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THE BOTTLE MUSE

Spring 2019

40th Anniversary - 1979-2019

In awe of the Great Bottle Wall!

The National Bottle Museum® and the Saratoga County Historical Society at Brookside Museum have joined forces to offer a special membership package. If you join both museums the special price will be $45.00! Membership form will be at end of newsletter. Come and visit the two unique museums only blocks apart in the Village of Ballston Spa.

Contact us:
Tel. (518)-885–7589
Email: nbm@nycap.rr.com
FB: National Bottle Museum
From the Desk of Gary Moeller, Director

I represented the Museum at two bottle shows this winter: The Yankee Bottle Club in Keene New Hampshire and The Baltimore Bottle Show. One big reason I enjoy these shows is that I run into so many Museum members! Thank you all for your membership.

In March, alone, we had 79 visitors from 8 different states and France. This is a prequel to our busy season and looking forward to meeting with the many bottle and history buffs that visit as well as tourists. Please put the National Bottle Museum on your bucket list!

This newsletter includes the many generous donors to the museum. An added feature is a go fund me page which has already raised $1200.00 dollars. Simply go to GoFundMe.com, and type National Bottle Museum in the search! We are grateful to the many supporters of the museum.

Come visit the bottle that held up Wall Street! (Donated by Jon Peterson)

One of the permanent exhibits in the museum is a display of “Bottles of the USA.” All states are represented except New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota and Alaska.

Can you help us complete this exhibit? Call Gary at (518)–885-7589.

Please renew your membership today!

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Email: nbm@nycap.rr.com
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Volunteer Director of the Glassworks Studio Heather Longacker and Instructor Emily Taft accept a check for $2626.00 from the Saratoga Council for the Arts for continuation of their multi generational flame working and kilned formed glass education program titled “Art is for Everyone: Fundamentals of Glass.” Saratoga Arts made this grant possible with an Arts Education Grant funded by the NYS Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the NYS Legislature. Contact the Studio for information on how youth, teens, parents/children, and seniors can be part of this upcoming program.

The Saratoga Bottle Show will be held on Sunday, June 2nd at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa, New York 12020. Applications for tables are still available. Contact Roy Topka at rmt556@yahoo.com or Phil Bernnard at explomar@hotmail.com. (Vendor application link at end of newsletter.)

Saratoga type bottles from the Eleanor and Ralph Work collection in the Jan Rutland Memorial Artists’ Space at the NBM, coming May 31st-July 13th!
Digs and Stories from the Desk of Roy Topka

Well, finally April is here.. I don't know if most diggers follow some type of cold weather routine up here in the Northeast, but I certainly try to. During the frozen weather there is a lot of scouting to locate houses to dig in the spring, and construction sites still need to be checked. I usually locate a "winter over" spot; usually a small ash & trash area where I can dig holes just to keep myself somewhat in condition for digging.

Absolutely no worthwhile bottles were found all winter, so I was anxious to locate some privies. By the beginning of the last week in March many areas had frost free ground and I was able to get permissions on some lots that had houses standing by the mid 1870's, and a couple that went 1860's. I cannot describe the feeling I get when I get back out for the first time of the year to locate privies. Ah yes!! This is where I belong!!!

Well, three pits were located, Two to be dug over the next two days and the third the following Saturday. Pit one was small, with some frozen ground that had to be pried out. No big deal, but it was dipped with only a few common 1880's bottles. Number two the next day was root city, taking almost 90 minutes to get down two feet. But at least it was nice out. A sewer pipe running into the hole was probably the reason there was nothing found, the material in the hole was all 1910'ish. Blaah!! OK, no luck yet but that is OK, at least privies are gettin' emptied. Hole number 3 I had better expectations for. It probed out better than the others, although the bottom foot of this six footer went to water and there was dark muck coming out on the tip of my probe, perhaps a sign of original contents. This 6 x 4 woodliner only had a few roots on top so all the ash fill came out quickly.

Hitting the wet black muck on one side the shards in the hole turned from 1890's to 1870's, but no bottles. Moving to the other half of the hole things started to change to a tight packed layer of busted ceramics and for some reason a lot of busted up older lamp chimneys. The last 18 or so inches against the back sidewall aged back to the early 1860's. Finally a few bottles to bring home, though no rarities. A small plain stoneware jug was found and some unembossed pontil meds. The best bottles being a pontil Davis Vegetable Pain Killer and pontil Udells Cement. An aqua T & W ale & porter was also found, perhaps common some places but the first I've ever dug around here. A trash pit in the back of this same lot dug the next day was a 1930's pit so that was filled back in.

Ok all you diggers if you haven't gotten your probes and shovels into the back of your car or truck yet dust 'em off, throw them in, and get at it! Till next time!
Supporters of the National Bottle Museum Dec.-April 2019

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12 month membership

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Membership special: $45.00 includes both museums.

Checks payable and mail to

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2019 Annual Saratoga Bottle Show is coming Sunday, June 2nd!

Vendor application click on link below.

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NATIONAL BOTTLE MUSEUM®
76 Milton Ave.
Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020
(518) 885-7589
www.nationalbottlemuseum.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP in the National Bottle Museum is open to one and all in the following categories:
$20.00 up to $49.00 — FRIENDS
$50.00 up to $149.00 — SUPPORTERS
$150.00 and up — BENEFactors
$500.00 and up — CORPORATE DONORS

The NATIONAL BOTTLE MUSEUM is a non-profit (501 C-3) educational institution chartered by the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education. The museum is not subsidized, but raises all of its own funds and is governed by an elected volunteer Board of Trustees, operating under universally accepted museum policies. Museum memberships include: The Museum Association of New York, The Southern Adirondack, Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association, and the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

Members receive our newsletter containing information on the museum and upcoming shows. Each spring, the Museum sponsors a Bottle Show & Sale known as "The Saratoga Show" which attracts enthusiasts from coast to coast in the United States and several provinces of Canada.

PLEASE PRINT NAME & FULL MAILING ADDRESS

Please make checks payable to National Bottle Museum & mail to:

Membership Chairman
National Bottle Museum
76 Milton Ave.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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