Nuggets of News and Knowledge

October 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!

October 2016 Gold & Treasure Shows

Whether you’re a newbie prospector or detectorist, or have been mining and metal detecting for years, attending a Gold Prospectors Association of America Gold & Treasure Show offers a great opportunity to rub elbows with some of the best vendors and people in the business.

In addition to browsing the show floor to find the latest and greatest equipment and supplies, come meet Kevin Hoagland, host of Gold Trails. Children 12 and under are FREE, so be sure to bring the kids and the whole family can pan together for gold—and keep all the gold you find! Adult pre-sale admission purchased online is $5 until the Friday before each show, or $10 at the door. Active military members and veterans with ID are FREE. Saturday shows run 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Thousands of dollars in door prizes are given away each day—detectors, pans, sluice boxes, you name it! All you have to do is show up and you might leave with a brand new piece of top of the line prospecting equipment.

Nashville, Tennessee  October 8-9
Dayton, Ohio  October 22-23
Concord, North Carolina  October 29-30

Whether young, old, or somewhere in the middle, the shows offer something for everyone and provide the best opportunities to learn new skills, see product demos, and have some family fun! Visit the GPAA website for all the details.

NEW! Garrett Gold Trap Pan and Kits

How to Know if it’s REAL GOLD

Fool's gold, iron pyrite, mica... no matter what you call it, at first glance it looks like real gold and sparkles like real gold in the sunlight or when viewed under water, but how do you know FOR SURE if those gleaming flakes are worth something... or exactly nothing? Real gold retains its yellow sheen even in shadow, whereas fool's gold does not. Also keep in mind that gold is one of the heaviest elements known. Pure gold has a density (specific gravity) of about 19, which means that it weighs about 19 times as much as an equivalent amount of water. On the other hand, mica, often mistaken for gold, has a specific gravity of about 2.3. Real gold sinks to the bottom of a gold pan; flakes of mica typically float. Gold is soft and malleable. It can be cut with a knife and won't splinter. You can even
Garrett has just released a NEW gold pan design... the 14 inch Gold Trap! Why is it so special? Professional prospector Freddy Dodge (from the hit TV show Gold Rush) sums it up this way: "This is a smaller pan that is comfortable to handle all day long, but it gives you the finishing area of a large pan."

This new pan also:
• Expands the pan’s floor size by 33%, as compared to conventional 14” gold pans.
• Maintains the long panning surface and optimum angle necessary for effective panning.
• Allows gold to be driven down more efficiently to the large floor space.
• Larger pan volume allows more material to be processed per pan.
• Includes Garrett’s renowned riffles for trapping gold.

This revolutionary pan is also included in two new Gold Pan Kits!

Precious Metal Smelting & Melting Options

For thousands of years, humans have been prospecting, mining and refining metals. The invention of smelting was a true technological advancement for mankind and marked the end of the Stone Age. Whether you’ve got natural gold mixed with black sand or have unwanted jewelry, consider melting or smelting your gold, silver, and other metals at home. But first understand that there is a big difference between melting and smelting. Melting means to change something from a solid to a liquid by the application of heat. When the heat is removed, the melted material returns to its solid state. Its chemical content has not been changed. Smelting, however, is a metallurgical term. It refers to "burning off" the impurities that your gold might be mixed with, resulting in nearly pure gold.

Check out many melting and smelting options here.

History Nugget: Bannack State Park

"dent" it with a pin. Fool’s gold, though, is hard and flaky. Click to read more...

Recover Fine Gold with a Blue Bowl

Panning fine gold concentrates by hand is difficult and tedious, however, when set up and operated properly, the Blue Bowl (a.k.a. D.A.M. Gravity Concentrator) can recover gold as fine as talcum powder! Used by thousands of gold miners, the Blue Bowl Concentrator makes easy work of what would take hours, and does a more thorough job of removing the black sand from the gold dust. Browse all Blue Bowl Kits and watch how-to videos here.

Versatile Gold Machine

Looking for a versatile gold mining machine—classifier, highbanker, trommel—that will get the gold? Want one light-weight, portable machine that will do it all? Check this out! Use as a highbanker or switch out the top box in minutes and install the 5 inch “Lil Monster” and run as a trommel!
Bannack, Montana is the site of many “firsts” in the Treasure State’s history. Although it’s a gold mining ghost town today, it served as the first territorial capital in 1864, had the state’s first jail, hotel, and chartered Masonic Lodge. It also had the first hard rock mine and the first electric gold dredge. If you’d like to learn more about these “firsts” take a self-guided walking tour of Bannack State Park, located about 25 miles southwest of the city of Dillon. The old-time prospectors are long gone, but many mining relics and over 60 buildings remain. Most are so well preserved that you can actually go inside them—a rare treat when it comes to ghost towns.

Bannack’s rich history began 150+ years ago with John White’s discovery of placer gold along the banks of Grasshopper Creek. In July 1862, Mr. White filed one of the first recorded mining claims in what was later to become the state of Montana. Good news traveled fast and by fall of that year, “Grasshopper Diggins” was home to 400 prospectors. By the following spring, the population had swelled to 3,000—the Gold Rush was definitely on!

Click here to read more about the gold mining ghost town of Bannack.

There has never been a better time to get involved in the Modern Day Gold Rush! Visit GoldRushTradingPost.com today to find great prices on equipment and supplies that make gold prospecting, metal detecting, and rock hounding easier, faster, and much more fun! FREE SHIPPING in continental USA when you spend $350!