



Northeast Region [Charlie Martin Jr., Director]

Our area is a busy “bottle club” region with many great bottle clubs. I trust that as the new NE Region Director, club presidents and show chairmen will connect with me to ensure that the change in reporting “club happenings” will not skip a beat.

Tony Townsend from the Richmond Area Bottle Collectors Assoc. reported that the club’s annual Cookout/Picnic/Bottle Auction was quite popular with all in attendance. The successful day generated additional funds from a raffle and an auction that will benefit the RABCA. Congratulations to all club volunteers that helped make the event so much fun for those in attendance.

Mike Stephano of the Hudson Valley Bottle Club reports that their 35th Annual Mid Hudson Show and Sale was successful. The weather could not have been any better for the August 21st date in Poughkeepsie, New York. Dealers, browsers, and shoppers alike were pleased with the event’s results and came from as far away as South Carolina to attend the show.

Bill Rose, president of the Little Rhody Bottle Club, reported on the club’s Summer Swap Meet held Saturday, September 3, at Leonard’s Antiques, in Seekonk, Massachusetts. The following is a summarized version of his comments. *“Buy, sell, trade, that’s what it was all about for the Club’s second outdoor Swap Meet. Club members from RI, MA, CT, NH and VT participated.” One dealer even traveled from as far away as NY to set up at the meet. This Swap Meet is somewhat unique in that at these Spring/Summer outdoor events, dealers bring their own tables, there is no cost to set up, there is free admission for bottle enthusiasts, and you keep what you make and participate in some good old Yankee bartering for bottles. Twenty dealers set up thirty tables. The site was bustling with activity from 8 am to 1 pm.”*

September 18 was a busy day for two area bottle clubs. The Merrimack Valley Antique Bottle Club held its 47th Annual Show and Sale at the Westford Regency Conference Center. Early buyers were plentiful again this year, with 25 bottle collectors paying a premium of \$20 for early admittance one hour before opening to the general public. One hundred fifty individual bottle collectors paid for admission. Show chairman Kevin Cantrell reported that 41 dealers set up 60 tables. Dealers were pleased with the foot traffic, and business at the tables was brisk. Next year’s show may be held in a new venue, as the Westford Regency has become quite expensive as a host site. The MVABC anticipates that the new location will offer as great a venue with the possibility of extra space for outdoor dealer tables.

Also, that same weekend, Sunday, September 18th, the Greater Buffalo Bottle Collectors Association held its Annual Show and Sale in Depew, NY. Show chairman, Joe Guerra, reports that the 23rd Annual Show hosted 36 dealers who set up 57 tables. Joe reports that a line of customers formed while set up was in process.

At the 9 am opening, a steady stream of attendees kept the dealers busy throughout the day. In all, 145 paid for admission. Club members attended free of charge. The nice weather of the mid-September day added to the show’s great atmosphere.

By the time you read this article, the Coventry Antique Bottle Club will have held its 50th Annual Bottle and Glass Show. Congratulations on reaching such a significant milestone! Not many bottle clubs have been as fortunate. Kudos to all in the club who have worked tirelessly to achieve this historic moment. Hopefully, the show chair will provide a follow-up report on the event’s success.

Toby Dean of the Finger Lakes Bottle Collectors Association reports that their club has joined forces with the Central New York Living History Center to host a Bottle Show/Flea Market. Their first effort back in July was a big success. A second show/sale is scheduled for October 2022. *“The club feels that the flea market format is the best choice going forward, and (they) do not anticipate having another bottle show again. Such are the times, but the main thing is that (they) continue to meet and socialize and make new friends and learn all sorts of interesting data about history through the objects (they) collect.”*

If you are traveling this Fall in the Northeast to be a “leaf peeper,” be sure to allow a little bit of extra time to visit the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa, New York. Over the past 40+ years, the museum has grown and expanded its collection and showroom space. The museum is our hobby’s showcase to the world of antique bottle collecting. Most volunteer staff are currently working on a new permanent exhibit featuring Mt. Pleasant Glass Works. The exhibit should be ready soon.

The Saratoga Bottle Show hosted by the National Bottle Museum sponsored a successful 42nd Annual Bottle Show this past June. My wife, Jane, and I were at that bottle show and had a terrific day browsing, buying, and chatting with dealers and friends from all over the Northeast region. Show organizers report that the attendance was down from previous years, but with the price of gas and the ever-present threat of Covid 19, the numbers of dealers and attendees was quite respectable. A great day was had by all in attendance.

No less than 10 Northeast region bottle club show and sale events are scheduled for the Northeast region throughout the Fall. See the show listings in the back part of the magazine and online at FOHBC.org. It is my hope that show chairpersons will forward a summary of the show results to me. Thus, I anticipate show reports will be recapped in future columns.

When sending photos for inclusion in post-show write-ups, identify the individuals in the images. Also, it would be best if you made the individuals aware that you have sent the photos in for publication for either *American Bottle & Glass Collector* or for



posting on the FOHBC's website. Publicity is a critical component for getting the word out to the bottle-collecting community and the general public.

Midwest Region [Henry Hecker, Director]

I am familiarizing myself with the duties of a regional director and will be reaching out to the various clubs in my region for more comprehensive reports in the future. The Ohio Bottle Club has already reached out to me, and I have attended one of their Zoom meetings. I have been a charter member of the Milwaukee Antique Bottle and Advertising Club since 1972 and have frequented many Midwest shows over the years. I have attended several Federation national shows over the years, including the 1976 Bi-Centennial show—what a blowout that was—my indoctrination to the big leagues!

In May, the Milwaukee club received an honor from the Milwaukee County Historical Society at a banquet at the five-star Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. The award was for the club's fifty years of service to the community, promoting the history of the brewers, bottlers, merchants, druggists, etc., that have left us these wonderful artifacts. We have educated the public at large with our annual shows and informative website: milwaukeebottleclub.org.

We lost one of the great enthusiasts in our hobby and a Milwaukee Bottle Club charter member. In August, Lee Bernard passed away in his sleep at home with his wife Roxanne nearby. Lee and Roxanne made their home in Jackson, Wisconsin, with acres of beautiful gardens. Lee collected fruit jars and bottles for over fifty years and started many of our local collectors in the hobby with his passion for digging, flea marketing, and mucking in lakes and rivers. Lee and Roxanne have been great antique pickers and dealers over the years, and many of us have pieces on our shelves courtesy of their diligent searches. For many years, Lee has faithfully supported the club shows, coordinating the displays. He handled the display awards for some shows as well. Unfortunately, in the last few years, he could not make the meetings because he did not want to drive at night. These last couple of years have been tough on him as his cancer finally wore him down. He maintained a positive attitude these last few months but was realistic of his chances as the chemo became more than he could bear. I am sure he is catching up with collectors who have left us. In Heaven, it is rumored, all the digs are sandy loam, everything is colored and pontiled, and there are no broken "criers." He may be pulling out an amber Millville jar right now!

Southern Region [Jake Smith, Director]

It is unfortunate that the Southern region has not reported any news to me since the last issue. The good news is that we have some shows that will occur from October to December. I hope to get an update or report from show chairs and collectors by next issue. Please email or Facebook message me any updates and re-

ports. I am happy to hear from y'all. Also, if you need anything, please feel free to contact me. Hope to see y'all soon at upcoming shows. Thanks!

Western Region [Eric McGuire, Director]

September 17 was a busy day for bottle shows in the West. Both the Los Angeles club and Northwest club in Santa Rosa had shows that weekend, as well as the show in Aurora, Oregon. Show attendance for all reflected the dispersal of collectors, but I didn't hear anyone complain. Even though the distance between Aurora and Los Angeles is nearly a thousand miles, with Santa Rosa about in the middle, many collectors picked their choice and went. Our president has declared the Covid epidemic is over, but it is still having an effect on attendance.

For those interested in trademark records, I recently posted a listing of 19th century registrations for the State of Oregon. It can be found on the Western Bottle Blog, westernbitters.com, and lists the trademarks associated with bottle products.



VIRTUAL MUSEUM NEWS

The Virtual Museum was a big hit at the Reno Convention. Alan DeMaison shipped his equipment to me (Richard Siri) and took the Amtrak train to Reno, as he doesn't fly. If the Lord wanted people to fly, he would have given us wings; at least, that's Alan's take on it. But riding a train is a nice way to travel if you have the time as it gives you a better look at our country. We had Alan set up right at the entrance to the show. There was lots of interest in what he was doing, and many members wanted their bottle imaged. The general public also took an interest in what he was doing. It's great to have Alan set up at shows; it lets people see the effort that starts a bottle's journey into the museum.

Alan had asked me if I knew someone he could share a room with at the convention, and I set him up with John Burton from Santa Rosa. John has authored several books on local bottles and does his own imaging. John told Alan he uses a background removal program which works very well. Alan tried it and said it was a real game changer for him. How's that for timing?

The FOHBC Virtual Museum (VM) had its annual virtual meeting on September 9 and 16 in two, one-hour webinar sessions. This was an "all hands on deck meeting" with our full Virtual Museum team. On hand were the FOHBC president Michael Seeliger, Virtual Museum founders, Alan DeMaison, Ferdinand Meyer V, and Richard T. Siri, our imagers, researchers and technicians; Brian Bingham, Bob Jochums, Richard Kramerich, Gina Pellegrini-Ott, Miguel Ruiz, Bruce Shephard, and Doug Simms. Absent were imaging assistants Terry Crislip, Chip Cable, and Ron Hands as well as West coast imager Eric McGuire.

We will use this space to report the topics covered and directions