

THE GOLD NUGGET

June 2021

The Meeting for JUNE is ON!

Though the vaccines are out and lots of folks have been getting it, the primary sticking point in getting our meetings back underway has been the 'social distancing' aspect. Jefferson County is in the process of moving their dial back to Blue. They anticipate that that will occur in June and we will be able to get back to our meetings at full capacity. There will be certain requirements that we will have to abide by. Seating will be expanded to full capacity **but attendees will have to continue to wear a mask until the State Health Department or Jefferson County relaxes that condition.** I suspect that we will be wearing masks until the first of the year at least. Should these rules relax or change, I will let the membership know as soon as I know. So hopefully, I will see everyone on June 16.

Notice: The Board of Directors has approved the following for 2021: Any member who paid their dues for 2020 are paid up for 2021 and do not have to repay. If you did not pay your dues in 2020, you will need to pay for 2021. The Membership Desk has a list of those that owe dues and will help you with that when you arrive.....keep in mind, your dues are what we buy the gold with that we give away each month in the drawings!!

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



Summer is upon us and so is the high water season. High water means that if you don't know what you are doing around high water, stay out of it..! Every year, the mining community loses one or more prospectors who forget the dangers and wind up victims of the high water. High water also means the rainy season may be close upon us as well. Heavy rain brings tumbling rocks and boulders and even dislodges logs that can kill the unwary. May and June are always periods of time when the less experienced should exercise utmost caution when playing outdoors. You would be wise to heed the danger.

As I said last month, we are going to be able to start our meetings up again this month. I have not heard of any further restrictions other than wearing of masks, but I think we can put up with a little of that just to get back to business again. We will start up the Question of the Month again with a brand new Question so be sure and look for it elsewhere in this newsletter. The Find of the Month Program will also start back up and I encourage anyone who has been out in any fashion since last March of 2020 to bring your Finds in to show them off at the Finds Table. I know that some folks were out and about regardless of the pandemic and there was certainly nothing wrong with that. If there was truly a 'safe place', it was in the out of doors for sure. It was proven long back that direct sun killed the virus quickly and there was plenty of 'distancing' for the most part when out there anyway, so I know that some of the more adventurous didn't waste any time to get out and get a little gold with very little competition.

I have not heard much more about the status of the mining industry overall in the last month or so. There has been a certain amount of unease since the announcement of Deb Haaland as the Director of the Department of the Interior. Haaland is a lawyer, a Native American, and strong environmental advocate. She has a known history of being anti-mining. So the stage has been set but we don't know the plots and twists of the movie yet but you can be assured that there will be drama and plots and twists galore. The ending is unknown but the series will be running for at least the next four years, for certain. We will just have to see how things go.

I am going to try to get some resources going to see if we are going to be getting out on any digging parties for this summer. I have heard some horror stories about areas that we have previously prospected as a Club and some of those areas are no longer available to us for a myriad of reasons. But I am hopeful that I can get us going soon, so bear with me until I get some answers.

Gold has been running up and down for a while now. As I write this, it is running about 1900. All the so-called 'experts' have said gold was going to shoot up to 3000 an ounce, and yet they were wrong. Then the next month they said it was going to crash to not recently seen lows and yet again, they were wrong. I am beginning to think that all those so called 'experts' just like to see their names in print and like to hear the sound of their voices. They are beginning to remind me



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of the local TV meteorologists who predict the weather. Gold will increase in value unless it doesn't, and gold will crash unless it doesn't. The weather will be hot and sunny, unless it is cool and cloudy. I have always been fond of the cowboy way of looking at things which is to just saddle up and ride, but always wear your hat and keep your slicker handy just in case. And always know that the only things certain in life are death and taxes!!

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 GPOR members. Looks like we are on "final approach" to our first in person get together in over a year. At this writing, we are still about three weeks away from our meeting date. I haven't talked with President Long in a while, so I am hoping that nothing-unforeseen pops up that would prevent us from getting back on track in June. I still have not managed to get out for some panning or detecting. I had another one of those, gather up all my gear episodes this month. This "failure to launch", was because I got side tracked before leaving the house. When I finally grabbed my detector and headed for my truck, it had started to rain. So the only "thrilling adventure" that I can share this month is of a vicarious nature, but very special for me. Last month, I mentioned that one of our fellow members was in Nevada chasing gold with metal detectors and was skunked for his first two days. He called me on the morning of day three. He was having trouble locating a spot that I had taken him in 2016. He was close, but there was a small rise between him and where he needed to be. We stayed on the phone and I was able to guide him to the parking spot, which he recognized from the past. Then he hopped out of his truck, and I talked him to an area that has been productive for me in the last couple of years. I gave him a couple of suggestions on how I would hunt the area using the detectors he had with him and wished him good luck. I did not hear from him for a couple days, by then, he was back home. He sent me an e-mail with the picture that you see here and a very gracious thank you for my advice. We talked on the phone a couple days later, and I got an enthusiastic account of his adventure on day three. As you can see, there are eleven pieces of gold, which is probably double the number he has found on any previous outing. Another fact worth mentioning, is he popped all eleven pieces in about four hours!! What I find most impressive are the two smallest pieces. I know what detector he used to find those two little guys. I own one myself, and have never found gold that small with it. Anyone can find large gold, if they can manage to get their coil over it. Finding tiny pieces like those two requires an immense amount of patience and concentration, it is also a great confidence builder. I could not be happier about this story if I had found this gold myself. Well Done, Dan!!! 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



I am happy to announce that we are getting back together on June 16! The Meeting will feature a nine (9) nugget giveaway that will include up to a 2.4 gram nugget. We have a new "Special Nugget" by then as well. Be sure and bring extra cash for the nugget giveaways. We will present the February 2020 winner of the special nugget their beautiful prize. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time, which I have at my desk in the back whenever we finally get to reconvene.

Hope to see you all there at the next meeting..!!

Board Meeting Minutes From May 2021

James Long	Joe Shubert	Joe Fortunato	John Johnson
Mike Stevens	Joe Johnston	Chris Kafka	Brandon Luchtenburg



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Joe Kafka	Bobby Manning	Andy Doll	Gary Hawley
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THERE WAS NO BOARD MEETING FOR MARCH DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.
HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON.

WE WILL BE MEETING ON JUNE 16, 2021

SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

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 May 2021

1. DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THERE WAS NO May MEETING.
2. **WE WILL BE MEETING AGAIN ON JUNE 16, 2021.** Jefferson County has opened for public meetings again and the Clements Center is now open for our meetings. The Contract has been signed and we are good to go. However, there are still a few small guidelines that we must conform with. **There is no more social distancing but we do have to wear a mask while in the Meeting Rooms.** As far as I know, that is the only requirement we have. Things may change by the time we have our meeting but bring your mask just in case.
3. We will be back to the Question of the Month feature so look for it in this newsletter. We will be back to the Finds of the Month also, so be sure to bring what you have found on any outings you have been on. I have acquired a new 'Special Nugget' and we will start the ticket sales for it as well.
4. **SEE YOU ALL AT THE MEETING!!!**

A Miner's Laugh

Curtis and Leroy bought a mule for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the mule the next day. The next morning the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry fellows, I have some bad news, that old mule died last night." Curtis and Leroy replied, "Well, then just give us our money back." The farmer told them that he couldn't do that as he had already spent that money. The boys said that they would take the mule then anyway. The farmer asked them what they wanted with a dead mule? Curtis said, "Why, we are gonna raffle him off..!" The farmer said they couldn't raffle off a dead mule but Leroy told him that they sure could because they didn't have to tell anybody the mule was dead. A couple of weeks later, the farmer ran





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into Curtis and Leroy at the local Piggly Wiggly store and asked them what they had done with that old dead mule. The boys said they had raffled him off by selling 500 tickets for two dollars apiece and made a profit of \$998 dollars. The farmer asked if anybody had complained about the whole deal. Curtis said, “Well yeah, the feller who won got upset, so we gave him his two dollars back. Curtis and Leroy now work for the government. They are overseeing the Bailout and Stimulus Programs!!!

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

The finds of the Month 2021:

This Program will start up at the June 16 meeting. Be sure to bring any Finds that you have if you have been out and about during the pandemic. We will accept anything found since March of 2020. Be sure to list the date that you found the item when you submit it.

‘Claim Jumpers’ in Brazil

After Gold Miners shoot Yanomani people, Brazil cuts Environmental Regulations further by Mongabay.com on 13 May 2021

With 300 votes in favor and 122 against, Brazil’s Lower House passed the draft of a bill on May 12 that withdraws environmental impact assessments and licensing for development projects, ranging from construction of roads to agriculture.

The measure, which was submitted to the Senate for its appraisal, is backed by President Jair Bolsonaro and the powerful conservative agribusiness lobby — the ‘ruralistas’ — who champion it as a way of slashing red tape on environmental licensing, to facilitate “self-licensing” infrastructure projects.

Congressmen, experts and activists opposed to it are convinced the new legal framework will inevitably fast-track approval of high-risk projects, leading to deforestation and the escalation of violence against traditional communities.

As the Lower House moved to approve it, Yanomami people were under attack by illegal gold miners with automatic weapons for the third time this week in northern Roraima state. “They [illegal miners] are not shooting to try and scare us. They want us dead,” a Yanomami leader told Mongabay.

While Yanomami people were under attack by illegal gold miners with automatic weapons for the third time this week in northern Roraima state, Brazil’s Lower House approved a bill that exempts environmental impact assessments and licensing for development projects, further endangering the country’s ecosystems and traditional communities. With 300 votes in favor and 122 against, Brazil’s Lower House passed the draft of a bill that withdraws environmental impact assessments and licensing for development projects, ranging from construction of roads to agriculture in the country. Bill PL 3.729/2004 would allow highways to be paved in the Amazon rainforest, for example, without any kind of environmental risk assessment and mitigation analysis, but rather just requiring a “self-licensing” declaration instead. The measure, which was submitted to the Senate for its appraisal, is backed by President Jair Bolsonaro and the powerful conservative agribusiness lobby — the so-called ‘ruralistas’ — who say it is a way to slash environmental licensing red tape and facilitate infrastructure projects. Congressmen, experts and activists opposing it are convinced the new legal framework will inevitably fast-track approval of high-risk projects, leading to deforestation and the escalation of violence against traditional communities. “The bill is a harsh attack on the environment and the image of our country abroad. A shameful setback,” said federal deputy Alessandro Molon on his Twitter account after the voting session, calling it “a disaster.” And they have good reasons for such criticism. According to Brazil’s Federal Court of Accounts (TCU), the government’s accountability office, of the thousands of infrastructure projects currently stalled, just 1% are for environmental reasons. Luiza Lima, a public policy advisor at Greenpeace Brasil, called the bill “an affront” to Brazilian society. “The country [is] in chaos and congressmen approve a bill that will generate legal uncertainty, increase the destruction of forests and threats to Indigenous peoples and quilombolas [descendants of Afro-Brazilian runaway slaves].” Since Bolsonaro took office in 2019, deforestation has soared nearly 50% in two years, hitting its highest level since 2008. Invasions of Indigenous territories increased by 135% in 2019, according to the Catholic Church-affiliated Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), and at least 18 people were murdered in land conflicts last year.

Yanomami attacked three times in a week

The Yanomami people, in the northern state of Roraima, are part of this statistic. They have experienced increasing violence and repeated invasions of their reserve for years, which has been officially demarcated by the Brazilian government since 1992. This week they faced attacks for three days in a row, starting on May 10, from illegal gold



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miners (*garimpeiros*) who opened fire with automatic weapons on the Palimiú village in the Yanomami Indigenous Reserve, one of their leaders, Dário Kopenawa, told *Mongabay* in a phone interview. The Yanomami responded with bows and arrows and shotguns, wounding four of the attackers during the 30-minute clash, he added. “They are not shooting to try and scare us. They want us dead.” Kopenawa, who is head of the Yanomami’s Hutukara Association, shared a video recorded by the Indigenous community on the morning of May 10. In the footage, it’s possible to see the moment when heavily armed men in boats randomly shoot at Indigenous people, including women and children, who run and flee. The day after, on May 11, the Federal Police visited the village to investigate the attack but the agents were also targeted by criminals, who, again, opened fire triggering intense crossfire for over five minutes, Kopenawa told *Mongabay*. This moment was also filmed by one of the members of the community. Seeming to downplay the violence, the Federal Police told local news website *G1* nobody was killed or injured. The police communications office did not reply to *Mongabay*’s requests for comment. Brazil’s Indigenous affairs agency Funai said in a statement it is investigating the “alleged conflict” and criticized media reports for basing their reports on a one-sided account. Funai declined *Mongabay*’s request to comment further. Kopenawa said that for the third consecutive day, on May 12, illegal miners shot at the community, leaving his people in a “constant state of fear now.”

“The situation is still very tense. Me, myself, I cannot be afraid because I have to fight for the rights of my people, for the lands of my ancestors,” he added. The Indigenous leader also urged international authorities to pressure the Brazilian government act to remove invaders from Yanomami lands.

GO WEST: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF COLORADO’S GOLD RUSH Colorado.com

Staff Writer Updated: April 8, 2021

In the mid-1800s, caravans of hopeful settlers trekked across the great unknown with common goals: the discovery of gold and a better life out West.

Morning

Start your day in the Cripple Creek-Victor Mining District, once regarded as the world’s most productive gold-mining hub. The area is part of the Gold Belt Tour scenic byway — named for the bounty of gilded discoveries made in the surrounding hills — that stretches from Florissant to Cañon City. Admire the Victorian storefronts in Victor, which remains mostly unchanged from the days when hordes of prospectors roamed the town. Then, hop on the Gold Belt Tour to Cripple Creek, a mining-turned-gaming town. Tour the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine, named after the first woman to strike gold; or go to the Cripple Creek District Museum or Cripple Creek Heritage Center to learn about those who risked everything in search of the motherlode. If you’re interested in hitting your own jackpot, duck into the Century, Wildwood or Bronco Billy’s — just a few of the casinos that line the town’s main drag.

Afternoon

Your next stop is Idaho Springs, where the first significant gold discovery was made in 1859. Order the Miner, a bacon double cheeseburger on pretzel bun, for lunch at the long-loved Main Street Restaurant. Afterward, wander over to the Underhill Museum for a peek into the life of Dr. James Underhill, a prominent mining engineer who surveyed many mines in the area in the early 1900s. Ready to step into the shoes of a real gold digger (not the variety from the Kanye West hit)? Don a hard hat for an excursion into Argo Mill & Tunnel, once the world’s longest mining tunnel, and try panning for real gold. Or for a more relaxing endeavor, take a dip in Indian Hot Springs’ steamy waters — revered by Ute and Arapaho Indians long before riches were discovered in the neighboring wilds. If you have time, detour to the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave at Lookout Mountain Park in Golden to learn about one of the frontier’s most famous characters: fur trapper, gold miner, scout and showman William “Buffalo Bill” Cody.

Evening

Drive north to the twin towns of Black Hawk and Central City, where the pursuit of riches is embedded in the past and present. A bonanza was uncovered in a Black Hawk gulch — causing more than 10,000 fortune-seekers to move to the vicinity in 1859. Meanwhile, Central City was once known as the “richest square mile on earth” for its mineral-rich grounds. Today, patrons visit to test Lady Luck at the casinos and examine still-standing structures from the boomtown days — all set against a canyon-cradled backdrop. Settle in at Dostal Alley Brewpub and Casino, Gilpin County’s only brewery, for pizza and a Gilpin Gold IPA (made with Central City-grown wild hops). Then, catch a show at the Central City Opera House, a sweet jewel-box theater built in 1878 by Welsh and Cornish miners before you jump on the Peak to Peak Highway for a twilight drive to Estes Park — your home for the evening. Historic lodgings await at The Stanley



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Hotel. Established in 1907 by Freelan Oscar Stanley of Stanley Motor Carriage Company fame, the hotel is steeped in local history. The Stanley's main building was actually constructed with material from land now known as Rocky Mountain National Park (lumber from the Bear Lake wildfire of 1900), and F.O. Stanley's friendship with naturalist Enos Mills helped facilitate the creation of the park in 1915. End your evening by raising a glass to your day-long history lesson at the hotel's Whiskey Bar before retiring to your plush guestroom.

The Silver Basin: A Colorado Chronicle (Part 7 Final)

Obituary for Edward G. Stoiber

Edward G. Stoiber, who died suddenly in Paris, France, April 21, was one of the leading mining men and metallurgists of Colorado. He was born in Germany in 1854, and graduated from the School of Mines in Freiberg. He came to Leadville from Germany as early as 1879, and for three years followed his profession as mining engineer. From there he went to Silverton, where he established a sampling plant, gradually drifting into the business on a large scale by acquiring several properties in that vicinity. These smaller claims he ultimately expanded into the immense Silver Lake property, which he sold to the Guggenheim Exploration company for \$2,350,000 about four years ago. After the consummation of this deal, Mr. Stoiber withdrew from active business and practically lived a retired life. When not in Denver, he spent his time in European travel. He was in Port Arthur only a short time previous to the Russian-Japanese war, and returned from there over the Siberian railroad before the declaration of war. During his active career, Mr. Stoiber devoted himself closely to his work at Leadville and Silverton, and it may fairly be said that he was one of the first who was successful in the treatment of low-grade mixed sulphide ores at a profit. As an operator, Mr. Stoiber did everything in his power to improve and modernize the mining business. With him, it was a science that required deep study. He was on the alert to put into practice new ideas that he believed would rebound to the benefit, not only of himself, but others. It is known that he made frequent trips to the most important concentrating plants in this country and Europe, taking copious notes and sketches of every new device that came before his observation. He introduced many improvements, some original with himself, and did not hesitate to experiment with new devices. The debt, which the mining industry of Colorado owes to Mr. Stoiber, is recognized by the practical men who are engaged in it. More than to any other man is due to him the present prosperity in the San Juan region of that state. He had no patience with the irrational system which has filled so many gulches with useless mining plants; but with the soundness in reasoning that characterized the old Freiberg man, he adapted the process to the ore, instead of trying to adapt the ore to the process, and although neither a mine finder, nor an inventor, he solved difficult problems in ore treatment, in a practical way, made money for himself, and taught others how to do it. As a philanthropist, Mr. Stoiber was always ready to contribute to any worthy cause. His benevolent deeds are well known to the charity workers in Denver. He was always kind and considerate to his employees and was highly esteemed by them. He was much interested in education and made large donations to its aid; he contributed the scientific section to the University Club library and made the gift of an elaborate set of instruments to the State School of Mines. His ambition was to develop the mining resources of the state wherever practicable, and it may well be said of him that he devoted his life to the interests and welfare of the industry. His loss, at so early an age, will be regretted by a host of friends, among who are included many who are engaged in the mining industry.

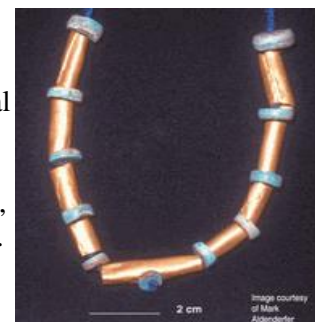


The America's Oldest Gold Artifact Discovered

nationalgeographic.com

Sara Goudarzi for National Geographic News

March 31, 2008 A nine-bead necklace discovered in Peru is the oldest known gold artifact in the Americas, archaeologists say. The necklace, dated to 2100 B.C., was uncovered in a burial pit near Lake Titicaca next to the jawbone of an adult skull. Prior to this discovery, the oldest known gold artifacts in the New World were found in central Peru at sites dated to around 1500 to 1410 B.C. The burial pit was found near the ancient settlement of Jiskairumoko, which dates back to 3300 B.C. The beads were hammered from gold nuggets and suggest the development of an early sedentary culture, said lead study author Mark Aldenderfer, an anthropologist at the University of Arizona. "What this discovery is really telling us is that the people who were living at this site were undergoing a rather profound social and economic transition towards sedentary





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life," he said. "Once that process starts, a lot of the social rules of life when you're a hunter-gatherer change dramatically such that different kinds of institutions are beginning to be created," he added. The discovery is detailed in this week's issue of the Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences.

Sedentary Life: Aldenderfer and his team found the site during an archaeological survey of the region in the mid-1990s and began excavating it in 1999. The aim of the project was to understand how hunting and gathering cultures became more sedentary and created small villages. "As we began to excavate, [the site] in fact did have a lot of very cool information—houses that were never discovered in the Andes before and a variety of other kinds of features," Aldenderfer said. "Of course, the discovery of the burial with the gold was kind of an extra at that point—it was completely unexpected."

Aldenderfer and his colleagues dated the site using a fragment of wood charcoal found in association with the burial.

Mark of Status?: Researchers suspect that the bones found in the pit belong to a female, because all the other burials at the site from this time frame are of women. "We're fairly certain this necklace was used as a real mark of high status for this individual," Aldenderfer said. "That doesn't mean they were an important political leader, but it does mean that the individual had a certain level of prestige and connections to the world to be able to obtain this necklace." John Hoopes, an anthropologist at the University of Kansas who was not involved with the study, said the link between gold and status in some ancient cultures remains unclear. (See related photos: "Gold-Mining, Burial Artifacts Unearthed on Nile" [June 19, 2007].) "I think the statement that the individual who had the gold necklace was wealthy and important runs the risk of circular reasoning: Did this person have gold because they were wealthy and important, or were they wealthy and important because they had gold?" Hoopes said. "The main implication of this discovery is that gold was being used for ornamentation before the appearance of complex social organization," he added. "The people of Jiskairumoko apparently valued gold because it was a pretty, non-corroding, malleable material."

What does Gold Look Like in Nature?

Everyone knows what gold looks like, but raw gold as it has formed in the natural environment is very different than gold that has been melted and refined.

This article will take a look at the different ways that you might find gold in nature, as well as some of the other minerals that you may encounter that can easily be mistaken for the real thing. If you are interested in prospecting for the precious metal, then you need to know what to look for!

Most of the gold that is mined around the world is found in lode sources, also known as hard rock deposits. This is where the gold is actually encased within rocks and must be manually removed from the Earth to extract the gold. The gold bearing material is called ore.

Identifying gold bearing ore just by visual inspection can be very difficult, or even impossible, depending on the concentration of the gold within the rock. Many ores that contain gold contain other metallic metals in them also, so there are likely to be a lot of shiny minerals mixed into the rock, which may or may not be valuable.

The other challenge in visual inspecting gold ores for possible gold content is the fact that the total concentration of gold in a piece of ore is generally negligible. Most ores will have little or visible gold in them, so it requires further processing to actually find out if there is any gold in them.

Many of the large lode mining operations around the world are processing low-grade ores. As an example, some of the materials that they are mining only contain maybe 1 troy ounce of gold per ton of rock. So the actual amount of gold that is in a fist-sized rock is actually very little.

The purpose of mentioning this is to say that just judging a rock by how shiny it is really isn't a very good indicator. Most gold bearing ores found in nature are not shiny, and there are plenty of shiny rocks out there that contain no gold at all.

The types of materials that can be confused with gold vary widely. There are many different types of rock that are commonly confused with gold, but there are a few that cause a lot of problems for people that are new to gold prospecting.

Generally, it is silica, mica, and various forms of pyrite that are most common minerals found in nature that are confused with gold. These minerals can all have a goldish tint to them, and are shiny in the sunlight.





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Gold itself is generally not shiny, at least not reflectively. It is brilliant and golden, but its color does not vary in different light. While minerals like pyrite will virtually disappear when you take them out of direct sunlight, gold is easily visible whether it is in the sun or not.

So understand that most of those shiny rocks are not gold. 99.9% of those shiny rocks do not really have any value most of the time.

However, on rare occasions gold is visible in rock. These ores are generally considered “high grade.” Another term that the old-timers used for this type of ore is free-milling, which means that the gold could be extracted from the rock by crushing and panning, and did not require a chemical process to work them. It is often free-milling gold deposits that can successfully be hunted with metal detectors to find specimen gold.

Specimens of gold in quartz are quite rare, and depending on their beauty and “eye appeal” can be very valuable and highly collectable to mineral collectors, but there are a wide variety of specimens out there and not all of them bring a premium price.

Specimen gold is actually the vein of gold where it was running through quartz or some other host material that has broken off from the main source. (These can be indicators of a nearby lode source that can be mined, but sometimes they will be located miles away from the actual source, and have simply travelled over millions of years.)

Identifying this type of gold is a bit easier, because unlike most ores the gold is exposed and visible to the eye. You can actually see the solid mass of gold rather than small specks of shiny “stuff.”

Speaking of quartz, let’s discuss the correlation between quartz and gold. Most people know that the two materials often run together, but they will use that as a reason to believe that the shiny rock that they just found is gold, simply because they found some quartz nearby.

Quartz is the second most abundant mineral on Earth. It comprises a significant percentage of the Earth’s crust, so simply finding some quartz and then assuming that there will be gold nearby is not very likely. There are thousands of quartz areas where no gold is present. Yes, sometimes gold and quartz are found together, but they are not dependent on each other.



Ok, so back to gold.

When gold is solid and in a large mass, it is called a nugget. Gold nuggets are extremely rare, but they do exist and miners can still find them with hard work.

Gold nuggets come in many shapes and sizes. The majority of them are found in [placer deposits](#), where they have accumulated within creeks and rivers. Millions of years tumbling around in the waterways generally make them relatively rounded and smooth. The average shape of a nugget will resemble a golden piece of chewed up bubble gum.

Not all gold is smooth though. Sometimes natural gold will still have very rough and interesting shapes. These would not actually be nuggets, but rather rough gold specimens. On rare occasions, these pieces will have crystalline formations.

Their rough shape is actually a result of having traveled and eroded less than most placer gold has.

We’d all love to find a pile of gold nuggets, but the truth is that the VAST majority of gold out there is extremely small. Rather than big chunky nuggets, what you are more likely to find are small flakes, dust, and “flour” gold that is just tiny little specks.

Much like the various ores that we discussed earlier, those same shiny minerals are commonly confused with gold. Those shiny specks at the bottom of a gold pan have excited and disappointed thousands of prospectors for centuries. Remember, “All that glitters is NOT gold.”

Even on smaller specks, it isn’t too hard to tell the difference. Remember, gold in nature is always brilliant and doesn’t need to be in direct sunlight to look beautiful. However, most of the imposters will only be gold colored when they are in the sun.

If you are using a gold pan, it is also easy to see that the other minerals are not as heavy as gold. If you learn how to properly use a gold pan, you should be able to see the difference between how gold acts in your pan and how lighter minerals react when you swirl them around.

If you are reading this article, there is a good chance you found it by an internet search after finding a shiny rock that you think might be gold. If you just happened upon a rock while out on a hike or something like that, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but over the years, we have easily received hundreds, perhaps even thousands of calls and emails from people who happened to find a shiny rock and want to know if it is gold. Sometimes they are still not sure,





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and sometimes people are all but certain that they have struck the “Mother Lode” and found a giant gold nugget. Then they email us a picture of a shiny rock that is clearly not gold.

That is the point of this article. Gold can look many different ways in nature, but it is important to know the difference between gold and the other minerals. Check out some of the pictures throughout our website of the various gold nuggets and gold specimens. Once you have seen a few pictures of real gold, it is pretty easy to distinguish from the other stuff.

Gold is rare. Simply finding gold out in its natural environment is extremely challenging, even if you are looking for it. The likelihood of just stumbling across a big gold nugget while you are out walking around is unlikely.



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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for July 2021

(**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	9	10
Independence Day						
11	12	13	14	15	18	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			GPR Club Meeting			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Parents Day						