



*Preserving The History of Our Nation's First Major Industry"*  
**National Bottle Museum®**

## THE BOTTLE MUSE

Summer 2022

**Renew your membership for 2022 today!**  
**Thank You**

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Contact us:

Tel. (518)-885– 7589

Email:

[Info@nationalbottlemuseum.org](mailto:Info@nationalbottlemuseum.org)

FB: National Bottle Museum

### From the Desk of Ellie Dillon



The museum houses almost 4000 bottles. Many are on display. They represent blown in mold bottles to post 1905 machine made. The oldest? The 1700's Dutch onion used for holding spirits. Most valuable ? the 1800's collection of Saratoga type mineral bottles. My favorite? The 18<sup>th</sup> century bottle, discovered in a ship used as land fill. It was found in an excavation in NYC's financial district. It is referred to as the bottle that held up Wall Street.

In the past four years the building mortgage has been paid off, website has been rebuilt, brochure updated, Interior repaired and painted. And finally the painting of the exterior of the building which contributes to the Victorian charm of downtown Ballston Spa-- updates that hadn't been done for over 30 years.

Our attention now is turned to the third floor, technology and an elevator so stay tuned!

I'm continually grateful to our dedicated trustees and volunteers who have worked so hard to support this unique museum.

Sincerely,

Ellie



# Coming soon: Glass Factory Mountain: Making Bottles and Making History



We need pre - machine made bottles from Alaska, and New Mexico.

THE JAN RUTLAND MEMORIAL ARTISTS' SPACE AT THE NBM

Volunteer Director: Fred Neudoerffer

Contact: [fred@neustudios.com](mailto:fred@neustudios.com)

Coming Soon: **OPEN CALL**

This exhibit is accepting all mediums of hanging, pedestal or floor display art. No size limit, as long as it can fit through the door. This exhibit is in the JRM Artist' Space on the second floor. **July 23rd - September 17th.**



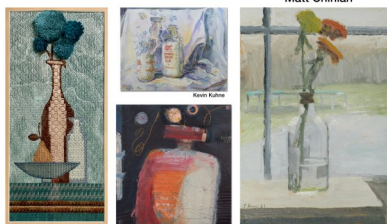
The JRM Artists' Space  
© The National Bottle Museum  
Presents

*Art of The Bottle V*

**Celebrating the Bottle!**

Depicting or using bottles or fragments of them in an artful way

Featuring the Still Life work of  
Matt Chinian



On Display June 3 thru July 9 2022

National Bottle Museum 76 Milton Ave Ballston Spa NY 518-885-7589 nbm@nycap.rr.com



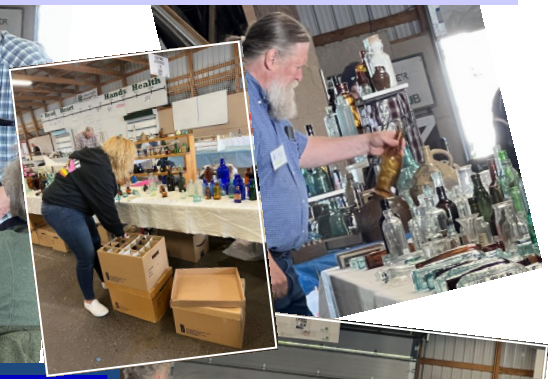
This Hutchinson aqua bottle is embossed PACIFIC & PUGET SOUND SODA WORKS SEATTLE W.I. When Washington became a state in 1889 the name of the company was changed to Pacific & Puget Sound Soda Works. This bottle brings back memories of the settling of the territory, statehood and the Klondike Gold Rush.

Renew your membership today! Form is at end of newsletter.



# Saratoga Bottle Show - 2022

Thank you Vendors, Volunteers and Brickyard Tavern for  
another successful event!



See you next year!  
June 4, 2023





## Digs and Stories from the Desk of Roy Topka



Greetings all. Well, my spring digging has not produced like it did a year ago. But there was something about the last three holes I dug that was very satisfying. Part of the satisfaction is these were completely unplanned digs, found quite frankly when I stumbled upon them: construction that I had no idea was taking place. The other part of the satisfaction comes from the fruits of perseverance, finding that hard to locate pit.

Anyways, some older houses were being demolished, and the contractor had no problem with me looking around when they were done. The houses backed up to a hill with a large retaining wall and the yards were small. Initial probing showed concrete was all over over the yards of the three houses. Going home and checking maps showed some type of building across two of the yards, gone by around 1880.

I returned Sunday, -there was lots of clay and brick fill going down 4 to 6 feet . Digging around a footing and re probing I was fairly certain I found a privy. To make a long story short, the top 6' of the pit was gone, leaving over 2' of wet privy that was 1840's - 1850's. Most everything was ceramics and only two common pontils were found. Returning early the next Saturday I probed another area that had gotten cleared, and hit wet ash about 4 ' down. Digging into it it had dimensional sides so I doubled down on it. Unfortunately the workers showed up, and would not let me dig with them there.,

Sunday morning found me back, but the construction workers had left me a present: large tree trunk across my entire dig area. Rats. † One small area was now clear that wasn't the other day. It was all filled with bricks. Pry-barring thru, my probe crunched something and went into water at about 5'. Gotta see what's down there! The bricks and some trash were maybe 1940s, but hopefully had nothing to do with the bottom of the hole. Sure enough, what was a privy was totally gone leaving just the base. This stuff was a little older than the last and glass poor . I was very happy to pull out one whole stoneware bottle, an E. PILLSWORTH (pic#2).

A few days later when I drove by the site it was getting it's final grading over. Time to move on. Heading to Albany I found another tear down. Probing thru junk some ash was hit & test area opened up (pic #3). Some Walls were hit, time to open the sucker up. Much like the other two pits much of it was destroyed. But where the walls were left intact was solid trash, more 1840's than anything else. Again., very few bottles in the hole, but a lot of pipes. A few plain pontils did manage to survive. (Pic s #4 & #5). I guess I would end this by saying not a lot of bottles, but a great deal of satisfaction. Take care all & good digging.



Pic. #2



Pic. #4

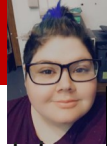


Pic #5



For a donation of \$5.00 you may bring home an orphan bottle. You will be giving a bottle a home and supporting the museum as well!

## FROM THE DESK OF AVONLEA STILES, ASS'T DIRECTOR



The museum has welcomed a new intern, Heather who has taken on the monumental task of sorting and organizing the abundance of bottles in storage on the museum's third floor, as well as helping out with other day to day tasks while she is here. Dustin, another intern, has also returned for the summer. He will be helping with upkeep and document management, as well as greeting our lovely visitors. Having them around to help has been super helpful, not just for getting things completed, but for fresh eyes and new ideas.

Speaking of new ideas; we will be introducing a new display soon featuring bottles that may have been used on pirate and other merchant ships with a bunch of information about why these bottles and bottles like them were so important at that time. The research for this exhibit has been a lot of fun and some of the information I found is not at all what I expected it to be, so I look forward to spreading that information with everyone. Be on the lookout for this display as it is bound to be a cool one

Lastly, I would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who attended and worked on our annual Bottle Show. It is supporters like you that keep this place going, and we couldn't be more grateful. And a thank you to our out of state visitors, including the super cool humans that visited from Canada, England, and Australia in the last couple of months. Hearing your stories and about your love of bottles is why we do what we do.

I hope you are all well and are able to come see all of our hard work here at the museum. I wish you the happiest of summers!

-Avonlea



Window repair



### A.M. Foster Desk finds forever home!

John Foster and his Grandson Jeff delivered the A.M. Foster desk to its final home. The desk traveled from Indiana to Massachusetts where it was restored. Its final journey was to Ballston Spa, NY and the National Bottle Museum.

Adelbert joined his father in the glass business at age of 13 in 1872. The Foster family remained in the glass business into the 1980's. The Museum thanks the Foster family for this





# **CAPITAL REGION ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB ANNUAL SHOW & SALE**

**BOTTLES, STONEWARE & EARLY ANTIQUES**

**Free Admission!!!**

**SUNDAY, JULY 24TH, 2022 9:00AM - 3:00PM**

**AT THE MABEE FARM HISTORIC SITE**

**1100 MAIN ST.**

**ROTTERDAM JUNCTION N.Y.**



**\*\*\*This Will Be An Outdoor Vendor Show\*\*\***

**Dealers will get a 20' x 20' Space for \$25 - Set-up at 7:30am**

**(Bring your own Tables and Pop-Ups)**

**Plenty of Parking, Easy access, Picturesque Setting!**



**Dealer Contact Information:**

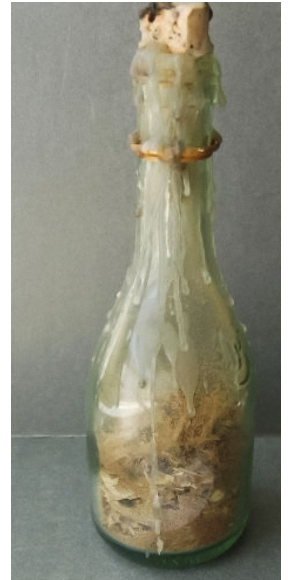
**Show Chairman Jeff Ullman - 518-925-9787**

**[jullman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jullman@nycap.rr.com)**

# Did You Know? Witch Bottles

A recent discovery in Watford, England, was a bottle full of fish hooks, human teeth, shards of glass and an unidentified liquid. Most likely the 19th century vessel was a witch bottle placed in buildings to ward off evil spirits.

These bottles originated in Europe in the 1600's which at that time was in the midst of a witch panic. Common items found in a witches bottle are pins, nails, thorns, urine, fingernail clippings and hair. These bottles were often found near hearths or chimneys or farthest point on your property. If buried in the house it was believed that negative magic would go straight to the witches bottle avoiding people. If buried at the farthest point of your property the evil spirits would never reach your home.



In the building where the witch bottle was discovered later resided Angeline Tubbs who was born in 1791. She emigrated to the United States and settled in Saratoga Springs, NY. Tubbs was known as the Witch of Saratoga and made her living telling fortunes. By the time Angelina Tubbs arrived in Saratoga witches were considered a curiosity not criminals.

Though the Salem Witch Trials was a famous example of witchcraft hysteria, witch bottles were found in many other places including the Hudson Valley dating back to the 1600's. Directions for witch bottles can be found on the internet today.....



We are seeking additional Trustees for the board at the National Bottle Museum. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 4:30pm. Meetings are held at the Museum but also on zoom. So no matter where you live you can serve via zoom! Requirements include a desire to preserve history and the building that houses the National Bottle Museum. We are a 501(c-3) organization chartered by the State of New York.

Contact the Museum: [info@nationalbottlemuseum.com](mailto:info@nationalbottlemuseum.com)

# 2022 Memberships, Donations and Grants

(As of 07/2022)

## Grants

The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust  
Non Profit COVID Relief Fund — County of Saratoga, NY

## CORPORATE DONORS

Hudson Valley Bottle Club  
Stewarts Foundation  
Village of Ballston Spa  
Town of Milton

## BENEFACTORS

Stewart Wagner	Stewart Wagner
Somers Antique Bottle Club	Larry Rappoport
Oakroom Artists	Ben Bouck
Steven Kowalski	Larry Rutland
Adam Stoddard	Empire State Bottle Collectors Assn.

## SUPPORTERS

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David Mytych	Mike Polak	Jon Sterngass
Marilyn Bradley	Terry McMurray	Robert Rasera
Andrew Davies	Robert Latham	Jim & Gert Healy
Frances Martone	Ron Tetrault	
Jeff Ulman	Vance Heroth	



## **FRIENDS**

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**Ellie Dillon**

**Kevin Dillon**

**Meg Stevens**

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**Barara Trypaluk**

**Jim Finnance**

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**Kristen Tomasicchio**

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**Alan Kristuff**

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**Randy Woodbeck**

**Lori Hahn**

**Vincent Holmes**

**Fran Hughes**

**Rich Strunk**

**John Ackner**

**David Smith**

**Brian Wade**

## **Support the Museum!!**



# 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.

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### 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Street or P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bottle Club (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_