

Contact Us

Phone: (518) 885-7589

Email: info@nationalbottlemuseum.org

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www.nationalbottlemuseum.org

Trustees and Directors

Executive Director: Chris Leonard

President: Ellie Dillon

Vice President: Phil Bernnard

Secretary: Shirleyan Ebert

Treasurer: Eve Lansing

Trustee: Adam Stoddard

Trustee: Kayla Whitehouse

Trustees Molly Bingham

Volunteer Director of JRM Artists' Space - Fred Neudoerffer

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

1892-93 Fan Finds its Final Home

The 1893 Columbia Exposition Fan is home at the National Bottle Museum from its restoration at the Williamstown Art Conversation Center in Williamstown, Ma. This is a significant addition to the museum because of the unique recognition of Saratoga Vichy Water stamped on it which included a Saratoga Vichy water bottle. At the Expo Saratoga Vichy won a gold medal. Come to the museum to see the new exhibit And solve a mystery!



This photo was taken at the NYS Golden Jubilee in 1946. Our fan was "spotted" on the desk by one sharp eyed director!

From the Desk of the Executive Director, Chris Leonard

Dear Friends,

Big things are happening at the National Bottle Museum! So far this year we've added or improved 8 exhibits including a conserved Saratoga Vichy hand-fan from the 1893 Columbian Exposition; seltzer siphons with a 1920s seltzer bottle filler; the Art of Barber Bottles; whimsies; and poisons.



And bigger changes are coming. In 2026, we will launch a capital improvement campaign to enclose and heat the 3rd floor of the museum. The 3rd floor of our 1901 building has never been insulated nor supported by HVAC. Renovating the floor will greatly increase storage, allowing us to expand our collection, and to turn a 2nd floor storage area into new exhibit space.

Your donations, membership, and other support have made this possible. Come to the museum soon to see all the improvements.

And join us on Sunday, May 31, for the 46th Annual Saratoga Antique Bottle Show & Sale. The Belmont Stakes is being held Saratoga on the first weekend in June, our usual show date. As this will drive up hotel prices and strain local services, we moved the show to Sunday May 31, to create a better experience for our dealers and patrons. Contracts for the show are now available.

Hope to see you soon!

- Chris

FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, ELLIE DILLON



Dear Members and Friends,

This fall has seen a whirlwind of changes at the museum! Board members, volunteers, intern and Executive Director have worked tirelessly with dedication, creativity and vision.

And this work has paid off.

The new year begins with a fresh look from a deep clean, purging of unnecessary items and the creation of brand new exhibits. The gift shop expansion now features unique glass items, clothing and hats as well as unusual gifts. The Artists' Space on the second floor displays exhibits year round, giving visitors an opportunity to meet the artists at the artist receptions. Your visit will be an enjoyable experience on many levels.

2026 looks to be an exciting year. Join and drop in!

Ellie

Chris will be a guest speaker at the Saratoga County History Center at Brookside February 7 at 3:00 pm for their Historian Tea Talks. He will address his 50 year history and his one year anniversary at the museum.

STATE BOTTLE— New York



The emerald green Saratoga Type pint mineral water is New York State's representation in the 50 States exhibit. It is embossed with a large E and "Empire Spring Co. Saratoga NY". The back simply says Empire Water. This Saratoga type style is typical of the Saratoga County region.

The Empire Spring was discovered in 1793 and the waters were known for its naturally sweet taste. In 1866 the Empire Springs and Congress Spring merged. The Mount Pleasant Glassworks in Greenfield moved their bottle making plant closer to Saratoga and the springs and the factory became the Congressville Glassworks. The Congressville Glassworks stayed in operation until 1910 when the effects of the automatic bottling machine made their workforce of glass blowers obsolete. This "Congressville green" is on display at the National Bottle Museum.



The Weller Trail—Roy Topka



SCHENECTADY'S MOST PROLIFIC 19th CENTURY BOTTLER: GEORGE WELLER

Starting with the purchase of John Lake's Soda Water business in 1859 by James Rodger's, the firm of Rodger's & Weller in Schenectady, NY lasted into 1866. By 1867 George Weller was in business by himself. In 1898 John Stock had taken over the business running it well into the 20th century. Roy looks so sad because he now has to repack this display and bring back to the museum!

FROM VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR OF THE JRM ARTISTS' SPACE FRED NEUDOERFFER

The JRM Artists' Space @ The National Bottle Museum Presents

The Oakroom Artists 2025 Showcase



• Sharing Their Artistic Creativity •

George Dirolf Peg Foley Barb Lennox Kathy Klompas
Audrie Sturman Steve Kowalski Gary Shankman
Karen JF Cooper Cheryl Horning Kevin Kuhne
Hana Panek Mary Ellen Riell Fred Neudoerffer
Stu Eichel Lori Lupe Polish Helga Pritchard

On Display thru January 31

Artists' Reception January 24 2-4pm



National Bottle Museum 76 Milton Ave Ballston Spa NY 518-885-7589 info@nationalbottlemuseum.org

The Jan Rutland Artists' Space continues to be a popular regional gallery on the second floor of the museum. Upcoming new exhibit will be the OPEN CALL show of visual media where "anything goes"! This unique show will run from February 21st—March 28th. Contact;

THE
A
ARTISTS'
S
PACE

National Bottle Museum
76 Milton Ave Ballston Spa NY 12020

Fred Neudoerffer
Volunteer Director
518-441-4447
nbt@nycap.rr.com
fred@neustudios.com

ON OUR DOORSTEP.....

It is always interesting to see what a visitor will either leave on our doorstep or bring in to donate. Here are 3 interesting orphans that have found a new home.



Lee & Green Brewed Ginger Beer—Syracuse, NY



J.H. Farrington, Saratoga Split size soda



Late 19th century figural turtle flask.

SARATOGA BOTTLE SHOW 2026

Date Change 2026: Sunday May 31st

The National Bottle Museum® Proudly Presents

The 46th Annual Saratoga Antique Bottle Show & Sale*

Sunday, May 31, 2026

at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds: 162 Prospect St. Ballston Spa, NY

Hours: 9 AM - 2 PM. General Admission \$5.

16 and Younger are Free. Early Admission: 8 AM. \$20

Vendor Space is Available!



For Information or to Reserve

a Table, contact:

Roy Topka: (518) 779-1243,
rmt556@yahoo.com

Phil Bernard: (518) 429-7641,
explomarc@hotmail.com

Adam Stoddard:
acstoddard63@gmail.com

The National Bottle Museum is Open 10 AM-4 PM on the Day of the Show.

Stop in and enjoy **The Art of the Bottle IX** in the
Jan Rutland Memorial Artist Space



76 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

(518) 885-7589, info@nationalbottlemuseum.org

*includes jars, insulators, stoneware, breweriana, ephemera, advertising & bottle related items (go withs). Outdoor space available for bottles & tabletop antiques



Spring cleaning came early this year!!

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This January, the Board, Executive Director and volunteers decided to not only give the museum a deep clean, but to change up and rearrange exhibits. But wait... lets not stop there,. They also tackled the office and downstairs storage spaces. The dedication of this group is amazing. The museum was closed January 2nd to January 20th for this endeavor!



New Exhibits New Spaces and New Merchandise!



JOIN TODAY!
Application on last page

The National Bottle Museum, again, has taken its show on the road. The museum participated in the Great Places and Spaces event at the New York State Museum this January.. The museum continues to reach out to educate the public on the historical importance of bottle making. Look for the return of the Saratoga History of Bottles and Mineral Water display at the Gideon Putnam this Spring!



Upcoming Events

January 24th - Artists' Space Reception "Oakroom Artists": 1:00pm 2nd floor

January 24th - Opening of Exhibit: Restoration of 1892 Columbia Expo fan

February 6th - BSBPA Chocolate Fest: First Friday at the Museum open 5-9pm

February 11th - Saratoga County Historical Society at Brookside "Tea Talks"
3:00pm with National Bottle Museum Director, Chris Leonard

March 3rd - Hosting BSBPA Networking Breakfast : 8:00am - 9:30am

April 18th – Museum table at the Schenectady County History Faire at Proctors:
12:00 noon to 4:00pm.

May 22nd - Saratoga Local History Fair at the Saratoga Springs Library 1:00pm to
5:00pm

November 2, 2025 Annual Meeting

The 2025 Annual Meeting was held at the museum on November 2, 2025 at 6:30pm. This year we welcomed members on zoom including Judy Prevital from Rochester and Richard Hasenauer of Saratoga Springs. Election of officers is as follows:

President: Ellie Dillon

Vice President: Phil Bernnard

Treasurer: Kayla Whitehouse

Secretary: Shirleyan Ebert

Our annual Volunteer of the Year Award went to Phil Bernnard. Phil has made a significant impact within the bottle collecting community with years of supporting regional bottle shows and compiling and mailing out informational packets. His road trips to acquire collections has expanded the museums inventory. He has effectively educated and inspired others to appreciate the history behind the artifacts and books. And on a personal note Phil has never said no to urgent calls to cover the museum on short notice. This commitment is sincerely appreciated.



So It is with great pleasure we present Phil the 2025 Volunteer of the year Award.

**National Bottle Museum**

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It's that time of
year...

Don't forget to
renew your
membership.

The museum
appreciates your
support!

GRANTS , DONATIONS AND ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Village of Ballston Spa Town of Milton
Charitable Donation—Nancy Voehringer

Memberships 2025**Director**

Robert J. Krackeler
Jeffrey Wichmann

Executive

Richard Hasenauer Stewart Wagner
Robert & Diane Puckhaber

Collector

Jim Bender	Sherry Hoffman	Thomas Igor
Bill Britton	Angela Iacolucci	Fred Neudoerffer
Ben Baskin	Earl A. Jones	Laura Noonan
Susan Darrin	Ron Tetrault	Robert Rasera
Shirletan Ebert	Robert & Diane Williams	

Family and Friends

Sander Bonvell	Jon Sterngass
Audrie Sturman	Liz Kormos

Individual

Janice Badkin	Kevin Dillon	George Kolesar
Roland Bard	Ellie Dillon	Steve Kowalski
Beb bouck	Caleb Eick	Alan Kristoff
Marilyn Bradley	Susan W. Farrow	David Krzemien
Linda Brown	James Ferrence	Kevin Kuhne
Deborah Cangi	George Field	Dee Scotti
Brian Carroll	David Foley	John Shaver
Dana Charlton	Darlene Furda	Peter Signorelli
Thomas Clark	Victoria Garlandia	David Smith
William Clarke	Jennifer Greenwood	Douglas Smith
Karen Cooper	Art Gueguan	Brian Speck
Andrea Costanzo	Lori Hahn	Meg Stevens
Alan Cunningham	Thomas Haunton	Sue Ellen Stine
Hannah Cwik	Ann Hauprich	Rich Strunk
Robert Danison	Jim Healy	Barbara Trypaluk
Donna Dardaris	Vance Heroth	Ralph Vinciarello
Andrew Davies	Fran Hughes	Brian Wade
Mark Desiderio	Carla Spohr	Marjorie Ward
Gerald Dexter	Jennifer Karson	Kayla Whitehouse
Stephan Dickerson	Chris Keefer	Emmett Wold

Individual - continued

Mary Beth Lamb
Eve Lansing
Robert Latham
Buffy Leonard
Chris Leonard
Sam Mahoney
Fran Martone

Terry McMurray
Gary Mercer
Derek Mueller
Carmel Patrick
Roger J. Peets
Larry Rappaport
David Ringer

Richard Rosenen
Larry Rutland
David Wright

Donations Continued

American Bottle Auctions
New York State Council on the Arts
Stewarts Holiday Match
Finger Lakes Bottle Collectors Association
James Rodenmacher
Speckled Pig Brewing Company

MEMORIAL DONATION

In Memory of Sonny and Joan Tyler



**NATIONAL EST. 1978
BOTTLE MUSEUM**

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518.885.7589 www.nationalbottlemuseum.org

Membership Renewal Form:

Annual Membership in the National Bottle Museum is open to one and all in the following categories:

\$20 to \$49 – Friends

\$50 to \$149 – Supporters

\$150 to \$499 – Benefactors

\$500 and up – Patrons

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. The Museum is a member of the Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association, the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, and the Museum Association of New York.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter containing information on the museum, and the history of glass bottle manufacturing, identification, and collecting. Each June, 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 AND FULL MAILING ADDRESS

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

Membership Chairman

National Bottle Museum
76 Milton Ave
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Name:		Phone:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Email Address:			
Amount Enclosed: \$	Circle One: New / Renewal	Gift:	Date:
Bottle Club (if any):			