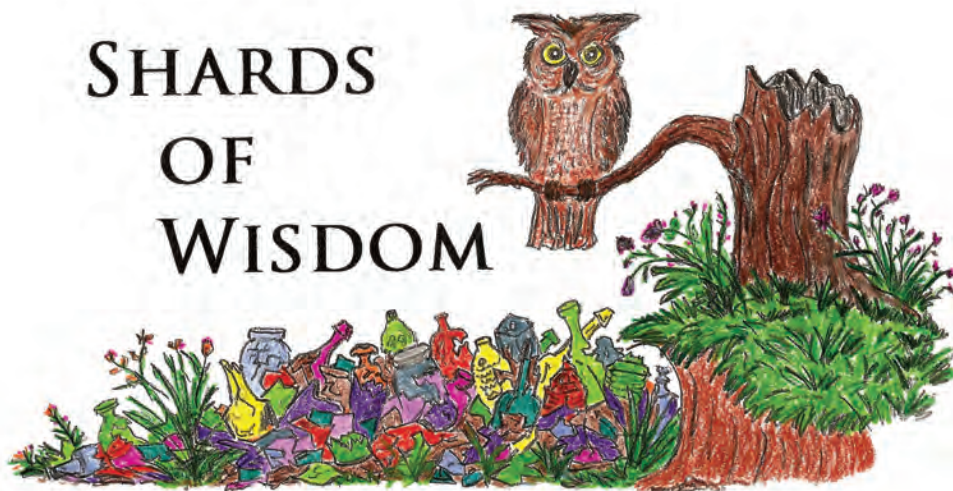


SHARDS OF WISDOM

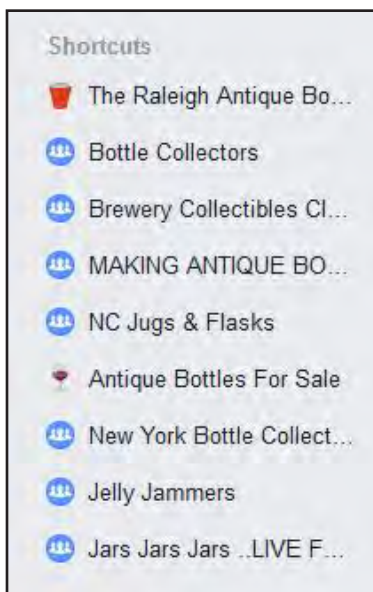


Facebook – A Resource That Can Be

By David Tingen

On a regular basis I hear or read about the evils of Facebook, but I have a different point of view. For me, it is a valuable resource and means to share with others in the collecting world. The acronym TMI comes to mind when asked about how I manage my information and sharing with friends. Sometimes less is far better than more, and many frequent users have found that to be true.

Among the groups where I participate, the atmosphere is casual, helpful and informative. It would be difficult to name all the groups that were formed for bottle collectors alone. The interest groups range from individuals to large organizations such as FOHBC. Most have rules for posting with a variety of guidelines and a promise that users will be terminated if the privilege is abused. Shown below is a list of shortcuts for those I use most frequently. One such, The Raleigh Bottle Club, allows more than just bottles but does draw the line when users overstay their welcome. There are several administrators who monitor the site. Also shown is a sample of the of the guidelines for the Bottle Collectors group which has been administered for some time by Taylor McBurney and Jim Eifler.



When I mention Facebook as a resource, this is done from recent experiences and speaking with others who use the media on a regular basis. Several years ago, I started collecting data to document brewers and bottlers in North Carolina. A task that took quite a while and lots of research. Since publishing the four collector's guides, I have seen several undocumented or clandestine items pictured on Facebook. Of course, this would have been great to have had ten years ago when I started. These items were generally posted for two reasons: to inform and to gather history

or value. The members of the groups have been gracious and generous. Over the past few years I have attempted to serve as historian for the bottle club and the club Facebook group. Much enthusiasm and appreciation as been shown from the information added to a single image of something rare or common. If you do not have such a function on your club Facebook page, it is something to consider.

Another function of the Facebook groups is to offer items for sale without requirements for commissions or fees. While

PAGE GUIDELINES

1 - Only MOUTH BLOWN/HAND MADE bottles made before 1910ish* can be shared on this page, we have a page for your Machine Made/Reproduction bottles and a link is provided. Non bottle items can only be shared in a post IF they are part of a dig focused on bottles.

2 - Please, NO ASKING if bottles shared here are for sale, we also provide a link for our For Sale group.

3 - Please, NO WANT AD posts, we provide a link to that group as well.

4 - Please, NO SELLING is allowed, unless it's a link to your Ebay, Etsy, etc... page.

NO PROFANITY, it's not welcome here!!

5 - Please, we don't need to see the boxes your bottles arrived in, or discuss the condition of the boxes. We are all here to see the bottles themselves, so please share the bottles within and not the boxes. We have all had boxes arrive damaged or well packed, that's part of the process when buying bottles, but there is no need to discuss those issues here, it's not the focus of this group.

6 - Please, NO discussing POLITICS or RELIGION, people are here to talk bottles.

7 - Please, ALWAYS be respectful to fellow members, not doing so can get you removed.

there are limited protections using this method of commerce, buying from a recommended or known source probably offers little risk and far less cost than eBay or like sites.

Under most circumstances, there are no copyrights associated with posting and images can be saved and stored for future reference. If you watch these groups on a regular basis, you will know the importance of saving something of interest as soon as it appears. The next time you look the item may be ten pages down. One such site that has enormous activity is Brewery Collectibles.

Facebook will never take the place of permanent informational sites such as Peachridge Glass, but it will allow a look at what people consider interesting on a minute to minute basis. If you don't participate, give it a try. You may enjoy the interaction. Just remember, for most groups you need not be a Facebook member to view postings.

Questions and comments are welcome via email: tingen1@mindspring.com

Afternoon ride discovers 1840s apothecary museum

By Bill Baab



The picturesque Durham Apothecary & Museum in Maxeys, Georgia, offers "Coffee, Tea and History." Note the clever pinwheel bicycle in the foreground. (Bill Baab photo)

My wife, Bea, and I sometimes like to make road trips to places close by our Augusta, Georgia, home so we can return home that same day. By doing so, we have learned the whereabouts of antique bottle-related places like the one described below.

After our friend and history lover John Roy told us about a place in the tiny Oglethorpe County, Georgia community of Maxeys, we decided it was worth an hour's drive. We were not mistaken.

We learned Durham Place is on the National Register of Historic Places because of its connection to six doctors of that name who occupied the ornate building from 1844 to 1979. Historical architects say the apothecary/doctor's office's front view is a "narrow Banded Italianate, Greek Revival Exterior."

So reads a 60-page booklet authored by Nancy Bunker Bowen. There are seven additional pages of photos and it sells for \$8 by Dennis and Faye Short, retired educators and current owners of the historic property. Mrs. Short compiled information on "The Doctors of Durham Place" and all of it is in the booklet.

The building has been lovingly restored and as you enter through the front door off the porch, your eyes are greeted by shelves of memorabilia, books and gifts.

Mr. Short said much of the vintage pharmaceutical equipment and bottles were purchased from Tom and Mabel Hicks, of Eatonton, Georgia. The Hickses had purchased the contents of another small Georgia town drug store a few years ago.

There was a two-seater outhouse (now a fire pit) still standing in the late 1970s and when a member of the family who had previously owned the property opened the door and looked in, a large rattlesnake was on the seat. Maybe it just had to go!

The outhouse was dismantled and the snake was no more.

HISTORY'S CORNER

In Memory of Dick Watson
longtime FOHBC Historian

Have you ever wondered why someone would make a soda bottle that would not stand up?

I have been asked countless times why some soda bottles have a round base or are torpedo shaped. When I first started collecting, I asked the same question and heard one answer that they were ship ballast and when not being used they were dumped overboard and that's why so many are found by divers. There is no proof that I ever found that this is true.

The Torpedo type round bottom bottle was patented in 1809 by an English inventor William F Hamilton and the very simple truth is the bottom is round so the bottle can not stand up and have the cork dry out. This is much like wine being stored in a rack. As time passed many later bottles have a totally round bottom but serve the same purpose. Round bottom bottles were made both in the USA and out of country mainly by England. They are not rare but surely are interesting.

Watch each issue for a new installment of History's Corner.

The Shorts have been urged to excavate the privy and possibly find artifacts related directly to the place.

The Shorta' daughter, Mrs. Denise Weimer, is an accomplished author and many of her romantic historical novels are for sale in the museum. Interested parties can contact the author at denise-weimerbooks.webs.com.

To reach the museum from Augusta, travel up Highway 78 to Union Point and turn right onto Highway 77. Maxeys is 20 miles up that road and the museum is on the left as you enter the community. Admission is free.



Durham Museum owners/host Faye and Dennis Short surrounded by vintage drug and other antique bottles. (Bill Baab Photo)