

# The Leaverite News



March, 2009

Volume 13, Issue 3

## February Meeting Notes

There were 20 members and one guest present at the February club meeting. President Tom Moss reminded members of the TCTC Treasure Show to be held on March 21 and 22 at the Maude Cobb Convention Center in Longview, Texas. The club will have a display table and volunteers will be needed to man the table on Saturday and Sunday.

Tom Moss demonstrated his method of constructing a shadow box or display box from an ordinary picture frame and a few pieces of wood.

## Happy Trails Hunt March 7 & 8

Rockin-L-Ranch, Longview, Texas  
Registration: Saturday 8:00 a.m.

(See page 3 for location map)

## Building Your Own Display for Mere Pennies



Tom displays the back side of the finished shadow box display where the dowel rods holding the backing board in place can be seen.

### Rusk County Treasure Hunters Association Club Officers

|                          |              |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| <b>President</b>         | Tom Moss     |                          |
| <b>Vice President</b>    | Joe Metcalf  | joefm523@aol.com         |
| <b>Treasurer</b>         | Jess Allen   | jessallen743@hotmail.com |
| <b>Secretary</b>         | Suzanne Reed | bullterrier3@juno.com    |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b> | Keith Ballow | keith@keithballow.com    |

### Ticket Drawing Winners

Carl Norris, Margaret Logston,  
Dorris St. Clair, Ada Worley,  
and Richard Greene

### Sign-in Sheet Winners

Not Drawn

### Name Tag Drawing Winner

Not Drawn

### Bucket Drawing

Keith Ballow

### Dates to Remember

TCTC Treasure Show, Longview, TX  
Maude Cobb Convention Center  
March 21 & 22

[http://www.texasCouncil.net/\\_tempfile/  
TCTCflyer2009.pdf](http://www.texasCouncil.net/_tempfile/TCTCflyer2009.pdf)

**We Appreciate Our Volunteers!**

March Meeting Snack Volunteers

Margaret Logston and John Wisdom

### Monthly Finds Contest Winners

|           |     | Winner           | Description                    |
|-----------|-----|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Coins     | 1st | Bob Bradberry    | 1901 Indianhead Penny          |
|           | 2nd | Suzanne Reed     | 1899 V Nickel                  |
|           | 3rd | Dorris St. Clair | 1985 Mexican 100 Peso Coin     |
| Jewelry   | 1st | Darrell Crosby   | James Avery Angel Ring         |
|           | 2nd | A. D. Clark      | Silver & Turquoise Ring        |
|           | 3rd | Dorris St. Clair | Heart Charm                    |
| Artifacts | 1st | Bob Bradberry    | Old Key                        |
|           | 2nd | Dana Logston     | 1925 Radiola 26 Name Plate     |
|           | 3rd | Suzanne Reed     | Lea & Perrins Glass Stopper    |
| Tokens    | 1st | Sue Anderson     | Louisiana Tax Token            |
|           | 2nd | Dana Logston     | Presidential Crackerjack Token |
|           | 3rd | Mike Smith       | Crystal White Soap Token       |
| Judges    | 1st | Dana Logston     | WW II Navy Wings               |
| Choice    | 2nd | Bob Anderson     | Shreveport Slug Plate Soda     |
|           | 3rd | Bob Bradberry    | Texas Bankers Pin              |



### 2009 WWATS Mini-Hunt

May 23 & 24

(Memorial Day Weekend)

K-River Campgrounds

Antlers, Oklahoma

This hunt is open to the public!  
Detectors, Gold, Silver and many  
more prizes to be given away!

Try your hand at Gold Prospecting in  
the Kiamichi River

Check the WWATS Web-Site or contact  
Keith Wills [kwills@etex.net](mailto:kwills@etex.net)  
for details and entry forms



By Keith Ballow

Well it's spring time in East Texas and a lot of people's thoughts turn to gardening, but as you are certainly aware we treasure hunters are just a little odd sometimes compared to other people. Find a detectorist and ask him or her what is in his or her garden and the answer may be something like, "An old bent nail here, a teardrop pull-tab there, some chewing gum foil in this corner and a few clad coins and zinc cents thrown in for good measure."

Of course, those of us who have been at the hobby for awhile understand that they are referring to their "Test Garden." That patch of tortured ground where the avid detectorists buries all sorts of metallic items just so they can have a place to test the performance of their detectors, and learn how each machine responds to various items at different depths.

If you have never tried a test garden this might be a good time to consider doing so. Gather up some odds and ends from your last few detecting trips. You know, those old pull tabs blowing around in the back of your truck bed,

If you think you can "Eye-Ball" something pretty close, then try your hand at this little on-line test, but be warned, it can be addictive.  
<http://woodgears.ca/eyeball/>

and a couple of those old rusty nails that rang like a coin that you dug 12 inches down to recover. Got one of those blasted aluminum twist-off soda tops? Throw it in the mix as well. Collect a clad coin of each denomination and any other junk items that you are likely to find in the areas you most often detect.

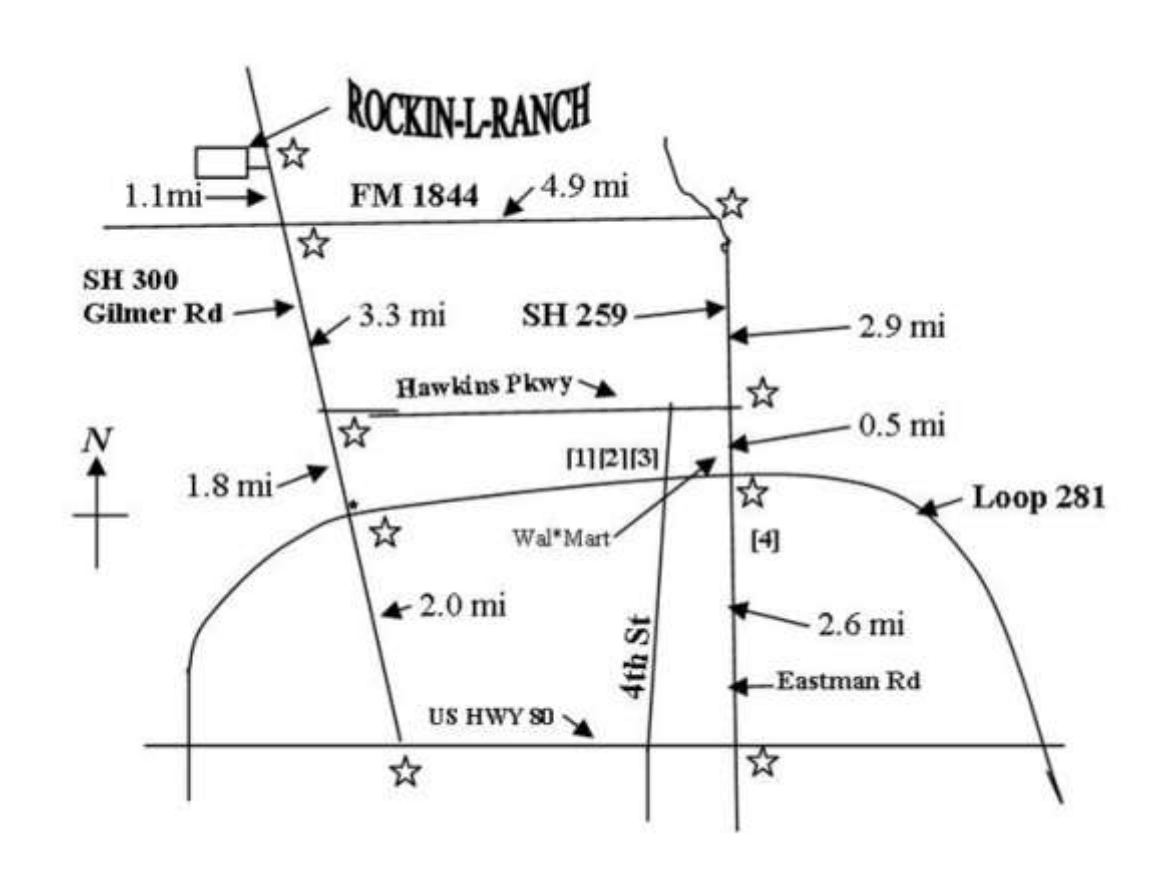
Take a few minutes to sketch a layout of your test garden on a piece of paper. Now take your detector outside and in all metal mode detect the area of the garden to make sure there are not already some metallic items hidden below the surface. If there are, dig them up and get an area clean of targets for your garden plot.

Now that you have removed everything, go by the sketch you worked up and bury your test items in the test garden. Be sure to mark the approximate spot of each target and the depth of each target.

If you can stand to wait until the next day to try out your garden, you might even want to water the garden to pack the soil back down around the items you just buried.

The next time you want to warm up with your detector, just step outside and scan your garden. You will soon learn how each target registers on your detector.

You can even bury some new items near the older items to see how they interact with each other and when you upgrade to a new detector you will already have some known targets ready and waiting for you to practice on. Happy Hunting!



Location of Rockin-L-Ranch and Happy Trails Open Hunt

Finds of the Month Contest

