



The Conglomerate

BLUE GRASS GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Lexington, KY

From the Editor

Volume 2011

April Edition

Hi Club Members,

Spring's here at long last. After our long winter, the warmth and sunshine are truly welcome and we can hardly wait to get into the field and do some rock hunting. I'll bet quite a few members have already gone on their own. April's field trip is the Agate Hunts associated with the Mountain Mushroom Festival. We've got lots of interest again this year and Thursday looks almost full. We hope to see you there.

Speaking of Mountain Mushroom Festival, we're all working hard on getting everything ready for the Mountain Mushroom Festival Rock and Gem Show. Vendors are getting ready to come make this a great gem show. We are completely full for vendors (23 total) so everyone should make a trip to Irvine and see the what they're offering. We also need volunteers to help at the show. **Be sure to read your email with the link to the survey to set up volunteering during the show.** Friday is important to extra help just to be around to help with the school children. Some of the things to help with are: covering a vendor's booth while they have a break; covering the club's booth for sales and information, being general security by walking around the sales floor; checking the parking lot behind the building; on Thursday helping to set up tables for booths and directing vendors to their booths and Sunday helping take down tables after the show. Also new this year we MAY have one or two "Farmer's Market" booths in the school hallway that will be selling foods, herbs, plants, etc. Don't forget about the Mushroom Market, arts and crafts booths; antique and collectible flea market; and the parade with Jack Pattie as Grand Marshall.

For all those who volunteer at the shows and for other club functions, you can now earn credits you can use for "pay" for: classes (we're working on two wire wrapping classes around Gemboree time); club transportation to an outstate dig or field trip. We are still working out all the kinks but know that you will be rewarded for your efforts.

Jane

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Jane Volk

Confused about a Field Trip or Event Sponsored by the Club?? Check it out on our website:

<http://bggamc.intuitwebsites.com> or our FaceBook Page www.facebook.com/BGGAMC

- Next Meeting is April 16 at Beaumont Library
- Executive Meeting 1 PM—All Members Welcome
- Membership Meeting 2 PM
- Discussions on upcoming shows and field trips.
- Auction to follow.

Vendors at Mountain Mushroom Festival Rock and Gem Show

Business Name	Sells	Owner 1st Name	Owner Last Name	Address	City	State
None Such Minerals	Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Meteorites	Barry	Mercer	PO Box 1403	Mt. Ida	AR
The Grays	Jewelry, minerals crafts	Kim & Dan	Gray	224 Conway St	Frankfort	KY
Flynn Agate	KY Agate	Lamon	Flynn	1320 Wagersville Rd	Irvine	KY
J. Flynn	KY Agate	James	Flynn		Irvine	KY
R Lee	KY Agate	Rondle	Lee	259 Pasley Rd	Clay City	KY
BGGAMC	Specimens, jewelry		BGGAMC		Lexington	KY
Dale Burton	minerals fossils, agate, etc	Dale	Burton	1039 Tyburn Ln	Frankfort	KY
The Black Tent	Fluorescent minerals	Danny	Settles		Danville	KY
The Silver Vine	Kentucky Agate	Paul	Schroeder	319 Leonard Ct	Danville	KY
Treasures of the Earth	Gem Trees, Wire Sculpture Jewelry, Silver Smith Pendants and Earrings and Tumbled Stones	Rose	Wimmer	5273 Bradshaw Rd	Salem	VA
Velima's Crafts	Silver Jewelry, Beads, African Trade Beads and wire wrapped items	Velima	Lawson	2843 E Carters Valley Rd	Gate City	VA
A Jewell	Handcrafted jewelry, slabs, cabs and rough	Allen and Joan	Jewell	PO Box 805	Versailles	KY
Love of the Mother	Hand-wrapped gemstones, gemstone created Jewelry, bracelets and necklaces	Jennifer	Tudor	410 Norwood Dr	Richmond	KY
Agate Smiths	Kentucky Agate Specimens, Jewelry, Cabs, Slabs, & Jewelry	Larry	Smith	218 Greens Crossing Rd	Richmond	KY
The Lapidary Artist	Wire Wrapping demonstrations, slabs for sale, Cabs for sale	Sandy	Brandl	5578 Ellis St	Stevens Point	WI
Wallace White	Fossils, coins and artifacts, guaranteed authentic: Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Medieval, Pre-Columbian, Roman, etc.	Wallace	White	544 Rosemont Garden	Lexington	KY
Flint Stone Jewelry	Jewelry	Skeeter & Joyce	Kish	3014 Clark Mill Rd	Norton	OH
Seipel Earth Energy	Minerals & Crystals	Timothy	Seipel	1888 Kentwell Rd	Columbus	OH
Bary Gems, Inc	Natural Gemstones and jewelry	Mohamed	Bary	2119 Bentwood Cr #1C	Columbus	OH
D Kay's Treasures	Rock & Mineral Items & Jewelry	Donna	Estep	4155 Preachersville Rd	Stanford	KY
Scott Hardy	KY Agate, jewelry other rock specimens	Scott	Hardy	2702 Sandhill Rd	Irvine	KY
Bay Associates	KY agate; opals, silver jewelry; grinding and polishing Media Grit; other agate	Ray	Lahti	7708 Dave Rd	Knoxville	TN
Dixie Euhedrals	Paint Rock Agate, Arizona Agate, Crystals Minerals Facet Rough	Rodney	Moore	1320 Chappell Mill Rd	Jackson	GA

Bench Tips

Brad Smith

SOLDERING EARPOSTS

I don't solder enough earposts to develop the dexterity for holding the wire by hand. So I modified a set of locking tweezers to help with the job. It's quick and easy.

Use a triangular file to make a notch at the tweezers tip to keep the wire from moving around, and file a groove in the tweezers body to rest the tweezers on a stand that keeps the



earpost wire at the right angle. The stand is just soldered up from scrap copper or nickel.

This way the tweezers act like a see-saw that's weighted just a little bit more on the soldering end. I felt that if the tweezers put too much pres-

From Vice President Danny Settles, Field Trip Organizer

Upcoming Field Trips

- The April field trip will be the agate hunts on April 26-28.
- The May field trip to Caldwell Stone will be on the 21 at 12:30 PM
- The July field trip will be to the home of Tab Farthing. He will give us a presentation on Competitive Exhibits—What a good exhibit should contain, Showmanship, what the judges look for and what constitutes a correct display case and how to get the judges attention. This is to help us with our show displays at Gemboree 2011. Time and Date to be Arranged.
- Our picnic will be in June with the field trip to hunt for geodes.

sure on the earpost wire, it could buckle when the wire gets up to soldering temperature.



LOWERING THE NOISE

A simple way to cut down the noise when you're hammering on your mini anvil or bench block is to place it on an old mouse pad or other similar rubber material.

*More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/
or facebook.com/BenchTips*

Brad Smith is a studio jeweler, lapidary and jewelry instructor in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, CA who enjoys working with sterling silver, exotic woods, ivory and gold. His work is accented with interesting gemstones, and he strives to maintain a balance between the various elements. Brad enjoys field trips to local mines and desert locations and is an active member of the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club.



BGGAMC to Make Donation to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation

After the arrival of the annual Eastern Federation Directory it was discovered that our club is remiss in our duty to support the AMFS Scholarship Foundation. After discussions at the March meeting it was decided that we will make a donation this year and in following years to the Fund. This year our donation will be in Memory of Peggy Gouchenour, who was the long time editor of the Conglomerate and who died in 2010.

*Communication and Involvement are the
Keys to our Success*

2011 Gem & Mineral Shows

April 16 & 17 — 2011 Central Ohio Mineral Fossil Gem & Jewelry Show

The Many Facets of Quartz—Veterans Memorial at 200 W Broad St. Columbus OH

Adults \$7 2-day pass \$12, Senior Discount Youth \$3 Scouts Free

More Information at www.columbusrockandmineralsociety.org

April 29—May 1—Mountain Mushroom Festival —Irvine, KY

May 7 & 8 —46th Annual GeoFair Gem, Mineral , Fossil & Jewelry Show of Greater Cincinnati

Cincinnati Gardens 2250 Seymour Avenue Information at www.geofair.com

July 6—10 — AFMS/EFMLS Annual Convention and Show. “Gems Along the Erie Canal”

Syracuse, NY. Host club: Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. Banquet, Awards, 60 retail and wholesale vendors. Held at Americarft Center of Progress Building at the New York State Fair Grounds

September 17 & 18 —Gemboree 2011—Lexington Center, Lexington, KY

Please check out [www.Road ID.com](http://www.RoadID.com) “Its Who I Am”

If you can't speak for yourself, Road ID can.

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<http://bggamc.intuitwebsites.com>



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