

# THE GARRETT SEARCHER™



Summer 2011 Edition

Garrett Metal Detectors

## Are Your “Hunted Out” Sites Really Hunted Out?

It's a challenge finding a great place to metal detect. There's the research time, the travel time, and the efforts to develop good relationships with the land owners. If only those great places would always stay great!

There are some tricks, however, to help make old hot spots productive again, thanks to better and deeper-seeking metal detector technology.

Case in point is the new Garrett *AT Pro*, which many users have reported as being almost magical in its ability to sniff out new goodies on favorite sites that have been hit hard in the past.

Jack G. of Windsor, Missouri, reported that he was “still in amazement” after his first three hunts with his new *AT Pro*. Jack dug two Barber quarters and a V nickle the first day at a local park that he has hunted the past 12 years with various machines. Moving next to a very old home site “that is completely loaded with iron and nails,” his luck continued.

Jack had similarly hunted this home site for years with different detectors. “Within the first few minutes at this site with the *AT Pro*, I had dug my oldest coin

to date, an 1841 Seated Liberty dime,” he related.

The site continued to produce good finds, as he dug various Civil War and 1800s-era relics, an 1891 Seated Liberty dime, and an old “Long Live Queen Victoria” metal clip.



(Above) These two Barber quarters, Seated Liberty dimes, and the “Long Live Queen Victoria” medallion clip were dug by *AT Pro* user Jack G. at two of his “hunted out” sites.

(Below) Jack also recovered interesting relics dating back to the time of the Civil War on these same “pounded” sites.



As many new owners of the *AT Pro* are finding out, the secrets to bringing old sites back to life are this machine's excellent detection depth, its powerful DD searchcoil, and wide range of iron discrimination. Add to this the *AT Pro's* fast recovery speed and its Iron Audio feature for checking trash targets, and it all spells treasure recovery success.

For example, Bernie L. of Randolph, VT, sent in his story of using an *AT Pro* to search a field he had hunted with two other detectors in the past. “I wanted to see if the *AT Pro* could pull out some additional relics,” he wrote. Bernie did indeed have luck in finding a copper 1795 one-half penny Conder token that dates back to America's formative years.

(Continued on pg. 2)



A 1795 one-half penny Conder token (left) found by *AT Pro* user Bernie L. The photo on the right shows the same type coin in good condition.

*Hunted Out? (Continued from pg. 1)*

The *AT Pro International* version is receiving equally high praise for its abilities. Markus M. from England has already found several gold pieces along the Thames River, which have been declared treasure trove by the British Museum. Markus has also found many exceptional coins by



These are some of the early coins and gold artifacts found by Markus M. of England with his new *AT Pro International*. The sphere ring and other two gold items above were declared treasure trove by the British Museum.

hunting this river with the *AT Pro* in areas he has previously hunted with several other brands of detectors.

"The *AT Pro* is amazing on the foreshore," said Markus. "Nothing comes close to its performance in and amongst iron. The Thames is a dirty place, mud everywhere. With the *AT Pro* being fully waterproof, it helps tremendously."

Other new users of the *AT Pro* report how exciting it is to find really old items. Rod Y. of New Brunswick, Canada, sent in a testimonial during May that related his find of a 1788 Barbados 1-cent coin at one of his favorite hunting spots. "I know it's not gold or silver, but it may as well have been," he wrote. "The feeling I get when I unearth something like that is like I'm 10 years old again at Christmas, unwrapping my gifts. Thanks to

the Garrett family for giving me those feelings back."

New detector technology plays a big part in bringing life back to hot spots of yesterday. Next to reviving old sites, the next best bet is to uncover new productive areas by conducting research.

Relevant information on finding new hot spots and reviving old ones can be learned by reading the latest title from Garrett's RAM Books division. *Relic Quest*, written by detectorist and historian Stephen L. Moore, provides valuable details on the types of detector technologies and searchcoils which perform the best in various metal detecting environments.

Equipped with such practical knowledge—and the technology of new Garrett detectors such as the *ACE 350* or *AT Pro*—new finds might just be waiting for your favorite old sites.

## Congratulations, Dr. Garrett!

Charles Garrett was honored with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, presented during the commencement ceremonies of Lamar University in Beaumont, TX, on May 14.

The award was presented to Mr. Garrett in recognition of his lifelong service to Lamar and to the profession of engineering as well as the excellence he has shown in developing the Garrett Metal Detectors company.

Mr. Garrett graduated from Lamar with a degree in electrical engineering. He joins his wife, Dr. Eleanor Garrett, who was honored by her alma mater, Sam Houston State University, in 2010 with an honorary doctorate.



Charles Garrett receives his honorary Doctor of Laws degree on May 14, 2011.

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Kentucky

**New Relic Finds on Old Sites**

Linda Edwards of Nicholasville, KY, reports making many new finds with her *AT Pro* on Civil War sites she and her husband Dave have previously worked over many times. Her finds included minié balls (including an Enfield bullet), round balls, a brass ring, a Ulysses Grant token, a button and a Borman artillery shell plug. Once Linda figured out her *AT Pro*, she says she “was finding more items than Dave was” on the same sites.



Some of Linda Edwards' first Civil War-era finds from Kentucky with her new *AT Pro*.

**AT Pro Finds**

Pennsylvania



Elwood M. of Glen Mills, PA, found this 8-reale Spanish coin dated 1777 (see images above) on a stretch of New Jersey beach that had been deeply excavated. “The *AT Pro* sounded loudly and showed 93 on the Target ID,” he reported.

Missouri

**AT Pro Scores on Old Coins**

Dwight B. of Pacific, MO, was quick to begin making great finds with his new *AT Pro*. While searching the yard of a pre-Civil War home, he dug the following old coins: four Barber quarters, an 1896 Barber half dollar, an 1878 Seated Liberty quarter, an 1856 Seated Liberty half dime, an 1868 Shield nickel, an 1866 two-cent piece, a 1915 Barber dime, and three Indian Head pennies from the 1890s. “The half dime was just a whisper and it measured nine inches deep,” Dwight reported.



Among Dwight's *AT Pro* coin finds from February were (above) an 1868 Shield nickel, an 1856 Seated Liberty half dime, an 1895 Barber quarter (below left), and an 1896 Barber half dollar (below, right).

New Jersey



**New User's First Finds are Truly Golden**



Katie P. of Farmingdale, NJ, is new to metal detecting but was quick to learn how to use her boyfriend's Garrett *AT Pro*. She was “extremely happy” to come away with three pieces of jewelry after her first search of a nearby park. Katie's finds were a large 14k gold ring, a 10k gold charm, and a smaller 14k gold ring.



Dwight also found a 10k gold ring (below) in a park during March with his *AT Pro*. The emerald is surrounded by diamonds. He initially had a “bouncy” signal on this target and then soon found the source: a bottle cap was two inches below the diamond ring.



## Garrett Users Win *PRO-POINTERS* in Vaughan Garrett's Favorite Find of the Month

Here are some of the recent winners. Visit [garrett.com](http://garrett.com) to submit your story. You could be one of the next winners!

### MARCH 2011

Bradley D. of Mebane, NC, was selected as Vaughan's March winner. Using his *ACE 250*, he dug a Civil War era safe's brass face plate. It measured six inches by five inches, weighed five pounds, and was stamped with an 1852 patent.



Bradley's Civil War era brass plate.

### APRIL 2011

Ron W. of Annapolis, MS, dug the April Find of the Month with his *ACE 350*. It is a gold locket that was presented to General David Grier shortly after the Civil War. The find was made on private property near the battlefield of Fort Davidson. Ron and the site administrator for the Fort Davidson Historic Site think it is possible that General Grier may have been touring the battlefield on an anniversary of the Civil War battle when he lost this unique keepsake.

In April, Vaughan also began selecting his favorite International Find of the Month. Howard M. of England was the first *PRO-Pointer* winner with his *EuroACE* cache (see pg. 7).



April's U.S. Find of the Month was a gold locket inscribed to a Civil War general.

### MAY 2011

Vaughan's find of the month for May went to Steven S. of Cave Springs, AR. He was using his *ACE 350* when he dug a 100-year-old Boy Scouts of America commemorative medallion. Regarding this good luck token, Steven wrote, "Good luck follows you when you use Garrett."



Steven's 1910 Boy Scouts commemorative token was Vaughan's favorite U.S. find of the month for May 2011.

For his May International Find of the Month winner, Vaughan selected Engiell A. from Tirana, Albania. He found the detailed silver Caesar Augustus coin, which dates back 2,000 years, with his Garrett *CXIII* detector.



Obverse and reverse of Engiell's Roman coin, circa 27 BC-14 AD.

### JUNE 2011

*GTI 2500* user Curtis M. of Lexington, MA, was the U.S. winner with a St. Gaudens Walking Liberty gold nugget ring. (See story, pg. 6.)



The International Find of the Month winner in June was Thorsten S. from Bavaria, with his *GTI 2500* find (above) of an ancient Roman hipposandal, which was used with leather straps in lieu of nailed-on horseshoes.

Keep submitting your stories! There are more *PRO-POINTERS* to give away.

Florida



Steve R. found this long gold chain along St. Lucie County, Florida's so-called "Treasure Coast" using his Garrett AT3 detector. Inside the inner gold pendant is an old silver coin which has not yet been cleaned.

# Beach Finds

Mississippi

Chad K. of Gulfport, MS, reports that in one recent outing to the beach with his *AT Pro*, he found \$16.67 in clad coins and a nice silver ring (see upper right photo). "I started walking the towel line, and sure enough it did what it does best—hitting those deep targets," Chad said of his *AT Pro*.

On the way home, he stopped at a park to hunt the tot lot and a nearby old ball field. In deep left field, he "hit gold" at 9 inches, literally, by digging a gold and diamond ring (lower right).



Massachusetts

Curtis M. of Lexington, MA, was hunting a beach in New Hampshire when he picked up a strong signal at eight inches with his *GTI 2500*. When he looked in his sand scoop, Curtis "nearly fainted from excitement because I know gold coins and knew what I had found was a tenth of an ounce St. Gaudens Walking Liberty gold coin nugget ring!"



(Above) Curtis' gold coin nugget ring find.

British Columbia, Canada



*Infinium* user Randy K. (above) of Burnaby, British Columbia, found his first gold ring while hunting the shorelines. It turned out to be an 18k gold beauty (below) with hallmarks indicating that it had been made in England.

Washington

## "The Infinium Loves Gold!"

Chris V. of Sequim, WA, took his *Infinium LS* along on a two-week trip to the Caribbean in May. "The *Infinium* loves gold!" he related afterwards. Using an 8-inch mono coil, Chris retrieved many pieces of gold jewelry, some at deep depths. His surf finds of rings, bracelets, charms, and chains included seven ounces of 18k gold items.



Caribbean gold jewelry finds of Chris V.



## Wisconsin



This solid copper stone was recovered by ACE 250 user Dennis H. of Sun Prairie, WI. A stone dealer informed him that it might well date to the Ice Age.

## Gold, Minerals

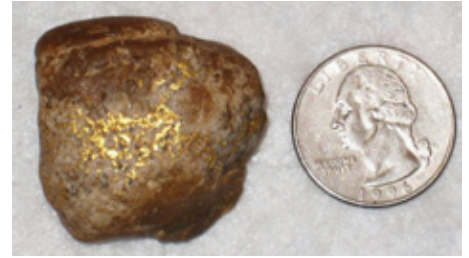
## California

“The Garrett *Gold Stinger* has stung gold again,” wrote Chuck P. from Anderson, CA, about his latest nugget find. Chuck has found smaller nuggets in the past and even a 6.2-ounce “beauty” five years ago with his *Gold Stinger*.

His latest big find in May 2011 was a 5.9-ounce nugget, located in a small rockslide in California’s gold territory.

(Right) Chuck P. sent in this photo of his two best gold nugget finds made with his Garrett *Gold Stinger* detector.

## Idaho



This gold rock was found hiding in a tailing pile by *Infinium* user Rian A. of Idaho Falls. “What a thrill to find something that has probably been hiding in the tailing pile since the late 1800s or early 1900s,” he said.



(Above) Howard’s 16th century coin hoard as seen from above in the ground.

(Below) The British Museum removed the entire container of coins in an earthen “jacket.”



## EuroACE Finds Coin Hoard

Can you imagine finding a giant pot of coins and then having to wait for months to find out how many were in it?

That’s exactly what Howard M. of Ludlow, England, will have to do during 2011. He was lucky enough to detect a 16th century coin hoard in South Shropshire on February 17. Howard followed proper protocol in the UK by contacting authorities to alert them of his find while it was still in the ground.

Howard had recently purchased a Garrett *EuroACE* to go along with his trusted *ACE 250* detector. The coin hoard he detected with his new *EuroACE* in February was buried so that the top of the pot was 24 centimeters (9.5 inches) below the ground.

Stacked on the top of the pot of coins are Elizabeth I shillings dated around 1560–61. Other coins appear to be James I and Charles I

coins, but the true nature of how many hundreds, or thousands, of coins are contained within is still a mystery.

“The coins seem to be stacked,” Howard related to Garrett. “With them being very thin, there could be quite a number.” British Museum officials opted to excavate an entire “soil jacket” around the hoard due to the frail condition of the Midland blackware container.

The entire plug of soil, pot, and coins is in storage with museum officials—to be properly cleaned and analyzed at a later date. Howard will eventually be paid a fair value for his coin cache once it has been assessed.

Howard is hopeful that his big pot of coins may contain gold as well as the silver pieces already examined. He reports that he is “more than pleased” with his new Garrett *EuroACE* and plans to continue with his favorite hobby.

North Carolina

**Civil War Plate on First Hunt**

Ben B. of Mebane, NC, reports that his girlfriend Megahn has been bitten by the relic hunting bug. During her first outing with Ben and his two hunting partners on a pre-Civil War home site, he let her use his uncle's *ACE 250*.

"When we got to the site, I showed her how to swing the unit and pinpoint; that was it," he said. "She ventured off somewhere and I went to where I just knew I was going to score." About an hour later, Megahn cheered as she found a U.S. belt plate on her first hunt!

"She plans to go with me and my two friends from now on," Ben said.

**Relic Finds**



Megahn W. holds up the U.S. belt plate found with an *ACE 250* on her first hunt.



South Dakota



This United Mine Workers medallion was found in an old western mining town abandoned in the 1930s. It was discovered by Ken H. of Madison with his *ACE 250*.

Ohio



This Freemason keychain/badge is dated 1892. It was found by *ACE 250* user Greg V. of Arlington, OH.

Slovenia

These relics were found by Jose P. of Slovenia with his *GTI 2500*. They include a lance, Swiss musket balls, pendants, and various religious ornamental pieces.



Arkansas



Lonnie B., a 14-year-old from Grangeville, ID, found this Idaho Cigar and Soft Drink token (circa 1911) with his *ACE 250*.

Mississippi



David H. of Natchez, MS, dug this early historic button on an old home site with his new *AT Pro*. Showing a crown emblem and the letters "GR," it is a British Red Coat General Service button from the War of 1812.

Pennsylvania



Janet H. (right) of Hanover, PA, holds out the Confederate heart martingale (above) she dug in her own back yard with an *ACE 250*. She was so impressed that she and her husband now both own *ACEs*.





# International Finds

## France



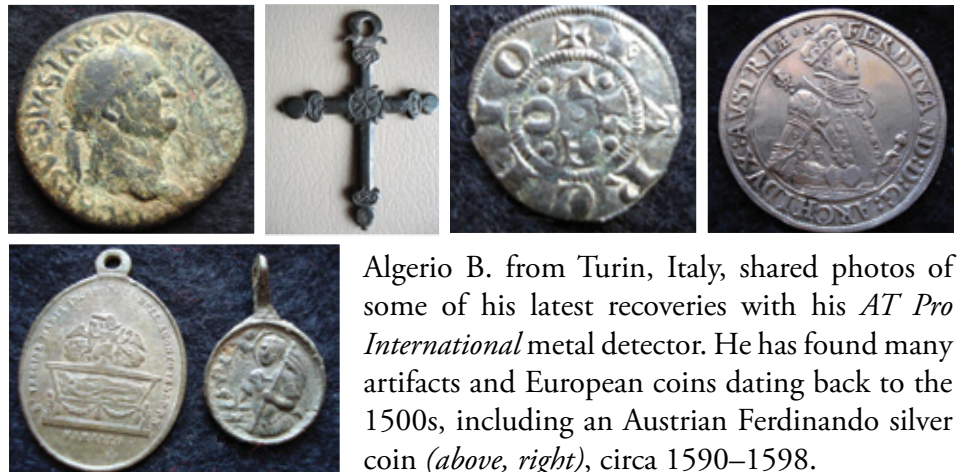
GTP 1350 user Jean-Philippe L. of France found this pure gold coin of Byzantine Emperor Justin II (circa 565 AD).

## Slovakia



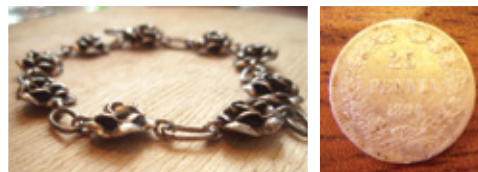
This Roman silver coin depicts Emperor Vespasian, who ruled from 69 AD to 79 AD. It was found with a GTI 2500 by Jan V. of Senica in Slovakia.

## Italy



Algerio B. from Turin, Italy, shared photos of some of his latest recoveries with his AT Pro International metal detector. He has found many artifacts and European coins dating back to the 1500s, including an Austrian Ferdinando silver coin (above, right), circa 1590–1598.

## Finland



Vesa R. of Finland shared photos of his first AT Pro International finds of the season after the winter snow had melted. They include this silver bracelet and a silver coin.

## Germany



New ACE 250 user Andy R. sent photos of his two best coin finds so far near the Dutch/Belgium border: a French silver gros tournois (ca. 1268–1314 AD) and a 1766 ducati from Holland.

## Scotland



### Bronze Age Socket Axe

Graham S. of Scotland reports, “I am a proud owner of a Garrett ACE 250 for about five years. I have made some good finds in that time but at the start of this year, I made my oldest and most special find.”

It was a small Bronze Age socket axe about three inches wide with a complete cutting edge. A member of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group, Graham has recorded his find with the National Museum of Scotland. The museum hopes to do a carbon dating test on the axe head, but Graham’s early estimate is that the tool is from about “3,500 to 3,000 years ago.”

Nevada



This gold and diamond wedding ring was found at Lake Tahoe by Kerry S. of Sparks, NV, using her *ACE 250*.

# Jewelry Finds

North Carolina



Sonny P. of Linwood, NC, dug this platinum and diamond ring while using his *AT Pro* in Myrtle Beach, SC. It appraised for \$1,895.

California



Oscar J. of Anaheim, CA, sent in this photo of his jewelry finds, including ten items made of gold, during his first year of searching with his *ACE 250*.

Texas



Stanley S. of Conroe, TX, spent a productive day at the coast digging for treasure in the sand with his *GTI 1500*. By day's end, he had found more than 190 coins, a diamond earring, and five other rings made of

either silver or gold. "This was not my best coin day," Stanley said, "but it sure ranks in my Top 5." It was, however, his most productive single day's recovery of jewelry (see photo above).

New Jersey



Ted C. of Ewing, NJ, took his new *ACE 350* to a local beach and found this 14k, 17-gram ring with nine diamonds.

Ted, a detectorist for ten years, had previously owned other brands. "I am now thoroughly and completely convinced that Garrett is the top brand anyone can own when it comes to metal detecting," he wrote.

Kentucky



James J. of Lexington dug this 14k gold pendant while hunting with his *ACE 150*. Housed within the pendant is a 1997 gold coin. "I only had my Garrett *ACE 150* for two days and the coin paid for my metal detector," wrote James.

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Maryland



Since beginning his detecting hobby 15 years ago, Joe D. of Baltimore, MD, has found and successfully returned three school rings to their original owners.

Joe snapped the photo above while in the field after digging a 1964 class ring with his *AT Pro*. The owner, who now lives in Michigan, had lost his ring 43 years earlier while hiking along a reservoir to fish.

## Maryland



Richard's 1852 three-cent piece.

Richard M. from Eastland, MD, found that good research and persistent searching of an old farm has its rewards. By overlaying an 1870s map with a modern map, he discovered a location where an early road cut through the farm. Richard and his *GTI 2500* have since produced 20 early copper coins, both British and American, and an 1852 three-cent silver coin in good condition.

## Old Money

## South Carolina

This King George II half penny (*below*) was found by Jason K. of North Augusta, SC, using his *ACE 250*. Jason and his friends were searching an early to mid-1700s-era house site near Edisto Beach.



## Virginia



Mark's 1790 Spanish 8-reale coin find.

Hunting near the sites of Civil War activity can turn up more than just bullets and buttons. Mark S. of Ashburn, VA, did turn up both of the former items while hunting with his buddies. He was most impressed, however, with an old coin he dug that day while hunting with his *AT Pro*.

"I had it set on Pro Zero Mode with the sensitivity at its highest level and I was canceling iron at level 30," Mark said. In spite of a high level of iron trash in the field, Mark got "a very solid, clean-sounding signal" at a 6-inch depth.

To his surprise and excitement, Mark unearthed a 1790 King Carlos IV 8-reale silver coin in fine condition.

## Illinois

Clayson C. of Monticello, IL, wrote in to say that he is now "a believer in this Garrett *AT Pro!*"

He tested his new machine at an old park that had been "pounded by some experienced detectorists as well as high end machines." Using the Pro Mode with an Iron Discrim of 31, Clayson dug an 1874 Seated Liberty dime at a 9-inch depth.

Clayson's 1874 Seated Liberty Dime, which has no mint mark.



## Pennsylvania



Silver ring and coins found by Garren and his son Raymond at an old gambling site.

Garren M. of James City, PA, related a "cool treasure hunting experience" he had with his 10-year-old son Raymond. An 81-year-old uncle tipped Garren off to a potential hot spot where teens had gathered to gamble in the early 1900s.

Garren and his son took their *ACE 250s* to the site to try their luck.

Raymond soon dug his first silver, an 1898 Barber dime, on the site. The old gambling location also produced a silver Washington quarter, three Barber dimes, two Mercury dimes, a 1945 silver wartime nickel, and a silver girl's ring.



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1792 U.S. half dime (dime) previously shown here has been removed under concerns of misinformation regarding the item's photo.

North Carolina



This sterling silver tag was found by Tony J. of Asheville, NC, while hunting with his son Nick. The 1935 hog calling contest medal was pinpointed at six inches with an *ACE 350*.

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Arkansas



This collection of relics was found with the *AT Pro* by Bill F. of Arkansas. The items were found near a Texas Gulf Coast town-site once occupied during the 1800s and early 1900s. Bill's finds include a large piece of iron grape shot, early 1900s Wheat pennies, a pocketknife, a watch fob, early tokens, buttons, and lead bullets.

Florida

**Early Relic Finds with Infinium in Florida**

Bob Spratley of Middleburg, FL, continues to make amazing discoveries with his *Infinium LS* on some of the earliest American history sites. Among his latest finds near St. Augustine are some rare Scottish buttons "found about 12 inches deep in the hard Florida soil."

Georgia Governor James Ogelthorpe raised a regiment of Scottish Highlanders for the war against the Spanish in Florida. Bob found these buttons near the site of an old fort where Spanish, Indians, and militiamen clashed with the Scots in June 1740.



(Above) Three Scottish Highlander buttons found by Bob in late spring 2011.



(Above) Obverse and reverse of a Spanish two Maravedis Carlos III coin dated 1776. Bob found this rare coin at a depth of 14 inches in very dry hard earth while using his *Infinium* in late spring 2011.



(Above) At a shipwreck site near the Florida and South Carolina border, Bob recovered these Spanish Doublet buttons, circa 1565-1600. The buttons were found 10 to 12 inches deep on the shoreline, where the ship's survivors had apparently gathered.

# TWO WAYS TO EARN FREE GARRETT GEAR

**1**



Each month I will select MY favorite find (one U.S. and one international winner), selected from the testimonials which are sent in by Garrett treasure hunters worldwide. My criteria will be based on what excites ME the most. It may be a great find, a great story, a great photograph, a great history lesson, or maybe just great heart-felt emotion.

**The winners of "Vaughan Garrett's Favorite Find of the Month" will receive a free Garrett PRO-POINTER!**

This is my way of saying thanks to the person or persons who took the time to get out there, discover that treasure with a Garrett detector, and submit their story to Garrett. Each month my column will be presented on the [www.garrett.com](http://www.garrett.com) website and also in *The Garrett Searcher*. Happy hunting and good fortune!

**Vaughan Garrett**  
VP, Garrett Metal Detectors

Every time a personal treasure hunting story is submitted, I become excited for the treasure hunter who made it happen. Each story has elements of excitement, expertise, effort, emotion, and sometimes just plain ol' good fortune. Well, in an effort to highlight my favorite discovery, I have created a monthly column simply called, "Vaughan Garrett's Favorite Find of the Month."

*Vaughan's Favorite Finds are selected from all entries received during the previous calendar month.*

**2**

## Testimonial Thank-You Gifts for Everyone!



*Our way of saying thanks...If we choose to run your treasure photos or stories in the Garrett Searcher, we will send you a thank-you gift. Such items might include a Charles Garrett book, a Garrett shirt or cap, or even a new PRO-POINTER!*

### How Do I Submit a Story?

There are three ways to submit your favorite Garrett success stories:

Mail your story or photos to:  
**Garrett Metal Detectors  
Marketing Department  
1881 W. State St.  
Garland, TX 75042**

OR

Submit your story and photos electronically. Visit [http://www.garrett.com/hobby/hbby\\_story/](http://www.garrett.com/hobby/hbby_story/)

OR

Email your story in plain text format to [testimonials@garrett.com](mailto:testimonials@garrett.com) with photo attachments. Please indicate your name and a daytime phone number.

**PHOTOS:**  
Images need to be at least 3 to 4 MB and in sharp focus

Thanks in advance for sharing your success stories with other Garrett fans.

### The Netherlands



(Above) AT Pro International finds of Dutch searcher Marc S. Clockwise from top left: 17th Century silver coin, 86 AD Roman bronze coin, another 17th century silver coin, and an ancient Greek seal.

### England

Martin F. from Herefordshire in the UK recently participated in three days of detecting on archeological sites with the popular program *Time Team*, hosted by Tony Robinson. Martin was detecting with his ACE 250 near a castle in Shropshire, England, when he located a rare King James I gold quarter noble coin from 1624.

"This is only the second gold coin found on a *Time Team* dig in 17 years," said Martin. "It created quite a stir. I just bought the new DD coil and am now finding coins and relics on fields I thought were finished."



(Above) Martin F. holds the 1624 James 1 quarter noble coin (right) he recently found on an historic site while detecting with his ACE 250.



## Buffalo Hunters' Camp or Indian Skirmish Site?

Lying amongst the scrub brush and cactus west of Fort Worth is a very interesting site discovered by veteran relic hunter Jerry Eckhart about ten years ago. He has had the opportunity to detect this rural and rugged area a number of times in recent years, but the artifacts he and his comrades have dug continue to intrigue him.

"This area first came to my attention when I heard the landowner mention that he had picked up a coffee can full of old buttons that had eagles on them," Jerry recalled. "Naturally, I was eager to investigate this area further."

Jerry and members of his club from the Cisco, TX, area began to find a wide variety of relics on the farmland, most of them dating from the 1860s to 1880s. During one of the group's early hunts, half of an 1863 Shield nickel was unearthed, along with spent cartridges of all types—Winchester, Henry, Spencer and Sharps.

Jerry managed to dig half of a U.S. belt plate, while his son-in-law Chuck Mace dug a beautiful Model 1851 sword belt plate. The military items and large quantities of spent cartridges have led him to believe that this area was once the camp of post-Civil War buffalo hunters.

These men had apparently located a deep draw in the local creek where the woolly beasts naturally funneled across the water in large numbers. Deep recesses near the creek, known as buffalo wallows, can still be seen to this day where hundreds of the heavy creatures rolled around to cake mud on their backs to help ward off flies and heat.

Steve Moore and Brian McKenzie from Garrett were invited to join Jerry and his hunting buddy Vance Gwin on this historic site last year. As with previous trips to the buffalo hunters' camp site, numerous brass cartridges

and some camp lead were unearthed. Other finds included a sturdy buckle, a gold-gilted ornamental piece, and a brass button.

Once the fall hunting season had passed, Jerry and Vance continued to scout this Stephens County property beyond where the buffalo hunters' main camp had been located. Several hundred yards away from the creek, they hit another hot spot in early 2011. In a matter of hours, Vance had found more than six dozen brass cartridges using his *GTI 2500*.

Jerry found his share of brass, as well, but some of the other finds were even more interesting: three-ring minie balls, pancaked lead rifle balls, and even a carbine sling batwing attachment.

"We had started thinking some time ago that there may very well have been a skirmish between the buffalo hunters and some local Indians," explained Jerry. "This new site only added to that speculation of an Indian battle."

*(Continued next page)*

*(Below)* Vance's *AT Pro* finds from a May 2011 visit to the site include a damaged U.S. plate (missing its lead backing), three eagle buttons and a rare, intact .50-90 Sharps black powder rifle cartridge.



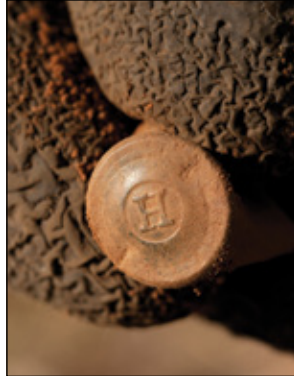
*(Above)* Texas star saddle ornament found by Steve Moore in May 2011 on the site.



*(Above, left)* Two Spencer cartridges found pushed together, a frontier trick to discourage Indians from reusing the cartridges. *(Above, right)* Ornamental piece dug by Chuck. *(Below)* Buckle found by Vance.



(Continued from pg. 14)



(Left) Brass cartridges, musket balls, rivets, minié balls, iron square nails, and a batwing dug by Vance in late March 2011 from this campground. The end of the leather carbine slings often had a cast brass end plate (called "batwings"), which were fastened on by rivets, for rigidity. (Above, left) Henry cartridge just dug by Steve. (Above, right) Vance with a recovered U.S. eagle button.

Turkey hunting season in Stephens County brought further recon efforts on this site to a halt until the middle of May. Steve and Brian from Garrett were again invited by Jerry to join him, Vance, and Chuck for further scouting of the new area.

It took only moments for the area to begin producing artifacts. Vance found a U.S. plate literally paces away from his truck, while others began digging Spencer and Henry cartridges right and left. In addition to a wide variety of relics, seven eagle buttons were found.

Chuck tried his hand with a Garrett *AT Pro* detector this day and was very impressed with how well it enabled him to pick out good brass targets lying

amongst the bits of iron that littered the soil on the site. Throughout the day, the cartridge finds were mixed with more recovered minié balls, buck and ball loads, rifle balls and pistol shot—most of them mushroomed out from impact.

The wide variety of bullet types found, particularly those of smaller caliber, have led the group to feel more strongly that some kind of skirmish took place in the vicinity of the buffalo hunters' camp. Jerry has turned up some vague pioneer account references to an early Indian fight in this area, and he hopes to find more definitive references to what actually happened here.

Until such documentation turns up, the evidence of what happened, when,

and why will be best answered by the artifacts that Jerry and Vance hope to continue recovering.



(Above) Jerry recovering a cartridge. (Below) Chuck searching an iron-laden area with an *AT Pro*.

(Lower left) Some of Steve's relics from the May hunt after cleaning. Note the wide variety of brass cartridges and flattened lead shot.



To see a "From the Field" video of this hunt, visit [www.garrett.com](http://www.garrett.com) or click on the link below:

[http://www.garrett.com/hobbysite/hbby\\_at\\_pro\\_buffalo\\_hunt\\_battlefield.aspx](http://www.garrett.com/hobbysite/hbby_at_pro_buffalo_hunt_battlefield.aspx)





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