



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 May 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: **Roaming Access to Public Lands has Disappeared for Metal Detectorist and Others** [Download This Article](#)

The Ideal Situation is to have complete access to public lands with no restrictions but alas that is far from today's reality.

Today's Reality is that more and more public lands are being put behind man made barriers. These barriers come in the form of laws, regulations and rules that prohibit or limit many personal outdoor activities on public lands.

This is the biggest single issue facing many out door activities (recreational metal detecting, gold prospecting, fossil and mineral collecting, rock hounding, off road vehicles, etc). Access to public lands is not just a metal detecting issue but is also the single most important major issue for the many outdoor recreational activities.

Why are more and more public lands being put off limits to metal detectorist? Metal detectorist are being pushed off of public land because the hobby is considered to be destructive by many public land managers, archaeologist and nature preservationists.

Public land managers find that their many parks, school yards and ball fields are being heavily damaged by irresponsible detectorist. Many new detectorist have entered the hobby and have not taken the time to learn how to correctly recovery a target from the turf. The result is that there is a great deal of damage caused to manicured public parks grass, ball fields, etc. All detectorists must afford the same consideration, care and non-destructive behavior toward public lands as he / she would towards their own lawn and property.

National, state and local historical sites have been plundered for profit by a small number of individuals without any regard to the historical value and significance to the public. Generally, these individuals plunder for profit and in some cases for their private collection.

Today, the metal detecting hobby is portrayed on TV on at least three different programs as a turn-on and go hobby. Some of the shows portray the hobby in a very negative light with destructive target removal techniques and with an emphasis on how much the target is worth (profit). When new potential detectorist view these shows they can be influenced by the bad habits and practices as seem on these shows. This can create the situation where a new detectorist may start practicing the hobby without any regards to the metal detecting environment, to property and the potential public value of objects being found.

There are many new retirees entering the population from lifetime careers who are looking for a hobby to occupy their free time. These new retirees see the metal detecting TV shows and decide to purchase a detector without any knowledge as to where and how to use the detector. Their only knowledge base about the hobby is the TV show and that knowledge is not enough to inform them of the right way or even the incorrect ways to practice the hobby. An inexperienced detectorist with no prior experience, knowledge and the lack of a personal mentor is a detectorist in trouble. This situation can cause the hobby a great deal of damage in the public eye.

In Summary. The lack of individual personal knowledge about how to properly use a detector and recover targets in a park setting is the single major cause of why public land managers limit or remove access. Plus, there are those individuals that use a metal

detector to plunder historical sites. The plundering of historical sites brings forward the archaeologist and now you have a very large constituent of people, who will pressure public land managers to remove all access.

So how can metal detectorist gain greater access to public lands?

Local Involvement. The best way for metal detectorist to retain access to those public lands that are still open

in their community and to gain more access to public lands is to work with the local public land managers. Do not wait until a law or regulation is proposed or enacted; at that juncture it is probably too late. To change an existing law can be difficult without a lot of help from the U.S. metal detecting community or in some cases to hire legal help, which can be expensive. Getting the law changed is not an easy task.

All clubs need to have a conversation at their monthly meeting about public land access and how they as a club can make an impact. This should not be a one time event but must be an on going monthly conversation at their club business and board meetings.

A loud uniform voice must come from the local metal detecting club and this can be accomplished by becoming an intergraded part of the local public land management organization or the department's rule setting process. What this means is that there should be a number of volunteer club members who can be available to participate on how regulations and laws should be enacted. These volunteers need to be open minded about how to protect public lands but also gain support for metal detectorist and other recreational activities to have public access.

The club should seek out the local archaeologist organization and volunteer their services to help profile historical sites. This could develop into a good working relationship and may soften their (archaeologist) view about the metal detecting hobby and its participates.

The club should also team up with local law-enforcement and provide evidence search services at crime scenes. This is an excellent PR service and can be very beneficial to law enforcement.

Get the club in the local news services with PR stories about finding lost items for people or doing projects with other organizations. These type of activities can build support for metal detecting in the local community.

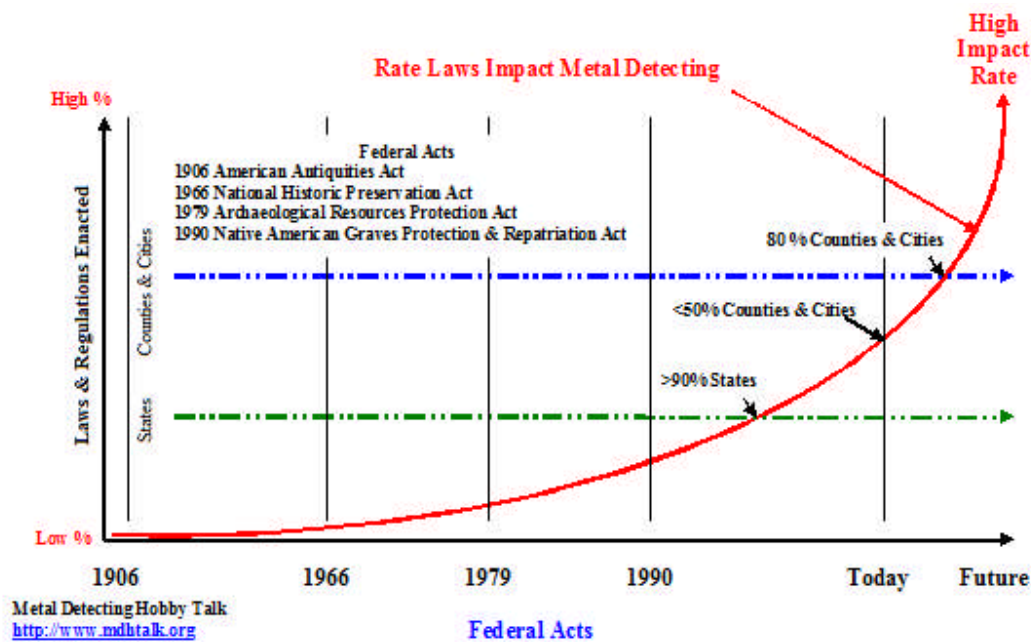
Advertise in the local newspaper about your club's monthly meeting so that new metal detectorist can gain knowledge about the club existence. Also provide a monthly or quarterly introduction to metal detecting class for the public though the local senior center.

State Involvement. There also needs to be a well organized effort to influence state law and regulations for access to state land. To accomplish a state level effort will require that all of the recreational hobby groups in the state work together with a uniform voice to the state policy makers. This means that organizations / groups that represent metal detecting, gold prospecting, gem and mineral, fossil collecting and off road vehicle use, etc. must consider getting together to fight for public access with a single voice. These organization normally has members throughout the whole state and with these members all state legislators could be targeted by the hobby related constituents to gain their help and support on open access issues.

National Involvement. A very similar situation (as state involvement) needs to take place at the national level - all national organization with a public access issue should work together to create one loud voice for access. If this were to take place just think about all the voices across the 50 states that would be focused on one major issue in congress. Think leverage, leverage, leverage.

Finally there are a number of non-profit groups working independently doing fire-fighting on the open access issue - this can be effective but not very efficient. These groups need to stop and look at the big picture. The groups need to operate as one voice on open access issues since they all have the same objective and mission which is to keep public access open to the recreationalist. View some of These Groups at: [Join the Fight](#)

What is the future without change?



Graphic Disclaimer. The graphic below is based on an analysis of the federal acts' time line, state laws, and the review of many county and city regulations. The percentages are a bit of a guess when it comes to the level of law enacted in each entity (states, counties, cities, etc) however, the error factor is probably relatively small.

The vertical axis (Y) on the left represents Laws and Regulations enacted from the very LOW level percentage in 1906 on the bottom of the axis to a HIGH percentage at the top of the axis over time.

The horizontal axis (X) on the bottom represents time by using the various acts passed by congress since 1906. Keep in mind that these federal acts drive almost all state and local laws for access to public land. (National, State, County, City, etc)

The conclusion you could take away from this graphic is that over the last 100 years access to public lands is being either eliminated or regulated by laws. This is being accelerated at a very rapid pace today and will be even more so in the future. More and more states, cities, county and school districts are placing limits on their public property against metal detecting. It is time to take real action by all clubs and metal detectorist across the country or our public land access will probably be gone in the next 25 years.

Summary. This article and other similar articles on the MDHTALK News website represent just one small voice for gaining greater access. It is hoped that detectorist and others will read these articles and add their voice to the public lands access troubles. So [Join the Fight](#)

Here are a list of articles on the MDHTALK website that can be read which will further enforce this article's theme.

Is Recreational Metal Detecting on the Endangered List? [Article Link](#)

Is Recreational Metal Detecting on the Endangered List? —Next Step [Article nk](#)

Thoughts on Responsible Metal Detecting [Article Link](#)

Metal Detecting Etiquette [Article Link](#)

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Helping beaches recover from hurricanes, other impacts costs governments millions of dollars. [Article Link](#)
- Adults, kids hunt for loot on the beach in Ocean City. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure-hunting twins strike again, reunite family with long-lost war medals. [Article Link](#)
- Trussville collector shares his mini museum of buried treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Kellyco Metal Detectors Acquired by President. [Article Link](#)
- Wife Accuses Jeweler of Giving \$6K Wedding Ring to Wrong Person—Who Sold It. [Article Link](#)
- Mohawk Hill proves fertile ground for treasure hunting. [Article Link](#)
- The mystery of the buried owl: the 30-year treasure hunt baffling French puzzlers. [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. 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. [May Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** present the BIG metal detecting podcast. A weekly show bringing all areas of history

- Did Jesse James Bury Confederate Gold? These Treasure Hunters Think So. [Article Link](#)
- Is it legal to treasure hunt Lake Mead's exposed shoreline? Here's what you need to know. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting club hopes to strike gold on Alberta's Klondike Trail. [Article Link](#)
- 'Little bits of history': Amanda 'Digger' Degaz finds meaning in her pursuit of treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Fun and Smart Ideas for Spending Your Leisure Time. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting man unearths possible WWII ordnance on Fort Pierce beach. [Article Link](#)
- Northeast Michigander finds joy, treasures through metal detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Looking for history on the Klondike Trail. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- West Country treasure hunters recover stolen Victorian safe with extreme metal detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Indiana Jones fan's Suffolk treasure find 'largest' Claudius reign hoard. [Article Link](#)
- 'You're really not supposed to use them': Expert critical of sale of metal detectors in supermarket. [Article Link](#)
- Nighthawking: Metal detectorist explains why he broke the law. [Article Link](#)
- Public warned of 'mystery holes' at Barton's Point coastal park, Sheppey. [Article Link](#)
- Sale of Medieval gold coins found by New Romney couple Phil and Joan Castle. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist unearths 570-year old rare spoon. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure trove of Roman coins uncovered by three metal detectorist friends. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorists discovery of Roman silver coins in Vale of Pewsey expected to fetch £40,000. [Article Link](#)
- Feature-length Detectorists special commissioned. [Article Link](#)
- Historic Northumberland seal goes up for auction after metal detector find. [Article Link](#)
- Schoolboy, 12, finds Bronze Age gold ribbon worth £1,000 with metal detector. [Article Link](#)
- Pot brimming with Roman coins discovered in Switzerland. [Article Link](#)
- Delays placing heritage at risk, metal detectorist warns. [Article Link](#)
- Second metal detectorist looking for King John's treasure in Sutton Bridge claims an energy company is blocking his efforts. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Archaeologists dig into Miami history at Baccarat tower site. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeological dig at Presidio of Monterey solves mystery. [Article Link](#)
- 160 Years After Sinking, NOAA Scientists Plan to Survey USS Monitor. [Article Link](#)
- Largest Native American cave art revealed by 3D scans. [Article Link](#)
- Stories in stone: Guide Rickey Hayes interprets the past at Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park. [Article Link](#)

together with our guests, news and much more. [May Pod Cast Link](#)

- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [June News](#)
- **Garrett Searcher** [April 19 Searcher](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [May News](#)
- **Mel Fisher** [Salvage Update](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [May 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. [MAY News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [June Newsletter](#)

Jewelry Returns

- Rome Sentinel.com loss of 2002 ring found and returned. [Article Link](#)
- Wedding ring lost 9 years ago found in flower bed . [Article Link](#)
- Diving Heroes Find Woman's 100-Year-old Wedding Ring After it Flew Off her Finger Into a River. [Article Link](#)
- Man Finds Tech Memorial Class Ring with Metal Detector. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Crumbling Comet Could Create New Meteor Shower and an Epic Outburst. [Article Link](#)
- Houston scientists discover 4.5 billion-year-old meteorites in Mississippi. [Article Link](#)
- Shropshire meteorite: No trace despite hundreds of possible finds. [Article Link](#)
- Hundreds spot 'spectacular' fireball across England. [Article Link](#)
- Brilliant fireball over Mississippi sparks loud booms (and satellite photos). [Article link](#)

Helping beaches recover from hurricanes, other impacts costs governments millions of dollars Lina Ruiz, Olivia McKelvey, Colleen Wixon [Treasure Coast Newspapers](#)

Local governments play a game of give-and-take when it comes to maintaining Treasure Coast beaches and their ever-changing terrain. As a result of hurricanes, erosion and development on barrier islands, intervention in Mother Nature's natural cycle on beaches is needed to sustain the recreational space used by locals and tourists and to protect waterfront structures.

Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties have spent millions on beach renourishment projects over the past decade.

To many, the work seems repetitive, even futile, yet it's become necessary, coastal engineers say. Beach erosion, which occurs both naturally and artificially, is partially fueled by manmade inlets.

"If we want to maintain shorelines in Florida, and we want to have beaches to recreate, we have to address what Mother Nature would have otherwise eroded or moved," said St. Lucie County Coastal Engineer Joshua Revord. "And then we also have to deal with those additional features that we have constructed over time that further exacerbate nature's role in changing the shoreline."

Opinions vary widely on value of beach renourishment

Community involvement also plays a crucial role in ensuring these projects get done, he added.

"Folks decide to start petitioning their local government for assistance because they chronically find themselves in a position of being fearful for the impacts of the upcoming hurricane season," Revord said. "If there was no need or want from the community, I would suspect that projects would not come up, because they're quite expensive."

In contrast, Indian Riverkeeper Mike Conner disputes the value of this practice. It's no more than a "temporary Band-Aid" that sends taxpayer money "out to sea," he said.

"They do it again and again and again with material that doesn't stay there," Conner said. "The beach will come back given the chance ... It's a high-energy, dynamic ecosystem."

In the past decade, Indian River and Martin counties combined have spent about \$91.4 million in federal, state and county funds on these projects — about \$42.7 million and \$48.7 million, respectively. St. Lucie County did not provide data requested by TCPalm.

In St. Lucie, the most recent beach renourishment project, which stretches 3.4 miles north from the Martin County line, consists of replenishing roughly 400,000 cubic yards of sand, Revord said. It's about halfway complete.

Ecological benefits of beach projects

Beach renourishment can have a positive ecological effect, specifically for preserving nesting habitat for various species, according to Kendra Cope, executive director of the nonprofit Coastal Connections. The organization focuses on protecting coastal habitats for sea turtle survival.

"You actually enhance or provide an enhanced nesting beach for shore birds, beach mice, sea turtles, critically endangered vegetation. All of these different things need that sandy beach to survive," Cope said.

These projects generally are "the best tool in the tool box," according to Martin County Deputy County Administrator Don Donaldson, who also is a coastal engineer, director of the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and a Florida Inland Navigation District commissioner.

"Under the current rate of sea-level rise and current, increasing storm activities, they are a sustainable practice," he said. "I think they work."

Lina Ruiz is TCPalm's watchdog reporter for Martin County. You can reach her at lina.ruiz@tcpalm.com, on Twitter @Lina_Ruiz48 or at 321-501-3845

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

- **June 04, 2022** (Two Days) New Concord, Ohio 10th Annual Silver Seekers Open Treasure Hunt Sponsored by Don Hayes & Ed Burke
- **June 10, 2022** (Three Days) CONIFER, Colorado 2022 Rush to the Rockies Open Treasure Hunt Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club
- **June 17, 2022** (Three Days) Athol, Idaho 50th Northwerst Annual Treasure Hunt Northwest Treasure Hunters Spokane Club

[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.