

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

May 2019

FMDAC News Gram

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FMDAC

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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 All.

As I write this I am looking out the window at some white stuff. Not a lot but along with the cold and wind it is enough to call off the planned hunt for today. Tomorrow is more of the same and the coming week does not look real good. So my detecting is still on hold.

I did get out a few weeks ago. Just to a local park that I have pounded. It is one of those that still occasionally gives up a good one. That day I dug 5 clad, 1 wheat and an 1871 seated half dime! So my year is off to a good start. The first hunt was in Charleston, SC area after the Civil War Show. A Confederate script "I" button jumped into my pouch!

There is still a lot of stuff to be found out there. In many cases it takes a lot more perseverance than in the past. You must exercise a lot more patience when searching. Fine tune your detector and slow down to get those faint sounds. Do a lot more research. Go after the questionable sounds that could be a good target with a piece of trash. Your finds will be less but they may very well be better quality. In my book quality beats quantity.

We have a target recovery course tentatively scheduled for June 1. This will be for the Genesee Valley Treasure Seekers club in Rochester, NY. We have several more in the planning stages just need to connect on the dates. The one coming up will be for club members only. We will do another one that will be open to anyone from the area. Two are planned for clubs in Ohio. Another will take place in the Philadelphia area and we have a request to do one in Canada and in Lancaster, PA.

The course is not a quick over and done deal. With the "classroom" time, demonstrations, practice time and the "test" phase you can figure in the 4 hour plus range. For those who are already decent at recovery you can do it in a little less. Everyone can learn something from this course no matter how long you have been involved in the hobby. And you will better equipped to show others the proper methods.

We are making some changes to the code of ethics. They are as follows;

Present

I WILL TAKE CARE TO REFILL ALL HOLES AND TRY NOT TO LEAVE ANY DAMAGE

Replace with

I will take care to replace all ground as it was before I disturbed it, and in the case of a grass area I will leave no damage or visible trace that I was there.

The reason for this one is to clarify what "filling the hole" means. Just putting the dirt and sod back in the hole is not good enough. Many seem to be taking that literally to mean just put it back. Doesn't matter what it looks like as long as it is "filled in". Well it does matter what it looks like. It should look just like it did before you dug it.

New additions

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

I will refrain from pursuing the hobby when ground conditions (too wet or too dry) do not permit target recovery without damaging the sod.

Pretty self explanatory with this one. Too dry and you will kill the grass. Too wet and it will be a muddy mess that cannot be put back together and stepped down.

I will use an appropriate tool for target recovery. A shovel is not an appropriate tool for a grass area.

This one needs no clarification at all. The proliferation of "shovel" videos on the internet and even those who are defending the use of them in parks is disgusting. It will hurt this hobby. These videos are seen by newcomers who think that is the way to dig. They do it and make videos of it. Most of the shovel videos are horrible at best. Almost none of them show what it looks like after they "cover" it. I have not seen one yet that I would allow in my lawn or in my local parks. If you see someone with a shovel stop them and teach them how to do it properly. Consider this. If the site gets closed due to their shovel use. You loose.

Happy Hunting

Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Franklin Farm Association defends metal detecting events. [Article Link](#)
- The Great American Coin Hunt Has Arrived. [Article Link](#)
- Looting at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park opens window into 'mud larkers'. [Article Link](#)
- Column: The curse of the series that refused to end, 'The Curse of Oak Island'. [Article Link](#)
- Gary Drayton, The Curse of Oak Island's Crew Luckiest Member. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter finds antique gun while working in his own yard. [Article Link](#)
- 5 things you need to know before hitting the sand and surf in Myrtle Beach. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectors find long-lost gold bracelet in Central Kootenays. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island recap: The team finds a new structure in Smith's Cove, an old coin in the swamp. [Article Link](#)
- Coins, guns and toothpaste tubes. [Article Link](#)
- Reward offered for return of Civil War headstones stolen from Bulls Gap cemetery. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure Hunters. [Article Link](#)
- Forty years of metal detecting hunts. [Article Link](#)
- Man who found woman's 66-year-old ring identified. [Article Link](#)
- Canning man finds old penny on property. [Article Link](#)
- Worthington man explores local history through unique hobbies. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Barrow metal detectorist speaks for first time about 'most unique find'. [Article Link](#)
- What is it like to strike rich while metal detecting? [Article Link](#)
- Hoard of more than 550 rare gold and silver 14th century coins worth an estimated £150,000 are dug up by a group of amateur metal detectorists. [Article Link](#)
- Anglo-Saxon silver mount found in south Shropshire is treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist unearths stunning £15,000 gold hat pin from 1485 which may have belonged to King Edward IV. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting rally on the hunt for ancient treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detector enthusiast unearths treasure trove in field near Frenchay. [Article Link](#)

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

Jewelry Returns

- Hero 'treasure hunter' finds woman's beloved rings she lost at the beach after issuing a desperate Facebook plea to find them. [Article Link](#)
- Wichita man finds 1986 class ring in Lawrence-Dumont rubble, returns to owner. [Article Link](#)
- 'Absolute legend' finds woman's treasured rings lost on beach. [Article Link](#)
- Leap across time. [Article Link](#)
- Kiama wedding halts mid-ceremony for lost wedding ring. [Article Link](#)
- It Wasn't My Wedding Ring. It Was My Only Ring. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter discovers long lost Hardin Valley Academy class ring. [Article Link](#)
- Lost and found: Montgomery woman's jewelry recovered in Opelika lake bottom. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Archaeologists Seek to Find Relics at National Park Site. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeology Site Looted at Lewis and Clark Historical Park. [Article Link](#)

- Deadline approaching for Treasure Act consultation. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter strikes gold as he finds coin worth £4,000. [Article Link](#)
- National Museum of Ireland recovers Bronze Age axe found through illegal metal detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Man seriously injured after confronting group nighthawking on his land. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorists claim new Treasure Act will see them shortchanged. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure: 'Blundered' fake gold coin found near Woodbridge. [Article Link](#)
- Brexit, 293AD: Immaculate gold coin worth 100k emblazoned with face of rebel Roman who took Britain out of Empire is discovered by an amateur metal detectorist. [Article Link](#)
- Masquerade: How a real-life treasure hunt obsessed a nation. [Article Link](#)
- NMI recovers Bronze Age axe found through unlicensed metal detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Toby Jones would find a Detectorists return "hard to resist". [Article Link](#)
- Cadbury cans Freddo campaign that encouraged kids to risk breaking treasure laws. [Article Link](#)
- Schoolboy discovers long-lost 1,000-year old stone monuments from ancient kingdom. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists Seek to Find Relics at National Park Site. [Article Link](#)
- Explore the Spiro Mounds With U of A's Archaeology, 3D Virtual Reality Team. [Article Link](#)
- Uncovering the past at Chimney Rock. [Article Link](#)
- Declassified U-2 spy plane photos are a boon for aerial archaeology. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- The moon is losing 200 tons of water a year to meteorite strikes. [Article Link](#)
- SPACE BLAST Moment huge meteor explodes over Russia as locals fear plane on fire or alien invasion. [Article Link](#)
- See the weekend meteor that lit up the sky in North Florida, Georgia. [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

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

- **May 04, 2019** (One Days)
Huntington, Oregon
2019 Open Detector Hunts: Kids to Pros at Blue Bucket
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **May 04, 2019** (One Day)
Virginia Beach, Virginia
32nd Annual Hunt
Tidewater Coin and Relic Club
- **May 04, 2019** (Two Days)
Fort Worth, Texas
2019 GPAA Gold & Treasure Show
GPAA

- **May 11, 2018** (One Day)
Minneapolis, Minnesota
2019 Spring Hunt
Gopher State Treasure Hunters
- **May 11, 2019** (One Day)
Perris, California
2019 Annual Roundup
Riverside Treasure Hunters Club
- **May 14, 2019** (Five Days)
Athens, Michigan
2019 Digger's Dirt Party: 5-Day Common Dig Outing at Athens
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **May 17, 2019** (Three Days)
Richland, Washington
31th Treasure Hunt
Southeast WA Assn of Treasure Hunters (SWATH)
- **May 18, 2019** (One Day)
Pageland, South Carolina
Carolina 2nd Coin & Token Shootout
Sandhill Metal Detecting & Relic Club
- **May 18, 2019** (Two Days)
Emporium, Pennsylvania
5th Annual Metal Detecting Hunt
Dirt Digging PA

- **May 18, 2019** (Two Days)
Ocean City, New Jersey
10th Annual Hunt Cloud Nine Hunt
ECRDA - East Coast Research & Discovery Association
- **May 18, 2019** (Five days)
Athens, Michigan
2019 Swing Dancing Detector Hunts: Kids to Pros at Athens
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **May 19, 2019** (One Day)
Hoyt, Kansas
Open National Hunt
Topeka Treasure Hunters
- **May 25, 2019** (Two Days)
Sapulpa, Oklahoma
48th Annual Indian Territory Treasure Hunt
Indian Territory Treasure Hunters Club
- **May 25, 2019** (Two Days)
Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada
20th Anniversary Southern Ontario Hunt
Rainbow's End MD Assoc, Thames Valley MD Club, Canadian Heritage Seekers & Chatham MD Club

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

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

A Couple of Interesting News Articles

Reward offered for return of Civil War headstones stolen from Franklin Farm Association defends metal detecting events

Bulls Gap cemetery

By Jeff Bobo [Web Link](#)

BULLS GAP — A Hawkins County man is offering a \$1,000 reward for the return of two Civil War soldiers' gravestones that were stolen from his property last month.

Joseph Funaro told the Times News if the headstones are returned intact, the reward will be paid "no questions asked."

By ETHAN SHOREY, Valley Breeze Managing Editor [Web Link](#)

CUMBERLAND – Members of the Historic Metcalf-Franklin Farm Preservation Association are defending the role they play in protecting, preserving and sharing the farm in response to a former member continuing to criticize what he sees as a loss of history there.

Craig Johnson, past member and director, is taking particular offense that the farm hosted a 2nd annual Pound the Ground metal detecting event on April 13.

Franklin Farm Preservation Association leaders Pam and Chip Thurlow and Denise and Rob

Funaro only recently purchased the 200-plus acre farm on Beech Grove Road near Bulls Gap, and he doesn't have a family connection to the property or the graves.

"I know they're probably not valued anywhere near that much," Funaro told the Times News on Tuesday. "I just want to get those headstones back where they belong."

Funaro said the theft occurred sometime between March 21 and March 29.

The property was previously known as Beech Grove Farms.

Shortly after purchase of the property became final, someone came onto the property and damaged two Civil War-era cemeteries. One is known as Cedar Thicket Cemetery and the other is Dotson Cemetery.

"I think it was somebody who knew the previous owners and knew the property was in transition," Funaro said.

The trespassers apparently used a metal detector to search for artifacts. Both cemeteries had several holes dug in them.

Among the markers taken was the headstone belonging to Union soldier Peter Couch (Co. D 8th TN Inf.), 1843-1878.

The other known stolen headstone was lying on the ground near Couch's grave and was also engraved with the name Couch. It is believed to belong to Peter Couch's brother William Couch.

There may have been other headstones stolen as well. The family photographed the cemetery but hadn't had time to record all the graves there.

"It's pretty sad that somebody would do that," Funaro said. "There were like three standing markers, and the rest are kind of lying down under the grass, so what we intended to do was go back through, find all the headstones and get them up, clean it up and put a white picket around them. It hasn't been maintained for quite a long time, and what we wanted to do was restore it and put a fence around it."

Was it the act of grave robbers?

Funaro's son Tom is planning a move soon from Florida to the Bulls Gap farm. He suspects the perpetrators were artifact hunters and grave robbers.

"As soon as we learned that there were cemeteries on the property and saw that they hadn't been maintained, we knew that one of our highest priorities would be to ensure they were properly marked, cleaned and maintained," said Tom Funaro. "The fact that anyone would dig for artifacts in a graveyard, let alone steal headstones, reflects the basest of moral character."

Tom Funaro added, "The thieves were using metal detectors and dug in both cemeteries in addition to other parts of the property. We believe they may have accessed one of the graves/caskets in the unmarked cemetery. Unlike most of the 'plugs' that we found that they had dug to expose artifacts there was one depression — usually indicative of an old casket collapsing — where an area approximately 4 feet by 2 to 2.5 feet was dug up.

Anyone who wants to return the headstones can contact Funaro at (407) 496-0068.

The headstone thefts were reported to the Hawkins County Sheriff's Office on Saturday.

Mudge, responding to Johnson's continued criticism in a joint statement this week, say the events are in keeping with the organization's overall mission at the farm and have helped grow it into an even more valuable community resource.

Years ago, Johnson said in a letter to the editor this week (see page 19), he helped with the research for nominating Franklin Farm to the National Register of Historic Places, finding evidence suggesting the site as one of the earliest European settlements in the area. The farm was successfully listed, recognized for its importance "as the last such intact and uncompromised landscape in the entire Abbott Run Valley."

Johnson says he speaks for frustrated historians everywhere who don't believe metal detecting enthusiasts are qualified to be removing history from the ground, and says the so-called hobby "has resulted in untold losses to historic sites of all kinds, bringing stress, frustration and unhappiness to many of those entrusted with the care and protection of these properties."

What is lost with seeded detecting events such as Pound the Ground is the opportunity for local students to experience hands-on study of town history, at an undisturbed historic site, under the supervision of experienced teachers and archaeologists, he said.

"What is lost by now, we can assume, is the uncompromised site integrity required to warrant the granting of funding for a thorough professional archaeological survey and publication of resulting study for local and state history archives," he writes. "Lost is much of the 'sense of place' of this last landscape to hold the memories of a once beautiful Abbott Run Valley, its secrets left to reveal themselves slowly and patiently, not simply pulled from the ground in one day of misdirected amusement."

Leaders of the Franklin Farm Preservation Association said their mission of charitable and educational purposes includes but is not limited to maintaining, preserving and improving the old homestead.

"The members of the HMFFPA value history in terms of preserving and sharing traditions, artifacts and stories with the community," they said. "History shared is history that is alive, genuine and vibrant."

To let buildings, artifacts and traditions sit undiscovered or untold "is to deprive the community and subsequent generations of the knowledge and skills that can enrich our lives today and in the future," they added. "Historic Metcalf-Franklin Farm is a relevant, living farm that continues to be an important and essential piece of not only Cumberland's past, but of our future."

The farm's mission is to preserve the property for future generations, provide educational opportunities for our community, and provide the Rhode Island Community Food Bank with fresh vegetables for those experiencing food insecurities, they said.

"In addition we believe in preservation through use," they said. "We regularly bring the farm to life by providing and promoting activities that encourages our community, especially those who may not have the opportunity to experience Cumberland's rich agricultural heritage." Each program is aligned with organization missions and evaluated by the association to ensure that the farm is protected, they said.

The farm has designated artifact coordinators who are responsible for identifying, preserving, documenting and sharing "the function, manufacture and usage of the various artifacts that have been found on, or donated to, the Metcalf-Franklin Farm," they added. "Work in the community gardens has uncovered a few important items of interest that have been documented, preserved and shared at various events at the farm."

The Pound the Ground events put on by R.I. Relics in the past two years uncovered hundreds of artifacts donated to the HMFFPA for identification, preservation and educational programming.

"Without these events, few if any of these artifacts would have ever been found," they said.

Each event is coordinated with the association, managed in accordance with the rules of the farm, and has board and association members present, they maintain. Some 200 participants of all ages turn in any items that were not specially placed for the event.

"During each of the past two events they have found over 200 items, including many square head nails. Some of the most exciting finds for our organization have been skirt weights, a crotal bell, musket balls, oxen shoes, and a variety of farm metal items," they said. "The

Anyone with information about the headstone thefts or their location is asked to contact the HCSO at (423) 272-4848.

artifacts are catalogued and shared during our school field trips, corporate volunteer events and festivals.” The items bring the history at the farm to life, they said.