

## The Gold Nugget

Vol. 11, No. 5

July 2006

### EXPERIENCES IN GOLD PLACER MINING by Mr Gold of Placer Recoveries, Inc.

Transcribed by Paul Nagy

The June meeting featured Mr Gold, widely experienced professional gold placer operator. He is the employer of Allen Mershon, our Program Chairman, who finally coaxed him to come in and share some of his vast expertise with us. Mr Gold gained his early experience in Alaska and the Yukon, the "big leagues" of gold placering. He currently operates thirty-two gold placers in Colorado. All are adjuncts to sand and gravel operations. His talk took the form of a press conference as he fielded questions from the audience.

Among the information revealed, is that sluice boxes are more effective if they are varied rather than of a single design. Placerers constantly argue among themselves about the effectiveness of this or that sluice box design, i.e., riffle height and shape, spacing, floor material, etc. Mr Golds solution is both simple and elegant: put in some of everything that you can. In even a small sluice box you can put in several riffle sizes and shapes, space the riffles irregularly, use different types of matting, e.g. ribbed rubber, Astroturf, "miners moss." Mr Golds argument is that the mechanics of gold-capture in a sluice are so complex that the more you vary the conditions, the better chance you have of catching more gold. For that reason he believes that the "store bought" type of hobby sluice is not very good for catching fine gold.

*Continued on page 3*

### The Prez Sez

By Gary Hawley, President

We have moved right into the hot summer months. This is an excellent time to prospect for gold! The spring runoff has slowed, the creek water is clearing and early mornings are usually storm free and cool enough to do set up and digging. We have to be aware of afternoon rain storms and rising creek water but, if you are cautious, you can have a great time on the stream and get some gold for your efforts.

The June 21 meeting was great! We started with being led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Laura and Julia Keeler. I find it exciting that young people: 1) know the Pledge and 2) are not afraid to stand in front of adults and recite it.



Congrats to Leroy Lamgo on receiving the corn-cob pipe collection. Leroy attends most of the panning demos and places gold on the cards that are given to those who learn to pan. Leroy's reliability and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Jeff Mosteller has several panning demos planned in the

*Continued on page 2*

### VP's Corner

By Jeff Mosteller, Vice President

Greetings to all,

Well we have had a great time in the panning demos so far this year.

Last weekend at the Freedom Fest in Central City things got off to a slow start as the traffic on I 70 turned into a parking lot around the Morrison Exit. Around 3:00 pm the street got so busy



it was hard to walk from one end to the other of the festival. I want to thank all that came up and helped out, it is nice to see more involvement from the members this year. With out all of you this wouldn't happen. I think over the years of doing this we are getting a reputation. On July 6, I received an email from Daniel Chapman Assistant

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### Join Us on the Third Wednesday!

### Lloyd G. Clements Community Center

1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado

(One block west of Wadsworth, then one block north of Colfax)

7:00 p.m. (Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

Information: (303) 933-1147 <> ghawley1@juno.com

Website: <http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/>

### GPOR Website

If you have updates for, comments about, or anything else regarding the club website, you can contact the club webmaster at:

[prospector@phantomranch.net](mailto:prospector@phantomranch.net)

Dick will be happy to review any suggestions or comments you may have.



*(continued from The Prez Says on page 1)*

next few weeks. Please help by signing up to assist him. These demos have been found to be the most successful way to advertise our club and bring in new members.

Thanks to Allen Mershon for presenting such a knowledgeable speaker. Mr Gold is always an interesting speaker and I appreciate his sharing his experiences in placer mining.

The Golden Railroad Museum tour was educational and entertaining. We had a very knowledgeable guide that explained various aspects of early railroads and the equipment they used. We were lucky because that was a "free day" so there was no charge to get in. Thanks to Sue Lemieux for setting up this outing.

After the Museum tour, a group of us headed for the "gold fields" of North Clear Creek to seek our fortune in gold...or at least spend some time digging for gold! We had clear skies and the water was running clear. Sluice boxes were the predominant method for concentrating buckets of material. I brought my Gold Magic wheel so others could evaluate how it works. Everyone found gold including some new members who were prospecting for the first time. (I am sure I recognized cases of gold fever setting in)

The GPR Cache has once again eluded the hopeful seekers. Though not as involved as the movie "National Treasures" there have been some unexpected developments such as: mosquito bites, torn shirt and a speeding ticket, all related to finding the cache. At the June meeting it was disclosed that clue #5's reference to "GPR you will see" does not translate to a "green piece of ribbon." (Maybe next time) In an effort to assist the dedicated searchers, at the July meeting I will give a regular clue and a bonus clue. Bring a note pad and, please, search carefully.

Last month's challenge was successful and bears repeating: Bring a friend or neighbor to a meeting.

Until next time: May the gold in your pan be worth the effort you put into finding it.

## 2006 Newsletter Article Submission Deadlines

Please submit your newsletter articles to Rick Miska at :

**Goldhunter@Ricksthings.com**

- January 4th
- February 6th
- March 3rd
- April 7th
- May 2nd
- June 4th
- July 4th
- August 4th
- September 8th
- October 6th
- November 3rd
- December 8th

Exceptions to these dates can only be made by Gary Hawley and/or Rick Miska.

## Sue's Sluice Box

**Due to the July 4th Holiday and numerous Gold Panning Demos this month....**

**My Sluice Box is Empty!**

**Don't Fret!**

**The August Planned Event is the Best yet!**

**I'll Give You the Details at our July 19th Meeting!**

**Sue**

## 2006 MINERS' DAYS

Nederland, Colorado July 29-30  
Big Prize Money \$\$\$\$\$ Offered

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>draw time</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>drawtime</u>
<b>Spike Driving</b> 8:00-9:00 am	7:45 am	<b>Bow Sawing</b> 9:00-11:00am	8:45 am
<b>Mucking</b> 9:15-11:30	9:10 am	<b>Double Jack</b> 11:15-1:30	11:10 am
<b>Novice Mucking</b> 11:45-12:30	11:40 am	<b>Team Jack Leg</b> 1:45-finish	1:40 pm
<b>Jack Leg</b> 12:45-3:00 pm	12:40 pm		
<b>Single Jack</b> 3:15-5:30 pm	3:10 pm		

### Overall Miner events held on Saturday

"Approximate Times" check with Registration prior to event. You have to be registered for event prior to draw of numbers. Once numbers are drawn, registration for that event is closed.

- Community Breakfast Saturday morning
- Outdoor movie Saturday night
- Children's events and vendors both Saturday and Sunday
- Old Timers' events all day Saturday
- Town parade Saturday noon

### "RECLAIMING OUR HERITAGE"

Proceeds benefit Nederland Area Historical Society. For more information contact Michele Martin at 303-258-7449 or dmartin7000@starband.net

## Notes from Last Month's GPR Meetings

### GPR Events Calendar

#### Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show

Holiday Inn – Denver Central  
4849 Bannock St. (Retail & Wholesale)  
APRIL 21, 22, 23, 2006  
(Fri. & Sat. 10-6 ♦ Sun. 10-5)  
Free Admission & Free Parking

#### Idaho Springs Miner Days

July 22, 23  
More information by meeting time.

#### ClearCreek History Park

July 29 , 30 (30th not confirmed as of yet)  
BB Days  
9:00a 4:30p

#### Panning Championships Breckenridge

August 4,5 and 6 (GPOC Event)

#### ClearCreek History Park

Golden Arts and Crafts festival - Panning Demo  
Aug 19 & 20  
Arts Fair  
9:00a 4:30p

#### Mother Load Rodeo

Gilpin County  
Aug 26, 27  
(times to be set later)

#### Central City Panning Demo

Sept. 2, 3  
10:00 a to 4:30p

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Regarding sluice box angle, Mr gold points out that too much water is better than not enough. If the flow is so low that the rifles quickly silt up, Then very little gold will be captured. Also, it helps to feed a sluice evenly. Sudden surges of material into the sluice will upset the balance of the system. Steady, even hand-shoveling is OK. The best way to test sluice box efficiency is to catch and pan the reject material. What can't be panned probably can't be caught by any gravity method. Mr Gold pointed out that most of the gold he has caught is in the size range between minus 50 and minus 425 mesh. That is mighty fine! (White flour is about minus 200 mesh.)

Equipment such as jigs or shaking tables are usually suitable only for commercial applications. They undoubtedly capture more gold, but they yield so much "heavies" that clean-up becomes a big problem. The heavies in many operations are typically 3%, but of course can be more or less.

We wish Mr Gold good digging and hope that he can return and enlighten us some more!

### Gold Prospectors of the Rockies

Board meeting of June 212006

**Roll call.** Those in attendance: Gary Hawley, Hank Innerfeld, Mike Barker, Jeff Mosteller, Cindy Douthard, Donna Mosteller, Kathy Hawley, Joe Shubert, Paul Nagy, Terry Weatherly, Sue Lemieux

**Quorum present?** Yes.

**Call to order.** Meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m. by Gary Hawley.

**Reading and approval of minutes.** Read by Gary Hawley.

**Corrections:** None

**Approved as read/corrected?** Yes

**Treasurer's Report.** Read by Gary Hawley.

**Questions:** None

**Accepted?** Yes

**Correspondence.** Newsletters from other clubs, membership renewals.

**Committee Reports:** Approved as read.

**Unfinished Business:** Club trammel – Gary Hawley. No further contact has been made with The Western Museum of Mining & Industry in Colorado Springs. Gary will follow other avenues in this matter.

**Volunteer Recognition** – Jeff Mosteller. Jeff outlined his program and received Board approval to purchase samples of suggested rewards.

**Unfinished Business** (cont'd) Donna Mosteller – Club Cookbook. On going.

Speakers Form- Allen Mershon. Paul Naggy offered to assist.

Paul Naggy suggests we do some brain-storming about increasing membership. Gary Hawley will check with Cindy Douthard to attempt to determine why some memberships are not renewed. It was suggested we advertise our speakers in the Gold Nugget. This would add incentive to attend the meetings. Paul will assist in planning speakers far enough in advance to accomplish the newsletter article.

**New Business:** None

**Planned Outings:** Sue Lemieux presented information on the club outings she has planned.

**Announcements:**Next board meeting August 16, 2006, at 6:00 P.M.

Next general meeting August 16, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

Tonight's general meeting program: Mr Gold and Allen Mershon discuss their experiences in gold placer mining.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 955 P.M.

## GPR Genl Mtg Notes Clements Center Lakewood, CO

Paul Nagy, General Meeting Recorder

7:15 Meeting called to order by President Gary Hawley. Pledge of Allegiance led by Laura and Julia Keeler.

7:17 Membership report by Cindy Douthard. 107 individual and family memberships, including two new members: Aaron and Jo Ingalls (Welcome!) and one returning member: Fred Enisz (Welcome back). Eleven guests present, including: Al Mirabal, Pat Gamroth, Robert Carnal, Raphael Keeler, John and Tina Kulas, Leslie Schomer, Jason Sullivan, Scott Allen, Mike Gonzales, and Debbie Buboltz. Welcome! Hope you'll come back.

7:23 Vice President's report by Jeff Mosteller. Presentation of a corn-cob pipe collection to Leroy Lamgo for meritorious service to the club. Thanks, Leroy for all your good work! Jeff requested a volunteer for a panning demo at the Boulder Library. They will provide all the necessities. Regarding metro area prospecting, the Wheatridge greenbelt (from Wadsworth to Youngfield St.) is closed to all prospecting including panning. You can be fined! Also, there is no digging of any kind permitted in Boulder Creek. The county is concerned about the accidental introduction of non-native species, such as troublesome snails, into the waterway by gold panners and others. Recent panning demos got the following results: at Clear Creek Historical Park we had 87 learners; at Coal Creek Canyon about 60 stopped by; and at the Arvada Goldstrike Festival we had 666 for the two days. At Arvada we also received more donations than in the past. Next will be the holiday weekend, July 1 and 2, at Main St. in Central City.

7:31 Prez Hawley reminds us that laws are laws and that we must learn to accept the disappointment when we are stopped from prospecting by a political jurisdiction. We have an on-going public relations effort to gain access to local waterways by demonstrating our educational and public-service nature, as well as our respect for the environment. You can help by letting us know of any incident you have with law enforcement, or of anything you hear regarding prospecting access. Of course, if your activities are interrupted by a person in authority, tact and diplomacy are your best choices. Introducing yourself as a club member and showing a copy of our Code of Ethics may be helpful.

7:38 Gold-sample prizes from Allen Mershon to Arvada panning demo participants.

7:40 Evening's speaker, Mr Gold of Placer Recoveries, Inc. "Experiences in Gold Placer Mining."

8:00 Recess.

8:20 Shirley Weilnau asks the question of the month and later gives the answer and awards prize tickets.

8:25 Steve Cychosz, club founder, invites club members to the Fort Collins club's mineral claim.

8:28 Clue for the Secret Cache.

8:32 Prize drawings. Also, Joe Johnston announces winners of the Finds of the Month.

8:55 Meeting adjourned.



By Shirley Weilnau Q&A Coordinator

What is the karat weight of gold used for US "gold" coins ?

## Find of the Year

By Joe Johnston, Find of the Month/Year Coordinator

May/June 2006 Find Of the Month (FOM) results. Winners in **bold**.

**Best Bottle** no entries

**Best Jewelry** Donovan Greene - silver Medallion

**Largest Raw Gold** Larry Weilnau - wire gold

**Most Raw Gold** no entries

**Most Unique (Excavated)**

**Joe Johnston - Spencer cartridge, Kidder Massacre July 2, 1867**

Bill Duncanson - Railroad spike

**Most Unique (Non-Excavated)**

**Mary Kathrens - Pali Tears, Big Island Hawaii**

Joe Johnston - piece of cook stove, Hungate Massacre June 11, 1864

**Most Valuable U.S Coin**

**Joe Johnston - 1963-D Lincoln cent**

**Oldest U.S. Coin**

Bill Duncanson - 1989 Quarter

Shirley Weilnau - 1984 Quarter

**Hank Innerfield - 1972 nickel**

Congratulations to this months winners, be sure to save your FOM winning items for entry in the Find Of the Year (FOY) competition in December. Finds made from the end of the June meeting to the time of the July meeting are eligible for entry in the July FOM program. Bring your best finds, and we'll see you at the next meeting.

Don't forget to bring your bottles, jewelry, coins, gold or other finds. Remember those entries get you drawing tickets and those tickets WIN! Just ask Sue and others that have held tickets for FOM entries and WON! **Note: Now that prospecting season is upon us be sure to bring a second container with your gold sample entries for weigh in comparison. We will weigh the container with the gold and subtract the weight of the container without the gold to determine the weight of the sample, so have a container filled with the same liquid for comparison weigh in.** Each member is allowed one entry per category each month. Additional finds may be displayed as 'show & tell' items.

Joe Johnston, Finds Program Coordinator.

**From the Ledger**  
of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer

Thanks to Leroy Lamgo for his donations to the members only drawing prizes.

We will have nuggets from Alaska at the July meeting. We will give away 10.0 grams of gold, 4 nuggets will be 1 gram or over.

I want to thank MaryAnn McCrea for her help at the drawing table at the June meeting.

So like I always say, come prepared to buy some extra tickets and Good Luck!!

**Food for Thought**

Hi, it sure was great to see everyone again. Many thanks go out this month to our generous members - - there were donuts from Leroy Lamgo, banana bread from Hank Innerfield, patriotic cookies from Mary Kathrens, and some scrumptious chocolate covered strawberries from Ed Finney. Yum Yum. See you in July!

Jackie and Michael

**2006 GPR Officers and Board Members**

- President..... Gary Hawley
- Vice-President..... Jeff Mosteller
- Treasurer..... Kathy Hawley
- 2-Year Board Member..... Hank Innerfield (elected 2005)
- 2-Year Board Member..... Joe Johnston (elected 2005)
- 2-Year Board Member..... Joe Shubert (elected 2006)
- 1-Year Board Member..... Mike Barker
- 1-Year Board Member..... Cindy Douthard
- 1-Year Board Member..... Susan Lemieux
- 1-Year Board Member..... Allen Mershon
- 1-Year Board Member..... Donna Mosteller
- 1-Year Board Member..... Paul Nagy
- 1-Year Board Member..... Terry Weatherly

*(Continued from VP's Corner, page 1)*

Director-Administration Colorado Legislative Council requesting a Demo in Breckenridge on the 12th of August at the River Walk Plaza for the Western States Legislators Council. This is a fantastic opportunity to get Small Scale Mining and our hobby in front of Lawmakers from several states, I'm Honored. We are in negotiations at this time to make that happen I hope to have more by meeting time. After spending about 10 hours in the computer last weekend I tried to send out e mail up-dates on demos about 3 times and managed to mess every one of them up, sorry. Donna had to send me to bed and do the final up-date her self. Here's what is coming up. (checked by Donna for accuracy)

Demo for July 15, 16 in Central City is OFF we had a communication error.

Idaho Springs Miner Days July 22, 23 I will have more information by meeting time.

Buffalo Bill Day July 29 at the Clear Creek History Park.

Panning Championships Breckenridge August 4,5 and 6 (GPOC Event)

Breckenridge River Walk Plaza August 12 (pending)

Golden Arts and Crafts festival at Clear Creek History Park August 19 and 20

Labor Day in Central City is Sept. 2,3.

On August 4,5 and 6th In Breckenridge Is the Gold Panning Championships hosted by the Gold Prospectors of Colorado. Our club can boast that we have 3 medal winners in our midst, Larry and Shirley Weilmann and just last year Donna Mosteller. I of course was a complete flop, I'm going back to redeem my self this year. This championship is about as much fun as one can have panning for gold and you don't need to be an expert to win. As last year it will be on the River Walk Plaza on Main Street, come on up it's a hoot.

Well that's about all I have for now. Be safe out there and strike it rich for me.

Jeff



**GPR GOLD PANNING DEMONSTRATIONS**

Know an organization that might want us to set up a gold panning demonstration booth? Contact

**Jeff Mosteller**  
(303) 202-9302 <> [jefndona@comcast.net](mailto:jefndona@comcast.net)  
For additional information and photos, see <http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/>

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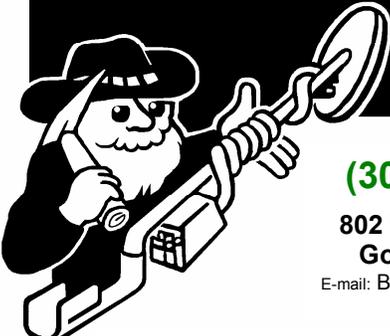
Send in your comments, letters, articles, concerns, and suggestions for publication in this newsletter. Please try to keep the subject in line with things related to what our club is about. Articles should be submitted to Rick Miska at the meeting or [goldhunter@ricksthings.com](mailto:goldhunter@ricksthings.com)

**The Gold Nugget**

This copyrighted newsletter is the official publication of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies (GPR), PO Box 621988, Littleton, Colorado 80162-1988, a non-profit organization of families dedicated to gold prospecting. Membership in the GPR is \$40 the first year and \$30 each subsequent year for an individual or family and includes a one-year subscription to *The Gold Nugget*, one name tag, and membership cards for all family members. Additional badges may be purchased. We meet at the Lloyd G. Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado, on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. sharp to educate members about gold prospecting and gold prospecting rules, review old and new products, coordinate outings, participate in drawings for door prizes and nuggets, socialize with like-minded friendly folks, and promote the pursuit of gold. Single issues are \$3.00 per copy (postpaid).

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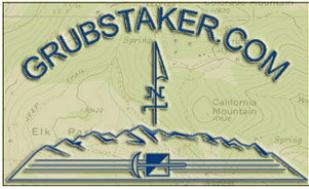
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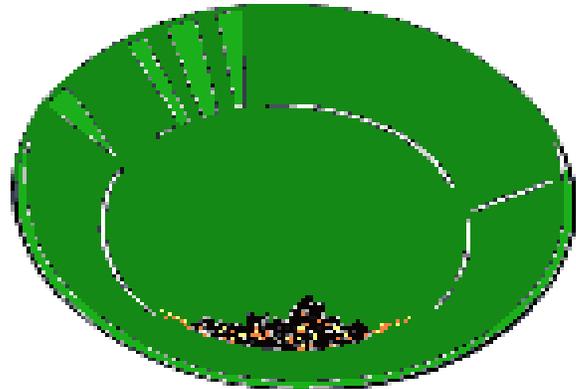
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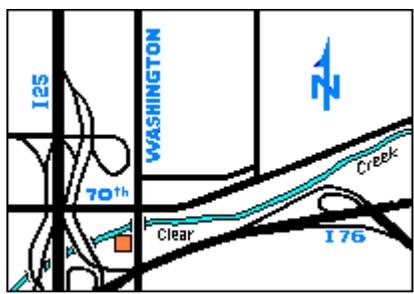
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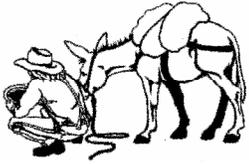
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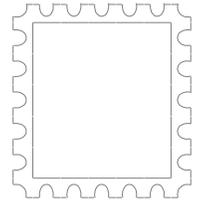
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