

# 2014 Baltimore Antique Bottle Show

by Jim Bender



Huge crowds throughout the day. That is Baltimore Bottle Club President, Nic Queen in the green costume.

*In 1952, when Cecil B. Demille came up with the title “Greatest Show on Earth,” he must have been thinking of the Baltimore Bottle Club’s annual show. Well, maybe not, but the title fits the show.*

If you have never been to the Baltimore Bottle Show, you have no idea what you are missing. This is a bottle event everyone should try to attend at least once in their collecting life. I made that choice some eight or nine years ago and have not missed one since. Collectors gather for this one-day event from many states as well as different countries. I met two couples this year from the U.K. and Germany. I have no idea how many other countries were represented.

Collectors and dealers travel in from all over the country. The West Coast is always well present at the show as well as the midwestern states.

My trip with Linda always starts off from Sprakers, N.Y., on the Friday morning before the show so that I will be there for the FOHBC board meeting held each year on Saturday morning. This year, almost all the board members were there and new horizons are starting to show



All kinds of Bottles to look at!

themselves. Talks of a new digital membership went well and was received well by all board members. The future like it or not is headed more and more in to the digital world. The internet has just plain changed the way we all live. Does that mean the end of the printed magazine? No not in the near future. Most of our members love their magazine and as Ferdinand Meyer FOHBC President said, "we will all know when it is time to drop the magazine but it is not now". There are just so many good things ahead for the FOHBC. The Virtual Museum work is still going forward. This is a monster task and when virtual doors open you won't want to miss it. As with anything, your donations speed up the process. The announcement of two more guys to join the board was welcomed by all current board members. Andrew Vuono of Connecticut will take over the

Northeast Director position as Ed Kuskie moves on. Matt Lacy of Ohio will take over the Midwest Director position as Randee Kaiser leaves the board. Both of these young fellows bring great ideas to the board. The mixture of young and old can only mean good things for the FOHBC. The FOHBC had a great table set up at the show. We gained more members as we do every year at the show. The 2013 Win the Flask Campaign drawing was held at the annual meeting and out of the 258 new members in 2013 Chris Malerba of Middle Island New York was the winner of the ½ pint Eagle Cornucopia beaded Pittsburgh flask donated by Jim Bender FOHBC Membership Director. Chris was at the show and picked up his new prize.

As I walked around the show I was truly amazed at the



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tables filled with every kind of bottle one would want. Over 90% of the tables were just bottles by my best guess. A lot of shows have had to open up to other collectables to fill their tables. Baltimore has been lucky enough not to have to do that. I learned that 255 dealers were there and just over 300 sales tables had been sold. Attendance each year is right around 1300 paid admissions. There are always a handful of great displays at the show. I am sure they limit the number of displays to make room for more sales tables.

Gary Katzen won the best of show with his fantastic collection of Milk Glass bottles. One asks themselves how do they pull this off? The answer is plain and simple, hard work by a lot of volunteers. People like these are what keeps our hobby alive and well. Shows are the back bone of our hobby and always will be no matter what the internet brings us. Seeing friends, shaking hands, telling jokes and touching bottles can only be done at a show. Next to the two and three day events put on the FOHBC this is as good as it gets folks. Next March when you get the winter blues, pack your bags and head off to Baltimore.

David Caccamo, from New Paltz, NY,  
enjoys a variety of bottles

