



Baltimore Antique Bottle Club, Inc

BALTIMORE BOTTLE DIGGER

March 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I was twelve years old when I first started bottle digging. A new family moved into the neighborhood, and I noticed they had a bay window full of colored bottles that had been dug along the Panama Canal. I mentioned that I knew where an old dump was, and the rest is history.

I had found the old Rockville, Maryland City Dump and we started digging. My first bottle was a dated 1907 soda bottle from Washington, DC. The company was the Northwestern Bottling Company. The bottle bug bit me and I was hooked.

My mom thought I was getting too many old bottles, so she suggested I set up at the Rockville Mall Antique Show from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. The bottles were priced from \$.50 to \$2. I remember selling Dr. Kilmer sample bottles for \$1.50-\$2. I had 50 of them and also had embossed medicines that I sold for \$.50. I must have had good bottles, as everyone wanted to know where I dug them. I made over \$250 at that first show. This was good money for a 13-year old! Minimum wage was around \$1.90 at that time.

Around this time, I also joined the Potomac Bottle Club in Alexandria, Virginia. I set up at two of their shows when I was 14 and 15 and I did very well.

I first attended the Baltimore Bottle Show on March 8, 1981 at the Ramada Inn. At that show, I first learned of the Baltimore Bottle Club. I started attending club meeting in 1982 and joined the club in 1984 when I moved to Baltimore. I have been active in the club since then.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting. Bring bottles to sell.

Happy hunting!
~ 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

March 13, 2026
Rick Lease, Bottle Cleaning 101

April 10, 2026
Bill Thomas, The Gillinder Glass
Company

May 8, 2026
Karen Lease, Perfumes

June 12, 2026
TBD

July 10, 2026
TBD

August 14, 2026
Club Picnic

September 11, 2026
TBD

October 9, 2026
TBD

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 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.

2/13/26 MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by Rita Miller, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Antique Bottle Club, Inc., was called to order at 7 pm by President Tom Robusto. It was followed by the Pledge to the Flag. We met at Towson Presbyterian Church on West Chesapeake Avenue. There were 29 people in attendance.

Shawn updated that security for the bottle show has been paid.

Glen Mansberger, Jr. gave an update on the food vendors: Jason's Seafood will be one of the vendors. The Barrel House on Route 152 on Belair Rd will also be there. Coffee will be available. Vendors can call in ahead of time and place an order.

Karen Lease gave the Treasurer's Report. Dealers were able to retain their past spot if they replied by the end of January. We paid \$500 for a highway sign to direct people to the bottle show. Federation Magazine was given \$240 for an ad. The holiday party expenses were paid for - \$269.

On Sunday, February 15 at 4 pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Cockeysville, the Hunt Valley Chorale will be giving a free concert. Two of our members, Andy Agnew and Karen Lease will sing at the concert. This is a fundraiser for their upcoming tour around Maryland. It will feature a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle along with the concert followed by refreshments in the church hall.

Chuck Meyer encouraged everyone to pay their dues. Check with him if you are unsure if you have paid or not.

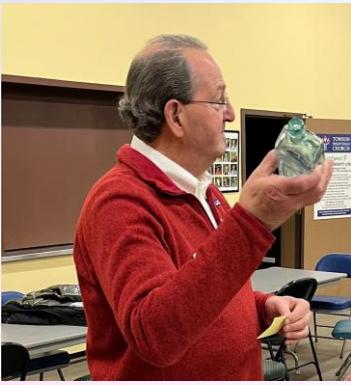
Micah stated that the bottle books are available for \$35 per book. They will be for sale at the show.

Tom Robusto has a Baltimore Book on sodas. He found a new bottle for the book here at the meeting tonight. Most are from 1854-1910 with pictures.

Theme bottle presentation was followed by pizza, soda and refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.





Sewing Machine Oil Bottle and Blood & Liver Syrup "Cure Bottle" from Cincinnati in the 1880's (based on a Bella Legosi original Dracula Movie) were submitted by Alex Hertzman.



A George Washington Whiskey Flask for President's Day was submitted by Rick Lease.



Up and Up Bottle – Alka Seltzer for the Stomach was submitted by Doug Campbell.



Green Bottle for Valentine's Day from the Reese Chemical Company, Cleveland, OH - 1890s was submitted by Andy Agnew



RAFFLE BOTTLE WINNER:
Bob Ford



BADGE BOTTLE WINNER:
John Lowry





BOTTLE BRAIN

How are the following types of glass made: Frosted; Milk glass, Carnival.

Frosted Glass

Frosted glass is clear glass that has been treated to create a translucent, matte surface that scatters light.

How it's made:

- Acid Etching

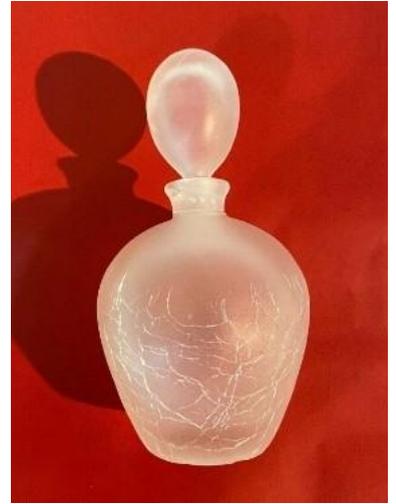
The surface is treated with hydrofluoric acid, which chemically roughens the glass. This produces a smooth, uniform frosted appearance. This method is commonly used for windows, shower doors, and decorative panels.

- Sandblasting (Abrasive Blasting)

Fine sand or another abrasive material is blasted at high speed onto the surface. This physically roughens the glass to create a frosted look. Stencils can be used to create patterns.

- Frosted Coatings (Modern Method)

Some frosted effects are created using sprayed or baked-on coatings that mimic etched.



Milk Glass

Milk glass is an opaque or translucent white glass.

How it's made:

- Standard glass ingredients (silica sand, soda ash, limestone) are melted in a furnace.

- Opacifying agents are added to make the glass white and opaque. Common opacifiers include: Tin oxide, Bone ash, Fluorides

These additives create tiny crystals or suspended particles inside the glass that scatter light, producing the “milky” look.

Milk glass has been made since ancient times but became especially popular in the 19th century.



BOTTLE BRAIN (continued)

Carnival Glass

Carnival glass is molded or pressed glass with an iridescent surface sheen.

How it's made:

- The glass object is formed (often pressed into molds).
- While still hot, metallic salts (often iron or other metal compounds) are sprayed onto the surface.
- The piece is reheated to fuse the metallic coating to the surface. This creates a thin metallic layer that refracts light, producing a rainbow-like shimmer.

Carnival glass became popular in the early 1900s, particularly through manufacturers like Fenton Art Glass Company, which helped popularize it in the United States.



* HELPING HANDS NEEDED *

Volunteers are needed for our upcoming Baltimore Antique Bottle Club Show scheduled for Sunday, March 29. Help is needed for the following roles:



Setup

Hand Stamping

Security

Clean Up

Contact Shawn or Micah if you are available. Sign-up sheets will also be at the next meeting.

BALTIMORE ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB

45th 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

For Contracts: Micah Dolina

Email: mdolina@hotmail.com



@baltimorebottleshow.babc

For More Information see:

www.baltimorebottleclub.org



March's CLUB MEMBER PROFILE

* How long have you been a member and what got you interested?

My younger brother collected bottles in the 70's and that's how I became interested. I've been a BABC member since 1992 when I joined after the club show in Timonium. My first meeting was at Ridgley Middle School in Towson. Former club president Jim Choplick had encouraged me to come back after the first meeting, and I'm grateful to him for that.

* What do you collect?

My main collection interests include Baltimore whiskeys, Baltimore colored and pontiled medicines, Baltimore sodas, beers, and any bottles from Canton and Highlandtown. I also collect food bottles, fire grenades, and some poison bottles.

* How do you grow your collection(s)?

My collections grow from bottle shows, eBay, and purchases at our club meetings. In addition, I buy bottles from various online auction houses.



Bob Ford



* What is your favorite find or acquisition?

I have many favorites, but the one stands out is my grouping of Shriver's Oyster Ketchups (pictured) because it combines Baltimore bottles, food bottles, pontiled bottles and the history behind them.

* Do you have a favorite club or collecting story that you could share?

I don't have a specific story, but the bottles I have acquired and the good people I had met at the club and at shows make the hobby worthwhile. I wish I had a story whereby I find a \$5,000 bottle and purchase it for \$5.00 as some people do, but I don't unfortunately.

CORRECTION to Cathy Robusto's Member Profile in the February 2026 Issue of the Baltimore Bottle Digger: *What is your favorite find? A nursing bottle shaped like a papoose that Tom found at a bottle show. It was made around **1864**.



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.

**** 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 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/>

March 1, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Central Ohio Bottle Club's 55th Annual Columbus Bottle Show - Franklin County Fairgrounds, Edwards Building 5035 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, OH, United States

March 13 @ 9:00 am - March 14 @ 4:00 pm

Chico/Oroville Antique Bottle Show & Sale Gold Country Casino Resort 4020 Olive Highway, Oroville, CA, United States

March 14 @ 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

San Gabriel Valley Vintage Market & Bottle Show - Duarte Elk's Lodge 2436 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA, United States

March 19, 2026 - March 21, 2026

Pepsi-Cola Collectors Club's 40th Annual Pepsi Fest - Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa 1800 Newton Pike, Lexington, KY, United States

March 20, 2026 - March 21, 2026

Oregon Bottle Collectors Association's Bottle, Antique & Collectibles Show & Sale - American Legion Hall 21510 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR, United States

March 21 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mobile Bottle Collectors Club's 53rd Annual Antique Bottle & Collectibles Show & Sale Daphne Civic Center 2603 US Hwy 98, Daphne, AL, United States

March 22 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Somers Antique Bottle Club Presents the 55th Annual Antique and Bottle Show and Sale Joanna's Restaurant Banquet Room 145 Main Street Route 190, Somers, CT, United States

March 22 @ 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Flint Bottle & Collectibles Club's 56th Annual Show & Sale - Dom Polski Hall 3415 N. Linden Road, Flint, MI, United States

March 29 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

19th Annual Kansas Territory Bottle, Insulator & Post Card Show & Sale - Kansas State Fairgrounds, Pride of Kansas Building 2000 N. Poplar Street, Hutchinson, KS, United States

March 29 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Baltimore Antique Bottle Club's 45th Annual Show & Sale - Howard County Fairgrounds Main Exhibition Hall 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD, United States



Officers 2025-2026

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

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

Board Members 2025-2026

Alex Hertzman
Bob Ford
Andy Agnew
John Lowry

MARCH BOTTLES



RAFFLE

Pontilled Jenny Lind
Calabash with
extreme bubble
character – 1850's

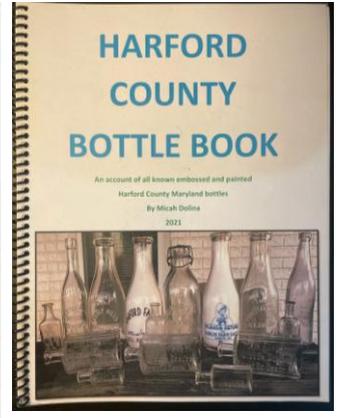
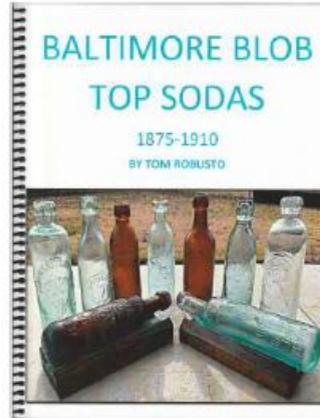


BADGE

Aqua Ayer's
Cherry Pectoral
from the 1880's

Bottle Books

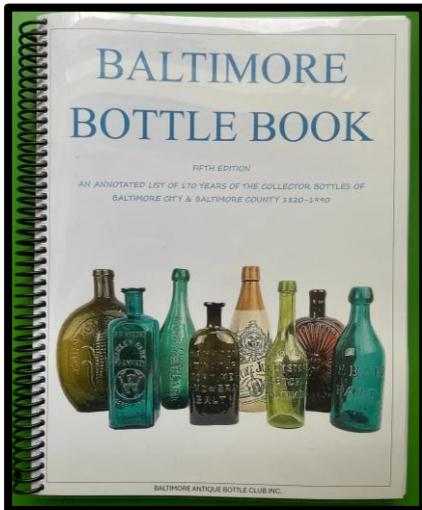
Check out these books written by BABC
members, Tom Robusto and
Micah Dolina



REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR BADGE AT ALL CLUB MEETINGS

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Books and shirts will be available at all club functions



Baltimore Bottle Book \$35



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

March 1 The U.S. Supreme Court convenes for the first time. (1790) Yellowstone becomes the U.S.'s first national park. (1872) A consortium of six companies completed work on the Hoover Dam. (1936) U.S. launches Explorer I, its first satellite. (1958) President John F. Kennedy issues an executive order creating the U.S. Peace Corps. (1961) Late Night with David Letterman premieres on NBC. (1982)

March 2 Texas declared its independence from Mexico. (1836) The friendly folks in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania celebrate the very first Ground Hog Day. (1887) The movie King Kong premieres. (1933) Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors scores 100 points in a basketball game. (1962)

March 3 Congress establishes the U.S. Mint. (1791) The U.S. Congress authorizes \$30,000 to study the feasibility of using camels for military purposes. (1855) George Dewey becomes the first Admiral of the U.S. Navy. (1899) A Congressional resolution makes the “Star Spangled Banner” the official U.S. anthem. (1931) President Calvin Coolidge dedicates Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. (1933) The Howard Stern Radio Show premieres in Fayetteville, NC. (1997)

March 4 The Constitution of the United States of America goes into effect. (1789) Claydon Sunny creates the song “Happy Birthday to You”. (1924) Mrs. Charles Fahning of Buffalo N.Y. is the first woman to bowl a perfect 300 game. (1930) John Lennon proclaims “We (Beatles) are more popular than Jesus.” (1966)

March 5 The Boston Massacre occurred. (1770) Samuel Colt manufactures the first pistol, the 34-caliber “Texas”. (1836) C.H. Gould patents the Stapler in England. (1868) Martha Stewart is convicted of Obstructing Justice, a felony. (2004)

March 6 The battle of the Alamo ends as Mexican forces overwhelm and kill all defenders. (1836) Felix Hoffmann at German Bayer company patents aspirin. (1899) James Wright invented Silly putty in 1943. Seven years later, marketing consultant Peter Hogson marketed it as a toy with great success. (1950) Boxing great Cassius Clay converts to Islam and changes his name to Muhammad Ali. (1964) Well-known and loved Walter Cronkite signs off as anchorman of the CBS Evening News. (1981)

March 7 Baseball determines that nine innings constitutes a full game, not nine runs. (1857) Alexander Graham Bell patents the Telephone. (1876) The Monopoly board game is invented. (1933) Charlie Sheen is fired from the CBS comedy sitcom “Two and a Half Men”. (2011)

March 8 King III is officially recognized as the Supreme Head of the Church of England by the Convocation of Canterbury. (1531) The New York Stock Exchange is founded. (1817) The first stock car race is run at Daytona Beach. (1936) President Ronald Reagan calls the USSR an “Evil Empire”. (1983) Baseball great Joe DiMaggio dies. (1999)

March 9 Kissing is banned in Naples, Italy, and punishable by death. (1562) Ironclad ships the Monitor and the Merrimack battle in the Civil War. (1862) Mattel debuts Barbie dolls at the International American Toy Fair in New York City. See Barbie Doll Day (1959) The first Ford Mustang rolls off the assembly line. (1964)

March 10 The U.S. government issues paper money for the first time. (1862) Alexander Graham Bell places the world's first telephone call, to his assistant in the next room. (1876)

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN MARCH BY DAY (continued)

March 11 Mt. Etna in Sicily erupts in its largest eruption ever, killing over 15,000 people. (1669) The Blizzard of 1888, the most famous storm in American history begins. (1888) The ashes of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry are launched into space. (1997) Paul McCartney is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. (1997)

March 12 Coca Cola is sold in bottles for the first time in a candy store in Vicksburg, Mississippi. (1894) Girl Scouts of USA were founded by Juliette Low of Savannah, GA. (1912) Baseball great Joe DiMaggio agrees to a new contract with the NY Yankees and gets a \$6,250 raise. My, how times have changed! (1942) The song "Woolly Bully" by Sam the Sham and Pharaohs is released as a single. Karaoke anyone!? (1965)

March 13 Harvard University is named after clergyman John Harvard. (1939) The Senate begins the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson. (1868) Greenwood patented earmuffs, originally called the "Champion Ear Protector". See Ear Muff Day (1887) Work on the Boulder Dam is completed. (1936) Disney releases the movie "The Love Bug". (1969) Encyclopedia Britannica announces it will no longer produce a printed version of its encyclopedia. (2012)

March 14 Eli Whitney patents the Cotton Gin. (1794) German inventor Ferdinand von Zeppelin receives a U.S. patent for a "navigable balloon". (1899) George Eastman, the founder of Eastman Kodak Company, commits suicide rather than facing the ravages of cancer. (1932)

March 15 "The Ides of March" Julius Caesar is stabbed to death by Marcus Junius Brutus. (44 B.C.) Inventor Jesse W. Reno receives a patent for the world's first escalator. (1892) TGI Friday's opens their first restaurant, in NYC. (1965) After filing for bankruptcy, Toys R Us announces it will close all of its toy stores. (2018)

March 16 Professor Robert Goddard launches the first liquid-fuel rocket. (1926) General Motors produces their 100 millionth automobile, an Oldsmobile Toronado. (1968)

March 17 On this day everyone is a little bit Irish. It's Saint Patrick's Day! First Saint Patrick's Day parade in NYC. (1762) The rubber band was invented by Stephen Perry in London. Can you imagine life without them!?! (1845) Golda Meir becomes the first female Prime Minister of Israel. (1969)

March 18 The U.S. government approves the first pensions for government service. (1818) Shick introduces the first electric shaver to the marketplace (1931). Soviet Union cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov becomes the first person to take a space walk. (1965)

March 19 First International Women's Day, over 1 million men and women attend rallies around the world. (1911) Congress approves Daylight Savings Time. (1918)

March 20 Harriet Beacher Stowe publishes the book Uncle Tom's Cabin. (1852) The U.S. Navy commissions the first aircraft carrier, the USS Langley. (1922) "Colonel" Harlan Sanders creates the first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in North Corbin, KY. It proves to be "finger-lickin' good!" (1930) General Douglas McArthur escapes Japanese-occupied Philippines, vowing "I shall return!" (1941)

March 21 Persia is formally renamed Iran. (1935) The infamous Alcatraz prison is closed. (1963) Twitter is created. Social media will never be the same. (2006)

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN MARCH BY DAY (continued)

March 22 The first patent for a laser is issued to Arthur Schlow and Charles Townes. (1960) The Beatle's first album "Please, Please Me" is released in England. (1963)

March 23 Patrick Henry declares "Give me liberty, or give me death!" (1775) Elisha Otis installs the first elevator at 488 Broadway in New York City. (1857)

March 24 German scientist Robert Koch announces he has discovered the bacillus that causes Tuberculosis. (1882) Elvis Presley joins the U.S. Army. (1958) The Kennedy half dollar is put into circulation. (1964) The supertanker Exxon Valdez runs aground in Alaska's Prince William Sound and ruptures, spilling millions of gallons of oil. (1989)

March 25 The First Easter celebration is held. (31) RCA manufactures the first color television. (1954) The European Economic Community (ECC) is established by the Treaty of Rome. (1957) The Concorde jet makes its maiden supersonic flight. (1970)

March 26 Greek Astrologer and mathematician Ptolemy begins his observations of the heavens. (127) It's a sad day in the music world. Ludwig von Beethoven dies in Vienna, Austria. (1827) The Book of Mormon is published in Palmyra, New York. (1830) The Eastman Dry Plate and Chemical Company manufactures the first motion picture film. (1885) U.S. Marines raise the American flag at Iwo Jima. (1945)

March 27 Abraham Gesner receives a patent for kerosene. (1855) Fingerprints are used as evidence in a murder trial for the first time. (1909) The biggest earthquake ever recorded strikes Anchorage, Alaska. It measured 8.3 on the Richter scale. (1964)

March 28 Nathaniel Briggs patents the washing machine. (1797) The first ambulance goes into service. (1866) The city of Madrid falls to the forces of Francisco Franco, ending the Spanish Civil War. (1939) The AFL's NY Titans become the NY Jets. (1963) Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident occurs in Middletown, Pa. (1979)

March 29 At age 24, Ludwig von Beethoven debuts as a pianist in Venice (1795) Ice jams stop the flow of water over Niagara Falls. (1848) The Knights of Columbus is founded. (1882) Coca Cola is invented. (1886)

March 30 First recorded perihelion passage of Halley's Comet. (240 B.C.) Ether is used as an anesthesia for the first time by Doctor Crawford Long in Georgia. See Doctor's Day. (1842) A pencil with an attached eraser is patented by Hyman L. Lipman of Philadelphia, PA. (1858) The United States buys Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. (1867) The 15th Amendment goes into effect, giving black men the right to vote. (1870) Jeopardy debuts on television. (1964) The International Olympic Committee announces the postponement of the 2020 summer games until 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. (2020)

March 31 Wabash, Indiana claims to be the first town to be illuminated 100% by electricity. (1880) The Eiffel Tower opens in Paris, France. (1889) Daylight Savings Time goes into effect for the first time in the U.S. (1918)



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: \$ _____ # _____