

THE GOLD NUGGET

May 2020

LAST NOTICE

2020 Member Dues can be paid now by mail or cash, card or check at any time....renewals are \$30.00 a year while new memberships are pro-rated. (Mail address on last page of the newsletter)

MAY MEETING IS CANCELLED!

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MAY OUTING IN BLACK HAWK IS CANCELLED!

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



The 'Shelter in Place' Order has been extended until mid-May for most of the Greater Denver area. This includes the Clements Center where they informed me on April 27 that there will be no 'social gatherings' permitted larger than 10 people through May. **Therefore, our May meeting is cancelled as well.**

For those who grew up in or lived through the severe conditions of the Depression Era or World War II, this is certainly nothing new. We have been there and done that before...! But for everyone born after 1945, it is something that we thought we would never have to go through or endure again. Maybe a little adversity is a good thing. Sometimes we get caught up living like there is always a tomorrow and we forget that tomorrow was never promised. Enjoy what you have today and love those around you like there will be no tomorrow. There is nothing like this kind of situation that can drive that point home harder than anything else.

I noted that the statistics for the month of April here in Colorado were quite interesting. At the close of the month, there were some 14,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and some 700 deaths. What is very interesting is that over 10,000 of those cases occurred in April resulting in over 600 of those deaths. Just in April...! We are now seeing some loosening of the restrictions taking place around our state. The more rural, the looser and the more densely populated, the slower the loosening. And that makes sense. So far, to date, I know four people who have contracted the virus and one has died. But since my wife is extremely vulnerable, I have been strictly following the rules to avoid bringing anything into the house. I am actually not very concerned about myself as I am healthy, but she is not. So I choose not to 'poke the bear' on her behalf. Even so, I am not one to let this 'social distancing' and 'social isolation' bother me very much. There are lots of books to read on gold prospecting and other topics of interest. There is plenty of TV and the dog and I am getting lots of exercise as well, so it is all good.

I am quite disappointed that we have had to cancel the prospecting outings but it is what it is. **Pretty certain that the May Outing to Black Hawk will also be cancelled as Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties have banned social gatherings until further notice.** I don't see that changing until at least June if not July, so cross your fingers. If there is a change in any of that, I will certainly let the membership know.

Spring is finally here and the forecast shows that we are going to have one more freeze around the middle of May and then we are good for summer. We should be able to get back to prospecting before too long. Just keep in mind that the water is going to be rising with the warm temperatures, so be sure to be aware of your surroundings if and when you do get back into the water. Until then, there is always the trusty old metal detector in the back seat. Detecting is usually a solitary exercise anyway.

Gold continues to fluctuate in the Commodities Market throughout all this mess and I see a slow come back for the Market in general. But if we want to get this economy jump started, we need to get our people back to work. I hope that



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

none of our members have lost jobs because of this mess, but I know that some of you probably have and I feel for you greatly. Hopefully, things will improve quickly. I don't want to see anyone lose jobs, homes, or worse, lives. So know that I will be praying for good fortunes and health for all of you and hope to see everyone back at a meeting someday soon.

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'!

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 prospectors. I am parked here in my recliner chair with a glass of ice-cold lemonade, ready to dazzle everyone with my latest gold prospecting story..... NOT !!!! The truth is, I still have not been out chasing gold or detecting for more than two months. I sure hope that they start to ease up on the restrictions soon. I am refraining from going out, but it is starting to work on me a little more with each passing week. Some of my nugget hunting friends in California got "cabin fever" and escaped to Nevada about ten days ago. They "camped out" in the desert, and detected for a few days.

They scored some nuggets from a spot that produced for us last October, nobody gets it all !!! On the second day, they broke a rule, and left gold to go look for gold. That is not usually advisable, but if you manage to find a new patch of gold, you end up a hero !!! And that is just what they did, one of the guys banged the first nugget fifteen minutes after they started. I have a general idea of where they were, but it's a large area, hopefully there will be more "information divulged" in the near future. As is the custom, the new patch has been given a name, it is called the "X" Patch. At first, the thought of naming these patches may seem a little silly, but it is a very simple way of directing someone to a specific spot after having been there before. None of that, take the main dirt road to the second left, then go right on first road for three quarters of a mile to the white post ?!?!? With our bunch, it's much simpler to say, we will meet at the "October Patch" at 8:00 in the morning. We have quite a list of locations these days, the Burn Barrel, Jack Rabbit, Pickle Patch, U Patch, Gold Hill, Lunker Hill, Dink Patch, Bikini Tree, and on and on !!! I took a lunch break today at my shop, when I sat down at my desk, I noticed that I had a missed call from "Club Past President" Gary Hawley. Gary and his wife are still in Congress, Arizona. They never made to California, due to the corona virus situation, the area up near the redwoods is closed. Gary said it was 99 degrees when we were talking, they are both well and hoped that all of us are doing fine also. Well, I guess that is about all that I have for now, I hope that all of our members and their families are well. 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 Coronavirus has disrupted everything so whenever we are able to reconvene, the next Meeting will feature a nine (9)-nugget giveaway that will include a 2.4-gram nugget. We should have a new "Special Nugget" by then as well. Be sure and bring extra cash for the nugget giveaways. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time that I have at my desk in the back. Hope to see you all there at the next meeting.!!

Board Meeting Minutes From Apr2020

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



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

THERE WAS NO BOARD MEETING FOR MAY DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.
HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.

Question of the Month

Refer to March newsletter as it will remain the same until we meet again.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Subtract the # of electrons in an atom of gold from its atomic weight and that number is the answer to this month's question.

2020 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

General Meeting Minutes From Apr 2020

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THERE WAS NO APRIL MEETING.

A Miner's Laugh

While stitching up a cut on the hand of an old miner whose hand had been caught on some nasty metal debris while dredging, the doctor struck up a conversation with him. Eventually, the conversation got around to politicians and their role as our leaders. The old miner said, "Well, as I see it, most politicians are just 'Post Turtles'." Not being familiar with that term, the doctor asked the old boy just exactly what was a 'Post Turtle' anyway. The old miner scratched his chin and said, "Well, when you are driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a turtle balanced on top of it, well, that is what we call a 'Post Turtle'." Seeing the look of confusion on the doctor's face, the old miner continued to explain. "You know that he didn't get up there on that post all by himself and he doesn't really belong up there, and he doesn't know what to do while he is up there because he is elevated way beyond his ability to function, and so you just have to wonder what kind of a dumb arse put him up there to begin with!!!"

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



The finds of the Month 2020:

Be sure to bring your finds of the month that you have collected since the **February meeting**. All those finds will be in competition when we can reconvene next, which may in fact, not be until May. The judging has started anew for the year 2020 and the November 2019 Finds are included in the 2020 contest.

Be sure to save all your winning items for the November 2020 judging.

Prospecting in New Zealand

by GPR Member **Stephan Pott**

What a quick adventure we had. My son was accepted into the Lincoln University – CSU Study Abroad Program in late 2019. We felt that, as good parents it was our obligation to bring him to Christchurch, New Zealand (NZ) via Auckland in early February 2020. Little did anyone know that the Coronavirus would soon shut down the program and send all the students packing in mid-March for 14-day quarantine back here in Colorado. The bright side of the Coronavirus was the lack of tourists from the Pacific Rim Countries-shorter lines and easier access.





Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

Having this chance of a lifetime, I boned up on the NZ gold rush history. Government staff's efforts from New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals did a great job designing a friendly Website showing where you can have some fun panning and fossicking for rock hounds. The New Zealand mining history is almost identical to the Colorado rush of 1859 with the Mauri people replacing the Utes. Even though my wife went to the Colorado School of Mines, she had a bit more of an interest in the *The Lord of the Rings* movie sites and Frodo's *Hobbiton* than panning for gold.

The opportunities quickly unfolded – a day tour of *Hobbiton* and some nice cold Hobbit Ale led to a half day on the Coromandel Peninsula, half day in Arrowtown, and a few hours at the Kawarau Gorge Mining Centre in the Gibbston Valley out of Queenstown. After boning up on the NZ prospecting requirements the next challenge was finding a classifier, pan, shovel and TIME.

Although my equipment did not fit into my wife's suitcase, I did bring the most important thing - the desire and passion that I learned from all of you. Researching the internet, YouTube, and 2D maps is a bit different than actually seeing the NZ geography and getting a feel for the history of the Mauri natives and the English government. Finding local clubs and supplies was also a challenge even though we saw locals panning/slucing.

Not wishing to get in the local papers, I had to be realistic and narrow my prospects down. On the north Island, I zeroed in on the town of Thames on the Coromandel Peninsula. The islands fault zone and gold-bearing quartz mineralization was the stage for the Hauraki Goldfield, which started in 1867. Between 1868 and 1871, the area goldfield yielded 2.3 million ounces of gold. The Thames School of Mines (started in 1885) was the closest I got to prospecting. Today the school is a museum and appears frozen in time – lab tables, mercury recovery still, assaying facility, and gas lighting still in place. As far as getting into the hills, while there were many areas to “trek” and enjoy nature, you need a local prospecting contact.



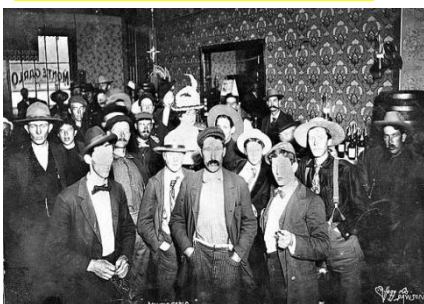
Leaving the north Island, we flew to Queenstown, a sort of Vail/Breckenridge playground for tourists. Driving about 30 minutes out of Queenstown, we arrived at Arrowtown on a nice sunny Sunday. Much like downtown Golden, Arrowtown still reflects its mining history in its buildings even though the rock shops had more jade and Australian opal on display. Once I spotted a Kiwi prospector (his back brace gave him away), I knew I was in the right place. No question about flood gold - just a week before the river was 4 feet higher than pictured (at left). When rain is in the forecast, beware!

The following morning, we drove to Christchurch – lucky for me we went past the Kawarau Gorge Mining Centre with its Stamper battery and hydraulic monitor still hooked up and operable. I wish we had more time to walk through this 1860's settlement – a great example of historic mining preservation.

Like any vacation, valuable time runs out and you are pulled back into the real world. If you ever have a chance to visit New Zealand, it is well worth the trip. This country has many opportunities for every traveler from window shopping in the big cities, watching sheep in rolling-hill country, trekking along trails in the rugged west coast mountains, and of course, if you are lucky, finding a little gold for a nice souvenir.

FORGOTEN SHORT STORIES OF THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH

Swiftwater” Bill Gates



The Gold Rush gave birth to its fair share of legends and tall tales. Sometimes, however, the truth is so strange that it runs together with what's been made up. The story of “Swiftwater” Bill Gates is one such tale. In 1896, Gates was working in Alaska as a dishwasher when he decided to try his hand at prospecting. He sank all of his fortune on a claim with six others—following disappointment after disappointment, they finally hit it rich. Wealth soon went to his head, and he became well known around Dawson City for his gambling habits and his obsession with a woman named Gussie Lamore. He was so enamored with her that he offered her weight in gold in exchange for her hand in marriage. That is, until he saw her on the



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

arm of someone else. His revenge was bizarre—Gussie loved eggs, which at the time were very hard to find. So he went around and bought them all, an act which earned him the nickname, “The Knight of the Golden Omelet.” At the end of the Gold Rush he headed to California, still a rich man. There he married Gussie’s sister, Grace, but the marriage ended in complete hatred for each other. His next wife was a 16-year-old named Bera Beebe (whose mother would go on to record his life story). Ditching her—and their son—on the East Coast, he ended up back in Montana. There, he hooked up with yet another one of Gussie’s sisters, Belle, and then married his own 14-year-old niece shortly thereafter. He ended up getting arrested for kidnapping said niece, though the charges didn’t stick. Once again a free man, he divorced Bera, who committed suicide after declaring her undying love for him. In response, he married yet another woman, this one named Kitty. That marriage didn’t last either, and two years later he wed an 18-year-old girl named Sadie.

According to the story, when the government finally caught up to him in regards to unpaid child support, Gates absconded to Peru, where he was ultimately murdered in 1937. Reportedly, he was still searching for more gold.

Wyatt Earp in the Klondike

After the famous events of Tombstone, Arizona, Wyatt Earp and his wife disappeared into the Yukon. Not a lot of news regarding Earp’s stay while up there filtered down into the United States. According to town records in Wrangell, Alaska, he acted as a deputy marshal for 10 days, although nothing of note happened. According to the *New York Sun*, though, Earp met his match in a rather polite RCMP officer. When Earp made his way into Dawson City, the story claimed, he traded his street clothes for his guns and went about cleaning up the place the only way he knew how—by shooting up the town. The Mounties that were charged with keeping the peace weren’t interested in any of that nonsense, and one—specifically said to be only about



150 centimeters (5 ft.) tall—approached the gunfighter and demanded Earp surrender his gun. There was much swearing and cursing and refusal on Earp’s part, but the unnamed Mountie (referred by the *Sun* as “the little chap”) wasn’t impressed. His polite-yet-firm request never wavered, and although Earp was said to want to kill the man for his audacity, he was talked out of it when friends pointed out that killing a Mountie would invoke the wrath of the entire British Empire. Earp put his guns away and put back on his street clothes.

It’s a great story, and one can see why a United States newspaper would want to run such a damning piece on Earp. However, when the *Dawson Record* ran the story, they added an introductory paragraph stating how nobody in town remembered any such incident actually happening.

The History of the Middle Finger

Trolled from the Internet

We have, I am certain, all seen somebody deliver a one-fingered salute for one reason or the other. It is a salute we refer to as ‘giving the finger’ or ‘flipping someone off’. But where did this expression come from? Where did it originate and why? Inquiring minds want to know, so I thought I would offer a little history lesson during these idle times.

Before the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, the French armies, anticipating victory over the English, proposed to cut off the middle finger of all captured English soldiers. For, without their middle finger, it would be impossible to draw the renowned English longbow and therefore, they would be incapable of fighting in the future. This famous English longbow was traditionally made of the native English Yew tree, and the act of drawing the longbow was known as ‘plucking the yew’ (or to ‘Pluck yew’).

However, much to the bewilderment of the French, the English won a major upset and they then began to mock the French by waving their middle fingers at the defeated French, saying, “See, we can still pluck yew..!” Since ‘pluck yew’ is rather difficult to say, the difficult consonant cluster at the beginning has gradually given way over time to a labiodental fricative “F”, and thus the words often used in conjunction with the ‘one fingered salute’ It is also because of the pheasant feathers on the arrows used by the longbow, that the symbolic gesture is also known as ‘giving the bird’ And now you know probably more than you wanted to know. But, since I have seen some of you use this expression, I thought you would like to know where it came from. (*Okay, now I am really smiling big....JJ*)





Ground Balancing Your Mind (Like you would your Metal Detector) by Jim Long

Soils in different areas contain varying levels of metallic minerals which can affect metal detection depth. That means that if you don't know the composition of the ground that you are searching, you could be missing valuable finds. One way to minimize the effects that ground minerals cause is by using ground balancing, as it allows your detector to limit signals from ground minerals. Ground balance is important because it's possible that in areas where ground mineralization is concentrated, you may get signals that tell you there is a target, when there really isn't. The feedback from mineralization can also hide good targets, and negatively affect depth detection. Everyone who owns and uses a metal detector understands that ground balancing is critical to one's success in detecting, be it for coins, artifacts or gold nuggets. All of us 'swingers' know how important ground balancing is to success. But have you ever thought about ground balancing your mind and your body before, during and after prospecting? Or even just in your daily life and routines?

Due to this current pandemic that we are experiencing, we all have a lot of down time as we practice social distancing and are pretty well house bound for the most part as a result of social isolation as well. That leaves a lot of time for a little necessary 'ground balancing' of our minds and bodies. You can read tons of books and listen to a multitude of people give speeches about this stuff and even pay a ton of money for one on one instruction in this area, but there are a lot of 'free' ways to get the same information and put it to practice. I used to have to sit through in-service training in my previous life (law enforcement) due to the stressful environment that we worked in every day. And I learned the value of taking 'me' time and learning the little tricks of the trade to keep your sanity when dealing with the usual run of the mill aftermath of violence unchecked. Part of that was the use of four mindful tips and simple little techniques that I thought I would share with you folks. Just a couple ways to 'reclaim your center' and 'ground your being'.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "*Your own mind is a sacred enclosure into which nothing harmful can enter except by your permission.*" We all have days when we feel a little out of control. Maybe even a little crazy? Sometimes events spiral out of our control (surprise surprise!), and our emotional center veers off balance, and it's like someone turned the world upside down. This Corona Virus is a perfect example happening right now. I actually think that's pretty common for a lot of us. But not everyone has the inner tools to quickly bring themselves back to center. You see, the mind is wily. Like a toddler who manages to discover every opportunity to sow the seeds of chaos, our minds are calibrated, through both habit and evolution, to trigger strong emotional responses. It is what makes us very human. For millions of years, our bodies and minds were conditioned to trigger the release of adrenaline and cortisol (stress hormone) whenever we perceived a mortal threat, like a deadly Tyrannosaurus Rex or saber toothed cat. In those moments, we were gripped by the famous fight or flight response. It was an evolutionary response to danger. And even in these days, we are still governed by that primitive conditioning. The mind still triggers the release of powerful hormones into our bodies, but now the threats are more subtle. Your boss says something unsettling, you see something horrific on 24-hour cable news, or someone cuts you off or nearly hits you while driving on the road. Or an unexpected pandemic strikes and we are out of work, no money coming in, car payment and rent is due, kids need food, and the next thing you know, you are in the grips of a hormone-induced response. Your rational faculties all but disappear and you're jacked up on adrenaline. Suddenly you're ready to go head to head with a dinosaur or run for your life and you're not even sure how you got into that state. That's the power of our biology to override our rationality and knock us off balance. And worse, this often happens when we aren't so conscious of it. So then we get into a spiral with negative thoughts, anxiety, and we've truly jumped down the rabbit hole. So how do we get a grip and stabilize things?

So let's break it down and look at these four areas where meditation and mindfulness can help you center your mind and yourself when it matters most: 1. Anticipate Stress, 2: Diffuse Internal Drama, 3. Relax, Relax, Relax, and 4. Stay Grounded & Centered.

Anticipate Stress: Stress is a killer. It can sneak up on you. And of course, the media and our doctors have told us this. But do you take it seriously? For me, I notice it in the form of a pit in my stomach or an increase in my heart rate. And also, just the feeling of being amped up, unsettled, unbalanced, and not centered in myself. And I tend to snap at those nearby or close to me. Another thing about stress is that it is addictive. There is certain energy in stress that can make you feel important and useful. It can reinforce your sense of you, but that often comes with a physical, emotional, and psychological price tag.

Meditation has given me a reference point to notice stress. Meditation is the opposite of stress. It is pure peace and surrender. To me, stress has everything to do with resistance. Each of us resists circumstances, events, feelings, and things we don't like. Sometimes it can be very subtle. But it creates a lot of stress. In contrast to that, meditation is merely a form of acceptance. It's all about learning how to be ok with everything exactly as it is. So meditation has helped me



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

notice when I'm getting stressed, and it has helped me to identify the sources of my stress. In that way, it helps you to stop resisting life on many levels. Some measure of stress is good, but for the most part, I don't want it and try not to let it in my life. Now I don't sit on the floor and hum 'kumbiya's' (*please let things turn out ok*) to meditate. I have adopted a simpler sort of 'que sera sera' (*whatever will be, will be*) form of it. In other words, I do a fast assessment to see how it really matters and accept what I cannot change and change what is within my power to change. And the secret is in knowing the difference. So learning how to be mindful of the sources of stress has been a game changer for me. I think it will help you too.

Diffuse Internal Drama: Drama is a part of life. You can't really avoid it. But an interesting part of drama is how we create it ourselves. A lot of drama is unnecessary. And if you're interested in staying centered and grounded, it's important to recognize how drama can mess with your balance. I realized at a certain point that certain ways of thinking would create inner drama. Some patterns of thought would trigger strong emotional responses and then I would ruminate on those thoughts, stirring the pot even further and stoking anger, rage, fear, depression, etc. That can happen when you roll from horrendous crime scene to another and it all seems just endless. At a certain point, I realized that a lot of my unpleasant moods were self-generated. Not all of them of course, but I started to see the ways in which I was contributing to my own inner drama and how deeply that would pull me out of myself. It was distracting and exhausting. And most importantly, I didn't really like that version of myself. And I saw what happened when I would go home and tell the wife what had happened. I merely transferred all that drama to her. So I stopped doing that. It just wasn't fair to her and my kids. Meditation and mindfulness (paying attention) can help you objectify these patterns of thought and rumination. They enable you to create space so that the choice of whether to go down that road, or not, is more obvious and clear. And that's been priceless. The thing about drama is that it steals your focus, your resolve, and your personal power. Mindfulness puts that power back in your control. Change what you have control to change and accept that which you cannot control. Simple, huh? Yeah, right!

Relax, Relax, Relax: Easier said than done, am I right? Do you consciously relax? I'm serious, do you? Not everyone takes time to really let go. But it's more important than most people think. That's especially true in an age when many of us are addicted to stress, like when I was a cop, and have abandoned many of the rituals where relaxation was central. When I retired in 2007, it took me a full year and a half to come back down from the adrenalin rush and the stress and regain control of my inner self and being. It truly did. Think big family meals, quiet Sundays, going digging for gold, metal detecting, you know, fun and relaxation, plenty of relaxation. Find that balance. The thing about relaxation is this. It's a simple and powerful mindfulness technique that can restore your sense of balance and equilibrium. And you can do it anywhere at any time. I've been meditating probably since 1980 or so, and that's been incredible. Meditation has allowed me to be at ease in ways I never imagined. There's a natural confidence that arises spontaneously out of deep ease. That confidence is your natural state—relaxed, self-possessed, and fully grounded in your life and self. So, one way to bring your-self back to center, is to focus on relaxing. It's as simple as taking a few deep breaths and consciously letting the stress and tension melt out of your body. A few minutes of conscious relaxation can change your mindset and your entire day. Don't underestimate it. It is how I could come back home at 4am after being called out at midnight to pick up body parts along the highway, and get back to sleep without nightmares, sadness or foreboding. It works..! I think it is easier as you get older and gain more of life's experiences and wisdom. The older generation are simply more accepting of life's trials and tribulations.

Stay Grounded & Centered: This is my favorite. Staying grounded and centered is a real art. But like most things, you can make it a habit. Think for a moment about someone you know who is really centered. What are their characteristics? This is what occurs to me. They are relaxed and self-possessed. They aren't stressed out. Their words come from a deeper place. They are ok with being wrong. They have gravity. Those are a few things that spring to mind when I imagine deeply grounded and centered friends. But this kind of grounding takes real practice. For me, meditation and mindfulness have been essential tools for learning how to stay centered in myself and to keep my mind whole and healthy. Here's how. I noticed how easy it was to be swayed by other people's opinions. I often gave other people's words and opinions more value than my own. But at a certain point, I noticed that this had a huge effect on me. It pulled me out of my own center. Mindfulness practice helped me to see that. And it also helped me to reclaim my center. It helped me to remember that at the deepest level, I am alone. I am a sovereign being. We all are. As the quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson alluded to, I have control over what I let into my mind and which currents of thought I listen to. There is no greater place to witness this than to follow the memes on Facebook, and you will clearly see exactly what I mean. So remembering that I am truly alone is deeply grounding. It reminds me that in the end, I came into this world alone, and I will go out alone. That's an essential truth and it is grounding. It brings me back to center. Like an existential reset button, it reminds me that my own



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

true north (*worth*) is within me. It's never ever outside of me. And I do not think older folks have mastered a lot of this without perhaps even knowing what it is nor could many of them even describe it. Meditation is all about being deeply alone. But it's the most nourishing aloneness you can imagine. It gives and doesn't take. It's generative and restorative. It grounds you in the reality of the here and now. And perhaps most importantly, it helps you stay true to your own true north. What is that exactly? Well, it's you...by golly. It's you..!!

Beware...it is Rattlesnake Season..!

Whirrrrr....whoa, watch your step, that sounds like a rattlesnake..!!! This is the time of year that these snakes are coming out due to the warming weather. Colorado is home to several varieties of rattlesnakes. There are three venomous snakes in Colorado, according to Colorado Parks and Wildlife; prairie rattlesnakes, massasauga rattlesnakes, and midget-faded rattlesnakes. The largest is the Prairie Rattlesnake, capable of growing to more than 4 1/2 feet long. The other two varieties, the Massasauga and the Midget Faded Rattlesnake, will grow to around 30 inches. Each complete with deadly fangs, these snakes feed on mammals and toads, with larger snakes even dine on animals as large as a prairie dog. If you're on the trails in Colorado, always be on the lookout, as these snakes can kill humans. They tend to like rocky canyons, sandy areas, and open plains with ample prey the most. Expect to encounter a prairie rattlesnake during the morning or evening hours. They tend to hide during the mid-day hours. Rattlesnakes are typically found on the land, but they can sometimes climb in trees or bushes. Here are some basic tips to keep in mind as we go about our prospecting adventures:



- 1.) Be vigilant: Keep your eyes on the ground and your ears peeled for any warnings from a rattler's signature sound.
- 2.) Don't entirely rely on the signature rattle sound: Experts suggest rattlers are becoming more silent to escape death from humans who would remove them from their habitat.
- 3.) Trail signs are your friends. Trust those who have gone before you, they've reported rattlesnake dens and the signs denote where rattlesnakes are likely to frequent.
- 4.) Rattlesnakes are most active between 50 degrees and 80 degrees, so be extra vigilant during the daytime, especially before it gets too warm for the rattlesnakes to be out and about.
- 5.) Most bites come from those who accidentally sneak up on a rattlesnake or attempt to grab a rattler. Don't ever approach the snake, just back away from its den.
- 6.) Stay on trails. They're open and typically an easy means to stay safe, as rattlesnakes can be easily spotted and avoided.
- 7.) If bit, don't hesitate, get to a hospital immediately. Hospitals can treat rattlesnake bites, but be expeditious about getting to the hospital. Call for 911, or have a friend rush you to the nearest medical facility. If you are bitten by a Rattlesnake, immediately move away from the snake. Remove any jewelry from the bitten area that might constrict as it swells. Immobilize the limb if possible. Stay calm and call 911.

If you are in an area without cell signal, slowly and calmly walk to where you can make a call. One thing you should not do if you are bitten by a rattlesnake is try to suck the venom out of the bite. Experts say this could actually make the situation worse.

So, let's be very careful out there as we go about prospecting. Always be aware of your surroundings. It is a Golden Rule...!!

Dear Friends of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry! From the WMMI

We look forward to May with hope, cautious optimism, and the feeling of renewal of springtime in the Rockies. With the new guidelines released from the Governor, the WMMI is planning a slow, purposeful re-opening with safety measures in place. Of course, there are many challenges as we move forward; but as with our Colorado miners, explorers and pioneers, we take the responsibility to plan our course wisely, using care and caution to protect our team, volunteers and guests.

May 8 & 9 (Friday and Saturday) we will open for Outside, Hayride-Style Tours! Hear about the Historic Reynolds Ranch House. See the Sealed Adit featured in Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson" books. Experience the awe of the Yellow Jacket



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

Stamp Mill! These tours will be FREE (donations accepted) Please bring your own mask, water bottle and dress for the weather. We will have a sanitation station. Space is limited. Tour times are 10, 11, 1 and 2pm. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy our beautiful outdoor campus!

We will plan a second round of Hayride-Tours on May 16 and 17 as well. Our anticipated date to resume Guided Tours inside the Museum is Monday, May 18. Stay tuned for full details as we get closer to the opening date. Our full schedule is posted on our website <https://www.wmmi.org> as well as on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Or you can always call 719-488-0880 to speak to one of our incredible volunteers or staff.



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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for JUN 2020

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(<https://www.wmmi.org/>) (Free to GPR Member with badge)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	WMMI Lecture Series: Bruce Geller "Fluorescent Minerals" 7pm	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day	15	16	17 GPR Club Meeting	18	19	20 GPR Outing Lake Gulch #3
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27 WMMI Outdoor Display & Machinery Demonstration 10am & 1pm
28	29	30				