

in the September timeframe. Details are being worked out and a date and location will be provided once they are completed.

FMDAC: Payment of \$5.00 is now being accepted to join the FMDAC for 2015. Just make payment to Kelly, our club treasurer at a meeting or by mail. Payments received so far have been submitted to the FMDAC, and you will receive your membership card for 2015 when we get it from the FMDAC. The FMDAC website is now currently up to date, you can check out the goings on at their website: www.fmdac.org . The FMDAC President, Mark Schuessler, did announce earlier this year that there would be no FMDAC National Convention this year siting decreasing attendance in recent past years. They have announced that they are now on Facebook for those of you who use that social media.

FINDS OF THE MONTH WINNERS:

Oldest US Coin:

1857 Seated Dime

Gabe Young

Most Valuable US coin:

1909 "O" Barber dime

Dan Forth

Most Valuable item:

1934 Ford Exposition token

Tim Popp

Oddity:

Bell shaped two piece medal

Mike Tiemann

Consolation Prize:

1900 Indian Head cent

Pam Popp

Silver raffle winners:

Kathy Simon, Bob Tiech (3), Ed Meyer, John Quinn, Tim Popp, Jim Simon, and Christine Zika

50/50 winner: Dan Forth

Five members won silver dimes in the door prize drawing.

CLUB WEBSITE: The upgraded new club website: www.midwestcoinshooters.com is up and running. If you have a comment or idea you would like to provide about changes to the site, send it to me via email or bring it to a meeting and we will see if we can incorporate it.

CLUB DUES: Club dues for 2015 will remain at \$25.00 for individual membership and \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. Dues are due during the month which you joined the club. I will continue to send a notice of dues payment with newsletters (via email or regular mail). Pay at a meeting or mail your dues payment to our treasurer, Kelly Faust, at the address at the beginning of this newsletter.

SPRING HUNT: The informal group hunt for May will be the Spring Hunt and will be held on May 24th at Forest Park. The hunt will begin about 8:00 AM, but members may arrive later if they need to, and the hunt will go to about 3:00 PM. I will set up a table at the north end of the park near Confederate Drive and the Confederate Memorial Statue. Members can enter this area from Lindell Blvd near the History Museum just east of the handball courts, or come in from Highway 40/64 at the Hampton entrance and travel through the park past the Muny Opera. I will have a sign-in sheet for members to sign as they arrive. There will be prize coins given out at about 3:00 PM for various categories of finds made throughout the day within the park. Members may hunt anywhere within the park and should make a record of their finds based on the categories which will be revealed as the day goes along. Members do not have to be there at 3:00 PM to win a prize, but are asked to be sure to record their finds before leaving. Each member will be

allowed to win only one prize, ties will be decided by a coin toss, and this will allow for more members having a chance to win a prize. Hope to see many of you there and, as usual, all members are asked to be professional in their activities, to fill all holes, remove any dug trash, and observe all park rules such as parking etc. I have checked with park officials and have been told no big events are scheduled for the day, so it should be normal Sunday park attendance and most areas available for detecting.

INFORMAL GROUP HUNT: April's informal hunt was held at Rock Springs Park in Alton with some members hunting on Saturday pending a rainy forecast for Sunday and other members hunting on Sunday before the rain arrived. I was there on Saturday with Christine Zika finding a nice titanium wedding band and Rick Moore finding a sterling silver ring. I was not there on Sunday, so I do not know what finds were made. As you know, informal group hunts are held the Sunday following each meeting to help some of our newer club members who can learn a lot from members with more experience. Come to these hunts as early as you wish and stay as late as you want. Most are in an area where you can visit a local eatery for lunch or you may bring your own sack lunch. We ask that members act in a professional manner and follow the Treasure Hunter's Code of Ethics when participating in these informal group hunts.

UNITED STATES COIN DESCRIPTIONS: I have made up a book containing coin descriptions of most of the United States coins. Each coin description consists of one or two pages of the history of the coin, the dates it was produced, and many other interesting details. If you would have an interest in making such a book, I have the files saved and can send them to you via

email. You can then save them or print them out for yourself. Let me know if you want me to send you the files. I will have my copy at the May meeting for members to take a look at.

TRY THIS TO FIND MORE SILVER COINS: Here is a method you might want to try to increase the number of silver coins you find. I know most of us figure the best place to find silver coins in most any city or town is in the oldest neighborhoods. While this might produce a few older silver coins, a high quantity of them may not happen. To improve your chance of finding more silver coins, though they may not be the oldest, you might do some research and map out your city or town based on the dates certain neighborhoods were developed as the town grew. These areas would probably start where the oldest part of town ends, and would radiate out as the town expanded. For example, the oldest part of town might be the late 1880's through 1900 and as the town grew sections were built during the 1910's, followed by additional neighborhoods built in the 1920's, 1930's and on through the 1960's when 90% silver coins were no longer being produced by the Mint. With the proper research, one could take a current map of the town and color code the various neighborhoods by date. Then, using this map, all one needs to do is head to the older, not the oldest, neighborhood and knock on a few doors to get permission to detect the yards. As most of the oldest part of town yards have already been hunted, it is quite likely that many of the yards in the "not as old" areas have not been touched and the silver coins from the 20's through the 60's are quite likely to still be there. Give this method a try and you might just find more silver coins.

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE TREASURE HUNTER'S CODE OF ETHICS.