

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

April 2019

FMDAC News Gram

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FMDAC

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Hampshire, Connecticut,
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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 to all

It's been a while since I have seen a detrimental bill. Too much other political nonsense is keeping them all busy. Good for us but not for the country. The silence may get broken.

There is a potential bill that may end up in the Ohio legislature. I say potential as it has not been officially submitted yet. It is a draft. This bill on the surface deals with protecting burials and burial sites. Sounds great right? On the surface yes as who does not want to protect burials. The devil is in the details. When reading through it I see a lot of problems. It goes way beyond simple protection and goes after the artifact hunters and collectors.

The term "burial item" comes up but is not defined in any discernible sense. As anything could be a "burial" item. How do you prove any particular item is not a burial item? The burden is on the person to prove themselves innocent.

This bill would put a burden on landowners where burials are located or found as they would be responsible for all costs associated with it. Including any "archaeological studies". Their property would be open to inspection and more "studies" at any time without their consent and they pay for it. Do they really think that anyone would contact them after finding a burial knowing that?

It also creates a new board to oversee it. More cost to the taxpayers for a needless law. There are already laws covering these items and departments to enforce it. It would be a nine member board and of course it would be slanted in favor of the "archaeological" community.

I have not digested the entire bill yet. Have just hit the highlights. It is typical of those that I have seen for a couple decades. Anytime you see a "good" sounding bill like this you need to look at it close. Read it over and check out the definition section. Here is where you find what the terms mean as read in the bill. They may mean something very different from what you think. In this one they are putting an undue burden on the landowner along with attacking the relic community with their vague (no) definition of burial items. They could arrest anyone at any time if they in possession an item that "could" have been in a burial just because that item was found in burials in the past.

The good news with these bills is that they rarely pass in the form they are in. Farmers, developers, home builders, construction companies and real estate people usually put a stop to them. Let's hope this happens if this one gets to the legislature. Even the Archaeological Society of Ohio has voiced opposition to this one.

Keep watch of your email and our forum and facebook page. If this one does pop up we will let you know so you can take action.

In the last News Gram I announce that the Northern region would be hosting a hunt again this year. Well it was supposed to happen however the dates that were chosen were found to be in conflict with other hunts. The site is not available on other dates that we could hold it. So this year is a no go.

Mark Schuessler. FMDAC President

Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland

South Region: Art Di Filippo
California, Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida

Art Di Filippo, FMDAC Southern Region

The Month of January, American Digger Hosted another Civil War and Artifact Show Carolina. The Turn out was spectacular to say the least.

It was great seeing old faces and had the opportunity meet new people as well. The Carolina Coin and Relic association, which is a local Metal Detecting Club, located in Goose Creek, had a table set up. This year along with promoting their local club opted to do an Educational Display.

Speaking with the members, we thought that this show in Charleston, SC, we would do something on slave tags. The city of Charleston was the “only” city that had and “Slave for Hire System” Slave tags that with no doubt have a rich history about them. Unfortunately, as with many other civil war era artifacts, they can and have been duplicated and passed off as authentic slave tags.

This was a challenging idea for us to educate the public as we had no authentic tags, other than photo copied pictures. As it turned out, many were interested and though the kindness of a couple of vendors, we were able to display several tags and yes, some phonies.

When we came up with the Idea, I contacted Harlan Green and Harry S Hutchins who co-authored the Book “Slave Badges and the Slave Hire System in Charleston, South Carolina, 1783 – 1865. Harry was quite appreciative that we would do this. We started a friendship.

Having the book as a reference along with photos of tag the authentic tags to display, made this a great educational display. Harry came to the show where many knew him. With out a doubt he truly has a passion for the history in Charleston.

Carolina Coin and Relic Association received Best Educational Table for that event From Publisher Butch Holcomb, American Digger Magazine. We truly could not have done this without the help of Harry S Hutchins Jr, Harlan Greene and the others that let us display their personal authentic slave tags. Harry is now and honorary member of Carolina Coin and Relic Association. Since the Charleston show, Harry has given our club an outstanding presentation to the rest of the club Members.

Art Di Filippo FMDAC Southern Region,
President – Carolina Coin and Relic Association.



Authentic Slave Tags, Best Educational Awarded -American Digger Magazine, Art Di Filippo & Harry Hutchins Jr

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

Other News Sources

- Mike Gipson shares metal detecting expertise at The Gathering Place. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detect your way on holiday. [Article Link](#)
- Janesville woman searching for man who found her 66-year-old ring. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island recap: Team dismantles crane pad, and finds lead pieces that resemble lead cross. [Article Link](#)
- Albuquerque man creates 'Treasure Mission' to find hidden cash. [Article Link](#)
- The Final Treasure from the Tolkien Hoard. [Article Link](#)
- Metal Detector? Heart Rate Monitor? Smart Phone Hacks you might know about. [Article Link](#)
- Dirt fishin'. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island recap: Hinge and crib spikes found in Smith's Cove, but team must abandon H8 operation. [Article Link](#)

- **American Mining Rights Assn** is not a gold club but rather an advocacy group for miners and public land users to preserve and maintain their rights as they pertain to access to their public lands. [March News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [March News](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [March News](#)
- **PLP -Public Lands for the People** [Website](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [April Newsletter](#)

- SJAFB metal detecting enthusiast returns lost dog tags. [Article Link](#)
- Return of the ring. [Article Link](#)
- Lost class ring returned to owner. [Article Link](#)

- Byesville man hunts to 'save some history'. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island: The team finds a possible treasure chest hinge as well as startling clues at the bottom of the ocean. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorists and treasure hunters flock to cyclone-damaged beaches in search of booty. [Article Link](#)
- MINELAB Returns to 2019 IWA Outdoor Classics With Latest Tech. [Article Link](#)
- What Has Been Found on Oak Island? [Article Link](#)
- Buried treasure? Naples metal detectives seek to unearth beach artifacts. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Redefining 'Treasure': a public consultation and new guidance for landowners. [Article Link](#)
- Jewellery from Bronze Age a 'notable' find. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter's amazing gesture after he digs up ROLEX watch. [Article Link](#)
- Cadbury's Chocolate Blasted For Sponsoring Archaeological Vandalism. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists slam 'stupid' Cadbury treasure hunt that could see people prosecuted for trespassing. [Article Link](#)
- Anglo-Saxon gold pendant just over half an inch wide valued at £145,000 is declared treasure - but the metal detectorist who found it in 2017 will only get a fraction of its worth. [Article Link](#)
- After Official Inquest Roman Coins Found in Britain Determined to be "Treasure". [Article Link](#)
- Jersey's 5,000-year-old monument 'damaged by detectorist'. [Article Link](#)

- Kind strangers use a metal detector to find WWII dog tag and trace it to Wisconsin family. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Southeast Students Use Geophysics to Map Local Archaeology Site. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologist debunks alien influence, other conspiracy theories in archaeology. [Article Link](#)
- Study of old slave quarters in Maryland leads to scientific breakthrough. [Article Link](#)
- Sea otter archaeology could tell us about their 2-million-year history. [Article Link](#)
- History project becomes display with National Park Service. [Article Link](#)
- Piece of Wall Surrounding 1700s Charleston Unearthed. [Article Link](#)
- U.S. returns hundreds of artifacts to China after an Indiana man acquired them illegally. [Article Link](#)
- Ancient artifact unintentionally discovered by Washington archaeologist has 'great significance' [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Using Landmine Detectors, Meteorite Hunt Turns Up 36 Space Rocks in Antarctica. [Article Link](#)
- Amazing Images Capture Giant Fireball Exploding Over the Bering Sea. [Article Link](#)
- US detects huge meteor explosion. [Article Link](#)
- The mystery of the 'meteorite' that struck the Isle of Lewis. [Article Link](#)

Hunt Events and Shows

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2018/19 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 2019 Show Calendars

- **April 06, 2019** (One Day)
Orlando, Florida
7th Annual Sunshine Shootout & Relic Hunt
Central Florida Metal Detecting Club
- **April 09, 2019** (Five Days)
Stanton, Arizona
2019 Stanton Outing
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **April 13, 2019** (One Day)
Cumberland, Rhode Island
Rhode Island Relics - Pound The Ground Part 2
Rhode Island Relics
- **April 13, 2019** (One Day)
Stanton, Arizona
2019 Open Detector Hunts: Kids to Pros at Stanton
The Lost Dutchmans Mining Assn
- **April 13, 2019** (One Days)
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
2019 LRRC Spring Club Hunt
Lancaster Research & Recovery Club

- April 13, 2019 (Two Days)
Cashmere, Washington
20th Annual Gold & Treasure Show
North Central Washington Prospectors
- **April 13, 2019** (One Day)
Huntington State Beach, Huntington Beach, California
32nd Annual Hunt Rendezvous
West Coast Prospectors and Treasure Hunters
- **April 20, 2019** (One Day)
Memphis, Tennessee
32nd Annual Spring Seeded Club Hunt
Memphis Metal Detecting Club
- **April 20, 2019** (One day)
Memphis, Tennessee
2019 Spring Hunt-Members Only
Memphis Metal Detecting Club
- **April 23, 2019** (Six Day)
Marlborough, New Hampshire
BONE #26 In Memory of Howard Johnson
Streeters Treasure Hunting
- **April 26, 2019** (Three Days)
Carthage, Texas
2019 - Annual Treasure Show
TAMDC - Texas Assn of Metal Detecting Clubs

- **April 27, 2019** (One Day)
Portage, Indiana
EXP Deus Bootcamp
Instructor: Andy Sabisch
- **April 27, 2019** (One Day)
Wabasso, Florida
11th Annual Treasure Hunters Cookout
Treasure_Hunter
- **April 27, 2019** (Two Days)
Sapulpa, Oklahoma
33rd National Open Hunt
Three Forks Treasure Hunters Club
- **April 27, 2019** (One Day)
Raidersburg, Montana
16th Annual Rick Radke Memorial Metal Detector Hunt
Headwaters Chapter of the GPAA
- **April 28, 2019** (One Day)
Portage, Indiana
The Minelab Bootcamp - Hosted by Andy Sabisch
Minelab
- **April 30, 2019** (Five Days)
Huntington, Oregon
2019 Outing: Common Dig "Dirt Party" at Blue Bucket
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn

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

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

The Heritage Minister has proposed a series of changes for the way Treasure finds are processed, and the PAS has released new metal-detecting guidance for landowners.

With recorded Treasure finds hitting a record high for the second year running (CA 347), Heritage Minister Michael Ellis MP has launched a public consultation on a review of the Treasure Act 1996.

Currently, Treasure is defined as gold and silver objects over 300 years old, or groups of coins and prehistoric metalwork (see <https://finds.org.uk/treasure>). Under the proposed plans, this definition would be widened to include all finds that are over 300 years old and worth over £10,000. Such a step would avoid future cases like that of the Crosby Garrett Helmet (CA 287), a rare Roman cavalry helmet that, being made of copper alloy, did not qualify as Treasure (which museums are entitled to acquire) and was sold to a private collection.

Other considerations affect the Treasure process itself, including suggesting time-limits for some of the individual stages, and creating a legal duty for someone who acquires a find that they reasonably believe to be Treasure to report it to the Coroner.

Michael Lewis, Head of Portable Antiquities and Treasure at the British Museum, commented: 'The Treasure Act [which lays a legal duty on a finder to report possible Treasure] has been very successful in ensuring that the most important archaeological finds have been acquired by museums, of which the Staffordshire Hoard is probably the most famous. Much of this success (in England) is thanks to the PAS and its national network of locally based Finds Liaison Officers, who liaise with finders – mostly metal-detectorists – to encourage them to record their discoveries. In 2018, this included 1,071 Treasure finds and almost 70,000 other items.

'Since 2001, the last time the Act was reviewed, the world of metal-detecting and archaeology has substantially changed, and therefore this consultation is timely. In essence, it explores three main areas. First, should the definition of Treasure be changed to ensure more archaeological objects can enter into public collections, capturing nonmetallic items also? Second, normalising the Act so it better reflects current practice, and helping those involved with the processing of Treasure better to understand their obligations. Third, some changes are proposed that will ensure third-parties that come into possession of potential Treasure (such as antiquities dealers and those who inherit unreported Treasure) make proper due diligence checks, and also giving the enforcement authorities more time to pursue prosecutions under the Act.

'The consultation ends with some questions that explore wider issues of reporting and recording. It asks, for example, whether all archaeological finds should be owned by the Crown (as in Scotland) or whether searching for archaeology should be licensed (as in Northern Ireland). It also highlights the fact that many detectorists wish to be better acknowledged for their contribution to the past, and therefore suggests dedicated training to give them the skills and expertise. Ultimately, it is up to the public to decide how the Act might be moulded in the future to better protect the past.'

The consultation closes on 30 April. For more information, and to have your say, visit www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revising-the-definition-of-treasure-in-the-treasure-act-1996-and-revising-the-related-codes-of-practice

New metal-detecting guidance for landowners

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), working with the Country Land & Business Association (CLA) and the National Farmers' Union (NFU), has developed guidance for landowners who allow hobby metal-detecting on their land. Metal-detecting, when undertaken responsibly (in accordance with the Code of Practice on Responsible Metal-Detecting in England and Wales) can add value to archaeology. The purpose of this new guidance is to enable landowners to be better informed about metal-detecting, the law regarding searching for archaeology, and how metal-detecting can best contribute to our understanding of the past.

Michael Lewis, head of the PAS, said: 'It is up to the landowner to decide who they allow to search for archaeology on their land, although some parts of their landholding might be out of bounds: for example, it is illegal to detect on scheduled monuments in England without the permission of Historic England. Metal-detecting in the UK is not regulated – therefore, while there are people out detecting with genuine passion for the past, others are merely treasure-hunters with little regard for archaeology. For the landowner, this represents a challenge, since most will only want to give permission to people who will do the right thing, especially as some land will have been cared for by generations of the same family. This new guidance therefore recommends that landowners have a written agreement with would-be finders, outlining clearly the nature of the permission and what happens to any finds that are discovered.'

He added: 'By law, all archaeological finds (apart from those that are Treasure) belong to the landowner. Although most archaeologists will believe that such finds should end up in public collections, most museums are unable to take in everything that is found, even if it is donated. This guidance therefore suggests that landowners ask to see all items found on their land, and that archaeological finds are recorded with the PAS. In the case of Treasure (which finders are required to report by law, and which museums are entitled to acquire), landowners might waive their right to a reward, so that important finds can be acquired by local museums.'

'In essence, the guidance reminds landowners that they have an important role in ensuring the history of their land is protected and preserved, and that this story of the past is also shared.'

For the full guidance and a pdf of the leaflet 'Metal-detecting on your land – know your rights', visit <https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/guidancelandowners>.