



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Spring has finally Sprung. What a winter! It is early April when I write this report and I have already been in storms in California, Kentucky and Texas this week and I see some areas will be getting tornadoes and snow this weekend. Well maybe it should be April showers and snow bring May Flowers.

Boy, did I have a bottle show experience that I would like to mention. I will have the full story and pictures posted on the FOHBC web site but I just wanted to say congratulations to the San Luis Obispo Bottle Society. I have always heard that the Morro Bay, California bottle show, put on by the club, was an experience. Webb Tartaglia, who has forty years of show experience, as show chairman, orchestrates this quaint show, in the shadow of Morro Rock. Unfortunately, Morro Bay is a little out of the way for me, so I kind of set it aside and just wished I could go each year. Well I was finally able to go, though Elizabeth had to stay back and hold down the fort.

Besides seeing great bottles and displays at the show and meeting with many bottle collecting friends, I was also able to attend the dealer cook-out with steaks, sausage and wine tasting after the first afternoon of the show. Webb Tartaglia also puts on this traditional event. What a man and model for everything right about our hobby. Side trips to Monterey, Carmel, and Paso Robles kept the fun at high level with more bottle experiences, wine tastings and sight seeing. All bottle shows should be an experience and this one is a model of excellence. My hat is off.

Monitoring e-mails this week, I see that Steve Libbey, president of the Wisconsin Antique Bottle and Advertising Club is orchestrating a club dig. They will be visiting a 1870s hotel or spring water house and have a professional camera man coming along to video tape the event. Hopefully they will have a great dig and adventure. What a nice, creative way to again, create an experience and memories.

The Lexington National is progressing nicely and many of us are looking forward to the first three days of August. I spend a lot of time in Lexington for business and I have to say, this is a great city with history, horses and distilling. Having our Federation event here will be a real treat as we will be downtown at the Lexington Center which is connected to our host Hyatt

Regency Hotel. If you haven't reserved your table, show pass or banquet ticket, please do it soon so we can be better planned. The 'Run for the Roses' bottle competition event, and Glass Works Auctions, 'Thoroughbred Auction', will also anchor our 2014 Federation show. This is in addition to great seminars, bottle displays and our keynote address at the banquet by 'Mr. Bourbon'; Michael R. Veach, who will welcome the Banquet attendees to Kentucky Bourbon country and speak on Kentucky Bourbon history. Mr. Veach is associate curator of Special Collections at the Filson Historical Society. He is a bourbon historian and a member of the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame. He will be conducting a book-signing event along with other Kentucky Bourbon authors on Sunday during the show. I am so excited!

With all that we are doing for Lexington, we are also progressing mightily with the 2015 National Antique Bottle Show in Chattanooga, Tennessee thanks primarily to Federation Conventions Director, Tom Phillips. The Chattanooga Marriott Downtown will be the host hotel and is connected to the Chattanooga Convention Center where the event will be held. The banquet, "The Battle of Tennessee" bottle competition event, seminars, auction, and membership meetings will be held at the Marriott. Jack Hewitt and John Joiner are serving as show co-chairpersons and have been working hard to make this our 2015 'swan song'. Contracts and information will be available online prior to the Lexington show and hard copies will be available August 1st, at this years National show. Also, there are rumors of a great and historic California city being host to our first National Antique Bottle Show Convention in 2016!

April 1st has come and gone. This was the date for any Federation member to decide if they wanted to join the Federation Board in either an open position or challenged position. We are happy to report that we have a great slate of board members with a number of new faces. New ideas and directions are important. Our board represents our hobby and our membership and is the face of the future of bottle collecting. Membership is up, new clubs have joined and our path is paved. Look forward to some great news and progress with the Virtual Museum, digital membership options and the resurrection of Life Membership, should one decide. A full report will be given at the Lexington Membership Meeting.

We hope you like this issue of Bottles and Extras. Each issues seems to get better and better with more articles being submitted by our members. Please, tell us your story or about your collection, tell us about your digs or finds and get us any information that you would like to share. Every bottle has a story. We can put it in the magazine, on our web site and even post it on the Federation facebook page. Information is power and we can deliver.

I'll close this message by saying, be safe, enjoy your bottles and glass, be with your bottle friends and be thankful that we are all part of the greatest hobby ever.