

**SUMMER  
2007  
EDITION**



THE FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC.

Web-site: <http://www.fmdac.org>



*FRIDAY MORNING HUNT  
SITE 74 MILES FROM  
MESA NEAR RYE, AZ.*

**FALL HUNT / CONVENTION  
INFORMATION INSIDE.**

**NEW APPLICATION AND  
CONTACT INFORMATION  
MUST READ PAGE 5**

*THIS WAS THE VIEW  
FROM OUR  
CONVENTION HUNT  
SITE AT GOLDFIELD,*

**TOP PRIZE WINNERS  
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RESPONSIBLE  
METAL DETECTING  
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"WATER WALKER"  
Rick Browne  
PAGE 8**





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# 2007 FMDAC Annual Fall Convention and Treasure Expo

November 2 thru November 4, 2007

Held at the  
Conley's Golf Resort and indoor Waterpark

Located on Rt. 8 5 miles south of Butler, Pennsylvania  
an 4 miles north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike exit 39

Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday Suprize Hunt

2 Big Hunts  
Sunday

Free Kids Hunt

For more info

Call Duane Biller at (724) 439-1380



Hosted by the Butler County Treasure Hunters Club

FMDAC Web-site: <http://www.fmdac.org>



## ACCOMODATIONS

The convention will be at Conley's Resort located on Rt. 8, 5 miles south of Butler, Pennsylvania and 4 miles north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike exit 39. The rooms will be \$63.00 plus tax per night for a single, \$77.00 for a double and \$15.00 for each additional person. (This includes a full buffet breakfast). That rate will be from November 1st to November 5<sup>th</sup>. To make reservations you can call 1-800-344-7303. Be sure to tell them you are with the FMDAC. You can check out this beautiful hotel at [www.conleyresort.com](http://www.conleyresort.com)

## CAMPING

The nearest campground to Conley's is the Butternut Woodlands Campground located about 6.5 miles away. For info on camping call (724) 789-9340

## ATTRACTIONS

Conley's resort has a PGA Golf Course on site and a small indoor Water Park. Also Conley's Resort is located about 20 miles from downtown Pittsburgh where you can find many things to do. Located about 10 miles away is Lake Arthur and Moraine State Park were you may find a deserted beach to hunt.

## SEMINARS AND EXHIBITS

We will have displays by manufacturers and dealers, clubs and individuals at Conley's Resort. Seminars on a variety of topics will run on Saturday. The display area will be open Friday from 4:00PM to 7:00PM and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration will be open at the Conley Resort on from 2:00PM on Friday.

## BANQUET

The banquet will be on Saturday evening and it will start off with a cash bar at 6:30 pm followed by a buffet dinner at 7:30pm. After the dinner we will have a guest speaker.

## HUNTS

All hunts will be at the Butler County Farm Show Grounds about 5 miles from Conley's

A Surprise hunt will be held on Saturday morning promptly at 8:00am. Registration will be at 7:00am. The two main hunts will be held on Sunday at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, with registration starting at 8:30am. They will be held rain or shine. You must be an FMDAC member to enter the hunts. We will have all silver coins in the paid hunt fields. There will be a free kid's hunt between the two main hunts on Sunday.

## TRAVEL

You can fly into Pittsburgh International Airport. The hotel is 20 to 30 minutes from the airport.

## GOLF SCRAMBLE

If you are a golfer you may want to join with some of your FMDAC friends. This will be a best ball scramble with either 2 or 4 man teams depending on the number of golfers. We will draw for teams Thursday morning before we start. Starting time will be 9:00AM Thursday and we will meet in the front lobby. The cost for this scramble will be \$40.00. This includes green fees, cart and prizes.

If you need any more info or have any questions then please contact Duane Biller at 724-439-1380  
Or Vic Kamer at 724-295-3046.

All times and schedule subject to change.

\*The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.\*

## ENTRY FORM

This entry or a copy of this entry must be sent in with a check or money order, along with a business size, self addressed, stamped envelope. Canadian members must pay with a US Money Order.

### IMPORTANT PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. Registrants at the time of registration at convention must present their current FMDAC membership card.
2. Please fill out the form COMPLETELY, including the FMDAC club or Independent to which you belong.

Your signature is very important. If you do not sign the release, you will not be permitted to hunt.

3. There will be \$25 returned check fee.
4. Pack your tickets early. NO TICKET - NO ENTRY.
5. Hunt will be held rain or shine. NO REFUNDS. Please complete the form and make check/money order payable to the FMDAC and mail to:

**JILL MCFEEDERS  
7025 DOVER ZOAR RD.  
DOVER, OH 44622**

**DON'T FORGET YOUR SELF ADDRESSED BUSINESS SIZED, STAMPED ENVELOPE** -- (Tickets and info will be sent back to you.) **If you do not send an envelope, your tickets will be held.**

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I am a member of the FMDAC in good standing and I wish to participate in the following events.

**GOLF SRAMBLE**

# of entries \_\_\_\_\_ (Until 10/1) \$40 \_\_\_\_\_  
(10/1 to 10/15) \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ After 10/16 \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

**SATURDAY HUNT**

# of entries \_\_\_\_\_ (Until 10/1) \$40 \_\_\_\_\_  
(10/1 to 10/15) \$45 \_\_\_\_\_ (After 10/16) \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

**BANQUET**

# of meals \_\_\_\_\_ (Until 10/1) \$30 \_\_\_\_\_  
(10/1 to 10/15) \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ (After 10/16) \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

**SUNDAY HUNTS**

# of entries \_\_\_\_\_ (Until 10/1) \$85 \_\_\_\_\_  
(10/1 to 10/15) \$95 \_\_\_\_\_ (After 10/16) \$105 \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT MAIL AFTER 10/20/ 2007 - PAY AT THE CONVENTION.**

I have enclosed a check/money order (US FUNDS) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You do not have to be a member of the FMDAC for the Banquet.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB NAME or INDEPENDENT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I WILL NOT hold the FMDAC, Conley's Resort, or the Butler County Farm Show responsible for any injuries or accidents I may incur while participating in any of the above events.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**2007 Fall FMDAC Convention Hunt Rules**

1. You must be an FMDAC member to participate in the hunt. You must show your FMDAC card at Registration.
2. No PI (Pulse Induction) machines are permitted.

3. Headphones must be used on the hunt field.
4. Coils over 11 inches are not permitted to be used.
5. Only small digging tools will be permitted. (3 width)
6. Only registered hunters permitted on the hunt field.
7. The Hunt Master is totally in charge.
8. Prizes will be regulated according to number of entries.
9. All coins used in Sunday's hunt will be silver.
10. Coinage for Saturday's optional hunt will be at the discretion of the Hunt Chairman.

**FMDAC MERCHANDISE**

*Patches \$3.00  
4' Stickers \$1.50  
3" Stickers \$1.00  
Lapel / Hat pins \$4.00  
S&H \$1.00  
Hats and T-shirts will be available at the convention*

*Contact Jill McFeeders  
7025 Dover Zoar Rd.  
Dover, OH 44622  
330 364-1608  
[jcseeker@core.com](mailto:jcseeker@core.com)*

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE FORMED**

Website Manager, Lee Weise, took the lead and formed a new Communications Committee. The members include Secretary Dave Perry, Membership Co-secretaries, Mike & Sue Race and Treasurer Jill McFeeders.

The purpose of the group is to streamline the way we get information to the clubs and independent members. Very few of the Independents responded to our call for getting the Quest by email instead of U.S.P.S. With postage now at 41

cents we are limited to 12 pages to keep from paying an extra 24 cents or so per additional page. The more eQuests we send the fewer mailed Quests we have to send resulting in savings that can be used for other issues.

The electronic version may be an expanded edition of the mailed version. A lot of articles are worth getting out to the public and we can do this electronically.

The FMDAC membership application will be changed to reflect only one electronic contact for each club and Independent. As it is now there is a space for several email contacts for each club. This has been very confusing in trying to get the Quest out to as many as possible through this avenue. Many emails came back as "failed mail". That is why we need a workable email for each member that has Web access.

A person could create a Hotmail account if they did not want to use their personal email. A lot of people do that for filling out forms etc. on the Web. All email addresses will be kept confidential. You will not see any other addresses when you receive our mailings. You will receive only items related to the hobby. And yes there will be some advertising. You never know, we may feature an item or product related to the hobby that you might be interested in.

The email contact for the club will have to be **responsible** for sending their club's FMDAC email list to Jill McFeeders along with a list of names and addresses of those members that do not have email access. There are just not that many people that do not have Web access. The club contact could also print a few copies for the non email members resulting in no mailings.

Our goal is to put the Quest in every club members hand or on their computer. Any and all changes from the clubs and Independents will go through Jill to Mike and Sue. Mike and Sue will maintain the lists of clubs and Independent members or as we are calling it "the database". The FMDAC has a strict policy of keeping all of our records confidential. We do not share your private information with anyone and never will.

FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DESK Mark Schuessler

We have had an interesting year so far on the legislative department. We have seen a number of bills that have been both positive and negative. Hopefully everyone has been made aware of these happenings. You should have received the info from your club contact who should have received it from the chapter president. Or you may have seen it on the website. Check the website often for any breaking info. You will find it in the left hand column of the home page.

There were two bills in the hobbies favor in the spotlight this year. One was in Washington State to further clarify detecting in the state parks and to open up more areas. This bill was designed to force the park system, or more likely the archaeologists, to prove that a site has something worth protecting on it and not just a blanket "We think something happened there" attitude.

The second one was in the state of Texas. It was to open up the parks to detecting. The parks there have been closed for many, many years. This was not the first attempt at

this endeavor. Unfortunately it, like the WA bill, did not make it out of committee. Both bills were blocked. Although this can be looked on as a defeat, we can also view it as an accomplishment just to get a bill written and submitted to the legislature. Someone had to sponsor it so that tells us that there are a few legislators in our ball park.

The KY bill to require permits on private property went down to defeat. To be specific it did not get to a vote. This was a big win as this was the third defeat for this same type of legislation. I can tell you that there are members of the archaeological community who were also fighting this bill. Those who are not associated with the "status quo" that would have been hurt by this one. It has finally gotten to the point where the "elitist" are eating their own ranks. I feel the next few years may be interesting as it is my understanding that a movement is beginning to go after these ridiculous laws and out of control commissions dealing with archaeological matters. And it is coming from within.

There is presently a bill in CA, AB 1032, that would allow many more streams to be shut off to dredging. This is due to both low water levels and protecting trout. Although I do not disagree with a certain level of protection there is already plenty of protection for it on the books. This one goes so far as to set a fee for permits for both residents and non residents, and a higher fee if an "on site visit" is required to inspect the area where the permit is issued for. That permit can also be revoked at any time. I wonder if the person will get a refund if the permit is revoked later on. The real goal here in my opinion is to chip away at dredging toward the elimination of it.

Next we have HR 2016, National Landscape Conservation Act. What this will do is to take millions of acres of BLM land and put it under the National Parks regulations. Many activities that are now allowed on that land will no longer be allowed. The goal is to turn it all into park land. The federal government already has much more park land then it can manage. Now they want to add to it. Yes it is already federal land but with a whole different set of rules. Contrary to what some have said on a forum where this info was posted, this has nothing to do with wanting to bulldoze Yellowstone for oil and gas or to be against protecting natural resources, or for raping the landscape. It has to do with the people having access to the property that we own. I agree with responsible access but the direction these things are headed is not a pretty site. It would not surprise me a bit that someday all you will be able to do is to stand on a viewing platform or look thru a hole in a fence at millions of acres of federal property. No one allowed on it as we might damage some vegetation. Can't even take a bus thru as it would pollute to much. And all the roads would have been removed anyway.

### SPRING CONVENTION

The Spring Convention in Mesa, AZ. was an absolute blast. Mike Smith coordinated one of the best events that we have seen. Mike took a group up into the mountains north of Mesa near Rye, AZ. It was quite an experience to be out with all that nature.

The convention weekend actually started with a free hunt on Friday evening followed by a great supper in the saloon at Goldfield Ghost Town. The atmosphere was electric. Cowboy hats, boots dominated the wardrobe department.



Cheryl Kamer and Linda Biller

Les Alexander and His wife entertained with a variety of songs for the crowd. Everyone enjoyed the evening. Saturday morning brought the Gold Nugget Hunt. Hunters gathered in anticipation of taking home some nice nuggets and a lot of hunters did.



Old Friends Gather

The rest of the day brought some nice displays and very interesting seminars. Jake Cruzen gave a talk on Spanish Treasure Signs and Symbols. He had the crowd's attention with some displays and artifacts that he passed around through the crowd.

After the lunch break Jack San Felice told his audience about the Silver King Mine. He is the CEO of the Silver King Mine will be overseeing the re-opening. They hope to get another "mother lode".

The last seminar of the day was given by "Dutch Hunter" Clay Worst. I didn't get to attend this one but the crowd said he had their attention the entire time he spoke about the Lost Dutchman Mine.

The banquet ended Saturday's festivities. The buffet was great and there was plenty of it. I was kind of partial to the Lemon Chicken.

Bob Schoose from Goldfield Ghost Town gave a nice presentation on the Lost Adam's Diggings. The movie *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* was based on this mine. All of the speakers did a fabulous job and we thank them.



Jake Cruzen's Ancient leather map

Sunday morning brought the wind and of course the big hunts. There was a real light turnout as compared to other FMDAC hunts. We had only around 68 hunters for the hunts but the ones that were there were not disappointed.

50/50 Drawings

Friday – Judy Stobbe – WY  
 Sat – George McElhone, NJ  
 Sun – David Carter



Carl McFeeders giving advice to friends

## TOP PRIZES 2007 Spring Convention MESA, AZ

### Grand Prize

John Amato, AZ Arizona Treasure Hunters

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

Rick Costello, CA Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

### Treasure Bag

Roland Chooljian, AZ Independent

### Treasure Bag

Linda Pavlischak, PA Lancaster R&R Club

### Treasure Bag

Ed Burke, PA Susquehanna Valley

### Treasure Bag

Judy Thomas, AZ Independent

### Treasure Bag

John Howard, NY Genesee Valley

### Treasure Bag

Rodney Robinson, AZ Independent

Discovery Electronics Detector - Kim "Streak" Cox, PA

Garrett Metal Detector – Dolly Kemp, NY

Fisher 75 Metal Detector – Beverly Fick, AZ

\$500.00 Gift Certificate – J.W. Fishers – Ralph Shape, WA

### **Thoughts on Responsible Metal Detecting**

By Lee Wiese, FMDAC Western Chapter VP

[leewiese@excite.com](mailto:leewiese@excite.com)

The term Responsible Metal Detecting can be found in the **Code of Practice on Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales** a May 2006 publication. However, the term Responsible Metal Detecting in the U.S. is rarely used or defined. I have used the term in a number of articles but have never really thought about what this term encompasses. This short article will be an attempt to provide some definition for Responsible Metal Detecting.

#### ***Responsible Metal Detecting is to:***

- Know and Follow the Law.***
- Always Gain Permission.***
- Always Apply the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics.***
- Join a Metal Detecting Club and National Metal Detecting Association.***
- Understand the Potential Cultural Value of Your Find.***
- Volunteer Your Services to the Hobby.***

***Know and Follow the Law*** means that one should read and understand the *American Antiquities Act of 1906* and *Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979*. Archaeological resources are part of our Nation's heritage and

these two acts cover archaeological resources and their recovery on public and Indian lands.

The two acts cover all national public / Indian lands and in many cases also have been adopted either wholly or in part by many states to cover state lands. There are also additional regulations that have been developed by the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Parks Service.

Most states also have laws that cover just state parks, beaches and recreation areas. States usually have a specific web-site where you can find out almost everything you need to know. Some states do not allow metal detecting under any situations, while most states require either verbal, written permission or a permit.

Then there are the county, city and school district laws. Each of these entities may also have laws regulation metal detecting on their specific lands. Contacting the authorities for these public entities should yield the information you need.

***A good rule of thumb is if it is national, Indian land or is a historical site it is off limits to metal detecting and other lands require permission.***

***Always Gain Permission*** to search both public and private land.

Permission should be acquired in writing when ever possible and cover the following: owner's name, property address (Street, City, State, Zip) with description of the area on the property to be searched, purpose of access to the land, liability waiver, ownership of items found, property conditions after the search, start / end date and time of the search with signatures of all parties.

Otherwise gain verbal permission by contacting a public authority in person or contacting a private property owner in person and obtaining verbal permission to enter the property. This form of obtaining permission should cover the same terms as outlined in the written permission section above.

#### ***Always Apply the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics.***

The metal detecting code of ethics is meant to re-enforce the national, state, county and city laws. The code of ethics also covers gaining permission, property damage, tampering with structures, equipment, gates and being an ambassador for the hobby. These are important ethics statements and following them may be difficult but very important in meeting the public's perception of how the hobby must and should be practiced.

#### ***Join a Metal Detecting Club and National Metal Detecting Association,***

is a commitment to metal detecting excellences. By joining you are committing your time to learn more about the hobby or to contribute your expertise / knowledge to others who may be less senior in the hobby.

By joining a club and getting involved generates hobby centralism. This centralism can impact many laws that are drawn up in states and cities which in the past have had no voice from those in the metal detecting hobby. If there is no voice or involvement from people in the hobby laws are created - many times with a negative hobby impact.

So joining a club at the local level provides a local hobby voice and joining and getting involved with a national organizations starts to generate the necessary centralism for national support of the hobby.

***Understand a Potential Cultural Value of Your Find*** is practiced in England but not practiced well in the U.S. at least

not in an accepted method for most hobbyists. The reason to characterize your find for its culture value is to understand if it may be part of our American Heritage. If one is following the law and not detecting on historical, national lands or Indian lands there should not be a problem in getting advice on cultural value. However, having said that one must use caution by including others for their opinion / expertise since this could cause a litigation situation. But in the end it is everyone's responsibility who metal detects to ensure whether or not a find may be part of our American Heritage and should be treated as such.

**Volunteer Your Services to the Hobby.** This could be in the form of starting a metal detecting club in your area, volunteering to be a club officer or a specific club chairperson.

Today more than ever clubs need volunteers to handle officer duties / responsibilities, chairmanships for membership, hunt masters, club involvement projects, evident recovery teams, public relations, newsletters, etc. Many of these chairmanships are important and without them the club will not grow or become an involved part of the community.

As the local club needs volunteer support and expertise so does a national detecting organization. People who have been with the hobby for a while should look in the national leadership direction and move their experience to the next level.

**There, now you have my thoughts on Responsible Metal Detecting and how you must fit as a metal detector hobbyist. Responsible Metal Detecting is for everyone who puts a detector in his / her hands and starts a search for treasure which may be under that next coil swing.**

#### "Water Walker" Answers Two Tough Questions

By Renowned Water Hunter Rick Browne

#### YANKEE TERRITORY COINSHOOTERS

Many of you have asked me, "What is the best detector for water hunting?" And, "how do you find so many objects for Find of the Month?" These are two very good questions. However, you may not like the answers but read on.

**The best detector for water hunting is the one you find the good stuff with.**

I have detected from the Mediterranean Sea in the east to past the Mariana Trench in the west, from the Bearing Strait and Artic Ocean in the north to within 10 degrees of the Equator including the South Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. I have detected in nine different countries in sweltering heat and beneath broken ice on frozen ponds and in salt water as thick as a Slurpee. In each case the beach conditions are what influence me the most in choosing which detector I use. Additionally each detector has its own pros and cons and I like each for its own individual characteristics of discrimination, coil size, weight, balance and comfort. I have used Garrett, White's and Minelab water units and they ALL have found the good stuff.

My choice of detector hinges on several factors on any given day. First, will the detector be affected by nearby electrical interference, such as Rocky Neck State Park? Second, is the beach known to be "trashy" especially with iron? Third, is there a heavy undertow or large amounts of seaweed

I will have to swing through? Fourth, can I stay away from others so as not to cause or be hampered by heterodyning between machines? Fifth, do I want to get an "edge" on deep targets? And lastly, how lucky do I feel.

As for "How do you find so many objects?" It all boils down to time and luck. I averaged 315 hours of detecting in 90 days of water walking during each of the past five years. Luck comes in choosing which beach to go to. I play the odds and occasionally just go for a beach I have not been to in some time. Of course the tides [and storm erosion] play an important factor in salt water beach selection.

I started counting the beaches I had detected in the past five years and gave up. Let me just say that I have over 500 beaches programmed into my GPS unit. I have been to ALL of them, except for six new ones, over the past 15 years. Some have closed and some are so small only one person can detect the area at a time. Some are only detectable after the swimming season or when the lake drained, as is the case of one beach with a very sharp drop off. Private beaches are accessible only with permission and the timing has to be ideal. A "friend" on the gate, an association member to go with you or a deserted beach because of bad weather may be the key to a good day of detecting.

Water detecting, like land, can be done in the dark. But you really need to know what you are doing. It is always advisable to have a "buddy" anytime day or night you detect in the water, if for nothing more than safety's sake.

I enjoy helping anyone find answers to their questions, at any time, just ask. This is true even if you do not like the answers. I can get more specific as well as give more detailed reasoning and opinions, just ask.

I almost forgot to add in the "detecting" miles driven per year: on average 13,000. And the cost, a conservative estimate, amortizing over the year is in the neighborhood of \$4500 per year. That includes equipment, transportation, lodging and food. What a hobby!

Oh yes – May the ring of gold be in your ears and the glitter in your scoop.



**WHY  
ME?**

**YA! WE MEANT TO DO THAT!**

From Illinois and Iowa Treasure Hunters, Inc.

Just when you thought the hoopla surrounding the new Presidential coins was over, another fuss has begun. According to *Coin World* April 9, 2007 issue the US Mint id fielding questions about the placement of the inscription on the edge, the same inscription that were rumored to have been left off the coins. Because of the rash of inquiries

concerning the placement of the inscription and to as why there is such a discrepancy on where it is supposed to be or not supposed to be.

The US Mint has addressed this on their Website [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov). And the million dollar answer (that's a currency pun) is, "It was placed at random".

Now by coming forth and saying that what looks like an error, was strategic random placement, allows the Mint to say in a "cents", "We meant for that to happen".

So for all of those coins you thought were worth something other than a dollar, now it surfaces that you've only got a coin worth a dollar.

On a lighter side, the coin of many colors, the Washington dollar, has sold over 5.5 million pieces. Sold in bags and rolls, sales as of March 18th indicate that the public likes this coin; or thought they were going to get rich with all of the errors that had been reported. Let's hope the Mint can do better with the last Presidential coin issued in May, John Adams.

Next year the Mint is going to release a series called, "The First Spouse", which will be of none other than America's First Ladies. The quagmire the Mint finds itself in is whether to make them look like the other females that have been represented on US coins or depict them in the attire they wore while their husband was in office; basically what kind of dress to put on them.

### RING RETURNED AFTER 30 YEARS

By Dan Zomack, *the Coast Star*

From FMDAC member Karen Leonardi

Wall Township resident Terri Rugge lost her high school class ring nearly 30 years ago. The ring she had long since forgotten about has been returned to her.

She does not remember losing the ring; she did not even recall what the ring looked like and needed to call a friend in Florida to describe the stone set into the Middletown Township High School Class of 1968 ring to see if the ring did, in fact, belong to her.

Mrs. Rugge, whose maiden name is Laskey, was the only female who graduated that year from the high school with the initials T.A.L. so there is no one else the piece of jewelry could have belonged to.

Mrs. Rugge grew up in Middletown after moving there from Staten Island in 1960. After graduating high school in 1968, she attended St. Peter's Nursing school in New Brunswick, graduating in 1971 and subsequently took a job at Riverview Hospital in Red Bank. She lived in the Long Branch

area before relocating to Wall Township, where she has lived since 1980.

Earlier this month Mrs. Rugge received an email from Karen Leonardi from the Wilkes Barre, PA. Area informing her that someone using a metal detector had found what is to be believed her class ring in a park located in northeastern Pennsylvania. Mrs. Rugge's email also mentioned that the ring was found 3 years ago.

Mrs. Rugge, who said she is intuitively suspicious, initially believed one of her friends was playing a joke on her. But, she would soon learn that Mrs. Leonardi was not kidding.

Ken Goss, a member and secretary of The Black Diamond Treasure Hunters Club in Kingston, PA., was out with his metal detector in Kirby Park, Wilkes Barre, PA., one afternoon when his Minelab Metal Detector picked up on metal in the wet grass. Just below the grass line Mr. Goss uncovered what appeared to be a gold ring covered in dark dirt.

He said "the glitter of yellow stands out" so he knew he had found an authentic gold ring.

After rubbing the dirt away, he discovered the ring was designed for a woman and bore an inscription from Middletown Township High School with the initials T.A.L.

Mr. Goss tried researching the school and initials through the Internet but was coming up empty. Mr. Goss sought the assistance of fellow Black Diamond member and friend Karen Leonardi.

Mrs. Leonardi has belonged to the club for nearly a decade. The club often finds objects that belong to other people and Karen has become a sort of unofficial researcher within the group to find the owners of these lost and often forgotten objects.

This particular ring was giving Mrs. Leonardi some trouble though because Middletown Township High School had closed its doors, thus no records were available and T.A.L. was not a member of any of the class reunion Websites Mrs. Leonardi utilizes in her research.

Some headway into finding the elusive T.A.L. came about when Mrs. Leonardi found an alumni Webpage belonging to the 1968 class of Middletown. She said she checked the site every so often in the hopes that the initials would pop up or a married name beginning with the letter T would register on the site. In January Mrs. Leonardi got a hit.

The name Theresa A. Laskey Rugge appeared on the site with an email address, to Mrs. Leonardi's delight and surprise.

Finally, after nearly two years of searching, Mrs. Leonardi sent an email to Mrs. Rugge explaining how and where her class ring was found.

Mrs. Rugge had her suspicions and doubts regarding the validity of this strange email describing an unbelievable story about a class ring that supposedly belonged to her. Nonetheless, she was curious.

"I checked all my things and the ring was not there," she said. She called a friend in Florida and asked what color the stone was that was set into the ring. The answer, blue, confirmed that the ring did belong to her class and apparently must have belonged to her because a look through her school yearbook revealed her as being the only person in her class with those exact initials.

She does not even remember ever being in Kirby Park where the ring was found, though her parents moved to that area in 1975. She said she stopped wearing the ring when she graduated from nursing school and began wearing a ring from there. Though being in good condition Mrs. Leonardi took the ring to Zales Jewelry near her home for it to be cleaned before sending it to Mrs. Rugge. The store manager, Michelle Reisser, cleaned the ring for free because of the unusual circumstances surrounding the recovery of the lost object.

When asked why she would clean the ring free of charge, she said, "I thought it was a really neat story". She actually cleans all the rings that Black Diamond Treasure Hunters Club finds free of charge because she believes they are doing "a great thing for people they don't even know".

Mrs. Rugge said, "She too was pleased to learn there are people who devote so much time and effort for a stranger. They are really exceptional people," she said, "It is heart warming they would take their time to do the research to find me."

Mrs. Rugge has the ring she had completely forgotten about and probably would never remember if not for an honest group of strangers in Pennsylvania.

Members of the Black Diamond TH'ers continue to find rings and are doing research to find the owners. Karen Leonardi said she "is glad people are getting their memories back", and her group will continue doing their good work.

## THE FMDAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS SAY THANKS!



PRESIDENT BILLER ENJOYING THE ENTERTAINMENT

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that summer has arrived. I realize that it's a busy time of the year for vacations and family responsibilities and the FMDAC is busy as well. For starters we had a very successful convention in Mesa, AZ. Kudos are in order for Mike Smith S.W Chapter President for a fantastic job in co-coordinating a wonderful and unique outing. From the cowboy cookout at Goldfield, a gold prospecting tour, fantastic seminars, great hunts and a facility second to none the weekend in AZ was one of the best ever.

Lately there has been legislation proposed by our government to land grab large parcels of "our" land. It is evident that all of these measures are harmful and dangerous to our interests. It is your duty to contact your local legislators and protest these attempts to stifle our hobby. Don't wait for others to do the job, make your voice heard. The FMDAC will stay on top of the matter and keep you informed and will do whatever it takes to help in the effort. Please go to the Website, click on Alerts and send your letters.

It is encouraging to see that we have signed up a few new clubs in the Federation and a few of the older clubs that have not belonged for several years coming back. Also the independent membership continues to rise and that is reassuring.

If you haven't visited our Website for a while your in for a real treat. Lee has done a fantastic job and we now have a top notch Website that rivals the best. My hat goes off to lee for a job well done. Take a tour and stop by the forum. Post a message and let the membership hear about you and your finds. You can get involved easily like a new club in N.C. who went to the site and downloaded the Wal-Mart Program to help recruit members.

It's not too early to start planning for the Fall Convention on Nov. 4 thru 6 in Butler, PA. The Butler Club will be hosting the event and many plans are in the works. Hopefully the weekend will start with a natural hunt for early arrivals and plans are also being worked on for a possible Fall River cruise on Friday evening. As the event nears we will keep you informed on the Website.

This year will be the election year for chapter officers. If you are interested in running for a chapter office you must be nominated by a club before September 15, 2007. If you need to know more on running you may contact any of the National Officers and they can give you any info you may need.

In closing, remember this is your organization and the officers are always willing to listen to any idea or comments you may have.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

Duane

WRAPPING THINGS UP

Mark your calendars. September 1<sup>st</sup> will be the annual FMDAC Western Chapter Fall Hunt in conjunction with the Foresthill, California Heritage Celebration. If you have Web access just click on Hunts on the FMDAC Home Page, if not call or write Mike Smith at the address on page 2.

Mid Atlantic Chapter Fall Hunt will be October 28<sup>th</sup> at Carlisle, Pennsylvania Convention Center. It is also on the Website or contact Vic Kamer on page 2.

GONE HUNT'N

NO REPORTS

Please send any information about deceased members to Dave Perry at [djperry900@peoplepc.com](mailto:djperry900@peoplepc.com) or address on page two.



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**THE FMDAC'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 AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE HOBBY, USE THOUGHTFULNESS, CONSIDERATION AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES.**

**I WILL WORK TO HELP BRING UNITY TO OUR HOBBY BY WORKING WITH ANY ORGANIZATION OF ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA THAT MAY HAVE PROBLEMS THAT WILL LIMIT THEIR ABILITY TO PEACEFULLY PURSUE THE HOBBY.**

**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.**