Nuggets of News and Knowledge

August 2016

Whether you are new to gold prospecting or an experienced old-timer, whether you have just started swinging a metal detector or have been digging targets for years, get the most out of treasure hunting with these nuggets of news and knowledge—tips, ideas, new products and more!

Using Natural Factors to Help Find Gold

Some say that "gold is where you find it" and while that may be true, after you arrive at a known gold-bearing location, how do you decide where to dig first? Successful prospectors follow different methods, so there is no single "right" way, but no matter if you are sluicing, dry washing, or metal detecting, if you first consider the "lay of the land" you can better pinpoint a place to start:

Types of Placer Deposits. Alluvial, residual, beach, and other types of placer gold are all worked differently. Alluvial gold forms in streams. The gold tends to concentrate on bedrock as it moves downstream and makes its way down through the gravel to bedrock. Residual placers form on the surface as rock materials weather and are washed or blown away and do not concentrate on bedrock. Knowing the type of placer makes a big difference as to where you should begin to look for it.

Quartz Veins. Gold often forms with quartz, so quartz veining can be a very positive sign. Quartz is very resistant to weathering, so it may hang around on the surface long after any nuggets have sunk below the soil. If you find a visible quartz vein outcrop, that can be a good sign. The outcrop, as well as any areas downhill from it, should be sampled. Also remember that not all vein quartz is white. Some can be stained red-brown from iron.

Iron Staining. Not all gold-bearing mineral deposits contain quartz. Gold-bearing veins can consist of calcite or mostly sulfides which often weather into iron-stained spots as the pyrites convert to iron oxides. While quartz is often a good indicator, it is not necessary for the formation of gold nuggets— but sulfur is necessary. In places where gold occurs with quartz, there is often a lot of iron, which was once (before it was oxidized) a sulfide such as pyrite. Any gold that was formed in these deposits is left in the red soils that remain, or perhaps nearby. The red soils can be deep orange or red-brown or brick red.

Favorable Rocks. The type of rock considered "favorable" will vary greatly based on the area. The same "favorable" rock in California may not be the same "favorable" rock for finding gold in Alaska. In some places the best rock to look for might be schist or slate, in other places it might be volcanic. In

Nugget of Knowledge

How Deep Does a Metal Detector Detect?

The answer depends on two things: the metal detector's circuitry/coil design and environmental factors. A beginner's model may not have the bells and whistles of the more professional models, but it will be easier to use. Some detectors designed for ultimate depth may be too sensitive to use in trashy areas. Coil size will affect the depth, but may not be suited for a particular type of hunting. Environmental factors to take into consideration include the size and shape of the target, soil conditions, orientation of the target in the ground, content of the target, and any outside interference, such as electrical wires and radio or cell phone traffic. Weather conditions such as rain-soaked ground, may also play a part in the depth and sensitivity of any detector. An average metal detector using
general, sedimentary rock is usually not a favorable host rock for gold.

Deciding where to dig first comes from knowledge. You get that knowledge from reading books and magazines dedicated to prospecting and metal detecting, talking with experienced old-timers, and GETTING OUT IN THE FIELD. Evaluate the area, think about the geology, and then make a plan before you dig. It will save you time and make your experience way more productive and fun! You may also want to read about Man-Made Factors to Consider Before Digging for Gold.

DEEP DISCOUNT! Fisher F75 Metal Detector

In honor of Fisher's 85th anniversary, the price of their premier multi-purpose, high-performance, computerized metal detector—the F75—is now only $599 with FREE SHIPPING! Just last month, this same detector sold for $949—what a HUGE SAVINGS! This detector is recommended for Coin Shooting, Relic Hunting, Beach Hunting, and Gold Prospecting. It has the high sensitivity and ground balancing control needed for professional gold prospecting, the discrimination responsiveness needed for serious relic hunting under difficult conditions, and visual target ID considered essential in searching for coins. The Fisher F75 comes with an 11-inch open-frame elliptical DD search coil for maximum detection depth in mineralized soils. The F75 is among the lightest and best balanced of all high-performance metal detectors, so you can hold and swing it almost effortlessly. Optional Accessory Bundle also available for extra $159.99 includes 5" DD coil and cover, camo finds pouch, rechargeable battery kit, rain cover, camo ball cap & tall camo backpack. Click here for more details and to download the F75 owner's manual.

NEW! Paydirt from the Bradshaw Mountains

Each and every three pound bag of paydirt is GUARANTEED to contain several pieces of gold—the shiny stuff you can SEE and easily pan out, not microscopic gold you can only guess at! A bag is ideal for practicing your panning skills before heading out into the field, or to keep your gold fever going when you can't get to the gold fields in person. Also great to test out larger equipment such as the Gold Cube, sluices, highbankers, automatic spiral gold panning machines, and more. Find practice panning gravel here.

Consider a Spiral Gold Panning Machine

a stock coil in moderate ground should see the following targets with these ranges: Dime to nickel: 4 to 8 inches Quarter to half dollar: 6 to 12 inches Dollar to fruit jar lid: 8 to 16 inches.

Knowing your metal detector and using it properly are the two most important things that you can do to get the best depth and sensitivity out of any machine. Do not under estimate the importance of reading and understanding your detectors' Owners Manual! More on metal detecting here.

Gold Rush Nugget Bucket

As seen on Shark Tank... the Gold Rush Nugget Bucket is the only gold panning kit that concentrates gold dust first. In addition to catching larger gold nuggets and gold flakes, it offers a patented, all-in-one design that concentrates the smallest of flour gold into one small bowl, collecting up to 99% of the finest gold dust. It also collects gems and other minerals in two collection screens situated inside the bucket. The kit is made of high-quality plastic and weighs just 7 pounds, providing a lightweight and easy-to-carry means to gold pan. It does it all without any chemicals, surfactants, pumps, motors or moving parts. Learn more here.

Everything There is to Know About Gold
Save some time and muscle power—let a spiral panning machine help you separate the gold from your concentrates and black sand much more quickly and easily. Each spiral panner is a little different, so browse the wide selection of machines here and learn more about the Gold Magic, Gold Genie, Gold Miner, Desert Fox (shown in photo), Pro Camel—and discover which model best serves your needs and budget. Always FREE shipping to Lower 48 when you spend $350!

History Nugget: Custer, Idaho

They say all that glitters is not gold, which is especially true in the Gem State where garnets, opals, and jasper sparkle just as brightly as nuggets. But back in the late 1870s, it was mostly the gleam of gold that attracted prospectors to the Yankee Fork of Idaho’s Salmon River.

And where gold glimmered yesterday, it often means intriguing gold rush ghost towns are found today. Custer is a prime example.

Located in scenic central Idaho, the town of Custer started out in 1879 as the little sister to bigger Bonanza City (also a ghost town), two miles north. With the recent defeat of General Custer still fresh in their minds, the founding miners named the town in his honor. Custer was basically a single half-mile long street.

The 1880s brought rapid growth to the region as the Lucky Boy, Sunbeam, General Custer, and other area mines produced abundant ore. With a capacity to process 900 tons of ore a month, the General Custer Mine alone produced an estimated $8,000,000 in gold between 1880 and 1888 and was considered the mother lode of the Yankee Fork. Thanks to the economic support from the mines, Custer’s population doubled by 1896. It even sported a schoolhouse, jail, Miner’s Union Hall, and a baseball team. Read more about the gold mining ghost town of Custer, Idaho.

There has never been a better time to get involved in the Modern Day Gold Rush. Did you read the extensive and informative “Going Cubular” article in the July/August 2016 issue of Gold Prospectors Magazine? If not, click here to learn everything you wanted to know about the Gold Cube and MORE!

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