

**SPRING
2005
EDITION**



THE FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC.

Volume 20, Issue 2

Established 1984

President's News Brief

2004 was a very good year for the FMDAC and its new programs. It was the first time in the past several years where we had an increase in clubs and overall membership. With the introduction of the independent membership and the early response to membership renewals I believe that our membership will again increase in 2005.

The Board is working on several new programs that will be introduced to our membership this year and I think these new programs, which are aimed at membership benefits, will be a positive step forward. Also, I believe that the introduction of the independent membership in 2005 will help our membership to continue to grow.

With the beginning of 2005, states again have found it in their power to adopt new detecting laws. Both New Jersey and Virginia have either passed or tried to pass new laws and this has once again brought controversy to the FMDAC. We must all try and remember that when a law is proposed it is easier to fight before it is passed. Once laws are adopted they are almost impossible to get changed back. That's why it is so important to notify your local club when first hearing about a proposed change.

Many times these laws can be stopped on the local level because politicians will listen to their local constituents before they listen to an outsider. The local club can then determine whether to contact their FMDAC State Representative or the Chapter President. After the Chapter President compiles the facts and the proposed changes he or she will then contact the National Officers for help, if needed.

I know that this sounds like a lot of red tape but this is the proper procedure that we must follow.

We are striving, through the Quest and our website to keep everyone informed with things going on not only in the Federation but also with our clubs throughout the United States. But to do a good job and keep the information flowing we need your help. We would like to know about anyone in your local clubs or receive information from our independent members. Tell us about who has made a great find or won an award or has done any good deeds. We will publish them.

We have tried in this issue to include some of these types of articles that we pulled from newsletters but it would be nice to get these stories first hand. Any information that you may have can be sent to Frank Colletti, 1439 Stephen Marc Lane, East Meadow, NY 11554 or Harry Niemeyer, 73 McGovern Blvd, Crescent, PA 15046 and they will make sure it gets published. Or you can forward the story to quest@fmdac.com

The Laughlin Convention is quickly approaching and it is very important that you make hotel reservations by March 15 if you are planning on attending. When you call to make reservations be sure you tell them you are with the FMDAC so you will get the discount rate. The number for the River Palms is (800) 835-7904.

If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions for programs for the organization feel free to contact me anytime by phone at (724) 439-1380 or e-mail me at President@fmdac.org

Hope to see you at Laughlin but if I don't, keep your coils to the ground and have a Great Year.

Duane Biller
FMDAC National President

FMDAC National Officers

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.*

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EARLY BIRD DUES RAFFLE

And the winners are:

1st place: Free membership for 2006
The Coin Shooters of San Diego – California

2nd place: 1/10th oz. gold coin - Eastern Shore
Treasure Club - Maryland

3rd place: Federation Round - Tri State
Historical Research and Recovery Club - Ohio

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SPECIAL PEOPLE

Many years ago, my husband Carl and I met Walt and Joan Genther at a Treasure Hunt in Indiana. Walt and Joan are deaf and I never knew anything about signing, but I can communicate pretty well with them after all these years. Walt and Joan are very special people and we have always enjoyed being around them and marveling at all Walter's great finds.

In 1994 we met Bill Babb at TVE in Tennessee who is also deaf and we were surprised at how he could metal detect also. I remember Carl listening to his machine and about blowing his ear drums out.

When we were preparing for the FMDAC convention and treasure hunt at Cedar Point, I was contacted by the SW Michigan Club who informed me that they had three members that were deaf and were planning on attending the convention in Ohio. They asked if we could raise some money to start a deaf fund to have interpreters at the convention. White's Detectors donated a detector to be raffled off at the convention and thus the Deaf Fund was established. There were also many private donations given to the fund. At that convention, we had Walt and Joan and the three members of the SW Michigan Club. We hired interpreters and also had student interpreters come to help out. Walt and Joan had never met Rich, Jon or Steve from the Michigan Club, but they became fast friends and are still to this day. Through this convention, an article was in a Treasure Magazine, entitled "To Feel the Treasure".

When the convention was at Virginia Beach in the spring of 2004, Walt and Joan's daughter and her friend were hired to be the interpreters and the three from Michigan attended as did Bill Babb from FL. It was so interesting to watch them communicate with each other and they even had a raffle table raffling off homemade scoops by Bill Baab and a beautiful flag afghan to support the "Deaf Fund". Walt Genther was our guest speaker (with his daughter, Dolly interpreting) at the Banquet, and everyone said it was the best speech ever and was enjoyed by all.

At the convention in Shreveport, we knew Walt was coming, but Bill and the guys from Michigan were not going to be able to make the trip. However, Walter had met a deaf impaired man over the internet and the rest is history. Dale Harris of Arkansas had read the article in the magazine and had flown to Michigan and met the three guys there. They told him about Walt and Joan and he finally got a hold of Walter. The guys from Michigan had told Dale that Walter was a real pro and he needed to meet him. Walter told Dale that he was going to the convention in Shreveport, LA and asked Dale to go. Walter and Joan drove to Little Rock, AR and met Dale and his wife Sandra stayed a few days with them and then they all drove to Arkansas together. What a great time they had and Dale was so surprised to see what a popular guy Walt was and what a good hunter he was.

In December, I received a book from Dale that he had written, entitled, "Deaf/Hearing Impaired Using Metal Detectors." It is a very good book and has lots of pictures in it. It has a history of Dale using, as well as a short piece on some of the people I have talked to you about. You can check out Dale's pictures on his website, which is <http://home.comcast.net/~Haggard/2005DHarris.htm>. If anyone is interested in purchasing a book, they can contact Dale Harris at SilentTroop31@aol.com or you can fax him at 1-501-221-0417.

Needless to say, these people are very "SPECIAL PEOPLE" in my life and I am proud to know them and spend time with them.

There are many people in our detecting hobby now who can sign and who are still trying to learn (like me), but at least I know the alphabet. However, there is one form of communication, which they all know and that is the "hug" and I can always communicate with them through that.

Jill McFeeders

If anyone is interested in donating to the "Deaf Fund" they can send it to Deaf Fund, c/o FMDAC, 7025 Dover Zoar Rd. NE, Dover, OH 44622.

New Jersey and Virginia

There was a New Jersey law on metal detecting of which we became aware of only a few days prior to passage. There is not too much to be done since the bill has been passed. The best we can do is wait and watch how it effects the hobby. If enough New Jersey metal detectorists can persuade their legislators to amend or reintroduce this bill there may be a chance to have the bill rewritten . This may be difficult when we look at the votes and see that they were 100% for the passage of this bill.

Final Version Passed December 7th 2004

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2004/Bills/AL04/170_.HTM

This than bought us to another awakening, which was the bill being considered in Virginia.

At this time it is: HB2078H1

This bill was introduced and was in the first committee when we all found out about it. Thanks to members in that state we were able to react to this bill. There was a huge response from all of the national organizations, all of the clubs, both FMDAC member clubs and those individuals not affiliated with clubs. The forums were ablaze with suggestions, updates and many how-to's to get this bill amended.

There were thousands of emails, letters and some phone calls were sent to the legislators. The final version out of the last committee had all references to metal detecting and relic hunting removed. At this writing the bill has gone to the Virginia State Senate for passage. To see the House and Senate calendars for Virginia go here:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?051+cal+CAL>

Kids Korner

From the Mid-Western Artifact Society
in Overland Park, KS

Newest junior member, Nick Kaighen 11 year old, son of vice president Steve Kaighen, has been seeing his dad bring home old coins from long gone house sites found off Platte maps from 1880's and told his dad take me with you next time.

Finally, when a warm late winter day came Steve took Nick out to one of his old house sites. Nick started the hunt with Steves DFX and the first signal was a high VDI reading so Steve took a shovel of dirt out of where the target was pinpointed. Steve dumped the clod out on the ground and it broke open to reveal a 1922 Peace Dollar in AU condition.

Now how many of us long time detectorists have found a silver dollar? Another dedicated hunter is born. Attached is a photo of Nick with his find.

Thanks,

DAN Spielbusch



Nick Kaighen

63 Good Deeds

The actions of good people in our hobby makes all those who come into contact with them friends of the hobby! I am fortunate in that I too came into contact with some of these good people. I am Wally Swartz, president and newsletter editor of the Suncoast Research & Recovery Club located in Pinellas Park, Florida and I have the pleasure of also being the president of the Southeast Chapter of the FMDAC.

Two of these good people that I'm talking about are Jay & Karen Ganz, members of my club! My first association with them was as a pen pal. At that time they resided in the State of Washington and were fellow club members with Betty Weeks. They enjoyed reading all the newsletters that Betty received from the various clubs after she finished with them!!

They called me one evening stating that they enjoyed my newsletter and wanted to be on the mailing list. Further conversation revealed that they had a winter home here in Florida and when possible would also like to attend a meeting! It was awhile before they were able to make it to a meeting but upon first contact I was immediately impressed with their open friendliness, sincerity and dedication to the hobby! Their smiles brighten the meetings and shared knowledge makes better hunters of us all!

They have hunted for many years in many different locales all around the globe and devote their treasure hunting talents to water hunting almost exclusively! Their bounty of lost jewelry is very impressive but more impressive is the number of pieces returned to the rightful owners. At last count they have returned 63 items of jewelry to very happy people and very often the sentimental value far exceeds any dollar amount that could be placed on it! They approach any request to hunt for lost jewelry with the tenacity of a bulldog and failure is not an option. If not that day then some time very soon they will succeed in their quest to make someone else very happy! They truly set the standard by which we all should try to achieve! Northwest Chapter's loss is indeed Southeast Chapter's gain but where ever they choose to be mankind will be the winner!

Jay & Karen Ganz



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Chapter Elections

2005 will be an election year for Chapter Officers. It is very important to know the by-laws and procedures if you wish to run for office. First of all you must be a member in good standing for 2 years prior to being nominated. You then must be nominated by a member club and your name must be submitted on club stationary, signed by 2 officers and then sent to Mike and Sue Race, our election officers, before September 15. The election officers will then determine whether the candidate is eligible to run for office. Remember our by-laws and procedures do not allow for any write in candidates so you must be nominated. Mike and Sue will then send out ballots to the member clubs in the Chapters were more than one candidate has been nominated. If the candidates are unopposed no ballots will be sent to chapters and the candidates that have been nominated will win that office for the next two years.

WEBMASTER

The FMDAC is currently searching for a volunteer webmaster to manage the website. We are looking for someone from within the FMDAC organization to step up and fulfill this position. If you are interested please send an email to:

junderwood@comcast.net

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Available in the next issue

Events Calendar

List your club hunts or events here.

The Market Place

For buying and selling hobby related items

This will be open for FMDAC members, clubs, supporting manufactures, distributors and dealers

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Punxsutawney Phil told us there is only a few more weeks of this snow and cold.

Are you ready for that warm
Laughlin, Nevada
climate??

A note from the Mid-Atlantic East Coast Chapter

I recently received the below letter Thanking everyone for their support.

Subject: Re: HB2078

Hey Rodney:

I am so happy and extremely pleased at all the Clubs, Organizations and individuals that pulled together on this issue. By showing a unified force as one, an issue threatening the hobby has been halted.

The aide for Vanlandingham contacted us and notified us that the bill was changed to only reflect the hiring of an assistant archeologist and that all other references to relic hunting and metal detecting has been removed. We are supposed to get a copy of the bill tomorrow and it will be posted on the WWATS Website. Thank you again to one and all on a great job. Please forward a copy of this to Harry and tell him Robert Sloan says hello.

Terry
Virginia State Director
WWATS

However The Work Continues

Virginia Budget Amendments

Please urge your legislators to not support the following budget amendments.

Item 396 #1h – State Archeologist position.

Item 397 # 3s - Dept. of Historic Resources - Easement Program Coordinator.

Item 397 # 4s - Dept. of Historic Resources - Information Technology Employees

All metal detector hobbyists should write to their own Virginia State legislators to let them know you oppose these items because some have been removed from HB 2078 and the others are wasteful of the taxpayers monies.

The Virginia Senate and the House have their own budget bills to vote out of committee. They are then sent to a committee to work reconcile both bills into one. The governor also gets to make some changes than they get to vote on the final draft. So if you live in Virginia please keep sending your emails, mails, and phone calls to your district Legislators.

Do it today!
Tomorrow it might be forbidden.

Book Review
By
Frank Colletti

**THE URBAN TREASURE HUNTER –
A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR
BEGINNERS
HOW TO FIND, UNEARTH AND IDENTIFY
VALUABLE ARTIFACTS**

By Michael Chaplan

The Urban Treasure Hunter with chapters that are titled "An Urban Historical Perspective," "Public Relations," "Hazards," "Legal Considerations," etc is far more than a book that is just for beginners.

This latest rendition of Michael Chaplan's work (that began with the first edition of the "Urban Treasure Hunter") is able to capture the imagination of even the most dedicated detectorist.

Mr. Chaplan introduces a segment that far too many of us ignore as we search for that remote farm house in the rarely searched country areas. Instead, Mr. Chaplan helps our imaginations run wild with stories and ideas of the possibilities of searching heavily populated urban areas (can you get more urban than New York City?).

One chapter teaches us how to view and analyze a city park, in order to maximize your finds. In addition, he gets your thoughts racing with a story about finding large cents, two and three cent pieces and quantities of Seated and Barber silver coins. He relates the story of finding a 1798 overdate (1798/1797) Draped bust dime. Even in just good condition the coin is currently valued at \$2000!

The next chapter takes us on a ride through time to the possibilities of locating Indian artifacts. He seems to leave no stone unturned and covers many different areas of metal detecting for the hobbyist.

Beginner or advanced collector, no detectorist should be without Mr. Chaplan's book. For further information, the book is available or can be ordered from all bookstores (List \$17.95) and Amazon.com (\$12.89). Of course many large and small metal detector dealers and treasure hunting booksellers (i.e., K.B. Slocum, Research Unlimited)) are selling the book.

The book is being distributed to them through the largest book distributor of treasure hunting books, Plateau Books, in St. Louis. The book is also available at list price from Square One Publishers at 1-877-900-book or (516) 535-2010.

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***THESE AD SPACES COULD BE
YOURS FOR ONLY
\$35.00
PER ISSUE***

The Urban Treasure Hunter
(second edition) is back. Any treasure hunter who lives in or near a city needs this book! The riches of history are there for those who dare search for them.

FMDAC
C/O DUANE BILLER

184 Grange Rd.
McClellandtown, PA 15458

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