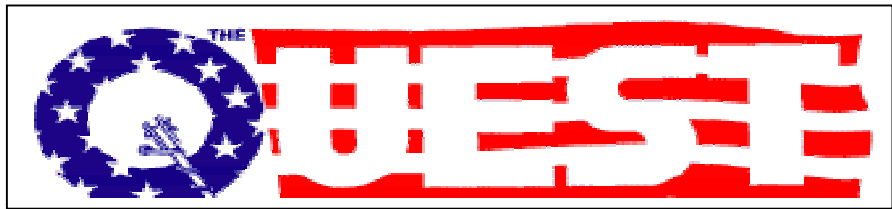


**WINTER
2004
EDITION**



THE FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC.

Volume 20, Issue 1

Established 1984

FMDAC HOLDS A GREAT FALL CONVENTION IN LOUISIANA

For the first time the FMDAC held its Fall Convention in the South Central Chapter in Shreveport, LA, and all attendees agreed that they had a great time.

THE TOP PRIZE WINNERS WERE:

Grand Prize \$1250.00 Treasure Chest Jim Kemp
Livonia, NY - Silver Seekers



First Prize - \$750 Chest
Rusty Curry Midlothian, TX - Lone Star



FMDAC President and Vice President Duane Biller and Jim Beyers



We hope to see you at the River Palms Resort Casino in Laughlin, NV from April 15 to the 17th 2005 for the Second Annual Spring Convention. For more details, see our new web page at www.FMDAC.com.

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FMDAC National Officers for 2004

FMDAC President, Duane Biller, *If you have a question concerning the FMDAC I will do my best to answer it, and if I cannot answer it, I will forward it to the right person.*

FMDAC Vice President, Jim Beyers: *I am extremely interested in your opinion and want your input. The Chapter President's meet with me and discuss your issues. Listening to and working with you is my highest priority.*

FMDAC Secretary, Frank Colletti: *I take notes/minutes at the board meeting and provide them to membership; including records and by-laws.*

FMDAC Treasurer, Jill McFeeders: *I receive FMDAC funds, make financial reports, keep membership information, and distribute funds appropriately.*

FMDAC Manufacturer/Industry Representative, Bob Clark: *I am the "voice" of the metal detector manufacturers and the industry and will take questions in that regard.*

FMDAC Alliance Liaison **Mark Schuessler**: *I am the contact person regarding alignment between other organizations and the FMDAC.*

FMDAC Webmaster, Bill Jordan: *I manage the information technology and web site of the FMDAC. I take Web related technical questions only PLEASE.*

##

**You know you're doing it right
when the property owner has
to ask where you dug!!!**

Chapter President's for 2004

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NEWSBRIEF

On behalf of myself and the entire board, we would like to wish you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

It is hard to believe that it has been two years since taking over as President of the FMDAC but it has been quite a learning experience for me. I have traveled, at my own expense, throughout the country meeting many of our members, attended meetings and listened to their comments and concerns about the hobby. It has been both an honor and a privilege for me to serve and I look forward to the next two years.

ELECTIONS

As you may or may not have noticed there were no national elections this year nor were there any chapter elections last year. Our By-Laws have no provisions for write-in candidates since individuals seeking office must first be approved by our election committee. The By-Laws state that you must be a member in good standing for a period of two (2) years and nominated by a member club, before running for office and this must be approved. Because there were no others nominated for office but the existing officers, the Board cast a unanimous ballot for the existing officers who were nominated. So the officers for 2005 and 2006 will be myself as President; James Beyers as Vice President; Frank Colletti as Secretary and Jill McFeeders as Treasurer.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

The Spring FMDAC Convention and Treasure Expo will be held April 15, 16 and 17, 2005 at the River Palms Resort & Casino, Laughlin, NV. The Expo will be open to the public but you must be a FMDAC member to hunt in the treasure hunts.

The Manufacturers, Dealers and Seminars will start on Friday from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and will continue on Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. There also will be an added hunt on Saturday morning at 8:00 am. The FMDAC main treasure hunts will be held on Sunday morning. Also between the 2 hunts on Sunday, will be a free kid's hunt. There also will be an open FMDAC meeting on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 pm where all your questions and comments will be heard.

We have worked out a room rate of \$22.00 for week days and \$42.00 for the weekend. Reservations must be made by March 15th to get the discount. Phone 1-800-835-7904 and tell them you are with the FMDAC.

You can obtain a copy of the flyer on line at www.fmdac.com or call 330-364-1608.

The 2005 Annual Fall convention will be held on October 14, 15 & 16th at the Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City Beach, FL. Mark your calendars.

2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The 2005 membership applications have been sent to all 2004 member clubs. If your club has not received one, please contact Jill McFeeders at 330-364-1608 or jcseeker@core.com. Membership applications are also available on the website.

Remember if your application is received by January 1, 2005 your club will be entered in a drawing. First prize is membership for 2006 for the numbers of members on the 2005 application. Second prize is a 1/10th gold coin and 3rd is a Federation round. Last year's free membership was Midwest Prairie Club from Iowa. So get those memberships in early and good luck.

Don't forget to include Jr. Members on your application. This is for members under 16 years of age and their membership is FREE.

Also, for 2005 the Board has approved the addition of an Independent membership for individuals who do not belong to a FMDAC club. This has taken the place of the PIDC. The cost of a Independent membership is \$10.00. This membership fee includes Membership card, full membership in the FMDAC, informational mailings, be a member of the local chapter and entitled to all benefits of the FMDAC membership. To obtain an application for the Independent membership, you can go to the FMDAC website or contact any officer.

We are also working on our sponsorship program which will include manufacturers, dealers and both supporting and sponsoring members. More information on this program will be sent at a later date.

The 2005 Membership card has been designed by Mike Race. Remember this is an on-going contest and maybe your idea could be next year's card.

On a positive note, 2004 was very productive. It was the first time in the past several years that we had both an increase in clubs and members.

FILM LIBRARY

I have appointed Dave Carter of Indianapolis, IN to handle all the responsibilities of managing our film library. Presently we have over 20 different topics in both VHS and DVDs. If you or your club is interested in borrowing one of our movies you may contact Dave at cdcarter5@aol.com and put FMDAC in the subject line. You can also contact him by phone at 317-784-8098. Dave can send you complete listings of all our topics in our library. Also if you have any extra movies that you would like to donate, it would greatly be appreciated.

QUEST

Frank Colletti is presently putting together the Winter Quest, which includes November, December, January and February. As soon as it is completed we will be mailing a few copies to each member club and Independent members. I know that since White's stopped publishing the Quest for us, we have been remiss in the way that we have been getting the communication to our clubs. We are doing this to keep all of our clubs informed but doing it in a way that is cost effective. It would almost be impossible to send out a Quest to every member without raising the dues and the Board is in agreement that for now, \$5.00 will be sufficient. Also the Quest will still be available online on the FMDAC website.

The Board has approved the Quest to be published 5 times a year keeping everyone brought up to date than the way it was done in the past. It will be published as scheduled. November, December, January, February – March, April - May, June – July, August – September, October. The cut-offs for publication will be the 1st of the month preceding the publication. If you would like any of your clubs information published please submit them to Frank Colletti at 1439 Stephen Marc Lane, East Meadow, NY 11554 or you can e-mail Frank at Secretary@fmdac.com Remember this publication belongs to you, the membership so let's get those articles in on time.

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

We are presently working with several companies to provide discounts to FMDAC members. We have already made a deal with Jay Foss of Research Unlimited who will give FMDAC members a 10% discount on books, maps, videos and tools. We are presently working on a FMDAC order form to be sent out with his catalog to members that request one. As soon as they are available it will be published on the website. Anyone who would like to participate in this program, please contact me for information.

FMDAC WEBSITE

You may have noticed that the FMDAC website is presently being re-vamped and many changes are going to be made to streamline and make our site more user friendly. Bill Jordan, our webmaster has been working very hard to make these changes. Also I have recently appointed Gary Blake of Shreveport, LA to be Assistant Webmaster. He will be working directly under the supervision of Bill Jordan. I believe that Gary can help make Bill's job much easier. If you have ever really visited our website to explore how extensive it really is, you will be able to see why Bill could use some help. Welcome aboard Gary.

The Board and I will continue to work hard for both the organization and the hobby, but your comments and ideas are greatly appreciated. Many of the programs that have been started over the past 2 years have come from member's ideas. If anyone would like one of the officers to attend their meeting, please feel free to contact us and we will get it in our schedule. Please feel free to contact me at anytime either by phone or e-mail and I will gladly respond.

Happy Holidays,

Duane

Park Rangers Take On Relic Hunters

Threats of jail used to protect historic battlefields

By David B. Caruso

Updated: 12:45 p.m. ET Jan. 23, 2004

PHILADELPHIA - In just a few hours of digging at Valley Forge National Historical Park, prosecutors say, Alfred Lucien unearthed the kind of finds amateur treasure hunters dream of.

A musket ball. A locket. A pewter button. Studs, buckles and fasteners that may once have adorned the uniforms of soldiers at the turning point of the Revolutionary War.

It was the sort of haul park rangers dread to hear about as they try to protect the dwindling number of rare artifacts buried at national parks.

In 2002, the National Park Service recorded nearly 11,000 violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, which prohibits people from destroying or removing rare or valuable objects found on federal land, according to Park Service spokesman Al Nash. "This is a challenge that we've faced since the parks were created," Nash said. "We struggle with people who want to take a piece of something home with them, whether it is a relic from a battlefield or whether it is a plant, or an antler or a skull, or some stone from a national park."

Possible jail time The penalties can be severe. Federal prosecutors this month charged Lucien, 70, of New York, with illegally unearthing artifacts during his family outing 3½ years ago at Valley Forge, about 15 miles (24 kilometer) west of Philadelphia. He faces fines and possible jail time if convicted. Charged with him was a Pennsylvania man accused of collecting three nails from the site of a former blacksmith's shop. Lucien's wife objected to the criminal charge in a telephone interview last week, saying it was too harsh for an otherwise law-abiding retiree.

But Valley Forge National Historical Park Deputy Superintendent Barbara Pollarine said prosecutors hope the case acts as a deterrent.

"They want to show people that this is a serious offense," he said.

Artifact looting isn't a crisis at Valley Forge, Pollarine said, in part because so little remains of Washington's encampment.

The park did not become federally protected until 1976. In the 1950s and 1960s, it was the annual site of enormous Boy Scout jamborees, during which the scouts were encouraged to scavenge for artifacts.

"We still get letters from people offering to return things," Pollarine said.

The problems can be worse at Civil War battlefields, where thousands of tourists visit with their eyes peeled for that rare souvenir.

Weekly encounters During the summertime at Gettysburg National Military Park, rangers have weekly encounters with casual artifact hunters, said Ranger Rick Pearce. Most are people with good intentions who are unaware of park rules, he said.

A few are hard-core scavengers. Pearce recalled two men who were arrested after one was spotted strolling the fields with a metal-detecting wand strapped to his leg and hidden under his pants.

The park has had some success warding off treasure hunters with a force of 120 volunteers who patrol the 6,000-acre (2,400-hectare) battlefield day and night. Artifact looting has dropped considerably since the Park Watch Patrol program began in 1996, Pearce said.

Federal authorities also have tried other deterrents. People who pleaded guilty to trolling for artifacts were required to take out newspaper advertisements describing the hefty fines they had to pay for their misdeeds at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park and Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia.

An Alabama man was sentenced to two years probation after he pleaded guilty in August to relic hunting at Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi.

In one of the biggest relic-looting cases to date, several people pleaded guilty last year to being involved in a scheme to steal artifacts, including American Indian remains, from sites including Death Valley National Park. Five were sentenced either to prison or house arrest and ordered to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in restitution.

"It's fun to go snooping. But if you find something, look at it, enjoy it, and leave it for someone else to find," Nash said.

From MSNBC News,
Submitted by Jill McFeeders

Dog Days of Summer

Maybe it's just that I'm getting older but I never liked detecting during summer. Heat, humidity and the blazing sun were never favorites of mine. Call me a wimp but I much prefer the joys of air conditioning to sweating in the field.

Summer vacations at the Delaware shore over the years have always found me inside during the day and out detecting at night. Just the opposite of my wife and daughter and all the other sun worshippers that crowd the beach in search of the perfect tan.

Instead, my son and I would pick up our detectors as folks were leaving the sand to head back for supper. Our energy and enthusiasm peaking as the sun set. My son hates the heat as much as I. We'd much rather hunt when the crowds are gone and the air is cooler.

As summer ends I'll be heading to Boston to drop Michael off at Babson College for freshman orientation.

Then I plan to head out to Dennisport on Cape Cod for a few days and hope to get in some hunting time

Unlike other vacations when beach detecting was simply enjoying the sights and sounds of waves and the occasional beep in the headphones, this time will be different.

I know that my family is growing up and moving on. I've got a feeling I'll be thinking a lot about my son and the wonderful times we have shared over the years.

I'm so proud of his good grades, his Eagle Scout Award and merit scholarship. And I know it's time for him to leave the nest, moving on to his future. It's not hard to imagine where my thoughts will be as I'm swinging the coil without my hunting buddy keeping me company.

(Continued)

(Dog Days Of Summer – Continued)

But my melancholy will be made bearable in the knowledge that I'm very lucky that the good Lord has blessed me with the best treasure a man could ask for....2 great kids and a wonderful wife.

I'll need those few days at the shore more than other summers just to collect my thoughts.

Swinging the coil will allow me to shed a tear in peace along a deserted stretch of sand and say thanks to the guy upstairs.

Carl Martahus
MAMDC, Monroeville, PA

Note from the Editor:

Please let me know if you like our new format, many thanks to Harry & Jan Niemeyer for their immense help in putting this together.

Also, please let me know if you would like to add anything to the next issue of the Quest. We plan to continue to issue it on a regular basis, so please help me and contribute.

Thanks
Frank C.

##

Crocodile Colletti with his friend



SPRING CONVENTION & TREASURE EXPO 2005

**At the River Palms Resort Casino in Laughlin, NV from April 15th to the 17th 2005
Shootout in the Desert On the Beautiful Colorado River!!
All silver coins!**

ACCOMODATIONS

There is a special room rate for the Spring Convention at the River Palms Resort and Casino in Laughlin, Nevada. The River Palms is located at 2700 S. Casino Dr. in downtown Laughlin. The room rates are \$22.00 for week days and \$42.00 for the weekend. For reservations call 1-800-835-7904 and tell them you're with the FMDAC group. Reservations must be made by March 15 to get the discount.

SEMINARS AND DEALERS DISPLAYS

At the Spring Convention there will be dealer displays & several seminars by some of the top people in our hobby and once again they will be free. This will start Friday at 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and continue on Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

CAMPING

The River Palms has camping across the street from the hotel. For information phone 1-800-835-7904

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Laughlin has several Casinos but is about 90 miles from Las Vegas. Hoover Dam is a short drive from the hotel and the landscape around Laughlin is breathtaking. Behind the hotel is the beautiful Colorado River and many water activities. Don't forget your camera.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need any info or have any questions contact: Duane Biller at (724)439-1380 or Jill McFeeders at (330)364-1608 or e-mail jcseeker@core.com

FMDAC
C/O DUANE BILLER

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STAMP