



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Karen Darnell

VICE PRESIDENT: Ted Staley

TREASURER: Claudia Wise

THIS JUST IN:

CA Supreme Court invites state to frustrate federal policy

August 22, 2016 Jonathan Wood PLF (Pacific Legal Fund)

The California Supreme Court has issued its long-awaited [decision](#) in *People v. Rinehart*, concerning the legality of the state's ban on suction dredge mining. The case concerns an apparent conflict between federal law, which encourages mining on federal lands, and the state's ban against the only practicable method of mining stream bed claims. Despite the conflict, the Court denied the federal Mining Act any preemptive effect, essentially holding that states are free to frustrate or prohibit mining willy-nilly, no matter how obviously that may frustrate federal policy.....

To read more, go to the PLF's website "[Liberty Blog](#)"

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**Meeting Minutes from**

**July 28th, 2016**

**Call to Order:** All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** 19 Total- 17 members and 2 guests: Anne P. Sexton and John Stepisnik. Welcome!

**Show and Tell Treasures- Letters M and N:** Ted brought Turquoise, California Jade and Rhodonite. Penny brought a an example of brightly colored Malachite (green) and Azurite (blue), most commonly found together, they are both copper carbonates.

**Old Business:** Our website is down at this time. The "Domain Name" has expired. (More on this next meeting).

-Ted will check on the graphics involved with changing our logo for the T-shirts. We had previously discussed changing the "diamond" the gopher is holding to a "gold nugget".

**Raffle Tickets to Win ½ lb of Gold- Drawing June 2, 2017:**

Karen had **ticket sales packets** on the table for us to sell to others (all money gathered for this raffle goes to help with our ongoing legal fees).

# ENTER TO WIN 1/2 POUND OF GOLD

The Western Culture Conservancy (WCC) is proud to sponsor a series of two (2) Drawings to help raise the necessary funds for Galice & Waldo Mining Districts to stay in the fight against SB 838, and so EOMA & Waldo can continue the case in the Oregon Supreme Court against DEQ's unlawful permit.

**\$5.00 PER ENTRY ~ SIX ENTRIES FOR \$25.00**

## PRELIMINARY DRAWING

will be held DEC. 2, 2016

**GRAND PRIZE (to date): White's MX Metal Detector**

*Plus many more great prizes!*

## FINAL DRAWING

will be held June 2, 2017

**GRAND PRIZE: 1/2 LB. of Placer GOLD!**

*Plus many more great prizes!*

**ALL ENTRIES IN THE PRELIMINARY DRAWING WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN IN THE FINAL DRAWING.**

**Both Drawings will be held at joint meetings  
of the Galice & Waldo Mining Districts.**

**NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**ONLINE ENTRIES:** Entries can be made by going to:  
<http://westerncultureconservancy.blogspot.com/p/blog-page.html>

SUBMIT ALL ENTRIES TO:  
**WESTERN CULTURE CONSERVANCY**  
**P.O. BOX 1407**  
**JACKSONVILLE, OR 97530**

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
**WESTERN CULTURE CONSERVANCY**

To request a receipt, please include self-addressed stamped envelope with your mailed entry.  
 Otherwise, your check-stub is your receipt.

**PRIZE LIST PRELIMINARY DRAWING DEC. 2, 2016**

| <u>PRIZE</u>                                                                                                                                 | <u>VALUE</u> | <u>DONOR</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1941 WW2 CAPTURED RUSSIAN NAGANT PISTOL WITH DOCUMENTATION - DONATED BY RANDY AND SUSAN PROBASCO (WAITING FOR VALUE, SHOULD FIND OUT TODAY.) |              |              |
| MINER STATUE                                                                                                                                 | \$29.95      | ARMADILLO    |
| BOOK: THE PROSPECTOR'S GUIDE TO RESEARCHING & LOCATING MINING CLAIMS                                                                         | \$29.95      | TOM KITCH    |
| (4) FANCY HANDLED KNIVES                                                                                                                     | ???.??       | DAVE LEWI    |
| VB CLASSIFYING GOLD FILTER COMBO                                                                                                             | \$339.00     | CHARLOTTE    |
| 1.0 DWT NUGGET ON 18" GOLD CHAIN                                                                                                             | \$599.00     | SHELLY STU   |
| GRAND PRIZE:<br>WHITES MX SPORT METAL DETECTOR                                                                                               | \$799.00     | K.HARNACK    |

**NOTE: THE PRIZE LIST WILL BE PERIODICALLY UPDATED AS MORE PRIZES ARE  
 DONATED.**



**PRIZE LIST FINAL DRAWING JUNE 2, 2017**

| <u>PRIZE</u>                                                         | <u>VALUE</u> | <u>DONOR</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| BOOK: THE PROSPECTOR'S GUIDE TO RESEARCHING & LOCATING MINING CLAIMS | \$29.95      | TOM KITCHAR  |

|                                                            |               |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| (4) FANCY HANDLED KNIVES                                   | ???.??        | DAVE LEWIS           |
| GOLD CUBE MERCHANDISE                                      | ???.??        | MIKE & PAM           |
| WHITES / LESCHE DIGGER W/SHEATH                            | \$49.95       | JACK STILL           |
| BIG FOOT STATUE                                            | ???.??        | FRANK SERRONI        |
| A52 KEENE SLUICE                                           | \$125.00      | DAVE LEWIS           |
| HARD ROCK NUGGET                                           | ???.??        | JOSH & SARAH BOHMKER |
| 11.0 DWT GOLD NUGGET                                       | Market. Value | ARMADILLO MINING     |
| (2) VB CLASSIFYING GOLD FILTER COMBO                       | \$339.00      | CHARLOTTE GARCIA     |
| 1/4 LB (20) SILVER COINS                                   | Market .Value | ARMADILLO MINING     |
| KEENE MINI MAX POWER SLUICE                                | \$499.00      | KEENE ENG.           |
| KEENE HIGH BANKER #173/BRIGGS                              | \$1,750.50    | KEENE ENG.           |
| <b>GRAND PRIZE:</b><br><b>1/2 POUND OF GOLD</b> (6oz Troy) | Market. Value | GMD/WMD et.al        |

**NOTE: THE PRIZE LIST WILL BE PERIODICALLY UPDATED AS MORE PRIZES ARE DONATED.**

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**NOTE:** The money you spend on purchasing tickets is *not* tax deductible. **But**, if you want to make a DONATION to Western Culture Conservancy (a 501C3 non-profit org), as a contribution to our legal battles, **your donation IS tax deductible.**

**~~ALL MINERS ARE AFFECTED BY SENATE BILL 838~~**

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**New Business:** Mining Demonstration at the Josephine Co. Courthouse, Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited! There will be small scale suction dredging demonstrations, along with many other sophisticated and custom built gold extraction devices: sluices, wheels, cubes, detectors, snuffers, to name a few, along with vendors and sponsors. We want to provide proof through these demonstrations of how and why small scale mining is important.

Please refer to invitation below:

# SUCTION DREDGE DEMONSTRATION

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 10-4

### JOSEPHINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE LAWN

EVERYONE'S INVITED TO THIS FREE PUBLIC EVENT!

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MINING COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER AS ONE UNITED GROUP TO INFORM AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND OUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MINING. JOSEPHINE COUNTY HAS THE MOST MINING ACTIVITY IN THE STATE, YET IT IS WOEFULLY UNDERREPRESENTED. SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND MINER PRIDE BY BRING YOUR SUCTION DREDGES, MINING EQUIPMENT, IDEAS, INGUINITY, AND ORGANIZATION INFORMATION. NETWORK WITH OTHERS, SHOW OFF YOUR CREATIVITY, AND REPRESENT WHAT MINING MEANS TO YOU.



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY MINING IS SO IMPORTANT TO JOSEPHINE COUNTY? DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW SUCTION DREDGES OR OTHER MINING EQUIPMENT WORKS? WHAT DOES A MORATORIUM ON MINING MEAN TO YOU? HOW MUCH DOES MINING BUILD THE LOCAL ECONOMY? THE MINERS OF THE PACIFIC NW ARE COMING TOGETHER TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THAT THE PUBLIC HAS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MINING. LEARN HOW REGULATION IS SHUTTING DOWN THE SMALL TIME MINER AND WHAT THAT MEANS TO YOU.

**ENTER TO WIN A 1/2 LB OF LOCAL PLACER GOLD AND MANY OTHER GREAT PRIZES FROM OUR SPONSORS**



LEARN MORE AT  
GRANT'S PASS SUCTION  
DREDGE DEMONSTRATION



-On March 15, 2017, the state capitol has been reserved for miners to do another demonstration.

**Membership:** Member? New membership? Have you received your new membership packet yet? Claudia will send them out. Please notify her if you haven't received yours.

**Secretary's Report:** No meeting minutes to report at this time. The first 25 minutes of our meeting were not recorded. (Secretary arrived late).

**Treasurer's Report:** Claudia asked Joe if he would take over the Treasury. Joe agreed and is now our Treasurer. Penny met with Joe and Claudia at the OSU bank and handled the paperwork regarding this. (Penny is still the "Agent of Record" for our association).

**Claims Report:** The paper work for our Jeeter Claim was given to Penny to take to the Marion Co. clerk to get notarized and recorded. That includes the Maintenance Fee Waiver and the Affidavit of Annual Assessment work, then send to BLM for filing. (Done). Claudia is taking the Fossil Flats paper work with her down to Josephine Co. to get recorded. Ted also met us at the bank to handle the signatures necessary for the DT's claim. Claudia is taking that with her down south to get recorded as well.

Penny brought up a possible claim for us to look into. Several Digger's went on an outing there a few years ago (Delmon remembers). It is the site of an old lode mine, and although there is a tunnel there (closed off with iron bars), the creek may be a good source for placer gold. So, Penny gave Claudia the coordinates, and she said she would look on BLM's LR2000 and see if we can put a claim on it. Keep fingers crossed! (Hope to have some positive info by August's meeting)

**-Also,** any members who want to use the trommel? It is parked at Penny and Walt's place in Salem. Karen says she has the MINE LAB Detector at her place for anyone wishing to use it. Both trammel and detector belong to our association, and are for members use only.

**From July 2016 ICMJ (International Calif. Mining Journal):**

***Proof Mining districts Work! -by Scott Ham***

***"For the past couple years we've been harping on miners to locate the original bylaws for their Mining Districts and get them organized if they are in disarray. That's because Mining Districts are federally recognized entities with the power and authority to create their own regulations and to seek coordination status with local, state and federal agencies....."***

**From August 2016 ICMJ (International Calif. Mining Journal):**

***\*MMAC & PLP Update -by Scott Ham***

***"It seems that miners across the US are finally getting the message that having an organized Mining District gives you a huge advantage. As a federally recognized entity, you have the power to require coordination from federal agencies. You can read more about that power in "Proof Mining Districts Work!" in our July issue.***

***"I've been fielding quite a few calls from miners who have tracked down the original bylaws for their traditional Mining District and they are taking the steps necessary to get organized. It's never too late to take back control"***

***\*MMAC: Minerals & Mining Advisory Council & PLP: Public Lands for the People***

**Rally Around the Flag:** Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> Cottage Grove Fairgrounds. Karen will send out email with more information. (Claudia and Joe went, have good reports).



**Rice Museum:** August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. – This event was not attended by members. Penny (secretary) arrived late to our meeting (oops), thus missing this “upcoming event **detail**”. So, an email reminder to members was not sent out prior to it. *Please accept my sincere apology for not doing so. –Penny*

Tammy and Wes had a table there representing the NW Prospectors. Maybe at our August meeting they can fill us in on what we missed out on!

**Our August meeting is a Potluck at Don Esch's- Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> @ noon:** To help setting up, anyone that can arrive early, around 11:30, would be appreciated. Don will provide the meat for the BBQ (rib-lets and hamburgers), but everything else we need to bring. Such as: appetizers (chips-dip), drinks (and ice), some side dishes and/or salads. Something for dessert? Perhaps some extra chairs. Don has plates and utensils.

Don's address is **1658 Sonya Drive SE**. From Cordon Road, take Macleay Rd east. Drive down to 4 way stop at 62nd St .Continue thru on Macleay Rd. to the first left, which is Sonya Dr. His place is the 5th driveway down on the right. You'll see a large thunder egg marking his driveway.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Penny @ 503-508-6582  
Or Don @ 503-884-2501

**Break Time and raffle Ticket Sales**

**August's Letters are "O and P"**

**Meeting Adjourned**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS @ DON ESCH'S PLACE ON SATURDAY AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup> @ 12:00 noon  
IT'S A POTLUCK! BE THERE!**

*A short pictorial summary of 2 separate camping trips.*

*by Penny Esplin*

Here are some pictures from our camp trip down to Briggs Creek (Fossil Flats). These first few photos are from the end of May. Me, Walt and Terrie met Joe, Claudia and Don down there. We were camped there for 9 days. Was pretty warm, but the creek was wonderful!









Giant Chain Fern *Woodwardia fimbriata*. I dug up a couple of these about 4 years ago, Terrie dug some up on this trip. They are all thriving!



Don's claim. He gave us a wild ride down the rugged trail to his claim.



California Lilac all along roadside

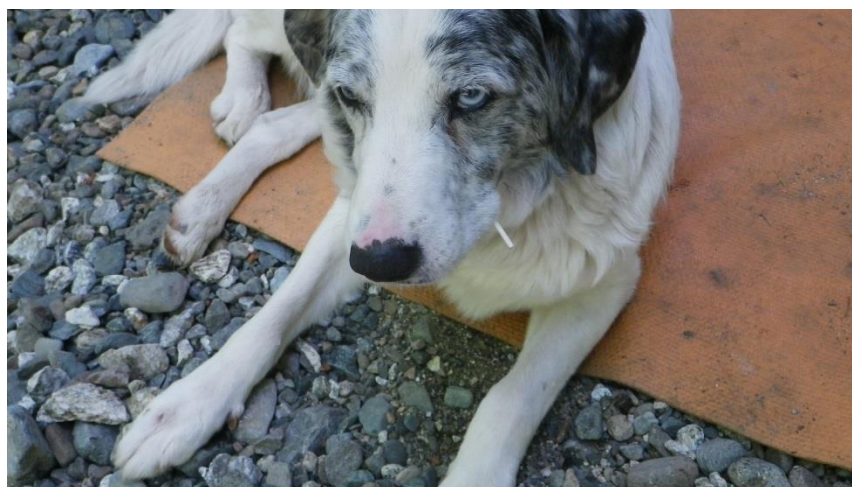


Here's a guy we saw on the road-cut we didn't want to disturb.



Claudia's photo

Lodi unplugged by the fire, where Joe, Claudia and Don camped.



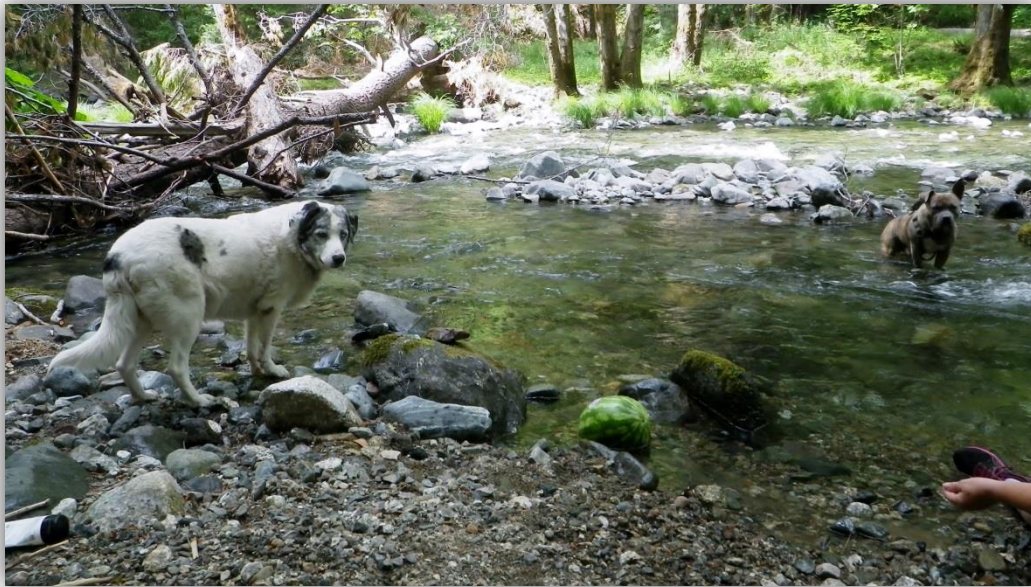
Lodi enjoying a Sugar Daddy as he languishes on the shore of Briggs Creek.





Claudia's photo

T  
Terrie and Don at a tunnel entrance into Eureka Mine



Lodi and Moses (neighboring miner's dog)  
This is right at the confluence of Soldier Creek and Briggs Creek



What to do with all those sticks? Build a stick structure!



Lodi lazily savoring a Sugar Daddy; he loves caramel. This was taken just below the place where Larry and Marvin last camped.



Walt, Penny and Terrie; happy prospectors, happy campers.

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These next pictures are from around the time our 4<sup>th</sup> of July camp trip to Briggs Creek Walt and I met Karen down at Fossil Flats, where we camped for several days.





Walt, Karen and miner Duane on his claim further down Briggs Creek  
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We made a stop on the Rogue River (after camping with Karen at her mine), then we drove on until we came to Grave Creek. We were looking for a shady place to camp, and found a nice spot on Reuben Creek, off Lower Grave Creek Rd.



This was taken on Reuben Creek, a bit upstream (north) from where it dumps into Grave Creek. It looks to me like an old volcanic feeder dike. It is just above the creek itself.





Just below the rock formation on Reuben Creek, we discovered this strange cube shaped hole in the creek bank itself. It was obviously man-made, it is cemented in. The picture on the right shows its size in comparison to our hand trowel. There is so much mining history down around here! And the mysteries that remain tucked into the land itself are enough to keep you coming back just to keep on exploring!



And on a hot day, this spot on the South Umpqua was a welcome reward. From here, we continued up the S. Umpqua, we then took a logging road (Deadman Creek) up to the headwaters of the South Fork of Myrtle Creek. There are a couple ponds up there called "Red Top Ponds" (heli-ponds/pump sites for firefighting). We camped by the smaller pond by the woods. That whole area is just littered with agates and jasper! So that was also a rewarding site (before the long journey home). We were gone a total of 9 days. Oh, yes, we did find some gold!

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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 located behind the church.