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General Admission: \$5
Seniors: \$4
Children 12 and Under:
Free



National Bottle Museum®

Educating the public on the history of bottles and bottle-making



THE BOTTLE MUSE

Winter 2024

ALASKA BOTTLE

If you've been following the National Bottle Museum for a while, you've heard of our 50 States Display—an exhibit featuring one bottle from each of the 50 States, as well as the District of Columbia. And if you've heard of our 50 States Display, you've probably heard that it wasn't complete. Finally, we're proud to say that is no longer true.

The idea of the 50 States Display began in the 1980s, when the National Bottle Museum sent out invitations to bottle clubs across the country, asking them to pick a representative bottle for their state. Down to only a few bottles left to complete the exhibit, we recently renewed the search. There was one hold-out: Alaska, the last remaining state, and a difficult one to find.

Thanks to the research of Trustee Barabara Trypaluk, and the generous donation of Mr. Joe Usibelli of Healy, Alaska, we are excited to announce that the search is over. A J.W. Doran Pharmacy bottle has joined the rest in the 50 State Display, and the exhibit is finally complete!

The Alaska bottle is a pharmacy bottle, from J.W. Doran, Pharmacist, in Juneau, Alaska. Dr. Doran took over and renamed an existing pharmacy in Juneau

in 1895, which he ran until at least 1915. The bottle itself was produced by Whitall Tatum. The maker's mark on its base was used between 1890-1896, meaning that this bottle was likely produced the first or second year that J.W. Doran operated his pharmacy.



FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, ELLIE DILLON



Dear Members and Friends,

As I begin my 8th year as board president, I cannot help but reflect on this Board of Trustees and Directors, their skills, work ethic and enthusiasm for this unique museum.

This historic 1901 building requires much care. Exterior painting and replacement windows, roof repair, coupled with interior painting, electrical upgrades and improved exhibits have kept all of us very busy. The second floor JRM Artists' Space has not escaped upgrades. It has become a well-respected regional art gallery. All this requires people - power and creative financing. If the Trustees and Directors can't personally do a project, they find a source to finance it! One project is barely completed when another begins.

The result is a museum that fits in with the character of the Victorian downtown of Ballston Spa, listed as a #1 attraction for Ballston Spa by Trip Advisor and has become the Visitor Center for the Village.

Currently, the Board, Directors and volunteers are working with the Documentary Heritage & Preservation Services for New York to develop a strategic plan for the future of the museum. Membership has become a major goal of this plan for 2024. The National Bottle Museum remains chartered by the State of New York thus it is your museum! Please join or rejoin the museum for the 2024 year and support our efforts. We at the museum thank you in advance!

Regards,

Ellie

RECENT EXHIBIT RENOVATIONS



Thanks to the generous donation and support of the Ballston Spa National Bank, we have renovated two of our permanent exhibits.

Both our "Bottles of the U.S.A." (50 States) Display, and our display of demijohns, now titled "Bottles on the Go," were given a fresh new look. New paint, bright LED lighting, informational signage, and additional artifacts from our collection (including our new Alaska bottle!) fill out the displays.



The National Bottle Museum was closed for a couple days at the end of January, and volunteers worked through the week to perfect the exhibits. Visitors during Chocolate Fest got the first look at the newly-redone displays. If you haven't visited the museum in a while, now is the time to visit and see the changes!

CHOCOLATE FEST—FIRST FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY



Chocolate Fest 2024 was a resounding success—not just for the National Bottle Museum, but for all of Ballston Spa!

Following last year's bitter cold (and below-zero wind chill), people were excited to get out about town in temperatures nearing 40° this year! There was record turn out for the event, and many Chocolate Fest participants had lines around the block!

Here at the Bottle Museum, we offered chocolate bottles to our guests, and hosted Adirondack Barkery, with their carob dog treats for the four-legged friends. So many guests attended the event that we couldn't even get the door shut, due to the steady stream of incoming visitors!

We had a fantastic time participating, and can't wait until next year to do it all again!

DIGS AND STORIES FROM ROY TOPKA



Greetings all. After the disappointing stone liner from the last newsletter, I thought the next one I had lined up would have to be better. It was another 9 footer, but not nearly as long, going into water for the last foot or so. At only 4' down the dirt & Brick fill turned into grey wood ash, with ceramics and bottle shards all 1860s. Normally a great sign. The Grey ash continued down to almost 8' without a single whole bottle, when it turned back into clay & brick fill. Under this was a packed wet & mucky 1850s use layer..... with everything broken. One whole pontil slick & a few pipe bowls were all I took home.

I then had the opportunity to dig a whole bunch of mid-1870s lots. My history with the lots of this age in the area was you dig 8 - 10 privies which are basically dud's then find one with original contents intact. So finally after 8 lousy pits one had a good mid 1870s layer that produced some blob sodas & Albany druggist's. One of the pits was the deepest I'd ever seen in the area. At about 9' it went to water and I was still in 1890s material. My three foot probe

still could not hit bottom so it was at least 12' deep. Being a narrow woodliner it was too dangerous to continue so it was filled in.

It was now late in the year so I found some more spots & covered them with leaves to protect them from a deep frost which never came. While probing I got an OK to check a lot which had a house on it before 1850. A probable pit was hit & I returned the next morning which was New Years eve. Mid-to-late 1860s bottles were hit only two foot down but there was very little glass. At 7' I was into the privy muck but again very little glass. Right up against the wall two bottles were nestled together and they were the only two whole bottles. The first was a small aqua pontiled F. H. Metzger, a medicine bottle, probably an ointment; the second was a pontiled blue J Boardman & Co Mineral Waters.

So that was it for the year, myself being grateful for ending on a high note. Take care & good digging to all, please support the National Bottle Museum.



FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KAYLA WHITEHOUSE

We have been busy the past few months, and we hope that all the hard work is paying off! It's important that there's always something new for people to see when they come visit, and always something enticing them to come back! To help with that, we've been really focusing on improving our exhibits, with new signage and new bottles on display.

Additionally, we are working on some new events and activities to do here at the museum.

Hopefully the events we will have coming up throughout the year will appeal to everyone, not just the bottle collector or enthusiast!

Keep checking our Facebook page for updates on new exhibits and special events at the museum, and let us know if there's something you want to see!

JRM ARTISTS' SPACE UPDATES

Celebrating 15 Years Of Sharing Art With The Community

The JRM Artists' Space
© The National Bottle Museum
Presents

**BUILDING
Art
Through
Collage**



National Bottle Museum 76 Milton Ave. Ballston Spa NY 12020-5100 info@nationalbottlemuseum.org

The first show of the year in the JRM Artists' Space is an all-collage show, "Building Art Through Collage," and it turned out bigger than expected, with over 75 different collages on display. It's fascinating to see

so many different styles and themes of art represented within the same medium! Featured artist Kathy Klompas held a collage workshop in the Artists' Space, and very nearly sold out of tickets! Attendees created their own collage to take home. Both the workshop and the show have been very well received.

Up next in the Artists' Space is the Family show—this show will feature pieces from families with more than one artist in the family, and will run until April 20th. Art drop-off has begun, and it is shaping up to be yet another phenomenal show! On April 27th, the next

show will open, titled "The Adirondack Show, Visualizing Nature." We are also excited to welcome musical artists playing Adirondack Folk Music to the reception! More details on that event will be posted to our social media as we get closer.

Once again, June will feature the "Art of the Bottle" show. All of the art will feature bottles, either as the subject, theme, or material. We are currently looking for artists to submit their work for this show, and hope that some of our fellow bottle collectors will be able to help us out. If you make art of your bottles, whether photographs, paintings, drawings, or sculptures, and want to join the show, please reach out for more information!

Thank you again to all our artists for showcasing your work!

MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE



Are you a member of the National Bottle Museum? If not, now is a fantastic time to join!

We will be holding a Member Only raffle, to be drawn at the Saratoga Show in June. The raffle is free—if you join or renew your museum membership you will be automatically entered to win this bottle!

The prize for the membership raffle is a Clarke & White Saratoga-Type mineral water bottle. Clarke & White bottles

were produced by Saratoga Mountain Glass Works from about 1855-1860.

Number of entries varies by membership level. Friends of the museum receive one entry, Supporters receive two entries, Benefactors receive three entries, and Patrons receive four entries. The winner will be contacted after the drawing in June.

STATE BOTTLE—KENTUCKY



This flask features a large oval panel with an American Eagle facing right, resting on a shield, carrying a ribbon in its beak. A rectangular panel on the lower part of the flask says Louisville KY Glass Works. the rest of the flask is covered by vertical ribbing. The neck is plain with a laid-on ring. The flask is aqua,

and may have been made around 1855 to 1860.

The glass works began in Louisville, Kentucky, about 1850 under the Kentucky Glass Works name. The name was also changed to the Louisville Glass Works in 1855. This eagle design was one of several flasks produced, and had many slight variations, several sizes, and many colors.

The name was changed to Louisville Plate Glass Works, and sold in 1880 to De Pauw American Plate Glass Works of Albany, Indiana.

NEW DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM



The past few months have been very productive in terms of new bottles donated to the museum. It seems like every week we have someone bringing

in a box (or more) of bottles for our ever-growing collection! While we are still working our way through all of the bottles that we have received

recently, we are seeing a lot of stunning bottles—labeled medicines, milk bottles, hutches, and more.

One recent donation to the museum was a large collection of infant feeder bottles, sterilizers, and formula bottles. Many of these are currently on a temporary display in one of our rotating exhibits. Stop by the museum to see them before the end of the year!



National Bottle Museum

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Memberships, Donations, and Grants

(as of 3/2024)

GRANTS AND ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Town of Milton—Annual Contribution

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Robert & Diane Puckhaber
Somers Antique Bottle Club

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