



*“Preserving The History of Our Nation’s First Major Industry”*

## **National Bottle Museum®**

76 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

# **THE BOTTLE MUSE**

**Winter 2012**

### **Annual Dues Notice**

Annual dues for your membership are due in January. If you have already sent them in, thank you. If not, we have included in the newsletter the new renewal form. Please note that annual dues are now \$20.00 per year. Since the last increase in dues was in the 1980’s, the board felt an increase was appropriate. We don’t send out dues notices and annual dues are a large part of our budget, so please send in your dues promptly.

### **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the National Bottle Museum was held on November 17, 2012. An election for Trustee positions was held. Elected to a three year term were Shannon Doherty, David Beals, Miles Cornthwaite, Irene Purificato and Meg Stevens. Elected to a one year term of office were Meg Stevens, President, Roy Topka, First Vice President, Michael Noonan, Second Vice President, Irene Purificato, Secretary, and Lori Thompson, Treasurer. Lori sent a letter declining the position due to time constraints. Shannon Doherty has offered to fill the vacancy and the board will be voting on her holding the office before the end of the year.

On the following pages are the adopted budget for 2013 and the Directors’ Annual Reports from the annual meeting.

After the annual meeting, Larry Rutland and Evelyn Kramer were honored with plaques and a reception for their years of volunteer service to the National Bottle Museum.

## **Annual Reports from the Directors**

### **From Gary Moeller, National Bottle Museum Director/ Collections Manager:**

From November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012, the National Bottle Museum's guest book was signed by 1,646 visitors from 41 of the United States, two Provinces of Canada (Ontario and Quebec) as well as France, Japan, Germany, Scotland, Ireland, Finland, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

There were six group visits, 1 by a group of seniors, four from various agencies providing for the disabled, and one from a Bus Tour company.

There were at least 634.5 volunteer hours by:

Meg Stevens & Ken Hahn, Evelyn & Richard Kramer, Brittany Tyrell, Jacob Wyatt, Gary Moeller, Larry Rutland, Michael Noonan, Ann Hauprich, Lori Johnson, Miles Cornthwaite, David & Eileen Schoch, Barry Haynes, Lewis Brown, John Golley, Roy Topka, Phil Spaziani, Arden Blunt, Art Dell, Sharon Kingsbury, Ray Peacock, Lisa Daigle, Sally Prasch, Lori Johnson, Fred Neudoerffer, Dave Beals, Shannon Doherty, Irene Putificato, Richard Oudt

Individual donations were received from:

Nancy Voehringer, Sally Prasch, Peter Petrillose, David Schoch, Stewart's Shops, Evelyn Kramer, Judy Prevratil, Lewis Brown, Audrey J. Rouse, Gary Moeller, Rose Sokol, David Delorier, Gerard Dauphinais, Al & Linda Macica, Bob Parsons, Don & Audrey Hauprich, Jon A. Peterson, Don Garrison, Meg Stevens, Ken Hahn, Phil Spaziani, Lewis Brown, Mid-Town Wine & Spirits, Harmony House Marketplace, Brenda & Gary Schaap, Chuck Moore, Robert Dicker, Art Dell, and Noel Haskell

Since last year's annual meeting, the museum has received donations from the following bottle clubs:

Antique Poison Bottle Collectors Association, Baltimore ABC, Capital Region ABC, Empire State BCA, Finger Lakes BCA, Genesee Valley BCA, Greater Buffalo Bottle Collectors, Little Rhody Bottle Club, Los Angeles

ABC, National Association of Milk Bottle Collectors, New England ABC, Reno ABC, Somers ABC, Tri-State Bottle Collectors & Diggers Club, Violin Bottle Collectors Association, and the Yankee Bottle Club

The following individuals have joined the museum since November 2011:

Kenneth Wille, The Uncommon Galleries, Fred Neudoerffer, Ellie Dillon, Darlene Furda, Ken Lawler, Ben Cox, Steve Springer, Kenneth Dunton, Kate Burns Haig, Thomas Lagoe, Tim Lagoe, Jon Colborn, David MacDougall, Marc Alan Rosner, Dixon Williams, Gilbert E. Wright, Nicholas Wroblewski, and Irene Purificato.

The following have renewed memberships since November 2011:

Ruth Townsend, Carol W. Ambruster, Tom Clark, Henry Polgreen, Peter Petrillose, Rick Hasenauer, Kaydeross Real Estate, Noel Haskell, Genevive Clark, Kenneth Wille, The Uncommon Galleries Inc., Robert Dicker, Barbara & Jan Trypaluk, Ron Tetrault, John Rudzinski, Roy Topka, Stuart C. Wagner, Charles & Amy Kennedy, John & Olga Miller, Donald Tucker, Herman Galberd, Ted Doscher, Larry Zwicker III, Gale S. Campbell, Don & Audrey Hauprich, Robert & Kathleen Eckberg, David Delorier, Martha & Ben Lazurus, John T. & Mary M. Bray, Lewis Brown, David H. Kuntz, Michael Noonan, John Golley, Marte Wilson, Ruth Ann Parent, Terry McMurray, Allen & Nancy Repp, Ray Peacock, Arthur Pawlowski, Janice Badkin, Ralph & Betty McLaughlin, Susan D. Burns, Fran Martone, Dave Tuxill, Ruth Near, Jon A. Peterson, B Compatible LLC, Bob Dicker, Miles Cornthwaite, Jason Privler, Barry L. Hanes, Fran Hughes, Carl & Chris Alimonti, Mark Yates, Jim Eggleston, Richard Siri, Judy Prevail, Mike Polak, Elena Heiden, Bill Rozensky, Francis Kowalski, Bob Prentiss, John Pastor, Linda Varelas, Ken Previtali, Art Guegen, Ron Cave, Rick & Debbie Lumia, Vance Heroth, Robert Latham, Fran Kowalski, and Pat Hoyt

Memorial Donations were received from:

Harriet V. Wagner in Memory of Jim Wagner

Dana Charlton in Memory of Joe Zarro

Support was also received from:

The Golub Foundation, Mangino Buick GMC, Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association, VFW Post 358, Village of Ballston Spa, Fennimore Asset Management Community Foundation

I attended two Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association Networking Breakfasts, and the museum hosted another one. I also did a presentation on the museum's behalf at the Ballston Spa Lions Club. They provided support for the Jody Wheeler Art Exhibit in the Jan Rutland Memorial Artists' Space. I also attended an event at Brookside Historical Society.

**From Lisa Daigle, Director of the Glassworks Studio:**

This past year at the Glassworks has seen some significant changes. Our most notable change is that our long-time Studio Manager, Larry Rutland, has retired. Larry has wanted to focus on his own Studio at home where he has developed a passion for teaching PMC. He feels it is a perfect complement to some of his lampworking! We hope that Larry continues to visit us at the Studio, and we have named him our "Glass Ambassador". He has been invited to participate in our First Friday Celebrations, and we hope he accepts.

Thanks to a wonderful volunteer, Rich Oudt. Rich has been very generous with his time and talent the past couple of months. Rich has set up our new Facebook page, website, and designed a beautiful logo! He also was instrumental in our restructured window and paint job on both the door and window. Thank you Rich!

We are moving forward with our plans to sell our glass furnace and glory hole. We also have several barrels of Spruce Pine glass that we will also be selling.

We have had an increase in class requests. We recently hosted a class with a participant from Hawaii! Marie Kastensmith, her sister and her niece had a wonderful class. Our annual Ornament Class with Sally Prash was also a success. There was lots of Holiday Cheer as we all learned new techniques.

The resident artists at the studio have also donated a considerable amount

of time making ornaments for the Museum. These are available at the museum, with a display of many of them in the window of the museum.

We will be implementing winter hours. We will be closing on Tuesday nights, with extended Saturday hours. With so many requests for group classes we will have a busy winter!

We wish everyone a family and friend filled Holiday Season!

**From Fred Neudoerffer, Director of the Jan Rutland Memorial Artists' Space:**

The following shows were presented in 2012.

|                  |              |                  |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Jody Wheeler     | Illustrator  | Winter 2011/2012 |
| MiChelle Vara    | Sculptor     | August 2012      |
| Fred Neudoerffer | Photographer | Fall 2012        |
| ADAPACC          | Peru artists | Winter 2012      |

Although changes in visibility, planning and receptions are expected to increase awareness and visitation to the gallery space, we are still struggling to support the museum. We are moving forward in a positive direction and comments from the public are encouraging. We will be displaying info and art in the front window of the museum to help build awareness and have a Facebook page specifically for the Artists' Space. In January we will be sprucing up the gallery space and hopefully create a little more display space while we're at it.

The Artists' Space needs funding. We need to bring in repeat financial support and I am working on some ideas to achieve that goal.

Our biggest task at the moment is to build awareness and a following for the space and the quality of art we display there.

Our 2013 schedule is growing. We have 3 shows tentatively scheduled for the year so far. We will also be holding an informational meeting for artists in December or January to help grow the calendar of events.

I am also working on creating 2 annual group shows, one for professional artists and one for amateurs.

## **Letter from the Editor**

December is a very busy time at the NBM. We have many visitors to our gift shop, and many stop by to listen to Art Dell's beautiful antique music boxes. The window display for the Peruvian art is also bringing in many visitors.

We are busy preparing the show contracts to be mailed after the first of the year. Don't forget to mark your calendar for June 1<sup>st</sup> for the Saratoga Show. It will be at the Ballston Spa High School again this year.

During the winter, we have a big decline in visitors. We will be closed for a few weeks in order to do some needed updates to the Museum. If you are planning a visit in January, please call or email ahead to make sure we're open. If you live locally and can provide help for a day or so, please contact me. We will be planning a work day for moving large furniture and lots of help is needed.

During the winter season, snow and ice storms can make our roads hazardous. To protect our volunteers and staff members, the Museum will be closed if the local schools are closed.

I would like to start featuring collectors and their collections in the newsletter. If you would like to submit pictures of you and your collection plus a brief story about yourself and how you got started collecting, I may use your story and pictures in the newsletter. I prefer all the stories and pictures be submitted via email, but I can also accept hard copies. I think it's a good way to continue promoting the hobby.

If you haven't friended us on Facebook, please do so. We have a Facebook page for the Jan Rutland Artists Space and would love to have you friend us on that page also.

Have a wonderful new year, Meg Stevens

## Approved Budget for 2013

### Income

|     |                          |             |                                     |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 401 | Admissions               | \$3,500.00  |                                     |
| 402 | Membership               | \$6,000.00  | 300 members X \$20 per member       |
| 403 | Ind. Cash Donations      | \$11,750.00 |                                     |
| 404 | Club Donations           | \$4,500.00  |                                     |
| 405 | Non-corp donations       | \$1,200.00  |                                     |
| 406 | Corporate                | \$5,500.00  |                                     |
| 407 | Memorial                 | \$360.00    |                                     |
| 409 | Non- cash donations      | \$2,000.00  |                                     |
| 415 | Gift Shop Sales          | \$4,500.00  |                                     |
| 421 | Bottle Show Table income | \$3,750.00  |                                     |
| 424 | BS Lunches               | \$300.00    |                                     |
| 425 | BS Admissions            | \$600.00    |                                     |
| 427 | BS Auction               | \$450.00    | total bottle show income \$5,100.00 |
| 428 | Consignment Income       | \$250.00    |                                     |
| 451 | Cash Donations           | \$200.00    |                                     |
| 470 | Class Fees               | \$5,000.00  |                                     |
| 471 | Torch Time               | \$5,000.00  | total glassworks income \$10,000.00 |

**Total Income \$54,860.00**

## Expenses

600 Accounting \$500.00 (for 990's)

611 Payroll Expenses \$11,500.00

612 Payroll tax exp. \$2,500.00

613 Payroll ins. \$500.00

614 Payroll exp. Other \$2,500.00 total payroll expenses \$17,050.00

699 Bank Fees \$650.00 (for credit cards)

700 Mortgage Interest \$2,190.00

702 Utilities \$11,000.00

703 Telephone \$1,100.00

704 Water Bill \$175.00 Milton Ave.

705 Insurance \$2,000.00

706 Building Maint. \$150.00

708 Security Expense \$240.00

720 Membership Expense \$300.00

730 Newsletter printing \$155.00

731 Newsletter Postage \$675.00

740 Office Postage \$300.00

741 Office Expense \$3,500.00

750 Gift Shop Expense \$2,250.00

752 Gift Shop Post. & Handl. \$50.00

760 Promotion \$500.00

|     |                     |            |                                     |
|-----|---------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 761 | Advers.             | \$700.00   |                                     |
| 765 | Gallery Expenses    | \$1,600.00 | (\$200 per show)                    |
| 769 | Donations           | \$100.00   |                                     |
| 780 | Prof Membership     | \$50.00    |                                     |
| 803 | BS Lunches          | \$300.00   |                                     |
| 804 | BS Ads              | \$1,000.00 |                                     |
| 807 | BS table rental     | \$1,000.00 | total bottle show exp. \$2,300.00   |
| 830 | Shipping & handling | \$300.00   |                                     |
| 840 | Supplies            | \$1,600.00 |                                     |
| 848 | Utilities           | \$3,000.00 |                                     |
| 850 | Water Bill          | \$175.00   | Washington St.                      |
| 852 | Insurance           | \$2,000.00 |                                     |
| 856 | Security Expense    | \$300.00   | total glassworks expense \$7,075.00 |

**Total Expenses      \$54,860.00**

For roof repair at Glass Studio

|     |                 |             |
|-----|-----------------|-------------|
| 203 | Line of Credit  | \$16,000.00 |
| 854 | Building Maint. | \$16,000.00 |

## Where Do You Go After a Good Hole?

*By Roy Topka*

Greetings, all. The last time I wrote I had just finished digging a good hole and was heading for an adjoining yard. There is always something to dread after digging a good hole. The law of averages states you will dig "x" amount of dud or mediocre holes for every good hole. Except for the wonder years of the mid to late 1990's, this is pretty much what happens. Now that a decent hole had been dug, how many duds must I go through, and how many disappointments will be encountered, before decent glass is again brought to the surface? Should I just lower my expectations and say the heck with it? Naaa, I'll be right back in the 90 degree heat and dig the daylights out of whatever has been located.

Adjoining the Townsends' lot was a nice lot with houses fronting on two streets. One house was a old brick Federal. One man owned both houses and the lot in between. He liked the job I did in the other yard and agreed to let me dig if we split the finds. Probing on the back of the property line showed a probable three pits, all 3-4 feet apart. The first pit to be dug was a stoneliner and it felt like it had newer trash. At just less than 7" it appeared it was going to be a lot of hard work to dig. After the topsoil was out, about 1' to 2', it seemed like a 1890's hole that hopefully would get older as there was a smattering of 70's & 80's shards mixed in. At 2' there was a cap of bricks and sand, and when I dug thru I was into..... 1910's !!!! The slightly older stuff on top was re-filled from when this pit was dug out, when at 4' a sewer pipe was run into the hole. It bottomed out in the 1890's with a bucket full of bottles and a few hutch's given to the owner.

The second hole dug the next day was only a 6 footer, but it did not have much definition, and by the way everything was on one side and the telltale signs from what was left of the woodliner, this was another hole that probably collapsed into itself. It was an easy dig down to the trash layer and one side was full of 1860's to 1850's material. Although rich with ceramics & busted stoneware there was little glass. Small slip glazed Avery Lord Stonies started coming out and I found five of them plus an early Bristol glaze stoney, and a pontil puff or two. The owner got a cut of the

bottles plus a cracked olive 1/2 pint cornucopia/urn flask, which will display very nicely on his mantel.

The last hole, which testing showed was close to 9' deep and probably was a woody, was close to an extension of the old Federal home and when probed it was really close if not right up to the foundation of the house. This was tougher to empty than the last two. Bricks, small and large stones were in abundance. By 5' the shards looked more 1840's than 1850-60, as I have written before, it's not always a good sign if your hopin' to bring home whole glass. At about 7 1/2 feet a packed, wet privy layer appeared. I mean solid packed 1840's into 1830's at about 9' down. As typical, a lot of busted stoneware, redware, ceramics and black glass stuff. I had cleared about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the hole to the base and I will admit there was a tall dirt wall standing in front of me on the foundation side. I left my 5' ladder in the hole in case I needed a quick step up and my 8' ladder was at the top with a rope attached dangling in the hole, standard procedure. Yes, this was dangerous digging, I can only do this due to years of experience and I do utilize great caution. I do not recommend anyone do the same.

Next the worst thing then happened: the owner came out to check out the dig. The other holes he saw me in were probably 6' down. That extra 3' of depth makes a huge difference in perception when looking into the hole. The owner was a heck of a nice guy and he was taken by all the shards, but he had this look on his face of either impending doom for myself or for his foundation. Now there is a foot and a half of 1830-1840's trash in front of me, what am I to do? I looked at the owner and said "I'm going to dig this little section then fill the hole in". I troweled into a patch of ceramics for a minute then reluctantly gathered my stuff and threw it out the hole. It was a sad feeling, not be able to finish a pit of this age when I was fairly certain I could have gotten 90%, maybe even 100% of the trash layer out. None the less, the homeowner was happy with my decision and gathered a nice bucket of semi-whole stuff to keep with the house. I tried to get him to take more, but he felt he had enough. I went home with a pipe bowel. Oh well, due to some stonies being found & some puffs, this dig would come out as a wash / mildly successful on the scorecard.

(Roy's article will be continued in our spring issue) .