

# The Buckeye Searcher

## November 2025

Volume 20, Number 11

Editor Kevin Sherman sfrkss-busenl@usa.net

Club Established: June 1982 and Celebrating our 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

### Buckeye Searchers Association of Northeast Ohio

#### Celebrating our 43rd Year Anniversary

President:	Bernie Benewiat 440-232-4247
Immediate Past President:	Jim Cerney 216-612-8433
Vice President	Terry Stahurski 216-225-1539
Secretary/Treasurer	Tammy Kepler 440-865-6062
Hunt Master	Bob Richards 440-503-1340



*Hello Buckeye Searchers-*

*The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 13th, 2025, 7PM at Ellenwood Recreation Center, located at 124 Ellenwood Ave in Bedford (doors open at 6:30PM). **Find of the Month entries must be posted by 7:30PM to allow plenty of time for voting.** You get a free raffle ticket for each find submitted (limit 4). We will also have the monthly raffle, the 50-50 raffle and of course: SNACKS!*

***A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated and bid on items at our fundraising auction at the last meeting! The amount of money raised exceeded expectations. Special thanks to auctioneer Terry, runner Crystal, and Tammy for keeping track of all the sales.** Special thanks to Drew for his presentation on Mexican & Spanish coins that circulated in the US. Drew also donated some nice coins for the auction as well as some we will use in the Christmas raffle. Also, thanks to Doug Crews who donated some nice coins for the Christmas raffle.*

***Wow! It is November already! So that means it is time to start thinking about the Christmas Party!** Mark your calendars for December 11<sup>th</sup>. Besides lots of food, the party will include our exciting super raffle! More info and discussion at the November meeting and in future emails. The raffle grand prize will be the 2014 Kennedy Half Dollar 4-coin set issued by the US Mint (thanks to Kevin Sherman for the donation). See below for a picture and more information.*

***And Last but not least, do not forget to buy tickets for the Special Raffle which includes five uncirculated pre-1900 Morgan Silver Dollars and one Gold Mexican 2 Peso Coin. Once we sell enough tickets to make a profit for the club, we will have the raffle (see pic below).***

*Good luck on your hunts, Bernie, Terry & Tammy*



**2025 Special Raffle Coin Prizes:**





The set includes: a Proof Silver Half Dollar from the Philadelphia Mint, a Reverse Proof from the West Point Mint, a Satin Finish from the Denver Mint, and an Enhanced Uncirculated coin from the San Francisco Mint.

The Half Dollars are all 90% silver and the total silver is close to 1.5 troy ounces. The set currently retails for \$130 - \$160 online.

## Notes from the Editor:

If you are interested in Minelab equipment, Richard Walsh recommends dealer Ron DeGhetto (The Gold Digger). He is a Minelab dealer who will give club members a 5% discount and free shipping for orders over \$200. He can be reached at 908-595-9933 or email [ronnie@thegolddigger.com](mailto:ronnie@thegolddigger.com).

**Coin Show News:** The Cleveland Coin Expo's next monthly show is Saturday October 15th at St. Michael's Woodside in Broadview Hts. Click the below link for more info:

<http://www.clevelandcoinexpo.com>

## October 2025 Finds of the Month

### Non-Silver Coins

1. Jim Blackburn ..... 1840 Large Cent (47)
2. Paul Regel.....1924 Wheat Cent (18)
3. Joe Franchino.....1940 Wheat Cent (13)
4. Doug Crews.....1936 Wheat Cent (12)
5. Bernie Benewiat.....Undated Wheat Cent (5)
6. Terry Stahurski.....1954 D Wheat Cent

### Silver Coins

1. Doug Crews .....1877 Liberty Seated Dime (41)
2. Jim Blackburn.....1905 O Barber Dime (31)
3. Phil. Zendarski.....1908 Barber Dime (11)
4. Bernie Benewiat.....1943 Mercury Dime (7)

### Jewelry

1. Doug Crews... .....10K Gold Pearl Ring with Diamond Chip (37)
2. Jim Blackburn.....Sterling Silver Ring (22)
3. Joe Franchino.....Silver Plated Religious Medal (17)
4. Paul Regel .....Early 1900s Brooch (14)
5. Phil Zendarski.....Sterling Silver Ring with Three Stones (5)
6. Terry Stahurski.....Bling Ring (5)

### Miscellaneous

1. Paul Regel .....1856-1882 Copper Lid with Rusia Coat-Of-Arms (38)
2. Bernie Benewiat.....Match Safe (15)
3. (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>)Jim Blackburn.....Skeleton Key (15)
4. Phil Zendarski.....Daisey BB Gun (14)
5. Terry Stahurski.....Mid 1800s Horse Harness Strap Guide (9)
6. Greg Markel.....Lighter (9)
7. Doug Crews.....Key Ring (5)

This month we had 23 entries, which is six more than our September meeting. It's good to see more people getting out and finding things and entering their finds. Keep it up!

First place In the Non-Silver Coin category went to Jim Blackburn for an 1840 Large Cent. This is the second year of the Braided Hair Series (1839-1857) which was also the final version of the large cents. Second place went to Paul Regel for a 1924 Wheat Cent. Joe Franchino took third place for a 1940 Wheat Cent. The only other Non-Silver finds were 1936, 1954 D and Undated Wheat Cents.

Doug Crews took first place in the Silver Coin category with an 1877 Liberty Seated Dime. This was the first "Seated" coin that has been entered in a while. This series of dimes was minted from 1838-1891. Jim Blackburn took second place with a 1905 O Barber Dime. This coin was struck at the New Orleans Mint. This mint operated from 1838-1861 and from 1879-1909. Third place went to Phil Zendarski with a 1908 Barber Dime. The other Silver find was a 1943 Mercury Dime.

First place in the Jewelry category went to Doug Crews with a 10K Gold Pearl Ring with a Diamond Chip. Jim Blackburn took second place with Sterling Silver Ring. Third place went to Joe Franchino with a Silver-Plated Religious Medal. The other jewelry finds included an Early 1900s Brooch, Sterling Silver Ring with Three Stones and a Bling Ring.

Paul Regel took first place in the Miscellaneous category with an 1856-1882 Copper Lid with the Russian Coat-Of-Arms. One wonders what this was for and how it made it to Ohio! Second place went to Bernie Benewiat with a Match Safe. Match safes were started in the 1830s to keep the newly invented (1826) phosphorous stick matches safe and dry. Their popularity died out when matchbooks and lighters came about. Also tied for second place was Jim Blackburn with a Skeleton Key. Phil Zendarski took third place with a Daisey BB Gun. The other Miscellaneous finds included a Mid 1800s Horse Harness Strap Holder, Lighter and Key Ring.

Thanks to all who entered and who helped set up and take down the FOTM bins. A big thank you once again to Paul Regel for tabulating the scores and announcing the results. Help is always needed for the finds competition including collating the tokens, so please volunteer if possible.

The cooler weather should help with detecting by reducing the number of bugs and vegetation dying down. Remember to bring your finds to the meeting, even if you think they aren't too good, since you will get points for the end of the year total. GOOD LUCK!

### Key Club Dates – Mark Your Calendar

#### 2025

<b>Nov</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Thu 7PM</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
<b>Dec</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Thu 6PM</b>	<b>Christmas Party and Mega Raffle</b>

#### 2026

<b>Jan</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>Thu 7PM</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
<b>Feb</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Thu 7PM</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
<b>Mar</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Thu 7PM</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
<b>Apr</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>Thu 7PM</b>	<b>Club Meeting / Auction Fund Raiser</b>

#### [Additional seeded hunts that are \*\*NOT\*\* hosted by Buckeye Searchers:](#)

46<sup>th</sup> Annual Buckeye Championship Treasure Hunt: August 16 & 17, 2025: Tammy says this is a good one. They don't have a website but they do have a group page on Facebook where the flyers for next year's hunts will be posted. I will attach the flyers to the newsletter email when they are published.

Treasure Week 2025: July 12 thru 19: at the Fox Den Campground in New Stanton, PA. Eight days of hunts with each day having a different sponsor.

- **If you are thinking of selling your silver coins, please remember to contact club VP Terry Stahurski. He will pay cash for circulated coins at a higher rate than you will get at the typical coin shop. He will consider paying more for higher quality coins at his discretion. The club is usually looking to buy silver coins for raffles, hunts and prizes.**
- **If you have a detector or accessory you would like to sell you may bring it to any of our meetings and display it for everybody at the meeting to see and buy. All transactions will be responsibility of the buyer and seller.**
- **Please be aware you can now purchase raffle tickets using 90% silver coins! The exchange rate is: Silver Dollar – 25 tickets, Silver Half Dollar – 10, Silver Quarter – 5, silver dime – 2. These will be used for prizes/hunts so please no damaged or extremely worn coins.**
- **We want to say a BIG THANK YOU to Fisher, Teknetics, Bounty Hunter, Minelab, and Garrett for supporting our Anniversary Picnic and Club activities. Please say thank you to them whenever you get the chance. Remember these companies when you are shopping for detectors and accessories.**



<http://www.fisherlab.com/>



<http://www.garrett.com/index.htm>



<https://www.minelab.com/metal-detectors>

# *Treasure Hunting News Seen on the Web*

*First up are some finds featured on the Garrett Metal Detectors Facebook Page:*



A gold wedding ring unearthed by Łukasz with his Vortex VX9 !

After several hours of detecting under the warm sun, a clear signal caught his attention. Digging carefully, he uncovered a perfectly preserved gold ring, marked with the 585 stamp and engraved M.K. 1911, a trace of history and a symbol of a beautiful union, preserved through time.



After five hours of swinging in the Texas sun, Ryan F. thought the hunt was over, but his AT Pro had other plans. He was detecting at a local lake and found a .925 rosary necklace but that was not all. He went deeper into the lake and got a good signal between 68-70. Out came a beautiful 22K gold ring. He writes, "I've found rings before, but nothing like this. One of those moments that makes all the hours' worth it and reminds you why we love this hobby."



### A Lost Pirate Coin on Treasure Island

Amid the windswept hills of an English island steeped in pirate lore, James M. was using his AT Pro. It led him to his find of a lifetime: a colonial Spanish silver cob. This was an actual “piece of eight” from the Golden Age of Piracy.

He writes, “From the Cerro Rico mines in Bolivia, through Spanish galleons and pirate hands, this 2 Reales coin has survived storms, shipwrecks, and centuries... until today. Holding it, I felt like that wide-eyed kid dreaming of Blackbeard and sunken treasure. A reminder to all detectorists: never give up on a field. Even the quietest days can echo with pirate cannons and reward you with history in your hand.”

[Next up are some finds featured on the Minelab Metal Detectors Facebook Page:](#)





Incredible first outing with the Manticore!

Ian Clark joined the Metal Detectives Weekend in Essex for his very first session with the Minelab Manticore and made the find of a lifetime. Buried beneath the soil was a stunning Edward IV gold Angel, dating between 1480–1483. A dream discovery and the perfect start to Ian's Manticore journey.



Check out this beautiful Roman gold ring recently discovered in the UK by Adam Staples with his Manticore.

The ring is inscribed with the Latin words "VIVE OPTIO" — "I want to live".

Adam's remarkable find was featured on the front cover of the October **The Searcher** magazine.

Well done, Adam.

[Next up is a story about the discovery of treasure found in a thrift store from dailymail.co.uk:](#)

# Incredible ancient artifacts found on sale for \$22 at Canadian thrift store

By LAUREN ACTON-TAYLOR, US NEWS REPORTER

**Published:** 10:24 EDT, 9 October 2025

A set of ancient artifacts were discovered on sale for just \$22 at a Canadian thrift store.

The set of precious rings and medallions were spotted by a shopper at Thrifty Boutique, a charity thrift store in Chilliwack, around 60 miles from Vancouver.

The customer had a background in archeology and alerted the the store's volunteers who brought in experts from Simon Fraser University.

Eleven rings and two medallions were handed over which are believed to date back to medieval or Roman times.

The exact age and value of the artifacts is still under study, but it is suspected they are worth well above the \$30 CAD OR \$21.50 USD they were listed for.

'This is an incredibly exciting donation and an amazing opportunity for students here at SFU,' Sabrina Higgins, an associate professor in global humanities and archeology, said.

The jewelry has been placed in the care of SFU's Museum of Archeology and Ethnology and is set to become apart of the student's curriculum.

SFU students will be offered a course dedicated to the analysis of the jewelry set's designs and materials to determine the items origins.



© Simon Fraser University / Sam Smith



© SFU

Simon Fraser University were donated the eleven rings and two medallions discovered in the store, which are believed to date back to medieval or Roman times

'It will take at least a semester – if not longer – to piece together the origins of these artifacts. We're fortunate to have access to cutting-edge research technologies within our department to properly study these objects, so it promises to be a rewarding journey for students,' Higgins added.

Higgins, who specializes in Rome and late antique archeology, was the first to examine the set and said: 'I think they most likely originate from somewhere within the boundaries of what was once the Western Roman Empire.'

'The shapes, designs and construction make me think that these are medieval, as the Romans typically used slightly different materials and techniques.'

The university noted its museum is typically reluctant to accept items that are not properly documented, 'as there is the risk that such items may have been illegally looted'.

However, museum director Barbara Hilden said: 'The fact that these items continue to exist is quite extraordinary.'

'If they are hundreds or thousands of years old, then at any point along the way they could have been lost, broken or discarded. Yet they've been kept, preserved, and now they're entering a new chapter.'

'What we do in museums is tell stories about people and objects. We're really looking forward to telling the stories behind these belongings once we know more about them' she added.

Assistant Professor Cara Tremain the Department of Archeology noted that the ethics of accepting to the donation and the items origins will be central to the course set to being in the fall of 2026.



© Simon Fraser University / Sam Smith

**Pictured: One of the two medallions donated to the university from the ancient jewelry set**



© SFU

**Pictured: One of the eleven rings discovered in the jewelry set, believed to date back to Western Roman times**

'Opportunities like this are incredibly rare. Students will get the chance to directly confront some of the ethical questions that the museum faced in accepting this collection under these circumstances,' she said.

'What if they were looted from their original archaeological site? Looting leads to the loss of cultural and scientific knowledge. Should we have advised on bringing them in without knowing where they came from? What would have happened to them if they weren't brought in?

'Students are literally going to have these issues in front of them. Integrating the ethical considerations alongside the hands-on study of this collection is going to be really valuable for students.'

The university also posed the possibility that the items may turn out to be forgeries, but Higgins and Tremain said their study would still provide valuable information for the students to study.

'Even if these end up being forgeries, there's still an interesting learning experience for the students,' Higgins said.

'What we're doing is essentially being detectives – we're trying to recover the story of these items,' Tremain added.

'They could offer up new information that may change the way we think about that culture or history. In which case, we want to know that we're basing our theories on something that is authentic.'

Sue Knott, the executive director of Chilliwack Hospice Society which runs the thrift store, said it was a 'privilege' for the society to 'contribute to the continuing story of these artifacts.'

'This story is a beautiful reminder of how every donation carries meaningful history and unknown potential,' Knott said.

[Next up is a hoard of Roman coins uncovered in Wales from BBC.com:](#)

# Discovery of 15,000 Roman coins could be nation's biggest ever

23 October 2025

Oscar Edwards BBC Wales



David Moss found two clay pots in a field in north Wales containing thousands of Roman coins

A metal detectorist has discovered up to 15,000 Roman coins, which could be the biggest hoard ever discovered in Wales.

David Moss, 36, from Cheshire, was left in disbelief and said he had "goosebumps" after digging up two clay pots in north Wales.

But the epic find left him fearing they could be stolen, so he slept with them in his car for three days before taking them to experts.

The coins are now in the safe hands of the National Museum Cardiff where they will be analysed.

While not wanting to give specific details of where he found them, David described the area as a "virtually untouched" area of north Wales.

"You're talking from the times of the druids and the Vikings right through to the Romans," he said.

"I just find it fascinating.

"It's an area that I'll be interested in for the rest of my life."

There have been several coin "hoards" found over the years, usually deliberately buried and never recovered, typically during periods of turmoil or as a religious offering to the gods.

More than 50,000 Roman coins were found in a field in Somerset, England, in 2010 with a total value of £320,250.

In Wales, nearly 6,000 coins were found buried in two pots in a field at Sully, Vale of Glamorgan by a resident in 2008.

National Museum Cardiff said the largest hoard its team was aware of was one of 10,000 coins found near Chepstow in the 1990s.



The coins were stored in a plastic box to transport back to Cheshire

David has been metal detecting for nearly a decade and so far has uncovered about 2,700 Roman coins.

But he believes the two pots he discovered in August, with his friend Ian Nicholson, contain between 10,000 and 15,000 coins.

"A rainbow appeared minutes before the signal was found," he said.

"I couldn't believe it."

The pair then spent six-and-a-half hours excavating the coins.

David notified the landowner, who gave him a plastic box to keep them in.

He then drove back to his home in Chester, and ended up sleeping with them in his car.

"I just didn't want to leave it out my sight," he said.

After a few restless nights, he made the four hour drive to Cardiff where he left the coins with experts.



David Moss (right) and his friend Ian Nicholson spent more than six hours excavating the pots

Anthony Halse, 64, is chairman of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Numismatic Society, and believes the haul could be the biggest discovery in Wales.

Anthony believes the haul could have belonged to a member of the Roman army, or multiple members, who buried the coins for safekeeping.

"I would have thought that it was a person's wealth that could be in a section of the army," he said.

Anthony said the museum in Cardiff will date when the coins were buried.

"They'll clean them and then since it's such a large hoard they will apply to the British Museum to see if they can keep them," he said.

"Then they'll go to the board and make the finder an offer.

"He'll get half the money and the landowner will get the other half."

A spokesperson for Cardiff's museum said the assessment should be completed next year.

## **What should you do if you discover treasure?**

Treasure has a variety of definitions, including any object at least 300 years old when found which is not a coin but has metallic content of which at least 10% by weight is precious metal.

It is also treasure if when found, is one of at least two coins in the same find which are at least 300 years old at that time and have that percentage of precious metal.

In Wales, if you find treasure it must be reported to a Finds Liaison Officer within 14 days of first finding it or 14 days of realising an item might be treasure, even if you have had it for longer.

Only items officially defined as treasure need to be reported, and there is a fine or up to three months in prison for not reporting.

There are different rules for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

After a find is reported, you will be contacted by either a Finds Liaison Officer or museum curator to talk about how and where you made the find. You will be given a receipt.

The Finds Liaison Officer or museum curator will then write a report on the find. Museums can express an interest in it if it might be treasure.

The coroner will then hold an inquest. You may be invited to the inquest, along with the site occupier and landowner of where the treasure was found, and given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Finds Liaison Officer will help you get the coins assessed by experts to determine if they meet the legal definition of "treasure" under the Treasure Act 1996.

If a museum wants the treasure, the Treasure Valuation Committee will ask an expert to value the find.

They will recommend to the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport how much the treasure is worth and how much should go to anyone eligible for a share of a reward.

You'll have the chance to comment on the valuation, along with the site occupier and landowner.



David says he was in "disbelief" after making the discovery

You may get a share of the reward if you are:

- the finder, and had permission to be on the land and acted in good faith
- a person or organisation with freehold on the land
- someone who occupies the land as a tenant of the owner

If you act in bad faith (for example by trespassing or trying to hide the find) you may get a reduced share of the reward, or none at all.

Archaeologists and volunteers participating in an archaeological excavation or investigation are not eligible for a share in a reward.

If you do find ancient coins, avoid any cleaning as this could damage them. Record the location, date and how you found them.

It may be the pinnacle for any metal detectorist to find some treasure, but it does not automatically belong to them.

This is what Layton Davies, from Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taf, found after he uncovered £3m worth of Viking coins in a field in Hereford.

The 56-year-old concealed the finding of the treasure, and then sold it. He was fined and jailed.

Davies did not inform the farmer who owned the field and instead contacted dealers to find out the worth of the items and, a month later, contacted the National Museum of Wales but only declared one coin and three items of jewellery.

*To close out the newsletter this month, I present to you some interesting historic photographs:*



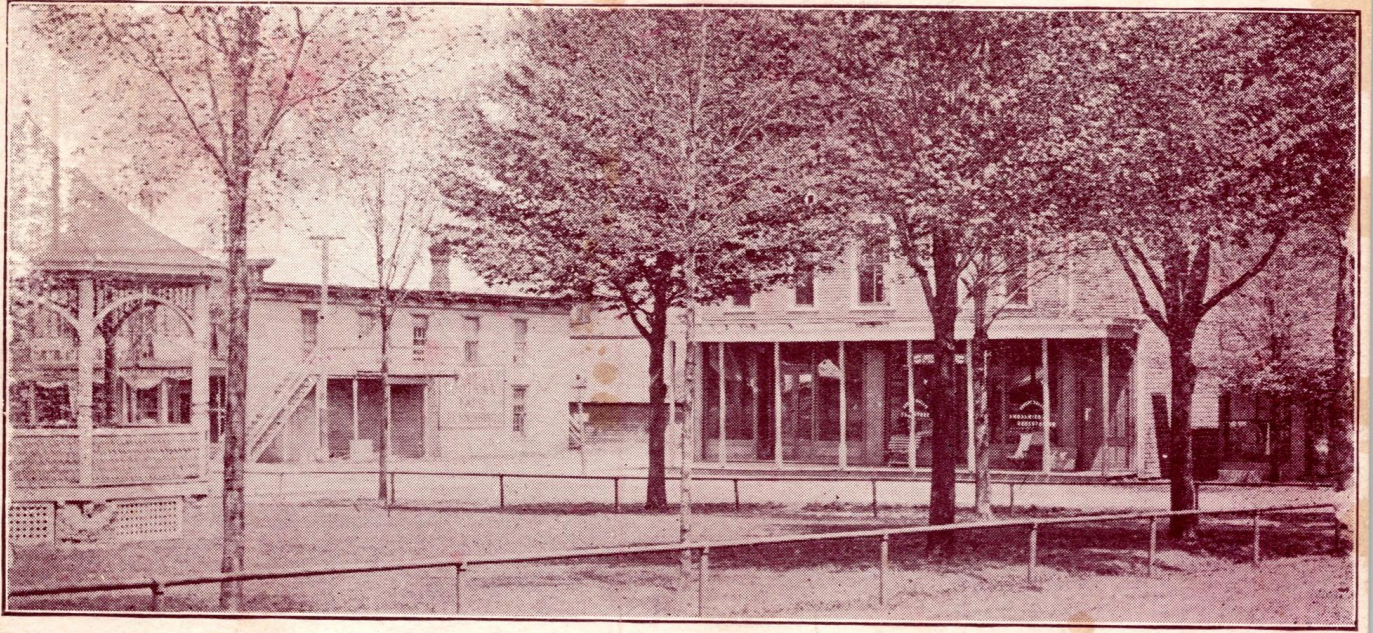
The "Old" land office, can be seen in this, old Photo...

"The Ohio Company Land Office is one of the original buildings of the city of Marietta.

Photo probably taken in the 1930s, but the building itself was constructed in 1788.



The parking area for Ash Cave in the Hocking Hills circa 1937. Columbus Navigator.



East View Public Square, Andover, Ohio.

C. F. Duer, Pub., Andover, Ohio.

East View of Public Square in Andover Ohio



Gilt Edge Camping Club at East Liverpool, Ohio. Location unknown. c1910 RP Postcard.



Swimming at Willow Lake Grove at Sagamore Hills, Ohio. c1930s RP Postcard.



Circa 1940s view of LeSourdsville Lake amusement park in Monroe.



This is the covered bridge that traversed the Shade River in Chester, OH from 1863 to 1926. It replaced the bridge that was burned down in July of 1863 by Confederate raider Gen John Morgan. While the raids, the capture of most of his men & the subsequent escape of him & 6 other officers were a media sensation in the North, it did little for the war effort for the South. It in turn was replaced by the Shade River Rainbow Arch Bridge.

*Brookside Park, Cleveland, O.*



Circa 1909 post card showing Cleveland's Brookside Park on the city's West Side.