



anything else, just let a Board member know about it and time at a meeting will be made available to give a presentation. We love to hear from our members about their experiences and interests other than metal detecting.

**FALCONRY PRESENTATION:** At the February meeting, Michael Beran, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on Falconry. Included in his presentation were two live birds; a Harris Hawk named Curious George and an Eurasian Eagle Owl named Bubba Fet. With a bird perched on his gloved hand, Michael gave a very informative talk about each bird. These birds were just two of the ten birds that Michael and his wife, Bonnie, have in their "fleet" of birds. Michael runs a company that is involved with pest control and also uses the birds during hunting excursions. He told us about how the Harris Hawk has no muscles in its feet and that "ratchet" type tendons and its sharp talons allow it to grab a target and hold tightly on to it. He indicated the hawk can lift about 1.5 times its own weight. When hunting with the birds, a small back pack with a transmitter is attached to the bird so that it can be found should it fly out of sight of its handler. The owl that Michael displayed, he got when it was just a hatchling. It was hatched in Wyoming and these birds are native to Mongolia. Weighing in at five pounds, a bird this size is capable of picking up a small fox. This owl has eight to ten power binocular eyes which provide it with very good sight ability. It can rotate its head a full 280 degrees and has a beak that cuts its food instead of tearing it. The owl's wing feathers allow it have silent flight which enables it to pursue its prey without being heard. Michael keeps his birds in cages that are 10 X 10 X 10 feet allowing them plenty of space to be active. The club members had the opportunity to ask questions which Michael answered fully while demonstrating

his extensive knowledge about falconry. The highlight of the evening was when members were given the opportunity to put on a leather glove and hold each bird and get a picture taken doing so. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and went home more knowledgeable about Falconry. Here are a couple of photos of the presentation:



Michael with Harris Hawk



Michael with Eurasian Eagle Owl

**CLUB DUES:** Club dues for 2016 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.

**CLUB WEBSITE:** The upgraded new club website: [www.midwestcoinshooters.com](http://www.midwestcoinshooters.com) is up and running. If you have a good metal detecting story you would like to add to the website, send me an email with the write-up and it will be added to the website.

**INFORMAL GROUP HUNT:** Included below is the informal group hunt schedule for 2016. As usual, members can come as early as they wish and remain for as long as they want. This is a good opportunity for beginners to learn from those with more experience. Keep this newsletter for future reference-it will also be posted on the club website.

### **2016 INFORMAL GROUP HUNT SCHEDULE:**

**March 20:** O'Fallon Park-Hiway 70/W.  
Florissant

**April 24:** Spanish Lake Park-Spanish Pond  
Road off Bellfountaine

**May 22:** Spring Hunt: Benton Park-Jefferson  
and Arsenal

**June 19:** Jones Park -East St. Louis, IL-  
Highway 64 to 25<sup>th</sup> Street exit

**July 24:** Marquette Park-Compton and  
Osage/ Mt. Pleasant Park-Michigan and  
Dakota

**Aug 21:** Hyde Park-Salisbury and 20<sup>th</sup> Street

**Sept 11:** (a week early)-Carondolet Park-  
Hiway 55/Loughborough

**Sept: 18:** Fall Hunt-Turner Camp Park

**Oct 23:** Forest Park-Hampton/Hiway 40/64

**Nov 20:** (Pending weather forecast)

**FMDAC:** Membership into the FMDAC for 2016 will be accepted at the March meeting and future meetings or you can mail payment to treasurer, Kelly Faust, at the address above (check made out to Midwest Coinshooters). If you wish to become a

member-cost is \$5.00 again for this year. If you want to learn more about the FMDAC and its activities, you can check it all out at their website: [www.fmdac.org](http://www.fmdac.org) .

### **FINDS OF THE MONTH WINNERS:**

Oldest US Coin:

1838 Large cent-Gabe Young

Most Valuable US coin:

1892 Barber Quarter-Mike Tiemann

Most Valuable Item:

Crotal sleigh bell-Jim Russell

Oddity:

Jewish Star of David Pendant-Dan Forth

Consolation Prize:

Silver Onyx Ring-Ed Meyer

Silver raffle winners:

Lorraine Riley, Pam Popp, Jim Russell (2), Tim Popp, Bobby Lewis, Ed Meyer, Mike Heisler, and Bob Wilderman

50/50 winner: Gabe Young

Five members won silver dimes in the door prize drawing.

**Billion Dollar Wreck:** This is a TV show on the History channel that has been going for about three weeks-Monday nights at 9:00 PM. It is the story of the search for the sunken cruise ship the RMS Republic which sunk in 1909 about 50 miles south of Nantucket. It is in about 250 feet of water and supposedly carries a large amount of gold coins and other treasure. The show features the storyline of how the effort has been renewed after a 35 year hiatus. As you will see, many problems are encountered during the search and the show leaves you wondering if by the final episode the gold will, in fact, be recovered. Here is a link for more info: <http://www.history.com/shows/billion-dollar-wreck/about>