



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Karen Darnell

VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Moore

TREASURER: Alice Phillips

DATE: September 24, 2015

Prez Says: Hello members,

Fall is here and I think it's the best time to go prospecting! Days are still warm, nights are cool, the water is low and the gold is easier to recover. I hope you can get out for at least one day before the rain sets in for the remainder of the year.

Ken's outing to the central Oregon desert for petrified wood is coming up this weekend. It is 70 miles east of Bend. Talk to him at the meeting if you're interested in attending.

Claudia, the Esplin's and I went to the Digger's claim, "Fossil Flats" a couple of weeks ago. Fossil Flats - Briggs Creek & Soldier Creek are *not* in Essential Salmonid Habitat. No DSL permits needed. Motorized recovery is allowed. The camping area is fabulous! Just be sure your vehicle can make it through the ruts, but you can always park and camp in the area just off the road. Be careful of the deer hunters!

I'd really like to rekindle an interest in Fossil Flats if it still contains enough gold. It's been heavily mined in the past, but it is too nice to not visit and sample for more viable ground.

In the upper Applegate area, word in the mining circles is that BLM is doing "reclamation" projects on streams near enough to mining claims as to disrupt the mine-ability of the claims. If you have claims in the area, you might want to check on them. Telling BLM "**No**" is an option that they won't necessarily tell you about.

Next month begins our Thanksgiving/Christmas potluck parties! Don't forget to purchase 50/50 tickets and tickets for the big Keene sluice and gear package!

Thanks for being members!

Karen

Call to Order: Karen called the meeting to order and we all stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Attendance: We had a total of 18 members, and 6 guests

Minutes from August: The motion was made that the minutes from the August meeting have been read by all, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Alice reported our bank account is in good shape. Her mailing address for the Millennium Diggers is on our website. -Claudia turned in filing receipts for our claims and was reimbursed. -Penny sent Clear Lake Methodist Church a thank you card with the check written to them in the amount of \$150.00, in gratitude for the use of their facilities.

Claims: All Maintenance Fee Waivers have been sent in (prior to Sept. 1st) for our claims. The "Affidavit of Annual Assessment Work" for each claim is due before Dec. 31st. Penny is taking care of that. If looking to file this paperwork on your own claim, **it is best to obtain the original 1 page form** from a local office supply (in Salem, Cooke's Stationary downtown on State St.) (There is a form online that can be used, but it requires much more information than is needed, plus it is 3 pages long; which makes it too costly when it comes to the county and BLM's recording fees, notary, and the cost of sending it certified mail.)

UPCOMING OUTING: **Saturday, October 24th TRIP TO HAMPTON BUTTE** to look for petrified wood. Ken Orndorff is heading off this expedition. He is only going for the one day, leaving Salem @ 5:30am and arriving at the digging area around 8:30am.

DIRECTIONS: From Bend take Hwy 20 east for 9.5 miles past Brothers to just past milepost 52 (about ½ mile) to Van Lake Rd. Take a left turn on this road and drive for 12 miles to G.I. Ranch/12 Mile Rd. Then turn right and drive for about 2 miles. This is a good gravel road and does not require 4wd.

The north side road is very rough and does require 4wd. It just depends on what you want to dig. The first area is very soft digging and the second area is harder.

The weather should be cool so dress accordingly. If you plan to stay and camp, the nights will for sure be COLD! There is a dry camp area close to the digging area, and lots of motels in Bend.

BRING: Gloves, boots, hat, sunscreen, (umbrella?), coat, lunch and **BRING PLENTY OF WATER!**

Tools: Shovels, long and short handle

Rock hammer, small or big pick-axe (to aid in digging)

Pry bar (?)

Kneepads or kneeling pad

Buckets, bags

Spray bottle, scrub brush and water to clean rocks
Ken has extra digging tools to loan if needed.

Contact Ken before Oct 24th if you plan to go, or have any concerns. 831-206-5444

Old Business: Last month: James Buchal worked on filing a case. \$\$ donations are urgently needed. Miners Unite! There is strength in numbers!

Send your donations to:

Waldo Mining District
PO BOX 1574
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Please make check or money order payable to **Waldo Mining District**.

The Millennium Diggers Association is a litigant in the case.

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**-Our September outing** to our Jeeter Creek claim had a nice turnout; about 13 members came down to do a little panning and/or sluicing. Gold was found by all. It was a beautiful day and the outing was well worth it!

The following pages show some of the photos that were taken, providing a partial summary of the outing. *All photos were taken by Claudia, except for the last one, taken by Karen*

**~PHOTOS FROM JEETER CREEK OUTING~**



From 2<sup>nd</sup> trail, view looking downstream and then back upstream to NE end of claim.



From 1<sup>st</sup> trail,view downstream NW end of claim Jeeter Crk dumps in @ NW end of claim



Part of 1st trail down to claim





Penny picking out her finds.



Don shows Terrie his tried and true panning method.



Walt and his gold pan; it's a shared endeavor.



Penny, Lodi, Walt and Terrie.

**New Business:**

The Sierra Fund's president illegally lobbied to shut down dredging in California. To find out more regarding this, *please refer to this website:*

<https://americanminingrights.com/miners-stand-up-and-fight-back-now/>

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Deadline Sept 28th.URGENT ACTION NEEDED - RE: The proposed mineral withdrawal that seeks to close to "Location" 95,806 acres of National Forest System lands on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and 5,216 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands on the Medford District and Coos Bay District. The withdrawals are located in the Rough & Ready/Baldface Creek and Hunter Creek/Pistol River areas. They want to close it down for five years while they work on a way to close it down for good.

The BLM held a "public comment meeting" down in Grants Pass going over the Mineral Entry Withdrawal Proposal aimed at the major rivers in south west Oregon. Due to security reasons, the BLM changed its venue and moved this "public meeting" to a smaller building. The room was packed with environmental activists and youths. Only 2 pro-mining enthusiasts were let in.

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**About the MD T-Shirts:** Before we place any T-Shirt orders, Tammy made a motion that we change part of our logo from a "diamond" to a "gold nugget". Penny will work on the artwork. Delmon seconded. All were in favor.

**About the Raffles:** Christmas raffle- 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a sluice (Walt Evens will supply all the accessories to go with sluice), 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a large mortar and pestle (donated by Marlea).

**Rocks/Treasures Shared Letter "J":** Ken O. brought jasper and petrified wood from Hampton Butte, Delmon brought jasper, and one was from the Columbia Gorge area. Don Esch brought specimens of Holley Blue.

Don is a master craftsman the lapidary arts. He proceeded to tell us about the opportunities available to work with rocks in the **Lapidary Work Shop at the 50's Plus Senior Center in Salem** on Portland Rd by Silverton Rd. It is open to the public, there is no age limit. They have classes consisting of 10 sessions, where you can learn the basics of lapidary and use their rock cutting/polishing equipment as you learn. The cost is \$35 to \$40. They also have classes teaching gold casting and lost wax casting, silver and goldsmithing, and have a real nice large room upstairs just for this workshop. The cost is \$5 per day to use this shop.

**Break and Raffle ticket sales**

**OUR SPEAKER TONIGHT: Our very own, highly acclaimed Joe Greene!** He gave us a powerful, fact based and thoroughly researched presentation on the environmental issues regarding the effects small scale suction dredging has on the health of our rivers and salmon habitat. He showed us documented scientific data proving that the effects from small scale suction dredging are all **"less than significant"** as a result of the studies. Thus proving that the environmentalists, with their far reaching propoganda, have much more on their agenda than just the heath of the environment. (Agenda 21). **THANK YOU JOE!**

**Letter for October is "K":** Kyanite, Kunzite, kracked rocks, knowledge to share (?). ....

**Meeting Adjourned**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 @ 7:00pm Be There!**

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Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

The Millennium Diggers Association is a group based in Keizer, Oregon, which is near Salem, Oregon. The Association is for people that share an interest in searching for things of value. The club's charter is to provide members with an Association that will help promote the activities of metal detecting, prospecting, rock hounding, and treasure hunting. Part of our yearly dues pay for mining claims that are available for all club members to use. We use Association meetings to share information about locating gold, silver, coins, jewelry, gemstones, fossils and metal detecting. We plan Association outings each month where we can help each other learn all aspects of our outdoor activities. This is a great family activity, bring the kids! Please feel free to drop in on one of the monthly meetings.

We meet the **4th** Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m, at:

Clear Lake United Methodist Church

920 Marks Drive

Keizer, OR 97303

We meet in the church's Fellowship Hall; a real a nice meeting place complete with tables, chairs and a kitchen. The church is located across the street from the Clear Lake Fire Station. There's plenty of parking in the church's parking lot which is locted behind the church.

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