



Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc

BALTIMORE BOTTLE DIGGER

October 2025

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fall is here, my favorite time of the year. The ground cover is gone and so are the chiggers. You can see the ground and walk in places you couldn't walk before. The snakes are going into hibernation, and you can see the ones that are out there. A great time to dig.

When I was young, I would dig as much as possible, sometimes three times a week. Dumps were more plentiful. I became interested when a new friend moved into the neighborhood and his parents had a bay window full of colored bottles. I can still see that window with the light shining through.

I told this new friend I thought I knew where a dump was and when we went there we discovered it was a Victorian period dump. The first bottle that I dug was a 1907 soda. I was hooked! Over 50 years and I am still hunting and collecting bottles. A lifetime of fun.

At this past meeting Bob Ford and Steve Charing presented the history of the club. This September marks its 55th anniversary. Steve Charing provided copies of a booklet that he had prepared for the 30th anniversary. It is very well done, full of information and worth the read.

At the next meeting on October 10, 2025, Dr. Alex Hartman, who is a board member, will be sharing about his collection of Rheumatic Cures. We meet at the Towson Presbyterian Church. The doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins promptly at 7:00 pm. Remember to bring theme bottles and bottles to trade or sell. Don't forget your badge for a chance to win a bottle.

Looking forward to seeing you there. ~Tom

CLUB WEBSITES

<https://www.baltimorebottleclub.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/baltimorebottleclub>

MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

All meetings held at:
Towson Presbyterian Church
400 West Chesapeake Ave
Towson, MD 21204

October 10, 2025

Alex Hertzman,
Rheumatic Cures

November 14, 2025

Bill Thomas, Whimsies

December 12, 2025

Party, Rita for trays

January 9, 2026

Andy Agnew, TBD

February 13, 2026

Rick Lease – TBD

March 13, 2026

John Lowry, TBD

April 10, 2026

Shawn Peters, Stoneware

This newsletter of the Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc. is published monthly January through December. It is sent to all members who are in good standing, the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors and other clubs on an exchange basis. Permission is granted to quote or reprint any article or matter published herein provided proper credit is given and rights are not otherwise prohibited. Items for inclusion in future issues are welcome and should be forwarded to the editor, John Lowry, at jlowryrxp@gmail.com or mailed to 4116 Queen Mary Drive, Olney, MD 20832 by the 20th of each month. Submitted material may be edited for content spelling and grammar.

Our New Meeting Spot

All meetings are now being held on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm in our new location! See you at Towson Presbyterian Church, 400 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson on 10/10/25 .



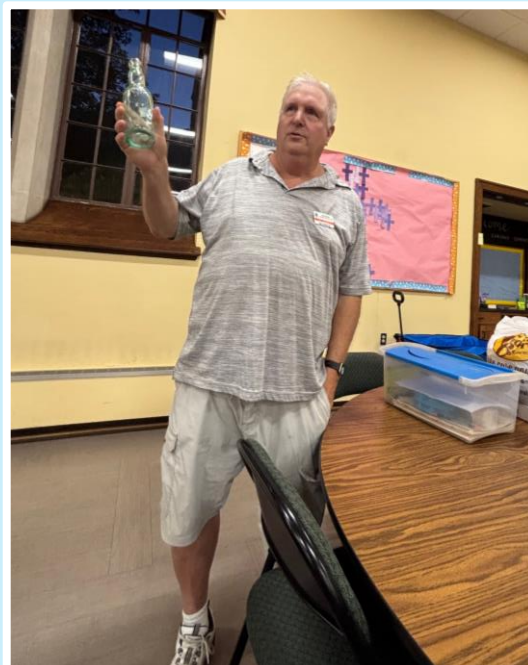
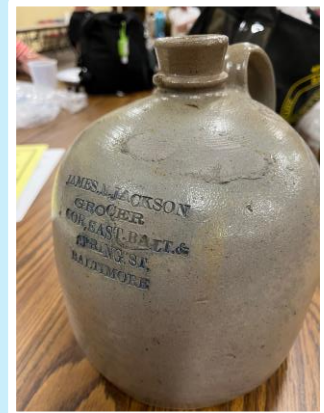
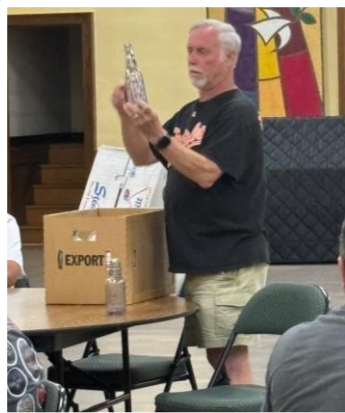
9/12/25 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ We started by checking out the new meeting hall and learning more about the space.
- ❖ Tom, Andy, Rick, Shawn, and Nic showed off their awesome summer finds (you can see the photos on the next page!).
- ❖ Steve Charing and Bob Ford gave a great presentation on the club's history (the presentation summary is included later in the newsletter along with links to the full presentation and to the first 30-years document written by Steve Charing).
- ❖ Nic Queen discussed and displayed a variety of September-themed bottles brought in by club members.
- ❖ We took a pizza break—grabbed a slice, swapped stories, and got a closer look at the bottles and history documents from the presentation.



- ❖ Congratulations to Walter Weiss for winning both the Raffle (Ma & Pa Carter Inks from ~1910) and Badge (Whiskey Bottle from Towson circa 1900) bottles! See October's Raffle and Badge Bottles on a later page in the newsletter.





Club History

Presented By Steve Charing and Bob Ford at the September 12, 2025 Club Meeting

A summarized version of the presentation is included below. The full presentation [can be accessed through this link](#).

This month marks our club's 55th anniversary. Here are some of the club's key milestones:

- The first meeting was held September 15, 1970, in Towson, organized by Dan W. McAdams. The club started as Baltimore Bottle Hounds with a small group of collectors.
- Bylaws were added in 1973, and meetings began taking place regularly on the second Friday each month.
- Membership grew steadily, leading to the club's name change to Baltimore Antique Bottle Hounds, reaching 52 members by the end of the '70s.
- In September 1980, a successful exhibit inspired the launch of annual bottle shows. The first show happened March 8, 1981, at the Ramada Inn.
- Our name became Baltimore Antique Bottle Club in February 1982; bylaws were updated accordingly.
- Shows expanded, attracting hundreds of attendees and growing membership to 150 by 1984.
- Notable initiatives included tracking local bottles (published as the Baltimore Bottle Book in 1998) and bus trips to other clubs' shows.
- Venue changes occurred over the years: from schools to hotels, then to Essex Community College for 25 years, and lately to Howard County Fairgrounds.
- The club's newsletter evolved, and holiday parties, picnics, contests, and educational programs became regular features.
- A Distinguished Service Award was created in 1999 to honor dedicated members.
- The club launched its website in 2003, which later won the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors' Best Website award in 2013.

Recent Milestones (2000–2025):

- The club faced challenges like the events of September 11, 2001, and the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting with venue and schedule changes.
- Despite setbacks, including the cancellation of the 2021 show, the club continued to hold well-attended events and publish new editions of the Baltimore Bottle Book.
- The 25th show in 2005 was commemorated by the county executive, and a club table was dedicated to Ferd Meyer in 2006.
- Our website became essential for promotion and communication.
- Outings to historical sites remained popular, and the club maintained an excellent reputation among bottle collecting organizations.

In summary, BABC's history is marked by adaptability, growth, and ongoing commitment to its members and the hobby.

For more details about the first 30 years, [follow the link to this handout](#) that was written by Steve Charing for the 30-year celebration. It gives a comprehensive description of club events up until the turn of the millennium.

**Tom
Robusto**

Tom became a member of the Baltimore Bottle Club in 1982. A Baltimore native, he enjoys collecting a wide variety of bottles, a passion that stems from the diverse finds he unearths while digging. His interest in bottles began in 1968 when, at just 16 years old, he dug up his first bottle: a soda bottle from 1907 with "Northwestern Bottling Works, Washington, DC" embossed on it.



His collection is extensive, but Tom has a particular fondness for colored beverages. This interest led him to embark on a quest to collect Hutchinson sodas from all 50 states, a goal he completed about three years ago. His collection also includes other colored bottles in various shapes, such as ponies, squats, torpedoes, and gravitaters.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**David Hefner**

David, our newest member, collects "Anything Old"! He enjoys acquiring antique items through metal detecting, creek hunting and scouring fields for arrowheads. The size of his collection will only continue to grow because according to Dave - "I don't part with anything!" Please introduce yourself to Dave at the next meeting.

NEWS & NOTES

All meetings are now being held on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm in our new location!
Towson Presbyterian Church
400 West Chesapeake Avenue,
Towson.

- ❖ All members are encouraged to bring in a bottle that corresponds to an event that happened in the month of the current MEETING. Events in history for the month are included at the end of each newsletter to provide ideas. The bottle does not have to be spot-on, but should somehow relate to the events outlined.
- ❖ Suggestions for topics in upcoming newsletters? Email the editor, John Lowry, at jlowryrxp@gmail.com.

SOME UPCOMING BOTTLE SHOWS

Check out the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors' website for additional upcoming bottle shows <https://fohbc.org/events/>

October 3 @ 10:00 am - October 4 @ 3:00 pm

Sacramento Valley Museum Antique Bottle Show
Sacramento Valley Museum 1491 E Street, Williams, CA,
United States

October 4 @ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pickens South Carolina 3rd Annual Antique Bottle Show &
Sale The Market at the Mill 225 Pumpkintown Hwy, Pickens,
SC, United States

October 4 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

53rd Richmond Antique Bottle & Collectibles Show
Chesterfield County Fairgrounds 10300 Courthouse Road,
Chesterfield, VA, United States

October 4 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

8th Annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Bottle & Collectibles Show
& Sale Joppa Shrine Temple 13280 Shriners Blvd, Biloxi, MS,
United States

October 11 @ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

12th Annual Fayette, Alabama Collectible Bottles & Antiques
Show and Sell Boy Scouts of America Building 100 3rd
Avenue, Fayette, AL, United States

October 12 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Keene Bottle Show & Sale Keene High School 43 Arch Street,
Keene, NH, United States

October 18 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Forks of the Delaware Bottle Collectors Association 50th
Annual Bottle and Antique Show & Sale Macungie Memorial
Park Hall 50 Poplar Street, Macungie, PA, United States

October 19 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Findlay Antique Bottle Club 48th Annual Antique Bottle &
Collectibles Show & Sale Owens Community College,
Education & Wellness Center 3200 Bright Road, Findlay,
OH, United States

October 24 @ 8:00 am - October 25 @ 2:30 pm

Tennessee Bottle Collectors Sixth Annual Show Wilson
County Fairgrounds, Tennessee Building 945 E. Baddour
Parkway, Lebanon, TN, United States

October 26 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

1st Chicago Bottle Club Show and Sale Holiday Inn Chicago
SW - Countryside 6201 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL, United
States

November 2 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Tri-State Bottle Collectors and Diggers Club 52nd Annual
Antique Bottle & Collectibles Show and Sale AETNA Hose
Hook & Ladder Banquet Hall 410 Ogletown Road, Newark,
DE, United States Please note the location!

November 9 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

North Jersey Antique Bottle Collectors Association's 55th
Annual Antique Bottle Show and Sale Pompton Lakes Elks
Lodge No. 1895 1 Perrin Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ,
United States



Officers 2025-2026

President.....Tom Robusto
Vice President.....Rick Lease
Secretary.....Rita Miller
Treasurer.....Karen Lease
Membership.....Chuck Meyer

Board Members 2025-2026

Alex Hertzman
Bob Ford
Andy Agnew
John Lowry

Show Chairman.....Shawn Peters
Co-Show Chairman.....Micah Dolina
Sargeant at Arms.....Dave Davenport

October Bottles



Raffle Bottle

¼ pint whiskey bottle /
Christmas giveaway
from around 1900

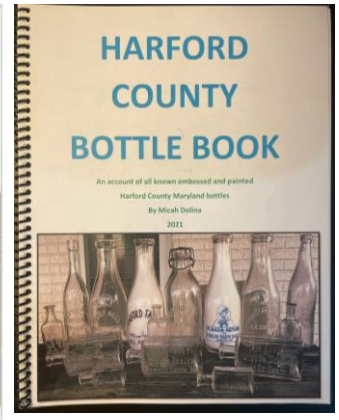
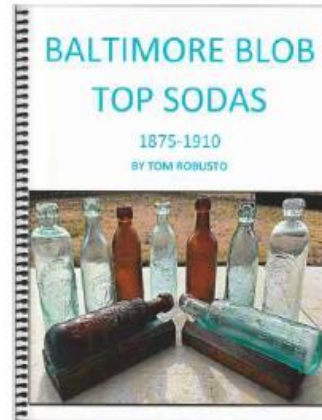


Badge Bottle

Large, Thomas Heffner,
crown top, unlisted as
crown top / only listed as
a blob top – early 1900's

Bottle Books

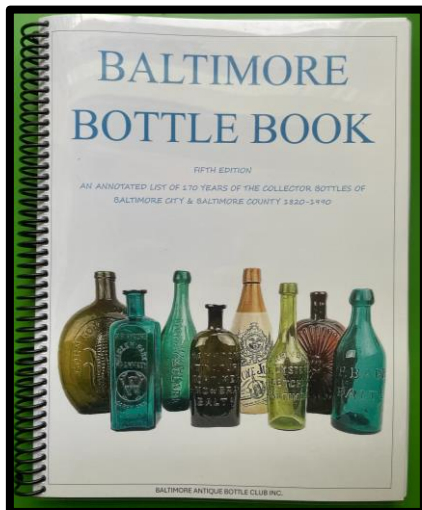
Check out these books written by BABC
members, Tom Robusto and
Micah Dolina



REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR BADGE AT ALL CLUB MEETINGS

CLUB MERCHANDISE

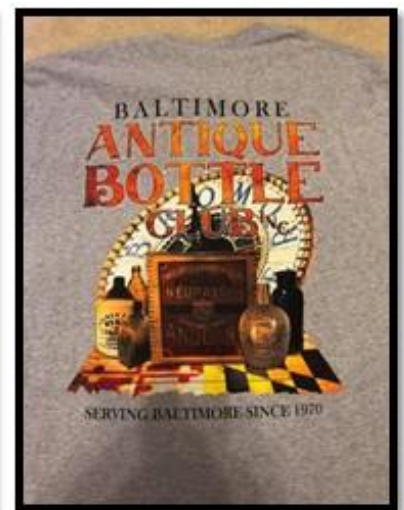
Books and shirts will be available at all club functions



Baltimore Bottle Book \$30



Baltimore Bottle Club Shirts – Sizes S-3XL Available - \$20



Hats - One size fits all \$20

Please contact Rick or Chuck with ideas to maintain
and grow membership in the Club.

THINK THEME BOTTLES - THIS DAY IN HISTORY

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER BY DAY (<http://holidayinsights.com/history>)

- 1:** John Philip Sousa becomes the Director of the US Marine Corps Band. (1880) | The first issue of National Geographic hits the newsstand. (1888) | Yosemite National Park was established. (1890) | The Television series “The Twilight Zone” premiered. (1959) | Walt Disney World opens in Orlando, Florida. (1971)
- 2:** Peanuts comic strip by Charles Schultz first appears in newspapers. (1950) |
- 3:** Captain Kangaroo premieres on television. (1955) | The “Mickey Mouse Club” premieres on television. (1955) | Frank Robinson becomes major league baseball’s first black manager for the Cleveland Indians. (1974)
- 4:** The Orient Express train takes off on its first trip from Paris to Istanbul. (1883) | Founder Julian Assange launches WikiLeaks. (2006)
- 5:** The World Series was broadcast on radio for the first time. (1921)
- 6:** Thomas Edison showed the 1st motion picture. (1889) | The first Physician’s Assistants graduate from Duke University. (1967) | “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” premieres on television. (2000)
- 7:** “Cats” premieres on Broadway. It is the second longest-running play ever. (1982) |
- 8:** The Great Chicago Fire levels 3 1/2 square miles of the city. According to legend, Mrs. O’Leary’s cow started the fire. (1871)
- 9:** The general public was first admitted into the Washington Monument. (1888) | Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus performs its last show, a victim of falling attendance, animal rights protests, and high operating cost. (2018)
- 10:** Griswald Lorillard of Tuxedo Park, NY cuts the tails off a tailcoat, creating the first tuxedo. (1886) | Spiro Agnew becomes just the second person to resign as Vice President of the United States. Pleaded no contest to income tax evasion. (1973)
- 11:** Saturday Night Live premieres on television. (1984) | Space Shuttle Challenger astronaut Kathryn Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space. (1984)
- 12:** The very first Oktoberfest is held in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. (1810)
- 13:** The U.S. Continental Navy was created. See Navy Day (1775) | The cornerstone was laid for the Whitehouse. (1792)
- 14:** Martin Luther King Jr was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (1971)
- 15:** “I Love Lucy Show” premiered on television. (1951) | U.S. Department of Transportation was created. (1966) | Oscar the Grouch premieres on children’s television show Sesame Street. (1969) See More: National Grouch Day.
- 16:** Marie Antoinette was guillotined for treason. (1793) | Cuban Missile Crisis begins. (1962)
- 17:** Mobster Al Capone was convicted of income tax evasion. (1931)| Joe Pedott of San Francisco, CA applies for a U.S. patent for the Chia Pet. See Chia Pet Day. (1977)

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER BY DAY (continued)

18: The United States purchased the territory of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2M. What a deal that was!! (1867)

19: The Revolutionary War ended. (1781) | The Senate passed a bill making Martin Luther King's Birthday a national holiday. (1983)

20: Chinese uprising in the Philippines fails after 23,000 are killed. (1603) | US Senate ratifies the Louisiana Purchase. (1803)

21: "Old Ironsides", the USS Constitution was launched in Boston, MA. (1797) | Thomas Edison invented the incandescent electric lamp. (1879)

22: Polish born Karol Józef Wojtyła becomes Pope John Paul II. He is the first non-Italian to become pope in 455 years. (1978)

23: 25,000 women march in New York City demanding the right to vote.(1915)

24: Anna Edison Taylor is the first person to survive going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. (1901) | Black Thursday stock market panic. Investors panicked and dumped over 13 million shares of stock. The market then rallied for a few days before the crash on October 29. (1929) | October 24, 1945 – The United Nations came into existence. (1945)

25: U.S. forces invade Grenada. (1983)

26: The Erie Canal opens, connecting Lake Erie to the Hudson River for commercial shipping. It is the first manmade waterway. (1825) | The "Gunfight at the OK Corral" occurs. Wyatt Earp, his two brothers, and "Doc" Holliday, have a shootout with the Ike Clanton gang. (1881)

27: The New York Subway opens. (1904) | The Controlled Substance Act becomes law. Among the illegal substances are: cannabis, marijuana, heroin, and LSD. (1970)

28: Harvard University is founded in Cambridge, MA. (1636) | France presents the U.S. with the Statute of Liberty. (1886) | The Gateway Arch in St. Louis is completed. It was built as a tribute to Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase. (1965)

29: The New York Stock Exchange crashed on what became known as "Black Tuesday", starting the Great Depression. Prices plummeted and billions of dollars were lost. (1929) | The Internet is created when the first bits and bytes of data are sent between computers at UCLA and Stanford Research Institute. (1969)

30: Orson Wells' "War of the Worlds" is broadcast on the radio, sparking panic as listeners believed the news bulletins about a Martian invasion. (1938)

31: Magician Harry Houdini dies from complications of a ruptured appendix. (1926) | Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated. (1984)



Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc.

www.baltimorebottleclub.org

2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM



NAME _____

☐ RENEWAL

☐ NEW MEMBER

☐ INDIVIDUAL

☐ FAMILY

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ (for email notifications and newsletter)

WHAT TYPE(S) OF BOTTLES DO YOU COLLECT? _____

OK TO LIST ON THE WEBSITE? If YES, check here: ☐

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at 7:00 pm

at Towson Presbyterian Church.

The meeting site and schedule will be published in the newsletter and on the website.

Dues are \$20 for an Individual or a Family \$20 Dues Enclosed: _____

PLEASE SEND FORM AND CHECK TO ADDRESS BELOW, OR BRING TO MEETING

Make checks payable to **Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc.**

Mail renewal to:

Chuck Meyer
BABC Membership Chair
P. O. Box 36061
Towson, MD 21286-6061

OR bring Form and payment to a meeting and give to Chuck Meyer or Karen Lease, Treasurer

To Be Completed by Membership Chairperson:

Date Received: _____ Cash: \$ _____ Check: \$ _____ # _____