

# MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter  
June 2011

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An Index to the Club Lending 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: Anne Szopa, 11199 U.S. Highway 35, Economy, IN 47339

## Meeting Minutes, June 12th, 2011

The June club meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 11 members.

Dave reminded everyone that our club next meeting would be Saturday, July 9th at 1:30pm at The Signature Inn in Muncie, Indiana (during the Fruit Jar Round Up). Dave said the hotel is full—no more rooms available. Dick Cole will be running the club meeting, since Dave will be working at that time.

Jean Harbron announced that she would be moderating a discussion group on Friday, July 8th at 2:00pm in the hotel conference room. The topic will be Non-Ball Indiana Jars. Look for full details on the events schedule of the Fruit Jar Round Up elsewhere in this newsletter.

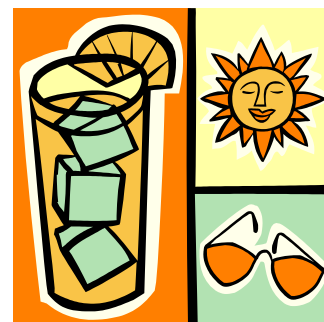
Anne Szopa gave the Treasurer's report for May & June combined. There were a few dues renewals. The club continues to maintain a positive bank balance.

Dave made a motion to print more club logo T-shirts. The idea would be to have them done by the January

Show. The motion was seconded and approved. Colleen "volunteered" for a project to make signs to set outside hotel rooms at the January Show.

The August club meeting will be our annual club picnic. Colleen and Jerry Dixon will once again be hosting the event at their home in Muncie. Club members should bring a small veggie and a small desert dish, as well as chairs. The club will provide plates, drinks, and the meat dish. The Show and Tell theme will be Recent Purchases, especially those made at the July Fruit Jar Round Up.

The following club meeting Show and Tell themes were decided upon: September 11th, Odd-Shaped Jars; October 2nd, Colored Half Gallons; November 6th, Shipping Containers and Box Ends; and



December 4th, Our annual Christmas Dinner.

Dave mentioned that the FOHBC National Bottle Show this year is June 25–26th in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dave also said that the Bill Dudley collection will be auctioned in July. There are many spectacular and rare fruit jars.

See you all at the Fruit Jar Round Up real soon.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



The re-worked Ball Perfect Mason on the left has visible ghosting of the word Drey beneath it. The sister jar is shown on the right.

## Show and Tell

The theme for the June club meeting was "Re-worked Molds".

Sue Wilson displayed a Ball blue quart RB #270 Ball (long L) Perfect Mason (altered Boyds Perfect Mason); and the sister Ball blue quart RB #501 Boyds Perfect Mason.



Sue also shared a Ball blue (unlisted color) RB #2729 Star Glass Co. New Albany, Ind. Dave Rittenhouse had a similar quart with the same odd base marking (X 5). These sister jars must have been blown in the same mold.



Jean Harbron displayed a steel grey tinted pint Schram Automatic Sealer. Jean gave a talk on fruit jars at a Ladies' Club, and she told people to bring an unusual jar to the meeting.

Jean brought the jar to Dave Rittenhouse, because the jar did not have a lid. Dave was able to supply the correct lid. Jean will now return the jar to its owner.



Jean shared a clear quart RB #2603-1 Sealite (over ghosted Sealfast); and a greenish aqua pint RB #1769 Mason's Patent 1858 (period after 1858) (reverse: Ball; this is a re-worked Port mold).



Anne Szopa displayed a clear quart RB #847 Drey Square Mason (with carpenter's square); and the sister light purple quart RB #313-5 Ball Square Mason (altered Drey mold).

Anne displayed a clear pint RB #843 Drey Perfect Mason (Perfect offset to the left); and the sister clear pint RB #285 Ball (dropped A) Perfect Mason (erased Drey beneath Ball, Perfect offset to the left).



Anne displayed a clear pint RB #842 Drey Perfect Mason (centered); and the sister clear pint RB #286 Ball Perfect Mason (centered) (erased Drey very visible under Ball).

Anne also shared a clear quart RB #285-5 Ball Perfect Mason (undropped A) Perfect Mason (erased Drey, Perfect offset to the left).

Ruth Nestleroad brought a clear rectangular whiskey bottle that had a very unusual license plate design on the sides. Ruth also shared pint and quart wooden fruit jars that were hollowed out, so they could be used as banks.



Lou Ebert displayed a clear quart and clear half gallon RB #902 Economy Trademark (reverse SAFE in ghost letters) (base: Kerr Glass Mfg. Co. Portland, Ore. Pat. June 9 & 23, 1903). This jar has not been found in the pint size. These jars were probably made by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. It is also interesting to note that the sister half gallon RB #2526 SAFE jar has not been reported even though a half gallon re-worked mold exists.



Lou displayed a clear pint and a light purple quart RB #2526 SAFE (base: Made By The Safe Glass Co. Upland Ind. Pat. Feb. 10, '03). These are the sister jars to the re-worked RB #902 jars that Lou shared.



Lou also brought a large notebook of postcards of Grant County (Indiana) glass companies.

Dick Cole displayed a clear quart RB #361-6 R.G.



## Show and Tell, cont'd

Simpson (wax sealer); a clear quart RB #361-5 R.G. Simpson (threaded, re-worked from wax sealer); and two examples of the same R.G. Simpson mold where art glass pieces were hand-blown from it (one clear and one aqua).

Dave Rittenhouse displayed two recent purchases: an aqua half gallon (unlisted size) RB #2168 wax sealer (base: M.F.J.Co.); and a wooden box end "Quart Improv'd Clyde Glass Works".

Dave displayed a green quart RB #1906 Mason's Patent Nov 30th 1858 (base: shield); and the sister aqua quart RB #264-7 The Ball Mason's Patent Nov 30th 1858 (base: shield).

Dave displayed a light green half gallon Ball Mason (period after Mason) (similar to RB #240, but with the period); an aqua half gallon RB #2510-1 Root Mason (period after Mason); and a pair of aqua quart RB #1625 The Marion Jar (both jars made from same mold).

Joe Coulson displayed an aqua midget pint (circle only) (theoretically re-worked to remove logo from RB #194-x BBGMC Co).

Joe also displayed a Ball blue pint RB #269 Ball Perfection (ghosted but strongly visible MASON below Perfection, re-worked from RB #238 Ball Mason).



## Mission Impossible? Accomplished!

Well Folks:

Between May 22nd and June 12th 2011, I traveled nearly 2,000 miles from between Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan. On my journey I stopped and visited with five different fruit jar people. I ended up driving back to Iowa and putting another 1,200 miles on the vehicle, and that is the story here...

While at one stop in north-east Iowa, I spied a HG RB #234 Ball 3-L Mason that literally knocked my socks off. It was without a doubt the darkest example I had ever seen. Ever since then I have had a fascination and fixation on colored Ball jars, especially Ball MASON jars. Bob clay and I have talked extensively about whether dark HG's existed, and if so, where in the world are they. Let's face it, Bob at one time was THE King of Ball Jar color, and I don't think anyone since then has come close. Considering the color he had in his collection, and also considering all of the other major color out there (which I have seen), we both have never encountered a truly dark 234 HG.



Well, I can report here and now that I finally found one example, and it was in this out of the way, obscure collection one would hardly guess such an item would reside. And that just proves to me that if you look hard enough, you'll come across what you're looking for eventually. It just takes time, money, energy and simply "doing" to find the absolute rare and obscure. Since January of 2008, I have seen, touched and photographed a whole lot of rare, one-of-a-kind and incredible fruit jars, and along with that, many wonderfully colored Ball jars were among them. I found out early on that many

fruit jar collectors who don't necessarily collect Ball jars have at least one or more and sometimes as many as a dozen extremely very good varying examples in their collections.

In these travels and visits I have been successful only a scarce few times at extracting a super jar from collectors, but overall I have been shut out because most people just don't sell jars off of their shelves. Of course, I was always given a promise of future chances when the time to let go came about, but that IMO is kind of akin to when a girl tells you she just wants to be friends. In this instance however I was extremely lucky and fortunate to come away with IMHO, a rare colored HG 234 Ball MASON from this collection in Iowa.

When I started the second trip back to Iowa to get this Gem, I found on the side of the street,



approximately 3 miles or so from my home, a plastic Ball water container. One in which I have never seen before, and although beat up a little, I felt confident upon picking it up that it was a sign that my fruit jar karma was intact and still going strong. And I was right, because on this same venture I also came across a very scarce aqua bead seal Ball MASON pint.

Ok, let me digress now a bit.

While at this person's home in Iowa, I spied the HG in question. When I first saw the jar from behind, I assumed it was an 1858. And yes, that's because it is such a good color. After realizing what I was actually looking at was a 234 and the Real Deal, I was so excited it was hard to hold back my elation over the jar. Then the owner literally took the wind right out of my sails by saying the jar was one of his two favorite jars. My heart went down to my knees as I listened to him tell me how much it meant to him, and how after collecting for over 45 years it was a one-of-a-kind example, because he has never seen or heard of another one. I too felt it was a superb and spectacular jar.

I did my usual thing when doing these stories...I acted as if I was not affected by all of the possessive jar talk. But between taking photos, getting story details and showing him photos of my jars on my cell phone, I must have mentioned dozens of times what a great jar it was indeed, and how envious I was of him. Upon leaving I asked him (yes, I'm not known for being

shy, and I'm not afraid to push the bubble) if he would be offended if I made an offer on the jar. He said no go ahead, so I threw out a figure.

Well, he looked at the jar then looked at me, and did this two more times before looking back at the jar, and without turning said he'd think about it. Oh my, the blood ran out of my face, and my heart went all the way to



the floor this time, and all I could think was I made way too low of an offer. Of course in my convoluted thinking and experience as well as according to my meager finances, what I offered seemed reasonable enough, but obviously to him it was not enough for me to bring home the prize.

So as I trudged up the basement steps, and I mean trudge, because each step felt as if my feet weighed a ton, I was down in the dumps like I had just lost a crucial playoff game (and of course, whoever remembers

those who lose the Super Bowl, right?). All I could think to myself was, "Dang, what a lost opportunity and oh well, you did the best you could and after all, I can't own them all." As my mind raced about the jar, options, (hmmm, there were none) what I did wrong in life and why I didn't have more money etc., he says to me, "Bruce, you know those two Ladies Favorites I own?" So I say "Yes," and he says, "If you can find stopples for them, I'll sell you the jar."

Well, at that very moment it was if a million pounds had been lifted off of my shoulders. The clouds parted, the sun was shining and

it was a new day, and everything was now ok in Brucie-land. And then cold hard reality hit me once again like a dead fish in the face. What in the world were the odds that I could find both a 2" and a 2 ¾" Willoughby stopple? Both of which are rare sizes of course, and that just happen to be non-existent if not downright impossible to find. Yes, I'd say it was more like a zillion to one odds of locating those babies.

But after careful consideration I wasn't going to let this fact bring me down. He had opened the door, even if it was only a crack I was going to get my foot in there, and then the rest of my body, and I'd find them by hook or crook, because I wanted that jar more than anything else in the world at that point in time. I would not be denied. I couldn't let this one and only opportunity pass me by.

I started to drive away, and I made numerous calls far and wide across the country. I beat those bushes while driving to Doug Leybourne's home. I had tons of time to kill (approx., 8 ½ hours) while driving, and I was going to overturn every rock I could think of. I arrived at Doug's without success, and eventually in our visit discovered Doug had the closures. Ooh La La I had hit pay dirt so I thought until Doug told me he wouldn't sell them, because they came from Alex Kerr, and he owned them for the memories. I was having such a nice visit with Doug that I decided to worry about the closures after I left his home.

And when I was headed back to Indiana I went to work again scouring the collecting community for the seemingly impossible. I suppose if this had been prior to July 2007 when all of this fruit jar color madness actually took hold of me, it would have been a

different story. I didn't have near the name recognition then, and I didn't have the powerful contacts in the hobby. I was alone and adrift in the fruit jar world. I was as good as on a desert island without a boat or paddle. Yet now (today) was a different story. I'm a known personality due to my stories and depending on the circle I was going to pull the right strings to get things done, and I was going to exercise every option I had within the inner circle.

And then it happened, the call that changed everything. I had finally struck pay dirt. I found a collector who just happened to have both sizes of these impossible to find stopples. We spoke at lengths, and he told me plainly that he doesn't sell those sorts of closures simply because when you find jars in the wild, 9 times out of 10 they don't have the closure, and the closure is 60% or more the value of the jar. I explained to him at length the story of the incredible dark 234 HG, and how without those stopples I would never own it.

And then the miracle happened...he told me that for me he would do it. He actually wanted me to attain that jar, and knew how important it was for me to have it in the collection next to my other dark jars. Of course I was ecstatic to say the least and on cloud nine. Naturally, the stopples came at a hefty price, and I had but one more call to make in order for this seemingly "Mission Impossible" task to have a happy and meaningful conclusion. That was the acceptance by the owner of the 234 to buy those stopples at the price offered.

I called him, and he was literally shocked as rightly he should have been. After all, under the circumstances the odds were against me, and we both knew it. I suppose he



imagined a call from me maybe six months to a year down the road in which I had a bead on possibly one of them. Who in their right mind would ever imagine I would be calling in just one day to say mission accomplished?

As I talked with him and told him what the closures would cost, he seemed amicable enough to get them (Halleluia!), but he said to me, "Bruce, you know darn well that the jar is worth a hell of a lot more than what you offered me, but a deal is a deal." What can I say folks, I stepped in it. My Jar Karma is alive and well, and I'm reaping the benefits. Go figure.

So I'm trying to work out details with him to have the stopples shipped, and when he received them he would ship

the jar, and then he completely blows my mind. He simply tells me he won't ship the jar. He didn't want to even think of it getting damaged. I would have to pick it up. And by the way, while I'm on my way, pick up the stopples and deliver them to him too. I can honestly tell you that I earned this jar, because I did. I was able to get the stopples, and I drove 500 miles from my doorstep to deliver them and pick up the jar.

When I arrived he and his wife were very cordial, and they had dinner waiting for me. It was delicious, and in fact the first time I have ever tasted Long Horn steer. Something I will have to try again for sure. While there he mentioned at least four times that I was getting the jar from him cheap, ;0) and all I could do was look at him and say, "Mission Accomplished, I earned it." When I finally left with jar in hand, I was exhilarated and relieved all at the same time. I had trav-



eled long and hard and done what quite simply was a seemingly impossible task. In the end he told me that he would have never sold that jar to anyone other than me. :o)

All I can say is '**Jar Karma**' keeps me going, because I have more adventures to experience and great jars to acquire.

# 2011 SUMMER FRUIT JAR ROUND-UP

This information comes from Marianne Dow:

Attention all Fruit Jar Collectors - Don't miss this summer's fun 4-day collectors event with room-hop-shopping and activities at the Signature Inn, 3400 N Chadam Ln Muncie IN (phone for room reservations: 765-284-4200).

With the entire show happening at the hotel, we should call it the **SHOW-TEL**! So come join us at the Fruit Jar Show-Tel! It's completely different from a traditional bottle show. This event takes place over several days, and is a chance to actually get to spend time with the good folks who speak Fruit-Jar-ese. If you've never been to "Muncie", as the regulars call it, basically it's like an **open-house party**. You can come and go as you please, from room to room, shopping, visiting, selling, and even learning. If a door is open, just come on in! You won't find a friendlier group of people. There's plenty to see, and plenty of people who'll point you in the right direction, so no worries if you're a newbie. After a few hours with us, you'll be right at home.

Collectors will start arriving in Muncie on Wednesday the 6th, and the room-hop-shopping scene will be "*happening*" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 7,8,9th. Sunday the 10th will be the farewell breakfast for those die-hards who stay over Saturday night. See the detailed schedule below.

Since the Midwest club retired from putting on the summer show, this is the 2nd Summer Muncie event put together by the collectors who just love getting together so much, we couldn't let this great tradition end.

I want to again give a **BIG Thank You** to **ALL** who donated so generously last year. Your contributions to the food costs were very much appreciated by Jerry and myself. **Russ and Heidi Crupe** deserve some extra big hugs for their donation! The **Midwest Club's** contribution was a huge help, and also greatly appreciated.

This year we are already the beneficiaries of donations and support from some kind folks, and I want to say **Thank You** to them, too!

**Martin Van Zant** donated our advertising flyers.

- **Bob Rhineberger** is bringing some whiskey, and a case of wine from the local vineyards in Quincy area.
- **Antique Bottle and Glass Collector Magazine** contributed advertising space.
- **"Jar-tist" Dave Dube** is contributing a print of one of his gorgeous Ball Jar drawings which will be auctioned off

on Saturday, with the money going to the food costs.

If you have any questions just email me, Marianne Dow at: [finbotclub@gmail.com](mailto:finbotclub@gmail.com)

Rooms may be all booked up, so call now. If you have to stay at a nearby hotel, you can still come and spend all day and night visiting with us at the "Signature Inn Show-Tel" ~ everything is free. We'll even give you a sales table. So no excuses, come on down!

The Signature Inn of Muncie has the hardest working crew and staff, and the friendliest. The manager, Jeff Bryan, has really worked with us on this show.

## Events Schedule

### Friday:

Complimentary Breakfast for hotel guests.

- 10am-ish - Room-hopping all day - if the door's open, come on in!
- 10am - Patent date discussion group/ bring your jar examples - Jeff Harper will moderate. See description below.
- 12pm - Tom Caniff will give his talk about Labelled Product Jars
- 12pm - Upstairs Hospitality/Jar Cave room will be open by noon. Earlier if we have volunteers to host until noon. Room stays open until 9pm-ish.
- 1pm - Light lunch served
- Snacks and beverages served all afternoon and evening.
- 2pm - Non-Ball Indiana Jars discussion group / bring your jar examples - Jean Harbron will moderate - See description below.
- 3pm - SOLID POUR Exhibit with talk by Dick Cole - see description below.
- Room hopping continues all day and night.
- 5pm - Cocktail party
- 6pm - Light supper served about 6pm.
- Snacks, beverages, including beer and wine available until 9-ish.
- Continuous room hopping all day and into the wee hours of the night! Floating cocktail parties are definitely going to happen!



# 2011 SUMMER FRUIT JAR ROUND-UP

## Saturday:

Complimentary Breakfast for hotel guests.

- Room-hopping all day - if the door's open, come on in!
- 10am - Jelly Jammers Club meeting 10am - Buy, sell and show jelly jars and related items. Everyone is welcome.
- 12pm - Upstairs Hospitality/Jar Cave room will be open by noon. Earlier if we have volunteers to host until noon.
- 12 pm - Snacks and beverages will be offered. No official lunch.
- 1:30 pm - Midwest Club Meet-n-Greet / Group Show & Tell - Open to all - bring your latest finds to show, and your items to put in the FEE-FREE Auction.
- 3pm - Short break before the auction - beverages available in hospitality room.
- 3pm - Auction immediately follows - time approx. 3pm.
- 4pm - Cocktail party after the auction.
- Room hopping continues all day into the night. Some folks will head home, but some of us are definitely staying through Saturday night.

## Sunday:

Complimentary Hotel Breakfast, and Fond Farewells!

## Discussion Groups

Open to all; you bring an example or just want to see some

- Patent Date Discussion Group / bring your examples (Friday, 10:00am)  
Moderator - Jeff Harper, jeffreyfharper@gmail.com

Fruit jars with a full patent date (not just year) on the front OTHER than Nov 30th 1858 and July 14th 1908

"It might be error variations of those dates, or it might be any of a number of other jars. The kicker will be explaining what was actually patented on that date, if known. I'd like to keep it challenging and require that the date be on the front rather than reverse, base, or lid - but that might be too restrictive."

- NON-BALL Indiana Jars / bring your jar examples (Friday, 2:00pm)  
Moderator - Jean Harbron, JHarbron@comcast.net

"There were many obscure Indiana glass houses so there are many jars we could present."

- **SOLID POUR EXHIBIT**  
(Friday, 3:00pm)

All the known solid pour fruit jars will be brought together for the 1st time ever exhibit. Dick Cole will give a talk about why these are such scarce items, and how difficult they are to make. (There's more to it than this, but large solid glass items have to cool super-slowly, or they shatter.)

If you have a solid pour jar and haven't been asked to bring it, it means we don't know it exists! So ~ bring it! (We are not referring to paperweights/hockey-pucks/mold-warmer-slugs, but to complete solid jars.)



MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT  
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

*A jarrific place to share and learn*

Send articles and info here:

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG](http://WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG)

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Ruth Nestleroad brought these two wooden Mason's Patent 1858 jars. The wooden jars had been hollowed out, and the wooden lids had slots in them so you could drop coins in for safe keeping.

## Announcements

- Greg Spurgeon's North American Glass will be auctioning the Bill Dudley collection. The auction opens July 25th. More details here: <http://www.gregspurgeon.com/dudley.html>
- **07 - 09 July 2011** (Thursday - Saturday) Muncie, Indiana, **Fruit Jar Round-Up**, Signature Inn, 3400 N. Chadham Lane, Muncie, Indiana. 3+ Jam Packed Days of Fruit Jar Fun! Contact Marianne Dow 419.455.1112 [finbotclub@gmail.com](mailto:finbotclub@gmail.com) or Jerry McCann 773.777.0443 [fjar@aol.com](mailto:fjar@aol.com)
- **23 July 2011** (Saturday) Altoona, Iowa, **The Iowa Antique Bottleers 42nd Annual Antique Bottle & Collectibles Show and Sale** (9:00 am - 2:00 pm) at the Meadows Events Center, Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino (I-80 Exit 142) Altoona, Iowa, Tom Southard, 2815 Druid Hill Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50315, Tele: 515.490.9590
- The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (the National bottle club) has a beautifully redesigned and informative website. They also have a new Facebook page. Check them out: <http://www.fohbc.org/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Federation-of-Historical-Bottle-Collectors-FOHBC/199965823373381?sk=wall>
- The Minnetrista Collections Department is excited to announce that a selection of object and archival records are now available online. Currently, there are approximately 4,400 collection records accessible that include postcards, photographs, objects, and over 2,300 book catalog records. Topics include but are not limited to Muncie Pottery, Ball Corporation, Ball family, businesses, clubs and organizations, gardening, collectibles, artwork, museum profession-related topics, etc.  
<http://www.minnetrista.net/heritage-collection/>

