

# THE GOLD NUGGET

April 2022

## OBITUARY

### Donald Dixon



It is with heavy heart and deep sadness that we report the passing of our good friend Don Dixon. Don had been a member of the Club for many, many years and always enjoyed the programs and seeing friends and fellow prospectors. Don was a frequent buyer at the Club Store and was famous for thinking he never had enough equipment. Don's last Outing was with the Club at the old Tymkovich location on lower Clear Creek some eight years back or so. But his age and deteriorating health precluded him from joining us any further on those outings but he enjoyed the gold bags he could get from the Club Store. He had many stories to tell and enjoyed telling them. Rest in Peace old Friend. All the heavy digging is over now!

## The Prez Sez! by Joe Johnston



Welcome back. We mourn the passing of long time member Don Dixon of whom we just received notice that he passed away on December 22, 2021. We had a great meeting in **March**. Past President Rick Miska was there as well as one of our favorite speakers, David Emslie. David gave us a look into his mill and how it was brought into being. He later made his gold and silver tokens available for purchase. We can't get enough of his presentations, and I for one, could listen to them for hours. If you missed it, look for it in upcoming videos on the club web site at [www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com](http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com). We are starting into **April** and the opening of motorized prospecting. We have been getting peeks at fairer weather with hopes of more coming soon. For April we have scheduled past member/board member Allen Mershon to speak on sluicing technology. Allen has been working in the development of advanced technology in this field and is now able to share some of his knowledge in the latest advances. This should prove to be enlightening. I remember Allen doing a presentation with his laundry

years ago (you'll have to ask). The Program schedule for **May** is still open at this time. Kevin Single has been rescheduled for **June 15<sup>th</sup>** so adjust your calendars. Board member Kathy Lemuel has been in contact with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS), Department of Natural Resources to speak with us in **July** (sorry that's the earliest they are available) on mining permits, prospecting do's and don'ts, and where the line is on dredging, etc. So stay tuned and prepare as this should be of high interest to us. Our clue hunt is underway with the third clue given. You must attend a meeting to get the clues. Our sister club in the springs (Gold Prospectors of Colorado) has a poker run (automobile or motorcycle) coming up in **May** and the public is welcome to take part, their web site is [www.gpoc.club](http://www.gpoc.club) and their regular meeting is on the second Wednesday of each month in Fountain, CO. There will be prospecting related prizes in this event. (This is another of my monthly meetings.) Watch for the Easter Bunny on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the TAX Man on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and we will see you all on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday **April 20**. May your pans turn yellow with that precious metal and your detectors sniff out that bucket list treasure.

I can be contacted at c:303-888-5417 or my personal email [cjoej1@peoplepc.com](mailto:cjoej1@peoplepc.com)

## Vice President's Corner! by Mike Stevens



Last month I started telling you about how I got the gold bug. After building a crude sluice and running sand from a remote Alaskan lake through it, my platoon buddy and I split the black sand between the two of us. I was able to see a few specks of gold, but was excited to see how much more it contained. I didn't have any confidence in my panning, so I decided to take the sand to Alaska Mining and Diving. I asked the man there how much it would cost to run my sand through their large spiral wheel. He gave me the price and it was more than I thought, so I decided to not do it. After looking around the shop and seeing a picture of piles of gold on a table being protected by a big pistol on one end and a sawed off shotgun on the other I became even more intrigued with the thought of finding gold. Then a man from Nome came in with a triple layer of black trash bags full of black sand to be recovered. He did this

every few months to cash in his gold and buy more supplies. After talking a bit more the owner asked me how much



### Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

black sand I had. When he saw the small amount in the bottom of the Folgers coffee can he must have taken pity on me and grabbed the can and went to run my sand through the spiral wheel. It was exciting to see my specks of gold climbing up the wheel towards the center. Seeing those gold specks definitely increased my desire to find more gold. I don't remember how much I had, but it was enough that he offered to buy it. But I preferred he put it in a vial so I could take it home. Sadly that vial of gold never came back to Arizona with me because it fell and broke and I was unable to collect all of it.

Even though I lost that gold, I never lost the gold bug, but it was many years later before I finally got to see that yellow in the pan again. Golden Smiles for All!

### From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



The March meeting was a good turnout. 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 you wish to see it. Hope to see you all at the next meeting in April when we will be giving away nine more gold nuggets, the largest of which is 2.4 gram!! See you all in April!



YOUR 2022 DUES ARE NOW DUE...!!! DUES ARE 30.00 PER YEAR AND IS A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. BE SURE THAT EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY IS LISTED ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IF THEY WILL BE DIGGING WITH YOU. THE MEMBER SHIP COMMEETEE IS ASKING EVEYONE RENEWING THIS YEAR FILL OUT A NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ((INCLUDED WITH ATTACHMENTS).



### Board Meeting Minutes From Mar 2022

X	Joe Johnston	X	Andy Doll	X	Robert Ahr	X	Gordon Smith
X	Mike Stevens	X	Joe Kafka		Kathy Lemuel	X	Mike Hurtado
X	Bobby Manning	X	Chris Kafka		Kevin Singel	X	James Long

**Quorum** Present: \_Yes.

**Call to Order by:** \_Pres Johnston\_ at \_6:03\_pm.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Corrections: \_none\_ Approved as read/corrected: \_n/a\_.

**Treasurer's Report:** Questions: \_none\_ Approved: \_yes\_.

**Correspondence:** phone calls \_1\_ emails \_2\_ mail \_12\_.

**Webmaster:** Total hits \_\_161145\_\_ Hits in last 30 days \_176\_.

**Committee Reports:** Outings planning pending. Chair assignments (volunteers):

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the melting point of gold in degrees Fahrenheit?



### Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

Dan McConnell in hospital, R. Ahr and Shelly Z. overseeing. Passed out Board member folders. Noted long time member Don Dixon has passed away.

**Unfinished Business:** We need speakers. Kevin Singel will present at June meeting.

**New Business:** Allen Mershon will speak at April Meeting on sluicing technology. Would like to have a Member Packet for new/existing members.

**Planned Outings:** The Outing Schedule has been pretty much established and Andy will publish it with the April Newsletter. There will be room to add Outings as needed when the opportunity presents itself.

**Board Members Items of Discussion:** Binders handed out to new BMs. BM Bobby M. now working at the Alma Placer Mine. BM Mike S. advises that we will need a new store manager. BM Andy D. will remove the Covid Masking directive from web site. BM Mike H. is trying to contact Freddy Dodge and Dave Turin for speakers. BM Chris K. wants to see more variety in Outings and more communication between BMs. BMs Lemuel and Singel absent due to weather. PP JJ Long advised he will sell some of the Store products online. And announced the Aurora Water Festival for May 19 is a go and he will hand out a sign-up sheet with the details. There were no further Items discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

**Tonight's General Meeting Program:** We have David Emslie who will do a presentation on his new Mill and the progress he has made with his mine.

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting \_\_04/20/22\_\_ at 6:00pm, Next General Meeting: \_\_04/20/22\_\_ at 7:00pm

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at \_\_6:58\_\_ pm.

#### 2022 GPR Board of Directors Members President

Joe Johnston

#### Vice President

Mike Stevens

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

#### 2 Year Board Members

Bobby Manning (2023)

#### 1 Year Board Members

Andy Doll

Chris Kafka

Robert Ahr

Kevin Singel

Kathy Lemuel

Gordon Smith

Mike Hurtado

#### Past President

James Long

## General Meeting Minutes From Mar 2022

1. Meeting was opened at 7:10 pm by Pres. Johnston with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Johnston then announced that the evening Program was David Emslie who gave a presentation on his new mine in Idaho Springs and the Mill he is developing. It was a great program though David was a little late in arriving due to traffic.
3. Pres. Johnston then gave the Metals Report: Gold 1927.00, Silver 25.07, Platinum 1020.00, Palladium 2362.00, Rhodium 17500.00.
4. Web hits for last month was 176.
5. Treasurer Joe Kafka advised that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, don't forget to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.4 grams.
6. Dan and Becki McConnell were not able to attend as Dan is in the hospital. R. Ahr and Shelly Z. covered for them and reported that we had 54 members in attendance. There were 5 guests present tonight. The total meeting attendance was 21.
7. Pres. Johnston read the 'Question of the Month', which was "...What is the most common isotope of gold...? The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
8. Pres. Johnston 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, 2021. A reminder to all that their 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. Gordon Smith announced the 'Cache Clue #2'. You must be present at the meeting in order to get the Cache clues.
10. Pres. Johnston advised that the Club Store had numerous items for sale. Be sure to drop by at the break and support your Club by buying something. We have some more of our gold bags as of tonight so be sure to buy your bags. We are in desperate need of someone to attend to the Club Store. Please contact Pres. Johnston if you are interested.
11. Pres. Johnston informed the membership that the Schedule of Outings has been completed and posted in the Newsletter. There is room to add more Outings as the Year progresses.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

12. Pres. Johnston announced that the Aurora Water Festival Panning Demonstration will be on May 19 and a sign-up sheet has been placed on the front table for volunteers. We will need seven volunteers.
13. 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.
14. Members who check things out of the Club Library are reminded to return them promptly. There remains a need for new volunteers to take over the Membership and Refreshment Tables. There was nothing added from the Floor.
15. Pres. Johnston announced the break at 8:25 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:40 pm.
16. Pres. Johnston announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was, "...Most common isotopes: Au-197, which makes up 100 percent of naturally occurring gold! The winners received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
17. Pres. Johnston announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month' for January 2022. Those were:
  - Best Coin – John Olson with a 1916 Mercury dime he found while metal detecting east of Pueblo, Colo.
  - Best Jewelry – John Olson with a gold plated bracelet he found while metal detecting near Ruby Hill in Denver.
  - Best Mineral – There was no entry in this category for this month.
  - Best Artifact – John Olson with a Camay toilet soap token he found while metal detecting near Pueblo, Colo.
  - Best Bottle – There was no entry in this category for this month.
  - Most Raw Gold – There was no entry in this category for this month.
  - Largest Raw Gold – There was no entry in this category for this month.
18. Pres. Johnston concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, JJ Long, Mike Hurtado and Pres. Johnston, followed by the drawings for the 19 door prizes and 9 gold nuggets. Pres. Johnston 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. Assisting in the drawings was Robert Ahr.
19. Pres. Johnston 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.
20. Pres. Johnston 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 hat each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
21. The April Meeting Program will be a presentation by Allen Mershon on the newest Sluice box technology. Join us for a good time with good people. Having nothing further at this time, remember to prospect safely, and we will see you all at the next get together.
22. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

## **A Miner's Laugh**

An old retired miner was tending to his mule named Buddy, when along came a stranger who desperately needed the old miners help. The stranger had lost control of his vehicle and ran it off into a ditch. The stranger asked the old miner if his mule could somehow pull the vehicle out of the ditch for him and told the miner that the vehicle was fairly small. The miner said he would come, bring his mule, and take a look, but could not promise he could help if his old mule might be injured in some way from attempting to pull the vehicle out of the ditch. The miner did see that the stranger was correct and that the vehicle was small, so the old miner took a rope and fixed it so that his mule, Buddy, would be able to pull the vehicle out of the ditch. The miner then said, "Pull, Casey, Pull," but the old mule would not budge. The old miner then said, "Pull, Bailey, Pull," but the old mule would not budge again. The miner then said, "Pull, Mandy, Pull," and again the old mule would not move. The miner then said, "Pull, Buddy, Pull," and the old mule pulled until the vehicle was out of the ditch.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

The stranger was so very grateful, but asked the old miner why he called the horse by different names? The miner said, "Well, old Buddy is blind, and I had to make him think he had help pulling the car out of the ditch or he would not have pulled."

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

## The finds of the Month Mar 2022:

Contest runs from November 2021 thru October 2022. We will be looking forward to seeing what you folks have found since last November.

**Best Coin** – **John Olson** with a 1916 Mercury dime he found while metal detecting east of Pueblo, Colo.

**Best Jewelry** – **John Olson** with a gold plated bracelet he found while metal detecting near Ruby Hill in Denver.

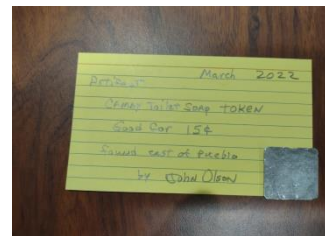
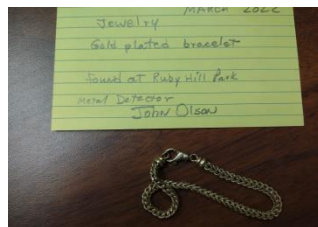
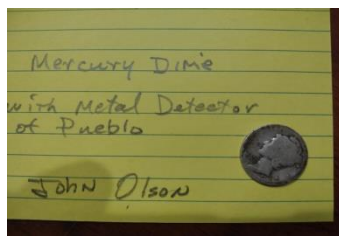
**Best Mineral** – There was no entry in this category for this month.

**Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with a Camay toilet soap token he found while metal detecting near Pueblo, Colo.

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

**Most Raw Gold** – There was no entry in this category for this month.

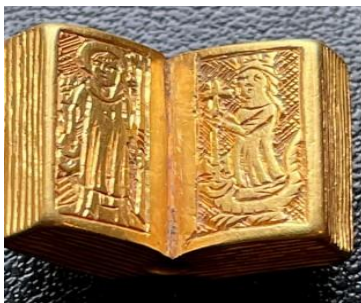
**Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry in this category for this month.



Be sure to bring any Finds that you have found in the last 30 days since the last meeting. You must list the date that you found the item and the area you found it when you submit it. Each monthly winner must save your winning Find and submit them in **November of 2022** for the **Find of the Year** in each category.

## Nurse Finds Tiny 'Medieval' Gold Bible Worth £100,000

Jen Mills Sunday 7 Nov 2021



A woman literally struck gold while out searching for interesting artefacts with a metal detector. Buffy Bailey, who works as an NHS nurse, initially thought she would dig up a sheep's ear tag or an old ring-pull from a can of fizzy drink when she picked up a signal indicating there was something in the ground. But instead, after digging around five inches into the soil she found a tiny, solid gold Bible which could be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. The object, which is just 1.5cm long and weights only 5g, is engraved with figures believed to be

the patron saints of childbirth, including St Margaret of Antioch. Experts think it could be linked to the 'Middleham Jewel,' a gold pendant found by a metal detectorist 40 miles away – which sold for a massive £2.5 million in 1992.

That piece of jewelry, discovered near King Richard III's childhood home, had similar engravings which may have been carved by the same blacksmith and given to the same woman.

The gold object could be extremely valuable. The objects' owners are thought to have been someone of high standing, perhaps royalty, as only the nobility were allowed to carry gold during that period.

It is likely to have been someone pregnant due to the nature of the engravings, which were intended to protect women in childbirth. Buffy, 48, found the Bible after taking a trip to York with her husband, who also shares her passion for metal detecting. The gold book is understood to have been found near Sheriff Hutton Castle in North Yorkshire, another property that belonged to Richard III who often spent time there. They had got





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

permission from the owner of the land before starting their search, and chose the area because of its rich history. Now, their discovery may be of international importance. Mrs Bailey said: 'Metal detecting is not a very sociable hobby and people will often try to start conversation by saying things like, "oh have you found anything good?"'

The Bible is very small and weighs only 5g. 'I just wanted to focus on detecting so I turned my back to the footpath so walkers wouldn't talk to me and just as I did I got a signal in that exact spot. 'When I took the clay off I realized it was something a bit different. My first thought was that it was some kind of charm from a gift shop. 'I took a photo and enlarged it on my phone and that's when I knew it was gold.

'It was so heavy and shiny – just absolutely beautiful. When you held it into the light it threw rainbows at you. 'I couldn't believe it. I called my husband who was in another field and asked him to come get me because I just couldn't move. 'I told him, "I need to sit down," but he said "I need to carry on looking!" He left me standing there for another hour.' Mrs Bailey, from Lancaster, has since shown the book to the Richard III Society and it is currently being assessed by the Yorkshire Museum. Mr Bailey, 59, said the museum had described the book as 'internationally important' and that experts from around the world are keen to look at it. Mrs Bailey added: 'They told us the engravings were definitely St Leonard and St Margaret – who were both patron saints of child birth. 'In the 1400s around 40 to 60% of women died in childbirth, so the owner may have prayed with this object as a kind of protection – it may have been part of a birthing girdle or a book mark for the Bible. 'Whoever had it commissioned must have been incredibly wealthy – there's nothing else like it in the world. It could be worth £100,000 or more.

Julian Evan-Hart, an expert in rare treasure and editor of Treasure Hunting magazine, described it as an 'exceptionally unique' historical artefact. He said: 'The book is dated between 1280 and 1410 when sumptuary law made it illegal for anyone other than the nobility to carry gold. 'The artwork is clearly iconographic and bears a close resemblance to the Middleham Jewel – there is every possibility that it was made by the same artist.' Matt Lewis, a specialist at the Richard III Society has seen the book. He said: 'It is far too valuable an item to have simply been lost, so its owner may have buried it for the future at the time of the Reformation when religious depictions were outlawed.' York Museum will now examine it before deciding whether to raise the funds to buy the gold book from its finders based on an auctioneer's valuation. The proceeds would then be split evenly between Mrs Bailey and the owner of the land where it was found.

## New mineral 'Davemaoite' Made an Unlikely Journey from the Depths of the Earth

November 17, 2021 5:06 AM ET Emma Bowman



Researchers say they've recovered a mineral from deep inside the Earth — one they thought would never see the light of day. Scientists at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, named the mineral "davemaoite," after Ho-kwang "Dave" Mao, a retired experimental geophysicist whose influence on the field is still felt today. "It's an opportunity to give him credit for his big contributions," said Oliver Tschauner, a mineralogist who led a study of the rare mineral, in an interview with NPR's *Morning Edition*. No one ever expected to see the mineral on the Earth's surface. That's because deep-Earth minerals like davemaoite aren't suited to survive outside the high-pressure environments where they're made. But this sample of davemaoite did survive. Trapped inside a diamond, the mineral made the more than 410-mile journey

to the Earth's surface from its lower mantle — the layer between the planet's core and crust. Without the diamond's strength, the davemaoite would've fallen apart. "That was, a little bit of luck that we found it," said Tschauner.

Scientists in 1975 had previously theorized that the crystalized compound, calcium silicate perovskite, existed within the Earth's mantle. But now they have proof, marking "the first time that lower mantle minerals have ever been observed in nature," according to a news release from the university on Monday.

The diamond-encased mineral was mined in Botswana before a gem dealer sold it to a mineralogist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. The mineral was spotted among tiny inclusions — or specks — within the diamond. "Jewelers, of course, want the flawless diamond — the one that does not have any inclusions," said Tschauner. When Tschauner and his team finally got hold of the rarity, they used what he described as a specialized X-ray, known as a synchrotron, to study it. The finding will help scientists get a clearer picture of the evolution of





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

the Earth's mantle, according to Tschauner. Scientists also believe davemaoite plays a key role in generating heat flow in the Earth's mantle, which in turn drives processes such as plate tectonics that reshape the Earth's landmasses. And it's official: Last year, before Tschauner's team published their findings, the International Mineralogical Association added davemaoite to its list of minerals. As for the sample itself, it's now in safe-keeping at the Los Angeles Natural History Museum.

## **The Best Metal Detectors, According to Real-Life Treasure Hunters** By Liza Corsillo

*(I have talked about metal detectors before but I ran across this recent one and thought it was pretty good so will share it. It was last ran around April 2021. ....JJ)*

For most of us, the fantasy of finding buried treasure faded away along with other childhood passions, like making it into the Guinness World Records for building the world's largest pillow fort. But it doesn't have to. With the right metal detector, a little patience, and some knowledge of history, anyone can dig up centuries-old jewelry and long-lost coins (or at least have a better chance of finding a lost earring in the grass). Of course, some locations are better suited for metal detecting than others. "There is a very big difference between detecting in Europe and detecting in the United States," says Branko Barisic, a Croatian detectorist (yes, that is the actual term for it) who posts about his finds, including a huge Roman coin depicting Alexander Severus on his Instagram page Metal Detecting Croatia. "Most of the coins I see people find with detectors in America are a few hundred years old, but in Europe, it's common to find Roman coins that are 2,000 years old," he says.

That's not to say that there's no cool stuff to uncover stateside, too. Brad Martin of Green Mountain Metal Detecting has a YouTube channel highlighting some of his best finds, including some Spanish gold in the mountains of Vermont. The choice of tools, he says, is important. Someone searching for gold jewelry on a saltwater beach should choose a different machine than someone searching for old coins in a park. "My advice is to visit a local hobby shop and have a chat, they will know what's best for your area." Before you do that, and to help get you acquainted with the top metal detectors on the market right now (some of which can handle all types of terrain), we asked Barisic, Martin, and five other experienced detectorists from the United States and Europe about the metal detectors they started out using and what they use now. They also suggested other gear you'll need to get your treasure out of the dirt and home safely.

According to Martin, the more expensive the machine, the more it can discriminate between trash and treasure. While you shouldn't spend thousands on your first metal detector, you don't want to go too cheap either. Martin says "spending more than \$150 from well-known brands like Garrett, XP, Minelab, and Fisher will save a lot of time and disappointment in the field." For Barisic, the location is even more important than the fanciness of your detector. "In great locations, you can find amazing things with a cheap metal detector, but in a bad location, even with the best detector in the world, you'll find nothing." Both Chambers and Martin say the best spots are those where the ground has remained relatively undisturbed for a long period of time. "Crop fields are plowed and turned, making some items too deep to detect," says Martin. Many detectorists look at old maps to find the ruins of old homes or ask permission to look for treasure at old houses about to be demolished.

But before you go hunting for artifacts, you might want to think about where you are digging and whether it is disturbing a site that could otherwise be preserved. "There is a tense relationship between metal detectorists and archaeologists," says Matthew Reeves, director of archaeology at James Madison's Montpelier in Virginia. That tension stems from incidents of theft and destruction of historic sites throughout Europe and the U.S. But there are also relationships where the two are cooperating. Reeves works with metal detectorists at Montpelier to recover and preserve the stories of the enslaved Americans who lived and labored on the 2,650-acre plantation. Before ever putting shovel to the ground, they carefully survey the land looking for evidence (usually a concentration of nails) of labor sites. If not properly handled and recorded, these sites and the stories of the people who labored there would be lost both to their descendants and to the world.

"There are places that people can metal detect and kind of scratch that itch to find things," says Reeves, noting that beaches are a good place to start. But the general rule of thumb — according to him, Chambers, and Artur Kropiwiec, a U.K.-based detectorist — is if you're not digging on your own land, you need to make sure you have the landowner's (or the state's) permission first. When it comes to public land, laws differ from country to country and state to state. So it's best to do a little research before you go treasure hunting in your nearby park because you might need to request a permit. And no matter where you're digging, it's a good idea to document and photograph where you find things just in case.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8



Barisic started his own detecting career with a Garrett Ace 250, which he says isn't too complicated or heavy to carry. "For the money, it's great because it has notch discrimination" — a function that allows you to choose which types of metals to target — "five search modes, and a host of other features," he says. This model has a search coil that is waterproof to a depth of nine inches, which, according to Connecticut-based detectorist Jessie Thompson, who has been passionate about metal detecting since he was 14 years old, makes it great for practicing on sandy beaches. If your budget doesn't accommodate the 250, the Garrett Ace 150 has a lot of the same features for a slightly lower price. You should spend between \$200 - \$250 for this item on average.

According to George Streeter, a detectorist with over 50 years of experience who hosts annual group hunts in New Hampshire and underwater hunts in the Caribbean, the Minelab Vanquish 440 has everything a beginner could need. It's lightweight and collapsible, and it uses multi frequency technology, allowing you to search for silver, gold, jewelry, and more. It gives you both I.D. and depth readings to spare you the time and heartache of digging deep only to end up with nails. And like the Garrett Ace, it has a waterproof search coil (submersible up to three feet) so you can explore beaches, streams, and river beds. This item sells between \$250 - \$300 on average.



### Best Metal Detector for Intermediate and Expert Level Hunters



Chambers, Kropiwiec, and Streeter are all fans of the Minelab Equinox 800. Streeter describes the interface as intuitive and says it can detect deeper and has more options than the Garrett Ace and the Minelab Vanquish. It uses Minelab's multi-frequency technology for supersensitive detection and lets you choose from four detecting modes (Park, Field, Beach, Gold). It has a battery life of up to 12 hours, is waterproof up to ten feet, and, depending on which package you buy, can also come with wireless headphones (to help you hear the search tones without ambient distraction) and a pin pointer to help you find your target close up and through mud. You can find this item for around \$950 on average.

### Best Metal Detector for Finding Small Items



Three of the experts we spoke to — Martin, Barisic, and Kropiwiec — love this metal detector for its high frequency, which allows for greater sensitivity to small items and items with low conductivity, like alloyed or very thin pieces of jewelry. According to Barisic, who recently switched to using the XP Deus, it's more precise and can detect items at a much deeper range than his previous Garrett AT Max. And Kropiwiec says the Deus will last a long time and retain its value. It's an expert-level metal detector with tons of customizable functions that can be used on any terrain, including search modes for wet sand, dry sand, relic, and coin hunting. It has a battery life of up to 27 hours and is fully waterproof. Plus, the company updates its software often and offers free downloadable software upgrades for life. This unit sells for \$950 on average.



Thompson has used the Minelab CTX 3030 throughout the Northeast and on detecting trips to England. "Minelab is a manufacturer of military-grade metal detectors on battlefields, and they've been making metal detectors for quite a while," he says. He considers the CTX 3030 to be one of the deepest detectors on the market and says he has used it to find Roman brooches, Spanish silver reales coins, gold rings, necklaces, bracelets, and much more. Like the XP Deus, this metal detector has tons of customizable settings and is fully waterproof up to ten feet. It has a full-color LCD screen that lets you see multiple objects underground at once so you can discriminate the good stuff from the junk. And it comes with wireless headphones and a built-in wireless speaker

you can clip to your belt.

### Best Metal Detector for Kids



If you've got a who's dying to start digging for treasure, Martin recommends getting them the Minelab Go-Find 66. It's powerful, lightweight, and collapsible, and it syncs to your smartphone with an app that can help you ID your finds. Because the search coil is waterproof, kids can get used to digging in loose sand on the beach before moving on to more difficult terrain. You can expect to pay around \$180 for this item

**Other Gear You'll Need**All of the experts we spoke to said that, in addition to a metal detector,





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

you will need a pin pointer to help locate your treasure once you start digging. Thompson likens it to a smaller version of a metal detector that helps keep him from digging unnecessarily big and messy holes. “You want to dig what looks kind of like a trap door. Basically, you cut three sides, and you tilt the dirt over. That way, when you put everything back in, it’s like you never were there,” he says. Both he and Dominique Ivy, a detectorist in the Northeast, use White’s Electronics TRX Bullseye Waterproof Pin-Pointer. Unfortunately, that particular model is sold out everywhere online at the moment, but Martin recommends this one from XP called the XP Deus MI-6 Pin Pointer. You can find this one for around \$160.



You’ll also need a good shovel for digging. This one, the Lesche Standard Digging Tool and Sod Cutter, which comes recommended by both Martin and Thompson, has a serrated edge for slicing sod and roots. You can find this item at various outlets for around \$50.s

There are other items you may wish to consider carrying along with you as well, such as several small plastic bottles of water to use to rinse off your find to get a clearer idea of what you may have. Snuffer bottles work perfectly and run only a couple of dollars. This is especially helpful with gold, coins and other relics. You may also want to consider carrying with you a lighted jeweler’s loupe. The magnification can come in handy when examining a find such as a coin or

other relic. These run around \$10 dollars or so. Other items you may want to consider are a bag for carrying your finds in as well as a small log book in which to record the date, location and other pertinent data you may wish to record concerning your finds.



**Wild West Traders LLC**

**COINS GOLD SILVER**

Buy - Sell Collections - Scrap  
Historic, Rare, and Unusual Coins  
Downtown Golden by the Welcome Arch  
1111 Washington Ave Ste #105 303-279-1844



**Sunny Mountain Prospectors**  
Metal Detectors & Mining Supplies  
[www.sunnymountain.net](http://www.sunnymountain.net)

<b>Golden</b> 802 Washington Ave Golden, CO 80401 (303) 529-0060	<b>Colorado Springs</b> 3007 N. El Paso St Colorado Springs, CO 80907 (719) 722-3998
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



**Jesse Peterson**  
720-331-9072  
5023 Hwy.119, Blackhawk, Colo.



**A Touch of Class In Stained Glass Studios**  
New Projects · Restoration  
Residential · Architectural · Liturgical

Copper foil · Zinc & Lead (free) came  
Kiln-fired glass painting/staining/enameling

Parker, Colorado 719-924-5578  
[atouchofclassparker@gmail.com](mailto:atouchofclassparker@gmail.com)  
[www.atouchofclassinstainedglass.com](http://www.atouchofclassinstainedglass.com)

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**The Gold Nugget**

Gold Prospectors of the Rockies  
PO Box 150096  
Lakewood, Co 80215-0096

**ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET**

**Commercial Ads**

3.6" x 2.0" Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)..... \$6  
 3.6" x 4.3" Four Column Inches..... \$12  
 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24  
 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24  
 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

**Contact the GPR President**  
*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for May 2022**

(**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 Cinco de Mayo National Day of Prayer	6	7
8 Mother's Day VE Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 GPR Club Meeting	19	20	21 Armed Forces Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day					