

GMDC NEWS

May 2017



"Can you dig it? We can!"

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Club Officers:

President
Susannah Kriegshauser

Vice President
Mackie Douglas

Treasurer
John Westermayer

Secretary
Pat Reece



President's Corner

By Susannah Kriegshauser



Hello fellow dirt fishers!

Wow, have our CAT (Community Assistance Team) members ever gotten a workout this past month. In just three weeks we had seven call outs. On some of these the owners found the items themselves after contacting us, but our team nobly responded to the others. Kudos for all their hard work! Several of these came from referrals from previous jobs. One of our CAT calls (lol) resulted in a glowing endorsement of our team.

"I want to thank your club and a special thanks to Tom and Ron who worked tirelessly on my behalf. Our search was unsuccessful, but I think that is because either I was wrong about where I lost my ring, or a pedestrian picked it up.

You and your club were so responsive and so helpful it is amazing. I can't believe Tom was there to start looking within about 15 hours of me reaching out to you. On top of that, he came back again and searched for hours with Ron. The work that was put in and the professionalism shown as a service to the community was amazing. Thank you and your team so much for your efforts, your organization is amazing and your members are very special people!"

Michael R.

Our first members-only Mystery Hunt of the year was well-attended. The beautiful and historic site we went to is one of several Mystery Hunts this year. Just one of the many perks of membership in this club! More information about the hunt and pictures of our finds will be available in the June newsletter.

There are quite a few detecting classes coming up in the next three months. All are free and are being held at libraries all over the St. Louis area. Check under the "Classes" tab on the GMDC website for more information.

Club shirts are on sale now for \$15 at all meetings.

Happy Hunting!

CALENDAR

Feb 07: GMDC meeting

NO HUNT IN FEB

Mar 07: GMDC meeting

Mar 11: GMDC hunt.
(Cancelled)

Mar 25: Metal Detecting
Basics Class

Apr 01: CW Park Day
MO CW Museum

Apr 04: GMDC meeting

Apr 08: GMDC hunt.
Wilmore Park

May 02: GMDC meeting

May 06: GMDC hunt.

Mystery Hunt.

May 27: Metal Detecting
Basics Class

Jun 03: Metal Detecting
Basics Class

Jun 06: GMDC meeting

Jun 10: GMDC hunt.
Susan Rd.

Jun 19: Metal Detecting
Basics Class

NO JULY MEETING

Jul 03: Metal Detecting
Basics Class

Jul 08: GMDC hunt.
TBD

Aug 01: GMDC meeting

Aug 05: GMDC hunt.

Mystery Hunt

Sep 05: GMDC meeting

Sep 09: GMDC **BBQ**

Oct 03: GMDC meeting

Oct 07: GMDC hunt.
TBD

Nov 07: GMDC meeting

Nov 11: GMDC hunt

Mystery Hunt

Dec 05: GMDC meeting

**NO HUNT IN DECEMBER
NO MTG OR HUNT IN JAN**

Monthly Meeting Notes



The fourth meeting of the year was called to order at 7:00 pm. We welcomed new members Kim Griest, Ed Haggerty, David Laux, and Nancy Von Behren (joining her husband Larry, who's belonged to the club since last September).

It was pointed out that we have a lot of jokesters in this club. Nice to see everyone so relaxed!

The club is benefiting from the articles and "In The Loupe" write-ups you're submitting for the newsletter. Be sure to fill out two entries for the Volunteer Contest for published submissions and three entries for presentations.

Our club has donated \$208.00 to the museum fund which will help fund a display of artifacts such as swords, cannonballs, belt buckles, buttons, and other Civil War finds located through metal detecting.

Due to adding the Finds of the Month activity during our meetings, the club voted to eliminate having a monthly theme.

Per a club member's request, we're only using first names and last initial on the Interesting Finds page, and exact locations will never be posted. Adjustments have been made to all previous submittals.

Mike Prugger provided an informational and entertaining presentation on "Identifying Silver". He passed around bins containing his personal finds of coins and relics containing various amounts and configurations of silver. He also provided several online resources.

- **Silver Coin Values:** www.coinflation.com
- **Online Encyclopedia of Silver Marks, Hallmarks, and Makers' Marks:** www.925-1000.com/index.html
- **Specific Gravity and Melting Points:** hauserandmiller.com/refine/index.html

Attendance prizes: Jim Hammond – 1946 Walking Liberty half dollar, Jack Kountz – 1929P Standing Liberty quarter, and John Quinn – 1914 Barber dime.

50/50: Jim Hammond, who kindly donated \$40.00 to the museum fund. Thanks Jim!



You're invited to an Archaeological "Cleansing" Hunt near Cahokia Mounds!

(In conjunction with the Archaeological Institute of America-STL Chapter)

Friday, June 2, 9am-3pm, 3007 E. 24rd St., Granite City, IL 62040

SITE INFO:

The Bischoff Site is located on the northern 'outer bank' of the Horseshoe Lake Oxbow, on a very sandy ridge or swale. It was first occupied in Late Woodland times (900-950AD), and became a farming 'outpost' to Cahokia Mounds during the subsequent Edelhardt and Lohman Phases (950-1100 AD). Through time the perimeter of the site has been infringed upon by the construction of homes for the aging, a church, a small school and a food bank administered by the Salvation Army. A huge 'back yard' at the Salvation Army community center has preserved about an acre of the original site. The site began being occupied in the mid-1800s by modern farmers.

Students age 16 and **above** will be working with volunteers from the Gateway Metal Detecting Club to 'clean' metallic debris from the plow zone in preparation for conducting a new remote sensing survey. They will be exposed to proper metal detecting technique and ethics.

The actual excavation will be limited in scope to one acre to allow for the full processing of the material in the allotted time frame. In general these excavations are conducted with a shovel and trowel, and their depth should not exceed about two and one-half feet in depth.

GMDC MEMBER INFO:

Club members will **detect and dig every piece of metal** in the area designated by the site director. Members will be working alongside **archaeological students age 16 and above**.

Every "essential" find will be photographed and recorded by the students before removal.

Finds such as pull tabs, bits of foil, beer cans, and other such trash are not considered "essential" and can be discarded in the provided bins. The site director will designate which finds are to be kept to help with site dating, and which can be returned to the detectorist to keep. **NO INDIAN ARTIFACTS CAN BE KEPT!**

We are working exclusively on the acre area first, with the possibility of a second acre if permission is granted. The site will have restrooms, and there is a diner about a block away. The site has ample parking.

REGISTRATION THROUGH detectinghistory@yahoo.com IS REQUIRED IF YOU DIDN'T SIGN UP AT THE MAY MEETING.

20 people from the club have signed up so far. With the dig being about one acre, we will spell each other to keep from getting too tired digging all the rubbish out. Part of the site was a barn which collapsed. If metal is too dense, we will detect and establish the edges.

There is a big possibility that if this goes well, we will be asked to other sites!!!

IN THE LOUPE...

by *Matt Granicke*

Hello, my name is Matthew! I have been metal detecting for about five years now. I



became interested in metal detecting by chance when I decided to search for metal detecting on YouTube just to see what would show up...and the rest is history.

Many people give up on metal detecting before they give it a fair chance. One reason might be that they bought a machine that is too complicated to learn as a beginner. They might also give up after only finding junk, thinking they are doing something wrong. But in reality, most sites are loaded with junk and it will take you some time before something good shows up. The best way to learn your machine is by reading the manual, watching a few videos about it, and tossing some objects in your yard to see how your machine reacts.

My first metal detector was a beep and dig machine, and was great for learning the basics about metal detecting. But had I known there were so many metal detectors to choose from, I might have bought a different one. Two great entry-level machines are the Garrett Ace 200 and Minelab Go-Find 20. Give it a year to really see if this hobby is for you. Then, upgrade to a better metal detector that suits your needs. My current metal detector is a Garrett Ace 250 from KellyCo. It is just as capable as others, but without all the bells and whistles. KellyCo has fair prices and often throws in



free bonus items with each detector purchased. I hope to upgrade again, now that I've gained lots of experience.

Other than a metal detector, the main things needed are a shovel, pinpointer, gloves, and something in which to carry your finds. Regular garden shovels won't work; they aren't strong enough. I use a Sampson 31" T-handle shovel and Lesche digging tool. They are lightweight, small, and fit in a carry bag with the rest of my gear. These shovels work perfectly, and with proper care, they should last

forever. The pinpointer I use is made by Garrett. This is a must-have item as it speeds up the time it takes to recover a target once you dig the plug. Gloves similar to the Mechanix brand work well. Remember, you don't want glass, needles, and other sharp objects to easily poke through your gloves. The Garrett Cameo Digger's Pouch is the right size to hold all of my trash and treasures. It's starting to show signs of wear and tear and if it finally rips, I will gladly buy another one.



These are just the basic items you need. Depending on where you are hunting, you might need to bring additional equipment, so keep that in mind.

Good luck and happy hunting!



In 2010, a 3-year old boy playing with his father's metal detector for the first time discovered a 16th century golden pendant estimated to be worth \$4 million.

FINDS OF THE MONTH

Oldest Coin



Mike P.: 1896 Indian Head Penny
Prize: 1902 Liberty V Nickel

Most Valuable Coin



John Q.: 1951 Silver Washington Quarter
Prize: 1858 Half Dime

Oddest Artifact



**Jack K.: Magician Howard Thurston
Good Luck Token**
Prize: Silver commemorative spoon

FOM Contest Rules:

1. Fill out an entry form at the meeting, and hand it to Bill or Rick.
2. Only one entry per category, per person, is allowed. **Finds must be from the previous month ONLY!**
3. You can enter each category, but can only win one (determined by the FOM committee).
4. Submissions should only include **new finds** found between the monthly meetings (honor system).
5. Everyone making a submission will receive one point. Category winners will receive two points.

Points will be recorded and tallied by the FOM committee. At the end of the year, the winner will receive a **FABULOUS** prize.

MISSOURI SALES TAX TOKENS

Suppose you went to the gas station today and bought one gallon of gas advertised at \$3.299 a gallon. The clerk would expect you to pay \$3.30 and would not give you back any change. During the Depression years of the 1930's however, even partial cents were valuable, and some states issued sales tax tokens either in fractions of a cent or mills (1 mil=1000th of a cent) to allow for exact payments. It was common for the final price of an item to be rounded up, and the difference paid back in the form of sales tax tokens. These tokens could be used to pay all or part of any sales tax at the time of another purchase.

"Coin like" tax tokens were issued by twelve different states (Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico,

Oklahoma, Utah, and Washington state), and were made of aluminum, copper, zinc, brass, plastic (in several colors), fiber, cardboard, and paper.

Missouri had a state sales tax of two percent, and issued sales tax tokens to help collect the tax when it came to tenths of cents. Beginning in August 1935, Missouri issued tokens in 1-mil and 5-mil values. They were made of thin cardboard and called “milk-cap tokens” because they looked like the cardboard caps that were used for glass milk bottles.



Missouri then tried metal tokens, which were slightly larger than a nickel, but thinner. They were lightweight and dull, and would never be mistaken for a coin. The 5-



mil token had a hole in the center. The numismatic (coin collector) problem with the metal tokens is that they are made of zinc, which is highly

corrosive. Most tokens found through metal detecting are in poor shape.

Missouri’s metal tax tokens were in use from 1937 to 1942, when they were replaced



by plastic tokens to conserve zinc for the World War II war effort. The 1-mil token

was bright red, and the 5-mil token was bright green. Inflation after the war caused prices to rise quickly, and separate tokens for tenths of cents fell out of favor. Missouri got rid of its sales tax tokens in 1961, and was the last state to do so.

Because the tokens weren't worth a lot and were a cheap souvenir, tourists carried them home. Detectorists scattered across the U.S. have reported occasionally uncovering an unexpected bit of Missouri history.

Sources: Walter A. Schroeder, Ph.D., author of the Munichburg Memories blog and the CoinSite website.

MORRIS B. SACHS MERCHANT TOKENS

by Bill Seibel

Born in Lithuania, Morris B. Sachs came on his own to the United States in 1910 after his parents died. He was 13 years old, and Chicago was known as a city of opportunity for immigrants. He was too small to seek factory work, so he arranged for \$10 in credit and began



peddling dry goods door-to-door in the Back of the Yards area--shirts, blouses, curtains, rugs; anything he could carry. He accepted time payments of as little as 25 cents a week, and when an item was paid off, he was ready to make another sale.

After his first month, he had established a \$300 line of credit with his supplier, and soon had a regular route which he served with a horse and wagon. Later, his “mobile store” became a truck, and in 1919 he opened his first real clothing store on Chicago’s South Side. Sachs` store grew,

and he drew wide attention in March of 1932, when he advertised a clearance of suits, overcoats, and dresses for \$2 each--a bargain even in the Depression. Some 15,000 customers appeared outside his store. In an effort to prevent a riot, Sachs tossed 250 pairs of pants out a window.

A pioneer in the sale of clothing on easy credit terms, Sachs wiped out all payments due for men entering the service during World War II. By 1948 he had opened a second store at 3400 W. Diversey Ave. The opening was attended by an estimated 75,000 people. Sachs was now grossing \$8 million a year and had 700 employees.

On March, 15, 1957, Sachs opened his first State Street store (third in the chain).

Thousands of people lined up to see the store and merchandise. Mayor Daley cut the ribbon, and the chief of the city's central traffic police said that it was the largest grand opening that he had ever seen. Sachs could now be placed alongside Field, Goldblatt and Wieboldt in the array of great State Street merchant princes. It was truly the achievement of the American Dream for that immigrant boy who arrived on a foreign shore alone and abandoned.

Sadly, Sachs had little time to enjoy this wondrous success as he passed away six months later at the age of 61.

(See the April 2017 Interesting Finds section of the GMDC website for more pictures.)

Source: Chicago Tribune

April Gateway Club Hunt

We had a great day at Willmore Park when 18 members showed up for the club hunt. Be sure to check the club calendar for current information about the monthly hunts!



Silver Washington Quarters were produced from 1932-1964 in four mints: Denver Philadelphia, San Francisco and West Point. No quarters were struck at any mint in 1933, due to an oversupply caused by the 1932 issue. (Found by Rob W. during the club hunt.)

Gateway MD Club

222 Worth Road
St. Louis, MO 63125

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"Can you dig it? WE can!"

CLASSIFIEDS

If you want an ad in the
CLASSIFIEDS or **HUNT
BUDDIES** sections, please send
them through:

detectinghistory@yahoo.com

**Club tee shirts are available
for \$15.00, and patches can
be purchased for \$2.00 from
the officers.**

HUNT BUDDIES

Anyone needing someone to hunt with can
put an ad here.

WHO WE ARE

We are a group of detecting enthusiasts
whose aim is to get out there and have fun,
find fellowship, and find and preserve our
nation's history. We dig responsibly, act
respectfully, and operate legally. We invite
you to join us. You won't be disappointed!

MEETINGS

We meet on the first Tuesday of every
month at:

**Missouri Civil War Museum
222 Worth Road
St. Louis, MO 63125**

at:

**7:00 pm
(Doors open at 6:30 pm)**

Open to the public

