

**Sept/October
2005
EDITION**



THE FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC.

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Established 1984

President's Message

I started writing my President's Message for the Quest while camping with my five grandchildren for a week, when I received a shocking phone call that Wayne Otto, had drowned while water detecting in a local lake in Wisconsin. For those of you who don't know Wayne, he was the owner of Outdoor Outfitters in Waukesha, WI. Wayne was a very strong supporter of not only the hobby, but also was one of the main supporters of Treasure Week in Shreve, Ohio. I have known Wayne for several years, and had just seen him in July at Treasure Week. Then two days later, I received another call that Betty Weeks, Past President and long time supporter of the FMDAC had passed away. I knew Betty had been fighting for the past couple of months but to hear of her passing was still a shock to me. Betty was a good friend and her memory will live on in the membership of the FMDAC. When Betty came to the conventions, she always had a smile for everyone and I know she'll be at this year's convention watching over us and smiling.

The joy of being with my wife and five grandchildren camping that week was overshadowed by the passing of two friends. In one week the hobby lost two great individuals and my thoughts and prayers go out to Teri and her children, and Betty's husband, Jim Weeks. Both Wayne and Betty will be honored at this fall's convention, but their memories will live on forever, in the hearts of all treasure hunters.

The upcoming convention in Panama City Beach will be covered in this issue and I can only say that if you miss this one, you'll miss a great one. Wally Swartz has pulled together water exploration companies to set up displays and I think this will be one of the only times you will see this many artifacts in one place at the same time. He has also lined up some of the leading authorities on treasure hunting to do seminars and this convention will also allow the manufacturers the opportunity to do hands on workshops with their products on the beach. I think that this convention will be unique in many ways, so we all hope to see you there.

This year we introduced the Independent Membership program and it has been a big success. It was introduced to allow people not living by any club the opportunity to become a member of the FMDAC, we have found out, that it has attracted members who had once belonged but their club for some reason did not rejoin.

We are still working on a discount program, where members will receive discounts on products. We have just made a deal with Rich Hatcher of Brown & Bigelow, who sell protective hats with a neck sun guard. Members will receive a 15% discount on any of their hats. To buy any of these hats, you must first get a special order form from either the website or by contacting Frank Colletti. As other companies offer us discounts, we will keep you informed.

Marilyn Lake, our new Webmaster, has the site up and running, but still has a lot of work to do to get it current. If you have any ideas, suggestions or comments, please let Marilyn know.

In closing, remember this is your organization and if you have any ideas on new programs you feel will benefit the membership, please let me know, either by e-mail or phone and I will be glad to listen and bring your ideas to the Board.

After I had finished this column, we returned home, only to find that Jim Hatcher, past President of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the FMDAC, and husband of Shelly Hatcher, past National Treasurer, had passed away. Now the hobby has lost 3 supporters of the FMDAC in a week. May God Bless all their families.

See you in Florida.

Duane Biller

National President



BETTY JEAN WEEKS

BORN 2 DECEMBER 1929 - Died 17 August, 2005

I first met Betty Weeks in Texas, when she was the Ex-Officio President of the FMDAC. Al Dubiel was the newly elected President of the Federation, and I had just been elected to the office of National Secretary. I still remember the first conversation that we had when, at her suggestion, I decided to run for the office.

Betty's zest for life often overshadowed her physical handicaps which caused her to limit the amount of detecting that she was able to do, but she was often out there during our conventions, hunting alongside many younger members of the Federation.

After finishing her year as Ex-officio President, she sat out a year and returned to the Federation and ran for the office of National Vice President, which she won. After re-election to the same position, she was once again called to take the mantle and lead the Federation during a difficult period of our history, after the resignation of the sitting National President, and became the first person to complete two terms as President of the Federation.

Throughout her years in and out of office with the Federation, she maintained a bi-monthly column writing about the detecting clubs throughout the United States (and injected international information whenever she could). She often joked that she finished doing her column for Western & Eastern Treasures only hours before press time, and often wished that there were more hours in the day.

In addition to her duties as President and Vice President, she spent many years writing and editing the Quest, the quarterly house publication for the FMDAC.

Just a few years ago, the Federation established the Betty Weeks Woman of the Year Award. This award is presented to the woman that is considered to have done important and consistent works for the hobby of metal detecting and the Federation. The first recipient was Betty herself. Since then, the second year's award was presented to Lucile Bowen. Next in line was a joint award to Jill McFeeders and Sue Race and then to Amy Maruso, and finally last year to the ever patient Linda Biller (wife of the Federation's current President, Duane Biller). Each year's winner is selected by the previous year's winners and presented at the Annual Fall Convention. This year's winner will be especially honored.

For anyone who has never seen the award, the presentation award reads: "This award is given to a woman each year who has given more than expected, when it comes to the education, protection and preservation of the hobby of metal detecting. You have gone out of your way to insure that future generations can enjoy our great hobby and have never hesitated when called upon."

That says it all.

JAMES HATCHER

FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENT

MID - ATLANTIC STATES CHAPTER

FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTORS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS INC.

I was alerted to the fact that Jim Hatcher, former Chapter President of the FMDAC, has passed way through a phone call from Sue Dubiel, former National Secretary and Chapter President of the South Eastern Chapter of the FMDAC. It was my sad duty to alert the Board of directors to the news.

Jim and his wife, Shelly Hatcher, former National Treasurer of the Federation, were introduced to me at my first Board meeting, when Jim was Chapter President. During the course of the next years, I am proud to say that they both became close friends and I visited them on a number of occasions. During our first Board meeting I wanted to purchase a book for my son, and Jim offered to negotiate the price for me. I did not know it at the time, but he told the seller that he was purchasing the book for his son. After agreeing to a price, Jim returned and handed me the book, saying "here, Sonny."

After that day, he was Dad and I was Sonny in all of our conversations. I considered him a friend and will miss him, as I have missed him at Board meetings since his retirement from the Board.

Jim, we miss you, and wish Shelly the best at this difficult time.

SMOKEY POWERS

FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENT

NORTH WESTERN CHAPTER

FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTORS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS INC.

Once again, and much too soon, I received the sad news that we have lost another member of the Federation. Smokey Powers passed away this July 2005 as the result of an illness.

I first met Smokey Powers in Texas at the first Board meeting that I attended. He greeted me warmly as a newcomer, and I never felt anything but true warmth from him. Smokey was always honest in his opinions, and never 'rubber stamped' the opinions of others, rather, he worked hard and tried to do his best to improve the Federation and the communications with his member clubs.

Smokey received his nickname during the war (WW II) when he was working on a ship in the Pacific and, while trying to put out a fire, his shirt caught fire from the embers. He never stopped working and it wasn't until the fire was out that someone told him that his shirt was on fire. Forever thereafter, he was known as Smokey.

The last time that I saw him was at the convention that we held on September 19th, 2003 in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. He greeted me after we had not seen each other in years as though it had been days, not years. Smokey, we will remember you fondly, and remember to keep your batteries dry.

FMDAC FALL CONVENTION 2005

We hope to see you at the Edgewater Beach Resort Casino in Panama City Beach, Florida from October 14, 15 and 16, 2005 for the Annual Fall Convention. For more details, see our new web site at www.FMDAC.org or see page 3.

SAD NEWS FOR THE HOBBY

On Sunday, August 14, 2005, Outdoor Outfitters was dealt a great loss with the untimely death of Wayne Otto. Wayne was doing something that he loved – water hunting with friends at Lake Nokomis in Tomahawk, when he accidentally drowned stepping off a sandbar.

Wayne was a great husband, father, brother, a big supporter of the FMDAC, friend to us and also to many dealers. Wayne was a generous man with a huge heart and he will be deeply missed by all.

The biggest thing in today's sorrow
Is the memory of yesterday's joy.

(Author Unknown)

SPRING 2006 CONVENTION
May 5, 6, 7, 2006

The Spring Convention is going to be held in the North Eastern Chapter for the first time.

The accommodations are to be at the Days Inn. Remember to mention the FMDAC when you register. The Days Inn, at 443 Main Street at Main Street and Rainbow Blvd, Niagara Falls, NY 14301
Telephone: 716-284-8801
Web page: daysinn.com

Let's make this a great success, so that we will return soon!

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**DUES PAID AFTER OCT. 1 2005,
FOR BOTH INDEPENDENT
MEMBERS AND CLUBS, WILL BE
CARRIED OVER FOR THE 2006
YEAR.**

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FALL CONVENTION HUNT DETAILS:

FRIDAY NIGHT:

WE WILL HAVE A FREE HUNT ON FRIDAY EVENING FOR ALL REGISTERED HUNTERS. BE SURE TO ATTEND. ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE REGISTRATION DESK!

“SAND & SURF SEARCH” ON SATURDAY

SATURDAY MORNING:

THERE WILL BE A KNEE-DEEP WATER AND BEACH HUNT. REGISTRATION WILL BE AT 7 AM AND THE HUNT AT 8 AM.

2 BIG TREASURE HUNTS SUNDAY

Sunday morning at 8:30am registration will begin for the 2 big hunts. These hunts will be on the beach. Sand scoops and baskets are encouraged. ***Diggers will be limited to 3-inch wide blades***, no shovels, picks or large tools will be permitted. The hunts will be held rain or shine.

You must be a member of the FMDAC to enter these hunts. The hunts will consist of silver coins (no clad) and tokens. The top 40 prizes will be according to the number of hunters that attend. We will guarantee to give the Grand Prize of the \$1250.00 Treasure Chest and the First Prize of the \$750.00 Treasure Chest no matter how many attend. The remainder of the top 40 prizes will be given at the rate of 8 for every 50 hunters.

DISPLAYS WILL INCLUDE:

Odyssey Marine Exploration

**Come experience the tale of the
“S.S. Republic”**

**And it's bounty of gold, silver & artifacts
Hear and see the epic story, buy a piece of history!**

**MANY OTHER SURPRISE GUEST SPEAKERS AND
DISPLAYS**

**Edgewater Beach Resort
11212 Front Beach Road
Panama City Beach, Florida 32407**

1-800-331-6338

Outdoor Writers Find Buried Treasure

By
Rich Creason

The June 2005 conference of the Outdoor Writers of America Association held in Madison, Wisconsin was different than any in the past. This year the Federation of Metal Detector & Archaeological Clubs, a new supporting member of OWAA, arranged a treasure hunt for all conference attendees.

Bob Clark, an OWAA active member and FMDAC Manufacturer/Industry Representative, Ron David, FMDAC Central States Chapter President, and Charles David (Dave) Carter, Librarian/Historian for the FMDAC, planned the event. My wife, Susie, and I (both FMDAC members) were invited (begged!) to assist with the setup and operation of the hunt.

On opening day of the conference, Ron and Dave had a table set up in the huge display room where most of the supporting members had exhibits for the writers to visit. The FMDAC table had metal detectors, prizes, a display box of old coins, artifacts, Civil War relics, jewelry, and other items found with detectors available for viewing. They also had a container for the members to deposit a business card for a drawing. The lucky winner was going to take home a new Tesoro metal detector donated by the Federation.

Sunday, the second day, we set up the treasure hunt near the day's events. Dave arranged three tables with prizes, detector magazines, catalogs and information from various manufacturers and the FMDAC. Ron, Susie, and I 'planted' the field. Finally, we were ready and hoped a couple dozen writers would wander over from the shooting event and try out a new hobby.

At one o'clock, the buses arrived. We had six metal detectors on and ready to go. We were greatly surprised, for the next three hours we had solid lines of OWAA members waiting to learn about metal detecting. We awarded the Tesoro detector to Terry Lewis of Virginia. Terry is a Chief of the Office of External Affairs, US Dept of the Interior, BLM, Washington, DC. Henry Zeman of Michigan won the FMDAC 20th anniversary silver round.

KIDS KONTEST 2005

To all Children of FMDAC members:
The annual Kids Essay Kontest is on once again. This year's topic is: ***What is your favorite place to hunt?***

The rules (there always have to be rules):

The essay contest is open to all children of FMDAC members from the ages of 5 to 15. The entry must include the child's name, address, age and parent's name and club name, for FMDAC membership.

Please include the child's sex (boy or girl). Any entries that do not include the above information cannot be accepted. Because of the wide range in ages, parents may help the children with their entries.

We are giving away two detectors, one for the boys' entries and one for the girls' entries. Each child may only win one detector, and their parent must be a current member of the Federation.

All entries must be received by October 10th, 2005, the day that I leave for the Convention in Florida.

Please forward all entries to:

Frank Colletti, 1439 Stephen Marc Lane, East Meadow, NY 11554 or e-mail them to:
treashunt@optonline.net

Thank you and good luck.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS ARE HERE!

For all interested parties: Please note that all Chapters are holding elections for President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer.

Nominations are due by September 15th

For more information please contact: Mike & Sue Race. Or see the web site under Contacts, Membership Committee.

Historical Archaeology of the American Experience

Midwest Historical Arch. Conference

To be held at Western Michigan University,
Sept. 23-25, 2005

There are many keynote speakers, so avail yourself of this opportunity. Information is available on the web at:

www.wmich.edu/anthropology/archy_conf.html

New Publication

Our hobby just received word that there is a new publication dedicated to metal detecting and the recovery of our nation's history:

American Digger

"For Diggers and Collectors of America's Heritage"

You may view details at: Americandigger.com
Give it a view, I am sure that you will enjoy their perspective. Subscriptions are also available on line.

I have heard that they will be at the convention, so be sure to stop by and say hello.

Letter From the Editor:

Please note that we always welcome news from our members and our member clubs. If you would like to share any news about your club, please forward it to me at:

Treashunt@hotmail.com.

Please remember to reference the Quest in your subject line, since I get a lot of junk mail and jokes and do not always have the time to read everything. Also, hotmail frequently dumps regular mail into the junk box.

If you are coming to the Convention, please stop by and say hello.

Frank

US MINT RECOVERS 10 FAMED DOUBLE EAGLES

Washington: The United States Mint has recovered ten more of the fabled 1933 Double Eagle gold pieces. These numismatic rarities were illegally removed from the US Mint at Philadelphia more than 70 years ago.

"These Double Eagles were never lawfully issued, but instead, were taken from the US Mint at Philadelphia in an unlawful manner more than 70 years ago," said United States Mint Acting Director David Lebryk. "They are, and have always been, public property belonging to the United States. We are pleased that these 10 Double Eagles have been recovered."

To ensure that they are properly secured, the recovered 1933 Double Eagles will be held in the United States Bullion Depository at Fort Knox. The United States Department of The Treasury does not intend to monetize issue or auction them. The United States Mint will assess the best way to use these historical artifacts, including possible public exhibits, to educate the American people.

With the assistance of the US Secret Service and the Department of Justice, the United States Mint recovered the 10 gold pieces in Philadelphia in September 2004, after being approached by an attorney whose client allegedly possessed the Double Eagles. They were produced at the United States Mint at Philadelphia in 1933, but they were never issued as coinage.

The US Mint's Eagle gold coin was first produced in 1795 with a \$10 denomination. When the US Mint first struck \$20 gold pieces in 1850, they were popularly called "Double Eagles."

About 445,500 Double Eagle gold pieces were minted in 1933. However, President Franklin Roosevelt took the United States off the gold standard in an effort to help the struggling American economy recover from the Great Depression.

Source: The US Mint web page. To read more about the US Mint's boasting of their recovery (actually the coins were voluntarily turned in) view the Mint's web page.

[Please note that all opinions express in the above column are their opinions and certainly do not reflect the opinion of the Editors of The Quest, nor that of the Universe at large.]

CLOCK RAFFLE



THIS CLOCK WAS OWNED BY BETTY WEEKS, PAST PRESIDENT AND A GREAT PIONEER OF THE FMDAC. IT WAS BETTY'S WISH THAT WE RAFFLE THIS CLOCK AT THE FMDAC FALL CONVENTION IN FLORIDA.

IT HAS 14 1992 & 1993 SILVER EAGLES ON IT AND IT IS ON A COIL COVER. IT WAS HANDMADE BY BILL CONK PROBABLY IN 1993 OR 1994.

TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00. ANYONE WHO WANTS TICKETS CAN CONTACT JILL MCFEEDERS AT jcseeker@core.com OR CALL HER AT (330) 364-1608.

THIS CLOCK WILL BE RAFFLED OFF AT THE FMDAC TREASURE EXPO IN PANAMA BEACH CITY, FL ON OCTOBER 16, 2005.

REMEMBER: IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE CONVENTION, PLEASE CONTACT JILL MC FEEDERS, SHE WILL BE GLAD TO FORWARD SOME BOOKS OF CHANCES TO YOU FOR YOURSELF OR FOR SALE AT YOUR CLUB MEETINGS.

FMDAC
C/O DuaneBiller
184 Grange Rd
McClellandtown, PA. 15458



FALL CONVENTION & TREASURE EXPO 2005

At the Edgewater Beach Resort from October 14, 15 & 16, 2005

Edgewater Beach Resort
1121 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach, Florida.

All silver coins!

FREE HUNT ON FRIDAY EVENING FOR EARLY BIRDS!!!!

ACCOMODATIONS

There is a special room rate for the Fall Convention at the Edgewater Beach Resort. Efficiencies run from \$59 to \$79 and ocean front suites run from \$99 to \$139. This rate runs 3 days prior to the convention and 3 days after the convention. The resort is located at 1121 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach, Florida. Make your reservations early by calling 1-800-331-6338; tell them you are with the FMDAC. Reservations must be made by September 13th to get the discount.

SEMINARS AND DEALERS DISPLAYS

At the 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

There are quite a few campgrounds in the area. You can call Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce for more info at 850-235

AREA ATTRACTIONS

There are many exciting things to do in the area. However, the Resort spans 110 acres along Panama City Beach, guests have access to a 1/2 mile of private beach. If guests prefer, they can listen to the gentle surf of the Gulf shores by the [Lagoon Pool](#) complete with waterfalls cascading down rock formations, natural foliage reflection ponds and Jacuzzis. Edgewater Beach Resort also offers vacationers [36 holes of golf](#), and access to a rejuvenating [spa and fitness center](#),

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need any info or have any questions contact: Wally Swartz at 727-647-2216 OR Duane Biller at (724)439-1380 or Jill McFeeders at (330)364-1608 or e-mail jcseeker@core.com