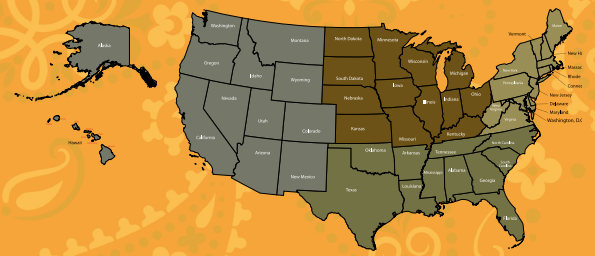


# FOHBC REGIONAL NEWS

Please visit [FOHBC.org](http://FOHBC.org) for expanded coverage.



## Midwest Region [Henry Hecker, Director]

**The Milwaukee Antique Bottle and Advertising** show was held on February 2nd. There were 140 dealer tables and good, steady attendance. There were sixty-seven early entrants, down from about eighty last year. The final tabulation of attendance was unavailable as of this writing, but the consensus was that overnight snow discouraged some people from attending versus 2024.

**Alice and Michael Seeliger** (pictured above) ran the table promoting the FOHBC and Reno 25. Hopefully, we have landed a few new members and recruits.

Speaking of membership recruitment, I recently contacted a sampling of prior FOHBC members who had not renewed in the latter part of 2024. I received no response to my question regarding why not. I will dig deeper into what seems to be an attrition trend.

The February newsletter notes that **Steve Ketcham** is promoting the purchase of the *American Antique Glass Masterpieces*, the *Wilber & Gugliotti Barber Bottle Collection* books, and FOHBC membership at the **North Star Historical Bottle Association** club meetings. These books are great additions to your bottle library. Thanks, Steve!

The *Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club's* January newsletter included photos from the **Janet and Ralph Finch** home featuring their antique toilet paper rolls collection. There are some amazing graphics on this old “go-with” versus the mundane labeling of today. With all the hullabaloo about impending tariffs, seek solace that 90% of this essential is still produced in

the United States. Editor: Read “*Unrolling what’s new in toilet paper*” by Ralph Finch in the Sept-Oct 2024 issue of AB&GC.

At a recent bottle show in the Midwest, a bottle was broken at a table, which raised questions about what club insurance actually covers. This included the insurance offered to member clubs of FOHBC. If you are a dealer, mainly if you are offering high-value merchandise, you should consider your own policy for such an event. Nary a show goes by where that sickening “crash and tinkle” sound is not heard at least once. As a relative neophyte in insurance, what I can offer is this:

- 1) Know what your policy covers and what it does not. (Individual and Club.)
- 2) For your club, consider more than liability insurance but also coverage for misconduct and liability protection for your officers and board members. In our litigious society, the lawyer for someone who slips on the floor of a show is likely to name the venue, the hosting organization, and its representatives as responsible.
- 3) If you are relying on your personal property rider or your homeowner’s insurance to cover your collection, think again. You will likely need a special “Fine Arts” policy to cover your collection with an appraisal to support your claims. These types of policies are offered by fewer insurers these days than, say, twenty years ago.

## Northeast Region [Charlie Martin, Jr., Director]



Winter has been cold, bitter and relentless here in the Northeast. However, our weather issues are trivial compared to the horrific conditions in California due to the wildfires. Please reach out in any way you can to add your support and help to those in greater need than ourselves.

Before I sat down to write this latest version of the Northeast Region Report, I had been re-reading some old issues in the *Old Bottle Magazine* from the 1980s. I was pleasantly reminded of how our hobby has endured, grown, and evolved over the past fifty years. Remember, back then, there was no Internet, cell phone, or other computer technologies that allowed us to do “global searches” in milli-seconds. Mainly, we received our knowledge through participation in local bottle club meetings, researching old city directories and occasionally viewing microfiche in city libraries. What has not changed, however, is the excitement of the hunt and the joy and sheer pleasure one gets when adding that new bottle to our collection. But I digress!

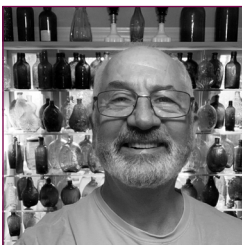
As I mentioned earlier, I read an article in *Old Bottle Magazine*



by **Steve Raschke** titled “*The First Find*” (December 1982). It was his story about digging and finding bottles. Although I’ve heard variations on the theme over the past decades, none strikes closer to home about our hobby than Steve’s short but on-point article about his first find. We all can identify with his emotional recollection of that find! I can hardly wait until Spring to get out to a bottle show, connect with old friends, and, with luck, make many new friends. Let the hunt begin!

Speaking of hunting. The FOHBC Board of Directors encourages you to nominate your club newsletter and show promotional posters/flyers and articles for our annual awards contest. Please see the Federation magazine or FOHBC.org for information about the nomination process and categories. Let others know how valuable you believe their hard work and effort is appreciated.

By the time you read this article, Winter will be a memory; Spring will be upon us with good weather; here in the Northeast, bottle shows will begin to take form, and all will be right with the world. Until next time, good bottle hunting!



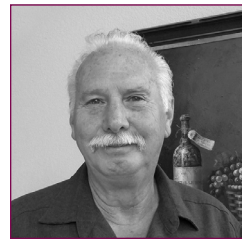
#### **Southern Region [Tom Lines, Director]**

I finally had information on a Southern show submitted—a first since assuming the Southern Regional Director role. From **Bob Morgan**: “Hey Tom, I hope this finds you doing well and adding to your collection. Last weekend, I attended the **3rd Annual Carolina**

**Antique Bottle and Collectible Show** in Mooresville, North Carolina. **Johnny MaAulay** puts on the show, which has grown steadily over the years. The show is held in the Charles Mack Center in historic downtown Mooresville, about 30 miles north of Charlotte. (see picture below) It is spacious, well-lit, and comfortable. Attendance was strong, and sales seemed to be brisk throughout the floor. Like most regional bottle shows, there was a heavy dose of local bottles and historical collectibles available. However, a good variety of “national” bottles were also available, covering most categories and interests. All in all, it was a good day at the bottle show. I hope to see you in Columbia (**South Carolina Bottle Club’s 52nd Annual Show & Sale**).



This is show season here in the South. The **Rome Bottle & Advertising Show** in Cedartown, Georgia, occurred recently, and the **Suncoast Antique Bottle Collectors Show & Sale** in Tampa is only days away. The **4th Annual Chattanooga - North Georgia Antique Bottles & Advertising Show** in Dalton, Georgia, and **The Mobile Bottle Collectors Club’s 52nd Annual Antique Bottle & Collectibles Show & Sale** Daphne, Alabama, are coming within a few weeks. Hopefully, y’all can make a few of these shows!



#### **Western Region [Eric McGuire, Director]**

The anticipation is beginning to heat up. Our **FOHBC Reno 2025 National Antique Bottle & Glass Convention** is already taking center stage even though the West will be hosting several great shows even sooner (stay apprised of all upcoming shows and sale at FOHBC.

org Show Listings). Reno 25 will be a “don’t miss” event.

Reno is well known for its hot summer days (and nights), but there is a bit of a respite not far away with a destination of significant historical importance to the West and the entire United States. **Virginia City, Nevada**, sits about an hour away from Reno at about 6,200 feet in elevation. This translates to a much cooler climate. Settled in 1859, its significance cannot be downplayed in relation to its riches helping to fund our government’s Civil War from 1861 to 1865. It has been documented that at least 400 million dollars in silver was mined from Virginia City, which was used to help finance the federal Civil War.

Perhaps the most significant feature of Virginia City is its remarkable state of preservation. About the same time as the demise of its mining significance in the early 1900s, tourism played an important role in preserving its past. This quick transformation from mining to tourism helped save this incredible city from oblivion. While tourism has a sort of “junkie” way of preserving its past, one needs to put aside all the ice cream, candy, and tee-shirt shops and marvel at what has been preserved. Bottle collectors can especially appreciate its state of preservation since many of the bottles they collect would have been a common sight in this and similar towns throughout the country.

