



# FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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I think if I had the opportunity, in a parallel universe, or another life, I would be involved with weather forecasting and chasing storms in some form or another. Mother nature has always fascinated me and I imagine myself in these sometimes terrible situations, as a student of nature or a person in awe. I know this is crazy, as my wife reminds me, but it is true. I must check the weather five times a day depending on where I am, where I am going or what is happening near my collection.

I say all this because we as bottle collectors must always be aware of nature and how we display, insure (hopefully) and plan for and contend with impending weather events. Many of us, living in different parts of the country, have to deal with tornadoes such as the terrible one south of Oklahoma City, forest fires because of droughts, hurricanes, nor'easters, floods, blizzards, earthquakes, thunderstorms and trees falling, etc. We certainly get our share of events and catastrophes in United States, usually all in a typical year. So what do we do? We would certainly like to hear your ideas and thoughts on this topic as this is very real. I remember one bottle collector, one year in Florida, evacuating his house three times in one season with bottles in tow! I know we ourselves have had our scares, once with the Category 5, Hurricane Rita (4th largest hurricane ever recorded in the Gulf of Mexico in 2005) heading our way. I remember cutting short a business trip in Nashville and flying into one of the largest mass evacuations in United States history. It took us like eight hours to get to our house because of traffic gridlock. The entire time, bottles were on my mind, of course after the safety of my family and home. Now on to another, more exciting topic.

I cannot believe the time is almost here for the much anticipated and much planned for, first FOHBC National Antique Bottle Show in New England. Time has really flown by since the Reno EXPO last year! I am still catching my breath from that great event. And looking ahead even further, Lexington, Kentucky will be our host for the 2014 National Antique Bottle Show and Chattanooga, Tennessee has been confirmed as our Southern Region host location in 2015! Wow, we finally have our ducks in a row for these wonderful shows!

This planning ahead has really helped us provide a much better event with better locations, venues and host hotels. You have to remember that, along with the large bottle show, we have a banquet, bottle battle, auction, seminars, displays, raffles, cocktail party, board meeting, members meeting and so much more. I also see no conflict this year with other shows as we have staked our National Show date claims further out for other regional and local

show chairs and organizers to reference.

I would like to give my deepest and sincerest thanks to FOHBC Conventions Director Tom Phillips for his tireless and endless work in laying the groundwork for these national events. Next I would like to thank the Manchester co-chairs Michael George and Maureen Crawford. These two folks have spent countless hours working on this show. My hat is off. I also would like to thank Rick Ciralli in coordinating all of the wonderful seminars. Keep in mind, the more help we get, the better the event. Please consider volunteering and helping out. If not Manchester, we could certainly use you help and ideas for Lexington and Chattanooga.

As you hopefully know, the much-anticipated auction is being conducted by Glass Works Auctions and we owe them a big thanks for conducting this special live and online event. Look for some great bottles and opportunities. I heard that Jim Hagenbuch and crew have really stepped up to provide an exciting opportunity for Saturday night. Please attend and spend. Get that bottle you always wanted and support a good cause.

Additionally, we also have Norman Heckler & Company sponsoring the New England Bottle Battle that occurs on Friday night after the banquet. This special event follows the success of the Reno shootout and continues with the planned 'Run for the Roses' in Lexington in 2014. What a great way to look at super examples of glass with all of our friends in an exciting format. Thank you, Norman Heckler.

Great news! A \$5 thousand dollar anonymous donation has been given to the FOHBC Manchester Show to conduct a raffle or raffles during the show (both early admission and general admission). The FOHBC thanks this well known west coast auctioneer for this generous gift. Another GREAT reason to attend the show!

We'll be using this donation to have a \$1,000 raffle on Saturday near the end of the day for the early buyers and eight \$500 prizes throughout the day on Sunday. Dealers setting up at the show are also eligible for these raffles. Vouchers will be given to the lucky winners to be spent at the show or the auction only.

There will also be a separate raffle (above and beyond the raffles noted above) for a \$1,000 bottle to benefit the Virtual Museum. Show Chairs (Michael George and Maureen Crawford) will have the authority to buy a flask or equivalent piece of glass with the money. We will sell six \$1 raffle tickets for \$5. The winner will not have to be present. The person making the \$1,000 donation does not want public recognition.

Of special note, FOHBC officers, show chairpersons and their spouses/partners or children are not eligible for the \$5,000 promotion. Any consultants to the FOHBC are also not eligible. FOHBC officers, show chairpersons, and their spouses/partners or children are eligible for the Virtual Museum bottle raffle.

Thanks are also in order for the volunteers from our membership and our FOHBC Board in helping us round out the event and staff the Federation tables. Please make sure you drop by and say hello. A schedule is posted in the program and online.

Have fun, buy and sell some bottles, catch up with your friends and make sure you enjoy this National show to the fullest capacity. This will be remembered for years.