

FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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The warm weather season has finally arrived here in Northeast Ohio, and with that I am able to get out and enjoy my other favorite pastime. I have been making many micro trips to a local stream to fly fish with good friends and fellow collectors Ed Gray and Louis Fifer; and the fishing has been excellent. It has been a blast so far this year reeling in a lot of great smallmouth bass and other fish.

Fishing is not the only hobby heating up! Bottle show season is well underway for 2019. There are so many great shows I would love to attend, but it's just not possible to travel to all of them with a busy schedule. After attending Baltimore, Rochester and Mansfield, it is clear that bottle fever is abundant this year and collectors are actively buying and selling. It is great to see the hobby at its best. My hope is that all the clubs and show chairs that are putting in the effort to host a show are seeing the same trends.

A strong start to the bottle show season always reminds me that the FOHBC National Show is fast approaching. The 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention in Augusta, Georgia is only weeks away. I want to extend my admiration and gratefulness to the amazing team that is working to put this show together. We had a conference call recently, and the team is doing an exceptional job of covering all the details. Consortium member Ferdinand Meyer has been running with the souvenir program, and it appears to be on track to be the best year yet for the souvenir program. It seems that every year the book gains more momentum and advertisement content! If you have not yet purchased ad space in the program, contact Ferdinand as soon as possible. If you want to see the exhaustive list of those who have already purchased ads, check out the FOHBC Facebook page.

I absolutely love traveling to the National Show every year. They all have a unique theme and character to the host region. Over the years, it has also allowed for visiting many attractions I might otherwise not get a chance to see. This year our family will be spending a day at the Georgia Aquarium on Wednesday before the show. Then we will travel to Augusta for the action packed 3-day event. I always know these events are far more than a "bottle show." The weekend is really about the people and life-long memories that these events create around and during the Convention.

I am hopeful that collectors and dealers will support the upcoming

FOHBC National Shows, as returning or new participants. Thanks to all those that come out and continue to support these events. The teams that put these events on put a significant effort into making them happen. Planning starts two ahead of each event for the FOHBC board members and show chairmen, and is an extensive amount of time for the Convention team the year before. It can be disheartening when friends and fellow collectors don't show up to support them. As an advocate for our great hobby it saddens me to see waning participation. The collector side of me loves it, though, as I tend to buy really well and add a lot to my collection when there is less competition from buyers who decide not to make the trip. I hope that others realize that there is no downside to attending these events. There is only opportunity, great friends, and lasting memories.

Most of us already know that the 2020 FOHBC National Convention will be held in Reno, Nevada! We also had a conference call recently with a very excited team who will be hosting this fantastic event. The convention next summer will be my first time to Reno. I'm excited to do some site-seeing in the area, and for the events of the convention the team has started planning. There really is a lot to look forward to in the coming years.

The convention in Reno is held on an election year for the FOHBC board of officers. If you are passionate about the hobby, have ideas, or just want to give back, please consider joining the FOHBC board. It really is an awesome way to help the clubs, meet friends and collectors, and spread the word about our unique hobby.

The Request for Proposal for the FOHBC National Convention was distributed early this year to the Northeast Region. The deadline for proposals has passed and we are currently working on an option that I am very excited about. In retrospect, to say I am excited about the possibility is an understatement. It is, however, too early to tell if it will come together or not, but I can say that it would be a real treat for us all if the stars align. Additionally, if the evaluation does not pan out, we will be passing the RFP bid process on to the Midwest Region. Hosting a National event can be a large undertaking, and the FOHBC offers a team of experienced individuals to support you every step of the way. If you have any questions about the RFP process or want to learn more, please reach out to me via email or phone. I'm always happy to discuss locations and ideas.

In closing, the FOHBC has been working on some great things to come. I am hoping for several big announcements at Augusta. We continue to face challenges in some areas, but are excited about a few large upcoming innovative efforts. I want to personally and publically thank all the FOHBC board members and show consortiums that have been working so hard to keep the different areas of this organization running smoothly. These are incredible individuals that are truly serving the hobby. On behalf of the entire organization: Thank you for your efforts.

As always, I look forward to serving you.