

TCAS MONTHLY

JULY, 2008



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR...

Hello, TCAS! Well, there goes another month. Just a reminder, our "Pieces of One" Hunt is over. If you missed this month's meeting, the winner will be announced next TCAS Monthly.

Also, don't forget to buy your tickets for the Molasses drawing. Also, remember you must be present at the December meeting to clam the prize. Good luck to all.

Happy hunting!

-Amy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 25— Lancaster, PA

TREASURE HUNTER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Source: South Florida Treasure Hunters Club

1. We will respect the rights of others
2. We will fill in all holes.
3. We will not deface property.
4. We will not trespass.
5. We will return lost items, if possible.
6. We will support our local Police Department
7. We will dispose of all trash.
8. We will report the discovery of all items of significant historical value to a local accredited historian.
9. We will be a credit to our Club, Community and to our Hobby.

POINT OF INTEREST—THE HUNT FOR “FLOAT” COPPER—NEIL N.

Who ever heard of metal detecting for “float” copper? Most detectorists look for coins, exnomia, artifacts or jewelry, in other words “treasure”. Well in the late ‘90’s the Chicago club organized several club hunts for just that, native (or “float”) copper. Copper in its pure form, not as ore or aggregate but found as individual pieces anywhere from pebble to ton weight size, “floating” in the earth. These pieces of copper were believed to have been ripped from the large deposits, or mines, when the glacier moved through the area as far south as northern Illinois less than 15000 years ago. Where? In the Keweenaw Peninsula located in the upper most part of Michigan, known as “copper country.”

The Keweenaw Peninsula is a strip of land that extends out into Lake Superior. It is a hilly, forested area loaded with copper deposits which had been mined from the mid-1800s to mid 1900s. The following brief historical account is taken from an historical marker:

The Copper Country

“An ancient vanished race mined native copper hundreds of years ago in countless pits and trenches scattered among the hills from Copper Harbor to Ontonagon and on Isle Royale.

The explorer, Jacques Cartier, reported in 1536 that Indians on St. Lawrence River told him of great hills of native copper far to the west.

The Jesuit, Father Claude Allouez, was the first white man to report seeing copper along the south shores of Lake Superior. This was in 1666.

In 1771 a company was organized in London, England, which sent an unsuccessful expedition to these shores to mine copper. A treaty between the U.S. Government and the Chippewa Indians on March 12, 1843 opened the district to mining.”

Several members of the Chicago club went on a copper hunt in Sept. of 1996 for a period of 5 days. This amounted to a hobby-social activity in an area loaded with beautiful scenery and history. My first impression was that the Keweenaw Peninsula was a vacationing area that felt like the best kept secret.

The 30 lb. piece of copper exhibited at the March meeting was the largest piece found at the 1996 hunt. Its shape resembled the peninsula. Hunting for float copper generally took place in forested, hilly areas. Copper was found most often in solid chunks. However, the most collectible and rare copper find would be native copper in a sheet or mesh form.

Also, a number of mounds (20-30 ft. high) of material excavated from the mines are found thru out the area (mine “tailings”). The copper found in these mounds is generally combined with aggregate of sorts; some might even include silver ore.

A typical hunt day consisted of first, breakfast together and planning the location to try, then off to the woods for detecting with a little lunch and water, and then dinner together in the evening to brag about our finds.

My first view of a black bear in the wild was on an excursion looking for the Phoenix mine tailings. It was on the side of the abandoned gravel road I was traveling, about 200 yards away. When he heard me, he scampered into the woods and I never caught sight of him again. Matter of fact, the motel we stayed at commented that the black bears were getting more noticeable foraging their garbage containers at night.

A change of pace was had by hunting “agate beach” on Lake Superior. Not only was finding agate a possibility, but also pebbles that contained small amounts of copper or silver or both. These are a very collectible item.

The Keweenaw Peninsula is a treasure-throve of mining history. Anyone interested in mineralogy should include a visit to the Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Technological University, in the city of Houghton.

If this sparks your interest, on the internet, go to Google type in “Copper Country Upper Michigan.” All sorts of information about Keweenaw Peninsula are available.

TABLE WINNERS FOR MAY

Rings: Joan*, Richard*, Shoe

Group Coins: Joan*, Shoe

Jewelry: Neil*, Joan, Shoe

Miscellaneous: Neil, Joan*, Shoe

Single Coin: Doug, Joan, Shoe*

Fossils: No Entry

Artifacts: No Entry

FOM: Richard Hart for Rings



WINNER FOR MAY

Richard Hart For Rings

Congratulations
to all of our
winners the
month. Keep it
up!

YEAR TO DATE POINTS LEADERS

1st—Mark Holshoe

2nd—Dabney Small

3rd—Joan Hart

4th—Marty Hufnagel

CLASSIFIEDS**Selling**

Sun Ray Metter GI-1. Less than a few months old, fits Garret GTI series. Retail \$175, asking \$125. See Mark Shoe for more information

Selling

Excal Travel Shaft—\$90.00

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Soverirn Shaft—\$80.00

RTG Scoops Long Handle—\$115.00

Travel—\$125.00

If interested, please contact Dabney Small at smal2311@hotmail.com.

MEMBER NEWS

Anyone who wants to supply the shirts of their choosing to have the TCAS logo put on the shirt must either bring it (them) to the next meeting or mail to:

Mary McGee

497 Bywood Ave.

Sebastian, Fl. 32958

by April 1st. There will be a setup fee for the screening and we will only charge you for your screening and the club will absorb the set up and clean up fees this one time only.

HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE CENTRAL FLORIDA CLUB

Toothpaste is a good and cheap jewelry cleaner. Using a piece of cotton wool, rub the toothpaste onto the jewelry. Leave for a little while, then using fresh cotton wool, rub until shiny, then wash under running water.

<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/8480/>

**TREASURE COAST
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
INC.**

Guests are always welcome!

Meetings are held at North Indian
River County Library on SR512 in
Sebastian, FL.

The first Wednesday of every
month from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.



Treasure Coast Archeological Society

THE LAST WORD

Have something to share with the club? Let us know! This is your paper. Tell the world about your first find. What machine do you use? Have any advice for beginners?

Send an e-mail to Fun103@aol.com. Make sure that your name is on the article so we know who to give credit to. Hope to hear from everyone soon.

D E A D D E T E C T O R S T E L L N O T A I L S .

