Editor: Penny Esplin

Secretary: Marlea Sheridan

February 23rd, 2012

SHORT AND SWEET FROM THE PREZ: As your new president I would like to thank Delmon Ray for his service to our club. Delmon took over as president giving Ted Staley, who had been our president for many years,, a well-deserved break. Delmon has served us well for the last two years. I'm sure he will continue to share his humor and knowledge of mining with us as he has only moved over one chair. I bet we can get him to give us another gold dredging lesson before the season opens.

I would also like to mention all the work Penny Esplin has done for us as editor of the Digger Newsletter along with Joe Greene's help to get the newsletter back up and out to our homes. Thank you both we do appreciate and enjoy your efforts.

Also as you thirsty members at our last meeting can attested to we have taken for granted all the effort Marlea and Larry Sheridan make to get our meeting room setup and coffee and treats on the table. Please except our gratitude we did miss you this month while you were Frolicking across Hawaii and relaxing on the beaches.

I would also like to thank Joe Greene as treasurer for keeping our books and for the insightful presentation he gave us on the suction dredge issues we are facing now and in the future and the possible causes we need to be mindful of.

Welcome back also to Ted Staley who has agreed to again serve as a Millennium Digger officer filling one of our dueling vice presidents slots.

To make this year a great one I need all Millennium Digger members to please take some time thinking about what you want out of our association and bring your ideas and interests to the next gathering. Whether you would like to help by bringing in a special speaker or you yourself would be willing to give a presentation sharing an area of expertise and interest we need your help. Maybe you have a special place you would like to share as an outing with the rest of our members. I need all of you to get involved in some way. Let me know what you can do to make this year the best.

Speaking for our whole club we give a special thank you to the leaders in our mining community that are spending much of their own time to work to save our rights to mine. We appreciate all that they do to keep us in the water suction dredging and in the hills and on the beaches rock hounding and metal detecting for lost treasures. The fight is not only affecting miners I feel that all our citizens will need to standup and take what is

happening on our public lands seriously and side by side we will stop the encroachment of special interest groups on our rights as citizens.

<u>Call to Order:</u> Claudia called the meeting to order. Guests introduced themselves and shared their interests.

<u>In Attendance:</u> 24 present

Guests: Troy and Cathi Mansfield, Thom Preston, Hubert Kindle (and Jim Hayes?)

New Members: None

<u>Meeting Minutes:</u> Penny read last month's meeting minutes. Minutes approved. Accepted by Claudia.

<u>Treasury Report</u>: Joe gave us a good report regarding our finances. Yearly dues were collected. Joe passed out club membership cards.

<u>Claims Committee Report:</u> Buzz Sizemore is looking into finding new claims for our club closer to home. He is in the process of researching South Umpqua River and Cow Creek. In response to question regarding gold in Mollala River, he said "Not much." He said the same for Little North Fork of the Santiam River. The worthwhile gold starts around Quartzville. Lots of gold in the Tiller area, just got to know where to go. There was a recent forest fire in that area he is going to research.

<u>Old Business:</u> Delmon is going to drop off motors for the trommel at Larry's (Larry and Marlea are in Hawaii). Tickets were for sale during the break from Delmon for the EOMA/Waldo ½ lb of gold raffle. Buzz Sizemore has volunteered to take the motors and, if possible, make sure they run.

<u>New Business:</u> Claudia had emailed all members asking for our suggestions and ideas for programs and/or outings of interest. We wrote them down and gave them to Claudia during the break. She will put a list together with all our ideas for the year and hand them out at the next meeting for discussion.

<u>Events Committee:</u> Penny checked with <u>The Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals</u> (Hillsboro) for scheduling an outing <u>in April</u>. The museum is open Wed.-Sun from 1:00-5:00. If we want a guided tour of the place we need to notify them ahead of time. – <u>AND</u>, as a bonus to that outing: <u>Lisa and Buzz</u> live in Hillsboro, and Lisa invited us to go to

their place for a get together after we're done at the museum. Sounds real good, we will discuss this idea and schedule a definite date at the next meeting.

For our May outing, Ferman said we could all go to his place for our meeting and a BBQ! He will demonstrate his expertise in **METAL DETECTING** and teach us the finer points on how to use our own detectors. Ferman is our "Master Metal Detector". It will be an honor to take him up on his insight and invitation. -We will also discuss this at our next meeting in March.

Next Club Event/ Outing:

GPAA Gold and Treasure Show

March 24-25, Saturday Salem Fair Expo Center Saturday 9 am - 5 pm Sunday 9 am - 4 pm

General Admission: \$5.00 Kids 12 and under are FREE!

Free Vial with Gold:

to the first 100 paid attendees

Gold Panning Contest

\$5.00 entry fee; winner takes all & receives a specially engraved copper pan trophy!

Mucking Contest:

\$5.00 entry fee; runner up gets their money back, winner takes the rest and also receives a specially engraved copper pan trophy!

NOTICE: You can get FREE ADMISSION to the show! Simply go to the GPAA website and register!

Rocks/Treasures Shared Beginning With the Letter "W" Ken Orndorff brought bright orange Wulfenite (lead molybdate), and a nice limbcast specimen. Penny brought two specimens of Wulfenite, one orange, one yellow, both from the Red Cloud lead mine in Arizona. Judy brought an agate she found at Wallace Marine Park, and somebody (?) brought two pieces of what looked to be (Oregon?) Jade.

Next month's Letters: "X,Y,Z"

Sweethome Rock and Mineral Society, **EVENTS**:

Sweethome High School Acitivity Gym,

1641 Long Street, Sweet Home, OR

March 31 - April 1

Saturday 10-6; Sunday 10 - 5

WE HAD A SPECIAL "POWER-POINT" PRESENTATION by our house speaker JOE GREENE:

"SMALL-SCALE SUCTION DREDGING FOR GOLD—UNDER ATTACK!"

By Joseph greene

Joe gave a great presentation, it was well written, totally factual and well thought out. It really gave us members some food for thought as to the underlying goal of "*the areenies*" who want to deny us our rights. Thank you Joe!

Our Next Club Meeting: March 22nd @ 7:00

Siderite Along the Clackamas River, Oregon

Last Updated: 25th Apr 2010

Siderite and Associated Minerals Along the Clackamas River Clackamas County, Oregon, USA

By Bill Tompkins

There are many sites along the Clackamas River where siderite can be found. The bulk of these localities are found between Highway 224 mileposts 33 and 41. This report will concentrate on two of the sites closest to Estacada. Known as Big Cliff and Memaloose Roadcut, they were chosen because of the range in color and crystal forms in which the siderite has formed, ease of collecting, and because of the associated minerals.

Siderite, FeCo3, trigonal with a hardness of 3.5 to 4.5, is a common secondary mineral in North West basalts. Usually found as a brown, rusty appearing crust in pockets up to several inches across along the Clackamas River, in some sites it can be larger, more colorful, and found in different forms. Siderite here can also be found associated with calcite, pyrite, opal, heulandite and selenite.

BIG CLIFF

At Big Cliff, Highway 224 milepost 33.1, the pockets can be much larger than other sites. I have collected pockets over 4 inches across commonly and 6 inches across occasionally. I have seen pieces in other collector's cabinets with pockets larger than 6 inches across. Ray Schneider had a piece that he showed me years ago that stood over 18 inches tall and was cut with a rock saw into the shape of a 4-sided steep pyramid. On each of the sides was a pocket lined with beautiful purple siderite. The piece was stunning. Ray told me that he collected it many years ago when the highway was being built. That comment about the way collecting used to be, when the highway was under construction, is a common thread with other collectors. I have seen quantities of pieces with filaform pyrite, and pieces with selenite, that were collected from this area way back then.

Collecting at Big Cliff is still possible but is sometimes a problem. I have collected there

many times and once there was a small problem. The Mt. Hood National Forest Ranger that stopped and talked to me was concerned that I might leave rocks on the pavement, and a promise not to brought permission to collect. It seems that small rockfalls happen here regularly because every time I stop and look there are fresh samples to choose from, lying in the ditch right beside the highway, so that enough samples can be collected in just minutes. Another nice part about collecting in the talus slope here is that sometimes the rock comes from much farther up the cliff, making for a variety of sources.

The siderite at Big Cliff is usually the only mineral found in the cavity. The color is why I still stop: the siderite in some of the pockets has an iridescent sheen that resembles an oil slick with colors ranging from purple to green with flashes caused by the siderite being actually a mass of bladed crystals that reflect the light differently as you turn the piece. Some pieces also have small hemispheres of siderite that I believe were floater crystals that later attached and were covered with a later generation of siderite. Selenite forming rods up to an inch long can be found with the siderite, and rarely pyrite.

MEMALOOSE ROADCUT

At the Memaloose Roadcut, found by turning at the Memaloose bridge at Highway 224 milepost 33.9 and continuing uphill on Memaloose road, also known as Forest Development Road 45, just over ½ mile. The siderite and associated minerals can be found on both sides of the road. Since this site is on the north side of a steep mountainside that is almost always in the shade means that this site is usually covered with moss and leaves, so the collecting area is not obvious.

The siderite can be found as the common brown crust, as very colorful linings, as smooth hemispheres up to 3/8ths of an inch across, and as single crystals several millimeters across. The color of the siderite here ranges from almost white to almost black. The crystals form as individual crystals or as bladed masses.

Associated minerals here include calcite, selenite, pyrite, heulandite, and opal. The calcite forms blades that are usually yellow to white. Calcite can line the entire pocket or form on top of the siderite. When the calcite formed on top of siderite spheres, the calcite would form hemispheres up to over an inch across making good cabinet specimens. The opal can be tiny, clear spheres on top of the siderite, or intergrown with the siderite in layers, or when it is the only mineral in a cavity it can be brown to black and up to 10mm thick. Rarely, the clear opal spheres will stack end to end and form columns up to 5mm.

Many of the minerals found here appear to have formed in several generations, making for quite a variety. Some of the hemispheres are smooth, some are coarsely bladed, some have calcite growing on the siderite blades, some are almost white, some are almost black, and most are some shade of brown. Also, some of the siderite hemispheres are damaged which reveals the different layers in their growth.

In summary, I understand that siderite is not usually an attractive addition to a collection but these two localities can be incorporarated into a field trip further upstream at localities such as the Oak Grove Fork, Lake Harriet, and the Fish Creek Roadcut. I

recommend a look sometime when you are in the area because the siderite is better than average and the associated minerals make a stop worthwhile.

I have been adding photos of both localities and their minerals to MinDat.org

-Bill Tompkins

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Crystals and Minerals, vol. I, 1989 by Gladwell, Jon pages 32-33 Crystals and Minerals, vol. III, 1994 by Gladwell, Jon pages 32-33

Comments

Thanks Bill for the excellent article. I've always liked the "spherosiderite" specimens from this area and would love to collect here someday---your article brings some life to those few specimens that I've had. Thanks again for posting the article---I haven't seen much written on this area before. Take care. Best regards, Dana.

Dave Bese, 16th Jun 2010 4:31pm

I made it to the area last Thursday. There had been recent rockfalls at Big Cliff so I made just a brief stop for a sampling.

There was also a small fall at Memaloose which was loaded! Every piece had several pockets of siderite and big hemispheres of calcite. Also found some strange cavity fillings and crusts in green and blues. Found (2) of the opal specimens; largest with a double cavity 9 cm X 4.5 cm.

I hit the Fish Creek roadcut with success and found the productive area continues about a mile up Fish Creek Road.

Noted that some of the siderite was black and further reading suggests that it may be altered to Goethite

Wulfenite



Composition, Structure and Associated Minerals:

Wulfenite is a secondary mineral formed from the oxidation of lead and molybdenum minerals. Together with powellite, they are the only common natural molybdenates. Wulfenite is found in the oxidized portion of lead veins with other secondary ores of that metal, especially minerals like <u>cerussite</u>, vanadinite and pyromorphite. Found in the United States in a number of places in Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico.

Identification and Diagnostics

Wulfenite is characterized by its square, tabular crystals, orange to yellow color, and high luster. It is distinguished from vanadinite by crystallization, by a positive test for chlorine (vanadinite) and the test for tungsten. It is distinguished from Crocoite by a positive test for Molybdenum. If powdered wulfenite is moistened with concentrated sulfuric acid and evaporated almost to dryness in a porcelain crucible the residue will show a deep blue color on cooling (positive test for molybdenum).

Occurrence, Localities and Origins:

The mineral occurs in the oxidized zone of veins of lead ores at some of the principal lead occurrences in Europe, and in the United States near Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; in the Organ Mountains, New Mexico; at the mines in Yuma County, Arizona; at the Red Cloud mine in La Paz County, Arizona, at the Mammoth Mine, in Pinal County in the same State, and at many other of the lead mines in the states of Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico.

Uses:

Well crystallized, showy specimens of bright colored wulfenite are highly prized as a mineral specimens. It is also a minor source of molybdenum.

Seiad woman unearths 41 gold coins in her garden

By Ami Ridling, Siskiyou Daily News, Feb 17, 2012

http://www.siskiyoudaily.com/news/x740673767/Buried-treasure-Seiad-woman-unearths-41-gold-coins-in-her-garden



Seiad Valley, Calif. —

It is not often that a person stumbles upon a stack of 19th century gold coins while digging a hole in the garden to plant a fruit tree, but this extraordinary discovery was recently made by Seiad resident Kathy Bishop at her Lowden Ranch home.

"I was surprised, excited and stunned," Bishop said. "My first thought was that they were gold-colored foiled chocolate candies."

Surrounding a broken glass jar where the coins were once placed for safe keeping, Bishop said she unearthed 41 gold Liberty Head Double Eagle \$20 coins with dates ranging from 1875 to 1896. Each coin weighs one ounce.

According to Bishop, 40 of the coins were minted in San Francisco, and one was minted in Carson City, Nev. While Bishop tried to keep the unearthed treasure a secret, she said that the occurrence was so exciting that she had to tell a few people. It was not long before the news began spreading throughout the county.

The discovery occurred on Jan. 5, when Bishop and her friend were preparing her garden to plant fruit trees. She had placed seven stakes in the areas of her garden where she wanted to plant the trees.

Having second thoughts about the location of the seventh tree, she decided to move its stake, and that was when she dug the new hole and discovered the gold coins.

"If I hadn't moved that stake, I would have missed the gold," Bishop said.

Bishop commented that she has walked over the spot where the gold was buried more times than she can count. Lowden Ranch was once occupied by John Lowden, who died in 1905, Bishop said.

"We are surmising that John buried these coins. Apparently the old timers buried their money often," she said, adding that she has heard of other property owners finding gold hidden on their properties.

The current value of gold is \$1,765 per ounce, although Bishop said that she is not in a rush to have the coins appraised.

"Right now we just think gold is a good thing to have around," Bishop said. "We have no plans for it yet."

The coins are being stored in a safety deposit box at a bank, where they will stay.

Right to Associate and the Case against DEQ

By Guy Michael, February 17, 2012

Who'd believe EOMA's Case against DEQ would involve arguments over our First Amendment rights to associate? Yes, you read it right. We have been working our way through the discovery portion before we go to trial. We asked DEQ for documents relating to several question how it made decisions concerning the Clean Water Act and this permit. By subpoena DEQ has had to respond. I still haven't completely gone through all of the information received.

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) must defend DEQ and has also subpoenaed EOMA. The first three request of documents were not relevant to our case against DEQ's 700PM permit, because EOMA does not document current mining of its members or historic mining nor of those that suction dredge. The fourth question was relevant, because they are asking for documentation that would support why we could make the statement in our complaint that suction dredging does no harm to the environment and may do it some good.

We decided to submit several years of EOMA newsletters, because this is the only documentation we would have that would be close to responsive to membership mining and what streams this might occur in. We are trying to be cooperative, however, the DOJ wrote back that they also requested EOMA's membership list, so that they could determine by deposition those that match their list of permittees of which streams in Oregon they suction dredge in, or have mined in, in the past.

They claim that this is in order to investigate harm or good to the stream environment by any suction dredging. We gave the inch and now DEQ/DOJ want to take the mile. So we have decided to make our stand that this is harassment, because EOMA members are not on trial, it is the permit and DEQ decisions that are.

As a result, our lawyer has sent an amended response that we object because the request for the list of members will not lead to the production of relevant evidence concerning the lawfulness of the permit. Also, DEQ cannot sustain the lawfulness of its permit by reference to whatever facts in might discover about suction dredge mining by particular EOMA members; it is the permit not EOMA members that is on trial.

There's more, DEQ already possesses a list with contact information for all permitted suction dredge miners and we believe that there is no legitimate purpose in singling out EOMA members for further examination. The request threatens the First Amendment interest of EOMA and its members, and has the effect, if not intent, of harassing EOMA and its members.

We have been collecting scientific studies for years now and many of them were commissioned by various government agencies (both State and Federal). Every year a new one pops up and the reports keep coming back how any effects are short term (de minimus) and even improve the stream habitat.

Maybe now is the time to get these studies recognized by this State agency? We have submitted them before in our previous case and have already submitted many of them during the comment period for this permit. It is time for DEQ to work through the studies and give us a lawful permit and on that reflects the lack of harm to the environment.

You have heard many times from Claudia and me how the miners could not get scientific support to fight DEQ or other organizations attacking miner's rights, even if we could afford to finance it. This letter describes very clearly the consequences of going against the Green Machine with honest scientific approach. The environmental organizations have essentially blackmailed the scientific community into silence regardless what their data shows. We the taxpayers pay for most of the scientific research in the U.S. However, the scientists are compromised because they will lose their grant money if they speak out in the event that their science does not support the goals of the environmental organizations. We the citizens have sold ourselves out by buying into the big environmental lie that we are destroying the planet. You might want to rethink any membership you hold in these organizations. -- Joe Greene

Klamath Whistle Blower letter!

Whistle Blower letter citing poor scientific misconduct on dam removal and restoration in the Klamath Basin.

Letter written to Siskiyou County, CA Supervisors

Dear Supervisors Cook, Valenzuela, Kobseff, Bennett, and Armstrong,

I know you are concerned about the Klamath Secretarial determination process, so I wanted to bring to your attention to an allegation of scientific and scholarly misconduct and reprisal for a whistleblower disclosure I made concerning the biased summarization of key scientific conclusions for the Klamath River dam removal Secretarial determination process.

An example of this intentional biased (falsification) reporting of scientific results by the Department of the Interior is contained in the September 21, 2011 "Summary of Key Conclusions: Draft EIS/EIR and Related Scientific/Technical Reports". There are many other examples of integrity issues outlined in the attached allegation.

I made this disclosure when I held the position of Science Advisor for the Bureau of Reclamation. Unfortunately, as a result of the disclosure, I have faced systematic reprisal and termination of my employment. I have opened a case with the Department of the Interior, Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and I plan to file the attached scientific integrity allegation. I also plan to appeal the termination of my position to the Office of Special Council (OSC) and the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB).

I hope that this situation is of interest to you, and if so, I am hoping that you would be willing to advocate on my behalf and/or on behalf of good science-informed decision making in the Klamath Basin. I have been treated wrongly by the Department of the Interior, but m decisions about the Klamath dam removal process are being compromised by scientific integrity issues.

Best Regards, Paul

Dr. Paul R. Houser, Associate Professor | George Mason University Mobile:301-613-3782 | Fax:410-970-6643 | phouser@gmu.edu 5230 Tiyana Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21043

EnviroCred can define environmentalist

Criteria proposed as a means for evaluating an activist's credibility



Baxter Black is a large animal veterinarian, cowboy poet and radio commentator.

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"Since when did the term 'environmentalist' take on such a negative connotation?" This quote is from a letter-tothe-editor in a major metropolitan newspaper. "Sure," it continues, "... there are extremists who make the evening news, but they are very much the minority..."

Maybe the first thing we should do is define "environmentalist." It was not even listed as a word in my 1961 Webster dictionary.

Three definitions

According to the Internet, I found three definitions:

- 1. advocate for environmentalism;
- 2. one concerned about environmental quality especially of the human environment with respect to control of pollution;
- 3. a person who protects the natural world from pollution and other threats. It seems anyone can call themselves an "environmentalist." It just depends on how you define pollution, the natural world and quality.

EnviroCred proposed

Since the definition is so vague, I suggest we have a means of evaluating one's EnviroCred. Criteria would be based on 1) personal sacrifice, 2) realistic goals and 3) actual reduction of pollution. If you give up your job, leave your family and tie yourself to a tree, that might mark you a C+ Environmentalist. You get your picture in the paper but expect someone else to pay for it.

Say a person sells his house, takes all his savings and tries to buy the tree to protect it, that would be a B+ Environmentalist. Great personal sacrifice, but no guarantee you can force the owner to do something against his will. Compare that to someone who already owns the tree and refuses to cut it down, that would be the greatest sacrifice, an A+ Environmentalist.

Money where mouth is

It is a matter of putting your money where your mouth is. Not the government's money, but your personal commitment. It's easy to be generous with somebody else's money. Those of us in agriculture are frequent targets for D-rated Enviros who decide that loach minnows are endangered. They are willing to sacrifice your land, your property rights, your labor, heritage and income to attain their goal.

The most despicable

These Enviros are the most despicable. They are ready and willing to condemn somebody else's property to build wetlands, roads or army training grounds for "the greater good," as long as it is not "in their backyard!" Often, those who are most passionate about an issue and prey on rural communities, know the least about it! We see these self important politicians, protestors, media pundits and celebrities pounding the table and orating, with all EnviroCred of a monkey behind the wheel of a Maserati!

Abused label

The label "environmentalist" has been grossly abused. Maybe to be called one, a license based on your EnviroCred should be required. One that embodies some personal investment, some knowledge and one that is environment-specific. Then, in response to the letter to the editor, common sense and credibility would allow the title "environmentalist" to be seen in a positive light. Which it should be, of course.

Gold Speaks Up

By Jeff Clark, Senior Precious Metals Analyst http://us.mg3.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=f96la29dcdt5o

Have you ever had any doubts about gold? Does it sometimes feel like it should be performing better? Are you concerned about its volatility? Do you worry about how it might perform in the future? Have you ever wondered about its true purchasing power? Maybe nervous about a big drop in price again? I decided to go directly to the source to address these concerns: Gold himself. He put his arm around me and asked me to tell you a few things...

I hear that you've had some worries about me. I understand. Your world is a very uncertain place right now. And when it comes to money, it looks as though your leaders don't understand some basic monetary principles, making things even more unsettling.

But I want you to know that the problems you're experiencing are actually nothing new. I've seen these monetary, fiscal, and economic difficulties many times before. And I can tell you this: you're safe with me. That's a bold proclamation, but I've provided monetary protection numerous times throughout history - too many to count, in fact. I've served all kinds of people over the centuries, from kings and counts to serfs and servants.

To put your mind at ease, let's review my core characteristics, along with some history, to show how I can protect you against the monetary danger that's likely to worsen in your near future. We'll also take a look at your peculiar set of circumstances to see how I can be of service. By the time we're done, I think you'll feel much better about my ability to help your portfolio withstand whatever is thrown its way.

Enduring Characteristics

Let's start with the basics. I have some characteristics that no other matter on Earth has...

I cannot be:

- Printed (ask a miner how long it takes to find me and dig me up)
- Counterfeited (you can try, but a scale will catch it every time)
- Inflated (I can't be reproduced)

I cannot be destroyed by;

- Fire (it takes heat at least 1945.4° F. to melt me)
- Water (I don't rust or tarnish)
- Time (my coins remain recognizable after a thousand years)

I don't need:

- Feeding (like cattle)
- Fertilizer (like corn)
- Maintenance (like printing presses)

I have no:

- Time limit (most metal is still in existence)
- Counterparty risk (remember MF Global?)
- Shelf life (I never expire)

As a metal, I am uniquely:

- Malleable (I spread without cracking)
- Ductile (I stretch without breaking)
- Beautiful (just ask an Indian bride)

As money, I am:

- Liquid (easily convertible to cash)
- Portable (you can conveniently hold \$50,000 in one hand)
- Divisible (you can use me in tiny fractions)
- Consistent (I am the same in any quantity, at any place)
- Private (no one has to know you own me)

I am internationally accepted, last for thousands of years, and probably most important, you can't make any more of me.

"Gold Is Money"

You've heard that statement before - but do you know what it really means? Money is a medium of exchange and a store of value. Almost anything can be used as money, but obviously some things work better than others. It's hard to exchange things people don't want' and other things don't store value well. Over thousands of years, I have emerged as the best form of money (along with silver).

The paper dollars in your wallet are technically a currency, not real money. In other words, they are a government substitute for money. The man you call Aristotle best defined the primary reasons why I'm considered money: a good form of money must be durable, divisible, consistent, convenient, and have value in and of itself.

- It must be durable because you can't have your money disintegrating in your pocket or bank. That's why you don't use wheat; it can rot or be eaten by insects.
- It must be divisible, which is why you don't use diamonds or artwork; they can't be split into pieces without destroying the value of the whole.
- The lack of consistency is why you can't use real estate. One piece is always different from another piece.
- It must be convenient, which is why you don't use other metals like lead. The coins would have to be too big to handle easily to be of sufficient value.
- It must have value in and of itself. This is why you shouldn't use paper as money.
- And one more thing: I can't be created out of thin air. Not even the kings and emperors who clipped and diluted gold coins used paper as money, so Aristotle didn't include this in his list, but it's vital.

So you see, there's no superstition here. It's simply common sense. I am particularly good for use as money, just as aluminum is good for making aircraft, steel is good for the structures of buildings, uranium is good for fueling nuclear power plants, and paper is good for making books. If you try to make airplanes out of lead or money out of paper, you're in for a crash.

And by the way, don't fret about those who say I'm not as good an asset as an income-producing vehicle. They misunderstand my role. I'm not trying to be a stock, for example. My function is as money and a store of value, so the proper comparison is to your dollars, or what you call Treasury Bills (of similar nominal value). And here is where I excel and serve my purpose: since 1913, the US dollar has lost 96% of its purchasing power. I have lost none.

Remember, I am the only financial asset that is not simultaneously someone else's liability. I don't require the backing of any bank or government.

The History Lesson

Because I am eons old, I've observed something throughout history that you may not have thought much about: government fiat currencies are a relatively new invention, and none has endured. Eventually, they have all failed. Me? I've never been defaulted on or worth zero. Remember this the next time you have any doubts about my long-term worth.

Another of my roles is to protect your purchasing power. Here are a few examples of how my purchasing power has endured:

- During the time of Christ, an ounce of me purchased a Roman citizen his toga (suit), a leather belt, and a pair of sandals. Today, one ounce will still buy a good suit, a leather belt, and a pair of shoes.
- In 400 BC, during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar, some scholars reported that an ounce of me bought 350 loaves of bread. Today, an ounce still buys about 350 loaves (\$1,700 divided by 350 = \$4.85/loaf).
- In 1979, my average price was \$306.68. This bought an average-priced full-size bed. Thirty-three years later, \$1,700 would still buy you a nice full-size bed (and then some).

You can rest assured that over time, I will hold my value. And when you near the end of your life, you can pass me on to your loved ones, knowing full well they will have something that cannot be devalued, debased, or destroyed.

What Color Is Your Money?

Like you, I'm concerned about the current state of fiscal and monetary affairs. It seems your government leaders have boxed themselves into a corner. They've incurred too much debt and are spending too much money. It's important that you understand some lessons from history about this kind of behavior so that you're certain of what I can do for you.

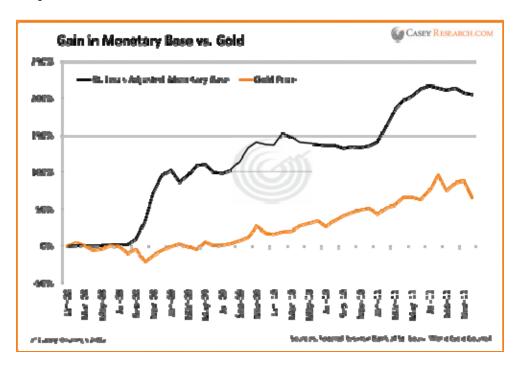
The common denominators that lead to the downfall of every fiat currency are the two big Ds: debts and deficits. With that in mind, consider the following:

- Morgan Stanley reported that there is "no historical precedent" for an economy that exceeds a 250% debt-to-GDP ratio without experiencing some sort of financial crisis or high inflation. US total debt currently exceeds GDP by roughly 400%.
- Detailed studies of government debt levels over the past 100 years show that debts have never been repaid (in original currency units) when they exceed 80% of GDP. US government debt will exceed 100% of GDP this year.
- Investment legend Marc Faber reports that once a country's payments on debt exceed 30% of tax revenue, the currency is "done for." By some estimates, the US will hit that ratio this year.
- Peter Bernholz, a leading expert on hyperinflation, states unequivocally that "hyperinflation is caused by government budget deficits." Next year's US budget deficit is projected to be \$1.3 trillion.

The solution many of your leaders are pursuing is to create more currency units. Here's an updated picture of the increase in the US monetary base vs. my rise in price since 2008, when your problems starting surfacing.

The monetary base has grown 205.8%, while my price is up 65.8%. This alone implies that my price in dollars is likely to climb much higher.

This is also the reason why I'm not in a bubble, as some have tried to claim. It is your central banks and bond markets that are in a bubble. The fact that my price is rising is a warning that what your leaders are doing is unsustainable and potentially dangerous to your currency.



Think about this: the US has debt backed by debt, based on debt, dependent on debt, and leveraged with debt. You can, for example, buy a bond (i.e., lend money) on margin (i.e., with borrowed money). This is not a sound way to run financial markets.

Meanwhile, the warning bells continue to sound regarding Europe's debt crisis. In just the past 30 days:

- Moody's cautioned that it may cut the triple-A status of France, Austria, and the UK; and it downgraded six other European nations including Italy, Spain, and Portugal.
- Standard & Poor's cut the triple-A status of France and Austria, while Italy, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Malta, Slovakia, and Slovenia were downgraded.
- Fitch downgraded Belgium, Cyprus, Italy, Slovenia, and Spain, and stated there was a 50% chance of further cuts in the next two years.
- Standard & Poor's downgraded 34 of Italy's 37 banks.
- Moody's warned just last week that it may cut the credit ratings of 17 global financial institutions and 114 European ones.

The European crisis is far from over; and the path of least resistance for politicians is to create more currency units. This action can and will have clear and direct consequences: currencies will devalue, and inflation - perhaps hyperinflation - will result.

Once again, I encourage you to use me to protect some of your wealth.

How Much Is Enough?

Given the state of your monetary system, you should accumulate me (and silver) on a regular basis. Just buy some every month and put it in a safe place. After what I've witnessed throughout history, and based on the current path your government leaders insist on pursuing, I suggest using me as your savings vehicle instead of putting dollars in a bank.

If you don't own enough of me when these fiscal troubles really accelerate, I fear you will regret it. I've warned many in the past about the dilution of nations' currencies, and those who didn't heed my warnings experienced severe financial pain. Excuses won't pay the mortgage nor feed the family when the effects of currency debasement hit your home and pocketbook.

Make sure you own enough of me to make a difference to your portfolio. This means having more than a couple coins or a few shares of GLD, the latter of which is only a proxy for my price.

How do you know if you own enough? Ask yourself:

- If inflation returns, or even hyperinflation hits...
- If the economy is flat...
- If uncertainty and fear continue around the globe...
- If stock markets languish...
- If the amount of spending from the world's governments proves futile...
- If government interference in the economy continues to increase...
- If the value of the US dollar takes a major fall...
- If the world enters a recession or depression...
- If you wonder if you have enough "safe" money...
- ... would you feel that you own enough of me?

Buy a sufficient amount so that as your currency continues to lose value, your portfolio won't. If you do your part, I promise that I'll do mine.

Your monetary friend, Gold

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

The Millennium Diggers Club is a group based in Keizer, Oregon, which is near Salem, Oregon. The club is for people that share an interest in searching for things of value. The club's charter is to provide members with a club that will help promote the hobbies 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 club meetings to share information about locating gold, silver, coins, jewelry, gemstones, fossils and metal detecting. We plan club outings each month where we can help each other learn all aspects of our hobbies. This is a great family activity, bring the kids! Please feel free to drop in on one of the monthly meetings or outings.

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

<u>Clear Lake United Methodist Church</u>

920 Marks Drive

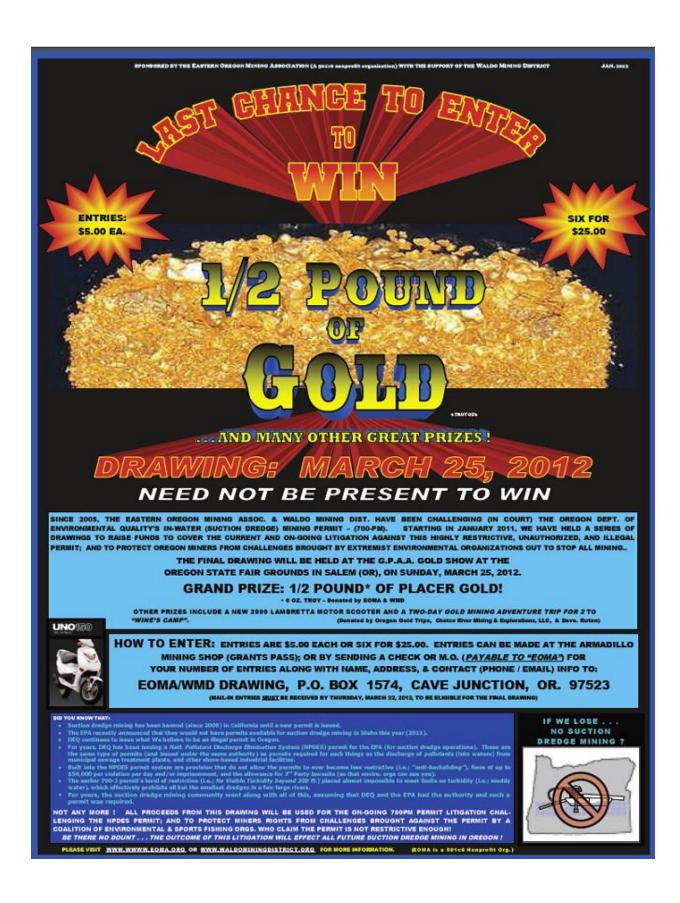
Keizer, OR 97303

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.

Last Chance!!! Buy Your 1/2 Pound of Gold Tickets Now

Drop them off at the GPAA show

Drawing March 25, 2012



EOMA & WMD'S "2012 WIN ½ LB. OF GOLD DRAWING"	NAME	MAKE CHECKS / MO'S PAYABLE TO "EOMA"	
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