

May 2026 Bluegrass Coin Club Newsletter



May flowers are in bloom, even though we have had a dry spring by normal standards here in Central Kentucky. The Kentucky Derby delivered another historic and exciting race. Mother's Day is next so get your gifts for Mom ready. Perhaps you should buy her a beautiful coin! Finally, congratulations to graduates everywhere!

April Presentations Recap

The topic by **Bob Jones** at the April meeting was Antarctic Enderbyland One Sovereign Coins by Fred Richard Zinkann. He brought samples of these coins made from unusual medal compositions including rare earth metals not typically seen in coinage. These are fantasy pieces named for a region of Antarctica. Molybdenum and Niobium are some of the rare metal used in some of these coins that were limited in production. Thank you for the presentation, Bob!



A numismatic race horse?

The Editor enjoys clever names applied to race horses whether they run in a high-profile event like the Derby or in a maiden claiming race on a weekday afternoon at Keeneland. During the festivities surrounding the Derby, the thought occurred that it would be fun to ask the Club to submit their own numismatic themed horse name using some of the major Jockey Club's thoroughbred horse naming rules:

- 18 characters or less
- No numbers or initials (numbers can be spelled out)
- No trademarks or names of living people
- No horse related suffixes – names cannot end in horse, mare, etc.
- BGCC rule –the name must be related to numismatics, paper currency, or exonomia (tokens, medals, etc.)

Please submit your names to Roger Mulvaney at the next club meeting or by email by June 6th to bgcoinclub@gmail.com. Submitted names will be listed in our next Newsletter.

This month's featured "Did You Know?" coin fact by Alan Barnett



DID YOU KNOW ?
COIN FACT OF THE WEEK



\$20 gold coins, known as double eagles, were created to efficiently transform large amounts of newly mined California gold into usable legal tender.

Bluegrass Coin Club Member Highlight

In this edition of the Bluegrass Coin Club Meet and Greet Section, we bring you Mike Chuck Williamson. Thank you, Chuck, for sharing!

Some responses were lightly edited for formatting and clarity.



Chuck Williamson

Q: What do you collect?

A: A little bit of everything. I really, really like proof Liberty Nickels. A few years ago, ok, maybe decades ago, you could buy proof ones for maybe \$200. Of course, I learned the hard expensive way that many of those were cleaned or had other problems, but as I learned, I've picked up quite a few that were undergraded. Even today, you can often find PR65 V's in the \$500 range and they're just stunning to look at. All the dates except the '85 and '86 can be found in that price range so a complete set (minus the 1913 is attainable.) I'm actually working on my second set and upgrading some of my lower grades. I also collect raw Seated Liberty Dimes. It brings back the thrill of filling in the holes in an album from my early collector days.

Q: When did you start collecting coins?

A: Like most people, I was given a few coins and became interested that way. When I was probably 8, a friend of my grandmother gave me an 1883-CC dollar that really gave me the bug. It was a lower grade, but it was well before the GSA released all the CC dollars and was quite the coin. It's still my favorite coin. When I was 14 or so my father took me to the old Pioneer Coins when it was down on Southland Drive and I asked Mr. Beams if he had any jobs I could do. He gave me a \$1,000 bag of Mercury dimes to sort, perhaps as a joke, but I did it and loved it. I became his first employee (other than his wife) and worked for him until he sold the shop, which was my senior year at UK. Life happened and I had other constraints on my time and money, but I rediscovered the hobby as my kids grew up and became successful.

Q: What is your favorite part about being a member of BGCC?

A: The comradery the most. It's nice to share your interests with people who share your passion. I also like the educational programs and I've really liked when Jeff has brought coins for "show and tell." The early 10's and the '95 Proof Morgan were stunning. I'm somewhat newly retired, (I worked as a CPA) and previously work interfered with the winter shows and I've enjoyed going to the FUN winter show and most recently the ANA show in Atlanta. I would encourage anyone who hasn't been to go to one of the larger shows.