

The Potomac Pontil

The Potomac Bottle Collectors – Serving the National Capital

February 2006

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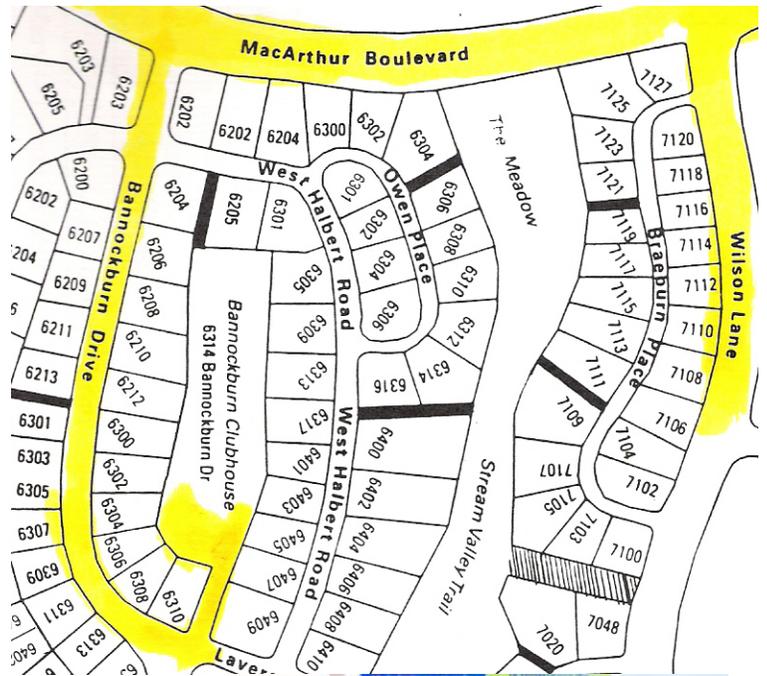


Meeting February 28

Our February meeting will take place at an unusual time and an unusual location.

Due to a pancake supper scheduled at the church, **we will be meeting at the Bannockburn clubhouse** at 6314 Bannockburn Drive. We have the clubhouse reserved beginning at **7 PM** for our **annual club banquet**. Please join us as promptly as possible since some of us get quite hungry by 7. As one can see from the map at right, the clubhouse is only a few blocks from our regular meeting site. We plan to post a copy of this map at the church in case anyone has missed this message about the alternative location.

Our tradition of an annual club banquet began as a holiday party, but the host of conflicting activities in December convinced us to move to a less crowded time of year. Please join us for some good food and conversation as we announce our annual contest winners. The club will provide soft drinks and sandwich fixings. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass, but all are welcome regardless of the ability to contribute. This is a time when we particular enjoy seeing family members and visitors. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Lee Shipman at (301) 229-2005 or plannerlee@earthlink.net.



Announcements

Mailing costs have gone up. Copies of our guide to bottles of the Washington, DC area are still available for \$20 each, but shipping is now an additional \$4.05. Save the shipping by getting a book at the club meeting or at the **March 5th Baltimore Antique Bottle Club Show**.

Thank you to all those who have paid their dues. For those who have not, the \$10 annual dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Potomac Bottle Collectors, c/o Jim Sears, 4211 N. 2nd Rd., Apt. 1, Arlington, VA.

Henry Fuchs reports that former club member Albert Fulk and his wife Mary are now in very poor health and could use our prayers. Henry feels that they would also appreciate calls from old friends at (910) 324-6528.

The photo at right shows dug bottles entered in our "digger of the year" contest at the February meeting. The March newsletter will announce the contest results and provide many additional photos.



Meetings: 8:00 PM on the last Tuesday of each month in the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Dr., Bethesda, MD 20816.
President: Andy Goldfrank Vice President: Al Miller Secretary: Jim Sears Treasurer: Lee Shipman
Pontil: Jim Sears (email: searsjim@usa.net, PH: 703/243-2409) & Andy Goldfrank (email: amg_sticky@yahoo.com, PH: 202/588-0543)
Web Site: www.potomacbottlecollectors.org Maintained by Peter Rydquist: pehraug@aol.com

Sunday Dig

by Henry Fuchs 01/08/06

Mike Cianciosi and I began digging together earlier this fall. The first place we dug was just outside of Olney, Maryland, where I had found some dumps as a young teen. I had recently dug an umbrella ink in this area from a depression that was full of old bricks, the remains of a slate roof, and the brownish-cream shards of a stubby, spouted 1850s period whiskey jug. Upon returning to this site, we found no more bottles, so we went into the hills that I had walked as a child. Mike has better eyes than I do (or at least he wears his glasses digging, which I don't), and he found two turn-of-the-century surface dumps. I had dug through one of these two years ago, but the other was un-dug. Mike found only one bottle, a J.F. Hermann blown soda from D.C., but I found some very unusual Mason zinc lids that didn't take porcelain inserts. Later we drove by a few antique shops and yard sales. Mike found a nice Pepsi cooler from the 1950s for 20 bucks, and I found a Newark Star Glassworks wax sealer for \$5.

We had been up around Fredrick on a very cold, snowy day weeks past and dug bricks and shale. Thoroughly discouraged, we went to the Old Glory antique shop, where Mike found an apple green, whittled blob for about \$40 that was about the nicest Portner bottle I'd seen outside Richard Lilienthal's collection. I found Hero and Cohansey jars for \$20 total. Mike also bought an odd Abner Drury bottle.

Somehow I talked Mike into going back up around Fredrick last Sunday. Maybe I bribed him – I usually have a soda to give him. We first visited a downtown construction site at the corner of South Market and South streets. We poked around an area on the edge of Market Street that had some ash and shards. Finally an intact Excelsior Dairy bottle emerged but nothing else. We'd hit a wall, so we went driving until we came to another construction site near some woods. We dug here because it looked as if there were some shards in a hole a few feet from us but all we found were massive pieces of shale or slate.

Next we probed an open area. The probe sank in three feet before hitting something, but all we uncovered were bricks and other building debris. We were ready to leave this area when we passed a gopher hole where some shards had come to the surface. So Mike spoke to the gopher and asked whether he'd seen.... Well no, but, seriously, I did think the gopher might be onto something. Mike was not convinced, but I dug right into that gopher hole (sorry about that, Phil) and hit some trash about a foot down. We proceeded to dig five intact "LASH'S KIDNEY AND LIVER BITTERS / THE BEST CATHARTIC AND BLOOD PURIFIER." These are an early variation with applied, tooled tops and crude embossing. The first one Mike found has a chipped lip but is red-amber, perhaps a rarity. We found ten to fifteen broken bitters along with sealed wines, whiskey fifths, a few shards of strap-sided flasks, and half a Fredrick Hutch. I was chagrined to hear Mike say, "I wish there weren't so many bitters, so we could find some Hutchinsons." Umm, OK. We both took a couple bitters home; Mike found a squatty lady's leg whiskey with what looks like an improved pontil. I found a sheared-lip, six-sided ink. We left most of the bottles because somebody forgot to emboss them, which seemed to be a common problem in



the mid to late 19th Century. There was a broken "PATENT" bottle and half of a Bennington bowl. A few shards that might date back as far as 1860 or so, but most of the stuff was 1870 to 1890s: no screw caps or machine-made. There's probably some more stuff there – I don't know.



We filled in the hole and went to the other antique mall/shop in Fredrick, which was like Fort Knox. I bought a black glass "D.A. KNOWLTON, SARATOGA, N.Y." for \$35 because it had a burst bubble in it (not bad, huh?), and the lady had to take two locks off with two different sets of keys. One set she had to send for. "Sheesh!", I told her, "I dig stuff like this out of the ground all the time for free." She looked at my dirty self like I was infectious.

I think we both had tired backs. I slept halfway home. Boy, was I sore! I'm fine now, ready to go again. I'm not sure about Mike, though. I want to see that red bitters, and if it is *really* red, like cardinal red, I would be willing to break one of my own bottles to fix the collar on that one. We'll have to see....

I've included some pictures Mike and I took. My roomie, Chris Bradley, cropped some of the good shots to fit and he downloaded a two-part photo of the Lash's bitters.



So long, and good hunting,
Henry Fuchs

Editors note: Due to some scanner issues, Mike's electronic image is shown above in place of Chris Bradley's cropped photo.

Upcoming Area Bottle Shows

March 5 - Baltimore, Maryland
Baltimore Antique Bottle Club
26th Annual Show & Sale, (8 AM to 3 PM), at the Physical Education Center, Essex Campus Community College, 7201 Rossville Blvd, Baltimore, MD. Info: **Bob Ford**, PH: (410) 531-9459, email: bottles@comcast.net

March 12 - Tylersport, Pennsylvania
The 12th Annual Buck-Mont Antique Bottle Show & Sale, (9 AM to 3 PM), at the Tylersport Fire Co., Route 563, Tylersport, PA. Info: **Claude A. Wambold**, 1837 Perkiomenville Rd., Perkiomenville, PA 18074, PH: (215) 234-8413, or **Greg Gifford**, PH: (215) 699-5216, or **Dave Buck**, (215) 723-4048.

April 2 - Millville, New Jersey
South Jersey Bottle and Glass Club Show & Sale, (9 AM to 3 PM), at the Elks Lodge of Millville, 1815 East Broad St., Millville, NJ, Info: **Bob Tompkins**, 1731 Hubbard La., Vineland, NJ 08360, PH: (856) 691-5170, or **Merrie Kernan**, PH: (856) 451-8904.



April 8 - Raleigh, North Carolina

The Raleigh Bottle Club "Bottle Fest" (Fri. 7 AM - 5 PM, Free Admission) at the N.C. State Fairgrounds Flea Market (From I-40E, take Wade Ave., then exit at Blue Ridge Road, turn right. Fairgrounds half-mile on right at Hillsborough St. intersection), Raleigh, North Carolina. Free appraisals, Spaces \$20 with table & bring your own chairs. No reservations required, but please RSVP to Whitt Stallings, PH: (919) 781-6339 or P.O. Box 18083, Raleigh, NC 27619-8083. Info: Website: www.antiquebottles.com/raleigh or E-mail: RBC@antiquebottles.com. (Rain date: APRIL 15)

April 23 - Harrisonburg, Virginia

The Historical Bottle-Diggers of Virginia 35th Annual Antique Bottle and Collectible Show & Sale, (9 AM to 3 PM), at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, (US Rt. 11 South, Exit 243 off I-81) Info: **Sonny Smiley**, PH: (540) 434-1129 or email: lithiaman1@yahoo.com

May 21 - Brick, New Jersey

Jersey Shore Bottle Club's 34th Annual Show & Sale (Sun. 9 AM - 2 PM) at the Brick Elks Lodge, 2491 Hooper Ave., Brick, New Jersey. Info: **R. Peal**, 720 Eastern La., Brick, NJ 09723, PH: (732) 267-2528, Email: manodirt@msn.com, Website: <http://www.geocities.com/dtripet2000/jsbc/jsbc.html>.

May 21 - Washington, Pennsylvania

Washington County Antique Bottle Club's 32nd Annual Show & Sale (Sun. 9 AM - 3 PM) at the Alpine Star Lodge, 735 Jefferson Ave. (Exit 17, off I-70), Washington, Pennsylvania. Info: Nigel Dunmore, 121 Highland Ave., Avella, PA 15312; PH: (724) 587-5217; E-mail: legin1247@msn.com

Last year's contest winners are shown at the January meeting. Sitting from left to right are Peter Rydquist, Dodd Delph, and Jim Sears. Andy Goldfrank is standing.



Here are some of the show & tell items from seen at our January meeting.



BALTIMORE ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB



26th Annual Show and Sale

Sunday - March 5, 2006

8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**Physical Education Center
Essex Campus of the Community College of Baltimore County
7201 Rossville Blvd. (off exit 34, I-695)
Baltimore, Maryland 21237**

*The largest one-day bottle show in the world—over 300 tables
"It's a great show"--- Ralph Finch, Antique Bottle & Glass Collector
"Spectacular show"--- Bottles and More*

*Bottles, jars, advertising, stoneware, breweriana, small antiques
Free bottle appraisals*

Admission \$3

Information:

Bob Ford - Show Chairman

Telephone: 410-531-9459 E-mail: bottles@comcast.net



www.baltimorebottleclub.org

