



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](#)

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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 January 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: [Is Recreational Metal Detecting on the Endangered List](#)
[Download and Read the Complete article](#)

Metal Detecting took form in the 1950-60s and the detectorists who were metal detecting at that time had very few restrictions and the finds were fabulous. Metal detecting during this period can be described similar to being in the old west with open ranges and anything goes. The finds stories from those in the hobby during that period are hard to believe against today's detecting results.

So is Metal detecting on the Endangered List? Let's take a look at the barriers and variables that affect the hobby.

Barriers to Recreational Metal Detecting

The Law: Today, the U.S. metal detecting environment is controlled by a hodgepodge of Federal, State, City, County laws. A major reason for this is that there is no regulation, law or statue at the Federal level that provides any support for recreational metal detecting.

Some of the Federal statues were written before metal detecting became a popular hobby and since these acts were drafted to protect America's Heritage it may have been felt that users of a metal detector on federal lands would rob America of some of its heritage. There were four major federal acts drafted to protect America's heritage and everyone (detectorist) should read each of them. They are:

- 1906 American Antiquities Act [act link](#)
- 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, As amended in 2000 [act link](#)
- 1979 Archaeological Resources Protection Act [act link](#)
- 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act [act link](#)

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

Other News Sources

- Time in a bottle: Students with rare hobby plans Stamford club. [Article Link](#)
- Search for owner of 1960s wedding ring found in bay. [Article Link](#)
- A metal detector and a mission. [Article Link](#)
- Part of ancient death mask containing 'space metal' discovered in Florida. [Article Link](#)
- Father-Son Team Unearths Beach 'Treasure'. [Article Link](#)
- Searching for buried history. [Article Link](#)
- R.I. Relics founder fears metal detecting hobby is under

- **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. [January News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [Website](#)
- **JW Fishers Mfg.** - NR310 JW Fishers' Pulse 8X continues to outperform the competition 32 years later. [January Article](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [January News](#)
- **PLP -Public Lands for the People** [Website](#)

- siege. [Article Link](#)
- The Fellowship of the Ring Finders. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting enthusiast finds British coin from 1826. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunters club donates record \$10,000 to Food Pak program. [Article Link](#)
- Man Seeks Owner of Lost Ring Using Metal Detector. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island: Team 'strike gold' as they uncover Dan Blankenship's u-shaped structure. [Article Link](#)
- Overview of Metal Detecting in CNY topic of meeting. [Article Link](#)
- Niagara's treasure hunters on the hunt for buried booty. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Why More TV Shows Should Learn from the Beautiful Simplicity of 'Detectorists'. [Article Link](#)
- How two metal detectorists discovered a complete Roman treasure. [Article Link](#)
- US petition calls for Lincolnshire man to have his own TV show following Oak Island success. [Article Link](#)
- Norfolk's hidden treasures luring American metal detector tourists. [Article Link](#)
- Man hides engagement ring for his partner on Whittington metal detecting trip. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure Finds Reach Record High. [Article Link](#)
- The treasure of a 'traitor': Amateur metal detectorist unearths 350-year-old ring that belonged to King Charles II's courtier who was hung, drawn and quartered after being FRAMED for treason in 1678. [Article Link](#)
- Meifod history group will welcome treasure hunting duo. [Article Link](#)
- The tourism of detectorists. [Article Link](#)
- Haul of historic jewellery and weapons found in Swansea declared treasure. [Article Link](#)
- 'Pirate ship' hand grenade discovered near 17th-century wreck site. [Article Link](#)
- Metal-detecting Americans pay £1,500 to hunt for buried treasure on holiday in UK. [Article Link](#), [2nd News Article](#)

- 1715 Fleet Society [Newsletter](#)

Jewelry Returns

- 1987 Class Ring Found In Arkansas Lake. [Article Link](#)
- A metal detector and a mission. [Article Link](#)
- Man finds couple's engagement ring with a metal detector nearly a month after they lost it in the sand on a Costa Rican beach. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorists help Wendover couple get engaged. [Article Link](#)
- Woman searches for owner of 1968 Muskogee class ring. [Article Link](#)
- Veteran's Missing ID Tags Found By Charleston Man Using Metal Detector. [Article Link](#)
- 'My Angel': Cape Cod Ring Finder Pulls Off Christmas Miracle. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Archaeologists to Monitor Construction in Deadwood. [Article Link](#)
- Dozens report seeing meteor over Maine, northern New England. [Article Link](#)
- A new clue could explain the mysterious disappearance of a Civil War submarine. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists Find Ancient Tool in Area That Can Unlock Age. [Article Link](#)
- A site thought to be linked to the Lost Colony is now part of a new state nature preserve. [Article Link](#)
- New book sheds light on Harvard's forgotten 1931 archaeology trek in eastern Utah. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Watch the moon get rocked by a meteorite during this weekend's lunar eclipse. [Article Link](#)
- Dozens report seeing meteor over Maine, northern New England. [Article Link](#)
- Three large asteroids prompt NASA to issue near Earth object alert. [Article Link](#)
- Sisters find possible meteorite on Silver Beach. [Article Link](#), [2nd Article Link](#)
- What was that fireball that flew across the East Coast sky Wednesday morning? [Article Link](#)
- Meteor seen flying over New Zealand. [Article Link](#)
- Greenland crater: Huge crater the size of Paris FOUND under Greenland's ice. [Article Link](#)

R.I. Relics founder fears metal detecting hobby is under siege By NICOLE DOTZENROD, Valley Breeze Staff Writer [Web Link](#)

LINCOLN – Would you allow someone to hunt for metal on your property? The response from many people is “no,” says Nathan Matthews, of Lincoln.

“I always ask permission, but it’s starting to seem like less and less people are OK with metal detecting,” he said. “It’s starting to become a major issue. More and more people look down on it now.”

Matthews, who runs Rhode Island Relics, a licensed and insured metal detecting group running annual events in the area, feels squeezed out of the town and state that he calls home, no longer welcome to partake in the hobby even on public lands.

He said he was first asked to stop metal detecting on the properties abutting the Chase Farm Park this fall, and was then booted from Lincoln Woods State Park shortly thereafter. Most recently, he said police officers asked him not to return to a spot he had been detecting near for years because he was passing through private property.

Matthews, who has been asked to cease detecting on certain lands by RIDEM, said detectorists should be working with RIDEM, land trusts and local historical societies to recover “the history in the ground.” Instead, “they want it to stay lost in the ground forever,” he said.

“We just want to find the history for them,” he said. “It’s not about making money or finding treasure. A one-cent piece isn’t even worth a penny at this rate. You may find a coin but the value is virtually worthless ... but it has serious historical significance.”

Matthews said the negative perception of metal detecting is not limited to Lincoln. While he noted that Cumberland’s former Mayor Bill Murray was welcoming and that managers of Franklin Farm never shut their doors to the metal detecting community, the rest of the town is not as welcoming.

“Go anywhere else in Cumberland and see what they say about metal detecting,” he said. “It’s all over the state. Now, as a metal detector you’d better prepare to drive three to four hours to find a place to metal detect.”

Matthews believes that under state legislation, a “no trespassing” sign must be posted on public land not owned by a land trust, otherwise someone can metal detect there (excluding residential properties, which require the owner’s permission).

For their part, members of the Lincoln Police Department say they have made no official directives regarding metal detecting. Capt. Philip Gould, the department’s public information officer, said there’s nothing on record prohibiting metal detecting on public property as long as detectorists obey local ordinances and avoid digging up the town’s sports complexes.

“Unless they’re metal detecting after hours or damaging property, we have no problem with it,” he said. “I don’t see a public danger with metal detecting as long as you’re abiding by local ordinances and being respectful of private property.”

The Lincoln Police Department doesn’t have jurisdiction over Lincoln Woods, which houses Rhode Island State Police barracks. When asked for comment, state police directed questions to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

A spokeswoman for RIDEM noted the law regarding metal detecting in state parks and management areas mandates that metal detectors or other location devices be “restricted to designated areas during specified time periods.”

After his group hosted a “seeded hunt” at Franklin Farm last spring, a neighbor called to complain that they’d destroy the landscape.

“The reality is, hundreds of people show up, dig proper holes, remove trash and provide a history of the area,” Matthews said. Rhode Island Relics is planning another “Pound the Ground” event at the farm in April.

Matthews donates recovered relics to historical organizations or interested individuals.

“I don’t need 5,000 buckles,” he said. “If someone allows me to search their property, I always say they can keep what I find. I just want to take pictures for our Facebook page to promote the history.”

He said he also collects and properly disposes of bottles, trash and other urban waste in his travels, even disposing of heroin needles recovered from parks and playgrounds around the state.

“The thing that’s starting to stress me out is that we’re not hurting anybody. If there was any sort of criminal activity to worry about, it certainly wasn’t metal detecting,” said Matthews. “For some reason people are considering a passion for finding history in the ground criminal activity. It doesn’t make sense to me.”

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 February](#)

- February 08, 2019 (Three Days)
Ironwood, Quartzsite, Arizona
Quartzsite Gold Show
- February 09, 2019 (Two Days)
Monroe, Washington
2019 Gold, Gem & Mineral Show
Washington Prospectors Mining Assn

- February 15, 2019 (Three Days)
Albany, Oregon
Willamette Sportsman Show
MID VALLEY PROSPECTORS
- February 16, 2019 (One Day)
Galveston, Texas
37th Annual Open Beach Hunt
Houston Archeology Recovery Clubs

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)