

# Teenager Wants to Compile Stories on How Collectors Got Started

by Bill Baab

Fifteen-year-old Caleigh (pronounced Kaylee) Cella, who is a member of the Hudson Valley Bottle Club, wants to hear from collectors of antique bottles on how they got started in the hobby.

It started for her when she visited Ferncliff Forest in Rhinebeck, New York.

"My Dad and I decided to take a hike that wonderful day to the Ferncliff fire tower. I was really scared when we were climbing up and down the stairs.

"On our way back to the car, we saw some old house foundations so we decided to take a look. When we got over there, I saw some broken glass pieces. I went over to the corner where they were and started to dig,

"I was digging for quite some time, or so I thought was a long time, probably around 5 minutes, and there I saw it. The Rieges California Perfume bottle. The first bottle I had ever found!

"I was so excited, I jumped up and ran over to my Dad while saying, 'Dad, Dad, look at it!' The big smile on his face amazed me even more.

"From then on, I've been into digging and collecting bottles.

"I am a former member of the Raleigh (N.C.) Bottle Club. I am so passionate about this hobby that I decided to write a book on it, not about the value or origin of the bottles or insulators, but stories behind the collectors on how they got started in this hobby.

"If you are interested in putting your story in this book, please don't hesitate to send an e-mail to caleigh.cella@aol.com. Thanks."

NOTE: The first collector to send in his story was Bill Baab, of Augusta, Georgia, who was inducted into the FOHBC Hall of Fame in 2011. He started collecting in 1969, more than 40 years before Caleigh was born.



Caleigh Cella and her father show off some recent finds. (Courtesy of Caleigh Cella)