

HUDSON VALLEY EXPLORER

<http://www.greattreasure.com>

Summer 2009

From the Vice President's Desk

As we prepare for the Club's Summer Recess it is interesting to reflect upon the world wide first six months of 2009. Not without controversy we have relocated our meetings to Sparkle Lake. Due to the change some old faces are often missing at the monthly meetings but new folks have joined adding new vitality to the meetings and to the Finds of the Month competition. Both spring open hunts were well attended with the Granite Springs outing yielding very significant finds to those who battled through the early rain showers to enjoy a cool day in the newly plowed fields. Site Coordinator Rich Markert deserves a big Well Done for obtaining this rewarding location. The owners have invited us back next year. Please, if you have items you are willing to donate for the Granite Springs display case please contact Don Mayers or any Board member. The club officers will renew their efforts to obtain a search outing site from the NYC Water Authority during the summer hiatus. If this is accomplished it will be added to the 2010 outing schedule. Prospect Park in New York City has been reopened to detecting on a time limited basis thanks to the FMDAC and many member clubs. If you hunt the Park do so only on the days allocated (Tuesday and Saturday) and be ESPECIALLY vigilant with your digging technique. As you travel during the summer be watchful for potential hunt sites. The club has Letters of Introduction available to help break the ice to gain land access. Just e-mail the web master and copies will be made available to you. We will be heading to Cape Cod in September for the second annual beach hunt weekend. Please make your reservations by June 15th to take advantage of the Club negotiated discount. All members are reminded to check the web site for pertinent updated information. Be safe this summer, hunt with enthusiasm and courtesy. If you make a good find document it and take photos. It would be wonderful to see some of our member's names in American Diggers "Just Dug" segment. Good luck and good hunting.

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Club News

Lakeside Park, Pawling, NY

Recently three club members were told to leave the park, by a groundskeeper, and detecting permits were going to be rescinded. This issue was resolved by Don and Carol Mayers shortly after but prompts us to be extra careful when detecting in the park so as not to cause another incident. The following rules should be followed whenever detecting in any park especially in Pawling.

Simple Rules to Follow While Detecting Parks in any Area We Frequent

1. *Avoid the playing fields as the good weather is upon us. They may be in use.*
2. *Always use a ground cloth.*
3. *Use SMALL digging tools only.*
4. *Be sure to have your updated permit, if required at the park you choose to detect.*
5. *Use common sense when choosing your time to detect the property i.e., If school is not in session you should not be there.*
6. *COVER YOUR HOLES AND LEAVE THE AREA CLEANER THAN YOU FOUND IT!*

Nor'easter Storm Ring Find

Text of email from Jessie Thompson
Nor'easters Metal Detecting Club
<http://www.noreasters.net>

I received a call early this afternoon from gentlemen by the name of Duane, a frantic husband trying to contact anyone who could assist him locate his wife's wedding ring. She lost it during one of our largest Nor'easters of this winter season. I then immediately received an email from Pat Darinzo saying hey Jess, Don Mayers of PWMDAS said a fellow lost a ring in S.E. CT. and was wondering if we could help him find it. We both were contacted regarding the same ring.

Well to make a long story short (we will put the full story in our next newsletter) Pat and I hunted went over to the resident's house to begin the search for the ring. We searched in the snow for about 45 minutes and eventually Pat found it on the side of the driveway. The ring is valued at approximately \$75,000 dollars WOW! We got major kudos from the couple and here is a picture. Go Pat!



Printed with permission of Jessie Thompson, Nor'easters Metal Detecting Club

Treasure In The News

Owner gets ring back -- 20 years later

Found on different beach 20 years later
By Frank Juliano
STAFF WRITER
Updated: 01/24/2009 12:08:53 AM EST
It sounds like one of those amazing stories straight out of "Ripley's Believe It Or Not."

Jim Couture's Class of 1983 ring from Masuk High School in Monroe turned up last week at Seaside Park in Bridgeport. He'd lost it 20 years earlier at Silver Sands State Park in Milford.

That's not even the most amazing part. Couture had moved to Florida a few years ago and hadn't kept up with a lot of former classmates in the area.

But since his 25th reunion is coming up next weekend, Couture's wife, Debbie, recently registered him at Classmates.com.

Now try to keep up. The financial secretary at Masuk, who's been there 30 years and remembered Couture as a student, works another job alongside the Class of 1983 reunion chairwoman.

The two women were comparing lists of classmates when Delores Luckner, the Masuk High official, mentioned that someone had brought a ring to the school that turned up on an area beach. On it, the owner's initials were engraved -- "J.C.C."

And since Couture's initials are the only J.C.C. on the list of the Masuk Class of '83, the women linked the ring to him.

They found Couture's e-mail address on the Web site where his wife had registered him, and soon the ring was winging its way south.

Like virtually every other moment in this digital world, both personal and profound, the whole thing was captured on video and posted to YouTube.

"I lost it in the spring of 1989, and I hadn't really thought much about it

since then," Couture said in a telephone interview. "But I was thrilled to have it back."

Debbie Couture said her husband told her that he lost the ring during a romantic interlude on the beach in Milford. "He took it off and put it in his pants pocket and it must have fallen out. He wasn't with me, this was before we met," the Monroe native's wife said. "But he couldn't tell his mother about it, because she paid for it and it was an expensive ring."

The ring was found by Derby resident Lorraine Zuba during a recent visit to Seaside Park in Bridgeport, about 15 miles west of where it was lost. She was patrolling the sand with her metal detector when she heard a loud ping and started digging, the Coutures said.

Zuba, a retired music teacher, said she frequently finds old coins and has found rings, but schools are often reluctant to give out information to help locate the owner. In this case, she said, she drove to Monroe, found Couture's photo in the Masuk yearbook and asked Luckner to send him her e-mail address.

"He called me and I arranged to send him the ring," Zuba said. "I told him all I wanted was a photo of him wearing it."

Zuba's husband, Henry, said his wife makes regular trips to area beaches with her metal detector. "Once she found a double wedding band. There was no name in it. We figure they must have had an argument or something."

Apparently, the years buried in the sand were good for the platinum-plated ring.

"It looks amazing," Debbie Couture said. "It just had a small dent that the jeweler took out, and it has to be resized."

Luckner said that her job at Masuk High includes keeping class lists, graduation programs and other records, so she was already working on the reunion, which will be held next Saturday. But don't look for Jim Couture there. "I'm not coming back up for that," he said. "It's cold enough down here."

Treasures of Ireland

The following series of photos of items of gold jewelry some of which date back 5,000 years and were made by Bronze Age metalworkers of Ireland. These treasures are on display in the National Museum of Ireland.

The skill of the metalworkers is evident in this beautiful Broighter Collar, which dates from 500B.C.



The idiosyncratic eighth century Tara Brooch of gilded bronze, amber, glass, silver and copper.



Below is the Broighter Hoard of gold chains, a torc and collar, the beautiful delicate bowl and the little boat complete with its tiny oars and mast.



Below is the intricate workmanship of the robust Ardagh Chalice (left and detail on right).



Below is the more restrained Derrynaflan Hoard of a simpler chalice and other religious vessels found in Co Tipperary in 1980.



The Cross of Cong (below) dates from the 12th century, and shows that the craftsmanship endured. Filigree work and stylized animal heads adorn the cross and a rock crystal is in the center.



The amazing articles in the Broighter Horde were found by two ploughmen in a field over 100 years ago and the Ardagh Chalice, made in the 8th century, was discovered with another chalice and some brooches in the 1800's by a boy digging potatoes.

Thanks to Brendan Nestor for bringing this article to my attention. The full article can be found in the magazine "Ireland of the Welcomes Vol. 55 No. 5 September – October 2006. Their website is

<http://www.irelandofthewelcomes.com>

In Britain, Guys With Metal Detectors Find Respect Along With History

By Mary Jordan
Washington Post Foreign Service
Monday, May 11, 2009

PENARTH, Wales -- Derek Eveleigh walked carefully, searching for buried treasure.

"It's such a thrill when I find something -- and I often do," Eveleigh said as he listened to the steady beeps of his metal detector. Not far away from this Welsh seaside town, he recently found 6,000 copper coins dating to the Roman Empire.

"It turned out they were 1,700 years old! Many emperors ago," said Eveleigh, 79, one of thousands of British "metal detectorists" who search for history as a hobby.

While archaeologists in many countries, including the United States, disparage amateurs like Eveleigh, [Britain](#) embraces them. Last year alone, 4,300 metal detectorists reported tens of thousands of finds: Bronze Age axes, Roman brooches and hairpins, medieval candlesticks and swords, and thousands of other relics.

Before museum archaeologists began working with metal detector enthusiasts a decade ago, only about 25 reported discoveries annually met the official definition of "treasure" -- the most rare finds, which include gold and silver caches more than 300 years old. Every year since, that number has soared, hitting 802 last year.

"The collections in our museums would be thinner without the detectorists' finds," said Roger Bland, head of Portable Antiquities and Treasure at the British Museum in London, as he pointed out jewelry, coins and other displays found by weekend warriors combing fields for fun.

All around the world, long-buried antiquities are turning up as modern farm machinery plows ever deeper into the soil. At the same time, more sophisticated detectors can pinpoint coins, swords, necklaces, knives and other relics hidden deeper underground.

In Britain, Guys With Metal Detectors Find Respect Along With History (Cont.)

This has alarmed many.

Looters are sneaking onto protected historical sites -- Civil War battlefields in the United States, archaeological sites in Thailand, cemeteries in Italy -- and finding objects to sell privately.

In England, these thieves with metal detectors are called "nighthawks." People are prohibited from bringing detectors onto protected historical sites and monuments, but many holes in the ground have been discovered where items have been removed.

In Ireland, as in many countries, the use of metal detectors is restricted.

Nessa O'Connor, archaeological curator at the National Museum of Ireland, said there is concern that treasure seekers will "dig a hole through an Iron Age burial" to get a brooch and destroy the historical information that could be gleaned from a careful unearthing.

British authorities estimate there are about 10,000 metal-detecting enthusiasts and say the vast majority are responsible people who obey the law, seek permission to go on private land and even watch out for thieves. Also, by working with detectorists, offering to authenticate objects and paying market value for those declared treasure, British museums aim to minimize the number of antiquities quietly dug up and sold on eBay.

In many European countries, buried treasures recovered from the soil and not traced to any family are deemed state property; often a relatively small fee is paid to the finder. That is also seen as a reason many finders choose to keep secret their discoveries and sell them privately.

Since the 1996 Treasure Act became law, finders in Britain are offered market value for their discoveries, and museums have the first option to buy official treasures.

Mark Lodwick is an archaeologist at the National Museum Wales who

works out of the back room of the grand museum in Cardiff.

He is part of a network of "finds liaison officers" -- archaeologists throughout England and Wales who regularly attend metal-detectorist club meetings so people know to call them when they hit a relic.

"Every day the phone rings," Lodwick said.

His office is cluttered with labeled plastic bags full of items brought to him by collectors, most of whom are men, he said. He visits sites where significant artifacts are found, such as the field where Eveleigh unearthed his hoard of coins in two broken pots.

The overwhelming majority of items turned over to museum archaeologists are returned to the finders after their information is recorded.

Rare discoveries -- such as the million-dollar 10th-century Viking treasure trove a father and son discovered with their metal detectors two years ago -- receive extensive publicity. But most have little commercial value -- cracked pieces of medieval pottery, for instance -- though archaeologists and enthusiasts still cherish what they tell of life centuries ago.

"If you want to get into metal detecting to make a profit, forget it," said Trevor Austin, general secretary for the National Council for Metal Detecting, a body that represents those in the hobby. "As a general rule, people get into it for the historical aspect, to find a Roman or medieval coin -- that's the interest."

Americans come to Britain to pursue the hobby here because of the liberal laws and the richness of the country's buried bounty.

Dick Stout, founder of the Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs in the United States, said there have been only rare examples of U.S. archaeologists working with detectorists. After a fire swept through the Little Bighorn Battlefield in eastern Montana in 1984, a team of detectorists helped find remnants of battles where George Armstrong Custer made his famous last stand.

Stout, a Texas resident, said that on his side of the Atlantic, "too many people associate the pastime with the old guy at the beach searching for pennies and dimes."

Eveleigh's 5,913 copper coins were found to date from A.D. 260 to 269 and valued at \$83,000. "If they were gold or silver, they would be worth much more," said Eveleigh, an optimistic man who likes to be alone. He will split the money with the landowner, as is customary.

He is delighted his find will be displayed at the National Museum in Cardiff, five miles from his home in Penarth. "One day I'll be gone, and my grandchildren will go to the museum and say, 'My grandfather found that,' " he said.

His 17-year-old grandson remembers the one and only time he joined Eveleigh on a search. "I ended up staying in the car eating a sandwich. It was pouring but he was out for hours, even jumping over fences," he said.

Eveleigh, a retired watch repairman, said only now is he really getting into his hobby, as he nears 80.

"When I rubbed those coins in my hands, I couldn't believe it," he said.

As he walked through a neighbor's horse farm on a recent cloudy day, the signal on his detector grew stronger. He shoved his spade into the soft ground. He found an inch-long piece of metal, encrusted in dirt, that he held close to his pale blue eyes.

"Looks like shrapnel," he surmised.

Bombs were dropped here during World War II, he said as he put his newest find in a worn blue plastic bag, just as he has with 19th-century coins, brooches and shoe buckles on days past.

"I like walking in the country," Eveleigh said. "Sometimes pheasants walk beside me. Sometimes there are rabbits or a view to the sea. It's fantastic. "

February, 2009 Finds of the Month

Silver Jewelry

Sterling ring with stones Chris Waugh

US Non Silver Coin

Counterfeit Large Cent
Joe Snow

Token

1844 Half penny token
Joe Snow

Medal

St. Mary's sterling medal- Carol
Mayers

Gold Jewelry

14K man's wedding band- Don Mayers

March 2009, Finds of the Month

USA Silver Coin

1857 Liberty Sated Dime
Roy Roos

USA Non Silver Coin

1842 Large Cent
Conrad Rasinski

Foreign Non Silver Coin1

1700's King George Copper
Roy Roos

Gold Jewelry

14K Gold Earring with Diamonds
Ken Carlson

Silver Jewelry

Sterling Silver Cult Ring
Ernie Burchetta

Token

1926 Silver King Indianapolis Novelty
Token
Carol Mayers

Relic

19th Century Copper Broach-Roy Roos

Medal

Sterling Silver Saint Christopher Medal
Conrad Rasinski

April, 2009 Finds of the Month

US Silver Coin

1857 Half Dime
Roy Roos

US Non Silver Coin

1818 Large Cent
Conrad Rasinski

Foreign Silver Coin

1775 One Reale
Conrad Rasinski

Foreign Non Silver Coin

1717 King George
Roy Roos

Gold Jewelry

14K Diamond Ring
Conrad Rasinski

Silver Jewelry

Silver Ring
Al Kontls

Medal

Pop Warner Medal
Conrad Rasinski

Relic

1800's Crotal Bell
Don Mayers

Button

ca 1860 Scovill Extra Rich
Don Mayers

May 2009 Finds of the Month

US Silver Coin

1852 3 Cent Silver
Conrad Rasinski

US Non SilverCoin

1834 Large Cent
Brendan Nestor

Foreign Non Silver Coin

Pair of King George Coppers
Franz Broniman

Gold Jewelry

14K gold/emerald Ring
Carol Mayers

Silver Jewelry

Sterling Neckless
Conrad Rasinski

Token

1827 Hard Times Token
Roy Roos

Button

1830's Jones & 1840's Scovill (same
hole)
Carol Mayers

Relic

Sundial/Compass
Don Mayers

Medal

Russian Submarine
Brendan Nestor

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P. O. Box 126
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Lost Treasure Magazine

Box 451589
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240 Route 112
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Phone/Fax 1-631-447-7196

Snows Metal Detectors

Authorized Tesoro Dealer
1-860-488-5694 – Joe
<http://stores.ebay.com/snows-metal-detectors>

Kellyco Metal Detector Superstore

1085 Belle Avenue
Winter Springs, FL 32708

Valley Coins

Ed Zehall, Owner
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Jason Lubinski
(203)545-9828

FMDAC Treasure Hunter's Code of Ethics

I will always check federal, state, county, and local laws before searching.

It is my responsibility to know the law.

I will respect private property and will not enter private property without the owner's permission. Where possible, such permission will be in writing.

I will take care to refill all holes and try not to leave any damage.

I will remove and dispose of any and all trash and litter that I find.

I will appreciate and protect our inheritance of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.

I will, as ambassador for the hobby, use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times. I will leave gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only.

I will report to the proper authorities any individuals who enter and/or removes artifacts from federal Parks or state preserves.

Metal Prices as of June 3, 2009

Gold	\$963.20 /oz
Silver	\$ 15.37/oz
Platinum	\$1231 /oz
Copper	\$2.1849 /lb

Metal Detecting Permit Information

Take the time to renew your permits now for Spring! See the list of locations where you may send to receive yearly metal detecting permits below. If possible, call first for any updates or instructions.

1. Palisades Interstate Park
Commission
Permit Section
Bear Mountain, NY 10911-0427\$20.00
For: Harriman State Park (845)-947-2444

Lakes: Sebago, Tiorati & Welch

2. Long Island State Park Region
Beaches
Permit Office
PO Box 247
Babylon, NY
11702.....\$40.00
(631)-669-1000 ext. 223

3. City of New York Parks & Recreation
Arsenal North
234 Fifth Ave. Room 213
New York, NY
10029.....FREE
(212)360-2778
(MUST SEND IN COPY OF YOUR DRIVERS LICENCE) Update 5/29/2009 - Metal Detecting is now allowed in Prospect Park two days a week -- Tuesday and Saturday only. Anyone who receives information from NYC Parks please let us know.

4. Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Taconic Region
Staatsburg, NY
12580.....\$10.00
(845)889-4100
For: Lake Taghkanic, Rudd Pond & Canopus Beach

5. NY State Offices Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation
Central Region
6105 East Seneca Turnpike
Jamesville NY 13078-9516..\$10.00
(315)-492-1756

Tentative Schedule of Events for 2009*

***contingent on finalization of search agreement**

Saturday, June 13,
9:00am
Search Outing Hopewell Junction, NY

Tuesday, September 1, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting,
Yorktown Heights, NY

Friday-Sunday, September 11-13, 9:00am
Search Outing Cape Cod, MA
Call by June 15 Mention PWMDAS to receive 20% discount -- Cutty Sark Motel, 396 Old Warf Road, Dennis Port, MA (508)-398-9116

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting,
Yorktown Heights, NY

Saturday, October 17, 9:00am
Rain Date October 18,
Sunday
Search Outing Stormville, NY

Tuesday, November 3, 7:30pm
Membership Meeting,
Yorktown Heights, NY

Saturday, November 7,
10:00am
Fall Classic Seeded Hunt,
Fairfield, CT

Saturday, December 5, 7:00pm
Annual Christmas Party,
Ye Old Lantern Restaurant, 728
Route 6, Mahopac, NY
(845)628-7302