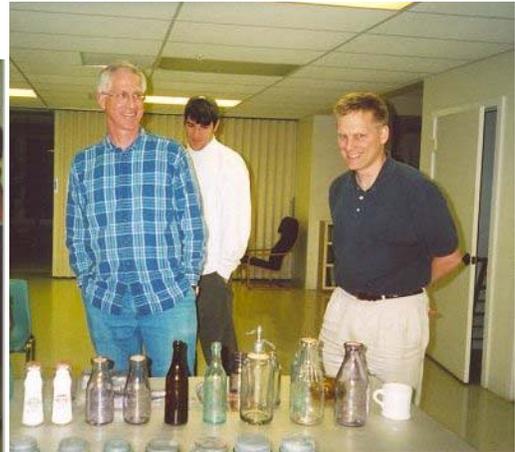


# The Potomac Pontil

The Potomac Bottle Collectors Serving the National Capital

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November 2002



**October meeting:** Jim Sears presents odd-closure fruit jars.  
Richard Lilienthal shows off some recent acquisitions while Marco Fuster and Al Miller look on.

## Meeting November 26th

**Show & Tell:** Please bring in your digging and collecting stories. No speaker has been announced for this meeting, so everyone will have a chance to exchange tall tales.

**Club officers:** We need to elect club officers for 2003. At the October meeting, the current officers were nominated to continue for next year: president – **Matt Knapp**, treasurer – **Ken Anderson** with **Lee Shipman** as assistant treasurer. **Henry Fuchs** was nominated to take over the vacant office of vice president. Members who are unable to attend the meetings may make additional nominations by contacting Jim Sears: [searsjim@usa.net](mailto:searsjim@usa.net) or (703) 243-2409.

**Other Club Business:** The regular date for the December meeting would fall on Christmas Eve. The meeting room would be available on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> if the club wanted to use that as an alternate meeting date. We will decide whether to meet in December at the November meeting.

## Odds & Ends

**Lee Shipman** invites club members her annual Christmas open house, which will take place around 2 PM on Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6403 East Halbert Road, Bethesda, MD 20034, PH: (301) 229-2005.

**Henry Fuchs** would like to organize a club dig. Henry does not yet have a permanent address, but he is in regular contact with Lee Shipman.

**Henry Fuchs** has several varieties of zinc Mason jar lids that he would be happy to bring to a club meeting if anyone needs some.

Meetings: 7:30 PM on the last Tuesday of each month in the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Dr., Bethesda, MD 20816.  
President: Matt Knapp Vice President: Needed Secretary: Jim Sears Treasurer: Ken Anderson  
Pontil: Jim Sears (email: [searsjim@usa.net](mailto:searsjim@usa.net), PH: 703/243-2409) & Andy Goldfrank (email: [amg\\_sticky@yahoo.com](mailto:amg_sticky@yahoo.com), PH: 202/588-0543)  
Web Site <http://members.aol.com/potomacbtl/bottle2.htm> Maintained by Peter Rydquist: [pehraig@aol.com](mailto:pehraig@aol.com)

## Upcoming Area Bottle Shows

**December 1** (9 AM to 3 PM, early buyers 7:30 AM) **Bethlehem, Pennsylvania:** Forks of the Delaware Bottle Collectors Association 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale at the Bethlehem Catholic High School, Madison & Dewberry Aves. Info: **Bill Hegedus**, 20 Cambridge Place, Catasauqua, PA 18032, PH: (610) 264-5945.

**February 2** (9 AM to 2 PM) **South River, New Jersey:** New Jersey Antique Bottle Club 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 88 Jackson Street. Info: NJABC, 24 Charles Street, South River, NJ 08882 or **Joe Butewicz** PH: (732) 238-3238, email: [botlman@aol.com](mailto:botlman@aol.com) or **Ernest Bower** PH: (732) 868-0510, email: [xrdsrev@aol.com](mailto:xrdsrev@aol.com).

**March 2, 2003** (8 AM to 3 PM) **Baltimore, Maryland:** Baltimore Antique Bottle Club 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show & Sale at the Physical Education Center, Essex Campus of the Community College, 7201 Rossville Blvd. Info: **Bob Ford** PH: (410) 531-9459, email: [bottles@comcast.net](mailto:bottles@comcast.net).

## Bottle Show Notes

During the last 30 days, I (Jim Sears) have had the opportunity to buy and sell at three different antique bottle shows. The first one was held in Timonium, Maryland on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Although Timonium has been the site of past Baltimore Antique Bottle Club shows, the October show was organized privately by Bill Thomas. Therefore, it lacked the publicity and dealer support that the official Baltimore shows receive. One innovation of this show was that it featured free public admission to draw buyers in from a nearby antique show.

The second show was in Elkton, Maryland on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. I am not sure Maryland can really support two bottle shows a week apart, but I am confident the Elkton one will continue to be successful. This was the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Tri-State Bottle Collectors and Diggers show, and a loyal group of dealers and sellers fill the Elkton fire hall each year.

The November 10<sup>th</sup> Pittsburgh Antique Bottle Club show was my third show in three weeks. I had never been to a Pittsburgh show before, and this 106 table event exceeded my expectations. Dealers from as far away as Michigan offered a good selection of rare glass, and plenty of customers remained right up until the 2 PM closing.

My conclusion from the three shows is that antique bottle shows are alive and well, but they depend heavily on the efforts of club members. A year or two ago, it was common to see the best glass at shows selling wholesale to Ebay dealers, who were realizing high profits. Now Ebay prices seem to have moderated, and most of the show buyers once again appear to be collectors rather than profiteers. I was happy with my sales to collectors at all three shows.

The one disturbing trend I see is that today's shows are really sales with little emphasis on displays or education. The fine displays I saw at shows many years ago taught me much and greatly influenced my collecting. This year the Pittsburgh show featured only one display (albeit a very nice one with rare colored bottles from several collectors), and the Timonium show had no displays at all.