

Metal Detecting Hobby Talk

Serving The Metal Detecting Community

MDHTALK News Brief



World Wide Hobby News



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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](#)

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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: Metal Detecting the 1733 Treasure Fleet

[Download the Complete Article to Read](#)

1733 Fleet Brief History:

Friday, July 13, 1733 a Spanish Fleet left Havana harbor for a return voyage to Spain. On the evening of the 15th most of the ships had been sunk along the Florida Keys by a hurricane. Four ships made it back to Havanna with one ship proceeded on to Spain and the other ships were sunk by the hurricane in the Florida Keys.

The ship wreck survivors gathered in groups throughout the keys and built shelters from ship wreck materials that had came ashore. A ship arrived in Havana and reported seeing many large ships grounded at a place called Head of the Martyrs. Recue Ships with supplies, food, divers and troops sailed to the wreckage site.D

Ships that were not refloated were burned in place and savage work on these ships continued for may years. When a final summary of the savalage material was totaled more gold and silver were recovered than was list on the various ships' manifest.

During the 1960s, most of the 1733 wrecks were relocated by modern divers.

Today the historical treasure of the 1733 fleet is the opportunity to visit the remains of these ship sites from a long gone era. **1733 Fleet History** [Web Link](#) , 1733 Fleet - [Daniel Frank Sedwick, LLC Website Link](#)

Hundreds of ship wreck sailors and passengers made it to shore from the wreck sites, weighted down by gold, silver and emeralds. In many cases dropping rare items along their route to the safety of a key island. These survivors made it to a Keys island along an 80-mile stretch.

Metal Detecting the 1733 Fleet Trail should include the following:

- construction sites that have turned over sand and dirt for new or updated business, homes, roads and gas, water, sewer lines. There has been treasure found from these types of construction sites. For years there were many survivor camps on the island while the ships were being salvaged which contributed to treasure being lost.
- all beaches that are near wreck sites with both public or private land access. To gain access to beach water where private land controls access – permission must be gained from the specific land owner before entering these beach waters.

- metal Detecting Highway #1 beach waters that are parallel to wreck sites where the water is not deep or does not has very swift currents. **Use EXTREME Cautious.**
- draw lines from a wreck site to islands near the wreck site and metal detecting a ~ 75-yard path on either side of the drawn line looking for dropped treasure as sailors and passage fled the wrecks.

Florida Keys Tides [Web Link](#)

Largo Sound to Upper Matecumbe Key [Web Link](#)

Indian Key to Conch Key [Web Link](#)

Tom's Harbor to West Bahia Honda Key [Web Link](#)

Horseshoe Keys to Big Pine Key [Web Link](#)

Annette Key to Howe Key [Web Link](#)

Summerland Key to Cudjoe Key to Sugarloaf Key [Web Link](#)

Pumpkin Key to O'Hara Key [Web Link](#)

Florida

[Keys Cams](#)

[Bahia Honda State Park Cam](#)

[Marathon Streaming Cam](#)

[Tranquility Bay](#)

[Southern Most Cam](#)

[Fort Zachary Taylor Beach Cam](#)

1733 List of Treasure Fleet Shipwrecks

- 1- El Pinque, Nuestra Señora del Populo
- 2- El Infante or the Prince, Nuestra Señora de Balvaneda
- 3- San Jose y las Animas, San Jose de Las Animas
- 4- Chaves, Nuestra Senora del Carmen, San Antonio de Padua y las Animas
- 5- La Capitana, El Rubi Segundo, El Rubí
- 6- Herrera, or the Figurine, Nuestra Senora de Belem y San Antonio de Padua
- 7- Tres Puentes, Nuestra Senora de Belem y San Juan Bautista, Nuestra Se?ra de los Dolores Y Santa Isabel (aka:El Nuevo Londres)
- 8- San Pedro
- 9- El Terri, San Felipe, (aka: Lerri, Herri or Tyrri)
- 10- San Francisco or Craig Wreck or Cayo Vivoras, San Francisco de Asis
- 11- La Almiranta, El Gallo Indiana (aka: Cannonball Wreck) Almiranta Nuestra Senora de Balvaneda
- 12- Las Augustias, Nuestra Senora de las Augustias y San Raphael (aka: San Rafeal, El Charanguero Grande)
- 13- El Sueco de Arizón, Nuestra Senora del Rosario, San Antonio y San Vicente Ferrer

May Not be the Correct Wreck for this Site

- 14- San Ignacio, Sumey de San Ignacio

Wreck Site Not Found

- 15- San Fernando, Nuestra Senora de Los Reyes, San Fernando y San Francisco de Paula
- 16- El Floridana

Refitted and Sailed back to Havana

- 17- Nuestra Senora del Rosario y Santo Domingo (Murgie)
- 18- El Gran Poder de Dios y Santa Ana, aka: (Poder)
- 19- Balandra (aka: La Balandra, El Santander).
- 20- Nuestra Señora del Rosario, San Francisco Javier y San Antonio de Padua

Sailed on to Cadiz

- 21- El Africa, Senor San Joseph

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in 1990. The removal of artifacts from any of the sites is prohibited today.

- 1 - Always Fill all holes dug since many people use the beach for other recreational purposes.
- 2 - Always remove and carry out all trash dug.
- 3 - Never metal detect the beach dunes and grass area its illegal.
- 4 - Never metal detect in leased waters its illegal.
- 5 - Never Trespass on Private Property without Permission.

6 - Never metal detect in National Parks, National Beaches and the 1733 ship sites in the Keys National Marine Sanctuary it is illegal

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1733 Fleet Treasure Trail Highway #1

Biscayne National Park 25°28.967N 80°12.50W		Populo 25°21.85N 80°09.690W
Harry Harris Beach & Park 25°1.605N 80°29.596W	MM91	El Infante 24°56.556N 80°28.531W
Public Beach 24°53.3.78N 80°41.11.01W	MM89	San Jose 24°56.919N 80°29.334W
Fossil Reef St. Park 24°56.956N 80°35.762W	MM85-86	Chaves 24° 56.179N 80° 34.985W
	MM87	El Rubi 24° 55.491N 80° 30.891W
Fossil Reef State Park 24°56.962N 80°35.762W	MM84.9	
	MM83	Herrera 24° 54.326N 80° 35.538W
	MM83	Tres Puentes 24° 53.612N 80° 35.012W
Roadside Park, Bayside	MM80	
Beach Access 24°53.093 80°41.116W	MM77	San Pedro 24° 51.802N 80° 40.780W
No homes Ocean Side for a 1/2 mile	MM75	El Terri 24° 50.761N 80° 42.850W
Residents Only Beach Access 24°51.226N 80°43.870W	MM74	
Annie's Beach Park 24°50.935N 80°44.455W	MM72	San Francisco 24° 49.185N 80° 45.425W
Beach location 2 miles from wreck 24°50.795N 80°44.657W		
Long Key State Park 24°48.966N 80°49.383W	MM72	El Gallo Indiano 24°48.633N 80°45.932W
Parking available along US#1 24°48.235N 80°50.895W	MM65	Las Augustias 24°47.455N 80°51.738W
	MM62-63	El Sueco Site #1 24°46.625N 80°53.372W Site #2 24°46.728N 80°53.480W
Curry Hammock State Park 24°44.476N 80°58.847W	MM56	
Hammock State Park 24°44.792N 80°58.957W	MM57	San Ignacio 24°41.70N 80°56.44W
Sombrero Beach 24°41.536N 81°5.130W	MM 50	
24°33.484N 81°48.389W		Mel Fisher Maritime Museum

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Replica Grenade Lighter Triggers Bomb Squad Alert In Springfield. [Article Link](#)
- Hensley: Union gold, treasure hunters and going round and round with the FBI., [Article Link](#)

Other News Sources

- **American Digger Relic Roundup.** For diggers and collectors of history. An hour long program every Monday Night at 9:00 PM eastern standard time.

- Mystery over Ayrshire man's ID bracelet and belongings found by metal detector near Canadian lake. [Article Link](#)
- Penn State Student 'Prospector Tuck' Discovers Buried Treasure On TikTok. [Article Link](#)
- WWII dog tag belonging to Raleigh soldier found in Italy. [Article Link](#)
- Badger hunting for food instead unearths ancient treasure. [Article Link](#)
- He's a gold digger, not that it means he's taking all the money. [Article Link](#)
- Mystery of the missing Civil War gold goes to court. [Article Link](#)
- Scuba Sleuth Solves Two-Decade-Old Missing Persons Case. [Article Link](#)
- Metal-detecting hobbyists drawn to Tumon Bay. [Article Link](#)
- 10 Astonishing Discoveries That Transformed Ordinary People into Millionaires. [Article Link](#)
- Local adventurer Brandon Nicholas uncovers history by digging up antique bottles—hear his story. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Glasgow treasure hunter finds WW1 hero medal, gold ring and rare coins in Kelvingrove Park. [Article Link](#)
- This metal detectorist loves being on the case. [Article Link](#)
- I owe it to the kids': coin found by detectorist dad sold for £648,000. [Article Link](#)
- Roman coins found in South Derbyshire by treasure hunters. [Article Link](#)
- One of England's 'first ever gold coins' is dug up in Devon field: Rare 1257 token bearing portrait of King Henry III is one of only EIGHT in existence and could earn its finder £400,000. [Article Link](#)
- Maths teacher unearths 2000-year-old Roman gold ring in his front garden after his wife gave him a metal detector for Christmas. [Article Link](#)
- 2,000-year-old Celtic hoard of gold 'rainbow cups' discovered in Germany. [Article Link](#)
- Bomb disposal experts detonate Second World War explosive in Clacton. [Article Link](#)
- Teen treasure hunter finds human skull in river - and it's 1,400 years old. [Article Link](#)
- New list of items banned from being used in Ribble Valley parks. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hoards some dating back 3,000 years found by metal detectorists in Pontypridd. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting findings exhibited in Reading. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist's mysterious find intrigues some - while others see the funny side. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure dating back to Bronze Age found by metal detectorists across Newport and Monmouthshire. [Article Link](#)
- Cornwall's fascinating treasures unearthed by the public in 2021. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorists from Furness set to feature in new ITV five-part series. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- CDOT documentary depicts new era of archaeology. [Article Link](#)
- Archeological digs in CT shed light on humans who lived over 10,000 years ago. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeology mystery solved as 130-year-old 'time capsule' found under US monument. [Article Link](#)

Join your hosts Butch Holcombe, Jeff Lubbert and Heath Jones as they explore the past. Learn more about Metal Detecting, Treasure hunting in all it's forms, and the preservation of history. [January Pod Cast Link](#)

- **Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** present the BIG metal detecting podcast. A weekly show bringing all areas of history together with our guests, news and much more. [January Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [January News](#)
- **Garrett Searcher** [January- February Searcher](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [January News](#)
- **Mel Fisher Salvage Update**
- **PLP** [January Press Release](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [January News](#)
- **The Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** The Archaeology and Metal detecting magazine are one of the lead online sites in their genre. Offering multiple platforms for Archaeological, Historical and metal detecting news, articles, research areas and much more. [January News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [February Newsletter](#)

Jewelry Returns

- Over five decades later, lost class ring found at Mad River Glen. [Article Link](#)
- Needle in a haystack: Sammamish family's missing wedding ring found in snowmelt. [Article Link](#)
- Lost and Found: A silver ring filled with memories. [Article Link](#)
- Volusia County beachgoer seeks to reunite found college relic with owner. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Barbados issues 'Blue Marble' \$5 coin with meteorite. [Article Link](#)
- Meteorite that nearly hit B.C. woman may be 470 million years old. [Article Link](#)
- Boom that shook Pittsburgh on New Year's Day was an exploding half-ton meteor, NASA says. [Article Link](#)

Event News

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2022/23 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting

- **February 05, 2022** (One Day)
Galveston, Texas
40th Annual HARC Open Beach Hunt

- **February 18, 2022** (Three Days)
Stanton, Arizona
Mining Event - Push Dig
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn

community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

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

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

Check out your event before going it may have been postponed or canceled.

Houston Archeology Recovery Clubs (HARC)

- **February 05, 2022** (Two Days)
Pomona, California
Gold & Treasure Show
GPAA Gold and Treasure Shows
- **February 11, 2022** (Three Days)
Quartzsite, Arizona
22th Quartzsite Gold Show
Sponsor:

- **February 19, 2022** (Two Days)
Monroe, Washington
2022 Washington Prospectors Gold, Gem and Mineral Show
Washington Prospectors Mining Assn
- **February 26, 2022** (Two Day)
Llano, Texas
Texas Treasure Show
Texas Assn of Metal Detecting Clubs & Llano Prospectors

Can I take that home? How to shell safely without running afoul of the law in Southwest Florida **Amy Bennett Williams, Fort Myers News-Press**

It's a common scene along the Gulf coast: A stooped beachgoer straightens up, shell in palm, wondering, 'What's this?'

Sometimes, the mollusk in question is still alive – maybe a fighting conch, a periwinkle or a lightning whelk. If luck is with the critter, the observer will gently replace the shell below the waterline, so it can live to delight another day. And if the beachgoer is in Lee County, he or she has also dodged a potential \$500 fine and 60-day jail term for violating the county's live shell rules.

Southwest Florida does treasure its shells. Mollusks are fundamental to this region – ecologically, economically and historically. Deeply linked to the \$5 billion tourism industry in Lee and Collier counties, shelled creatures also filter water and are key to the food web topped by gamefish. Fossil shells make up many of the roadbeds that crisscross the region and the ancient Calusa people lived on mounds they built of empty shells.

More: Like clean water? Thank the barnacle, a humble creature with a few extraordinary secrets

More: See the giant Pacific octopus at Sanibel Island's shell museum

Sanibel Island led the way in protecting them as a natural asset, enacting a citywide ban on live shelling in 1995. Lee County followed suit in 2002.

Yet all too often, says Florida native Jason Cutler, pretty shells are simply tucked into bags and hauled off. Whether it's ignorance of the area's rules about taking live shells or apathy about the environmental consequences, he has seen far too many people plucking live shells from area beaches.

Recently in Naples' Lowdermilk Park, "I watched a man and his wife searching for something. I could hear him say to her 'What do you think that is inside the shell?' I asked if I could see it and I told him that was a fighting conch and that he was alive (and) not to take it or he'll die."

The man had taken about a dozen that by then were "dried out in the sand by his towel." Cutler, a Florida native, gave the man a crash course in marine ecology, and won a convert to the conservation cause. But he sees a sore need for more publicity. "Someone's got to start educating people ... What we have left is fighting for their lives. These people are literally taking these poor defenseless living sea creatures."

Plus, he points out, once those creatures are no longer living, they're apt to get tossed as soon as they start to smell. Decomposing mollusks are pungent, to say the least, and they'll most likely end up in trash cans along 1-75 or U.S. 41, Cutler says. "They'll throw them out when they realize the smell – it's awful."

So, in the name of education, here's a primer on the do's and don'ts of shelling Southwest Florida beaches.
What's the shell?

Check to see if the shell you've collected has a living occupant – either the soft-bodied creature that made the shell or something else like a hermit crab or barnacle that may have taken up residence in the discard.

The shells on our beaches come in three basic types. The hinged, double-shelled creatures like clams are bivalves. Gastropods (the word means "stomach foot") are single-shelled, snail-like creatures, such as fighting conchs. And symmetrical creatures like sand dollars, sea stars and urchins are echinoderms (literally "spiny skin") . Ways to detect life in each vary.

"It's easy to tell if a bivalve – something like a scallop or the coquinas that we find a lot in the swash zone – if both of the shells are still attached and if the creature is closed tight and shut," said Shannon Stainken, youth education director of the Sanibel Sea School. "And with a snail, sometimes you might see its body, which we call its foot, out. If it's closed up inside, most (but not all) snails have something called an operculum, which is like a trap door that looks almost like a brown leaf or a piece of wood and it's hard to the touch."

If the snail has one, there's more than likely a living resident, she says.

Neither sort of mollusk can survive being removed from their shells. "There's a common misconception of visitors and even residents that they can, but they can never be removed and live."

With echinoderms, look for the prickled pelts that lend them their names, though don't expect them all to be spiky: a live sand dollar looks like its covered in brushy fur while a sea star will have soft, nubby tube feet that may be moving on close inspection.

"It's really important when shelling to look very closely and take a long time to observe the shell – to be really mindful and take your time," Stainken says.

In Lee County, most live shelling is against the law, period. Exceptions are oysters, hard clams (quahogs), sunray venus clams and coquinas, but you need to observe seasonal closures, know bag limits and have a Florida recreational saltwater fishing license, even when shelling from shore, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. (See FWC's shoreline fishing FAQs for more information.

In Collier County except on Marco Island, state laws apply, which require anyone harvesting live shellfish to have a recreational saltwater fishing license, even when taking live shellfish from the beach.

On Marco, however, live shelling is prohibited, as it is in many of the region's state parks, like Collier County's Delnor-Wiggins Pass; it's best to check with your park first.

Bottom line, says Jose Leal, curator at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum: "There's no need for people to pick up live shells when you have the ones that are empty, that have fulfilled their role in nature and have now been left behind."

Unlike many other worrisomely finite natural resources, Leal says cast-off shells are in no danger of disappearing, nor do visitors removing a handful of souvenirs threaten the structural integrity of area beaches.

"You have to remember that the source for shells that show up and are pushed onto the beach, those animals are living underwater on the continental shelf in Florida (and) the part of the continent that is submerged is exactly the same width as the state of Florida underwater, so you have a lot of stuff living there," he said.

"As long as their environment is OK, if the water doesn't contain pollutants, you have oxygen for the animals to breathe and nature is running its course, as long as that's happening, those shells will keep coming."