

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Our moods, bottle collecting activities and general well-being are affected by weather and influenced by the climate changes, seasons and temperature. Where and how the wind blows sets our course. Yes, I know, I always seem to weave the weather into my opening message.

As some of you know, more serious weather events have affected Elizabeth and me this past year and at the same time, allowed us to stand back and assess our collection and to re-chart our path forward. Another good bottle friend lost their house in Soberanes, Big Sur wild fire. 2016 will certainly be a year to remember. I think back to the fello who that had to move his bottle collection three times on the west coast of Florida due to all of the hurricanes that occurred that year. I believe it was 2004.

Well, new rains and flooding in Houston this past week made national news and prompted several calls and emails that we fielded. Otherwise, this has been the mildest winter that I can remember, yet we have had the two coldest spells in many, many years that wiped out parts of our succulent gardens. Wind chills were in the single digits which is cold for south Texas. Always something with weather. This is why The Weather Channel is so popular and a fixture on many of our computers and smart devices. Now the west is flooding and their decade long drought seems quenched. Ice storms just plastered the Midwest, causing havoc. Major snowfall is now happening in New England, too. Funny when I see this I always think of fellow collectors Jeff and Holly Noordsy who always seem to be skiing! We just need to watch out for locusts. I joke here but this mild winter put a gazillion ladybugs on our house and unfortunately within the house...and bottles!

We've considered moving but we will stay put as the likelihood of a third 500-year flood seems unlikely, though I would have said improbable before. A thousand or so bottles have been unpacked and are now back in their places. It was Christmas all over again unpacking my bottles. While we packed them fast, I unpacked them slow, gave them a good cleaning, did an inventory and memory check and arranged them slightly different to reflect the collection's strengths and weaknesses. Now the sun, sky and crisp winter air are my friends and dance with my bottles. I am excited as ever about early glass, but I keep an eye on the weather, my best friend and my worst enemy. Next we renovate upstairs, our overrun camp while the downstairs was renovated.

Weeks are moving fast and we are looking forward to the FOHBC 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo. Our co-chairs, Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart, are working tirelessly with Team Springfield on the many events. We had a two-hour conference

call the other night and things are progressing smoothly. Lots of tables sold and many hotel rooms have been booked.

Looking forward to having an update from Louis Fifer and Matt Lacy on the FOHBC 2018 National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo in Cleveland. Those guys are our co-chairs and are so far ahead of the curve it isn't funny. Love to work with all the co-chairs each year. The best of the best in our hobby.

The FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo financial reports were recently completed and show a profit north of \$19,000 for our mega event. This breaks a modern-day FOHBC record. With record gate and advertising, we made out well. Again, thanks to Richard & Bev Siri, Warren Friedrich and Eric McGuire, along with our entire cast of characters from out west and around the country who made the western region and our hobby look so good.

On a side note, Richard and Bev Siri donated their entire \$3,000 Sacramento National co-chair proceedings to the FOHBC Virtual Museum. Wow, isn't that cool! Richard was the originator of the Virtual Museum concept and now serves on the museum board. We plan to have our first gallery unveiled at the Springfield National banquet. Many thanks are due here to Alan DeMaison (also a VM board member) who is spearheading photography, 3D imaging and videotaping. He will be in Houston in a week and a half to photograph my collection and next, we both will be travelling to Denver to film specimens from the outstanding collection of Sandor Fuss.

Jeff Wichmann with American Bottle Auctions is also in the news recently, settling some business favorably that allowed him to donate \$5,000 to the FOHBC. What a gentleman!

Having this extra cash is important but secondary to providing a great experience and product. They actually both go hand-in-hand. With this cash infusion, we also have donated money to a number of antique bottle causes recently that help our hobby.

We are also in the process of scheduling a conference call to review the possible opportunities as to where we will hold our 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo for the southern region. Our team here consists of our Conventions Director Louis Fifer, Public Relations Director Alicia Booth and Southern Region Director Brad Seigler. We are looking at cities in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida. Once we are all on the same page, we will present our findings and options to the FOHBC board at our semi-annual board meeting prior to the Baltimore Antique Bottle Show.

I am looking forward to going back to my hometown and seeing some great glass. From Baltimore, I fly out to Morro Bay, California for the super-cool San Luis Obispo Bottle Society's 49th Annual Antique Bottle Show and Sale on Friday and Saturday, March 17th. I will connect with Jerry Forbes and we will trip up to his house in Big Sur and look at his renovation efforts from the Soberanes fire that I mentioned previously.

Well, I hope you enjoy this issue of Bottles and Extras. There are some super articles within that are a lead-in to our Springfield event. We also added a new section called Lost and Found on page 2. Be safe, find a new bottle, and tell us about it. The FOHBC is open rain or shine.