

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

June 2020

FMDAC News Gram

Volume 3 Number 32



FMDAC

[Website](#)
[FaceBook](#)
[Forum](#) **My Treasure Spot forums, which hosts the FMDAC forum, has shut down as of May 20th.**

[How To Join](#)
[Hunts & Events](#)
[Member Clubs](#)
[Organization](#)
[State Park Regulations](#)
[Target Recovery Methods](#)

President: **Mark Schuessler**

Vice President: **Ed Burke**

Treasurer: **Sue Race**

Secretary: **Frank Colletti**

Legislative Officer: **Position Open**

Membership Chair: **Scott Manahan**

Website Maintenance: **Trinna Pitts**

North Region: **Debbie Buxton**
Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Canada

Central Region: **Don Hayes**
Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland

The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc. (FMDAC) was organized in 1984 as a legislative and educational organization and incorporated, as a non-profit, non-commercial, non-partisan organization.

The Mission: The FMDAC is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and protection for the hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting.

The Purpose: To unite, promote and encourage the establishment of metal detecting clubs. To preserve the sport / hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting. To make available to FMDAC clubs and Independent members information pertaining to the hobby and to keep members informed as to active legislation.

The Goal: is to Educate and inform the public as to the merits of recreational metal detecting.

What is a News Gram? The news gram provides a brief look into news events for the past month. The intent of the news gram is to provide you, the FMDAC reader, with news clips on what took place in the hobby last month. The News Gram is configured like a webpage and must be read online for the article links to work.

Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President's Message

Hello Everyone.

Another month has gone by of this unprecedented state. We are all getting closer to a return to normal. Some are getting a lot closer. Some, as in the sorry state I reside in, are a long way from it. Almost as if they are doing their best to keep it shut down as long as possible. Gatherings of any size are still not even on the radar. Well at least not in any official circles if you know what I mean. It was announced this week that all the county fairs around my region are cancelled and most do not take place until the august time frame.

Now as to the planned Northern Region hunt it is still a go at this time. We will not know for a while yet as much of it will depend on what rules are placed on the campground where it will be held. So make plans to attend. We will hold all entries until we are able to make a determination. The flyer is attached to the newsletter and should be posted on the facebook page and website by the time you read this. Hope to see you there. If the situation keeps up this could be the first hunt in the area for the year!

A while back I reported on a situation at Jamestown Beach near Williamsburg, VA. This area had an ordinance against metal detecting and was changing it at the request of the park director to allow detecting on a manmade beach. That test period is coming to an end and the new arrangement will be getting discussed in the near future. There are still many against it but hopefully the "test" has gone smoothly and the detecting will continue.

Now here is one for the WHAT THE #\$\$^ WERE THEY THINKING. In Kent county Michigan a recycling center was evacuated when a live Civil War era cannonball showed up on the line. I could find nothing as to what happened to the cannonball. Of course the bomb squad took it away but nothing more. They have no idea who put it in the trash and no one has come forward to admit it. Either the person had no idea what it was and thought it was just a metal ball, or they did know and are just really dumb! Keep this in the back of your mind for future reference....Do not put a metal ball filled with black powder in the recycle bin. If by some miracle that cannonball would have made it by everyone and into the melt furnace that would have been a catastrophe, spewing shrapnel and molten metal all over.

Hope to see everyone on the hunt circuit soon.

Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President

South Region: Art Di Filippo

California, Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida

Jewelry Returns

- N.J. man reunites woman with her lost rosary, 74 years later. [Article Link](#)
- Bradenton man reunited with class ring 53 years after it was stolen. [Article Link](#)
- 'Quite pleased to see it again': 1999 hockey championship ring returned to rightful owner. [Article Link](#)
- Carnoustie councillor 'ecstatic' after parks worker tracks down lost wedding ring. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detector enthusiast reunites son with father's war medal. [Article Link](#)

Special Note: Two metal detecting forums have or are going to shut down. They are:

Treasure Spot which shut down May 20th.

Treasure Depot which is shutting down on June 2nd.

Sorry to see both of the forums gone.

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Virginia family finds nearly \$1 million cash in duffel bags on the road. [Article Link](#)
- Florida treasure hunter says he was tricked by con man claiming to be a war hero scientist. [Article Link](#)
- Man finds historic WWII Thompson submachine guns buried at Lake Hume reserve, Victoria. [Article Link](#)
- Huge International Sting Operation Recovers Motherload of Stolen Antiquities. [Article Link](#)
- A simple gold ring restored through the generosity of Kerrville. [Article Link](#)
- A wedding ring doesn't make a marriage, but losing it can feel like losing a part of yourself. [Article Link](#)
- Three friends embark on quest to find Delhi time capsule. [Article Link](#)
- Sault man loves to 'dig up the past,' share it with others (9 photos). [Article Link](#)
- Over 19,000 artifacts seized in global anti-trafficking operation. [Article Link](#)
- Family rock finds its way home to Calgary man after 50 years. [Article Link](#)
- New homeowner finds secret cellar under house, possibly dating back over a hundred years. [Article Link](#)
- Aussie Gold Hunters strikes it rich again as new season launches. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunters, house parties among those fined by bylaw officers during COVID-19. [Article Link](#)
- Firefly lanterns and farmer's buried treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Ball diamond searched by metal detector. [Article Link](#)
- Coronavirus: Reopened beaches of Flagler County draw hundreds. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Nazi mystery: Teenager unearths Hitler's hidden treasure trove using metal detector. [Article Link](#)
- It's still working! Metal-detecting divers discover luxury watch worth thousands of pounds on sea bed off Corfu. [Article Link](#)
- Police warn of illegal metal detecting at Castle Hill, Shaftesbury. [Article Link](#)
- Farnham Rants founder uncovers Second World War shelter in garden. [Article Link](#)
- Family follows 'Pirate Pat' to uncover treasure in Lurgan Park. [Article Link](#)

Other Media News Sources

- **American Digger Relic Roundup.** For diggers and collectors of history. An hour long program every Monday Night at 9:00 PM eastern standard time. Join your hosts Butch Holcombe, Jeff Lubbert and Heath Jones as they explore the past. Learn more about Metal Detecting, Treasure hunting in all it's forms, and the preservation of history. [May Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** present the BIG metal detecting podcast. A weekly show bringing all areas of history together with our guests, news and much more. [May Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [May News](#)
- **Garrett Searcher May Issue Newsletter**
- **Garrett ACE Apex Metal Detector News Released** [Garrett Design Engineer Brent Weaver discusses Apex](#) [Video Link](#) [Official ACE Apex Introduction Video](#) [Video Link](#) [Ace Apex Brochure](#) [Brochure Link](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [May News](#)
- **Minelab May Newsletter**
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [May News](#)
- **The Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** The Archaeology and Metal detecting magazine are one of the lead online sites in their genre. Offering multiple platforms for Archaeological, Historical and metal detecting news, articles, research areas and much more. [May News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [June Newsletter](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Civil action filed to forfeit rare cuneiform tablet from Hobby Lobby. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeology news: Researchers stunned by Civil War finding beneath cemetery. [Article Link](#)
- The Battle of West Canada Creek. [Article Link](#)
- Unearthing the past: local archaeologists add to historical record. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- A potentially ultra rare meteorite found in Covington County. [Article Link](#)
- Meteorite hunting, and how to tell the difference between a space

- Museums get behind metal detectorists in their quest for treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure declared in Shropshire at virtual inquest. [Article Link](#)
- Military service medal buried on central Queensland beach for 24 years finds owner on Anzac Day. [Article Link](#)
- Metal-detecting man finds grenade in Darwen river. [Article Link](#)

- rock and an Earth rock. [Article Link](#)
- Super-Rare Moon Meteorite Found In Sahara Desert Goes On Sale For \$2.5 Million. [Article Link](#)
- Antarctic meteorites yield global bombardment rate. [Article Link](#)
- Man Killed by Falling Meteorite (in 1888). [Article Link](#)

Hunt Events and Shows

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2020/21 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

Other Hobby Related 2020 Show Calendars

- [Antique Bottle Show](#)
- [Coin Shows](#)
- [Numismatic Coin Shows](#)
- [Insulator Shows](#)
- [CFMS Society & Club Shows](#)
- [Club-Sponsored Mineral Shows](#)
- **June 06, 2020** (Two Days) New Stanton, Pennsylvania 8th Annual Silver Seekers Open Treasure Hunt **Canceled** Silver Seekers
- **June 6 & 7, 2020** (Two days) FOX DEN ACRES CAMPGROUND 390 WILSON FOX ROAD, NEW STANTON, PA. 15672 (ARONA ROAD EXIT ON TOLL ROUTE 66)

- **June 06, 2020** (One Day) Shawsville, Virginia 29th Annual Open Hunt **Canceled** Roanoke Valley Coin & Relic Club
- **June 09, 2020** (Five Days) Loud Mine, Georgia 2020 Digger's Dirt Party LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **June 13, 2020** (Two Days) Indian Head, Pennsylvania Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Open Metal Detecting Hunt Southwest Pennsylvania Region
- **June 13, 2020** (Two Days) Indian Head, Pennsylvania 1st Annual SWPA Regional Open Hunt
- **June 13, 2020** (Eight Days) Burnt River, Oregon 2020 Clash of the Trommels Week #1 LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn

- **June 19, 2020** (Three Days) Athol, Idaho 48th Annual Treasure Hunt Northwest Treasure Hunters Club
- **June 20, 2020** (Eight Days) Burnt River, Oregon 2020 Clash of the Trommels Week #2 LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **June 26, 2020** (Three Days) Mancos, Colorado 2020 WWATS Rendezvous WWATS - World Wide Assn of Treasure Seekers
- **June 26, 2020** (Three Days) Golden, Colorado 2020 Rush to the Rockies Open Treasure Hunt **Canceled** Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club
- **June 27, 2020** (Two Days) Seymour, Indiana Indiana Open Treasure Hunt Ways Treasure Shop

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

Check out your event before going it may have been postponed or canceled.

[Select here to View the Complete Event Details for June](#)

Civil action filed to forfeit rare cuneiform tablet from Hobby Lobby U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) [Website](#)

NEW YORK – Pursuant to ongoing Cultural Property, Arts & Antiquities investigations by ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York, a civil complaint was filed Monday to forfeit a rare cuneiform tablet bearing a portion of the epic of Gilgamesh, a Sumerian epic poem considered one of the world’s oldest works of literature. Known as the Gilgamesh Dream Tablet, it originated in the area of modern-day Iraq and entered the United States contrary to federal law. The tablet was later sold by an international auction house (the “Auction House”) to Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. (“Hobby Lobby”), a prominent arts-and-crafts retailer based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for display at the Museum of the Bible (the “Museum”). Despite inquiries from the Museum and Hobby Lobby, the Auction House withheld information about the tablet’s provenance. The tablet was seized from the Museum by law enforcement agents in September 2019.

“We are proud of our investigation that led to this reclaiming of a piece of Iraq’s cultural history. This rare tablet was pillaged from Iraq and years later sold at a major auction house, with a questionable and unsupported provenance,” stated Peter C. Fitzhugh, special agent in charge for HSI New York. “HSI New York’s Cultural Property, Arts and Antiquity Investigations program will continue to work with prosecutors to combat the looting of antiquities and ensure those who would attempt to profit from this crime are held accountable.”

“Whenever looted cultural property is found in this country, the United States government will do all it can to preserve heritage by returning such artifacts where they belong,” stated Richard P. Donoghue, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. “In this case, a major auction house failed to meet its obligations by minimizing its concerns that the provenance of an important Iraqi artifact was fabricated, and withheld from the buyer information that undermined the provenance’s reliability.”

HSI’s investigation revealed that in 2003, a U.S. antiquities dealer (the “Antiquities Dealer”) purchased an encrusted cuneiform tablet from a Middle Eastern antiquities dealer in London. After the tablet was imported and cleaned, experts in cuneiform recognized it as a portion of the Gilgamesh epic in which the protagonist describes his dreams to his mother (hence, the “Gilgamesh Dream Tablet”). The protagonist’s mother interprets the dreams as foretelling the arrival of a new friend. She tells her son, “You will see him and your heart will laugh.”

As alleged in the complaint, in 2007, the Antiquities Dealer sold the Gilgamesh Dream Tablet with a false provenance letter that stated the tablet had been inside a box of miscellaneous bronze fragments purchased in a 1981 auction. This false provenance letter traveled with the tablet and was provided to the Auction House by a later owner. As part of its due diligence, the Auction House’s antiquities director spoke with the Antiquities Dealer. The Antiquities Dealer advised the Auction House that the provenance would not withstand scrutiny and should not be used in connection with a public sale. The Auction House nevertheless represented to Hobby Lobby that the tablet was purchased in the 1981 auction. Hobby Lobby purchased the tablet in a private sale in 2014. In response to Hobby Lobby’s request for more details in connection with the purchase and the Museum’s expression of discomfort with the provenance in 2017, the Auction House advised both that the Antiquities Dealer had confirmed the details of the provenance. However, the Auction House withheld the false provenance letter and the

Antiquities Dealer's name from Hobby Lobby and the Museum.

The Museum cooperated with the government's investigation. This case is being handled by EDNY's Civil Division, with assistance from the District of Columbia and the Justice Department's Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture Section (MLARS).

HSI's International Operations, through its 80 offices in 53 countries, works closely with foreign governments to conduct joint investigations, and is committed to pursuing a strategy to combat transnational organized crime related to the illicit trafficking of cultural artifacts by targeting high-priority organizations and strengthening international law enforcement partnerships.

HSI has recovered and returned approximately 12,500 artifacts to more than 30 countries since 2007, including paintings from France, Germany, Poland and Austria; cultural artifacts from China and Cambodia; dinosaur fossils from Mongolia; and illuminated manuscript left from Italy; a pair of royal Korean seals, ancient Peruvian ceramics, an ancient gold coffin repatriated to Egypt, and most recently, more than 500-year-old copy of Christopher Columbus' letter describing his discoveries in the Americas to the Government of Italy.

Despite increasingly aggressive enforcement efforts to prevent the theft of cultural heritage and other antiquities, the illicit movement of such items across international borders continues to challenge global law enforcement efforts to reduce the trafficking of such property. Trafficking in antiquities is estimated to be a multi-billion-dollar transnational criminal enterprise.

Members of the public who have information about the illicit distribution of cultural property, as well as the illegal trafficking of artwork, are urged to call the toll-free tip line at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE or to complete the online tip form.

FMDAC NORTHERN CHAPTER OPEN HUNT
[Select This Link to Get the Complete FMDAC Chapter Hunt Flyer](#)

Federation of Metal Detector & Archeological Clubs

FMDAC NORTHERN CHAPTER OPEN HUNT

AUGUST 29th & 30th 2020

BEAVER MEADOW CAMPGROUND

1455 Beaver Meadow Road, Java Center NY 14082

3 HUNTS A Day

Saturday		Sunday	
8:30-9:30	Registration	8:00-9:00	Registration
10:00-11:00	Fun Hunt	9:00-10:00	Fun Hunt
11:00-12:00	Seminar	10:00-11:00	Silver & Tokens
12:00-1:30	Lunch-Pizza	11:30-12:00	Raffle Draws
1:30-2:30	Silver & Tokens	12:00-1:00	Main Hunt
2:30-3:00	Raffle Draws		
3:00-4:00	Main Hunt		
6:00	Dinner		
9:00	Night Hunt		

[Select This Link to Get the Complete FMDAC Chapter Hunt Flyer](#)