

**May - June**  
**2006**  
**EDITION**



**THE FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC.**

**Volume 21, Issue 3**

**Established 1984**

## **President's Message**

President's letter

It seems as though we were just planning for the Spring, 2006 Treasure Hunt & Expo in Niagara Falls, and it is already in the past. Our trip to the Northeast Chapter for the Spring Convention is a continuing part of our plans to visit each Chapter with either a spring or fall Treasure Expo. This is the first time that the Northeast Chapter has had the opportunity to host a Convention, and we want to thank all of the participating clubs for their help and support.

The Genesee Valley Treasure Seekers' members and John Howard, club President and Mark Schussler worked very hard to pull off the convention, along with the Niagara Frontier Research & Recovery, and Joe Cartona, club President and Debbie Buxton, Vice President. The clubs worked very hard to make the weekend a success. They thoughtfully arranged for the coffee and donuts on Saturday and Sunday, in addition to donating some prizes for the hunts. A big tip of the hat to both clubs.

Before too long we will be leaving for our Fall Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. For further information, please watch our web page or contact Jill McFeeders, our National Treasurer. We plan on making this a big Expo, and you will not want to miss our all silver and token prize hunts. In addition, we are planning to continue the new Saturday morning hunt along with the usual two Sunday hunts and, in addition, we are having a special free Friday evening hunt for attendees. Make your plans early and we look forward to seeing you soon.

The Spring Convention was done in conjunction with the Board of Directors meeting, and you will be hearing a lot of news about our plans shortly. Briefly, we are continuing our plans to institute a Boy's Scout badge in metal detecting, but it has been, temporarily, put on hold due to their administrative situations. However, it is still on track and we hope to be meeting with them in the near future. In addition, the Wal-Mart and Radio Shack programs are progressing nicely.

Please remember to contact your Chapter President if you wish to participate in the States' Representatives program. This avenue of communication is essential for smooth communications between the individuals, clubs and the Federation. Take some time to contact your Chapter President for further details. The Chapter Presidents are listed on page 3 of this issue and will be happy to hear from you.

I have heard that some clubs are not getting communications and correspondence from the National Office or Chapter information. The news is going out, but it is essential that your club's representatives pass the information along to the membership. If you are not getting the news, please ask your representative why not. Or consider volunteering as a contact for the club and pass the news along to your fellow members.

Thank you

Duane Biller



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**Thinking inside the box gets his ring back. The \$40,000 piece of jewelry slipped off Ken Stilts' finger and into 9 feet of water. A team of hobby treasure hunters found it.**

By REBECCA CATALANELLO, Times Staff Writer  
Published May 27, 2006

TAMPA - Ken Stilts' low-carb diet slimmed his fingers faster than it slimmed any other part of his 70-year-old body.

He knew it with all certainty when he heard the plunk and felt his heart sink.

Stilts was swiping at the cobwebs on the dock behind his home off Old Tampa Bay when the 2.5-carat diamond Rolex ring slid from his finger and drifted into the murky salt water below.

"I knew immediately what it was," he said of the sound.

Two days later, Stilts and friend George Campbell found a diver willing to come out and search.

After 45 minutes of scouring the 9-foot-deep waters below, the diver emerged skeptical.

Visibility was about 10 inches, he told them. A layer of silt 12 to 16 inches thick had more than likely swallowed the ring.

Good luck.

Campbell and Stilts couldn't give up. Stilts, owner of S&S Industries and former manager for the Judds, splits his time between Nashville and Tampa. He canceled a trip back to Tennessee, determined to find the ring.

Jo, Stilts' wife, had given Ken a diamond Rolex ring 10 years ago, though he can't quite remember the occasion. Still, he loved the piece of jewelry so much that when the Nashville resident went to a Tennessee Titans football game, he slipped it in his pocket so as not to lose it.

And, of course, in 2004, he lost it out of his pocket.

The ring now at the bottom of Old Tampa Bay was the replacement for that ring, an item Stilts will only say is worth, oh, "\$40,000-plus."

Stilts and Campbell began calling around. They looked for underwater metal detectors and learned they were expensive, technical and probably required diving experience to operate.

Then they found Wally.

Wallis Swartz, 70, of Pinellas Park is a retired St. Petersburg police sergeant. For the past 17 years he's been on a treasure hunt.

As president of the Suncoast Research & Recovery Club based in Largo, Swartz loves to search for lost treasure, loves to talk to people about finding lost treasure and loves to write about finding lost treasure for his club newsletter.

"I think we all have in the back of our minds that living in Florida, maybe I'll find buried treasure," he explained Friday.

When Swartz got Greg Campbell's call Tuesday, he knew exactly whom to talk to. The club was meeting that night, so he informed his fellow searchers of Stilts' dilemma and they came up with a plan.

Jay and Karen Ganz packed up their car. The couple drove the next day from North Port, equipped with a wire mesh box with a handle they could lengthen to at least 20 feet. Club member Jim Thobe of St. Petersburg came too - the more manpower, the more brainpower, the better the searching adventure.

The plan, they decided, would be to try the box first. Then, maybe, go for a dive.

But the four seekers weren't optimistic. Stilts was out on an errand to Home Depot when the troop arrived.

Don't get your hopes up, they told Campbell as he looked on. Don't get excited. Sometimes, it works, they said. Most times it doesn't.

"None of us had ever really used this thing before," Swartz said of the box. "It's really just a last-ditch effort."

As Thobe began dipping the box into the water for the first scoop, they sent Campbell to search inside his friend's home for a bucket to drop the silt and gunk in.

But just as he turned, the men were dumbfounded. A glimmer of gold sparkled in the muck at the bottom the wire mesh basket.

"It's almost a miracle," Swartz marveled. "You'll dig up some things and you'll just scratch your head, "Wow! How did I get that?"

Stilts was stunned.

Three men, one woman, a funny-looking box and a cleaned ring were waiting for him when he returned from a quick trip to Home Depot.

"I couldn't believe it," he said. "I hadn't been gone 20 minutes, and they weren't even there when I left."

Stilts has been lectured. He learned something about weight loss. The ring will be resized.

## **METAL DETECTOR CLUB FEATURE**

Wallis Swartz, 70, of Pinellas Park hunt is President the South East Chapter of the FMDAC. Also president of the Suncoast Research & Recovery Club based in Largo, Florida.

\* Suncoast Research & Recovery Club [www.srarc.us](http://www.srarc.us)

\* Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at Bill Jackson's Inc., 9501 U.S. 19 in Pinellas Park on the fourth Monday of every month except December. Call 727-544-5574 or e-mail [wdsthr@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wdsthr@tampabay.rr.com)

Tell us about your club, see it here, write to the Quest.

# EMDAC 2006 Fall Convention and Treasure Expo

November 10, 11 & 12, 2006

*Bay Watch Resort*

*North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*

**Seminars**

**Two Main Hunts Sunday**

**Workshops**

**Displays**

**Free Kids Hunt**

**Prizes**

**Banquet**

**SATURDAY SILVER HUNT**

**FREE FRIDAY NIGHT BEACH BASH HUNT**

For More Information  
Phone  
Duane (724) 439-1380 or Jill (330) 364-1608

## ACCOMODATIONS

The rooms are all suites. There is 1 bedroom (which sleep 5) and will rent for \$75.00 per night; 2 bedrooms (which normally sleep 6) will rent for \$98.00 per night and 3 bedroom suites will rent for \$124.00 per night. These rates will apply from Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006. For reservations call 1-800-845-9700 and tell them you are with the FMDAC. Reservations must be made by **October 9, 2006** to guarantee the discount.

## CAMPING

There are plenty of campgrounds close by. You can go to [www.myrtlebeachcamping.com](http://www.myrtlebeachcamping.com) on the web or call North Myrtle Chamber of Commerce (1-800-980-BEACH (2322))

## ATTRACTIONS

There is plenty to do in Myrtle Beach for the whole family. You can check out all of the attractions at [www.northmyrtlebeachchamber.com](http://www.northmyrtlebeachchamber.com).

## SEMINARS AND EXHIBITS

We will have displays by manufactures and dealers, clubs and individuals. Seminars on a variety of topics will run on Saturday. The display area will be open Friday from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm and on Saturday from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

## OPEN MEETING

There will be an open FMDAC meeting after the exhibit area closes. Please plan on attending.

## BANQUET

The banquet 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

**There will be a free fun hunt on the beach on Friday evening at 5:30 pm for all registered hunters.**

A warm up 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. The hunts will be held on the beach at the Bay Watch Resort. There will be a free kids hunt between the two main hunts on Sunday.

## TRAVEL

If traveling by plane you should fly into the Myrtle Beach Airport. The hotel is about 20 to 30 minutes from Bay Watch Resort.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need any more info or have any questions then please contact Duane Biller at 724-439-1380 or Jill McFeeders at 330-364-1608.

**\*The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs is a 501C not for profit organization.\***

# ENTRY FORM

USE ONE ENTRY PER PERSON (COPY IF NECESSARY). This entry or a copy of this entry must be sent in with a check or money order, along with a self addressed, stamped envelope.

Canadian members must pay with a US Money Order.

## IMPORTANT PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. Registrants at the time of registration must present their current FMDAC membership card.
2. Please fill out the form COMPLETELY, including the FMDAC club 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 your 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 STAMPED ENVELOPE – (Tickets and info will be sent back to you.) If you do not send it, your tickets will be held.**

=====

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

### SATURDAY HUNT

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

### BANQUET

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

### SUNDAY HUNTS

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

**DO NOT MAIL AFTER 10/31, 2006. PAY AT THE CONVENTION.**

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I WILL NOT hold the FMDAC, or Bay Watch Resort responsible for any injuries or accidents I may incur while participating in any of the above events.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Editors Notes

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As you know, this publication belongs to you! If you would like to see something included in the Quest, please let me know. I will be happy to include any notices that you may feel are important, to you, your club, and the hobby.

Please keep in touch with us.

Frank Colletti  
Phone: 516-481-9244  
[treashunt@optonline.net](mailto:treashunt@optonline.net)

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### Advertising

Your Advertisement could be right here! Please contact Jill McFeeders, National Treasurer or Frank Colletti or Harry Niemeyer for advertising rates.

Your ad will also be included in the Quest that is sent to members and on our web page at [www.fmdac.org](http://www.fmdac.org)

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### SPRING CONVENTION WINNERS

#### Grand Prize Winner - \$1250 Value

Alice Bertzfield – PA  
Lancaster Research & Recovery Club

#### First Prize Winner - \$750.00 Value

Ted Belecza – N.Y.  
Niagara Frontier

#### DEAF FUND RAFFLE WINNER

(CAMOUFLAGE COMFORTER)

Ann Falk – MI  
Silver Seekers

## COIN COLLECTING MEMORIES

I started to collect when I received a gift of a Lincoln Cent Album, in the early 1960's. As you know, that was a prime time for find good dates in change. I remember looking thru my mother's change box that held cents, and finding a foreign coin right on top of the pile. Flipping it over I was amazed to see the legend: "United States of America" on the reverse, and I couldn't wait to get to the library the next day to look up the coin in the library's copy of the Red Book.

Finally, I found the section and looked up the 1909 Indian Head Cent. A 60 cent value was a nice increase in value for a cent. But, then I noticed the 1909 S's value (\$55 in good, what ever that meant, mine looked pretty good) so I finally found out where the mint mark was located and ever so slowly turned the coin over. Then, ever so slowly, I realized that it wasn't the big one.

However, I still remember that feeling when I hoped to have hit the big one. I spent many hours haunting people for a chance to check their change for my tiny collection, and then, one day, my father came home with another Indian cent for my collection. He had received it in change at New York City's Penn Station when he bought a newspaper that day, and I added the 1907 to the slowing growing collection of Indian cents (but at last it was plural).

A few months later he came home with a V-nickel (although that date I only remember was in the early 1900's, no mintmark). However, the best part was getting a piece and running the next day to the library to check out the date.

There were still Barbers in circulation in the 1960's, I know because I received a quarter in my change on my paper route around 1965 or 1966. Again, I thought that it was a foreign coin, and then flipped it over. I can still remember looking at the coin and turning around and seeing the person looking at me thru his door. I wonder if he gave me the coin deliberately (to interest me in coins) or did he feel that he got rid of a junk coin? I'll never know, but I do know that it was certainly an interesting time.

Sincerely  
Frank Colletti  
[treashunt@optonline.net](mailto:treashunt@optonline.net)

Tell us your story about how or when you began to metal detect, collect coins, stamps, what ever. Just tell us your story.  
Please send it to Frank Colletti or Harry Niemeyer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Congressman Rick Renzi  
102 North Cortez Suite 208  
Prescott, AZ 86301

I am writing to ask you to support Deborah Strole's legislative proposal, we have titled, "Our Right to Public Lands Access Bill".

This bill will require the government to prepare "take permits" for each "class of activity" program, instead of putting the burden of a "take permit" on the individual.

The burden of documentation, bonding, cultural studies, archaeological and environmental studies would be on the government, not the people, where it belongs.

This bill will also allow the people directly affected by each "class of activity" to participate in the process and the development of each program, unlike today's system where mainly the environmentalist has the only say.

This bill will also require the government, by law, to issue a permit and make them affordable to the individual.

With this simple bill, We the People, will have access and use rights of the "public lands" across this great nation. Please support this bill.

Respectfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This bill, we titled, "Our Right to Public Lands Access" has been setting in Congressman Renzi's office for 3 years. This form letter, if enough people send it in, will let him know it is time to introduce it to the legislative process. This was created through the efforts of the GPAA, Equal Access to Justice, FMDAC Western Chapter and Deborah Strole.

It applies to all public lands, throughout this great nation, under the jurisdiction of both the Department of Agriculture and Interior. If you would like a copy of the bill to review contact Mike Smith at: [promack@quik.com](mailto:promack@quik.com) .

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

### **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.**