

**EARTH Metal Detecting Club of Central New York
President's Message-January 2018**



Well, we are clearly in the middle of what appears to be a very long and cold winter. As I write this, I am mired in a serious case of cabin fever, just itching for the spring thaw to arrive so I can continue on various treasure hunting missions. I am positive I am not the only one feeling this way!

Given that we can't do anything about the temperature and the weather, there are a lot of proactive measures we can take to increase our chances of success for the 2018 metal detecting season. The first of course, is to get your hands on some old maps. Every town and county you can think of is available on-line. Many of these are available to download for a small fee and some are free. You can also just simply take a screen shot of an area in particular for assistance in research. The following is a screen shot I took of an old map the town of Bridgewater from an Oneida County Atlas. You can select any town or area you are interested in searching. Compare a current map to an older one and you can find the sites that do not exist anymore that tend to produce some of the better finds. A great point of reference on these old maps is the water features. Lakes, ponds, rivers and streams haven't moved much since these maps were made!



Go and pay a visit to the Oneida County Historical Society. This is a great way to spend an afternoon, look at the displays and talk to the very helpful and friendly staff. I am positive you will come away with some ideas for hunt sites. The Society is located at 1608 Genesee St in Utica. The hours are generally 10:00AM to 4:00PM.



Other Historical Societies to visit include:

- Town of Paris Historical Society located in Clayville, NY
- New Hartford Historical Society, 2 Paris Rd New Hartford, NY

- Clinton Historical Society, 1 Fountain St, Clinton, NY
- Madison County Historical Society, 435 Main St, Oneida NY

The winter is also a good time to go through your back issues of metal detecting publications. My two favorites are **American Digger Magazine** and **Western and Eastern Treasures**. I highly recommend that you subscribe to these magazines. If you do subscribe and hold on to your back issues, flip through them. When I do this, I always come across a tip or two, have an idea for a new site or a new way to display finds.

Another way to scratch that metal detecting itch while the temperatures hover around zero degrees is to view metal detecting videos on the internet. A quick Google search on this topic will literally result in thousands of hits. Some favorites include the Stealth Diggers, the Hoover Boys, and Aquachigger. I just did a search and several videos grabbed my attention including “Metal Detecting an 1800's swimming Hole” and “Metal Detecting and old Farm, Huge Silver and Lots of Coins”.

As a final note on this months’ message, we always have a need to fill the pipeline of monthly speakers/presenters. **Mike Parker** had an interesting idea to have a farmer come in and discuss the different types of equipment they use as well as planting schedules for various crops. This will be interesting as we search a lot of farm fields and also find a lot of “machine parts” on these fields. Please let me know the leads you can think of for monthly speakers so we can begin lining them up for meetings in 2018.

Our next meeting is at the Dunham Public Library on February 26 from 6:30 – 8:30 and I look forward to seeing you all there!

Dave Lofgren
President

November 2017 Competition Results



Best Coin

Winner:	Dave Lofgren
Entry:	1798 Large Cent
Location:	Vernon NY Farm field
Detector:	Minelab Explorer II
Value:	\$40.00 AG-3 (2017 R.S. Yeoman “Red Book”)

2nd Place (2-way tie): Marg Ferjet, 1936 Mercury dime; Fred DeCarlo, 1805 Half Cent
Number of Entries: 7

Best Other



Winner: Dave Lofgren

Entry: Blasting Machine Mfg. Plate
Location: Little Falls NY
Detector: Minelab Explorer II
Value: Historical
2nd Place: Chris Beattie, "Jupiter" Padlock
3rd Place: Scott Dunham, Civil War Military
Button
Number of Entries: 8

Best Jewelry



Winner: Fred DeCarlo

Entry: Late 1700s Cufflinks
Location: Plainfield NY
Value: Historical
2nd Place: Lori Fealey, Silver Indian
Arrowhead Pendant
3rd Place: Dave Lofgren, Sweet Ring
Number of Entries: 6

Mystery "Best Quarter"

Winner: Chris Beattie
Entry: 1895 Barber
Location: Vernon Center
Value: \$14.00 VG-8 (R.S. Yeoman "Red Book")
Detector: Garrett AT-Pro
Number of Entries: 5

EARTH Metal Detecting Club Christmas Party 2017

The 2017 Earth Club annual Christmas Party was again a smashing success. For the third year in a row, it was held at Club Monarch in Yorkville. The atmosphere, staff and food was all excellent. We had 45 members and guests attend. The Club treasury was able to subsidize the cost of the dinner so each member only had to pay \$10 (non-members; \$20). Members were also encouraged to bring a desert dish of their choosing which resulted in a wide array of delicious sweets after the meal.

As usual, there was an astounding quality and variety of finds in the annual "Best of" competition categories. The 2017 winners were as follows:

Best Gold Ring- **Ed Netzband**, 10k Ring with 5 Stones
Best Silver Ring- **Lori Fealey**, Man's sterling Ring w/Black Onyx
Best Iron Object- **Mary Lou Desrosiers**, Iron Cross
Best Toy- **Larry Ehlinger**, Wyatt Earp Badge
Best Buckle- **Margaret Ferjet**, Bat Wing Buckle
Best Button- **Scott Dunham**, Military Button
Best Jewelry (no rings)- **Larry Ehlinger**, Sterling Necklace w/Clear Stones
Most Unusual Find- **Bob Allers**, Capitol Special Police Badge
Best Token- **Dave Lofgren**, 1857 Bank of Upper Canada Penny Token
Best Foreign Coin- **Ed Netzband**, 1873 Greek Drachma
Best US Large Cent- **Dave Lofgren**, 1798 Draped Bust Large Cent
Best Flatware- **Mary Lou Desrosiers**, Large Spoon- silver Plated
Oldest Silver Coin- **Margaret Ferjet**, 1795 Reale
Best Overall Coin- **Larry Ehlinger**, 1853 Three Cent Piece
Best US Small Cent- **Dave Lofgren**, 1874 Indian Head Penny
Best Dime- **Lori Fealy**, 1944 Mercury Dime
Best Quarter- **Dave Lofgren**, 1927 Standing Liberty Quarter

Best Military Item- **Bob Allers**, Navy Pilot Wings

Best Metal Detecting Display 2017 Awards:



- 1st Place- **Dave Lofgren**, Dave's Antiques & Curiosity Shoppe
- 2nd Place- **Stu Copperwheat**, Oak Island
- 3rd Place- **Larry Ehlinger**, Beauty in the Brass

Nut Guess Results: There were 116 nuts in the jar. The winner was **Bob Allers** with 118 and a tie for second between **Darcy Puleo** and **Matt Lenhart** who both guessed 121.

2017 Treasure Hunter of the Year Award: This year marked the 15th time we have given out this prestigious award. Ex-Club member **Tom Baustert** began this friendly competition back in 2003 and it's been going on ever since. Twenty Five members took part in this year's competition, and 14 different club members got at least 1 win throughout the year. The following is a list of all winners:

Dave Lofgren	6 wins
Ed Netzbant & Larry Ehlinger	5 wins
Lori Fealey	4 wins
Chris Beattie & Sarah Lenhart	2 wins

The following Members all had 1 Win:

Bill Wilson, Bob Allers, Tom Ferget, Ralph Blencowe, Stan Blazek, Fred DeCarlo, Mike Eychner, Mary Lou Derosiers

Point totals for the top 10 members are:

Points



1 st	Lori Fealey	131
2 nd	Dave Lofgren	124
3 rd	Ed Netzband	107
4 th	Larry Ehlinger	85
5 th	Chris Beattie & Margarate Ferget	73
6 th	Tom Ferjet	37
7 th	Scott Dunham	29
8 th	Sarah Lenhart	24
9 th	Mike Eychner & Matt Lenhart	23
10 th	Bob Allers	22

Scavenger Hunt Results:

The scavenger hunt was first introduced to the club in 2013 but began as what we once called “the bucket list.” It was thought up by **Mike Parker, Chris Altmann and Larry Ehlinger** and was only going to be for the beginners. The way it would work would be that whenever one of them would find their very first, say, Indian head cent, or silver coin, or Barber dime or a horseshoe or whatever we happened to have on our list, they would be recognized through our newsletter and they’d get to cross it off their list. However, the more we discussed the plan the more we liked the idea of somehow having ALL members having the opportunity to play. The bucket list was dropped but it morphed into The Scavenger Hunt.

The list changes each year with an attempt to include commonly dug items consisting of easy, moderate, and difficult objects.

After Pete Sorrell has reigned champion of the Scavenger hunt for the last three years, the following are the results from this year’s contest of 9 competitors:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Items Found out of 40</u>
1st Larry Ehlinger	27
2nd Margaret Ferget	26
3rd Lori Fealey	25

The raffle prizes, as always are fun finish to the evening’s activities. There were many great prizes brought by members (wrapped and unwrapped) including wine, home -

made crafts, books and all kinds of stuff! The 50/50 of \$58 was won by **Heather Lofgren**, and the grand prize metal detector, a Garrett Ace 250 was won by **Chris Beattie**.

Now is the time to tackle all those research projects as the ground is frozen solid until spring at this point. Hope to see you all at the February meeting!

David Lofgren
President







