

**W**e sit around all winter with the walls closing in on us hoping for a sunny day or temperatures we can handle so we can grab the detector and get out there after it. We think about it, dream about it, and the minute it happens we are gone.

As I celebrate my 33rd year attached to the end of a detector I wonder if every TH'er is as addicted as I am, and if so, why are we so hung up on this hobby? What is it about detecting that afflicts us with a roaring case of cabin fever? What demon possesses us and drives us out to hunt for hours on end every time the weather permits? It's almost as bad as being hooked on drugs and winter is the withdrawal period we have to suffer through, agonizing and waiting for that first spring fix to breathe new life into our bodies. For some it's worse than for others. Although I haven't succumbed to it yet I know people who will detect in the snow and bitter cold. But then I have a neighbor who washes his car and mows his yard in the pouring down rain. What can I say?

In this article I will attempt to depict why I think people are driven by and addicted to this hobby, some to extremes.

**EXERCISE** — This of course is an obvious escape, benefits us greatly and provides exercise that we wouldn't otherwise obtain. I would rather take a beating than to exercise, pedal an exercise bicycle, walk a boring treadmill, lift weights — but I think nothing of grabbing my detector and going out to a hunt site and walk for miles over hill and dale doing a 100 squats and knee bends. I know people with heart problems or other ailments who were told by their doctors to walk every day and they took up detecting to accomplish this and stave off the terminal boredom of plain walking. Aside from becoming addicted to the hobby they are for the most part extremely healthy individuals. Kay Modgling, one of the most successful detectorists ever went this route and turned her detecting exercise into a fortune. Age seems to be no barrier as long as you can bend a little, have

## WHY DO WE TREASURE HUNT?



By Bill G. Revis

a modicum of dexterity and are mobile. Many disabled people have entered our hobby and modified equipment to fit their particular need so they can do their thing.

**RELAXATION** — There is nothing more relaxing than to grab your detector and get away from it all by driving to a peaceful spot, getting out in the sun and fresh air to be alone and shed the stresses of the day, bury yourself in the hobby and leave all else behind. If you are family oriented this is a great way to spend quality time with them. If you are so inclined you can drag all your curtain climbers with you and turn them loose in a park playground while you have a leisurely hunt.

**GREED** — We don't like to admit it but this little bugger is present in all of us to some extent and finding lost money and jewelry satiates that little bugger's appetite. The bigger the find the bigger the smile on our face, the greater the satisfaction and the fatter our little bugger. We fairly beam, knowing we are equipped to do this.

**PATIENCE and PERSEVERANCE** — This hobby breeds these two attributes, for without either we

would all be out bowling or something. Detecting requires mounds of patience and perseverance, walking around forever waiting for that good signal that may be long in coming, digging up that penny you hoped was a quarter, digging up that pulltab that should have been a diamond ring. Reading your ID meter with joy only to find out it lied to you. We naturally learn not to expect instant and constant rewards for our efforts or to find that "big one" every time — and this trait trickles over into all other aspects of our lives and makes us a better person.

**PERSISTENCE** — Show me a successful TH'er and I'll show you the epitome of persistence. This trait is a prerequisite to detecting and without it you might as well hang it up. We know every hunt is not going to result in a pouchful of goodies, and if we have a bad day we know the next is going to be much better. The odds are generally in our favor so we are not easily discouraged and we know if we keep plugging along something is going to pop up. If I get into an area where coins are scarce as hen's teeth, I'll hunt till I find something rather than admit defeat. I can't

remember when I have returned home coinless.

**SATISFACTION & CONFIDENCE** — We take satisfaction in knowing we belong to a very select group of people that possesses a skill that few do. We are a breed apart engaged in a hobby that actually pays for itself, something few can do, and on occasion can make us rich beyond our wildest dreams. We have the satisfaction of uncovering bits and pieces of history dating back sometimes 100s of years, pieces of the past that can unravel a riddle, solve a crime, or tell a story. We have the satisfaction of just being satisfied with what we are doing and we learn to have confidence in our abilities and expertise as TH'ers. We have confidence in knowing we know what detector to pick that suits our particular needs or what site to hunt for best results. We know, even as beginners, that given time, practice, and experience, we will become successful at our craft.

**CURIOSITY** — This is the engine that drives most TH'ers, wondering what each new site will produce, wondering just what is at the other end of that probe, wondering if that treasure we researched is actually there. We wonder what that strange object we dug up actually is, and we can't wait to find out. Curiosity drives us to this hobby and without it we are a creature without purpose. We see a TH'er in a park with a strange instrument and wonder what he or she is doing, what are they looking for, and why. We hear tales or read treasure stories, see pictures of treasures found and wonder if this is really real, and if it is why ain't we in on it. We wonder what a detector is and how it actually works, and what are all those strange gadgets on it—and we aren't content till we get our hands on one to find out.

**PRIDE** — We take pride in the fact that we have developed a very special skill and technique that few have, that allows us untold satisfaction and reward. We take pride in the fact that we are out doing something worthwhile instead of vegetating in front of the TV. We take pride in the fact we are part of a very special

group of people that are just a cut above most. We take pride in the fact that we are environmentalists and abide by all the laws, respect other's property, and leave the place we have hunted just as we found it. We take pride in the fact that by our many purchases and expenditures pursuing our hobby we are contributing to the economy and providing jobs for a great many people, and most of all we take pride in our hobby, all the great people engaged in and connected to it, and all it stands for.

**BELONGING** — Our hobby is a state of belonging, and many people have a need to belong, to be an integral part of a select group and be appreciated by their peers. Either hunting with a group or belonging to a metal detecting club and engaging in and attending their many functions fulfills this need and generates camaraderie. It allows people to discuss their hobby, display their finds, view other's finds, learn new techniques and tricks, new ideas, and learn of new places to hunt. The many sponsored hunts brings people from all areas and all walks of life with one common interest together

for competitive and social events.

**RESPECT** — Without it we are doomed. Our hobby is a great educator and we have learned, at least most of us, via this hobby to respect the land and the property of others and treat them as our own. If our hobby is to continue unabated then we have to gain and maintain respect as our hobby faces new challenges every day. Due to a few bad apples in our hobby, over zealous politicians and special interest groups are on the prowl for us every step of the way, just waiting for us to goof so they can pounce on us. Since we are all, each and everyone of us, a representative of this hobby we all have an image to project, preserve and protect and keep it untarnished and shining bright, and we do this by our every action.

It is because of what we collectively are and what drives us that results in the continued growth of our great hobby. From the young to the old, from the doctor to the lawyer to the Indian chief — all members of this special group we call TH'ers, and TH'ing will continue to be a hobby of the people, by the people, and for the people. Let's not let it perish. **LT**

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