

THE GOLD NUGGET

February 2019

Obituaries

Con Ogden Con passed away as a result of a car accident last October. Con was a member of the Club and had been from the late 1990s. He was an avid prospector though his health in later years prevented him from getting out as much as he would have liked. He strongly supported the Club and was a good man and a good friend. Our condolences go to his surviving wife and family.



Louis Smyth Louise passed away on January 18 at home following a lengthy illness. She was the owner and operator of Golden Detectors Prospecting Store in Golden, Colorado. She was a strong supporter of the Club and the prospecting community. Though handicapped by MS, she never let her wheelchair curb her enthusiasm for prospecting and all those who were able to get out and do it. She was a great friend and a well-liked person. Her passing was noted with more than 3000 comments of condolences from members of the prospecting community. Our condolences go to her long-time friend and partner Bill Chapman and family. She will be sorely missed.

Al Mosch Al Mosch passed away on January 12 following a lengthy illness. Al was the owner/operator of the Phoenix Gold mine in Idaho Springs, Colorado. Al was a hard rock miner who made it the hard way and later used his knowledge and wealth to benefit his community and the prospecting community by giving back in knowledge and philanthropy. He was a mover and shaker in Clear Creek County and well known around the state and the country. Al was well known and well-liked by all who knew him. He was a good man and a good friend and will also be sorely missed.

Our Condolences are also extended to the following Club Members:

Roger Schlenger, who lost his father suddenly in December.

Jim Blankenship, who lost his wife following an illness in January

2019 Membership Dues are now Due!!!

You may pay by cash, check, or credit card this year at the Registration Table.

You may also mail your payment (\$30/year):

Payable to GPR

Send to: PO Box 150096, Lakewood, Colo, 80215.

We appreciate your continued membership!!

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



Welcome to the Colorado winter...! The current weather patterns that we are in now are very typical of the type of winter weather that we experience at this time of year. We have periods of relatively balmy weather followed by brief storms that deliver a reminder not to get too careless and carefree. Though we seem to be in a major drought across the state and our Denver snow totals are down by 50%, we are getting great mountain snow and the snowpack is currently over 100% of average. But we have a long way to go and at this rate, it will take several years to get out of the drought.

A high mountain snow-pack will mean that our spring floods will be strong and high and will last a little longer. That will result in keeping folks out of the water in their search for that yaller gold. But it doesn't make prospecting impossible by any means. It just means that if you are going to do it, pay attention to the weather and its constant changes. Take note of the conditions around you and properly prepare for



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whatever they may be at any given moment on any given day. They will change and you need to be adaptable and practice good safety. In the meanwhile, there are many people managing to get out and find plenty of gold even on the colder days. I follow a number of prospecting forums and they are full of photos and videos of folks who are not intimidated by winter conditions. Some of these guys are even managing to dredge certain locations with ice and snow all around them. Now that is what I call dedicated prospecting.

With the new level of rules and regulations that are being adopted around the region and especially within the Denver area, there is a lot of new equipment out there. A lot of the folks are using medium sized high bankers that are battery operated. They are extending their sluice box apparatus and running fairly powerful 200-gph style pumps off the heavier marine type batteries. These types of systems seem to be working very well for them. The pump is somewhat similar to what you get when you invest in a Gold Cube. The metropolitan area is very complex and there are multiple jurisdictions of city and county governments who all tend to enact their own set of rules, if they have any at all, which are pretty much all banning the use of gas operated motors in favor of electric operated systems. You can't blame them in as much as they are concerned about the impact on the environment. Though the science indicates that when done right, there is practically no impact environmentally, these entities seem to be in unison by erring to the side of caution. I get that and can't really blame them. The fact is that with only a rare exception or two (Wheatridge and Boulder County), the opportunity to prospect remains strong. Boulder County's ban is only on publicly owned property and the ban does not include private property, so the option still exists if you can find a property owner willing to grant access. And that pretty well is the case across the state. So there still remain a lot of areas that are accessible and very prospectable. Kevin Singel's book, 'Finding Gold in Colorado', directs the reader to 182 such locations. There are many, many more out there if you know where to look and do the proper research. And those are just the public ones. There are just as many private opportunities as well.

I was recently informed that the City of Arvada is undertaking a study similar to the study done by Adams County, on the development of the Clear Creek Corridor within the boundaries of their city. You can be assured that I will be attending those meetings with the intent to make sure the voice and concerns of the small-scale mining community is heard. I am pretty sure that the same folks who did the Adams County Study are the ones hired to do the Arvada study. If so, then they well know the issues and it will not be difficult to preserve our access to this 3 or 4-mile stretch of water as well. I will continue to keep the Club informed on the progress of this issue and the first meeting is in early February, which I will attend. As with Adams County, our primary concerns will be to preserve access, increase opportunities for additional locations of access, and ensure safety measures for all stake holders are taken into consideration.

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be...! And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured 'Yaller Gold'! Oh, and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all our valued members and your families.

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com . Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato"



Hello again fellow gold seekers. It's Jan. 29th and we got eleven inches of snow at our home in Westminster two days ago. This kind of weather always makes me want to sit in my easy chair and read about gold prospecting. Reading about when and where gold was found in the past always gets me fired up for my next adventure. I have been rereading parts of two books by Dr. Ben H. Parker Jr. to refresh my memory and ratchet up my own level of enthusiasm. The books are, Gold Placers of Colorado (Book 1 of 2) Quarterly of the Colorado School of Mines Volume 69 Number 3 July 1974 and Gold Panning and Placering in Colorado How and Where 1992 Colorado Geological Survey. The first book is difficult to find these days and expensive, but Gold Panning and Placering in Colorado is available at our club store. If you don't own Gold Panning and Placering in Colorado, you need to get yourself a copy. This book is short and sweet, and it contains a lot of information that is useful to any gold prospector. Here is some history from the 1974 book that you will find in the 1992 book. Major Placer Discoveries- "January 7, 1859, George H. Jackson discovered the placers of Jackson's Bar, in Clear Creek County; and in April led a party of miners to the site. During January, the Deadwood Diggings on South Boulder Creek, in Gilpin County, were found. About the same time, or perhaps late in 1858, the placers of Gold Run, in Boulder County, were discovered. May 6, John Gregory discovered the Gregory lode and the placers associated with it near Blackhawk, in Gilpin County; and early in June, William Green Russell, who had returned from Georgia, discovered the placers of Russell Gulch in the same vicinity. Within a short time after these discoveries,



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many of the lodes of the Central City-Idaho Springs area were found, and the mining industry of Colorado was firmly established." Reading books, magazines, and other publications combined with video, UTUBE, forums and the like, are a great way to pass the time during these cold winter spells. The knowledge that we gain from these sources will make all of us better gold prospectors. We will be so busy learning, that spring will be here before we know it and it will be time to put all of that knowledge to work!!! Until next time "MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE GOLDEN" Questions or Comments Call or Text me 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato.

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



The February Meeting will feature a nine (9) nugget giveaway of which the largest nugget will be 2.6 grams. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time, which I have at the desk. I am looking forward to representing the Club during 2019 and hope to see you all at the future meetings. Hope to see you all there!!

Planned 2019 GPR Meeting Programs:

TBD

Board Meeting Minutes From Jan 2019

X	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	John Johnson
X	Mike Stevens	X	Joe Johnston	X	Chris Kafka	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Joe Kafka	X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll		Gary Hawley

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order by: Pres Long at 6:06 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: none Approved as read/corrected: yes.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: none Approved: yes.

Correspondence: 3 phone calls, 9 e-mails, 6 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 153335 Hits for last 2 month 456.

Committee Reports: All Committee assignments to remain the same for 2019.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: Motion discussed to renew our Club memberships to WMMI for 250.00, CSM-GM for 100.00, and PLP for 100.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed the April 13/14 GPAA Gold Show. We will have a booth and be selling Tickets to the Show.

Planned Outings for 2018: None scheduled at this time but working on it.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long advised that the Xmas Program went very well and big thank you to Chris and Joe Kafka for all their work and preparations.
- Also discussed the passing of Al Mosch, a local icon in the mining community, the passing of Con Ogden who died in October of a car crash, and the passing of the wife of member Jim Blankenship.
- Additional discussion occurred concerning taking of the Refreshment Table by Greg and Nancy Knerl. We really appreciate their pitching in.
- BM Doll advised that stamps were going up by .5 cents. He was authorized to purchase up to 10 books to carry us through the coming year and into 2020.

Additional Announcements: Next Board Meeting: Feb. 20, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

A Little GPR HISTORY lesson.

Two part question requires a little webpage digging!

Who was the 4th GPR President and

How many individuals have held the office of GPR President?

2019 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James 'JJ' Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2017)

Joe Shubert (2018)

1 Year Board Members

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson II

Bobby Manning

Chris Kafka

Mike Stevens

Past President

Gary Hawley



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Next General Meeting: Feb. 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Tonight's general meeting program: We will be having a presentation by Jesse Peterson, the owner of Vic's Panning in Black Hawk who will talk about gold mining and prospecting.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:51pm

General Meeting Minutes From Jan 2019

1. Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that the evening Program would feature a presentation by **Jesse Peterson**, owner and operator of Vic's Panning in Black Hawk, who spoke about gold prospecting and hard rock mining and the Chaffee Mine which he also owns.
3. **Pres. Long** then gave the Metals Report: Gold 1293.20, Silver 15.57, Platinum 805.00, Palladium 1343.00. Rhodium 2280.00.
4. **Web hits** for last 2 months were approx. 456.
5. **Treasurer Joe Kafka** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. We anticipate giving away the 'Special Nugget' in March or April for sure so don't forget to buy these tickets as well. Also, don't forget to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.4 grams.
6. **Dan McConnell** reported from the Membership Table that we had 65 members in attendance. There were 5 guests present. The total meeting attendance was 70.
7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was "**What does the 'yellow' in the Colorado Flag represent? a) the autumn colors of the Rocky Mountains, b) gold mining in Colorado, c) sunshine, d) it has no meaning??**" The winners receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later.
8. **Pres. Long** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the '**Finds of the Month**' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2019. A reminder to all that gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. **John Johnson** announced the '**Cache**' had been found. Gordon, Yvonne and Kale Smith were the lucky finders and received a stunning 6.0 crystalline nugget for their efforts. They also had the new hunt ready to go and issued **Clue #1** for the new hunt.
10. **Pres. Long** advised that **Mike Stevens** is now taking over the Club Store. We appreciate his stepping up to the task. Many thanks to **Mike Hurtado** for filling in for the last year. Be sure to drop by at the break, wish him well and support your Club by buying something.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that:
 - The 2018 Xmas Program went very well.
 - He is working on the Outing Schedule for 2019, which should be available by the February meeting.
 - There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break.
 - Members who check things out of the Club Library are reminded to return them promptly. We have added 6 new books to the Library tonight.
 - The GPAA will host the Gold Show in Denver on April 13, 14 and the Club will have a booth at the Show.
 - With sadness, we announce the death of long time member Con Ogden who passed away as the result of a tragic car accident last October.
 - We also announce the death of a local mining community icon, Al Mosch, of Idaho Springs this week.
 - And, we are sad to announce the death of member Jim Blankenship's wife last week. Our condolences to all.
 - Pres. Long also discussed the PLP's Small Miners Amendment, which is being presented to US Senators now in Washington. They are carrying letters of support, including ours, hoping to get some legislation passed to ease the burdens of small scale mining.
 - There was nothing additional of note added from the Floor.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:11 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:33 pm.



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13. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'. The answer was, "...c) sunshine, and we also accepted answer b) gold mining" !! There were 37 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'. Those were:
- **Best Coin** – There was no entry in this category this month.
 - **Best Jewelry** – **Nancy Knerl** with a silver Scissors Pendant she found while metal detecting in Denver.
 - **Best Mineral** – There was no entry in this category this month.
 - **Best Artifact** – **Kathy Lemuel** with several old washers she found at a camp site in Conifer.
 - **Best Bottle** – There was no entry for this category this month.
 - **Most Raw Gold** – **Bill and Kris Wobbe** with 0.10 grams of gold they found while prospecting in Arapaho Bar.
 - **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry in this category this month

*****Winners will now need to save their items for the Find of the Year to be held in November 2019.*****

15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Dick Oakes, and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets. **Pres. Long** also wants to remind 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 shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **Roger Schlenger and Joe Kafka**.
16. **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 outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
17. **Pres. Long** thanked **Greg and Nancy Knerl** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray costs. 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.
18. The **February Meeting Program** will be a presentation to be determined. 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'!
19. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

The Club now has half price entry tickets available to the GPAA Gold Show which will be on April 13, 14 at the National Western Complex at 4655 Humboldt St., Denver, Colo. You can purchase these tickets for \$5.00 here at the Club, which is half of what you will pay at the door. Contact Pres. Long or Treasurer Joe Kafka for your tickets now...don't wait to the last moment or they may be gone!!!

A Miner's Laugh

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, "I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week." The florist was pleased and left the shop. When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'Thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door. Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay, the barber replies, "I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week."

The cop was happy and left the shop. The next morning, the barber came to open up and found a 'Thank you' card and a dozen doughnuts at the door. Then a member of Congress comes in for a haircut and when trying to pay, the barber replied, "I cannot accept money from you, I am doing community service this week." The member of Congress left happily. The next morning when the barber arrived at the shop to open up, he found about twenty Congressmen lined up at the door waiting for a free haircut.





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And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.!!!!

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')

The finds of the Month Jan 2019:

Best Coin – There was no entry in this category this month.

Best Jewelry – Nancy Knerl with a silver Scissors Pendant she found while metal detecting in Denver.

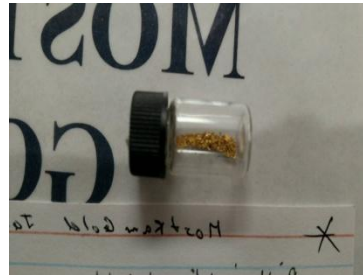
Best Mineral – There was no entry in this category this month.

Best Artifact – Kathy Lemuel with several old washers she found at a camp site in Conifer.

Best Bottle – There was no entry for this category this month.

Most Raw Gold – Bill and Kris Wobbe with 0.10 grams of gold they found while prospecting in Arapaho Bar.

Largest Raw Gold – There was no entry in this category this month



Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the membership each month. We would like to know what everyone else is finding so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their names published in the Newsletter. There are seven (7) categories to choose from when entering. Winners of the monthly judging will need to save and return with their winning find next November 2019, when the Finds of the Year will be judged. DON'T FORGET...SAVE THEM!!!!

A Glimpse into Colorado History

Lakewood: Site of the largest tungsten mill in the United States during the tungsten boom of the World War I era. The community was built around the mill, and the residents were the mill workers. The mill closed shortly after the tungsten boom was over, and the community faded almost overnight. The site is, or was, exactly 2.6 miles north of Nederland on the Peak-to-Peak Highway, but only a trace of the important center remains today.

Caribou: Sam Conger of Central City noticed peculiar stones while hunting in the area in 1860. He thought little more about them until eight years later when he happened upon similar stones in a railroad car in Wyoming. He stepped closer to inspect the rocks but a guard told him to stay away. It turned out to be valuable ore from the Comstock lode in Nevada. 'Hell', Conger said, "I know where there is a whole mountain of that stuff!" He finally located the spot where he had seen the stones more than eight years before. Conger had the ore assayed and it proved to be rich in silver. He took five partners and the six of them working through the winter, storing the ore for a spring shipment to the smelter. But their secret leaked out before their task was finished. By spring, other fortune seekers were in the area, other rich locations were made, and before long, the area was swarming with prospectors. And Caribou was born, one of the richest (but one of the most ungodly) places to live in the state. Situated on a barren mountain nearly 10,000 feet high, strong, usually biting, winds roared continuously through the camp. It was known as 'the town where winds are born.' Severe storms were also born here, and drifts as high as 25 feet blanketed the site during the winter, often requiring residents to enter and leave their homes through second story windows. Fires in 1879 and 1900 whipped across the city leaving it in smoldering ruins. Scores died in two major epidemics, scarlet fever and diphtheria. But to some, the advantages were far greater than the disadvantages. For several years, Caribou was one of the richest camps in northern Colorado. The city was platted in 1870 and within months, more than 3,000 people were living at Caribou. Some 60 businesses, all types of



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businesses, prospered. Some 20 mines were paying off in the thousands. The camp produced nearly a half a million dollars in gold and silver in 1875 alone. The camp started fading in the 80's. The panic of '93 struck another blow from which Caribou never fully recovered. Then the fire of 1900 virtually wiped Caribou off the map. Little rebuilding was attempted after that. The city has been all but deserted since. Some lease mining has been carried on in recent years. The last permanent resident, 'the hermit of Caribou', died in 1944. In 1946, the Consolidated Caribou Silver Mining Company completed the 3,500 foot Idaho Tunnel, which had been abandoned 50 years before. By direct telephone from Rockefeller Center in New York, the company president gave the signal for the final blast opening the tunnel. But although the blast was heard in New York via telephone, it was not loud enough to wake the slumbering city.

BEST MINES: Caribou, Conger, Poorman, Sherman, Idaho, Boulder County, No-Name, Spencer, Sovereign People, and Seven-Thirty.

***Gold Dust:** Another thing that helped cause the downfall of Caribou was the lack of direct railroads. The railroad was only built as far as Caribou. During its heyday, a constant stream of ore wagons rambled down 'coon trail' to the railway....the Caribou city fathers had frequent pangs of conscience. During these periods they ran the shady ladies out of town. The ladies set up shop in Cardinal for a while and then drifted back to Caribou....The Caribou was the top mine, producing between six and eight million dollars in silver and gold. But there were many other good mines. The first 20 feet of the Idaho shaft brought \$20,000....the Caribou changed hands many times until a Dutch company paid three million dollars for it in 1873....an exhibit of Caribou silver ore at the Philadelphia Centennial Celebration in 1876 brought widespread attention and additional investment in the camp....Caribou had several newspapers through the years. The first was the Caribou Post, which was published from 1870 to 1872 by the editors of the Central City newspaper....the interesting Caribou Cemetery is over the winding road from town. Only a few cabins are left in the town but the hills are spotted with evidence of past activity.*

(Excerpts taken from the 1968 printing of The Guide to the Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps by Perry Eberhart....)

Mining Concerns from Around the Country

(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section each month and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is strictly my opinion, and that is that, like it or not .jj)

Property Rights Triumph over Critical Habitat says Supreme Court: On November 27, 2018, the US Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the US Department of Interior cannot designate critical habitat for a species when that species does not currently live there. In 2001, the US Fish and Wildlife Service declared the dusky gopher frog endangered. After the Service was sued by environmental groups, the agency identified critical habitat in 2012 that included 1544 acres in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, which the Service identified as Conservation Unit 1. The frogs did not occupy this habitat and had not been seen in the entire state for 50 years. The property was rich in timber and the owner was leasing a portion of this land to Weyerhaeuser. While ponds were present on the property, there are no endangered frogs and the property lacks the 'forest canopy' necessary for their survival. The property owner was told he could make changes to his property to make it suitable for the species at his own cost. One alternative proposal from the Service was for the Army Corps to deny a permit if one was requested, which would prohibit the landowner from using 60% of the property. He stood to lose around \$34 million dollars if he could no longer lease his property to harvest timber. The Center for Biological Diversity and the Gulf Restoration Network intervened on behalf of the Service. The landowners, with the exception of Weyerhaeuser, were represented by the Pacific Legal Trust. A lower court ruled against the property owner. It was appealed to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Four of the five judges agreed with the lower court. However, Judge Priscilla R. Owen, in a dissenting opinion, stated, "...the Service's position that Unit 1 is 'essential for the conservation of the species' is illogical on its face...the Government is aware that Unit 1 cannot be used for the conservation of the dusky gopher frog because someone or some entity would have to significantly modify Unit 1 to make it suitable for frog habitat. Unsuitable habitat is not essential for the conservation of the species. The 5th Circuit Court denied the request for an *en banc* (all seventeen judges) hearing even though six judges sided with dissenting Judge Owen. So the case was appealed to the US Supreme Court. The US Supreme Court considered 2 questions: 1) whether "critical habitat" under the ESA must also be habitat; and 2) whether a federal court may review an agency decision not to exclude a certain area from critical habitat because of the economic impact of such a designation. In a unanimous opinion, the Court found:

An area is eligible for designation as critical habitat *only if it is habitat for the species*. That provision, the sole source of authority for critical habitat designation, states that when the Secretary lists a species as endangered, he must also



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“designate any habitat of such species which is then considered to be critical habitat.” It does not authorize the Secretary to designate the area as critical habitat unless it is also habitat for the species.

The Secretary’s decision not to exclude an area from critical habitat under the law *is subject to judicial review*.

The decision was handed down before Judge Kavanaugh was appointed to the Court.

(This kind of stuff just ticks me off to no end. It is a classic example of how the environmentalists abuse the system to meet their agenda. Who cares about individual rights? Who cares about the law? Let’s take our deep pocket money and circumvent it all to get our way...! I see examples of this happening all across the West. I think the fact that the USSC was unanimous in this decision is important. Thank God the Justices are not fooled by such tactics and hold to the Letter of the Law and continue to defend our individual rights....jjl)

Waters of the United States: The EPA’s definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) has far reaching implications for mining, ranching, farming, logging and development projects of all kinds. The Obama Administration expanded the definition from navigable waters to include seasonal streams, ponds and ditches. An individual Clean Water Act permit takes on average of 788 days to process and costs \$271,000 in fees. Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler proposed on December 11 that the WOTUS definition will return to its traditional definition under the Trump Administration. The proposed rule states that the following waters will not be under federal jurisdiction: 1) Groundwater, 2) Ephemeral features that diffuse storm water runoff, 3) The majority of ditches, 4) Artificially irrigated areas, 5) Prior converted cropland, 6) Artificial lakes and ponds, 7) Water filled depressions created incidental to construction or mining and pits excavated for obtaining fill, sand and gravel, 8) Storm water control features, 9) Wastewater recycling structures, 10) Waste treatment systems. The proposed rule has not been published as yet in the Federal Registry. Upon publication, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will accept comment for sixty days. This proposal will make things clearer and easier to understand that will result in significant cost savings, protect the nation’s navigable waterways, and reduce barriers to important economic and environmental projects. It will end years of uncertainty over where federal jurisdiction begins and ends. It would help a landowner understand whether a project on his or her property will require a federal permit or not without spending thousands of dollars on engineering and legal professions.

(I stated back when this rule was passed that it was a blatant attempt by the environmentalists to block timbering, mining and logging interests and to discourage expanding farmland/cropland. As a supporter of mining and farming and ranching, all I can say is ‘Thank God for Trump!’

They Found the Cache

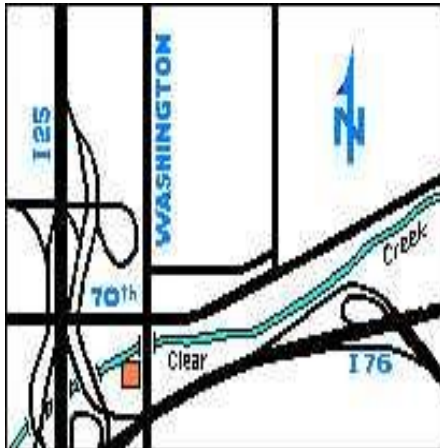
Gordon, Yvonne and Kale Smith were the lucky finders of the last cache hunt and received a stunning 6.0 gram crystalline nugget for their efforts. They also had the new hunt ready to go and issued **Clue #1** at the Jan meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS





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Selling the Bazooka Gold Trap Sluice

Greg Doyle, President

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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Mar 2019

(**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 Employee Appreciation Day	2
3	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time starts	11	12 WMMI Repeat Photography of the Pikes Peak Region	13	14	15	16 WMMI Family Day Science
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 GPR Club Meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30