

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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I thought I would use some space this time around and title it "Did You Know?" There is so much happening in the antique bottle and glass world that can just plain slip by. Here are just a few things off the top of my head.

With space at a premium in *Bottles and Extras*, we decided some five or so years ago to move the club news section to the FOHBC.org web site. Did you know that there are seventy (70) plus member clubs in the FOHBC? This doesn't count the twenty (20) or so clubs that sometimes get yellow-marked because they have not renewed their dues in a timely manner. So, you see, this is a big bottle world. Please stay on top of your club memberships! We can all make a difference.

Speaking of clubs and bottle shows, did you know that our web site is constantly updated with reports from bottle shows? Just taking a peek this morning, in late March, I see recent reports on the Baltimore Antique Bottle Show, San Luis Obispo Bottle Society's 49th Annual Antique Bottle Show and Sale, the Somers' Enfield Connecticut Bottle Show, the Oregon Bottle Collectors Association Show, the Emerald Coast Bottle Collectors Report, the Manville New Jersey Show, the Little Rhody Show, the Muncie Fruit Jar Show, the Bethlehem Bottle Show, the Capital Region Antique Bottle and Insulator Club Show, the Long Island Antique Bottle Association Show Report, the First Waco Texas Antique Bottle Show, the Yankee Bottle Club 49th Show and the Finger Lakes Bottle Collectors Association Show. Hey, and that's just on the home page! We keep the reports fresh. You just need to submit your show information with a few good images and captions and we will take it from there. Oh, and please make sure you spell any person's name you use correctly.

Regarding the shows, did you know that the FOHBC website has the most complete and up-to-date show listing on earth? Yep, it is updated almost daily and in many cases, combines the show listing and the flyer. You can submit your show information electronically on the website, via email or regular mail. Send your flyer, too! If you need help with your flyer layout, you can also ask for assistance. Nothing catches an eye better than a well-designed color flyer. With design, "less is more," meaning try not to put too much copy on your flyer. For those clubs with websites, you can always direct readers back to your site for more information.

Did you know that the FOHBC has a very big presence on Facebook? If you are wondering where all the rest of the bottle collectors are, they are here. As of today, the FOHBC page has 2,506 likes and reaches a huge and new audience all the time as bottle questions are asked and reports are posted daily. Just do a search if you are on Facebook.

There are many other Facebook pages dedicated to bottle collecting groups. I can think of fifty or so at least that deal with special areas of bottles collecting. Some of my favorites are Antique Bottle Collectors (4,500+ members!), Early American Glass Collectors, Antique Poison Bottles, 19th Century Bottle Diggers, Shards, Ball Jar Collectors, Antique Bottle Auctions, Antique & Vintage Marble Collectors, Antique Drug Store Bottle Collectors, Antique Bitters Bottles, Bottle Diggers Around the World, Historical and Colonial Glass, Coca-Cola Bottles Pre-1965, Lightning Rod Collectors, Antique Ink Bottles, Antique Soda Bottles, Collecting Insulators, Antique Fruit Jars and so many more. There are bottle club Facebook pages, show pages and many foreign bottle collector Facebook pages, too. I get asked all the time, where have all the younger collectors gone? Well, my friends, here is my primary answer.

Did you know that every issue of *Bottles and Extras*, from 2003 on, is digitally archived? Both by issue and by article and topic type. Of course, our fastest growing membership segment, digital members, receive their issue in this format. All issues of *Bottles and Extras* can be read page-to-page (76-pages including covers) or article-by-article in PDF format on our web site. You need to be a member with a password to access. Please contact us if you do not have one. Like anything online now days, security is important and you must enter your user name and password to access the Members Portal. Additionally, we are now scanning the 1998 – 2002 *Bottles and Extras* issues and articles for inclusion. Previously, we added all issues of *The Pontil* (predecessor to *Bottles and Extras*) from 1963-1970. Oh, and any members wishing to be listed online can also be found in the Members Portal Directory.

Curious about how the FOHBC operates? I know I was when I first joined. You can find copies of all our bi-annual board meeting and conference call notes at FOHBC.org. Just go to the home page and pull down the "FOHBC" menu in the horizontal green band and you will find not only our Notes of Record but Who We Are, President's Message, Officer List, Meet Your Officers (bios), Federation Bylaws, Code of Ethics and Contact Information. Take a moment and read about our board members. I think you will find the best group of individuals we have had in many years.

Under the adjacent "History" pull-down menu, you can find a growing segment called FOHBC History and other complete sections for the Hall of Fame, Honor Roll, Past Presidents and National Show and Convention records. I'm not kidding when I say this web site is loaded. Did you know there are 30,000-plus images on the site?

Did you know that the Virtual Museum is progressing on a couple of fronts? Alan DeMaison is filming bottles with 3-D imaging equipment and software that the FOHBC and Alan purchased. Alan will be filming in different locations around the country while visiting special collections. He is due in Houston next weekend and we are both due in Denver in late April. We, the Virtual Museum board (VM elects DeMaison, Fuss, Libbey, Meyer, Siri), hope to have a sneak preview of the first gallery work at the FOHBC banquet at the Springfield National.

Wow, did you know that I am out of word space already! I really have so much more to report. Let's close this message by saying "Onwards to Springfield." The FOHBC and show chairs Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart are planning an event for the ages. Please visit our website or pages 10 and 11 in this issue for more information.