

# Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

November 2018

FMDAC News Gram

Volume 2 Number 13



FMDAC

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North Region: **Debbie Buxton**  
*Alaska, Washington, Oregon,  
Idaho, Montana, Wyoming,  
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Minnesota, Wisconsin,  
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Massachusetts, New  
Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode  
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*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 All.

Last month I mentioned a developing situation. Well here are the basics.

The Alabama Historical Commission wants to have a mile section of the Alabama River in Selma listed on the National Historic Register. This is a serious situation. According to Alabama law if it becomes eligible (does not even have to be listed) then it is a "cultural resource" and is protected. This is section of water. One that is deep and swift and has been used as a trash dump for a very long time. It has also been dammed. In addition there were no historical events there. In the river that is. There are no shipwrecks and the visibility is about 3 ft according to divers. The items are not in any form of context and at any given point in time may not even be from that spot on the river due to currents and flooding.

There were two committee meetings open to the public. No one was speaking in favor from the public. All attending were opposed and in spite of their best efforts the committee voted unanimously to recommend it for listing.

A survey was conducted. Over the course of several days there were many dives looking for "cultural resource" material. The only items found that were not modern trash were 2 bullets, one confederate and one union. For this the state paid \$15,000. The federal government may very well have kicked in more. That is the extent of their findings. They are basing a potential listing on the register on two bullets! Most of the structures are already listed. They want the water too!

The deal was done before the first meeting was brought to order. Listening to a recording of the second meeting was an exercise in holding my temper. There was no changing minds there. The vote was just a formality.

So what would this do? Well the implications are far reaching. If this were to be deemed eligible by the Keeper of the Registry then any waterway anywhere in the nation could be deemed eligible. It could cause a rewriting of the criteria. At this point a river is not eligible. It must be a structure or district or something such as a battlefield or Indian Mound. A site that is intact. Now a shipwreck would be eligible and therefore the river bottom immediately under it but the entire river bottom is not eligible. A specific site would be if it is still intact and could provide something to the archaeological or historical record. But there is nothing in this stretch of river. If there was at one time then nothing remains. Therefore it should not be eligible.

This is test case to see if they can get it through. We must all oppose this nomination. How do you do that? Write a letter to the National Registry. Do this now or you may regret it for the rest of your life. Tell the Keeper of the Register that you oppose this listing as it does not qualify under the guidelines. If this is listed then any water anywhere in the country could be listed. Shutting off public access to large swaths of the country for recreational and hobby purpose and costing untold billions of dollars in lost revenues. This is not the intent of the registry.

Now obviously this would also eliminate any type of metal detecting, prospecting and any of the collecting related hobbies.

Take a stand. Write the letter. An email will not work. It needs to be a letter that someone must open and read. Tell them you oppose the new proposed listing of a section of the Alabama River known as the Selma Waterfront District.

I will post Information from Steve Phillips on the website and facebook page. Steve is a well known diver, relic hunter

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

and collector who has been fighting this. He is also the guy who was falsely arrested in 2003 for retrieving a seriously deteriorated rifle from the river. He fought it and won. Causing some laws to be changed and some higher ups to be fired.

Here is the address:  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, MS 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

### Hobby Related News

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

- African Miner Finds 1.1-Kilogram Emerald at Kagem in Zambia. [Article Link](#)
- How a mob of stray cattle started a gold rush in the Pilbara. [Article Link](#)
- Hobbyist with metal detector discovers historic item from 1609. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure Hunter Finds Lock of Hair in Lost Locket in Pippy Park. [Article Link](#)
- Woman pleas for help to find missing ring in South Hadley. [Article Link](#)
- 23-pound armor-piercing round, meant to destroy tanks, found on NC beach after Florence. [Article Link](#)
- Civil War Gold Mystery Thickens. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure Quest exclusive: The team make a massive discovery. [Article Link](#)
- You can search for an estimated \$340 million in buried treasure in Texas. [Article Link](#)
- Fargo man finds rare Spanish coin from 1700s near Red River. [Article Link](#)
- They can dig it: Meet the other kind of metal heads, who unearth local history. [Article Link](#)
- Hobbyist reunites owners with missing treasures. [Article Link](#)
- Millville Local Creates Treasure Hunt for Metal-Detector Lovers. [Article Link](#)
- Sunrise Reflections, Lost and found objects have a story to tell. [Article Link](#)
- MinRex Resources finds high-grade gold in Marble Bar rock chip sampling. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunters doubt FBI's word on dig for Civil War gold. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorist reveals his greatest treasure: Friendships. [Article Link](#)

### U.K. News

- 'Viking treasure' of 252 silver coins found in Denmark. [Article Link](#)
- Metal Detecting Rally raises £27,000 for Bath RUH's new Cancer Centre. [Article Link](#)
- Late Bronze Age ring found in west Herefordshire. [Article Link](#)
- Girl Finds Pre-Viking Sword While Wading in Swedish Lake. [Article Link](#)
- 3,000-year-old piece of Bronze Age gold found in mbria. [Article Link](#)
- Protestors apologise after taking historical artefacts from Cultural Quarter site. [Article Link](#)
- Hoard of Roman coins unearthed. [Article Link](#)
- Finders isn't keepers in Norfolk. [Article Link](#)
- 11 amazing treasures found using metal detectors in Ireland. [Article Link](#)
- The ghost which stood guard over the Dallinghoo treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter accidentally discovers 200-year-old shipwreck on British channel island. [Article Link](#)

### W.W. Meteorite News

- The formation of large meteorite craters is unraveled. [Article Link](#)
- 12-pound lunar meteorite sells for more than \$600,000. [Article Link](#)
- Meteorite worth \$100,000 was used as doorstep for years. [Article Link](#)
- Teen scientists went looking for meteorites in the Great Lakes. They found another type of alien. [Article Link](#)
- Australians find extremely rare mineral in meteorite impact crater. [Article Link](#)

### Other News Sources

- **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. [October News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [October News](#)
- **Lost Treasure E-Magazine** [October Issue](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [November Newsletter](#)

### Jewelry Returns

- Article helps to track owner of class ring. [Article Link](#)
- Woman with metal detector finds lost wedding band in water off beach in Fort Pierce Inlet. [Article Link](#)
- Man finds, returns daughter's high school class ring. [Article Link](#)

### North America Archaeology News

- Discovery of Ancient Spearpoints in Texas Has Some Archaeologists Questioning the History of Early Americas. [Article Link](#)
- America's archaeology data keeps disappearing – even though the law says the government is supposed to preserve it. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists find clues at the Yellowstone ice patch. [Article Link](#)
- Business of archaeology helps preserve Ohio history. [Article Link](#)
- Dig fails to unearth 100-year-old boat said to be buried in West Palm backyard. [Article Link](#)
- American People Suffering Historical Amnesia With Many Citizens Knowing “Virtually Nothing” About Their History. [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

- **November 03, 2018** (One Day)  
Ashland, Virginia

detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

**Other Hobby Related Show Calendars**

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

10th annual Old Dominion Relic Dig  
Hanover Metal Detectors Club LLC

- **November 10, 2018** (One Day)  
Round Rock, Texas  
Veterans Day Open Hunt  
Austin Metal Detecting Club
- **November 10, 2018** (One Day)  
Round Rock, Texas  
Satellite Hunt  
Texas Association of Metal Detecting Clubs

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

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

**America’s archaeology data keeps disappearing – even though the law says the government is supposed to preserve it.**  
[PBS News Hour Article Link](#)

Archaeology – the name conjures up images of someone carefully sifting the sands for traces of the past and then meticulously putting those relics in a museum. But today’s archaeology is not just about retrieving artifacts and drawing maps by hand. It also uses the tools of today: 3D imaging, LiDAR scans, GPS mapping and more.

Preserving the data

About 30,000 legally mandated archaeological investigations are conducted each year in the U.S. These projects are usually documented only in so-called “gray literature” reports that, in most cases, are not readily accessible, even to professional archaeologists.

Today, nearly all archaeological fieldwork in the U.S. is executed by private firms in response to legal mandates for historic preservation, at a cost of about a billion dollars annually. However, only a minuscule fraction of the data from these projects is made accessible or preserved for future research, despite agencies’ clear legal obligations to do so. Severe loss of these data is not unusual – it’s the norm.

The databases that contain the project data are even less frequently adequately documented, made accessible to other researchers or preserved in a way that will make them likely to be usable in a few years, much less 20 or 50 years. Data may be stored on media that degrade, like punch cards, floppy disks or magnetic tape. Hard disks on office computers or servers may fail, and database software can become obsolete, making the data unreadable. Data may become a victim to institutional housekeeping if files not used within a certain period of time are automatically deleted.

Unanswered questions

As a professional archaeologist and former president of the Society for American Archaeology, I believe that archaeologists have an ethical obligation to ensure that the digital records of what is discovered, like the artifacts, remain available for study in the future.

Federally mandated projects yield massive amounts of irreplaceable data, particularly on Native American history. Those data are generated for the explicit purpose of benefiting the American public.

There are digital repositories expressly designed to make archaeological information discoverable, accessible and preserved permanently for future use. At my university, I led the initial development of the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR), which has been publicly available for eight years. TDAR allows archaeologists to directly upload databases, documents, photographs, GIS files and other necessary data. The cost to upload a document or image is typically US\$5, while the cost for a database depends on its size. This includes costs of permanently preserving the file and making it continuously accessible.

The primary data include things like counts of different kinds of artifacts; information on fragments of plant and animals found in fire pits; maps and photographs of ruined buildings; dates from charred roof beams; and the chemical composition of paint on pottery. This allows researchers to understand life in the past – inferring, for example, human population size and movement, social organization, trade and diet.

A similar service is available through the University of York’s Archaeology Data Service in the U.K., which has been around for more than 20 years.

The data further enable archaeologists to study social processes that are important in today’s world, but that operate so slowly that they aren’t perceptible on time scales available in other social sciences. Why does migration occur? Why do migrant groups maintain their identities in some circumstances and adopt new ones in others? What factors have allowed some societies to persist over very long time periods?

I believe that for all newly authorized projects, agencies must ensure that the full digital record of their archaeological investigations is deposited in a recognized digital repository. That information would then become available not only to researchers and agency personnel, but also to the public. The cost for doing this is about 1 to 3 percent of the archaeological project cost, with lower percentages for larger projects.

However, this sort of synthetic research depends upon online access to a wealth of research data and unpublished technical reports. Access to these data also gives the researchers the ability to replicate the work of or correct errors by the original investigators.

Agencies also need to begin properly curating the data from projects that have already been completed. Notably, at TDAR, this process has been started by a number of U.S. agencies, including the Air Force, the Army Corps of Engineers and a few offices at the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service.

What’s more, for many, ancestral sites are critical to maintaining identity and purpose in an increasing global world. Government agencies are responsible for appropriately managing sites for their scientific, cultural and educational values. But to do so effectively, they must have access to full documentation of past investigations.

Federal agencies are already legally required to preserve the digital records of publicly funded archaeological investigations. They just aren’t doing it. To avoid this is to ignore not only their legal obligations and their obligations to the American public, it is to consign the data – and all that can be learned from them – to oblivion.

Keith Kintigh is a professor at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article here.