

# THE NUGGETEER



February 2022

Vol.2 No.2

## *A Message from the President Tim's Tidbits*

Spring is on the way. Good time to get your prospecting gear ready for the next outing.

Tim Pitney  
President COSGPAA

Web address: <http://cosgpaa.org>

Facebook address closed <https://www.facebook.com/groups/733783243720768/members/>

Facebook address open <https://www.facebook.com/cosgpaa>

### Tonight's precious metals spot prices per Troy ounce

Year	Gold	Silver	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium
2021	\$1842.08	\$26.90	\$1,112.97	\$2,315.00	\$18,500.00
2022	\$1,805.97	\$22.56	\$1,036.89	\$2,392.25	\$15,750.00

2/6/2022

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# GPAA

## COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER



### GPAA OFFICERS Colorado Springs Chapter

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Hospitality Committee	Position Open		

***Do you want to join GPAA? You can see David Vigil at Sunny Mountain Prospectors located at:3007 North El Paso Street, Colorado Springs CO 80907***

***Renewals, multi-year discounts and life memberships available on-line at [www.Goldprospectors.org](http://www.Goldprospectors.org) , or call 800-551-9707 , and Please mention that you want to be part of the COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER.***

# MEETING MINUTES



February 2, 2022



Attendees: 0 in person; 128 by e-mail

The Chapter monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 2d, 2022, was cancelled due to a Nation Weather Service advisory for a winter storm watch.

**February 2d was also Ground Hog Day. The news from Pennsylvania is: “Punxsutawney Phil sees no shadow on Groundhog Day.” No shadow means Spring comes early this year.**

Chapter President Tim Pitney reported that Mr Richard Sweeny has confirmed that he will be presenting a “Dowsing Class and Student Coin Hunt” at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry this Spring and is pending scheduling. Tim will participate as an assistant instructor.

As reported in the Nuggeteer last month, we are working on a mine safety class and tour at the Edgar Mine in Idaho Springs. The Edgar Mine was named after the Edgar mineral vein that runs along the hillside above the mine. It was acquired by the Colorado School of Mines in 1921 and is their Experimental Mine and underground laboratory for future engineers. In the 1870’s, the mine produced high-grade silver, gold, lead and copper. We are just waiting for confirmation and scheduling from the instructor.

**The next Chapter meeting will be Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at the Salvation Army building, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.** There are no outings or events scheduled prior to the March meeting.

FYI. The next monthly meeting for Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) is Wednesday Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm, American Legion Post 38, 6685 Southmoor Dr, Fountain, CO. Confirmed on their Facebook page on Feb 3d. Guest speaker is David Emslie on hard rock mining.

# GPAA

## COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

The Nuggeteer is published monthly following the regularly scheduled chapter meetings. It will be distributed by email and posted to the Chapter web site. To be added to or removed from our email list, please send your request to [cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com). To add an article please submit it to the editor at [cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com).

### **COLORADO SPRINGS GPAA CHAPTER MEETINGS**

**Meetings are held on the First Wednesday of each month**

**From 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at:**

**The Salvation Army building:**

**208 Cunningham Drive**

**Security, CO 80911**

***All General Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 7pm to 9:00pm***

#### MEETING DATES

March 2 2022

April 6 2022

May 4 2022

June 1 2022

July 6 2022

August 6 2022 Picnic Saturday

September 7 2022

October 5 2022

November 2 2022

December 7 2022 Christmas Party

## 100 Year Old Dredge found

(Courtesy of The Fisher family); INSET: Public Domain

### LIFE & TRADITION

Gold Hunters Unearth 100-Year-Old Dredge Ship From North Carolina Gold Rush in Creek Bed  
By Michael Wing

November 26, 2021 Updated: November 26, 2021

In Nash County, North Carolina, a father-son treasure-hunting duo bought a piece of land in 2016 on the exact spot where the Portis Gold Mine once operated from 1835 during the North Carolina Gold Rush—America's first real gold rush.

Adventure was in store there, Tim Fisher, 60, and his son Ross, 31, knew. They started digging in the waterlogged lowland area in October—after discovering what they learned was the Robinson Gold Dredge ship, originally built in New York City over 100 years ago, which once mined the valley for gold.

How it ended up in the mud, 100 feet up a creek valley in North Carolina, is an epic tale itself.



(Courtesy of The Fisher family)



[\(Courtesy of The Fisher family\)](#)

Tim and Ross, producers of their own treasure-hunting TV show “Eastern Outdoor Expeditions,” are currently excavating the two-storied dredge—or “pirate ship,” as they call it—which measures 94 feet long, 32 feet wide, and 7 feet deep. It’s wooden hull is preserved with artifacts and treasure inside.

“The doors are still in it, the windows are still in it, glass is in it,” Tim told The Epoch Times. “It’s still got the red paint, so we know it was the color red. ... And we *do* find gold in there as well.

“The branch of water ... it used to run a lot through the dredge, and it filled the dredge up with all the material mined uphill where they were already mining.”

He added, “We do know that there’s gold there, there’s no telling how much.”



(Courtesy of The Fisher family)

Other findings include wiring insulators from the early 1900s (indicating electricity use on the ship), a mason jar with a 3-ounce silver spoon inside, and numerous other antique trinkets.

The pair enlisted a small crew of highly devoted treasure hunting friends and have so far unearthed about half of the top deck.

After being built in New York City in 1905, the Robinson Gold Dredge was disassembled and transported by railroad to North Carolina where it was reassembled on a shallow creek near Ransoms Bridge to dredge for the precious metal.



A photo taken of the Robinson Gold Dredge at the time of its operation. (Public domain)

The dredge required a depth of at least 3 feet of water in order to float. To make it that far up the valley, it dredged up the creek bed and expelled tailing piles, behind which would form dikes and cause the water level to rise, gradually allowing the vessel to float its way up the valley past its current location. Once gold was more or less depleted in 1912, the dredge, owned by Carolina Gold Dredging Company, was apparently abandoned in the mud to be buried in sediment.

In 2019, Tim and Ross struck wood, what was then believed to be a gold-mining dam at the Portis Mine on their newly acquired land.





(Courtesy of The Fisher family)

It took two years of leg work for the father-son duo to comply with government standards and the EPA before finally starting to dig in October 2021—a process that two previous floods had facilitated by changing the the water’s course, which helped dry out the creek.

“We’re on our own now because we stayed within their guidelines,” Tim said.

“We’ve found a lot of gold,” Ross told the newspaper after recently inspecting some of the numerous dredge piles littering their 14 acres of land.

Ross recently finished building part of what is to be a campground on the site for sightseers and hopeful treasure hunters to stay at and visit the historic dredge—which they’re planning to rebuild back to her former glory—red paint and all—in the not-too-distant future.

*Share your stories with us at [emg.inspired@epochtimes.com](mailto:emg.inspired@epochtimes.com), and continue to get your daily dose of inspiration by signing up for the Epoch Inspired newsletter at [TheEpochTimes.com/newsletter](https://TheEpochTimes.com/newsletter)*

# GPAA

## Colorado Springs Chapter Links

Sunny Mountain Prospectors LLC  
(719)639-2424

<https://sunnymountain.net>

Let's support our local prospecting business.

Gold Prospectors of Colorado

<https://gpoc.club>

[\(20+\) Gold Prospectors of Colorado | Groups | Facebook](#)

- American Legion Post 38
- 6685 Southmoor Dr,  
Fountain, CO 80817

The Rock Doc

17897 US Hwy. 285  
Nathrop, Colorado 81236

- (between Buena Vista & Salida, 5 miles south of Nathrop)  
<http://www.therockdoc.net>

Public Lands for the People

<https://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org>

- Public Lands For The People
- PO Box 1660
- Inyokern, CA 93527
- 1-844-757-1990

Western Museum of Mining and Industry

<https://wmmi.org>

### **Prospecting Equipment for Sale**

**If you have any prospecting equipment for sale or trade please email me at [coxd@mac.com](mailto:coxd@mac.com)**