

# THE GOLD NUGGET

Jan 2023

## The Prez Sez! by Bobby Manning



I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! Welcome to the New Year. MY Name is Bobby Manning, and I was voted your New President for the Club. I got started prospecting in 2014 after I had I experienced a lot of loss in 2013 of my best friend, my Dad & Mom, all in the same year. The first person I met was Johnny Walker I took one of his 100.00 dollar classes and learned nothing more than what was in a book. I then went to Georgetown Loop to do a panning demo. The first person I met was Tina Fleming and Mike Hurtado and they asked me if I could pan and I said no. They gave me a bag of gold, showed me how to pan. I spent the day panning and had a blast. At the end of the day I think I got 20.00 worth of gold and gave it back to the Club but wasn't a member yet. Then I went to a meeting and joined. That started my journey on gold prospecting. I learned to talk to people who have done it for a long time and I learned more, through trial and error. I also went to work for Georgetown Loop at the Evert Mine doing panning, with me, Tom Hill & Tina. During that year, I did more than 200 people and then did as much panning demos as I could to get my panning skills down and learned to pan with both hands. As I got started, I learned that you are not going to get rich looking for gold, BUT THE FRIEND SHIP YOU GET IN DOING THIS is worth more than any money could get. This is the thrill of the chase in finding that elusive gold nugget! In the short time of doing this, I have found 4 nuggets and moving tons of dirt to get them. The outing where Jack Meineke does his dowsing thing on finding gold, when he says dig here and you find it, taking it down to the river and running it and then going home to finish panning to get it all. The first thing I learned is that there is a lot of very fine gold in Colorado and it took me about two years to figure out how to get it and a another wo years to learn how to pan it. One of the best things I love about doing a panning demo is seeing a kids face light up when they see GOLD or get a piece of their own. This is why I do the demos and shows. For it is the kids that are the future of prospecting. PROSPECTING IS A PASSION that you have to do and panning will TEACH YOU patience because you'll need it to pan properly. We have a new board this year and we have a lot of work to get done. On our by-laws, and Outings that we all can do. We, as a club, all need to help get this done. We'll talk about more at the meetings, SO, put on your thinking caps and get some ideas on what you would like to do through-out the coming year! May your Pan stay shiny with GOLD!

## Vice President's Corner! by Mike Stevens



The end of the year has come and gone. I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Christmas pot luck, a lot of regulars and a few faces I haven't seen in a while. We enjoyed tasty food, great conversation and a special golden treat. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and got some wonderful new presents to use for future prospecting this season. As for myself, I got some special screens I wanted and some other prospecting goodies to enjoy throughout the year. The real treat was visiting with family, having special dinners, and just being together. I'm looking forward to a wonderful season next year and hopefully some new adventures and places I have not been. Golden Smiles for All!

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



It We will start our nugget giveaway again in January when we will be giving away seven more gold nuggets, the largest of which is over 1.8 grams....!! Don't forget to buy your 'Special nugget tickets as well. See you all at our Jan 2023 meeting and Merry Christmas.!

## Board Meeting Minutes From Dec 2022

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



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

There was no official Board Meeting for the month of December, 2022. The next Board Meeting will convene at 6pm on January 18, 2023.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Amid recession fears, the price of gold topped \$1,000 an ounce for the first time in history in what month and year?

#### 2023 GPR Board of Directors Members

##### President

Bobby Manning

##### Vice President

Mike Stevens

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

##### 2 Year Board Members

Robert Ahr (2024)

Andy Doll (2024)

Gordon Smith (2024)

##### 1 Year Board Members

Kevin Singel

Roger Schlenger

Vacant

Vacant

##### Past President

Joe Johnston

## General Meeting Minutes From Dec 2022 Christmas Program

- Program was opened at 6:20pm with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Pres. Johnston.
- Attendees were then invited to participate in the Pot Luck Dinner.
- Pres. Johnston opened the Recognition Program at 7:20.
- President Johnston then provided a recap of 2022 Activities:
  - The Club had numerous events this year for a significant improvement over the past couple of Covid years to include: 1 Tours, 6 Panning Demos (1unpaid), 1Trash Clean-up with JeffCo Open Spaces, 5 Prospecting Outings, 1 Metal Detecting Hunt, for a total of 15 events. We also conducted annual Pumpkin carving contest as well as the Christmas Recognition Program.
- President Johnston introduced the 2022 Board of Directors and then presented them with Certificates of Appreciation and a small Christmas gift. They were **VP Mike Stevens, Secretary/Treasurer Joe Kafka, Andy Doll, Chris Kafka, Bobby Manning, Gordon Smith, Robert Ahr, Kevin Singel, Kathy Lemuel and Mike Hurtado.**
- President Johnston then introduced the Special Volunteers who help to make the Club successful and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation and a small Christmas gift. They were **Greg and Nancy Knerl, Shelly Zornes, John Olson, and Chuck Cown.** The Club cannot function without the volunteering of these exceptional people.
- President Johnston then announced the 2022 winner of the Annual prestigious **Ken Barker Award** as **Jim Long.** Jim was presented with his Award and Citation and his picture will be placed on the web site in the Ken Barker Gallery of VIP's.
- President Johnston then announced the winners of the Finds of the Year. The winners were presented with a Certificate of Recognition for their efforts. The winners were: **John Olson** for best Coin category, Best Artifact and Best Bottle; **Joe Johnston** for Best Mineral category, and **Joe Fortunato** for Most Gold and for the Largest Gold categories..
- President Johnston then introduced the 2023 Board of Directors: New **President Bobby Manning, VP Mike Stevens, Secretary/Treasurer Joe Kafka, Andy Doll, Robert Ahr, Gordon Smith, Kevin Singel and Roger Schlenger.** There are two vacancies currently for the Board.
- President Johnston then handed out a Christmas gift to each of the Program attendees' followed by a drawing for various special gifts. The winners were:
  1. Annual membership Bob Deharlow
  2. Gold Ore bag Dennis Perederin



### Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

- |                      |                         |                      |                      |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3. Gold Nugget       | <u>Bobby Manning</u>    | 4. Bottle of Silver  | <u>Joe Johnston</u>  |
| 5. Annual Membership | <u>Charles Borawa</u>   | 6. Gold Ore bag      | <u>Joe Fortunato</u> |
| 7. Gold Nugget       | <u>Shelly Zornes</u>    | 8. Bottle of Silver  | <u>Kathy Lemuel</u>  |
| 9. Annual Membership | <u>Ray Vigil</u>        | 10. Gold Ore bag     | <u>Robert Ahr</u>    |
| 11. Gold Nugget      | <u>Jessica Woodruff</u> | 12. Bottle of Silver | <u>Joey Deharlow</u> |

- President Johnston then invited those who participated in the Gold Elephant Gift exchange to pick up their gifts. The Center Piece give-away from each table was then completed.
- Outgoing President Joe Johnston then addressed the gathering and the incoming Board of Directors and administered the Oath of Support.
- President Johnston then thanked everyone for their support and the Program was adjourned at 8:35pm.

### 2022 Ken Barker Award

The Ken Barker Award recipient for 2022 was announced as **James ‘JJ’ Long**. JJ has been a member of the Club since 2008 and was elected to the Board in 2009 and as Vice President in 2010. Elected as President in 2011, JJ led the Club in that role for 11 years, building the membership to an all-time high and overseeing the growth of the Club. An avid prospector, JJ was known to take newbies under his wing and teach them all he could about panning, sluicing and high banking methods of extracting gold. He organized panning demos and panning classes and represented the Club and small scale prospecting at every step along the way. Stepping down at the end of 2021 to take care of his ailing wife, he still managed to make his presence known. Members can merely look at the Club Newsletters for the last 12 years to read and see the footprint that this man has left on the Club and in the small scale mining community. The Club awarded JJ the Ken Barker Award along with a Lifetime Membership and his photo now appears in the Ken Barker Award Gallery on the Official Club web site.



### 2022 Christmas Dinner Program

The Annual Christmas Post Luck and Recognitions Program was attended by a total of 60 Club members and various family members. This turned out to be the eve of a major snow storm that hit the Denver area and dropped temperatures to a bone chilling -24\* at night and a high of only -2\* in the day time. But a good time was had by all who did attend. There were a number of folks who were recognized for their efforts during 2022 on behalf of the Club, as well as other volunteers who make it possible for the Club to do what we do. As we close out 2022, it will be interesting to see what 2023 brings for us all. Many thanks to Outgoing President Joe Johnston for all that he did during his tenure. (Photos by JJ Long)



### Winner of Second 2022 Cache Clue Hunt

As reported last month, Bill Chapman was the lucky guy who found the latest Cache Clue. Unfortunately, the Club was not able to present him with his reward for finding the Cache until the Christmas Dinner. But sometimes a little late is better than never, as in this case. We had the nugget on hand this time and Bill Chapman got his reward, a beautiful Australian nugget. Bill was prepared last month and the new Hunt is already under way. Be sure to





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

attend future meetings in order to get the new Clues and try your detective skills at our own version of a good old fashioned Treasure Hunt. (photo by JJ Long)

# The Many Ways of Finding Gold with the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies

By Bill Chapman

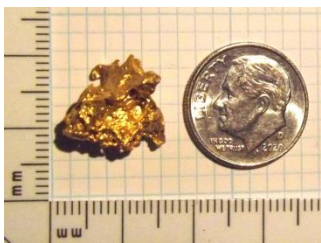
Most of us are members of this club because we want to find gold. Plain and simple, we want some gold to call our own. There are numerous ways of finding gold, so how can being a member of this club help us achieve that goal?

The first way is, as the club's name implies, we prospect for it with tools and equipment. Pick and shovel placer mining! Your initial investment in equipment would be gold pan(s), classifiers, snuffer bottle, sample bottles, a #2 garden spade and of course Kevin Singel's book, *Finding Gold in Colorado*. All can be had for less than \$100 but many up their investment with some sort of gravel washing equipment such as a sluice box which will cost another \$120. Now what do we do with our gear?

The club provides outings and training opportunities all year long. If you don't know what to do with your new, shiny equipment, the club is here to help you learn, enjoy and be successful with your gear. Participate, if not to learn, then to teach. Give others less skilled the benefit of some of your knowledge. Each season, J.J. Long or Kevin Singel teaches beginning panning classes. At the end of the class session, they often guarantee the participant will go home with gold. Small scale mining is the way that most of us work, and "work" is the operative word in placer mining, toward our goal of gold ownership. The amount of gold may be small but success is almost a certainty with a relatively small investment in time and equipment.

Another way to acquire gold is with the use of a metal detector. Fellow member Joe Fortunato has excelled in this aspect of our hobby finding many ounces of gold. Joe has made several presentations to the club on this side of the hobby and what is involved. Any metal detector which has the features necessary to find naturally occurring gold will usually cost a minimum of \$800. Many really good nugget hunting detectors will cost into the thousands of dollars. Not all metal detectors are capable of finding natural gold in highly mineralized ground. Finding a gold ring in a park is a totally different situation than hunting for nuggets or specimen pieces. So an investment in this method will be considerably greater than placer mining, but the rewards can be many times greater. The reality is that a "park hunter" using a \$200-\$500 coin hunting detector, finding gold rings and jewelry, will probably find more weight in gold than the placer miner or the novice nugget hunter throughout the year. There will be lots of empty days but when it yields success, it's something to brag about. This requires a considerably larger investment in both time and equipment. Although seldom talked about, metal detecting for coins and jewelry can lead to gold wealth accumulation. While not the emphasis of Gold Prospectors of the Rockies, the metal detector is recognized as a valuable tool. We have a number of skilled detectorists in the club; the aforementioned Joe Fortunato, and also John Olson, Chuck Cown, Joe Johnston and others. Once a year, the club sponsors a free, fun metal detector hunt event. There typically isn't a gold prize at this hunt but the experienced detectorists are there with their nuggets of wisdom. A modest to significant investment in a detector and proper recovery tools is required in order to participate in this kind of gold hunting.

Finding gold is a chancy hobby as it isn't found everywhere and there are so many different ways to acquire it. One way to up your chances of owning your own gold is to go where gold is most certainly to be had. Just showing up at our club



meetings gets you a chance in the gold nugget drawing. At every club meeting, there are a number of gold nuggets to be won by chance. You get one chance for just being there and with an investment of as little as a dollar each you can have additional chances at having your own gold. Plus there is periodically a really big nugget to be won at \$5/chance. This investment can be very small to modest depending on the total number of tickets sold at the meeting that night.

Finally, there is the gold nugget prize for solving the ongoing clue hunt. No investment in equipment is required, only the time and ability be the first to solve a series of clues as to the location of a hidden object. I correctly solved and located the last clue hunt which was in deKoven Park and the prize was a very nice 6.08g specimen nugget. That is actually the most gold I captured this year using all of the methods described previously. For me, it was the most gold for the smallest investment.

How you choose to pursue the elusive golden metal is up to you, but I would suggest that the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies has a number of ways and activities to assist you in achieving your goal. **You just have to show up!**



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

### **A Miner's Laugh**

A priest, a doctor, and a retired mining engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers.

The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We've been waiting for fifteen minutes!"

The doctor chimed in, "I don't think I've ever seen such inept golf!"

The priest said, "Here comes the green-keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello George, What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?"

The green-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime!"

The group fell silent for a moment.

The priest said, "That's so sad. I'll say a special prayer for them tonight."

The doctor said, "Good idea. I'll contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything he can do for them."

The retired mining engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

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



### **The Finds of the Month 2023:**

Contest runs from November 2022 thru October 2023. We will be looking forward to seeing what you folks have found since last November.

*The following article was published in the GPAA Gold Prospector's Magazine. The author didn't include any locations in Colorado so I thought I would add a few that I am familiar with for those of you who want to rock hound for gemstones but don't want to drive out of state to do it. I have included those locations under the highlighted 'Where to Look in Colorado' for each gemstone,,,,, JJ*

### **On the Gemstone Trail**

By Steve Nubie

*While prospecting for gold, we can sometimes miss other things like minerals and precious rocks and gems around us. Here are some of the kinds of minerals and precious gems you might be missing:*

#### **Tourmaline:** California

Tourmaline is a crystalline silicate mineral. It has trigonal crystal structure defined by columnar crystals. California tourmaline has a long history as one of the state's top gemstones and is the leading gem in terms of cumulative dollar value. It typically occurs in granite and granite pegmatites and also in rocks such as schist and marble, so look for those outcrops first.

Most California tourmaline is found in Riverside and San Diego counties. The only other occurrence of tourmaline in the United States is in Maine. Where to Look: Tourmaline is

usually mined, although outcrops of granite and schist could present specimens. They're usually found in deep cracks within a boulder or a cliff. Mines are your best bet and a notable tourmaline mine is the Himalaya Tourmaline Mine in San Diego County. For a fee, you can dig for tourmaline and keep what you find. Tourmaline has value in jewelry settings and because many of the natural specimens are so striking, many have been sold for higher values than their faceted counterparts. Where to Look in Colorado: *Tourmaline occurrences in Colorado can be found northeast of Gunnison near the old ghost town of Ohio City, Quartz Creek District. This tourmaline is mostly pink in coloration. In addition, some tourmaline was found near Drew Hill, north of Golden, but not in significant amounts. JJ*



#### 2) **Turquoise;** New Mexico

Turquoise is a hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum. The copper is what gives so many turquoise specimens their distinctive blue-green color. Native Americans have valued it for thousands of years and their unique jewelry designs are popular to this day. Turquoise almost never forms crystals and its appearance is typically defined by its waxy, smooth opaque appearance and coloration. Turquoise sometimes presents pyrite intrusions of limonite veining. Where to Look: Turquoise is usually found in sandstone layers in arid desert regions. Look for





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

long and wide impressions in the terrain indicating an ancient seabed. A network of black or brown veins running through the sandstone is a good indicator that turquoise may be present. Primary areas for turquoise in New Mexico include the counties of Eddy, Great, Otero and Santa Fe. Grant County is at the epicenter of New Mexico minerals and most of the county is public land where you can prospect for free. Be careful if you encounter any old abandoned mines and don't enter them as they are very dangerous. Limit you're prospecting to outcrops, cut banks and abandoned quarries. Where to Look in Colorado: *Significant deposits of turquoise have been found in the South central part of Colorado. Among them are the Turquoise Chief Mine in Lake County near Leadville, Last Chance Mine in Creede, the King Turquoise Mine near Manassas in Conejos County, near Villa Grove in Saguache County and throughout the San Luis Valley, and near Cripple Creek in Teller County. On a very rare occasion, gold has been found in matrix with some Cripple Creek turquoise. JJ*

### 3) **Petrified Wood:** Arizona

Petrified wood is the fossilized remains of plant vegetation typically defined by trees that have had their cell walls replaced with silicates like quartz, chalcedony and opal over millions of years- time. This occurs when water saturated sediment or volcanic ash buries the organic material and prevents it from decomposing. The saturated materials slowly replace the interior of the cells, resulting in mineralization. The color of petrified wood is quite dramatic and often presents a mix of crystal colors similar to agate and opal due to the effects of manganese, iron and copper. Where to Look: Petrified wood appears across North America and is common in many parts of Arizona, most especially in the Petrified Forest Park in the Navajo and Apache counties. No collecting or prospecting is allowed in the national forest however. Petrified wood sometimes has a plain or stony side that you might bypass without knowing the other side is agatized. Many who prospect for petrified wood in Arizona search at Alamo Lake about 30 miles north of Wenden. There is also a collecting area off of Highway 180 southeast of Holbrook, Arizona, just outside of the DoBell Ranch park. There is a fee for collecting but the quality is exceptional. If you want to search for free, you can wander the banks of a small stream called Silver Creek, which runs from Woodruff to Snowflake, Arizona. They are smaller samples but similar to those seen in the Petrified Forest National Park. Where to Look in Colorado: *Petrified wood can be easily found all along the front range of Colorado along the South Platte River, south of Denver in the Parker area and in many other places. There is no need to go far to find plenty of excellent specimens. JJ*



### 4) **Garnet:** California

Garnets fall in a category of silicate minerals with significant traces of aluminum. They occur in a range of colors with blue being the rarest. They are unique because the present natural faceting around their surface like a finished gemstone. They have a vitreous, glassy luster with octahedral crystals. A neodymium magnet can be used to separate some garnets from other gemstones due to the magnetic properties from iron present in the matrix. Where to Look: Garnets appear in ancient volcanic schists that have been subjected to intense heat and pressure over time. Mica schists are an excellent indicator of garnets. Another schist is eclogitic, which has a dark green color and a very fine granular appearance. They can also show up in hematite black sands when panning for gold. Routinely break up any schist you encounter. The garnets are sometimes embedded in the center of the schist and not really apparent on the surface. Areas for California garnet prospecting include Indian Creek in Siskiyou County, the southern side of the Watts Valley in Fresno County, near El Toro in Orange County, and near Indian Head Hill in San Diego County. Where to Look in Colorado: *Garnets can be found in many of the Colorado creeks and rivers from the Dolores and Conejos Rivers on the western Slope, the Arkansas River in South Park, to the South Platte and Clear Creek of the Front Range. There is also an outcrop of granite within 200 yards of Hwy 6 and hwy 93 near Golden that has garnets imbedded in the rock. Colorado has plenty of garnets to find. JJ*



### 5) **Agate:** Pacific Northwest (Washington)

Agate is a cryptocrystalline silicate made up of mostly chalcedony alternating with microgranular quartz. They are usually found in igneous rocks and some metamorphic outcrops. They typically occur as nodules formed in volcanic cavities and layered with silicates over time to create bands or stripes giving it its unique appearance. The exterior of most agate nodules is a rust-brown color due to the first deposit in the volcanic cavity of minerals high in iron. In addition, the outer appearance is often pitted or rough. Some agates also have a ropey or bubbly appearance.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

Because agates are formed in layers slowly filling a cavity, many are hollow and present internal crystalline, geode properties. Where to Look: When the volcanic rocks containing the agate erode, the nodule is released. They can also form in sedimentary rocks filling a cavity similar to a vacuole or cavity found in igneous rock. Because erosion plays such a part in the release of an agate nodule from its surrounding rock, you should focus your agate prospecting on areas where other rocks have collected due to erosion. This included riverbanks, lake and ocean shores and shallow creek beds and riverbeds. Washington agates can be found on Rialto Beach on the shores of the Pacific Ocean in Olympic National Park and you can keep any agates you find. Gravel bars along the Columbia River are another popular destination for agate hounds. The high road cuts along Highway 97 both north and south of the town of Ellensburg are also known agate hot spots in Washington state. Where to Look in Colorado: *Colorado is also a fair hot bed for agate collection as well. I have found agates near the St. Peters Dome by Colorado Springs, a lot of it near Kremmling and lots of geodes containing agate on Sergeant's Mesa. The closest location would be on Green Mountain next to Lakewood and Golden for nice agate specimens. JJ*

### 6) Sapphire: Montana

Sapphire is a variety of corundum and one of the hardest minerals on Earth. They are typically vitreous or glasslike but sometimes opaque. Blue is the most common color, however, when red they are referred to as rubies. Both sapphires and rubies can show up in the same area geographically, but geologically sapphires show up in granite pegmatites while rubies are formed in marble. Most sapphires are heated after collection to enhance their appearance. This is another mineral that often appears deep within cracks. A small flashlight can give you a peek and a long screw driver can help you break a sapphire loose from a deep rock. Where to Look:

Sapphires are most common in alluvial deposits or ancient riverbeds. Montana produces more sapphires than any other state and the major areas for prospecting are in the western half of the state, including the shorelines and gravel beds of the Missouri River near Helena, Rock Creek in the Sapphire Mountains and Dry cottonwood River near Deer Lodge. Natural sapphires that do not require heat treatment to enhance their color are found in Yogo Gulch. Where to Look in Colorado: *The Calumet Iron Mine in the Turret District near Poncha Springs, has yielded sapphires of only average quality. Though I have been there and collected epidot and other great mineral specimens, I have yet to find a sapphire personally, but they are there. JJ*



### 7) Thunder egg Agate: Oregon

When an agate is referred to as a thunder egg, it is acknowledging its appearance as an evil module. Usually having chalcedony centers and often present in the hollow interior of a crystallized geode. The term does not define it as an agate or geode specifically, but to its geological structure. Ultimately, it is simply the shape that the mineral assumes. They vary in size from a golf ball to a softball and even basketball size. Many thunder eggs have the lumpy, bumpy cauliflower appearance you seen on small geodes. This size and shape make them somewhat easy to find, but they have to be either broken or sawn to determine their actual status as an agate. The name was coined by Native Americans, who named them after the eggs of the legendary Thunderbird. Where to Look:

Thunder eggs are found in ancient rhyolite lava flows. When the flows are eroded, the thunder eggs remain. Given the high degree of volcanic activity in Washington and Oregon over eons, they are predominant in the landscape in dry riverbeds, lakebeds and on the shores and streambeds of creeks, rivers and both lake and ocean beaches. The Little Naches Riverbed has been reported as a hot spot and many areas are on public lands and even on some of the local GPAA gold claims. Where to Look in Colorado: *The only occurrence of this form of agate that I am aware of is in the Del Norte area in the San Luis Valley. I grew up near there and have found a couple of specimens there myself, though not many, they are indeed there.*



### 8) Emerald: North Carolina

An emerald is a variety of beryl and its green color is the result of chromium and in some instances, vanadium. It is clear vitreous mineral, but clarity is usually compromised by intrusions or surface breaking fissures. As a result, most emeralds used in jewelry are oiled to improve clarity. North Carolina is well known for its emerald deposits and its state gemstone is the emerald. On a side note, North Carolina was the first state in the US to discover gold in 1799. It is reported that prospectors casually tossed emeralds aside at the time while continuing their search for gold. Where to Look: Emeralds are very rare and few places on Earth have





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

deposits. Fortunately, North Carolina is a rare exception but that doesn't make emerald prospecting any easier. Emeralds lie deep in quartz veins and most need to be mined or excavated from deep ground. The good news is that there are two mines that allow visitors to sort through tailings or rubble that has been unearthed with a good amount of rough emeralds that you can collect by the bucket for a fee. They include the Crabtree Emerald Mine near Emerald Village, and Hiddenite Gems Emerald Mine in Hiddenite, North Carolina. You can find these mines with a Google search to get more information on fees, applications for permits and necessary tools. *Where to Look in Colorado: Though there are various forms of beryl found in the Centennial Cone in Jefferson County, I don't believe any true emeralds have ever been found in Colorado, contrary to occasional rumors. JJ.*

### 9) **Fossils:** Ohio

A fossil is a once-living organism that has been preserved to varying degrees as a result of mineralization. The most significant fossils are dinosaurs but all living things had the potential to become fossilized over time. They don't fall in the category of gemstones, but some exceptions like insects preserved in amber have been used that way. For the most part, fossil collectors do it for their own personal collections, although paleontologists use it as a primary means of studying prehistoric plants and animals. Some specimens that have been fossilized acquire gem quality including petrified wood and crystalized trilobites and other organisms.



Where to Look: Ohio has significant deposits of fossils. For the most part, they are found in sedimentary deposits of sandstone, limestone, shale and slate. Many fossils emerge as nodules with the organism at the center acting in as a catalyst for an accumulation of surrounding minerals. Because many fossils are embedded in sedimentary rocks, the rocks have to be split or cracked on fracture lines to reveal the fossil. And keep in mind that if you find one nodule with a fossil, there may be more in the immediate vicinity. Numerous state parks allow collectors to free roam and keep what they find. They include Caesar Creek State Park in Clinton and Warren Counties, Cowan Lake State Park in Clinton County, East Fork State Park in Clermont County, Hueston Woods State Park in Preble and Butler Counties, Oakes Quarry Park in Greene County, and Trammel Fossil Park in Hamilton County.

*Where to Look in Colorado: Fossils abound in Colorado as well. I have found them north of Branson which is east of Trinidad, near Grand Junction in the Book Cliffs, and near Craig, and lots near Colorado Springs and Florissant. We have them everywhere. JJt*

### 10) **Amethyst:** Georgia

Amethyst a variety of quartz with a distinctive purple color due to trace amounts of iron and varying levels of irradiation. It is a glassy, vitreous crystal that usually appears in clusters. Amethyst was once highly prized, commanding prices as high as diamonds and rubies, but significant finds in Brazil and other parts of the world reduced its value to semi-precious gem status. It is still a remarkable crystal and highly valued for collection.



Where to Look: Amethyst is the product of volcanic action and hydrothermal springs and vents. One of the most common occurrences of amethyst is in lava tubes where heated vapors have exhausted for millions of years building up long patterns of amethyst crystals on the side of the vents for crystalline tubes. Areas with any ancient volcanic activity or current hot springs activity can present amethyst. Amethyst also appears in geodes when limestone pockets have collected iron-laden water or experienced irradiation over millions of years. Georgia amethyst is well known and there are numerous amethyst mines open to the public where you can prospect for a fee. One is the Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Mine in Wilkes County, which presents exceptional quality amethyst. Another is the Chapman Mica Mine in Elbert County. *Where to Look in Colorado: Colorado has an abundant supply of amethyst and it can be found in a number of places from the San Juan Mountains to even the northern mountains. But your best bet is the Amethyst Mine on west Willow Creek near Creede, or the Humming Bird Amethyst Mine in Mesa County near Grand Junction. JJ*

### **What to Do with What You Find:**

Most rock hounds simply add new specimens to their collections, but you can sell your finds to local rock and gem shops, jewelers, on eBay or even Amazon. In fact, a quick check on eBay or Amazon can give you a pretty good ballpark estimate of what any specimen is worth. Who knows, maybe you have struck it rich after a casual afternoon stroll on the gemstone trail.





## **Fenn Treasure Fetches \$1.3 Million at Auction**

By *Tim Binnall* December 13, 2022

The famed Fenn Treasure fetched a little over \$1.3 million in an auction of nearly 500 individual items from the legendary cache of riches. Hidden in the Rocky Mountains by eccentric art dealer Forrest Fenn back in 2010, the collection of gold coins and artifacts had been sought after for a decade until it was finally discovered in the summer of 2020 by a man later identified as Jack Stuef. The ultimate fate of the riches, however, remained uncertain until this past November when Heritage Auctions announced that they had been enlisted to sell 476 pieces from the treasure by a private group that had purchased the cache. When the month-long auction concluded on Monday evening, all of the items had been sold for a grand total of \$1,307,946.



The highest-priced piece in the collection was a huge gold nugget which weighs over one pound and sold for an astounding \$55,200. Meanwhile, the most intriguing item, a sealed glass jar containing what is said to be a 22,000-word autobiography penned by Fenn, was purchased for a whopping \$48,000. It remains to be seen whether its new owner will open it and reveal what the art dealer had written or if the lengthy message is destined to remain a secret. For those on a budget who might be wondering if they could have gotten a proverbial piece of the action, the lowest-priced item was three grams of gold dust which sold for \$900.

With the treasure now set to be scattered far and wide, it would seem that the only complete public display of the riches was by way of the Heritage Auctions website which showcased all 476 of the pieces that had been up for sale. While the dispersing of Fenn's riches may serve as something of a conclusion to the epic saga which began so long ago, there remains one lingering mystery surrounding the tale: where exactly the cache had been hidden. Much to the chagrin of many who spent years searching for the treasure, Stuef has opted not to reveal that critical piece of information, which will likely keep the legend of Fenn's treasure alive for all those who sought to solve the puzzle.


 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

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



**Kevin Singel**  
findinggoldincolorado@gmail.com  
720-934-1428

**www.findingGOLDinColorado.com**  
...historic sites and modern honey holes  
Buy the book on Amazon!

 **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  
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 Feb 2023**

(**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 <u>Groundhog Day</u>	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <u>Valentine's Day</u>	15 <u>GPR Club Meeting</u>	16	17	18
19	20 <u>Presidents Day</u>	21	22 <u>Ash Wednesday</u>	23	24	25
26	27	28				