

Guaranteed Gold in Your Pan

by Dave Lines



Wow! Contrary Creek gold panning doesn't get any better than this! Everyone --- from first timers to seasoned panners --- found visible gold in their gold pans late Sunday afternoon on June 13, 2010 during our Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club field trip.



But the real key to our success was our new member, John Sorg. John is an experienced and well equipped gold panner. He almost guaranteed our good luck by his hard work and super effort well ahead of our trip by starting *six hours earlier* and running his power dredging equipment in the creek all day. By the time that our 15 club members (Cheryl, Monty, Robert, Stephanie, Ed, Arnold, Mike, Patrick, Josh, Shelly, Harry, Tina, Joe, Paula and Dave) arrived at 3 p.m., John had 6 buckets of "concentrate" ready for us to pan. It was great! We all

owe John a HUGE thank you!

To put his effort in perspective, each pan of the "concentrate" probably equaled *50 pans* of the straight material from the creek bottom. So, when 15 of us panned out an average of 2 pans of "concentrate" each, that was equivalent to 1,500 pans (15 x 2 x 50). Incredible.

We also found almandine garnets, magnetite and pyrite. In fact, John showed us a spot where we dug for garnets in a layer of gray clay in the stream. The garnet crystals we found were well formed, dodecahedral and had sharp edges.



Oh --- another thing. John brought about 20 of his gold pans and generously loaned them to us. And he gave us small glass vials to hold our gold. We were also joined by 3 other rock hounds who followed us from the Lake Anna Swap held earlier that day --- Pam from the Richmond club and Rosemary and ___?___ from the Tidewater club. Again, John welcomed them and they found gold, too.

Thanks, John, for a great field trip!