateful for that golden bounty from the stars, that gleaming magical miracle, called 'gold'!
- 21. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Schedule of 2015 Planned Outings:

We are no longer printing the schedule in the newsletter. A copy is emailed each month to all so new members get an initial copy. From then on check the email copy, any changes from the last copy will be highlighted in yellow. No yellow no changes. So print it out and hang it up.

Finds of the Month

July winners were as follows:

- Best Artifact Walt Nowakowski with a shovel head from Chicago Creek in Idaho Springs.
- Best Jewelry John Johnson with a cross necklace found metal detecting at Aviation Park.
- **Best Coin Joe Johnson** with a 1941 liberty dime found while metal detecting.
- Best Bottle Lloyd Lauck found in the bank of Clear Creek at Youngfield.
- Most Raw Gold Mike Hurtado, John Johnson, George Sullivan found in Alaska.















Great job guys and gals!!!!

Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. Winners each month will have their name published each month in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Thanks to Joe Johnston who also submitted additional finds that were not judged to be winners.

Prospecting/Mining Notes: (mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

- 6-10-15 **Newmont Shares Fall After Shares Buy:** Newmont Mining Corp., the largest US gold producer, fell the most in three months the day after announcing the sale of shares to help purchase an \$820 million dollar mine in Colorado. The company said that it would issue 29 million shares of stock to help pay for the purchase of the Cripple Creek & Victor gold mine from AngloGold Ashanti Ltd.
- 6-10-15 **Fire Shuts Down Molycorp Plant in Estonia**: A fire engulfed a plant at Molycorp Inc.'s metallurgical facility in southeastern Estonia, forcing some production offline and sending plumes of smoke over nearby homes. The facility produces 3,000 metric tons of rare earth products and 700 tons of rare metal products a year.
- 6-14-15 **All Own Federal Public Lands:** The federal government owns large chunks of the West. It owns 65% of Utah, 69% of Alaska and 83% of Nevada. Many westerners see unfairness in that. They should not. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska recently slipped an item into a nonbinding budget resolution, calling on the federal government to dispose of all of its land other than the national parks and monuments. That would put US national forests and wildlife refuges, from the Arctic to the Everglades, up for grabs. The Senate narrowly passed it. However, it is highly unlikely that anything will come of it as it is, after all, a nonbinding resolution. (Thank God...!!...JJ)
- 6-20-15 **Midway Suspends Mining at Nevada Site:** Englewood based Midway Gold Corp. indefinitely suspended activities at its Pan Mine in Nevada, resulting in an unspecified number of lay-offs. The company has no plans at this time of reopening the mine. The action was a result of revenue shortfalls and a lower rate of recovery on gold than expected.
- 6-23-15 **Gold Mine Operator Files for Bankruptcy:** Douglas County based Midway Gold Corp. filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection just days after closing its mine activities in Nevada. The firm plans to try restructuring and resolving various challenges relating to its mining ventures.
- 7-15-15 **Newmont Cited in Nevada Mine Death:** Newmont Mining Corp. and one of its Nevada contractors have been cited for federal safety violations in the death of a worker in January at the Leeville mine north of Carlin. A 53 year old worker was killed when he was hoisted up too quickly in a ventilation shaft while wearing only a harness. The mine has recently installed hoist cages to better protect workers.
- 7-21-15 **Price of Gold Fa;;s to Five Year Low:** Investors are running out of reasons to buy gold. Gold has fallen to its lowest price in over five years. The dollar has rallied in recent months and the US economy is on surer footing, along with tumult ion China's markets and the Greece debt crisis have all failed to restore the allure of gold. Usually, when investors are worried about the US and global economy, they tend to favor gold.

A Miner's Laugh

An old miner decided that he needed a little seafood in his diet, so he wandered down to the ocean to catch some lobsters. After catching two of them, he headed back to the mine. But before he cleared the pier, a game warden approached him and asked him for his fishing license.



Not having one, the old miner tells the warden, "I didn't catch these lobsters. They are my pets. Every day, I take them down to the water for a swim. Then, when it is time to go home, I whistle, and they jump back in the bucket."

The warden doesn't believe him and reminds the old miner that it is illegal to fish without a license. The old miner faces the warden and says, "If you don't believe me, just watch." He turns and throws the lobsters back into the water.

The warden then says, "Ok, now whistle to your lobsters and show me that they can jump out of the water and into your bucket."

The old miner turns to the warden and says, "what lobsters?"

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners'.....) 08/15



What is Mining?



Underground Longwall mining

Mining techniques: Mining techniques can be divided into two common excavation types: surface mining and sub-surface (underground) mining. Today, surface mining is much more common, and produces, for example, 85% of minerals (excluding petroleum and natural gas) in the United States, including 98% of metallic ores. Targets are divided into two general categories of materials: placer deposits, consisting of valuable minerals contained within river gravels, beach sands, and other unconsolidated materials; and lode deposits, where valuable minerals are found in veins, in layers, or in mineral grains generally distributed throughout a mass of actual rock. Both types of ore deposit, placer or lode, are mined by both surface and underground methods. Some mining, including much of the rare earth elements and uranium mining, is done by less-common methods, such as in-situ leaching: this technique involves digging

neither at the surface nor underground. The extraction of target minerals by this technique requires that they be soluble, e.g., potash, potassium chloride, sodium sulfate, which dissolve in water. Some minerals, such as copper minerals and uranium oxide, require acid or carbonate solutions to dissolve.

Surface mining: Surface mining is done by removing (stripping) surface vegetation, dirt, and, if necessary, layers of bedrock in order to reach buried ore deposits. Techniques of surface mining include: open-pit mining, which is the recovery of materials from an open pit in the ground, quarrying, identical to open-pit mining except that it refers to sand, stone and clay; strip mining, which consists of stripping surface layers off to reveal ore/seams underneath; and mountaintop removal, commonly associated with coal mining, which involves taking the top of a mountain off to reach ore deposits at depth. Most (but not all) placer deposits, because of their shallowly buried nature, are mined by surface methods. Finally, landfill mining involves sites where landfills are excavated and processed.



Garzweiler surface mine, Germany

Underground mining: Sub-surface mining consists of digging tunnels or shafts into the earth to reach buried ore deposits. Ore, for processing, and waste rock, for disposal, are brought to the surface through the tunnels and shafts. Subsurface mining can be classified by the type of access shafts used, the extraction method or the technique used to reach the



A Mantrip used underground to transport miners

mineral deposit. Drift mining utilizes horizontal access tunnels, slope mining uses diagonally sloping access shafts, and shaft utilizes vertical access shafts. Mining in hard and soft rock formations require different techniques. Other methods include shrinkage stope mining, which is mining upward, creating a sloping underground room, long-wall mining, which is grinding a long ore surface underground, and room and pillar mining, which is removing ore from rooms while leaving pillars in place to support the roof of the room. Room and pillar mining often leads to retreat mining, in which supporting pillars are removed as miners retreat, allowing the room to cave in, thereby loosening more ore. Additional sub-surface mining methods include hard rock mining, which is mining of hard rock (igneous, metamorphic or sedimentary) materials, bore hole mining, drift and fill mining, long hole slope mining, sub level caving, and block caving.



Scientists Want to Mine Our Poop for Gold written by Maddie Stone

Every year, Americans are flushing a fortune down the toilet. Literally. More than 7 million tons of biosolids—treated sewage sludge—pass through US wastewater facilities annually. Contained within our shit are surprisingly large quantities of silver, gold, and platinum.

But our days of wasting human waste may be numbered, if Kathleen Smith of the US Geological Survey has anything to say about it. She's leading a new research program that's examining the feasibility of extracting precious metals from sewage. As Smith will explain Tuesday at a press conference at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society, recovering metals from waste could reduce the need for environmentally-destructive mining programs, and make biosolids a safer source of fertilizer to boot.

"There are metals everywhere," Smith said in a statement. "If you can get rid of some of the nuisance metals that currently limit how much of these biosolids we can use on fields and forests, and at the same time recover valuable metals and other elements, that's a win-win."

At treatment plants, raw sewage is processed by a series of physical, biological and chemical processes and transformed into treated water and biosolids. Roughly 60 percent of biosolids are applied as fertilizer to fields and forests. The rest are either incinerated or buried. While biosolids are routinely screened for hazardous heavy metals including lead, arsenic, and cadmium, few studies have tested our waste for anything as valuable as, say, gold or platinum.

But that's starting to change. Earlier this year, a study led by Paul Westerhoff at Arizona State University profiled over 50 metals in biosolid samples from 94 wastewater treatment plants across the US. Most samples were substantially enriched in rare and precious platinum-group metals, silver, and gold. Extrapolating from their data, the authors worked out that the waste produced annually by a million Americans could contain as much as 13 million dollars worth of metals. That's over four billion dollars worth of gold coming out of our collective arses every year.

Microscopic gold-rich and lead-rich particles in a municipal biosolids sample. Image: Heather Lowers, USGS Denver Microbeam Laboratory

Smith's team is now on a mission to figure out which metals are the most economically viable to recover, and how we can extract them.

"We have a two-pronged approach," she said. "In one part of the study, we are looking at removing some regulated metals from the biosolids that limit their use for land application. In the other part of the project, we're interested in collecting valuable metals that could be sold, including some of the more technologically important metals, such as vanadium and copper that are in cell phones, computers and alloys."

To do so, the team is working to modify extraction procedures used in industrial mining to leach metals out of minerals. "Traditional extractants will behave differently with the organic matter [in biosolids]," Smith told me over the phone. "But if we can find an extractant that does a good job, this procedure may be incorporated into current biosolid treatments."

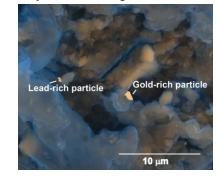
Smith and her fellow researchers are also planning to test biosolids across the country for precious metals, to search for any geographic or demographic patterns in their distribution. So far, the group has collected waste from several small towns in the Rocky Mountains, rural areas, and big cities. Astonishingly, in nearly all the samples they've examined, the team has found commercially mineable concentrations of gold.

"What's interesting is that we're seeing nearly the same amount of gold in all of these samples," Smith told me. "It seems like there's some source of gold that's prevalent across the board."

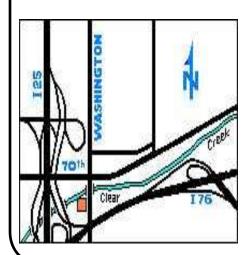
It's not entirely clear how these precious metals are getting into our waste, Smith says. Potential culprits include hair products, cosmetics, and detergents. But humans could also be playing a more direct role, by concentrating the trace

metals we eat during digestion, and sending gold-and-silver-fortified defecations down the tube.

Whatever the reason, one thing's clear: our sewers are a lot prettier than we realized.



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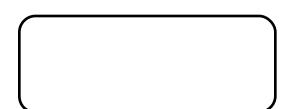
The Gold Nugget

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Coming Announcements and Special Events for Sept 2015

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT				
		1	2 VJ Day	Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	4	5				
6	7 LABOR DAY	8	9	10	PATRIOT DAY	12				
13	14	15	16 GPR Club Meeting	17 Constitution Day	POW/MIA Recognition Day	19				
20	21	22	FALL BEGINS	24	25	26 GPR Club Picnic				
27	28	29	30	Artifacts	WMMI Sept 10 Buck O'Donnell Art and Museum Artifacts Sept 18 Haunted Mines Opening Night					