

# Metal Detecting Hobby Talk

# Serving The Metal Detecting Community

## MDHTALK News Brief



World Wide Hobby News



December 2018

Metal Detecting Hobby Talk News Brief

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### Support The Hobby

I would like to point out to the News Brief readers that there are a number of organizations taking on the challenge against various types of legislation dealing with metal detecting and gold prospecting. MDHTALK's recommendation is to visit their website and give strong consideration to joining the fight. In some cases your support may be to send emails and / or write a letter to specific legislators or to provide funds to help with the fight. Here are the organizations and a link to their website.

[Go to the Join The Fight MDHTALK Webpage to read more about each of these organizations](#)

### MDHTALK

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**What is a News Brief?** The news brief provides a brief look into any news event. The intent of the news brief is to provide you, the reader, with news clips on what was taking place in the hobby last month. To read the whole story select the Article Link or go to [MDHTALK.org](#). There are more news stories placed on the MDHTALK website for November the news stories listed in the MDHTALK News Brief are just a portion of all the hobby related news reported the past month. **The news Brief is now available in Adobe PDF format, there is a link at the top of this webpage.** The news brief is no longer emailed; it is only available on the MDHTALK website and can be downloaded.

### The Website's featured article for this month is: Where is it Legal to Metal Detect?

This question should be easy to answer but that is not the case. There are no uniform state laws or regulations across the fifty states or are there uniform municipal codes for the many thousands of cities and counties in the U.S. One way to get a handle on laws and regulations for your area is to join a local metal detecting or gold prospecting club. These clubs will usually know what the local law and regulation situation is for the hobby. So lets take one section of the U.S. at a time and try to find some answers. National. There are a number of federal acts that control what can or can not be done on federal properties. These acts are the:

- [1906 American Antiquities Act](#)
- [1966 National Historic Preservation Act As amended through 2000](#)
- [1997 Archaeological Resources Protection Act](#)
- [1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#)

Each of these acts places protection for America's antiquities plus use restrictions on federal lands, historical sites and Native American Indian burial grounds.

The **1906 and the 1997** acts have an impact on the National Park System, National Monuments, National Sea Shore Beaches, Civil & Revolutionary War Battlefields, and to some extent on Native American lands. These acts indirectly make metal detecting illegal in any of these places. If caught metal detecting or have a detector in your possession while on any of these protected places it can be a felony with tough penalties.

A typical statement on a National Monument websites is: Metal detectors are strictly prohibited on park grounds. Relic hunting by the use of metal detectors or other means is prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. [Download & Read This Article](#)

### Hobby Related News

#### General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

#### Other News Sources

- Knoxville-based Mollenh our Gross acquires Kellyco Metal Detectors. [Article Link](#)
- A Chest Of Gold Hidden In The Rockies Is The Ultimate Social Experiment. [Article Link](#)
- Man finds possible human remains in Murrells Inlet while metal detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Oshawa 'relic hunter' finds rare silver coin, donates it to Whitby diabetes centre. [Article Link](#)
- NC man continues to dig up historic treasures on Topsail Island beaches post Florence. [Article Link](#) [Coroner confirms bones](#)
- 10 Most Valuable Treasures Ever Found (Part 1). [Article Link](#)
- Exceptionally large 'Pink Legacy' diamond sells for record-breaking \$50 million at Christie's. [Article Link](#)

- **American Mining Rights Assn** is not a gold club but rather an advocacy group for miners and public land users to preserve and maintain their rights as they pertain to access to their public lands. [November News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [November News](#)
- **JW Fisher Detectors** CT-1 Cable Tracker; Indispensable when safety is paramount. [Press Release](#)
- **Lost Treasure Is No Longer in BUSINESS.**
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [November News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [December Newsletter](#)

#### Jewelry Returns

- Apple designer Jony Ive creates unique ring made from one diamond block. [Article Link](#)
- Underwater Archaeologist Sir Robert Marx to Talk on 'Archaeology of the Abyss' at Florida Tech Nov. 15. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunt. [Article Link](#)
- Did a Conspiracy Rob These Treasure Hunters of Millions of Dollars' Worth of Florida Shipwreck Artifacts? [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island: Huge double discovery made at start of Season 6. [Article Link](#)
- Fossicking for forgotten silver turns up more than spare change in Australia's second-largest mining town. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detector find in Linton unearths fascinating past. [Article Link](#)
- Man with metal detector finds 'training' grenade on Pocatello school field. [Article Link](#)
- Heartbreaking twist after wedding ring lost 20 years ago finds its way home. [Article Link](#)

### U.K. News

- Amateur metal detector celebrating after 'find of a lifetime' sells for £10,000. [Article Link](#)
- Pembrokeshire treasure hunter unearths Celtic chariot. [Article Link](#)
- Old Buckenham blog Digging report. [Article Link](#)
- Apple designer Jony Ive creates unique ring made from one diamond block. [Article Link](#)
- Travis Allen digs for history. [Article Link](#)
- How to prospect for gold in England. [Article Link](#)
- Link to the Past. [Article Link](#)
- This post-medieval ring found in North Staffordshire paddock is declared as treasure! [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting in Corby could land you with a fine. [Article Link](#)
- Poole man finds historic buried gold ring. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorists' discoveries to be housed in new museum. [Article Link](#)
- Driving instructor steers his way to buried treasure. [Article Link](#)
- British man finds WWII dog tags belonging to Blair County man. [Article Link](#)

- Buried Class Ring Leads Sisters to the Poconos. [Article Link](#)
- The dog ate your... wedding band? How couple used a metal detector to find lost ring. [Article Link](#)
- Club unearths man's wedding ring lost for nine years. [Article Link](#)
- Last of three class rings returned to 1959 South High grad. [Article Link](#)
- Class ring returned to owner 39 years later. [Article Link](#)
- Heartbreaking twist after wedding ring lost 20 years ago finds its way home. [Article Link](#)
- From 55 years in the past, Columbus man reunites classmates and their rings. [Article Link](#)

### North America Archaeology News

- First look at archaeological dig near Garden of the Gods. [Article Link](#)
- Ancient Artifacts Stolen 40 Years Ago in Alabama Recovered. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists Discover Evidence Of Connecticut's Earliest English Colony. [Article Link](#)
- UWF archaeologists make new discoveries during Emanuel Point I artifact restoration. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists uncover history in the waterfront. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeological finds kept secret in public filings . [Article Link](#)
- Students find 6,000-year-old ax at George Washington estate. [Article Link](#)

### W.W. Meteorite News

- Meteorite hunters dig up 60 million-year-old site in Skye. [Article Link](#)
- Giant meteorite crater bigger than Paris found beneath Greenland's ice sheet. [Article Link](#)
- Five huge 'hazardous' asteroids are coming - and one is the size of as skyscraper. [Article Link](#)
- Professional Meteorite Hunter believes space rock pieces are between Chadwick-Bradleyville. [Article Link](#)
- Fireball In The Sky! Locals Spot Huge Meteor Friday Night, As Earth Enters Annual Taurid Shower. [Article Link](#)

### Archaeological finds kept secret in public filings By Keith Whitcomb Jr. Staff Writer, Rutland Herald [Article Link](#)

BRANDON — While finding Native American artifacts on construction sites isn't common, when they are found the state takes steps to protect them by keeping them secret.

One case in point is the proposed Babcock Solar project.

Babcock Solar Farm LLC, backed by Conti Solar based in Edison, New Jersey, has filed for a certificate of public good with the Public Utility Commission to build a 2.2 megawatt solar facility at the intersection of Park Street Extension and 21 Country Club Road. Among the items its permit application includes is an archaeological survey conducted in June which found three concentrations of "pre-contact" Native American artifacts.

These artifacts, said Dr. Charles Knight, assistant director of the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program, which conducted the survey, were mostly "lithic debitage," the sharp flakes of stone left over from the making of stone tools. Knight said in an interview Thursday that such deposits show stone tools were once made in the area and indicate the site may have had other uses as well.

The results of the survey, along with the bulk of of permit filings made with

Dillon said knowing exactly where an object is found is extremely important to archaeologists trying to understand more about the people who left the object there. When looters or collectors of these items take them they make no record of where they found them. He said it's usually clear when a site has been disturbed by non-archaeologists, but the true scope of the problem is difficult to pin down.

It ebbs and flows," Dillon said. In Vermont, a lot of the problem is with regard to metal objects from colonial times. People with metal detectors can easily find these objects and take them. Artifacts left by Native Americans prior to the arrival of Europeans can be somewhat harder to spot, he said. Other places have it worse than Vermont, but it's still an issue here. Dillon said making the sites hard to find helps keep them safe.

No one opposed Babcock and the Division of Historic Preservation's request, according to the PUC order. Millard said the project's site plan has been adjusted so it will completely avoid the spots where artifacts were found.

According to Dillon, the vast majority of projects that require an Act 250 permit or a certificate of public good don't warrant an archaeological survey. He said only about 2 percent require archaeologists to look them over. The state has methods of determining what sites are likely to host such items, he said, and

the Public Utility Commission, are open to the public. Knight said the exact locations of the deposits, however, are typically redacted to prevent people from disturbing them.

Eric Millard, vice president of development for Conti Solar, said Thursday that when the results of the archaeological surveys were filed with the state, the locations of the deposits weren't redacted by mistake. On Monday, Babcock Solar and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, filed a joint motion asking the PUC to redact those documents. On Thursday, the PUC issued an order granting the request.

"Vermont law requires that all information regarding the location of archaeological sites and underwater historic properties shall be confidential, with certain limited exceptions ... ." reads the joint motion. "Without this statutory protection, archaeological sites would be at risk of looting, desecration and other potential damage."

Scott Dillon, survey archaeologist for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, said in a Thursday interview there are people who take items of historic or archaeological importance from sites to keep or sell.

"It's a big issue and somewhat hidden," he said. "It's a problem, you only have to go on eBay or somewhere."

when a survey is warranted the project applicant is given a list of qualified agencies that can do the work.

Among them is the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program. Knight said finding Native American artifacts on proposed solar sites is fairly common. He said about half the ones his group has surveyed have turned up something. Many solar arrays are built on agricultural land that is often open and level, near a source of water. The same qualities that attract solar developers and farmers also appealed to Native Americans thousands of years ago, he said.

Knight said during a Phase I survey, several archaeologists will walk the site in a way that lets them observe the entire area. They mark what they find and where they found it, and if they think there might be something more they'll recommend a Phase II survey and digging a few test holes. Knight said below the layer of soil roughed up by farmer plows can sometimes be found evidence of fire pits and ancient dwellings. Phase III surveys are rarely done, he said. These are what most people commonly think of when they think of an archaeological dig, a big hole with a team of people working inside it.

Knight said that more often than not artifacts are left where they are, especially in solar project developments where the impacts of construction are minimal compared to other types of buildings.

### Event News

#### Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2018/19 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

[Select here to View the Complete Event Details for December](#)

- **December 07, 2018** (One Day)  
29 Palms, California  
First Class Miners 2018 Annual Membership Appreciation and Awards Banquet

- **December 19, 2018** (One Day)  
LApache Junction, Arizona  
Goldfield Ghost Town-- Metal Detecting Outing  
Apache Junction AZ Gold Prospectors Assn

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)