

THE STATEN ISLAND ATLAS

STATEN ISLAND HISTORY HUNTERS

LAND AND WATER METAL DETECTING & BOTTLE HUNTING CLUB

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TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Task Force met with parks at the Central Park Arsenal on June 13, 2011. At this meeting, the following "agenda items" were discussed:

*Removing metal detecting from "prohibited" status in NYC parks, and making it a regulated activity.

*Reversing arbitrary rules that prohibit metal detecting "within 50 feet" of a plant shrub or tree.

*Reviewing the circumstances of the closing of Clove Lakes Park to metal detecting and discussing what needs to be done to have it reopened.

*Gaining access to more NYC parks for metal detecting.

*Task force representation, in making and reviewing future rules and regulations which affect how we carry out our activity in NYC parks.

To date, parks has modified the 50' rule by reducing the distance to 25' and applying it only to trees. Task Force efforts to have any restrictive distance rule removed are continuing. No restrictive distance rules apply to other activities which the Task Force has shown, with evidence from authorities in the field, are a far greater threat to the health of trees.

Parks is currently reviewing a list of additional parks to be added to the permit. This list was submitted to parks by the Task Force and was developed with input from the local detecting community.

~Harold Lowenfels

JULY'S SPOTLIGHT FIND



Antique Pocket Watch found by Mike Burns

The watch was found while on a trip to Long Island Sound. Mike says it was made before 1905.



Here is the front of the watch after being cleaned, polished, repainted, and attaching a copper piece found in the back of the watch (below) to the face.



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METAL DETECTING IN THE NEWS

Treasure Hunter's use Metal Detector's in search of History

By McLean Bennett Leader-Telegram staff | Posted: Monday, July 4, 2011 1:00 am

CHIPPEWA FALLS - Bending over, Darrell Peterson dug a small hole in the soggy dirt and reached around for a moment. Seconds later, a bit dejected, he straightened back up and replaced the sod he'd just removed.

"Just an old nail," he said, picking up his black metal detector and beginning the process - sweep, dig and find - all over again.

"Hunters," as metal detecting enthusiasts call themselves, say theirs is a hobby that can give them headaches. A full 95 percent of the stuff they unearth is junk: tin cans, soda pop tabs and coins worth no more than their face value.

But it's the occasional rare find - not to mention the chance to exercise and get outside - that keeps them going.

On a drizzly Thursday afternoon late last month, Peterson and a handful of fellow metal detecting hobbyists from northwestern Wisconsin scoured the expansive lawn around the Cook-Rutledge Mansion. The building, just southwest of downtown Chippewa Falls, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Just trying to find something old," Mike Kirkland, a seasoned metal detector enthusiast from Hayward, said as he canvassed the ground near the mansion's garden. "Something with some identification to the original owners of the property."

But after more than an hour of sweeping the area, Peterson, also of Hayward, acknowledged he and his buddies hadn't found what they'd come looking for.

The treasure hunters had hoped to find relics to display inside the redbrick, circa-1873 house, which at times has been the stately home of Wisconsin politicians and lumber barons. All they got were a couple of rusty bells, a few buttons, part of a toy car, an 1800s-era coin and a purple gem-encrusted ring. That's not including the handful of modern coinage and pieces of garbage they also dug up.

But their efforts weren't all for naught.

"I was just hoping we'd find jewelry," said Barbara Ray, a member of the mansion's board of directors who appeared excited by the unearthing of the ring.

It was unclear how old the ring was, but Ray assured the diggers she'd show the items to others on the mansion's board of directors, who would determine what to do with them. It was possible, Ray said, that the trinkets - especially the ring - might find their way to a display case.

Finding loose change is one thing. Discovering a rare token of history is quite another.

"You never know what you're going to find," said Ken Briggs, a metal detecting enthusiast of about 30 years who was among the hunters sweeping the Cook-Rutledge Mansion's lawn. "You just take your chance and see what you can find. Sometimes I go out and I'll just find a couple of new coins."

Briggs, of Chippewa Falls, is president of the Chippewa Falls-based Three Seasons Treasure Hunters club, which he said has about 30 active members.

Briggs keeps some of his most unique finds in a small, glass-covered display case. Inside is a padlock dating to the early 1900s, a rusty pocketknife and - one of his most cherished finds - a rusty key dating to the 1730s.

The key, he said, was buried under the street in front of his Chippewa Falls home. When construction workers tore up the road a few years ago, Briggs got permission to do some hunting there.

Enthusiasts say treasure hunting can be an expensive hobby, though the stuff they unearth can help cover their expenses.

"That particular unit there," said Briggs, pointing to his metal detector and other attached gadgetry, "just the metal detector alone ... is \$1,100."

But Kirkland said even seemingly nonvaluable coins can add up after a while.

"You're not going to make a living, but you can pay for your detector," Kirkland said, noting it's not uncommon for him to pick up \$300 to \$400 a year in loose change.

Even finding garbage is OK with enthusiasts, who note they take trash out of the ground and dispose of it properly.

Marty Fankhauser said metal detector enthusiasts like him "take everything we find."

But, he said, only "maybe 5 percent" of the stuff they unearth is of historical interest, he said. The rest tends to comprise a grocery list's worth of things better left uncovered - rusty tin cans, the tabs from soda cans and an assortment of "a lot of junk."

"You have to enjoy the hobby," Fankhauser said.

"It's just basically to get out - get out and enjoy the nature," he said, noting the chance to exercise - not find treasure - is what keeps him interested in the hobby.

Enthusiasts say they're trying to combat negative images associated with their hobby.

"We don't go out and just dig up holes and destroy property," Briggs said. "We go out and look for artifacts and coins and we do it where we do not destroy anything."

Kirkland can dig holes and refill them in such a way that people can barely notice he was there. After spotting an object underground, he digs a C-shaped ring around the area and folds over the sod; any dirt he takes out of the ground is placed on a piece of cloth so it can be put back into the hole. When he's done plucking up the object, he replaces the dirt and folds the sod back onto itself.

The chance to unearth valuable items makes theirs an important hobby, enthusiasts add.

"I would rather pull this stuff out of the ground and let kids hold onto that kind of history instead of looking in a textbook and looking at a picture,"



MEMBER FINDS



*Some more interesting finds by Mike Burns:
A 1917 Gold High School Ring, and a Clay Pipe, found in New York Waters. Mike thinks
it is likely older than 250 years.*



*A nice find by Carter Pennington:
Vintage Solid 14K Gold US Navy Ring. Note when it was found the USN emblem had oxidized and turned half of the gold ring black. That is because the USN emblem is made of silver and the salt water caused it to corrode. After electrolysis, the gold ring and silver emblem cleaned up well.*

This is a copy of an article I wrote for the April 2010 Noreasters Metal Detecting Club Newsletter

Metal Detecting From a female point of view:

by Allyson Cohen

"Oh, hey Sheila, when you're done with that red nail polish, can I borrow it? Oh, and by the way, have you seen the new XL 550 Super detector that they came out with? It's got some awesome new technology, and we can go check it out tomorrow, after we're done shopping the mall for those cute new shoes you've been talking about".



A conversation like that just doesn't happen between two women. Metal detectors aren't something you sit and chat with your girlfriends about. I find it sad that I can confide in my girlfriends about so many things, yet the thing I am most passionate about, most of them don't even understand.

Being a woman involved in a mostly male dominated hobby, has its experiences. So guys, here are some things a woman "detectorista" must deal with:

Frustration: What usually happens is, I tell my girlfriends how much fun detecting is, and how much I love it, and they laugh at me because I'm so excited about it. A few have expressed a brief interest, and one actually went and tried it for a few minutes. They all say "I'll go with you," but that never happens. What is it with these women? Have they never fished, camped, climbed trees, hiked a trail or made Mud pies? I suspect a few of them secretly wish they could do what I do, but are too afraid to let their femininity become vulnerable.



girlfriends looking at my hands in an odd "I can't believe she goes around like that" sort of way. On occasion I've found myself looking longingly at their perfectly manicured and polished nails....but it's a short-lived longing, 'cause I know that metal detecting is so much more fun than painting my nails!!!

Hygiene: Nails, nails, nails—and I'm not talking about the rusty metal kind—I'm talking about finger-nails. What am I going to do about my finger nails? All summer they are full of dirt. Yuck. I wear rubber coated gloves, scrub with the nail brush, manicure, whatever I can, but they still look dirty. It's just not very attractive to have metal detecting nails. I see my

Bathrooms: "Where are the bathrooms?" I actively seek out female friendly sites. Many times I've suggested a site, to the obvious dissatisfaction of my hunting buddy (Dad), which is much closer to home—just in case. I admit to scoping out a hunt site for facilities in the area before hand, and laugh when I think how as the tree cover at my favorite site became thinner and thinner through the fall months, so did my trips to detect there. Where would I hide in case of an emergency "nature call"? Hey...maybe that's why my girlfriends don't want to go with me? Nah, we would just leave the site and go to the bathroom together... a mystery men will never understand.

The significant other: Okay, try to have one and keep them happy while you are out detecting, and are so into it, you have no clue or care in the world about cooking meals, cleaning and food shopping. My typically clean home can fall apart, and I could care less if I've got my detector in hand. I usually come back to my senses when I get home and realize I've just tracked "site mud" through the house, and now I've got to vacuum.

Of course, if my cell phone has signal where I'm detecting, the frequent "when are you going to be home?" calls can put a damper on the day. Metal detecting can be addictive. Those that don't enjoy it (sometimes our significant others), can become jealous, especially if we give our machines nicknames like "Honey" and "Best Friend". I learned the hard way, and this season, I'm going to TRY to set time limits for myself while at a site. Wish me luck....

The Expense: How do I, as a female, justify spending money on a shovel to my friend who insists I need the latest Aigner handbag, or my boyfriend who thinks my detecting supplies are a waste of money? If anyone knows, please tell me. I'm not a beach hunter, so I can't defend my hobby with found diamonds and gold.

Weight Control: When my friends are discussing the latest diet they're on, I just go detecting. Not only is great weight control, but it's good for my blood pressure and sense of well being too. Metal detecting is the best method of losing weight I've ever found. I'm not so worried about the 6 pounds I gained over the winter, because I know as soon as I get out there, it will disappear without even trying. Go ahead, weigh and measure your food ladies.....beep, beep, beep.



So fellas, —When you spot a "detectorista", (i.e. a cheerful girl with dirty nails and mud on her shoes), walking out of the local public restroom and she asks to borrow your cell phone (because she "accidentally" smashed hers with a shovel while in the woods), be nice to her, she could be your next detecting buddy—Happy Hunting!~ Allyson

Calendar of Events

Aug. 5th

Will be our annual Baseball night out.

Sep 17-22, 2010

Harrisburg, PA All-Dairy Antiques & Collectibles 13th Annual Show & Sale, (Fri. 12 noon to 5 PM, Sat. through Wed. 8 AM to 5 PM), at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, Harrisburg, PA. Info: GARY GOJSOVICH, PH: (717) 635-5067 or LOLLY LESHER, PH: (717) 787-2905.

Sept. ?

Will be our annual club hunt this will be bigger and better, date to be announced.



Avery Marder
C.E.O.

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www.mytreasurespot.com

www.crazyles:Home:Zazzle.com

www.sphg.com

www.statenislandmuseum.org

<http://nysar.info/home>

<http://www.fohbc.com/>

<http://www.bluebaydetectorsales.com/>

<http://www.golddiggermetaldetectors.com/>

<http://www.dsmdc.org/about.htm>

<http://aquaexplorers.com/metaldetectinglongislandguide.htm>



SIHH ANNUAL BARBEQUE



It was wildly hot on Saturday, July 23 for the annual SIHH BBQ, but the 20 members of the SIHH club who braved the scorching heat were rewarded with a great day of food, fun and friendship!

The Berlin Lodge, at Pouch Scout Camp, was a fantastic place for our event and it offered relief from the outside sizzle. Ceiling fans and other fans at the doors along with the occasional breeze off Lake Orbach, made the interior reasonably comfortable.

What made this event happen was the dedication and over the top efforts of some of our members. We all want to thank Bill L and Collin H who pulled together to make sure that everything needed for the BBQ was purchased. This dynamic duo where at the sight way early on Saturday morning unloading and setting up with the help of Avery M. Tom R did a lot of the ground work, contacting the camp, checking reservations, and working out a lot of the details with Fred D and Charlie S, both of who couldn't make the actual event, but pitched in to help make it work out to be a great time for their fellow club Members. Tom also went out of his way to pick up two of our newest members who live in Brooklyn and do not drive - viva la Tom ! ~ Avery Marder





STATEN ISLAND HISTORY HUNTERS METAL DETECTING CLUB, INC.



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sihistoryhunters@aol.com

Staten Island History Hunters meet on the last Wednesday of each month with the exception of November and December. We meet at 7:00 PM at the Sea View Hospital and Home Rehab Center at 460 Brielle Avenue, Staten Island, NY. All information contained on this form is for the confidential use of this club only and shall not be distributed or used by anyone else.

Please carefully print all parts of this application and return to above address or come to a meeting.

Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone number : _____ Cell Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Type of Detector: _____ How long detecting? _____

Where do you prefer to detect: Beach _____ Parks _____ Trails _____ Other _____

If other please identify: _____

How did you hear about this club? _____

Do you have a NYC Dept of Parks metal detecting permit? Yes _____ No _____

Annual Membership Dues - Choose one - Individual \$20.00 _____ Family (up to 4) \$25.00 _____
Optional Federation of Metal Detecting Club Dues \$5.00 _____ If Family Membership - List names below.

1 _____ Email _____

2 _____ Email _____

3 _____ Email _____

4 _____ Email _____

Officer's Name (Print): _____ Date _____

Officer's Signature _____ Position _____

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