



**NOVEMBER MINUTES**

Bob Morrison opened the meeting with 27 members present.  
Bob Morrison and Bob Bruce asked the members if there would be an interest in buying Sapphire Concentrates from a company in Montana. The regular cost is \$21.95 + shipping for a 5lb bag - the company would sell to the club for \$19.00 + shipping for a 5lb bag. Bob Morrison also stated he would check with a company out East that sells concentrates to see if they would give us a better price.  
The Club needs to purchase small nuggets for the raffle drawings. A supplier will need to be found that can give us a good price.  
Bob received a request from Longmont, CO to hold a panning demonstration on December 9, 10 & 11. A few members volunteered to help. Bob will be checking to see if we can sell items at the demonstration.  
State Director Henry Harsh contacted Bob regarding setting up a State outing for all the Wyoming GPAA clubs. A March meeting is being planned for all the Club  
Presidents to get together to finalize the details. The Club members agreed to any date as long as it won't interfere with the July and August outings.  
Dick Shappell has information regarding the closure of forest roads being discriminatory to handicapped individuals. Attached is a letter Dick had on hand for anyone interested to sign and return to him.

To Whom It May Concern:  
I authorize Robert VanRisseghem and/or his agents, to represent me \_\_\_\_\_ to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Americal Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Services for the Blind, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Wyoming Dept of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the United States Dept. of the Interior (Forest Service).  
For the purpose of keeping Roads and Trails open and accessible. Reopening Roads and Trails by removing physical barriers that have been placed to close-off accessibility to me and others with Physical Disabilities.  
Thank you for your concern.  
Sign Here \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**RAFFLE FOR CASA**

Pat Gochnour reminded everyone about Christmas for CASA Kids. So far, \$105 has been collected. Raffle tickets are available for a gold nugget and a handmade cape donated by Pam Stiles. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds go to Christmas for CASA Kids.

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**RAFFLE WINNERS**

Knife - Ken Wilcox

Snuffer bottle, tweezers, pouch - Lee Beatty  
Collapsible bucket - Lee Beatty  
Spark plug wrench - Stan Lang  
Outdoor thermometer - Lee Beatty  
Nugget - Carolyn Bruce  
1972 50 cent piece - Dennis Rennison  
Coarse gold - Stan Lange

50/50 \$52.00 Carl Filter

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### GOLD PRICES RISE

18Nov05: Gold rose on the international markets to the highest levels since January 1988 amid inflation fears and billions in oil dollars.  
Gold dealers in London fixed a recommended price of \$487.90 bid per troy ounce at midmorning, up from \$484.60 late Thursday.  
In Zurich, gold traded at \$487.78, up from \$484.40.  
Gold rose \$8.80 in Hong Kong to \$488.45  
This is also the traditional time of year for Hindu and Islamic weddings and gold is the preferred item in the bride's dowry. There has been a huge demand for gold jewelry in the Mideast and Southeast Asia creating a shortage of gold in that part of the world.

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### USFS REQUESTS COMMENTS

FR Doc 05-21977 [Federal Register: November 4, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 213)] [Notices] [Page 67135]  
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]  
[DOCID:fr04no05-19]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Revision; Ashley National Forest in Uintah, Duchesne, UT, Wasatch, Summit and Daggett Counties, UT, and Sweetwater County, WY  
AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of initiation to revise the Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

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SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service, Ashley National Forest is initiating a process to revise its Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) in accordance with the 2005 Planning Rule at 36 CFR part 219 (FR Vol. 70, No. 3./January 5, 2005, 1023).

DATES: Public comments related to the need to revise the current Forest Plan are invited at any time during the revision process. We are currently seeking input on the need for change and the scope of the revision effort. This input would be most helpful to us if received prior to March 1, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Please send comments to Laura Jo West, Planning Team Leader  
at Ashley National Forest, 355 N. Vernal Ave., Vernal, Utah 84078 or via e-mail ljwest@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Jo West, Planning Team Leader at Ashley National Forest, 355 N. Vernal Ave., Vernal, Utah 84078; phone (435) 781-5167; fax (435) 781-51442; or e-mail ljwest@fs.fed.us.

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### KNIFE FOR A SOLDIER

Smoky Mountain Knife Works has joined with Brigade Quartermasters to supply our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan with donated knives.

The program is called Knife for a Soldier and allows you to buy a knife at a reduced price or you can make a monetary donation that can be combined with others to purchase knives. SMKW sends the knife to Brigade Quartermasters where it is included in shipments to individual soldiers. The soldier does not know about the knife until he/she opens the package. For more information you can go to [www.KnifeForASoldier.com](http://www.KnifeForASoldier.com) or [www.smokymountainknifeworks.com](http://www.smokymountainknifeworks.com).

I will also have a SMKW catalog on hand at the next meeting if you want to look at it. This program puts knives directly into our soldier's hands and may actually save their lives.

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**PROSPECTORS CACHE**

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Felix Paydirt Gourmet Gold. Club member  
John Eggleston is taking orders for the 2 LB bag of Felix Paydirt. John orders a case of 10 bags at a time and receives one free bag which the club uses as a raffle item. The bags are \$45 (\$40+\$5 Shipping).

If you would like to order a bag or two,  
Contact John at 635-0229

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Quartz epidote crystals hand dug from the Fox Park area. Each crystal has been hand dug, polished and mounted in either a pair of earrings or as a necklace. Buy separately or buy them as an earring/necklace set.

Assorted styles available. \$10-15.  
Call Louise Morrison 632-7895,  
[Lmrr3964@aol.com](mailto:Lmrr3964@aol.com)

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For Sale: White's Metal Detector w/power pack and case.

Call Bob or Louise Morrison, 307-632-7895

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Center latch louvered tailgate. Fits late model Chevy or GMC, cost \$313, sell for \$150. Front mount receiver hitch. Fits most late model trucks & SUV's, half price, \$50.00  
Call Francis Oline, 307-634-1133.

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2" Proline Floating Dredge, \$750.  
Call Dallas Lake 307-649-2321

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LDMA Membership - sells for \$3500 at the gold shows - all that's needed is to get it transferred to your name \$2000(buyer pays \$400 transfer fee) or \$2400(Mike pays the fee).

Call Mike Hayes (307) 640-4378

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If you have items for sale, contact Peggy Stumpf at 307-632-9945 or email her at [circlestar@Yahoo.com](mailto:circlestar@Yahoo.com) OR email Peter Somontes at [psomontes@Yahoo.com](mailto:psomontes@Yahoo.com) to have your ad placed here.

Your ad will also be on the Chapter website.

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**For Sale: Island with Mysterious Money Pit  
By Heather Whipps Special to LiveScience**

**posted: 07 November 2005**

It may look like a fixer-upper at first glance, but what is buried beneath scrubby little Oak Island might just make its estimated \$7 million price tag worth the investment.

Oak Island, in Nova Scotia, is famous for its Money Pit, a mystery that has endured two centuries, claimed six lives and swallowed up millions in life savings.

The Pit was discovered in 1795 by a local boy named Daniel McGinnis who, spotting an unusual clearing in the earth under one of the island's oak trees, was prompted to start digging. The discovery of layered planks, mysterious stone slabs, and mats made of coconut fibers descending deep into the ground turned his casual afternoon dig into an all-out excavation. Investors and thrill-seekers would eventually jump in and continue the work, kicking off one of the world's longest running treasure hunts.

#### **Complex trap**

What appears to be a complex flooding trap has thwarted efforts to reach the bottom of the Money Pit ever since. Some think the pit was purposely flooded with seawater, via a series of artificial swamps and tunnels, to hide its contents. Through the murk, drill borings and shafts dug by the island's series of owners have detected what seem to be cement vaulting, wooden chests, and scraps of parchment paper.

Radiocarbon dating of these artifacts is consistent: whoever constructed the shaft likely did so sometime in the 16th Century. Speculation about the contents of Oak Island's Money Pit range from the treasure of the Knight's Templar to Shakespeare's original manuscripts.

Oak Island's current owners, Dan Blankenship and David Tobias, have worked on the island since the 1960s, sinking millions of dollars into the project and revealing some intriguing clues of their own. For many who follow Oak Island developments, their abandonment of the treasure comes as a surprise. As recently as December of 2003, Blankenship told the Halifax Herald that he would announce some new, exciting findings in the following months. The revelation never came.

#### **What's it worth?**

The treasure's fate, assuming there is a treasure, now rests on the outcome of the sale. Court-appointed liquidators in Nova Scotia are currently wrapping up the evaluation of Oak Island's market worth, with an announcement expected before the end of the year.

A growing movement led by the Oak Island Tourism Society calls for the governments of Canada or Nova Scotia to purchase Oak Island and exploit its potential as a major attraction.

It seems for now the governments have little interest in throwing their hats into the ring of potential bidders, and that has many who've follow the island's saga breathing sighs of relief.

"The ideal candidate would be an individual or group with a genuine interest in and means to carry out professional archaeological work", Mark Finnan, author of "Oak Island Secrets" (Formac, 1997) told LiveScience in an e-mail interview.

Finnan believes Oak Island has not seen the last of the aging treasure-seeker Dan Blankenship, either. "He has a strong hunch about the nature of the treasure and may yet pass on his findings to the new owners of the land or even participate in a new exploration effort," Finnan said

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#### **CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Bob Morrison

Vice President: Lee Beatty

Treasurer: Stan Lang

Secretary: Peggy Stumpf

Newsletter Editor: Peter Somontes

Claims Director: Lyle Shingleton

Prizes/Raffles: Bob Bruce & John Eggleston

Store: Ann Lang

Activity Chairman: Pat Gochnour

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday Dec 6, 7 p.m. Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holliday Inn.

Panning Demonstration in Longmont, CO 9-11 Dec.

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday Jan.3, 2006: 7 p.m. Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holliday Inn.

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday Feb 7, 7 p.m. Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holliday Inn.

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday Mar 7, 7 p.m. Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holliday Inn.

Geology of Wyoming's Gemstone Deposits—W. Dan Hausel: Arvada Gem & Mineral Society, Arvada Senior Center, Arvada, Colorado, March 11, 2006, 7:30 pm

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### WEBSITES OF INTEREST

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Wyoming Geological Survey  
[www.wsgs.uwyo.edu](http://www.wsgs.uwyo.edu)  
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The Perth Mint of Australia  
[www.perthmint.com](http://www.perthmint.com)  
Click on 'Natural Gold Nuggets'  
then click on 'About Nuggets and  
Gold' for some interesting facts.  
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Garmin GPS products go to  
[www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com)  
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Magellan GPS products go to [www.magellangps.com](http://www.magellangps.com)  
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My website [www.geocities.com/psomontes/](http://www.geocities.com/psomontes/)  
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Smoky Mountain Knife Works  
[www.smokymountainknifeworks.com](http://www.smokymountainknifeworks.com)  
[www.KnifeForASoldier.com](http://www.KnifeForASoldier.com)

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### CLUB STORE

Coffee mugs \$ 5.00  
Green pocket T-shirt \$16.00  
Other color pocket T-shirts \$10.00  
No pocket T-shirt \$ 9.00  
GPAA mesh caps \$ 7.50  
Chapter caps \$12.00  
Green gold pan \$10.00  
Black gold pan \$ 8.00  
Classifier \$10.00  
Scoop \$ 7.00  
1/2 oz. vial \$ .35 ea. or 3/\$1.00  
1 oz. vial \$ .40 ea. or 3/\$1.00  
Suction tweezers \$ .40

Snuffer bottle \$ 3.00

KITS

Black pan, sand, vial, snuffer \$15.00

Green pan, sand, vial, snuffer \$17.00