**Metal Detecting Basics**

**Detectors - Features, Functions and Considerations**

There is a wide range of choices and prices: Garrett, Minelab, Whites, Nokta Makro

* Battery vs. rechargeable
* Waterproof
* Single vs. Multi frequency
* Ground Balance - minimizes interference from natural occurring minerals in the ground
* VDI numbers - visual display indicator
* Tones – grunts, toots, and dings
* Discrimination - eliminate unwanted tones
* Sensitivity - power lines, electric fences, beach sand – noise cancel
* Coils and Coil Sizes - larger coils hit deeper, small coils better for trashy sites
* Depth gauge indicator
* Weight

***Where to buy:*** *bigboyhobbies.net kellycodetectors.com amazon.com*

**Other Equipment**

* Shovel
* Lesche Digging Tool
* Pin pointer - Garrett Carrot
* Carry bag
* Gloves – protects you from glass and other sharp things
* Headsets – wireless, waterproof

**Where to Detect**

* Site Permission - parks, beaches, schools, abandoned properties, old roadbeds, streams, ridges, shortcut approaches to homes
* Research - historicaerials.com, treasurenet.com, findmall.com

**Example: https://libraries.psu.edu/**



* Trashy sites – parks & home sites vs. fields and woods
* Etiquette - how to dig a proper hole
* No site is ever dug out

**Finds**

* Coins - Spanish silver/Reale, British coppers, U.S. large cents 1793-1857, Indian heads 1858-1909, wheat pennies, buffalo war, and v nickels, U.S. silver, clad
* Artifacts – buttons, utensils, pins, keys, buckles, bullets, and bottles
* Iron - nails, screws, bolts, tin, lead, pop tabs, aluminum, bottle caps, can slaw, foil, etc.
* Big iron – horseshoes, blacksmith tools, chisels, hammers, plow parts
* Iron benefits – useful to locate long gone homesteads in open fields

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