



Newsletter

April 2021

The April, 2021 Issue of the EARTH Newsletter

This issue of the EARTH Newsletter finds us in strange times brought on by the COVID Pandemic. Our president Dave Lofgren came down with the virus and ended up in the hospital. He has sense returned home and is recuperating.

Larry Ehlinger and I, Mike Parker, decided we would put our heads together for this issue and allow Dave some down time.

On March 29th we held our first monthly meeting where we finally were able to hold our end of the year (2020) Competition. We did have one change and that was that it was run like the contest at our Christmas Party but every entry was given points, thus we were able to have a Detectorist of the Year award. The only problem was that we ran out of time in judging as there were several ties. Being a Covid Season messing everything up we just scored them with the same score. But the write up on the competition is later in this issue. Also you can see that the Scavenger Hunt 2021 is included. This is always fun to fill out and it can be a handy tool you can use while asking for permission.

Our apologies for lost emails and a seeming lack of organization but I club has survived this horrible time in the history of our world. We are low on funds so please pay your dues and we need to fund-raising ideas.

COVER PHOTO: an abandoned house in Grant, NY. Photo by Mike Parker in the late 1980s.

Club Hunt Saturday April 24th

There will be an EARTH club hunt on Saturday, April 24th at the Lee Center Field Day Site next to the town barn. When coming into Lee Center on West Thomas Street make your first left, past the post office, and drive to the end of the road. If you're driving north out of Rome on Turin Road (Rte. 26) make a left at the bottom of Stokes Hill onto Stokes-Lee Center Road. Drive about 3 miles into Lee Center then make a left across from the Methodist Church. The site will be to the right of the Town Barn.

No one is to arrive before 9:00am and everyone needs to be off of the site by 3:00. You must use a ground cloth and only small hand trowels. For additional information call Larry @ (315) 339-0560.



Introducing one of our newest members of the Earth Club - John Latham finding a bottle cap.

Proctor Park Hunt

By Larry Ehlinger

The first EARTH Club Hunt for 2021 was held at Proctor Park in Utica Saturday April 10th. Fortunately, the weather was perfect with everyone and his brother were out jogging, walking, biking, exercising dogs, and picking up trash. In past years we've had rain, snow, wind and brutal temperatures. One year we hunted with an inch of snow cover. This particular hunt has been held in April for the last 10 years or so and its primary purpose is to help those new to the hobby. Over the last 12 months the scheduling of the EARTH club's events and meetings have been in turmoil because of the virus. The number of members that participated this year was a reflection of that.

Those that attended were, along with myself, Mike Parker, Dave Dylis, Dave Zohne, John Latham, Shelia Himmelman and Scott Nell, who is brand spanking new to the hobby. Scott's a friend of Matt Lenhart who told him about our gathering and that we could offer some guidance, which we gladly did.

Hopefully, we'll be able to schedule more gatherings in the coming weeks and months so pay attention to your emails.

2021 EARTH CLUB SCAVENGER HUNT Name: _____

Objects must be dug during the 2021 calendar year. Total # of Items Found: _____

 Toy Plane	 Square Nut	 Homemade Fishing Weight	 Golf Ball	 Metal Detecting Community Svc.
 Watch Fob	 Wheatback Cent	 Barber Coin	 Pewter Spoon Bowl	 Sunglasses
 Ring With Stone	 Seated Liberty Coin	 Clad US Quarter	 Button w/Gold Gilt	 Civil War Token
 Multiple Keys on a Ring	 Silver-Plated Fork	 Silver Thimble	 Hair Fastener, Any Type	 Iron Strap Hinge
 Spanish Reale	 Battery	 Drawer Pull	 Any Silver Half	 Fired Lead Bullet
 Railroad Spike	 Gold Ring	 Charm	 Water Valve Handle	 Military Button
 Bottle or Screw Cap	 US Large Cent	 Ox Knob	 Zipper Pull	 Automobile Emblem
 Whole Sleigh Bell	 Ink Pen	 Buffalo Nickel	 Aluminum Dog Tag	 Bridle Rosette

Alternative Treasure Hunting

By Larry Ehlinger

Often one who metal detects also ventures into other types of treasure hunting. I enjoy estate, moving and garage sales. I also like to snoop around in thrift and antique shops. Years ago, when I worked at Woods Valley Ski Area, I would scrounge the hills after the snow melted picking up dropped change. Folding money would sometimes blow out of cold hands and end up in the woods that border the slopes. I'd scour the woods picking up dollar bills and every once and a while find a \$10.00 or even a \$20.00!

My wife and I are in charge of running the annual rummage sale at our church. Generous donations from our parishioners pour in throughout the year. We arrange the items neatly on long tables in the church basement and hang clothes on racks, while all the larger items, or those with a higher value, get posted on Facebook Marketplace. The money we take in goes to our food pantry and for entertainment events we hold at our parish.



Towards the end of this winter a recently retired doctor and his wife had put their house on the market, packed their bags, said goodbye to their neighbors and were eagerly anticipating a move to Dallas Texas. Seeing as though they would be moving into a much smaller place, they didn't need or have room for many of their larger items. The couple decided to donate them to our church's worthwhile causes.

Myself along with a couple other parishioners drove to the doctor's house in New Hartford to pick up the items. We drove down in 2 pickup trucks along with a long wide trailer. After hauling out all that we were allowed to take, we carefully packed in tight every possible inch of space we had and barely managed it all in one trip.

We drove back to Rome, off-loaded it in our driveway, then arraigned, as best we could, all the items in our garage. My wife took pictures of each item to post online. We had a queen-sized bed with hefty cherry head and foot boards; a solid wooden dresser with a massive attached mirror; 2 huge matching bookcases that weighted a ton! A BBQ grill, a couple sets of suitcases, a coffee table and a dozen throw pillows, some wall pictures along with 2 well-worn Lay-Z-boy couches. It was a good haul and we were anxious to start selling.

The following day I was in the garage cleaning up the couches when I saw some tissues sticking out from behind the cushions. I stuck my mitt through the narrow slit between the back and seat part to pull them free. Once I got them out, I spotted a single white sock sticking out so I pulled that free also. Curious, I dug in further and found a couple pens, then some coins. It wasn't long before I realized that these couches had never been cleaned out... ever!

In an instant I discovered a whole different kind of treasure hunting, I was in heaven! I started on one end below the armrest. I knelt close to the slit so my weight would push the springs down making the opening just wide enough to get my hand inside. The manufactures tag affixed to the fabric read that both these couches were assembled in 1999, so these couches had supported quite a few butts for over 20 years.

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It takes someone who is used to digging up garbage while metal detecting to be brave enough to stick their hand into the unknown innards of a living room couch.

Alternative Treasure Hunting **(Continued from Previous Page)**

I worked slow and methodically, not wanting to miss a thing. I moved right to left wresting out everything my hand touched into daylight for the first time in many years. Pens, coins and pieces of moldy or mummified food pieces seemed to be the most common. Highlighters, pills and candy wrappers were nearly as common. For a full half hour, I was happily occupied in my own little treasure hunting world.

When I finished up with the first couch, and comfortably satisfied that there wasn't anything left, I went on to the second one. My wrist was red and sore but I dug right in, starting below the arm rest again working right to left. I got better as I went, rocking back and forth on my knees to work the slit wider. It was in this second couch where I found their TV Dish Remote.

Out of all of the objects I pulled from these 2 couches, it was the TV remote that truly puzzled me. I thought hard as to what set of circumstances needed to be present for someone to actually lose a TV remote while setting on a couch. How can one not find an object when only moments earlier they were using it to scroll between the local news and Wheel of Fortune?

I'm somewhat of an expert on lounging on a couch with command of a remote but never once having lost one. Granted, occasionally it will go missing amongst a couch that appeared to have been the epicenter of some catastrophic gas explosion, with throw pillows, crumpled blankets, a bowl of popcorn, and 3 cats, but no matter how disheveled things become within seconds me and my remote would be happily reunited again. So, I need to question the thought process, whereas a presumably smart person (he is an M.D.) set about searching for the remote once he and his wife

discovered it missing.

"Hey honey, you seen the remote?"

"Nope, you had it last." Maybe it's in the backyard."

"Oooo, good idea, you check the yard, I'll look up in the attic."

FYI people, it's a pretty safe bet that if your TV remote suddenly goes missing it's either on the floor or in the sofa!

The second couch was just as lucrative. Many more colorful pills, pharmacy prescription containers, pencils, pens and more dried chunks of food. I pulled out enough food to make a good-sized casserole had I been in the mood for some culinary experimentation.

When I finally finished, I took inventory. I dug out, 23 pens, 2 pencils, pills too numerous to count, 4 double "A" batteries, 2 highlighters (one green and one orange), 2 black magic markers, 1 Ping-Pong ball, 1 white crew sock, 2 cigarette lighters, a diverse collection of beer bottle caps, 1 single key, 1 carbineer, 36 coins, although my fingers touched many more but they slipped through holes in the fabric dropping deeper into the bowels of the couch. I briefly entertained the notion of attacking the couch with my Sawzall and sledge hammer to get at them but thought it may hurt the resale value.

There were many snack wrappers and several tissues, and of course my particular favorite, the black Dish Network TV remote. I was disappointed that I didn't find any rings or jewelry or a fat wallet. I was somewhat relieved that I didn't pull out any skeletal remains of a family pet that mysteriously disappeared years early.

Treasure Hunting really does take on many forms. Now, every time I pass by a discarded couch sitting next to the curb, I have a hard time passing it by wondering just what treasures could be hiding inside.

END OF THE YEAR COMPETITIONS 2020

Their wasn't a lot of entries in the the end of the year competition but it was a nice show and tell of some of our club member's finds during 2020. The following are the results. Also in we decided to turn the end of the year competition in to a way we could name the Detectorist of the Year. First place wins were 10 points, second place wins were 7 points and third place wins were 5 points. Each person received one point for entering.

Best Gold Ring:

1st Place - Mike Parker
2nd Place - Ed Netzband
3rd Place - Lori Fealey

Best Silver Ring:

1st Place - Mike Parker
2nd Place - Lori Fealey
3rd Place - Mike Wusik

Best Iron:

1st Place - Lori Fealey
2nd Place - Marge Ferjet
3rd Place - Mike Parker

Best Toy:

1st Place - Mike Parker
2nd Place - Marge Ferjet
3rd Place - Ed Netzband

Best Jewelry:

1st Place - Mike Wusik
2nd Place - Mike Wusik
3rd Place - Mike Parker

Best Token:

1st Place - Lori Fealey
2nd Place - Mike Wusik
3rd Place - Mike Parker

Best Military Item:

1st Place -Mike Wusik
2nd Place -TIE Lori Fealey - Mike Parker
3rd Place -

Best Button:

1st Place - Marge Ferjet
2nd Place - Mike Wusik
3rd Place - Lori Fealey

Strangest: 1st Place - Lori Fealey
2nd Place - Larry Ehlinger
3rd Place - TIE - Mike Parker, Ed Netzband,
Mike Wusik

Best Foreign Coin:

1st Place - Mike Wusik
2nd Place - Marge Ferjet
3rd Place - TIE - Lori Fealey and Mike Parker

Best Small Cent:

1st Place - Mike Parker
2nd Place - Mike Wusik
3rd Place - Marge Ferjet

Best Large Cent:

1st Place - TIE - Ed Netzband and
Brandon Snyder
2nd Place -
3rd Place - TIE -Marge Ferjet and Mike Wusik

Best Dime:

1st Place - TIE - Lori Fealey - Larry Ehlinger
2nd Place -
3rd Place - Mike Wusik

Best Quarter:

1st Place - Larry Ehlinger
2nd Place - Mike Wusik
3rd Place - 3 way tie

Best Odd Denomination Coin:

1st Place - Dave Dylis
2nd Place - Marge Ferjet and Lori Fealey
3rd Place -

Best Over-all Silver:

1st Place - Mike Wusik
2nd Place - Mike Parker
3rd Place - Larry Ehlinger

Best Advertising Item:

1st Place - Larry Ehlinger
2nd Place - Marge Ferjet and Lori Fealey
3rd Place -

There were no entries in the best display.

**The top three finishers in the
Metal Detectorist of the Year
for 2020 are:**

**1st Place - Lori Fealey - 105 points
2nd Place - Mike Wusik - 89
3rd Place - Mike Parker - 85**



Above is Dave Dylis and below is Dave Zohne digging their holes during the Proctor Park Hunt and Classes. Dylis found a silver dime and Mike Parker found pieces of an old cap gun and a metal button.



On Saturday, April 17th, there will be a Club Hunt at West Canada Creek Campgrounds on Rt. 28 in Poland. The hunt begins at 9:30AM. Be sure you sign in and Happy Hunting.



Pull Tab Challenge- 2021

By Larry Ehlinger

When I first joined the EARTH club back in 1996 our club held contests to see how many ring pull tabs one could find in a season. Parks, playgrounds, schoolyards, and ball fields had a staggering number of these tabs buried. They are so numerous that most metal detectors have a "pull tab" icon on their displays. Detectorists have dug countless thousands of these little pesky nuisances over last quarter century, but it seems that we haven't put a dent in their numbers.

As soon as the snow melts and the ground thaws, the EARTH Club will once again be holding a Pull Tab Challenge! Here is a list of the rules: (1) We will be counting ONLY complete vintage ring pull tabs. The "beaver tail" section and the "ring" part, often found separately, cannot be counted. It must be a complete pull tab. The current square tabs that we're all used to seeing today, which were designed to stay on the cans, will not be counted. We've even added a little twist to the game. At the start of the season, every member can submit a guess on the total number of pull tabs they think the entire club will find this year.

This contest is based on the honor system so we ask that you don't team up with another member... it's every man or woman for themselves. This will be fun and we're anxious to see just how many tabs our little club can remove from the ground. We will be awarding prizes down to at least 5 places and maybe all the way to the tenth place. The prize list has not been established yet but could include U.S. mint sets, silver rounds, Franklin & Kennedy halves, along

with detector-related equipment. Members may turn in their Pull tabs at our November meeting or at our December Christmas Party when the awards will be handed out.



Left: Larry Ehlinger hangs the Earth Club banner at our home away from home, the Whitestown Veterans Club. This was at the March 29 meeting.



Right: Ed Netzband manning the sign-in table and selling raffle tickets. Club funds are low so if anyone has fund-raising ideas bring them to the next meeting.



The tables were set at the March meeting to hold the end of the year, 2020, finds competition. There were many nice finds



Right: Larry was our presiding over the March meeting where he explained how the competition was going to be run. He filled in for our Covid president Dave Lofgren.



Right: There were more than a dozen members of the club that turned out for the meeting. We also invited some empty chairs to join in the fun.

Next Meeting
April 26, 2021
Whitestown Veteran's Club
174 Whitesboro St.,
Yorkville, NY 13495
Meeting 6:30pm - 8:30pm

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jay Pastor wrote this piece in 2003 for the club's news letter which he often did, we will run some of his stories as time and space permit...

But before we get to his story, here is an interesting paragraph about him from one of our past meetings at about the same time.

"President Blencowe then read a letter he received from Lifetime member Jay Pastor expressing deep appreciation to the club by presenting him with a lifetime membership certificate. Jay said that he was one of the earliest members of the club and that he believes the clubs ongoing success is directly attributed to the hard work of its officers. Jay went on to say that his certificate now hangs in a prominent place in his home."

May, 2003



**Earth Metal Detecting Club of Central
New
York**

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Changeable Signals

by Jay Pastor

"The good things in life are not to be had singly, but come to us with a mixture." - Charles Lamb

Some of the most interesting finds come from objects that produce ambiguous signals on our detector indicators. These are the items that defy electronic discrimination, requiring us to bring out the heavy artillery, the most potent form of discrimination - digging.

An example of this dithering by a microprocessor-controlled detector was a signal I received at an old playground in East Utica. During the recent installation of a modern plastic jungle gym the ground had been turned over, re-spread, and re-graded. At one spot I got a reading that wavered continually between cent and pull-tab, then settled awhile on a marker about halfway between the two indications.

The depth indication also varied inconsistently between two and four inches. Then, suddenly, as though it were forced to make a permanent decision, the display produced a steady reading of pull-tab at two inches. (Had I kept scanning, chances are that the reading would have begun to waver again.)

I dug down about three inches for this strange item and would up with a clean pull-tab, a rusty bottle cap, and an 1864 Indian Head cent with spots of greenish-blue corrosion, all within an inch of each other.

Now, I ask you: "What right do we have to demand that our detectors give us an absolute, binding, and correct decision in a situation like that? I was glad that it did act that way, and even gladder that I had decided to dig. From then on, I made it a practice to dig all ambivalent signs, and usually emerged with a good find. Sometimes the fluctuation was caused by multiple items close together, other times the item was made of an unusual metal combined with a common one, and at other times the indecision was probably caused by corrosion and tarnish.

When you get a nervous reading, it pays to dig.

