



Issue No. 329

# *Bottles* *Along the* *Mohawk*



September 2021

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB

**ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS**

**DON'T MISS OUR  
SEPTEMBER 13 GIANT BOTTLE SALE!  
BRING SOME BOTTLES TO SELL**

**DETAILS ON PAGES 3 and 9 OF THIS NEWSLETTER**



Photos of Ron Weir  
doing his program on  
Lestoil Bottles at our  
meeting last month



**See page 2**

**IT WAS ABOUT THE COLOR**

# President's Message...



Greetings All,

I hope this message finds you all well. I would like to start off thanking Fred for filling in for me when I missed the last meeting. I am sure he did fine and Fred is a great speaker for sure.

I joined the club's Facebook page and it is very interesting for sure. I get notices every few days where another person has joined. Thank you to member Tom Andriach for managing our Facebook Page. Great job with that Tom!

Many clubs are still fighting to have their shows. All clubs that use any type of school or college can't have them. Baltimore the largest one day show in the country had to be canceled in September due to attendance limits at the college. Never fear these shows will be back in the future.

I had a chance to go out to the Madison Bouckville Show and even in the mud it was still fun. I bought one bottle at the bottle nuts tent from Dave Olson, it was a lady on a bicycle flask.

It is amazing how fast the summer has passed by with all the rain and stuff. It won't be long and the white stuff will be here.

**I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE MONDAY.  
EVERYONE - PLEASE BRING SOME BOTTLES OR ITEMS TO SELL  
AT OUR GIANT BOTTLE SALE, THIS MONDAY!**



*Take Care,  
Jim Bender*

**COMMITTEES: Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club**

**FACILITIES:** Ron Weir, P. O. 509, Oriskany, NY 13424, Phone: (315) 736-8138

**HISTORIAN: PERSON NEEDED!**

**LIBRARIAN:** Tom Andriach, 100 E. Sycamore Street, Rome, NY 13440, Phone: (315) 339 -4338

**NEWSLETTER COEDITORS:** Fred DeCarlo 11 Shelly Place Utica, NY 13502, Phone: (315) 725-7577, Email: fdecarlo117@gmail.com, Jon Landers, 8646 Aitken Ave, Whitesboro, NY 13492, Phone: 864-3541

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Polly Blunk, 2317 Holman City Road, Clayville, NY 13322, Phone (315) 839-5548, Email: PBlunk2317@gmail.com

**PROGRAMS:** Ron Weir, P. O. 509, Oriskany, NY 13424, Phone: (315) 736-8138

**MONTHLY RAFFLES:** Tom Andriach, 100 E. Sycamore Street, Rome, NY 13440, Phone: (315) 339 – 4338, Email: lostinspace47@outlook.com

**REFRESHMENTS:** Debra Rehm, 5182 Westmoreland Rd, Whitesboro, NY 13492, Phone: (315) 736-4705, Email: longale@roadrunner.com

**REFRESHMENTS LIST: PERSON NEEDED!!!**

**SHOW & SALE:** Peter Bleiberg, 7 White Pine Road, New Hartford, N.Y. 13413, Phone: (315) 735-5430, Email: PMBleiberg@aol.com

**SUNSHINE PERSON:** Kathy Capozzella: 1108 Rutger Street, Utica, NY 13501, Phone (315) 724-1026, Email: fcapozzella@hotmail.com



**Visit us on Facebook – Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club**





**ON THE FRONT PAGE (PHOTOS BY TOM ANDRIACH)**

WOW! THE COLOR PANORAMA OF RON'S BOTTLES WAS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE! Color is one of the main characteristics of a beautiful bottle. Ron's program was about Lestoil bottles from 1963 which originally held floor cleaning fluid. These flasks are very beautiful. These bottles are affordable, a cobalt example can be bought on Ebay for about \$20, but in 20 years they may be worth \$200. THANKS RON FOR SHOWING US YOUR 32 BEAUTIFUL BOTTLES. PHOTOS BY TOM ANDRIACH.

**MEETING AGENDA CHANGED**

At the July meeting Fred Capozzella made a motion to start having the business part of our meeting after the program. The motion was voted on and passed. So from now on, programs will be done first and the business part after the program is finished.

**MONDAY'S PROGRAM - No program because of our Hugh Bottle Sale.**

Don't miss this Monday's (Sept 13th) meeting at the New York Mills Community Center. We will have our annual Giant Bottle Sale by our club members, it's one of our favorite events. **SEE YOU THERE!!!!** Table rentals are only \$3 for 1/3 of a table, \$6 for 2/3's of a table and \$9 for a full table. **HELP SUPPORT OUR CLUB AND HAVE FUN TOO.**

**CLUB DIRECTORY AND 2021 DUES**

The October newsletter will contain the 2021 membership list and directory. Please remember to pay your 2021 dues by October 5 to be listed in the membership directory. In case you don't remember if you paid, members who haven't paid their dues will receive a post card stating the same. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**IMPORTANT - NO FOOD ALLOWED AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING! PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD OR DRINKS TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING!!!!**

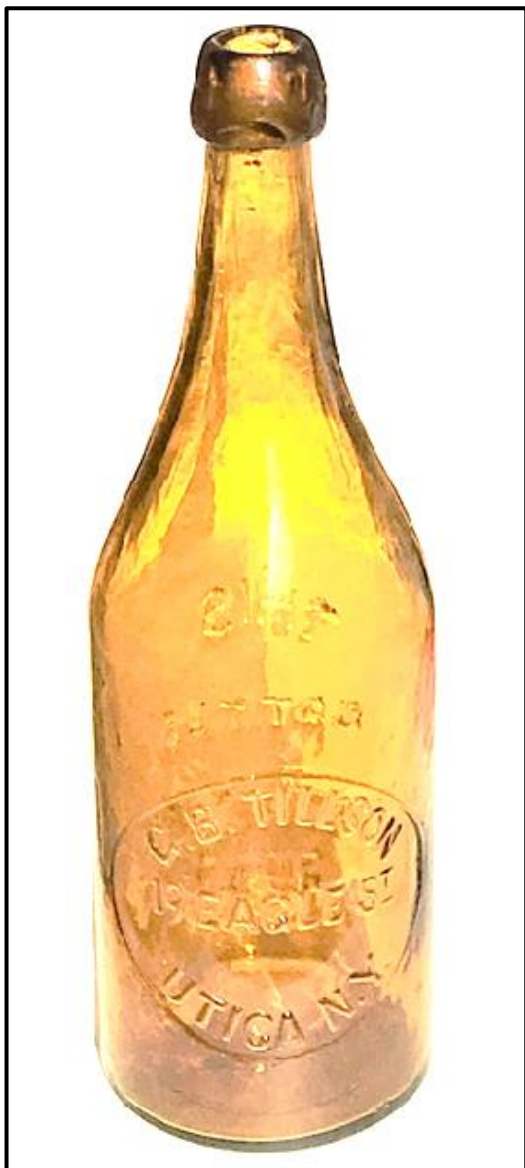


Photo of an EDISON LIGHT BEER bottle and a 6 pack carrying container. The bottle label and container both have a nice colorful design. To see this newsletter and photo in color for free, go to: **[mohawkvalleybottleclub.com](http://mohawkvalleybottleclub.com) on the internet.**



## **A RARE BOTTLE GOES BACK HOME**

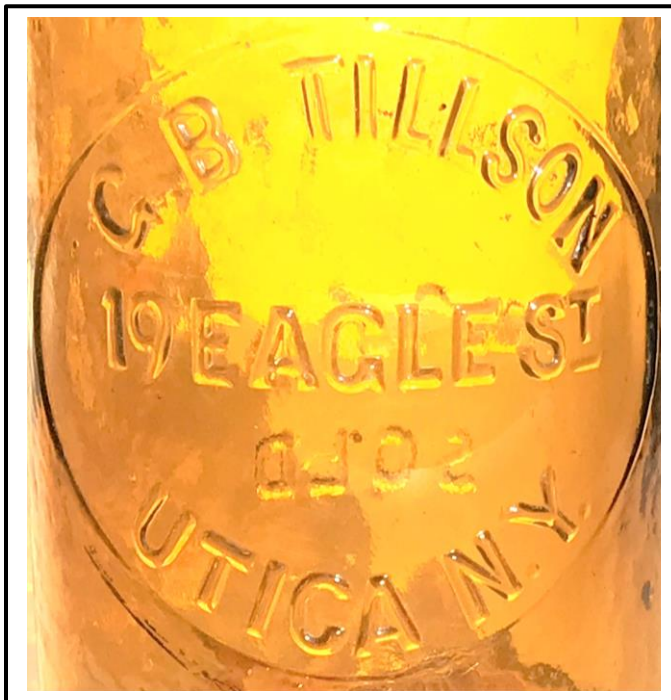
By Jon Landers



This quart blob top soda bottle is embossed:

**G. B. TILLSON  
19 EAGLE ST.  
UTICA, N. Y.**

**Back of bottle is embossed:  
THIS BOTTLE NOT TO BE SOLD**



Information below was taken from an article written by member Fred Capozzella titled, "Ennis Bottling Works, Utica, New York."

I acquired this beautiful rare light to medium gold quart size Utica, NY bottle about 20 years ago. None of our members have seen another example of this bottle or any other TILLSON bottle. The bottle is rare and the color is rare. G. B. Tillson bottled birch beer at 19 Eagle St in Utica in 1877. In 1877 Charles W. Sharpe came to Utica and started in the bottling business with his father-in-law George Tillson. They were listed in the 1877 Utica City Directory as bottlers of Birch Beer. Tillson didn't remain in the bottling business very long and that is why the Tillson quart bottle is rare. His son-in-law C. W. Sharpe stayed in the bottling business for many years and had a large business. Most C. W. Sharpe bottles are common because he was in business for such a long time.

A few weeks ago Fred Capozzella and I did a program on antique bottles for the Frankfort Historical Society. I met a Mr & Mrs .....Tillson at the meeting. I told them I had a Tillson bottle at home and they told me their ancestors had a bottling works in Utica. I met them a few weeks later and gave them the bottle. **It was one of my favorite bottles and I wanted to keep it - but, I wanted the Tillson family to have it even more because that is where it belongs and I am happy they have it.**

**TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL GOLD BOTTLE IN COLOR, GO TO: [mohawkvalleybottleclub.com](http://mohawkvalleybottleclub.com) or our Face Book Page: Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club and download our newsletter in color for free.**

The following article was copied from the February 16, 1896 issue of the *New York Sun*:

## **AMERICAN BEER MUGS**

### **REPRODUCTIONS OF EARLY ENGLISH PUZZLE MUGS.**

#### **Was the Earliest Form of Drinking Mug Made in America! – Decorative Stoneware of New York and New Jersey – Gems of Underglaze Painting – The Penn Mug.**

We are accustomed to think of Germany as the land of malt and hops and the native country of the beer mug, and in fact, the stoneware drinking vessel really had its origin or at least reached its highest degree of development there. It is true that other countries, notably Holland, England and even Italy produced ale or beer mugs at an early period, but these were not manufactured so generally as to acquire national characteristics, as has been the case in Germany. In Holland “Delft” ale pots with pewter lids were at one time much in vogue; in Italy Capo di Monte mugs in fine porcelain ware were quite extensively fabricated with relief designs scantifully colored to represent groups of human figures, mythological scenes and marine subjects. In England drinking mugs were reproduced with printed designs of historical structures and events, and even Josiah Wedgwood, England’s greatest potter, did not consider it beneath his dignity to place upon such objects his finest work.

The so called “puzzle jugs” were made at least 200 years ago and in the Museum of Practical Geology in London is an example bearing the date 1691. These were so constructed that they could be safely filled, yet the contents could not be emptied by a novice without spilling. In the celebrated Willett collection of early English pottery now in the Brighton Museum, is a mug of this description, inscribed as follows:

**Here, gentlemen, come try your skill,  
I’ll hold a wager if you will;  
You don’t drink this liquor all  
Without you spill or let some fall.**

These jugs or mugs have continued to be made on the same pattern to the present day England and in fact, they have been copied in Austria and other parts of the Continent. In Philadelphia they have also been made in a somewhat modified form as shown in the accompanying illustration.

While I have said that the beer mug as such was first made in Europe, it seems certain that the cylindrical form of drinking vessel originated in America some centuries before. Of course, the American Indians, previous to the Columbian discovery were not acquainted with brewed beverages, but the Pueblo Indians of Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico were making pottery mugs perhaps 500 years ago of precisely the same shape as those made by civilized potters today. Many such examples have been found among the ruins of southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah, and a few years ago an interesting discovery was made in the latter section of a large jar which contained a lot of such mugs in the dried clay state which had been buried there perhaps centuries ago, waiting to be burned.

Within a comparatively few years beer drinking has increased to such an extent in the United States that lager may now be considered a national beverage, the drink of the people. With its general adoption we have come to accept the beer mug as a natural accessory and of late the manufacture of stone mugs or “steins” has become an established industry with us. At Utica, N. Y. and Haddonfield, N. J. decorative patterns are being produced after the German style, which are equal in artistic finish in body and glaze to the best designs of foreign factories. It is astonishing how cheaply these designs can be produced even though the patterns should be elaborate and artistic. The reason for this is that they pass through but one process as the burning of the body, the fixing of the colors and the application of the glazes are accomplished by a single firing in the kiln. The relief designs are made in prepared moulds or are impressed with stamps, and after the clay has dried the coloring is rapidly applied by hand and the piece is then sent to the kiln to be burned. At a certain point in the baking, common salt is thrown into the kiln from above and the vapor thus formed settles on the ware and produces a thin coating, which is known as salt glaze, which closely examined has the appearance of an orange skin with myriads of tiny pit marks. This is the process of making stoneware and when the pieces are taken from the kiln they are ready for use.

continued on next page



It is quite fitting that we should reproduce the German stoneware mugs here, since we have earned the art of brewing the German beverage. Statistics show us that there are nearly 1,200 brewers in this country; consequently there is a wide field for the manufacture of beer mugs, which industry is only in its infancy among us. Already, however, we have commenced to impress upon this branch of the potter's art a national character which will insure greater originality in forms and processes in the near future.

The most artistic examples in this line have been made at the Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati. Each piece produced there is a work of art in itself, most carefully executed and never duplicated in decoration. Beer sets, consisting of half a dozen tankards and a large flagon or jug are made for clubs or wealthy patrons, embellished with underglaze paintings of suitable design, often humorous, but always charmingly characteristic.

During a recent visit to this establishment, the most picturesque pottery in America, the writer was invited to name some form of vessel to be made for him as a souvenir and to be "thrown" on the wheel in his presence. Selecting a beer mug as the piece to be made, he was much gratified to witness the rapid transformation of the shapeless clay into a gracefully curving utensil on which he inscribed with a bone point his name and date. A few weeks later the finished piece came to him in all its beauty of form and coloring, decorated with exquisitely painted hop vines on a tinted ground of blended orange, red, and olive beneath the heavy, brilliant yellowish glaze. And now the highest development of decorative treatment seems to have been reached in the "aerial blue" ware with its monochrome designs of ethereal blueness on a delicate gray ground: the "iris" variety of soft effects: the "sea green" and the "sang de boruf." Dainty cups with spiral handles, puzzle mugs bearing groups of game birds, figure subjects, portrait heads, and a wide range of artistic motives are being produced in these various styles, with an ever-expanding color scheme unsurpassed in the ceramic gamut.

The revival of blue and white "delft" ware has extended to the manufacture of beer mugs in great variety, and some of the Trenton potteries are now making a specialty of this line of goods.

At Corona, L. I. an artist and potter of wide and varied experience is producing similar designs, which while not less artistic are duplicated more extensively because they are decorated by the process of transfer printing. This gentleman is not only a painter of reputation and a potter of ability, but is also an engraver on copper and his decorative designs are etched on metal by himself and transferred to the surface of the wares which he has originated. Among the most recent of his designs is the William Penn mug, which bears on one side an excellent portrait of the original Pennsylvanian and on the reverse the Penn coat of arms, the motto, "Dum Clavum Teneam." This potter is doing good work in the direction of original American designing.

He has in contemplation at the present time a series of drinking vessels, to be executed in a white, opaque body and embellished with delft blue, portraits of prominent Americans and views of historic buildings and noted events. The increasing demand for this class of wares among club men and bric-a-brac collectors has stimulated American potters to expend their best efforts in this new field which has been opened to them and it will not be long before we may expect to see in the market beer mugs bearing coats of arms of the various States, insignia of the different patriotic hereditary societies devices and mottoes adopted by social clubs, college songs, and fraternity badges, Masonic emblems and an infinite variety of decoration, artistic, humorous, historical and curious to suit all classes and conditions of men who in the words inscribed on an ancient ale pot:

**Find good cheer  
In a pot of beer.  
And entertain their guests  
With wine and merry jest.**

**EDWIN ATLEE BARBER**

**Editor's Note:** As noted above, this interesting article appeared in a New York City newspaper in 1896 when Whites Pottery was still in operation in Utica, NY. I don't believe it has been published in modern time. I retyped the article to make it easier to read. The five drawings on the next page were copied from the original article which had them included in the text of the article but I put them on one page for simplicity sake. Barber was an expert on American pottery, porcelain and Aboriginal pottery and authored a

continued on next page

dozen books on the subject. Barber was the accomplished pottery expert who became fascinated with American glass (especially American historical flasks, see newsletter No. 251). He is believed to have written the first book on antique bottles. In addition to these articles on beer mugs and historical flasks, Barber also had a third article on American glass cup plates that appeared in the *Sun*. The cup plate article will appear in one of our future newsletters. *Source: Library of Congress*

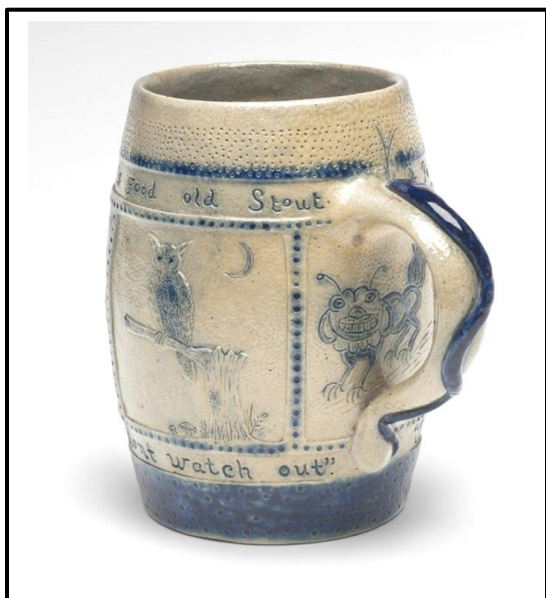


**ROCKINGHAM PUZZLE MUG  
MADE IN PHILADELPHIA**



**WILLIAM PENN MUG – CORONA, L. I.**

**ONE OF THE EARLIEST  
POTTERY MUGS,  
*from an Ancient Ruins in Utah.***



**This mug was made by the author of this  
1896 article – Edwin Atlee Barber**



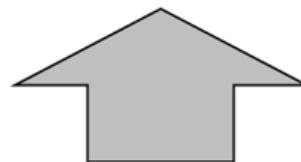
**STONEWARE MUG MADE AT  
HADDONFIELD, N. J.**



YOU CAN  
SEND YOUR  
2021 DUES TO  
Peter Bleiberg  
7 White Pine Rd  
New Hartford,  
NY, 13413

Dues are only \$10  
Single or Family

**WE LOVE BOTTLES!**  
**PLEASE!**



**CAN EVERYONE BRING SOME  
BOTTLES OR OTHER ITEMS TO  
OUR September 13th MEETING**

**FOR**

**SHOW AND TELL**

*IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO  
DO THE "TELLING"  
BRING YOUR ITEMS FOR  
US TO VIEW!*

**THANK YOU**

## **WANTED POISON BOTTLES**

**PLEASE CALL ME!  
PETER TESTA  
315-457-0581**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO MEMBER JIM BURNS**

**Jim recently retired from his  
job as a corrections officer at the  
Mohawk Valley Correction  
Facility after 25 years.**

**WE WISH YOU A HAPPY  
RETIREMENT JIM!**

## **WHAT BOTTLE? THIS IS OUR HISTORY**

Where was Bennett's Compound  
Extract of Pink Root and Wormseed  
Worm Expelling Syrup made?

The answer will appear in the  
next newsletter.



**DUST OFF YOUR  
OLD BOTTLES  
AND LOVE THEM!**







## PROGRAMS



### September 13

#### **ANNUAL GIANT BOTTLE SALE**

One of our favorite events – our club will have a HUGE BOTTLE SALE for the September meeting. Each member is encouraged to bring some bottles, small antiques, books, pictures or miscellaneous items to sell or trade. Table rentals will be \$3 for 1/3 of an 8 foot table, \$6 for 2/3 and \$9 for a whole table. **Help is needed for setting up tables before our meeting for the September bottle sale. If any members could arrive at 6:15 or 6:30 PM to help set up the tables it would be appreciated!** **SUPPORT OUR CLUB AND HAVE FUN TOO.**

### October 11

#### **TO BE ANNOUNCED!**



## BOTTLE SHOWS



### September 19 (Sunday)

**BUFFALO SHOW - DEPEW, NEW YORK - The Greater Buffalo Bottle Collectors Association's 22nd Annual Show & Sale.** Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Avenue, Depew, New York 14043. General Admission \$4: Sunday 9 am – 2 pm. Contact chairman Joe Guerra, 29 Nina Terrace, West Seneca, New York 14224, 716.207.9948 or jguerra3@roadrunner.com, or [www.gbbca.org](http://www.gbbca.org).

### September 19 (Sunday)

**WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS - The Merrimack Valley Antique Bottle Club's 46th Annual Bottle Show & Sale,** 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, early buyers at 8:00 am \$20. Three free \$20 door prize drawings. [www.mvabc.org](http://www.mvabc.org), Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center, 219 Littleton Road, Westford, Massachusetts 01886. Just five minutes off Exit 32 of I-495 follow the signs. Contact: Kevin Cantrell, 978.551.6397, [kmcantrell86@gmail.com](mailto:kmcantrell86@gmail.com).

### October 17 (Sunday)

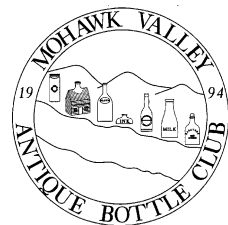
**FINDLAY, OHIO – The Findlay Antique Bottle Club 44th Annual Antique Bottle & Collectibles Show & Sale,** 9:00 am to 2:00 pm; early bird Sunday 7:00 to 9:00 am, \$10, Admission \$2, Children under 12 free! Website: <http://finbotclub.blogspot.com>, Hancock County Fairgrounds, 1017 E. Sandusky Street, Findlay, Ohio 45850, Contact Info: Fred Curtis, 419.424.0486, [finbotclub@gmail.com](mailto:finbotclub@gmail.com).

### October 23 (Saturday)

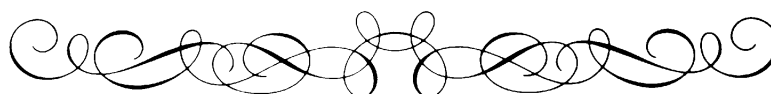
**MACUNGIE, PENNSYLVANIA - NEW DATE – NEW LOCATION – Forks of the Delaware Bottle Collectors Association 47th Annual Bottle and Antique Show & Sale,** 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, early buyers 7:30 am, (\$20 admission fee) Macungie Park Hall – Macungie, Pennsylvania 18062, For Info: Bill Hegedus, 610.264.3130, [forksofthedelawarebottles@hotmail.com](mailto:forksofthedelawarebottles@hotmail.com).



**Join Now!**  
**You can become a “2021” member of the**  
**Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club**  
**for just \$10.00**



**Visit our website: [www.mohawkvalleybottleclub.com](http://www.mohawkvalleybottleclub.com)**





**Newsletter Coeditor**  
**Jon Landers**  
**8646 Aitken Avenue**  
**Whitesboro, NY 13492**  
**Phone (315) 864-3541**  
**Email: sj57831810@roadrunner.com**

Address Service Requested

**DON'T MISS the September 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
Monday Night – 7:00 PM (Free)  
New York Mills Community Center  
Corner of Main and Church Street  
New York Mills - Use back entrance

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
*FIRST CLASS MAIL*  
\*\*\*\*\*

God Bless Our Essential Workers and First Responders

Visit our website: [mohawkvallevbottleclub.com](http://mohawkvallevbottleclub.com)

**PRESIDENT**

Jim Bender  
P. O. box 162  
Sprakers, NY 12166  
(518) 673-8833  
Jim1@frontiernet.net

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Fred DeCarlo  
11 Shelly Place  
Utica, NY 13502  
(315) 725-7577  
Email: fdecarlo117@gmail.com

**SECRETARY**

Debra Rehm  
5182 Westmoreland Road  
Whitesboro, N. Y. 13492  
(315) 736-4705  
longale@roadrunner.com

**TREASURER**

Peter Bleiberg  
7 White Pine Road  
New Hartford, NY 13413  
(315) 735-5430  
Email: PMBleiberg@aol.com



<b>MOHAWK VALLEY</b>	Mail To: Peter Bleiberg
<b>ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB</b>	Treasurer MVABC
Membership Application	7 White Pine Road
	New Hartford, NY 13413
Individual Membership \$10.00	Family Membership \$10.00
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	
May we email you our newsletter in color? Yes _____ No _____	
Email Address: _____	
Collecting Specialty _____	
New Member _____	Renewal _____
Make checks payable to: MVABC	
As a member you will receive the Club's monthly newsletter. <b>WELCOME!</b>	