



Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc

# BALTIMORE BOTTLE DIGGER

January 2026

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Christmas party was a huge success. Thank you to all who planned, helped with set up and clean up, and brought items to share. The party would not be possible without those working behind the scenes.

Regarding inclement weather, we will follow Baltimore County Public School's policy. If schools are closed due to bad weather or dismiss early on the day of the club meeting, we will not meet.

January's meeting will be Best Finds and Best Acquired. Club members will vote and there will be first and second place prizes awarded. You must be a club member with paid-up dues to participate.

Remember to wear your badge and bring bottles to sell.

There will be a Board meeting following the club meeting from 8:30 pm to 9:00pm.

~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

**January 9, 2026**  
Best Finds of 2025 Contest

**February 13, 2026**  
Rick Lease – Bottle Cleaning 101

**March 13, 2026**  
TBD

**April 10, 2026**  
Shawn Peters, Stoneware

**May 8, 2026**  
Karen Lease, Perfumes

**June 12, 2026**

**July 10, 2026**

**August 14, 2026**

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 [jlowryxp@gmail.com](mailto:jlowryxp@gmail.com) or mailed to 4116 Queen Mary Drive, Olney, MD 20832 by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Submitted material may be edited for content spelling and grammar.

# 12/12/25 MEETING

Our December meeting was a festive hit! We gathered for a wonderful holiday celebration filled with great food and even better company. The highlight of the evening was our high-energy "Bottle Bingo"—we zipped through 10 rounds, and a huge congratulations goes to **Doug Campbell**, who managed to win three of the ten games!

In addition to the games, members enjoyed browsing a fantastic selection of bottles available for purchase. To top off the night, **Debbie Lippincott** took home the prize as our lucky 50/50 raffle winner.





# 2025 BABC Holiday Party





# BOTTLE BINGO

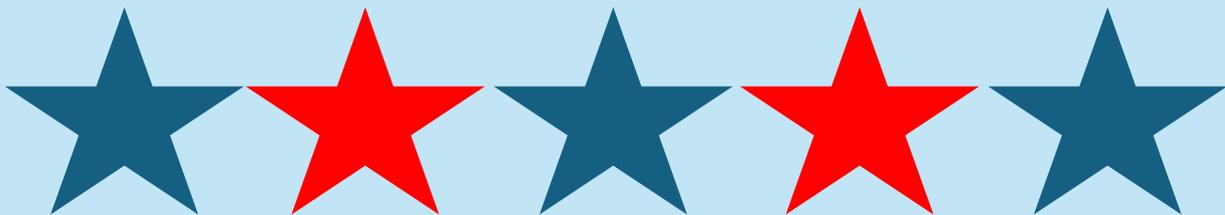


Ten games were played. Steve & Bob were the callers.



And the winners were...  
Game 1: Debbie Lippincott | Game 2: Doug Campbell  
Game 3: Brent Eckberg | Game 4: Rick Lease  
Game 5: Doug Campbell | Game 6: Karl Routzahn  
Game 7: Doug Campbell | Game 8: Micah Dolina  
Game 9: Melissa B. | Game 10: Eric Ewen





# THE BEST OF 2025

The January Meeting of the Baltimore Antique Bottle Club will take place on Friday January 9th at Towson Presbyterian Church 400 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204 at 7pm.

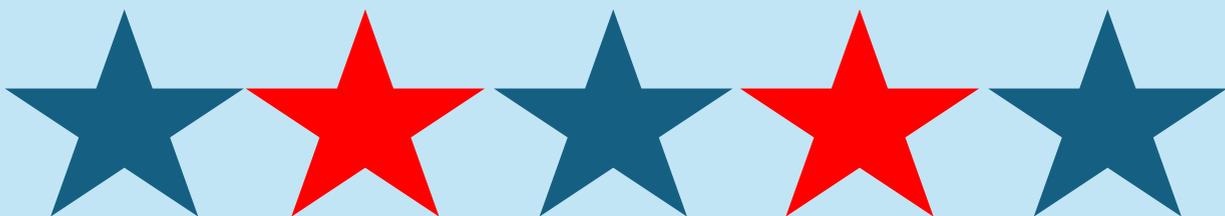
The program is the "**Best of 2025**" **Contest** for judging by the members.

## **Contest Rules :**

- ❖ Entrant must be a BABC member in good standing and must be present.
- ❖ If your 2026 dues have not been paid, you must do so prior to the meeting to be eligible.
- ❖ The item must have been dug/acquired by the person named. It must have been dug/acquired during 2025.
- ❖ One item per category allowed per member.
- ❖ Item cannot be entered in multiple categories.
- ❖ Entry sheet must be completed in numerical sequence to facilitate the voting/tallying.
- ❖ Actual bottle/item must be physically present; no photographs or other representations permitted.

The categories are Best Dug Bottle, Best Baltimore Bottle, Best Acquired Bottle and Best Go-With.

Bring bottles. New members always welcome.





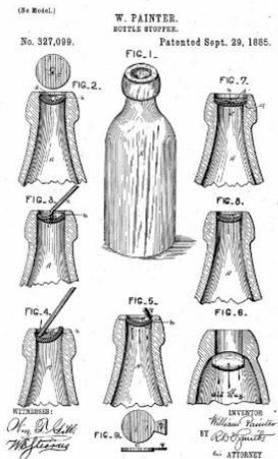
# BOTTLE BRAIN

## Explain the background, use and reach of the “Baltimore Loop Seal” system.

The “**Baltimore Loop Seal**” was an early type of bottle closure system invented in Baltimore in the late 19th century that played a transitional role in the development of modern beverage packaging.

The Baltimore Loop Seal was invented by **William Painter**, a Baltimore-area machinist and inventor working in the 1880s. He was seeking better ways to seal carbonated beverages like beer and soda, whose internal pressure made traditional cork stoppers unreliable.

- Painter received **U.S. Patent No. 327,099** on **September 29, 1885** for a bottle stopper that became known as the **Baltimore Loop Seal** (sometimes simply “bottle seal”).
- The name “**loop**” refers to a wire loop attached to a rubber disc that served as the seal — the consumer could grab the loop to pull the closure out of the bottle.
- The seal consisted of a **rubber disk** sized to fit inside a groove formed on the inside of the bottle neck. When inserted, the internal pressure of a carbonated drink pushed the seal into the groove, forming a tight seal. A **wire loop** embedded in the seal allowed it to be removed. This was an improvement over corks — it was cheap, reasonably effective at holding carbonation, and simple to use.
- Bottles had to be specially made with an internal groove for the loop seal — the finish (top of the bottle) did not have a distinctive external look, but the internal groove identifies such bottles to collectors today.
- The Baltimore Loop Seal saw moderate adoption in the late 1880s into the early 1900s, especially on beer and some soda bottles.
- Its popularity varied by region; it was more common in certain areas — including Baltimore and some Midwest markets — but not universally adopted everywhere.



The Baltimore Loop Seal was relatively short-lived as industrial bottling advanced. It was gradually replaced by newer closure technologies, most importantly by Painter’s own invention of the **crown cork** (bottle cap), which proved for sealing carbonation. By the early 20th century, the crown cork/bottle cap and later screw caps became the dominant closures globally, and the loop seal faded from common use.

# Rick Lease



**\* How long have you been a member?**

I joined the club in 1981 not long after attending the club's second show at a hotel on Security Blvd.

**\* Do you have a club memory or story you could share?**

Having been involved in the club for as long as I have there have been many "favorite memories". I think number one was the many club picnics that I enjoyed at Herb & Mabel Close's house. There was always a big crowd and great food and activities. And I should probably mention the crabs

**\* What do you collect?**

What I collect is somewhat diverse. I started in the hobby collecting Fruit Jars. I started digging when I was about 14 and my first "big" find was an Atlas Ez-Seal jar which started me on Jars. That grew to eventually consist of about 1500 jars. I've downsized since. I started collecting colored Baltimore pharmacy bottles in the 1990s which evolved into all Baltimore bottles and jars. On the flip side I've had a country store simulation in my house since I have owned this house. I worked in the real thing as a teenager.

**\* What is your favorite find or acquisition?**

I found that I had to mentally separate my best find from my favorite find because it's easy to equate high value finds with favorites. In this case they are almost the same. Attached is a pic of my favorite. It is a 3-gallon GEM fruit jar that was created as an exhibition piece for the Philadelphia Exhibition in 1876. There were 20 of them created to fill a shelf at the show and I think there are 3 left. Believe it or not I had a dream where I was walking through an alley somewhere in Baltimore where there were large fruit jars on pedestals everywhere I looked. I took that as a sign and went on a search and found this one about 30 years ago.



**\*\* All meetings are being held on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm in our new location! Towson Presbyterian Church 400 West Chesapeake Ave**

❖ 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 John Lowry, at [jlowryxp@gmail.com](mailto:jlowryxp@gmail.com).

# SOME UPCOMING BOTTLE SHOWS

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

**January 15, 2026 - January 17, 2026**

Midwest Antique Fruit Jar and Bottle Club's 2026 Convention - Horizon Convention Center/Marriott Courtyard 401 High Street, Muncie, IN

**January 17, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

4th Annual Carolinas Antique Bottle & Collectibles Show - The Charles Mack Citizen Center 215 N. Main St, Mooresville, NC

**January 17, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Mississippi Antique Bottle Club's 41st Annual Bottle Advertising & Collectible Show - Trade Mart Building Mississippi Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS

**January 18, 2026 @ 8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

2nd Annual Connecticut Antique Bottle Show & Sale - Joanna's Restaurant Banquet Room 145 Main Street Route 190, Somers, CT

**January 23, 2026 - January 24, 2026**

Superior California Bottle Club's 49th Annual Antique Bottle & Collectible Show & Sale - Shasta District Fairgrounds, Fusaro Hall 1690 2nd Street, Anderson, CA

**February 1, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Milwaukee Antique Bottle and Advertising Show Waukesha County Expo Center 1000 Northview Road, Waukesha, WI

**February 1, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

New Jersey Antique Bottle Club's 31st Annual Antique Bottle Show & Sale - VFW of Manville 600 Washington Ave, Manville, NJ

**February 13, 2026 - February 14, 2026**

Phoenix Antiques, Bottles & Collectibles Club's 2026 Antique Show & Sale - El Saribah Shriner Auditorium 552 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ

**February 13, 2026 - February 14, 2026**

Suncoast Antique Bottle Collectors Show & Sale Sons of Italy Hall 3315 W. Lemon Street, Tampa, FL

**February 27, 2026 - February 28, 2026**

Washington Bottle & Collectors Assn's Antiques, Bottle & Collectibles 2 Day Show & Sale - Kent Commons 525 4th Ave N, Kent, WA

**February 28, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Central Texas Bottle, Jar, Insulator, Pottery/Stoneware, Breweriana, Advertising and Collectibles Show - Old Settlers Park Events Center 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd (E. US 79), Round Rock, TX

**February 28, 2026 @ 9:30 am - 2:00 pm**

West Michigan Antique Bottle Club's 35th Annual Antique Bottle Show & Sale - Fonger American Legion Post 2327 Wilson, S.W., Grand Rapids, MI - Free admission. No early admission. Dealer set up: 8:00 - 9:30 am.

# BALTIMORE ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB

## 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale

### Sunday, March 29, 2026

HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

-MAIN EXHIBITION HALL-

2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, MD 21794

Exit 80 on Interstate 70

Doors Open 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

*\*Food Vendors on site*

*Bottles, Jars, Insulators, Stoneware, Advertising, Breweriana, Small  
Antiques, Etc.*

The Largest one-day Bottle show in the world! — over 300 tables

Donation \$5 - Children Under 12 Free

**NO DOGS PERMITTED IN BUILDING**

For Information Contact:

Shawn Peters - Show Director

Telephone: (240)508-1032 Email: [baltimorebottleshow.babc@gmail.com](mailto:baltimorebottleshow.babc@gmail.com)

For Contracts: Micah Dolina

Email: [mdolina@hotmail.com](mailto:mdolina@hotmail.com)



@baltimorebottleshow.babc

For More Information see:

[www.baltimorebottleclub.org](http://www.baltimorebottleclub.org)





## RAFFLE BOTTLE

Summer/Winter quart whiskey flask (with bird). Probably 1880s. Maker unknown.

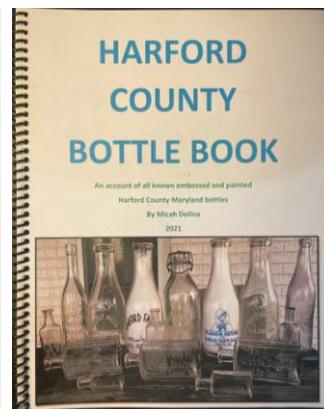
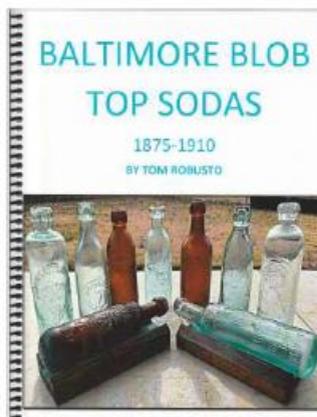


## BADGE BOTTLE

Small Bunker Hill pickle bottle from the 1890's.

## Bottle Books

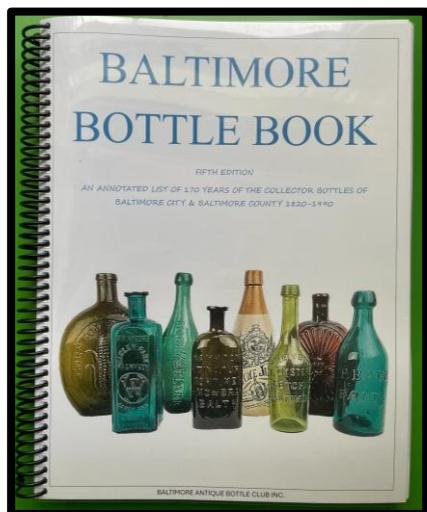
Check out these books written by BABC members, Tom Robusto and Micah Dolina



**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 JANUARY BY DAY (<http://holidayinsights.com/history>)

**January 1** The Julian calendar is first used. (45 B.C.) The Old Farmer's Almanac hits the newsstands and bookstores for the first time. (1818) [Emma M. Nutt](#) becomes the first woman telephone operator. (1878) The first Rose Bowl Parade was held. The first Rose Bowl football game was played in 1902, to help pay for the cost of the parade. (1890) New York City's New Year celebration introduces the "Ball Drop". It begins to fall in the last 10 seconds of 1907 and lands in 1908. (1907/1908)

**January 2** Mahatma Gandhi begins his march for peace in East Bengal. (1947)

**January 3** Martin Luther is excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X. (1521) Construction begins on the Brooklyn Bridge. (1870)

**January 4** Columbia University is founded as Kings College in New York City. (1754) Samuel Colt sells his first revolver pistol to the U.S. government. (1847)

**January 5** President Richard M. Nixon signs a bill to spend \$5.5B over 6 years to build and test a space shuttle. (1972)

**January 6** Samuel Morse demonstrates the telegraph. (1838)

**January 7** Astronomer Galileo Galilei discovers four of Jupiter's moons. (1610)

**January 8** President George Washington delivers the first State of the Union Address. (1790) In his State of the Union address, President Lyndon B. Johnson declares his "War on Poverty Program". (1964) The United Nations opens its headquarters in New York City. (1951)

**January 9** The world's first underground passenger railway system opens in London, England. (1863)

**January 11** Samuel Morse and Alford Vail demonstrate the magnetic electric telegraph using [Morse code](#). (1838) American League baseball adopts the "Designated Hitter" rule. (1973)

**January 12** Batman debuts on television. (1966) The television comedy "All in the Family" premieres. (1971)

**January 13** Germany's Adolf Hitler declares "Total War" against the Allies. (1943)

**January 14** The United States of America ratifies a treaty with England ending the Revolutionary War. (1784) The Miami Dolphins defeat the Washington Redskins in Superbowl VII, and become the first undefeated team in NFL history. (1973) The Simpsons debut on television. Will TV ever be the same again!?! (1990)

**January 15** The Pentagon opens. It is the world's largest office building at 6.5 million square feet. (1943) Green Bay beats Kansas City in the first NFL Super Bowl at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. (1967) Happy Days premieres on television. (1974)

**January 16** Operation Desert Storm begins to oust Saddam Hussein's' Iraqi forces from Kuwait. (1991)

**January 17** Andrew Hallikie receives a patent for a cable car system in San Francisco. It begins service in 1873. (1873) The U.S. Supreme Court rules that taping on home VCRs does not violate copyright laws. (1984)

**January 18** Captain James Cook discovers the Hawaiian Islands. (1778)

**January 19** Thomas Edison constructs the first electrical lighting system using overhead wires. (1883)

# HISTORICAL EVENTS IN JANUARY BY DAY (continued)

**January 20** The Beatles release “Meet the Beatles”, their first album to the U.S., sparking a new “English invasion”. (1964) At 69 years, 349 days old, Ronald Reagan becomes the oldest person to become U.S. president (1981). Years later, both presidents Joseph Biden and Donald Trump surpass this age record.

**January 21** Edward Jenner introduces the smallpox vaccine, which eventually leads to wiping out this deadly disease. (1799) The first Kiwanis club is formed in Detroit. (1915) Science fiction writer George Orwell dies. (1950)

**January 22** The historic Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade legalizes abortion. (1973) The world’s first vaccine against malaria is introduced. It saves one in three lives. (2024)

**January 23** The deadliest earthquake in history strikes Shansi, China, killing 830,000 people. (1556)

**January 24** Beer is first sold in cans. See [Beer Can Appreciation Day](#). (1935) WWII Yalta agreement is signed by the U.S., England, and Russia. The agreement defined how Germany would be divided and administered after the war’s end. (1945)

**January 25** The first Winter Olympic Games begin in Chamonix, France. (1924) The first Emmy awards are given out. (1949)

**January 26** Britain establishes a penal colony in Sydney, Australia when 11 ships with 778 convicts arrive. (1788) The Dental Drill was patented. Now open your mouth and say “Ahhh”. (1875)

**January 27** The Russian army liberates Auschwitz in WWII. (1945) Tragedy strikes the Apollo space program as a fire in the command module kills astronauts Lt. Col. Virgil “Gus” Grissom, Lt. Col. Edward H. White, and Lt. Cdr. Roger Chafee. (1967)

**January 28** The U.S. Coast Guard is created by an Act of Congress. (1915) U.S. space shuttle Challenger explodes 72 seconds after liftoff, killing the seven crew members. Among the crew was school-teacher, Christa McAuliffe. (1986)

**January 29** Hawaii proclaims Liliuokalani as its queen. Renowned for her song *Aloha Oe*, her reign lasts just four years. (1891) Baseball’s American League is founded. (1900)

**January 30** President Andrew Jackson survives the first assassination attempt on a U.S. President. (1835) Tet New Year offensive launched by Viet Cong guerillas in Vietnam. (1968) The Beatles held their last concert on the roof of their Apple Studio in London. It was interrupted when police received noise complaints from neighbors. (1969)

**January 31** U.S. House of Representatives approves a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. (1865) Confederates appoint Robert E. Lee as their Commander in Chief. (1865) Ida Fuller of Ludlow, VT receives the first Social Security. The monthly check was \$22.54. (1940)



## 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



# Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc.



www.baltimorebottleclub.org

## 2026 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

- RENEWAL                       NEW MEMBER
- INDIVIDUAL                       FAMILY

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ (for email notifications and newsletter)

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT TYPE(S) OF BOTTLES DO YOU COLLECT? \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at the Towson Presbyterian Church, 400 W. Chesapeake Ave., Towson, MD 21204. The meetings will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. but attendees are encouraged to arrive as early as 6:00 p.m.

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

**PLEASE SEND FORM AND CHECK TO ADDRESS BELOW.**

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

Mail check to:  
Chuck Meyer  
BABC Membership Chair  
P.O. Box 36061  
Towson, MD 21280-6061

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

To be completed by Membership Chair:

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