

# Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

## FMDAC News Gram

## United States Metal Detecting Association

July 2019

FMDAC News Gram

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FMDAC

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Secretary: **Frank Colletti**

Legislative Officer:  
**Position Open**

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**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**

The first standalone target recovery course went very well. The first Saturday in June saw 20 members of the Genesee Valley Treasure Seekers in Rochester, NY assembled for the course. There were beginners with less than a year in the hobby and some with 20 plus years.

The classroom portion went smooth with a discussion of etiquette and laws. Following that was a talk on the proper tools along with a few not to use tools. The main one there would be a shovel. That is only for woods and fields. Never in a public grass area.

Then we went to the outside and surprisingly the rain missed us that day. One of the few this year. A demonstration of the three techniques went off with few questions. I had buried a lot of pennies in one area for everyone to practice probing. This is a method that is totally foreign to most. It is a quick and easy method to recover shallow coins with zero damage to the sod. This was also the one that required the most assistance in learning it.

After a short time I started the testing phase. Most did ok the first time. A few needed a little more practice. At the end of the day all had passed. That is the purpose of the class. Not to fail anyone but to work with each person to get them to improve their abilities so they pass.

Everyone learned something. Many thanked me for the class and that came from both the beginners and the veterans. I also learned how to teach the class better. The class took a little over Five hour's total. That's to the time that I was in my vehicle headed home.

Now I would like to say a word on the shovel situation. I would ask that all clubs place something in their ethics code about shovel use. I would also ask that if you have a shovel in your logos or t-shirts to consider changing that. It just does not look good to the general public. It puts a bad connotation in their minds. It also gives the impression to beginners that shovel use is ok. Please consider changing this request. The hobby you save will be your own.

We are a bit overdue on the election process for the FMDAC. It has slipped by us without realizing it. So I am calling for the elections to be held for all offices this year. If you would like to run for an office or to nominate someone then please contact me. I will be appointing someone shortly to take over the nomination process. The offices are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and the northern, central and southern regional directors. Please consider helping out the organization

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

### Other 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. [Hour Long Programs](#)
- **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. [June News](#)
- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [Coin News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [News](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [June News](#)
- **PLP -Public Lands for the People** [June News Release](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [July Newsletter](#)

### Hobby Related News

#### General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Unearthing treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Peru Summer Fun for some: Metal Detecting camp. [Article Link](#)
- Camp Courage hosts adults with special needs. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunters need to be careful in Yellowstone, Gallatin County, Mont., sheriff warns. [Article Link](#)
- Detecting a hobby that can have value. [Article Link](#)
- Longtime treasure hunter hits it big with special locket in Ocean View. [Article Link](#)
- He found buried treasure, but now he's on the hunt for its owner. [Article Link](#)
- 2 treasure hunters have died in the Rocky Mountains. Authorities warn people to respect the land. [Article Link](#)
- Diamond solitaire discovered by 10-year-old girl during spring cleanup. [Article Link](#)
- United States Mint American Eagle 2019 One Ounce Gold Uncirculated Coin Goes on Sale on June 13. [Article Link](#)
- Sarasota family reunited with lost Spanish-American War medal. [Article Link](#)
- The curious mystery of a 600-year-old Buddha buried in the Gascoyne sand. [Article Link](#)
- Iowa man looks to display historic treasure he unearthed. [Article Link](#)
- A treasure hunter's dream. [Article Link](#)
- Relic Hunt in New Kingston dug up history. [Article Link](#)
- 'It's fascinating': Alison Walker is a Ring Finder. [Article Link](#)
- Lost and found: Area metal detectorists hunt for history. [Article Link](#)

#### U.K. News

- Treasure hunters flock to Derbyshire after discovery of Roman settlement. [Article Link](#)
- One-of-a-kind Carausius Coin Find. [Article Link](#)
- Rare 1776 printing of the Declaration of Independence on display for the first time in over a century. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting rally organised to help Sussex Homeless Support. [Article Link](#)
- Anglo-Saxon pendant donated to Maidstone Museum. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter finds a medieval gold ring 'worth £1,000' that had been buried for 600 years - only to LOSE it the next day while throwing his dog a stick. [Article Link](#)
- Rare Roman Coin Found in a Field in England Sells for \$700,000, Smashing New Records. [Article Link](#)
- St. John's man finds 220-year-old Spanish coin in pile of dirt.

#### Jewelry Returns

- Man finds 94-year-old woman's wedding ring, 50 years after she lost it. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectors find wedding band that was missing for nearly 50 years. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting rally organised to help Sussex Homeless Support. [Article Link](#)
- Class ring found after 45 years by metal detector. [Article Link](#)
- A Missouri man's secret search for his wife's lost wedding ring. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detector uncovers woman's wedding ring that she lost 15 years ago. [Article Link](#)
- Good Samaritan finds lost sentimental ring in Sidmouth road. [Article Link](#)
- Shelton Herald.com Jones Family Farms: After 30 years, class ring returned. [Article Link](#)
- Fire chief helps Michigan couple find engagement ring they dropped into lake. [Article Link](#)
- Man reunited with lost wedding ring, months after losing it at Big White. [Article Link](#)

#### North America Archaeology News

- SF Archaeology Class Digs Up Florida's Native American History. [Article Link](#)
- Organization excavates treasures from the past. [Article Link](#)
- Think you've found an archaeological site? Here's what to do next. [Article Link](#)
- Digging history: Student archaeologists learn more about Pope County settlement. [Article Link](#)
- Colonial 'time capsule' found under floors of NC port tavern that burned in 1760s. [Article Link](#)
- Texas Archaeological Society conducts dig at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeological excavation underway along Eno River where Native American town once stood. [Article Link](#)
- At newly discovered freedmen's school near Beaufort, students dig into history. [Article Link](#)

#### W.W. Meteorite News

- Rare meteor shower that caused 'BIGGEST meteor crash in modern times' is about to pass by Earth again. [Article Link](#)
- Biggest Meteorite Impact in the UK Found Buried in Water and Rock. [Article Link](#)

[Article Link](#)

- Metal detectorist 'had no idea coin was worth £10k'. [Article Link](#)

- A Meteorite's Story of Complex Planetary Processes. [Article Link](#)

### Hunt Events and Shows

#### Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2019/20 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

- [Antique Bottle Show](#)
- [Coin Shows](#)
- [Numismaster Coin Shows](#)
- [Insulator Shows](#)
- [CFMS Society & Club Shows](#)
- [Club-Sponsored Mineral Shows](#)

- **July 06, 2019** (One Day)  
Somerset, New Jersey  
XP Deus Bootcamp  
Instructor: Andy Sabisch
- **July 07, 2019** (One Day)  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
Spring Treasure Hunt  
Midwest Historical Preservation Society
- **July 13, 2019** (One Day)  
North Branch, Minnesota  
GSTH Annual Hunt (Members Only)  
Gopher State Treasure Hunters
- **July 13, 2019** (Eight Days)  
New Stanton, Pennsylvania  
2019 Treasure Week  
Don Hayes with Many Sponsors
- **July 20, 2019** (One day)  
Renton, Washington  
Annual Silver \$hoot  
Cascade Treasure Club
- **July 21, 2019** (Seven Days)  
Vallonia, Indiana  
Southern Indiana Treasure Fest  
Metal Detector Manufacturers
- **July 26, 2019** (Three Days)  
Nekoosa, Wisconsin  
23rd Annual Open Hunt and State Championship  
MidState Metal Detector Club
- **July 27, 2019** (One Day)  
Leamington, Ontario, Canada  
Summer Seeded Beach Hunt  
Sunparlour Treasure Seekers

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

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

### Think you've found an archaeological site? Here's what to do next. By Charity Moore, Archaeology Correspondent -West Virginia Explorer. [WebSite](#)

Some of the most common requests we receive at the Council for West Virginia Archaeology come from members of the public who have found what may or not be an archaeological site.

Invariably there's a lot of excitement as the mystery of the site begins to take hold. How old might it be? What artifacts might it contain? Will the government be willing to excavate the site?

As exciting as the process is, archaeological work can be slow and painstaking, and it can be difficult to find assistance in a state such as West Virginia where research is under-funded and professionally qualified archaeologists are too few.

But the Council for West Virginia Archaeology is here to help. I've provided our contact information at the end of the article, and in the meantime here are three steps we recommend you take in your approach to preserving or interpreting a site.

**Step One:** Don't excavate or remove artifacts.

Archaeological excavation involves a specific skill set and a level of experience that takes years to develop. Many well-meaning people have unintentionally damaged or destroyed sites by digging for artifacts or trying to interpret the site themselves. Archaeologists employ specialized tools, record information about the soils and the exact locations of artifacts, and make detailed notes and maps using tried-and-true principles. If the site is important or is on state or federal land, it may be illegal for you to disturb it.

Once artifacts are removed from their archaeological context (meaning their exact location relative to other artifacts, soils, and features), they lose information potential. For instance, an arrowhead on its own can tell us only that someone made an arrowhead, but an arrowhead in context might tell us the age of the site, whether it was accidentally lost or stored for later, or how far a group was traveling to find raw materials for arrowheads.

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The same principle applies to historic archaeological sites. An old medicine bottle in context might tell us about the socio-economic status of the owner or how easy it was for them to access a general store.

**Step Two:** Document the site, and do your research.

If you find a historic archaeological site, such as an old homestead, you can do background research by looking at old topographic maps and aerial imagery, by finding tax records and census data, or possibly by visiting your local library or historical society. Be prepared to go through a lot of data before you find something useful, and make sure you're writing down your sources. Much information is available online, so an online search for the name of the original landowner or the history of a nearby town could be helpful.

If you have a prehistoric archaeological site, read about West Virginia's Native Americans in a reputable book or article, but be sure to check the author's credentials. A good place to start is the West Virginia Archeological Society store or the West Virginia Encyclopedia.

**Step Three:** Report the site to a professional archaeologist

If you think your site may have significance, as defined here by the National Park Service, contact the Council for West Virginia Archaeology or the W.Va. State Historic Preservation Office.

Providing your research and documentation will go a long way toward helping the archaeologists understand what you have and whether it is historically or culturally significant.

If the site may have significance, Lora Lamarre-DeMott of the preservation office recommends that you complete an archaeology site form for the state's records and avoid disturbing the site. This will ensure that information about the site is preserved for future researchers. It may also help to avoid accidental destruction of the site during future development. The council may even have a volunteer who is willing to help you complete the paperwork and check your findings.

Unfortunately, few archaeologists have the time to visit sites or the funding to excavate. In West Virginia, government-funded excavations are extremely rare and limited to the most significant sites. Don't be discouraged if you don't get answers quickly or if no one is able to assist you: Most archaeologists enjoy working with the public but simply do not have the time or funding to perform volunteer archaeology.

Remember also that because a site is not deemed significant enough to

There is a lot of information you can collect without disturbing the site. Take detailed pictures and measurements, make a sketch-map of the area, and talk to local people who might know more and who aren't going to loot the site. If you get in touch with a professional archaeologist, they may be able to tell you if the site was already recorded for the state, although this is uncommon.

warrant state attention that doesn't mean it is not an important part of your local history or your family's.

If you have more questions about what to do when you find a site or how to complete the state archaeological site form, you may contact me or the council through our Facebook page.