

THE FOOTPRINT

Newsletter of Great Lakes Metal Detecting

Volume 1, Issue 3

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What's new on GLMD or Point of Interest

"Michigan State Parks listing"

On this page is a picture highlighting the State Parks in Michigan.

Entire park open is: (Green Colored)

Parks closed to metal detecting is: (Red Colored)

All others:

Go to link, click on "[Click Here for Activity Facility and Accessibility Details](#)" then click on "[here is a map](#)" listed under Metal Detecting heading for map of areas open to detect.

http://greatlakesmetaldetecting.com/home_stateparks.php



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Latest Detector or Accessory Released
- 2 Tips from the Pros
- 2 Recommended Website to Check Out
- 2 Place or Event to Check Out in or around Michigan

In the News

"Detectors angry at 'nighthawk' slur"

As many of you know, England has strict laws on metal detecting. They are very well defined and for the most part followed to the Tea (excuse the pun). Still issues of banning metal detecting pop up now and again. One group, **English Heritage** has recently published a report claiming illegal metal detecting and the taking away of antiquities is presenting serious risk to the study of the past.

Norman Smith, from Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, disagrees.

See story here:

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/4131619.Detectors_angry_at_nighthawk_slur/

Item found last Month by One of our Members

Hans (dign4gold) found this nice 1925 Standing Liberty quarter.



Story continued on page 3...

Latest Detector or Accessory Released Fisher F5 & F70

Nice mid range units. Info Link:

<http://www.fisherlab.com/hobby/index.htm>

Manual Links:

<http://greatlakesmetaldetecting.com/pdfs/F5.pdf>

<http://greatlakesmetaldetecting.com/pdfs/F70.pdf>



Recommended Website to Check Out

"Treasure Quest"

One of the most up-to-date metal detecting sites on the net. Link:

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

Site hosted by **Gregory Bittinger**. See info about Greg here:

<http://www.treasurequestxlt.com/about.shtml>

This site has it all: Detecting Articles & Tales, Metal Detecting Forums, TQ Auction, Directory of Treasure Hunters, TQ Blogs and many more features. See this link:

<http://www.treasurequestxlt.com/more.shtml>

Visit and tell Greg, Ross said hi.



Tips from the Pros

I would like to know where I should metal detect?

Answer from Webmaster:

"That is the number 1 question asked on all the metal detecting websites.

To start you off:

1. Any park that allows metal detecting. (check local city hall to see if any restrictions in your area).

Wood chip areas where swings and playground equipment are located can be good producing areas, and require little or no digging. Use a small coil around metal areas and fences.

2. Anywhere there are very old trees. (people sat next to them to get away from sun)

3. Beaches (for lost jewelry).

4. Any kind of ball fields. (I like searching outfields for rings)

5. Old church yards if you can get permission. (these generally are the oldest structures around)

6. Any 100 year old home, again if you can get permission. (best place to find large cents)."

Continued on page 3...

Place or Event to Check Out in or around Michigan This month I will feature "sled hills"

As the winter finally winds down, it's a good time to hit those very used sled hills. Lots of coinage and jewelry lost during the long cold winter from kids as well as adults sliding or tumbling down those hills. Be the first to hit these places as the snow melts and the ground thaws. Slopes for sledding can be found just about anywhere you look, parks, schoolyards and out in country fields. As a side note, try your luck at shopping mall parking lots. Check out those snow piles from plowed lots. ☺

Continued on page 4...

Letters to the Editor: If you have a story or comment to add to our next newsletter, contact editor here: webmaster@greatlakesmetaldetecting

... **Item found last Month by One of our Members**, continued from page 1.

Well a few brave souls have managed to get out and do some detecting in between snow storms and the cold. Hans and his dad both struck silver on Friday 13th. Unlucky, I think not! Hans pull the quarter while his dad hit for a beautiful silver and turquoise men's ring. The Standing Lib quarter was Hans' 1st ever silver coin found. How many of you remember finding your first silver coin? It's quite exciting to say the least. He also found a 51 rosie & 1943 war nickel.

Some other nice coins were found by Tim and Sharon S. on Friday 13th (again not so unlucky). Quote from Tim: "Well Sharon kicked my butt again, but not to bad. She got a 1912-d Barber half, a cool star of David charm[925] and a silver button. I got 7 Wheaties, 3 memorials, 1 1933 Canadian cent [that dude with the crown] a 1900-o Barber Quarter, 1907 Barber dime, a cool old whistle[it say the acme thunderer made in England] 3 old two piece buttons adorned with an old English P, a sterling ring and an old lipstick."

... **where I should metal detect ?**, continued from page 2.

The following info submitted by Joe C.:

Belle Isle: You may want to consider hunting with a buddy. Not advisable to hunt during heavily used summer period. This park is old, and has been visited by millions of people for over a hundred years. Trash is abundant, and you may need a small coil to sift through the trash. There are old items to be found, but you will have to search long and hard. Signals are hard to discern between the trash. This is a designated historic area. Do not leave large holes. Pick up and dispose of all trash you find. Stay off of manicured areas.

Palmer Park: This park goes back over a hundred years. You will need a buddy to hunt this park. There is a park association. Follow recommended guidelines for all detectorists. Leave it cleaner than you found it.

See history in first link. ([Click Here](#)) See map: ([Click Here](#))

In The Water:

Most metal detector coils are waterproof and can be used for ankle deep type beach hunting. The electronics boxes are not waterproof and are subject to damage if rained on, splashed or dunked. If you are going to hunt full time in the water, get a water detector. You will fry your meter box in a flash if it gets wet. Do not tip the coil up in the air either. Water will roll down the shaft into the box and have the same effect as submerging it. Beach areas may restrict/not allow detecting during seasonal fluctuation periods. Always check.

Research:

If you are content to coinshoot in local parks for clad and an occasional piece of jewelry, read no further. If you are interested in old coins, silver coins, relics, civil war items etc, then you are going to have to do your homework. Thought you gave up homework when you left high school/college? Well, this type of homework is more enjoyable than what you were used to in school, and can help occupy the winters and rainy days when you can't detect.

Where do you start? Try your local library. Immerse yourself in the local history of your own town. Find everything you can about what went on in your town 100 years ago. Where did people gather for church socials, parades, circuses, ice cream socials, band concerts, open air gatherings etc. Read up on local bank robberies, reports of missing or stolen items, bank felons who were caught but the loot was still missing.

Talk to local historian clubs or elderly people who have resided in the area for years. Where were the swimming holes located before the pools came into popularity? Where were the old gas stations that used to be "on that corner"? Was there an old park in that big empty field over there? An old boy scout camp? A drive-in that was bulldozed on that corner?

Continued on next page ...

The remnants of a town that is no more at that intersection? You get the idea.

Look in old newspapers, microfiche files. Ask a knowledgeable librarian for help (that's their job-don't be intimidated). Look for old plat maps and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps which were prepared in a lot of circumstances for insurance companies. They give detailed sketchings of what properties looked like 100 years ago. Is there an empty field there today? The map shows there was an old church there 100 years ago! The maps will show out buildings, and privy's (excellent places for digs for anything discarded before dumps came into existence, including valuable bottles).

Check the internet sources for satellite maps (Google, Yahoo, Terra Server, Google Earth to name a few) which may show old park ball diamonds, old abandoned mills, old abandoned roads , garbage dumps etc..

Check birth and death records of original settlers. Look at genealogical records.

Do an internet search for old road maps for your area. The areas and opportunities are as limited as your imagination, and a large majority of the work can be done right at your computer. It's amazing what you can find on the internet.

Things you should be aware of before you set out:

Detecting Regulations:

Read and understand the laws before you go out detecting. This website accepts no responsibility or liability for information provided/not provided in regards to said regulations. It is your responsibility to become informed about federal, state, local rules governing the hobby.

Check with authorities where you plan to hunt if necessary. Ignorance is no excuse, and you may be fined, have your equipment confiscated (or worse) if rules/regulations are violated.

More info on this topic can be found on the GLMDing forum. [\(Click Here\)](#)

... "**sled hills**", continued from page 2.

Here is a list or suggestion as to where to find popular sledding hills:

- <http://www.sledriding.com/Michigan.html>
- <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM2FNB>
- http://www.mlive.com/living/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2008/12/interactive_map_great_sledding.html
- **Sledding and Snowboarding at Cascades Hill Jackson... cool video:**
<http://video.aol.com/video-detail/sledding-and-snowboarding-at-cascades-hill-jackson-michigan/33375595/?icid=VIDURVSPR03>

Letters to the Editor:

This question came from an anonymous poster on our forum.

"Hey Ross, what should I be careful of while out detecting?"

To answer this question, I have to divide it into two parts. "Critters and Environmental"

Let's start with Critters:

- Spiders – be aware that there are 2 know versions of venomous spiders found in Michigan, the Brown Recluse and the Black Widow. Bites from these if left untreated can become fatal. As posted by Joe C. "Considered to be north of their natural range, Brown Recluse spiders have been reported in Michigan. Note-The following link to a video has some graphic scenes of damage done by a recluse bite." Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwMc8qUnW-k>

See this link which tells of one spider bite account in Michigan:

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080426085004AA847pr>

More commonly found here are the Black Widow spiders. Found around wood piles, under eaves, in boxes, outdoor toilets, meter boxes and other undisturbed places.

Visit the DNR website for more information:

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12145_12204-36489--,00.html

- Snakes - **Michigan has only one species of venomous snake—the Massasauga Rattlesnake.** They are found throughout the Lower Peninsula and on Bois Blanc Island. There are no venomous snakes native to the Upper Peninsula. See this link for further info: <http://critterguy.museum.msu.edu/FAQ/Snakes.html>
All other native Michigan snakes (17 species) are non-venomous, and basically harmless to humans if not handled or harmed. They are listed here: <http://michiganherps.webs.com/michiganssnakes.htm>
- Bee Stings – see info here: http://www.umm.edu/non_trauma/bee.htm
- Bears – I know the likelihood of seeing one around the Detroit area is slim to none but farther north is another story. As posted by Joe C. – “What to do if encountering a bear?” see this link: <http://www.arcticwebsite.com/BearSurvival.html>
- Dogs – We all have encountered dogs in the wild, I have seen packs of them on Belle Island. As posted by Joe C. – “What to do if encountering an aggressive dog?” See these links: http://www.ehow.com/how_4487867_handle-aggressive-dog.html
<http://www.worthprotectionsecurity.com/blog/?p=138>

Now let's handle things Environmental:

- Poison Ivy/Oak/Sumac – abundant everywhere. I thought I was immune to it until two years ago when I got a bad case of it for the first time. It appears once you get it, you are more susceptible to getting it again. I learned this the hard way last year. See more info here: <http://poisonivy.aesir.com/view>
- Electrical Fences – self explanatory but see info about them here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_fence
- Falling Through Ice – I know not many of us detect on or around ice covered ponds but you may cross a river/creek while out detecting in the woods during the winter months. Here is good info. See this video link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysnKtuUTt8k> or download large file here: <http://greatlakesmetaldetecting.com/phpBB3/download/fallthruice.mp4>
- Avoiding Muggers – Again, something you might not think about but it could happen to you. See these links on “How to Avoid Muggers”. Provided by Joe C.
<http://www.socyberly.com/Crime/How-to-Handle-a-Confrontation.56996>
<http://www.school-for-champions.com/security/muggers.htm>
<http://www.vernoncoleman.com/htmyacfz.htm>
- Needlestick Injuries – Here is the one that scares me. It could happen to you while reaching for a coin in the bottom of a dug hole. Again, Joe has provided great info about this topic.

Disease Dangers, First Aid, Prevention

25% of discarded needle/syringe injuries occur in parks(from the internet). Diseases associated with discarded needles include tetanus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

From the internet:

IF an accident occurs where a needle or other sharp object punctures the skin, then the following advice is recommended.

The injured person should:

- gently encourage the wound to bleed.
- wash the wound well with soap under cold running water.
- cover the wound with a waterproof dressing.
- seek medical attention as soon as possible, e.g. from their own doctor or an accident and emergency department at hospital.

Additionally:

- * wash away the blood or body fluid with soap and water
- * if the eyes are contaminated, rinse eyes while open with water or saline
- * if blood gets into the mouth, spit it out and then repeatedly rinse with water
- * refer the person immediately to a doctor or hospital emergency department who will assess the risk of transmission and discuss options for testing and treatment
- * ensure the safe disposal of the sharp
- * report the incident immediately.

Suggestion from Joe: "Although these gloves are not cheap, they are probably worth the expense. I think I am going to get a pair. It's a cheap price to pay to help prevent some serious health problems." See these links:

https://www.turtleskin.com/store/category.aspx?categoryID=4&referrer=GoogleAdWords&kw=needle%20gloves&qclid=CI-1_qDF1ZgCFQRkswodI08D1A

<http://www.hexarmor.com/products/needlestick-resistant/?qclid=CMqk9dDF1ZgCFQZlswodi3rw1g>

http://www.palmflex.com/HexArmor/hexarmor_products.htm?qclid=CMTawbzF1ZgCFU6F7Qodgmi1Tw

Also for "What to do, and recommendations for a first aid kit" see these links:

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/FirstAidIndex/FirstAidIndex>

http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/home/firstaid_kit.html

Well I know this has made for a long newsletter but I hope for at least this season you are a little more informed and that this may save you a little grief in the long run.

Special Thanks goes out to Joe Carey for all the provided info. He really came through on this one. Please visit our site often, Joe is a virtual internet librarian and keeps providing us with worthwhile reading material.

Links to our website

Home page: <http://greatlakesmetaldetecting.com>

Forum: <http://greatlakesmetaldetecting.com/phpBB3/portal.php>