

Account: South Carolina State Parks

Content type: Facebook Page - Message threads

Record ID: 20150414unknownMessage-threads52748_t_10157919439053166

Thank you so very much for this information. I will now be using the state parks much more regularly. It would be a HUGE asset if there was a way that the main Park's Office could inform the individual parks that metal detecting is an acceptable recreational activity because most state parks as individual entities do not realize this. As a result many responsible hobbyists and their friends and families do not go to state parks. By allowing it to be known to the individual parks, more people will be using them and enjoying what South Carolina State Parks have to offer and I'm not just talking about metal detecting here anymore... Thanks again.

Participants: Albert Charbonneau, South Carolina State Parks
at 21:29:50 on 4/14/2015 UTC



Albert Charbonneau

at 18:32:06 on 4/14/2015 UTC

Hello and good day to you.

I am from Summerville, SC. I would like to know about your stance on recreational metal detecting within the state parks. I understand that 17 out of the 47 State parks here in South Carolina are off limits to metal detecting. The remaining 30, usually require the Park Manager's approval and/or a permit. I have been allowed to enjoy my hobby in some state parks. I adhere to the guidelines set forth. I do not collect relics. As a matter of fact, I believe all relics belong in a museum for everyone to see and learn from. I am more of a coin shooter. I consider myself to be a responsible hobbyist. I turn over any and all personal items I happen to find such as keys, cell phones and jewelry. Unfortunately, over the years other hobbyists have placed a negative image in the minds of officials with their lack of respect for the common rules that pertain to the hobby. I follow the Code of Ethics and wish to help bring the hobby back into the light as a fun and rewarding experience for everyone to enjoy. Below is a copy of the metal detecting hobbyist's Code of Ethics. These guidelines should, in my opinion, be followed by anyone who enjoys the great outdoors.

Do not trespass; always respect private property and do no metal detecting without the owner's permission.

It is advisable to get permission in writing, and to get agreement in writing first to avoid disputes regarding the ownership of any subsequent finds.

Never do anything that might contaminate wells, creeks or other water supplies. Respect the country code, leave gates as they are found, do not damage crops, never deliberately disturb wild or domestic animals.

Never litter, always gather or collect any trash or debris you create or find.

Leave as little sign of your passing as possible.

Always use the correct digging or probing equipment to make the least intrusion or marks.

Always fill in your holes, including ploughed fields and beaches.

Never throw trash finds back in the hole.

Report the discovery of any items of possible significant historical value to a local historian or museum in accordance with the latest legislation of your area.

Never go metal detecting around archaeological monuments.

Report any live ammunition or other potentially lethal or toxic objects you may find to authorities after carefully noting or marking the location. Do not attempt to move or interfere with any such devices.

Report all finds to the landowner/occupier.

Protect the metal detecting hobby by being a good will ambassador at all times.

Thank you

Albert Charbonneau

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South Carolina State Parks

at 20:38:21 on 4/14/2015 UTC

Albert - There are actually 17 areas that are designated as no metal detecting areas. Some of the parks listed will allow metal detecting at other areas of the park. You are correct, you are required to have a metal detecting permit while practicing this activity. It is encouraged that one contacts a park ranger prior to metal detecting; some areas of most parks are off limits due to potential safety hazards; natural or cultural resource protection; etc. We feel metal detecting is a great practice that encourages exercise and an excellent opportunity to get out and enjoy our parks. Matter of fact, Cheraw State Park will be hosting a metal detecting program on June 26 and August 7.



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