



# FOHBCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I have just finished a marathon month in March, starting with the Federation meeting at the Baltimore show and then making two other shows back to back: St. Louis and Mobile, Ala. It brought to mind just how important our clubs are to our hobby.

If there were no clubs and interested club members to sponsor annual club shows, our hobby would not have near the activity or the availability to grow our collections. We would not have the opportunity to participate in the fellowship that we all enjoy in this great hobby of ours. I think of all the fine people I have met over the years through my travels in going to bottle shows.

My local club, the Memphis Bottle Collectors Club, was founded in February 1967 and continued to be active for many years. Our largest local club-sponsored show was in 1978 when we played host to the Federation for its annual convention/meeting and there were 300 sales tables. What a great and memorable time that was.

I would like to encourage all of you to look around and find a local bottle club nearby and join it. There is nothing like meeting monthly and buying, selling, trading and enjoying visits with fellow collectors and sharing information about our hobby.

If there is not a club in your area, why not start one? The Federation has information available upon request from any of you on how to start a club. We have meeting ideas, programs, as well as a simplified set of bylaws to help you get started. Now don't say to yourself that there aren't any people in your area who would be interested in starting or joining such a club. You just have to find them and one way is to place a notice in your newspaper, or a public service announcement on your radio and television stations. Just ask anyone who is interested in joining an antique bottle club to join you in a meeting at your local library and leave your telephone number so you can be contacted for further information.

Clubs DO SUSTAIN our hobby!

By the way, not everyone starts out collecting rare bitters or historical flasks. I have seen many people start collecting applied color label sodas. As they go to bottle shows, they get interested in more and more areas of bottle collecting. Our current club president started at age 13 and his passion was Coke items. He was very passionate about only Coca-Cola and was instrumental in helping form the Coca-Cola Collectors Club (formerly the Coca-Cola Clan). But at a recent club meeting at his home, there is a really great collection of all types of bottles, from rare bitters to a cobalt blue pepper sauce to a really nice collection of local

bottles. He has a lot of country store items with some really great advertising in his collection.

We need to reach out to young collectors and encourage them to become involved in this great hobby of ours.

Our EXPO 2012 is set for Reno, Nev., July 27-29 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino. Show chairman is current president of the Reno club, Marty Hall, 15430 Sylvester Road, Reno NV 89521 (Phone 775 852-6045). His e-mail is [roseemuley@charter.net](mailto:roseemuley@charter.net). You will be seeing more about this event in the near future.

Our national show will be held right here in Memphis and hosted by the Memphis Bottle Collectors Club. The dates are June 24-26. See the show flyer on Page 7. Wayne Lowry, our Conventions Director, is Show Chairman. His e-mail is [JarDoctor@aol.com](mailto:JarDoctor@aol.com) and his phone number is (816) 318-0161. We have a great auction planned for this event and you can see some of the offerings on Pages 34-35. We also will have a number of interesting seminars which you won't want to miss. Additionally, at our Federation awards banquet on Friday night, we will be inducting a worthy collector into the Federation Hall of Fame.

Our program for the evening will be a slide program of bottles in the Charles B. Gardner Collection as they were seen in his home in July, 1969. Hall of Famer Dick Watson, a close and personal friend of Mr. Gardner, owns a number of ex-Gardner bottles and will narrate the program.

You won't want to miss this program, plus there will be an all you can eat buffet of some great food. Cost is only \$30 per person and reservations can be made by contacting Wayne.

I regret to inform you that Wayne Lowry, Conventions Director and his wife, June Lowry, Business Manager have tendered their resignations effective the last day of the National Convention, June 26, 2011. A great big thanks to both of them for their time and efforts expended in service to the Federation. The Board of Directors will be interviewing and/or selecting candidates to fill their positions ASAP so that a smooth transition may take place.

Good luck to you both, Wayne and June.

Well, I have gone a bit long this month, but I had a great deal to say. As always, LET'S KEEP THE FUN IN BOTTLE COLLECTING!

There is an old Southern saying we use down here: MEMPHIS BARBECUE IS SO GOOD THAT IT WILL MAKE YOUR TONGUE SLAP YOUR BRAINS OUT! SEE YOU IN MEMPHIS IN JUNE!

Gene Bradberry, FOHBC President.