

MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
August 2014

Club Officers

- *Richard Cole, President*
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Muncie, IN 47304
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- *Dave Rittenhouse, Vice Pres.*
1008 S. 900 W.
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- *Jim Durr, Treasurer*
500 W. Ohio St.
Fortville, IN 46040
317-485-5854
- *Joe Coulson, Secretary/Editor*
889 Berry Rd.
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An Index to the Club Library is available online. Please contact Dick Cole about items which you would like to check out.

Membership

The Midwest Glass Chatter is a monthly publication and is a forum through which collectors can share information.

Membership cost is \$15.00 per year, per family, due each December 31. All jar/bottle related collectors are welcome. Send to MAFJBC, Attn: James Durr, 500 W. Ohio St., Fortville, IN 46040

Meeting Minutes, August 17th, 2014

The August meeting was our annual club picnic, and it was held in Muncie, Indiana at the home of Jerry and Colleen Dixon. Club President Dick Cole opened the meeting and welcomed 14 members.

There was no Treasurer's report for August. Jim Durr was not able to attend the meeting.

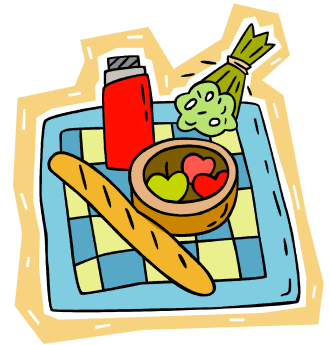
Dick Cole mentioned that he and Colleen still need to determine an advertisement for the club to put in the next revision of the Red Book.

A discussion took place regarding providing space in the newsletter for advertising. It was decided that the club does not want to be in the business of managing advertising. It will be up to the newsletter editor's discretion and judgment if any ads are included—for example, bottle show ads and new book releases.

Everyone thanked Jerry and Colleen for hosting the annual club picnic at their home. There were many glass items throughout their home to look at. Kay Rittenhouse did a wonderful job arranging the main course of the meal. The food was delicious and everyone had a good time talking about bottles and jars.

Here is a list of upcoming regional bottle shows:

September 20th, 2014 (Saturday) Lebanon, Indiana - Indianapolis Circle City Antique Bottle, Advertising and Collectibles Show and Sale, Boone County Fairgrounds, 1300 E. 100 S. Lebanon, Indiana; September 28th, 2014 (Sunday) Richfield, Ohio - 44th Annual Ohio Bottle Club Antique Bottle Show and Sale at the Days Inn and Suites (formerly Holiday Inn), 4742 Brecksville Road, Richfield, Ohio; October 5th 2014 (Sunday) Chelsea, Michigan - The Huron Valley Bottle and Insulator Club will hold its Annual Show and Sale on Sunday, October 5th at the Comfort Inn Conference Center (exit 159 off I-95) in Chelsea, Michigan.



The next club meeting will be September 14th at 1:30pm at the Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass. It is located at 2500 University Avenue, Muncie, Indiana. There will be no Show and Tell.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Coulson, Secretary



Your editor received this plaque at the National Bottle Show banquet; we won third place in the national newsletter contest!

Show and Tell

The theme for the August Show and Tell was “clear jars and bottles.” People bring other items as well, including recent acquisitions.

Walter Gaussman found a book entitled “Collecting Fruit Jars” by Ronald B. Burris. The book was found at a flea market set up along U.S. 41 and Interstate 74 as part of the Rockville, Indiana “Covered Bridge Festival”. The author lived in Visalia, California. This book was a revised 1970 edition with a price guide, and the first book was printed in 1967. Approximately 176 fruit jars illustrated were from his personal collection. After the total illustrations (in alphabetical order) was an interesting section starting with the first illustration number and going up to 176. The columns were the illustration number, embossing, ground lip, height, color and value. Example would be: #15 Ball Improved No 5 1/4” Green \$1.75–\$2.25.

Walter also displayed an amber soda bottle with a paper label having a picture of a woman’s head—Quart 32 Fl. Ozs.— “Mama” Size—DAD’S Root Beer—tastes like Root Beer should. This bottle was purchased at the 2013 Shipshewana Antique Christmas evening open house. It is embossed with the Ball company logo on the base. This soda bottle was first produced in 1950. Prior to 1934 soda bottles had paper labels or were custom molded. Paper labels were preferred by many bottlers because of lower costs.

Soda bottles were returned and washed. Removing paper labels and putting new labels on was time consuming. The Applied Color Label process was introduced in 1934 and cut production time. With new technology and improved printing capacities 50 to 70 bottles could be labeled in a minute. It is rare to see a soda bottle in the 1950s with a paper label.

Walter also shared a clear commemorative baby food jar, front: 25th Anniversary (baby face), reverse: Gerber Ashville, N.C. (building) 1958–1983; a clear commemorative baby food jar for a retired Ball employee, front: Biggest Man In Ball, reverse: Art Heron 40 Years 1943–1983; a clear commemorative baby food jar for a retired Ball employee, front: William H. Wade 47 Years July 1947–1984, re-

verse: In Recognition of His Dedicated Service to Ball Corporation; a clear pint commemorative mug, front: Gerber Ft. Smith 25th Anniversary 1962–1987, reverse: design of baby head with curly hair low relief, test run jar not officially released; and a clear pint commemorative mug, front: Gerber Ft. Smith 25th Anniversary 1962–

1987, reverse: design of baby head with straight hair—high relief, production run.

Other club members brought jars for show and tell also. I do not have notes from the meeting to describe who brought what because this is the point at which I had to leave early. Thanks go to Dick Cole for these pictures.



Aqua HG Balll Mason with an embedded potstone

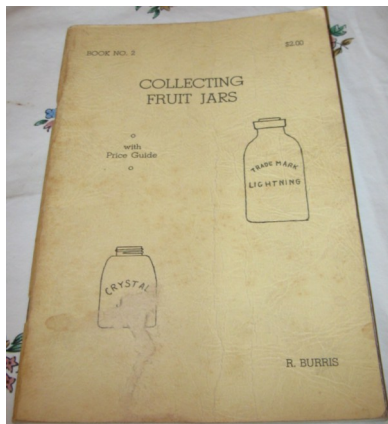


Clear QT Lamb Mason



Clear QT Anchor Hocking Mason

Show and Tell, cont'd



An old price guide, "Collecting Fruit Jars", by R. Burris



Clear pint mug, Ball Mason, with high relief Gerber baby



Piece of furnace firebrick found at the site of the old Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Co.



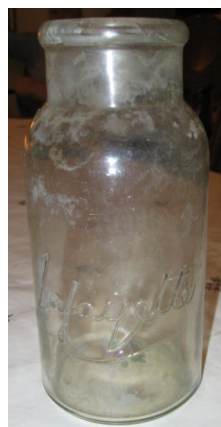
Clear HG True Fruit



Clear QT Canton Domestic Fruit Jar



Clear QT Globe



Clear QT Lafayette



Clear HP Jelly Glass



Clear QT Chattanooga



Aqua QT Cohansey

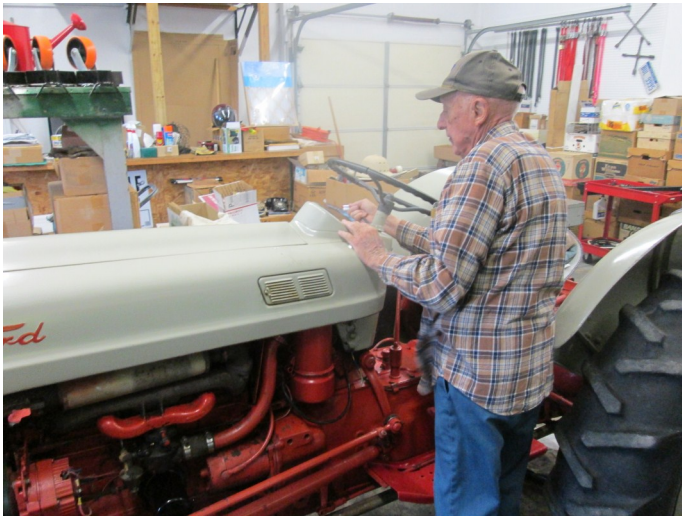


Aqua PT (Base: Trademark Lightning Putnam)



Clear PT Ball Homestyle Peach Preserves

A Visit with Mason Bright



My wife and I made a trip to visit Mason Bright at the end of July in Monroe, Michigan. Mason had contacted me earlier in the year about selling all of the jar shelving in his basement that once held his fabled Ball jar collection. Mason had almost one of every variation of every known Ball jar, which amounted to

over 1600 jars.

Jennifer and I had stayed the night before at Mason's newer place (he has two homes at the moment), and we were ready to get to work early Saturday morning. We had to make a short jaunt to get the rental truck and then head over to Mason's old

place.

There were 24 empty shelf units in Mason's nicely carpeted and well lit basement. It took some time to take all the shelves out of each of the units. We had to carry each of the units up and out of the basement and onto the rental truck. It was a hot and humid day. Mason enlisted the help of his young neighbor friend to assist us with this heavy and time consuming process, which took about 6 hours total.

It was a strange feeling to see Mason's basement nearly empty after the work was done. Mason has no plans to sell his old house just yet. The garage is full of duplicate and sales Ball jars, and he has an old Buick stored there too.

Mason spends his time at his newer home which is

on a large property and has a huge detached garage. Mason has several old vehicles that he works on: a couple of 1960s Buicks, a 1955 Nash, a 1950s DeSoto, and an old Ford tractor. Mason drives the cars in parades and goes to car shows.

Jennifer and I wished we had brought our youngest son who has a passion for cars of all kinds. Mason invited us back sometime, and we will bring Joey too. Mason let Jennifer pick out one of his purple sales bottles as a gift. She picked one of the smallest bottles.

It was nice to visit with Mason again. He still goes to the occasional bottle show with his sales jars. He always tries to make it to our January Muncie Show.

—Joe Coulson



Show Report—National Bottle Show—Lexington

My wife and I made the trip to the National Bottle Show in Lexington, Kentucky. Jim Durr rode along with us. We arrived early enough to attend the banquet on Friday evening. I knew ahead of time that I would be receiving an award for our club's newsletter. The banquet tables had the 1930s blue Ball Perfect Mason jars as centerpieces. It was nice to see all of the old blue jars on all of the tables.



Our club newsletter won 3rd place in the national newsletter contest. I was very proud to be able to represent our club at this national event. There was a "Run for the Roses" bottle competition after the banquet. I was not

able to attend that event but one of the categories for that competition was wax sealers. Pictures of that event can be seen on the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors website.

Saturday morning I went to Jerry McCann's educational seminar, "Mid-1800s, The Evolution of Bottles Through Fruit Jars". As you would expect, this was a first rate talk along with some killer jars. You can see some of the jars in the photos that accompany this show report. Jerry's talk was informative and entertaining. There was a good size crowd at his talk.



Later in the day I went to the Dealer Setup / Early Admission time slot. We did not have a sales table but I did look to see what was available. There was a good representation of fruit jar dealers at the national bottle show: the Smith's, the Driver's, the Ashby's, the Vander Schouw's, Jerry McCann, Dick Bere, and Justin Walker.

Saturday evening we experienced some of the night life and live music downtown which was fun. On Sunday we spent more time browsing the show floor. Ron Hands had an awesome Exhibit of wax sealers. Tom Sproat won the "Most Educational" award for his display, "Jar Making Tools of the 19th Century." I ended up buying a copy of Jerry McCann's 2015 Fruit Jar Annual. I asked him to sign it for me. The best Ball jars that I saw for sale were a pair of aqua midget BBGMCo jars. When I passed by them Dan Corker

(famous for his midget pint collection) was negotiating with the dealer. I don't know if Dan struck a deal or not. We saw many of our club members attending this show.

Next year the National Bottle Show will be in Chattanooga, Tennessee. You should start thinking now about attending this show. Consider supporting our hobby by doing an Exhibit or preparing a Seminar or setting up a sales table. We are very fortunate to have a show like this in the Midwest two times in a row!

—Joe Coulson



Photo of Ferdinand Meyer & Joe Coulson taken by Scott Selenak, FOHBC Photographer



Deep colors of early wax sealers shown in Jerry McCann's talk



More outstanding early jars shown in Jerry McCann's talk

Show Report—National Bottle Show, cont'd



Dick Bere's sales table



The Driver's sales table



The Vander Schouw's sales table



The Smith's sales table



Jerry McCann's sales table



Closeup of a few of Jerry McCann's sales jars

Show Report—National Bottle Show, cont'd



Justin Walker's sales table



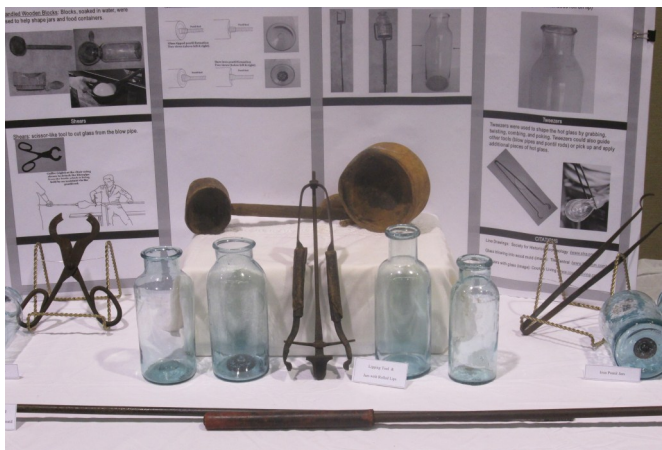
The Ashby's sales table



Closeup of Justin Walker's sales jars—Lightnings



Closeup of Justin Walker's sales jars—colorful Lightnings



Tom Sproat's exhibit "Jar Making Tools of the 19th Century"



Ron Hand's exhibit "Wax Sealers"

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Send articles and info here:

Joe Coulson, Editor

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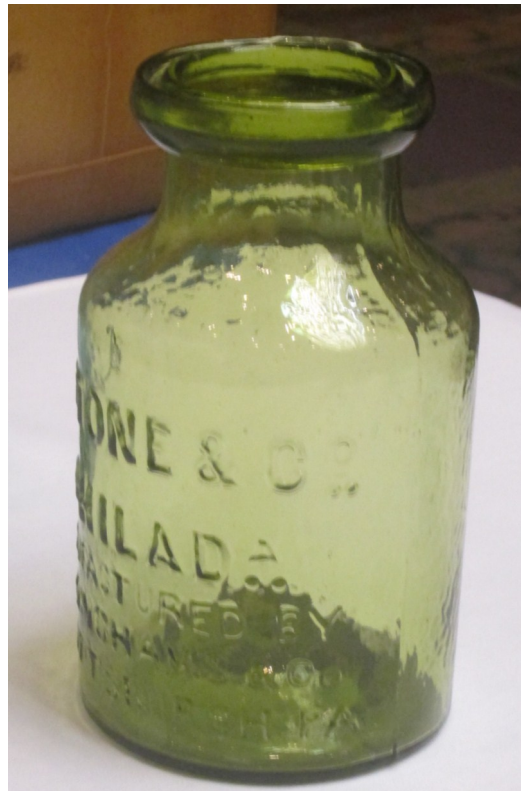
Greenwood, IN 46143

Email: JoeCoulsonX5@gmail.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG](http://www.fruitjar.org)



Jerry McCann won in the wax sealers category of the "Run for the Roses" competition at the National Bottle Show with this spectacular jar. It is a rich olive green A. Stone & Co fruit jar with plenty of glass character.

Announcements

- Upcoming club meetings:
 - Sunday, **September 14th**, 1:30pm we will meet at the Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass in Muncie, Indiana; it is located at 2500 University Avenue; there will be no Show and Tell
 - Sunday, **October 5th**, 1:30pm meet at Minnetrista, theme is "starts with an S"
 - Sunday, **November 2nd**, 1:30pm meet at Minnetrista, theme is jars with a Lightning type of closure
- Our club is a member of the Federation of Historical Bottle Clubs (FOHBC). The FOHBC has many resources and interesting articles on their website as well as a list of bottle shows: <http://www.fohbc.org/shows>
- Our club supports the National Bottle Museum. You can view their website at: <http://nationalbottlemuseum.org/>
- More details about the Glick Center for Glass can be found at: <http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/art/glickcenter>

