



“PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION’S FIRST MAJOR INDUSTRY”

# National Bottle Museum®

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76 Milton Avenue  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

## The Bottle Muse

Autumn  
2011



Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Todd Shimkus and Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association representative Cliff Baum were recently treated to a V.I.P. tour of the National Bottle Museum by Collection Manager Gary Moeller and Acting Director Larry Rutland. Following the visit, Shimkus told *The Bottle Muse*: “I must say that Gary, Larry and Ann’s energy and enthusiasm for the National Bottle Museum during my tour was inspiring. I learned a lot from my visit and the Chamber will do everything it can to help and advise the museum’s leaders to enable them to accomplish their goals.”

## Museum uncorks plans to increase appeal as an Education & Vacation destination

By *Bottle Muse* Editor Ann Hauprich

The National Bottle Museum is developing a multi-dimensional plan that trustees hope will attract more visitors, members and volunteers who yearn to discover what’s on tap inside of the not-for-profit educational institution on Route 50 in Ballston Spa, NY.

Building upon the motto *Uncork history in a bottle*, the museum intends to develop innovative programs and promotions that will foster a greater appreciation of its mission – which is to preserve the history of our nation’s first major industry.

Related ideas being considered by NBM Acting Director Larry Rutland and the museum’s officers and trustees include sponsoring a logo design contest with the winning artwork being printed on select products that would, in turn, increase the museum’s visibility and visitation rates. A billboard on heavily traveled NYS Route 50 that is being donated by the Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association is expected to do much to raise awareness of the presence of the museum in the heart of the historic village that is situated just north of Albany and just south of Saratoga Springs. With assistance from the BSBPA and the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, the museum also intends to step up publicity efforts via the Internet and a diversity of print and broadcast media outlets across North America.

A key goal will be to draw attention to the National Bottle Museum’s value as a year-round Education & Vacation Destination. The fact that visitors may also “Stroll Through History” elsewhere in the village before and after visiting the not-for-profit teaching institution, which also includes a spacious art gallery on the second floor, is considered an added selling point.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Also inside  
this edition



PHOTO BY ANN HAUPRICH

Art exhibit and dedication ceremony to honor legacy of late Executive Director Jan Rutland ~ 3



PHOTO BY BRIAN KUTNER

Diving, digging & fiddling around with bottle collector Hunter Foote ~ 4 & 5



PHOTO BY MILT WRÓBLESKI

Ballots, Bottle Shows & Budding collector Nicholas Wroblewski



CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Other initiatives to be pursued in the coming months include seeking increased corporate memberships and sponsorships of special events and exhibits and exploring new avenues to bring the museum's message to students of all ages. Programs that provide opportunities for hands-on learning while building bridges of understanding between the generations will be announced early in the New Year.

The museum also hopes to begin sending representatives into public and private school classrooms as well as reaching out to regional home schooling groups. Related enrichment programs will delve into everything from the role children played in the history of bottle making to watching their elders demonstrate how to play an old-fashioned game of marbles or showing how bottles can be used to make music.

For the first time ever, the museum will also display one or two fireproof Christmas trees that will be decorated exclusively with seasonal ornaments crafted at the nearby Museum Glassworks. All proceeds from the sale of the glass decorations will benefit the museum. The museum's gift shop will also be expanding its inventory and adding an on-line store that will make select items available to those who reside too far from the museum to visit in person.

Other December activities include a book-signing and exhibit that showcases the art of renowned children's book illustrator Jody Wheeler, the hosting of a BSBPA Networking Breakfast that will double as a fund-raiser for the museum. Cliff Baum, proprietor of the nearby Coffee Planet, has generously offered to donate coffee and bagels for the occasion.



Gary Moeller leads a tour of the National Bottle Museum while young collectors Larry Zwicker and Hayden Murray pause in front of an open storage display in the museum. The photograph of the museum's exterior (above) is courtesy of Fred Neudoeffler.



More fund-raising ideas are expected to be forthcoming in the New Year thanks to the recent formation of a Friends of the Museum group led by volunteer Judy Cottone, acclaimed glassblower Sally Prasch and NBM President Evelyn Kramer.

Efforts will also be made to increase memberships at all levels and to secure grants for such things as a "stair lift" that will make it possible for those who rely in walkers and wheelchairs for mobility to access exhibits on the museum's second floor.

Other initiatives include a village treasure hunt for children of all ages created by and for children of all ages. Students, teachers, parents and grandparents will be invited to pool their collective imaginations and resources to create a "Treasure Hunt" that entails such components as finding the place where the world-famous Sans Souci once welcomed guests eager to enjoy mineral baths and the spot where "healing waters" from the Hides-Franklin Spring were bottled for shipment around the world.

# *National Bottle Museum to host show of collected art works of Jan Rutland and to dedicate The Artists' Space to her memory*

From early October to mid-November the National Bottle Museum on Milton Avenue will host a show of the collected art works of late Executive Director Jan Rutland. The highlight of the show will be the dedication of "The Artists' Space at the National Bottle Museum" to her memory at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26.

The decision to rename the second floor of the not-for-profit educational institution to the woman who worked tirelessly at its helm for two decades will be a fitting tribute to her life and legacy, according to Larry Rutland, who was named the museum's Acting Executive Director following his wife's sudden passing on October 26, 2010.

"Jan just could not tolerate the beautiful brick walls on the second floor continuing to exist without being decorated with works of art. It was an empty space crying to be filled with the work of artists of all disciplines — be it paintings, sculptures, photographs even carvings such as totem poles. The Artists' Space is a wonderful space and is a tribute to Jan's foresight," said Mr. Rutland.

"The Artists' Space at the National Bottle Museum made Jan Rutland smile. She loved art and had an eclectic taste for it," said Fred Neudoerffer, who oversees art shows inside of the museum. "Off and on over the past many years, art of various artists has been displayed there, but not with any regularity. Three years ago, I convinced Jan that the space needed to be highlighted as an extra attraction in the museum, both as an art display space as well as a fund-raising vehicle for the museum. Together, we started planning regular shows," said Neudoerffer.

"Since that time we have had 10 shows that have included paintings, sculptures, photography and mixed media, by some well known and some not so well known artists. As the volunteer director of The Artists' Space it has been a great pleasure for me to work with these artists. In the future we will continue to offer this space to a wide range of artists, in all mediums, and continue to support the National Bottle Museum through the sale of their work," noted Neudoerffer. "Jan Rutland gave all of herself to the Museum and The Artists' Space gave her the opportunity to share her passion for art surrounded by her passion for history with the general public."

Sharon Blakemore Kingsbury, a long-time museum volunteer and local artist, was the first to stage a show in the upstairs gallery in 1999. "Jan loved the visual arts. Hence her collecting was very eclectic. The exhibit will allow visitors to enjoy the many facets of Jan," said Kingsbury, who also creates window displays to be enjoyed by museum passersby.

Gary Moeller, who worked beside Mrs. Rutland for nearly 15 years, credits his late boss with almost doubling the size of the original exhibit space inside of the museum as well as increasing of the size of its permanent collection by a about a third – to more than 2,000 pieces. "Jan's legacy also includes the purchase of a building on nearby Washington Street for use as a glass studio where hot glass classes are taught as well as adding new lighting and new heating and cooling systems for both the first and second floors of the museum. In addition, Jan gets the credit for arranging for the fencing and paving of museum property behind the building," said Moeller.

## **Reflections on the Collected Art of Jan Rutland**

*The following tribute was penned by Jan's beloved husband Larry Rutland who has served as the National Bottle Museum's Acting Director since her passing.*

The art pieces in this exhibit represent the long journey through the visual arts as experienced by Jan. Although she only dabbled in creating art objects, Jan was very good at creating images that reflected her thoughts.

The pieces by artist Pat Bloomfield came into Jan's collection after she signed me up for pastel lessons decades ago. The Bloomfield connection soon turned into a very close family relationship that included our children and lasted many years. These are samples of the paintings that Jan found to be beautiful and exciting. Some of my pastels have been included because Jan liked them enough to encourage me to continue to pursue this hobby while I was busy building a professional engineering career. Then came the photographs that captured Jan's imagination in both their content and presentation. The one in the antique oval frame was one of Jan's favorites. It is a photo of Jan's grandmother-in-law on my mother's side and has hung over our fireplace for years.

The bronze statues – which were part of the first exhibit in The Artists' Space at the National Bottle Museum – absolutely blew her away. Jan just had to purchase one at the show, followed by a couple more. The Goldbergs are here because Jan found them to be captivating in content and form. If we'd had more wall space at home, Jan would probably have purchased several more.

The paperweights in the first case as you enter The Artists' Space are also part of Jan's collection. They illustrate her love of glass colors and shapes. The uranium glass exhibit on the wall is another prized part of her collection. I hope you enjoy viewing the show as much as the museum staff and volunteers have enjoyed preparing it for you under the direction of Fred Neudoerffer.



Portrait of late Executive Director Jan Rutland by Fred Neudoerffer.

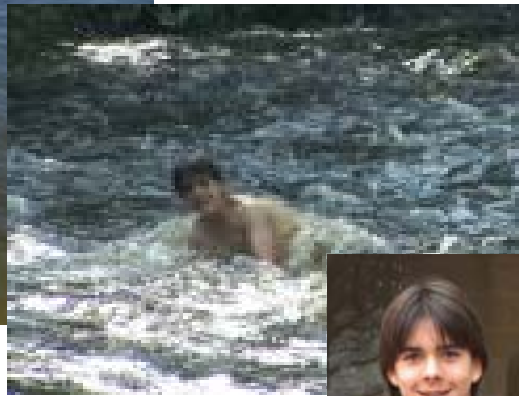


# Diving into bottle hunting & fiddling around with Hunter Foote

Stories by Ann Hauprich

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Photos by David & Dawna Foote



## THE MANY FACES OF HUNTER FOOTE

Whether preparing for a bottle dive in North Carolina, swimming across a river in Sturbridge in search of buried glass, posing after a fruitful dig in Wales, MA, suited up for a business conference or fiddling up a storm (facing page), it is clear to see that 17-year-old Hunter Foote practices what he preaches about living life as a joyful, learning-filled adventure. The young bottle collector's philosophies will soon be available in the form of a book that is tentatively titled *365 Unbeatable Guidelines for Personal Success*.



Hunter Foote of Wales, Massachusetts, was just 13 when he discovered the bottle world – and when he entered college. In the four years since then, the teen has collected thousands of bottles and earned associates degrees in music and liberal arts – both Summa Cum Laude — as well as completing his Bachelor's degree in Business Management at the U/Mass Isenberg School of Management.

While Hunter is humble about his outstanding academic achievements, his enthusiasm for bottle collecting is hard to suppress.

"I was walking in some local woods and I found this bottle sticking out of the ground, amongst some other debris. I picked around and found a few milk bottles and a bottle which read Dr. Hookers, and being, 13, I found that quite amusing," quips Hunter. "I took my collection of five or so bottles home and washed them. When the Brimfield Antique Show came along, I thought 'I may as well bring them down and see what they're worth.' I did this, and the first guy I met was one of the members of the Somers Antique Bottle Club. He offered me \$25 for the lot, and I was ecstatic!"

Hunter, who was then being home-schooled by parents Dawna and David, soon raced back to the spot where he had discovered his first antique bottles and commenced further excavation. He has since unearthed hundreds of bottles from that site and considers it his best site so far. "Although I have traveled as far as Maine for bottles, I have some friends searching the corners of the earth for them. I have glass from Haiti found in the ocean, bottles from Germany, France, Canada, Scotland and England."

The most unusual bottle the 17-year-old ever found came from an old foundation in Wales, MA. "The house burned down and I unearthed a partially melted bottle. Some of it is melted and deformed, and some of it is intact."

Including about 25 pieces of Stoneware and glassware, Hunter now has about 1,200 bottles in his private collection — down from about 4,500 due to selling at a booth he has at Brimfield. "I am starting to get more into quality and not so much quantity, so I am working to sell of the majority of my collection to pay for some sunburst historical flasks. At the moment, I have no intention to sell any of my personal sunburst collection. I would like to collect the entire group (i.e. GVIII-1 through GVIII- 29). I have a few of them currently. The extra sunbursts and a few other nice flasks are available on my web site ([www.pontiledtreasures.com](http://www.pontiledtreasures.com)).

About a year ago, Hunter joined the Somers Bottle Club where he says he has since learned a lot from the wisdom and experience of his fellow members. "I really appreciate all of the help they have provided with research," says Hunter, who believes the greatest misconception younger people have about bottle collecting (and many other things) is that it's boring.

“I am sure if they explored something with that mindset, many would find it to be boring simply because they assumed it would be so. It is a sad thing, but many individuals in the younger generation don’t give something a fair try before deeming it as uninteresting,” muses Hunter. “I encourage people my own age, and especially people younger to fully explore things, and find the things in which they are truly interested. Who knows - maybe they might find something like this field interesting.”

Hunter’s first bottle-based trip to upstate New York took place last year when he and his mother visited the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa. “We stayed in a hotel and spent two days in the museum. It was a great experience and we vowed to come back for the museum’s annual show. When the show came along in June, I grabbed a table and my dad tagged along.”

Describing his first time at the Saratoga Show as “awesome,” Hunter says he spent much of his time meeting people and talking with them about a diverse range of subjects — flasks, inks, bitters, bottle colors, glasshouses, and so on. “The show was big, and it was profitable from my standpoint. I bet many more young people would get involved if they found the excitement of it: You make a good deal on a good bottle, and you can make a few hundred dollars in profit from one bottle. You have to know what you are doing, however, which would encourage any newcomers to invest some time and discover the fascinating field of the history and significance of the bottles.”

Hunter, who is often accompanied on bottle digs by his dog Cocoa, says her companionship is always appreciated on expeditions into the dirt. Having been kidded that he often resembles a person auditioning for a laundry detergent commercial at the end of his bottle digs, Hunter now jokes about how clean he is after he goes diving for bottles.

Asked about his future plans, Hunter said he is planning to leave himself with less of a plan than many. “I would like to leave my options open so if I change my mind about something, or if an opportunity presents itself I will be able to change direction. I am aiming towards entrepreneurship and/or finance. I will work for the time being building a few projects (see sidebar) and I am writing a book that is tentatively titled *365 Unbeatable Guidelines for Personal Success*. I am also looking to get into real estate and the precious metals world.”

Other than this, Hunter says he is “striving for personal growth and learning so as to position myself to take advantage of what life gives me. I feel the world will be changing at a very fast pace, and one of the best investments is learning. Knowledge doesn’t depreciate, isn’t taxed, and it can’t be taken away. I encourage others and any readers of this article to invest your time in self-discovery, learning, and growth. The path of life can be tough, but if you take the time to discover what you really enjoy — and pursue it — bad times will be just a bump in the path. This is what I have come to know for sure.”

To learn more about Hunter Foote, please check out Bonus Features on [www.nationalbottlemuseum.org](http://www.nationalbottlemuseum.org)



Hunter Foote playing his violin at the age of eight and at a Christmas Ceilid. His musical aspirations include performing before audiences in Fenway Park and Boston Garden.

In addition to being an avid bottle collector, scholar and entrepreneur, Hunter Foote frequently takes center stage with his violin.

Hunter credits his mother Dawna, who had played the instrument when she was in high school, with encouraging him to start learning how to play it when he was just five. He insists that his first year was nothing special. In fact, he says, “I sat under my teacher’s table for the majority of lesson time.: The reason: “I was mildly interested in the classical genre of music, but what really sparked my interest in the instrument is when I discovered Celtic music. I was drawn to the freedom I had when playing and writing this type of music, and I have been fascinated by it ever since.”

In addition to playing in an Irish band called the Boys of the Town, Hunter does a significant amount of writing in the traditional style for Noteworthy Commissions — a music commissioning business focused on weddings. (To learn more, visit [www.noteworthycommissions.com](http://www.noteworthycommissions.com)).

“I’m starting to get back involved with classical music as well, but Celtic fiddle is still my favorite for playing and writing. *Cereal for Dinner* was my first official composition, and I wrote the piece when I was around 11. Since then, I have written many pieces in a range of styles from Classical to Celtic, and everywhere in between. I think my total is around 50 pieces, including a few works-in-progress. I have yet to write a piece about bottles, but will keep this in mind for my next music writing session.”

Hunter has been a Scout in Troop 161 (Sturbridge, MA) for six years and rose to the rank of Eagle Scout rank last year. In addition to the 42 badges he has earned, Hunter was the Medal of Merit for saving his mother’s life when she was choking.

Although he has yet to see a bottle merit badge, Hunter says he may send a suggestion to some Scouting officials.

“They have a collections and entrepreneurship badge, both of which I have earned using my bottle knowledge and business to fulfill some of the requirements. I have also had the honor to appear as a Scout three times at sporting events playing the *Star Spangled Banner* to open. My dad contacted the event organizers and suggested they have me play, and when they had a Scout Night, they asked me to represent Scouting. I would like to have the chance to play at Fenway Park and/or the Boston Garden at some point.”

# Bottle Show Calendar

## October 21-22 — Santa Rosa, CA

Northwest Bottle Collector's Association's  
Show & Sale  
Friday, noon – 6 pm \$10 early admission  
Saturday 9 am – 3 pm FREE)  
Finley Hall, Sonoma County Fairgrounds  
Info: Beverley Siri — (707) 542-6438.

## October 30 — Glendale Heights, IL

1st Chicago Bottle Club's  
42nd Annual Show & Sale  
Sun. 9am-2pm at the Ramada Inn & Suites  
Convention Center 780 E. North Ave.  
Glendale Heights, IL.  
Info: John and Claudia Panek  
P.O. Box 287, Deerfield, IL. 60015  
(847) 945-5493, Email: paperbottle1@aol.com

## November 5 — Jacksonville, FL

Antique Bottle Collectors of North Florida  
44th Annual Show & Sale  
Sat. 8 am-3 pm, early buyers Fri 5-8 pm  
Fraternal Order of Police Building  
5530 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL.  
Info: Mike Skie — (904) 710-0422  
OR Jackie McRae (904) 879-3696.

## November 6 – Royal Oak, MI

The Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club's  
29th Antique Bottle Show & Sale  
9:30 am to 3 pm -- Royal Oak Elks Lodge #1523  
2401 E. Fourth Street, Royal Oak, Michigan  
Info: Michael Brodzik — (586) 219-9980  
Email: bottlemike@wowway.com  
OR Bruce Heckman — (248) 760-1722  
Email: hisser@comcast.net

## November 6 – Elkton, MD

Tri-state Bottle Collectors & Diggers Club's  
39th Annual Show & Sale  
Sunday 9am-3 pm  
Singerly Fire Hall, Routes 279 & 213 Elkton, MD.  
Info: Dave Brown — (302) 738-9960  
Email: dbrown3942@comcast.net

## November 12 – Belleville, IL

Eastside Antique Bottle, Jar, and Brewery  
Collectibles 5th Annual Show & Sale  
9 am – 3 pm (early buyers 7 am)  
Belleclair Fairgrounds, Belleville, Illinois.  
Info: Kevin Kious — (618) 346-2634  
OR Curt Faulkenberry (636) 797-5220.

## November 13 – Oakland, NJ

North Jersey Antique Bottle Collectors Association's  
42nd Annual Show & Sale  
Sun. 9am-2pm, early buyers \$15 at 8am  
33 Ramapo Valley Rd., Route 202, Oakland, NJ.  
Info: Ken Dickson — (973) 907-7351  
OR Jim (516) 454-8993.

## November 13 – Pittsburgh, PA

The Pittsburgh Antique Bottle Club  
Annual Show & Sale  
9 am – 2 pm, early buyers 7 am  
The Ice Garden, Rostraver Twp.  
Info: Bob DeCroo, 694 Fayette City Rd., Fayette  
City, PA — (724) 326-8741  
OR Jay Hawkins, 1280 Mt. Pleasant Rd., West  
Newton, PA 15089 — (724) 872-6013.

## November 19 – Mildford, OH

St. Andrew Church Antique Bottle Show  
St. Andrew Parish Center  
9 am – 1 pm, Early Admission \$15 (7 am)  
533 Main Street, Milford, Ohio.  
Info: Steve Singer — (513) 732-2793  
Email: singersams@yahoo.com

## November 18-19 – Terre Haute, IN

14th Annual Illiana Antique Bottle  
and Pottery Show and Sale  
Special event: historical bottle auction  
Fri Nov 18 7 pm  
Info: John Newman (812) 232-3774  
to consign bottles or pottery.  
Show Sat Nov 19 9 am - 2pm  
Shadow Auction Barn, 1517 Maple Ave,  
Terre Haute, IN 47804.  
Early buyers \$15 at 7:30am.  
Info: Ed Newman — (812) 232-3774  
Email: bottleed@aol.com.

## November 20 – Greensboro, NC

10th annual Greensboro Antique  
Bottle & Collectibles Show & Sale  
9am-3pm Farmer's Curb Market  
501 Yanceyville St, Greensboro, NC.  
Free bottle and pottery appraisals.  
Dealer setup 7 - 9 am, No Early Buyers.  
Info: Reggie Lynch — (704) 221-6489.  
Web: www.antiquebottles.com/greensboro

## November 27 – Bethlehem, PA

Forks of the Delaware  
Bottle Collectors Assoc.  
38th Annual Show & Sale  
9 am - 3 pm, early buyers 7:30 am  
Bethlehem Catholic High School  
Madison & Dewberry Aves, Bethlehem, PA.  
Info: Bill Hegedus, 20 Cambridge Place,  
Catasauqua, PA 18032 — (610) 264-5945.

## December 2 – 3 – Auburn, CA

49er Antique Bottle & Antique Show  
"The Best of the West"  
9 am to 3 pm, early admission  
Friday \$10 at Noon – 7 pm  
Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn, CA.  
Info: Mike McKillop, 117 A Estates Court,  
Roseville, California 95678 — (916) 367-1829  
Email: pville1871@yahoo.com

## In Memoriams



### Doris Hopper

Doris Hopper, a longtime member of the National Bottle Museum and close friend of late Executive Director Jan Rutland, passed away in August of 2011. A frequent volunteer at the museum, Doris usually had a table at our annual show. "Doris lived quietly and did not draw a lot of attention to herself. In keeping with her lifestyle, her passing and services were dealt with privately by her children. Those of us who knew Doris and had occasion to work with her on various projects at the museum will miss her lovely sense of humor and sense of fun," said NBM President Evelyn Kramer. "She was a good lady."

### Fran Mikalonis

Fran Mikalonis, an active collector of antique glass and bottles and a good friend of the National Bottle Museum, passed away on May 21, 2011. "He participated in most of the bottle shows in the Northeast, including the Saratoga Show, where his insight and advice were appreciated by his fellow collectors. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him," said NBM Acting Director Larry Rutland.

### Joe Zarro

Joe Zarro, a dedicated bottle collector for over 40 years who participated in bottle shows all over the east coast and was a good friend of the NBM, passed away on May 21, 2011. "A very memorable occasion was Joe's wedding to his best friend Dana Charlton inside of the National Bottle Museum during a Saratoga Show weekend," said NBM Acting Director Larry Rutland. "Village of Ballston Spa Mayor John Romano officiated at the ceremony which was attended by many of the couple's close friends who will miss Joe very much."

## COMING SOON TO OUR WEB SITE

Please visit [www.nationalbottlemuseum.org](http://www.nationalbottlemuseum.org) after November 1 to check out the items available in our brand new on-line gift shop and to read such Bonus Features as "Music in a Bottle" by Carl Waldron and profiles of Gary Moeller & Jody Wheeler

# National Bottle Museum 2011 Board of Trustees

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Please write to Board members  
c/o The National Bottle Museum  
or email them at [nbm@crisny.org](mailto:nbm@crisny.org).

## Mark your calendars now!

The annual meeting of the National Bottle Museum will take place at 76 Milton Avenue in Ballston Spa, NY at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

### BALLOTS

for the new slate of Officers & Trustees are being tucked inside of this newsletter.

### QUESTIONS?

Email [nbm@crisny.org](mailto:nbm@crisny.org)  
or call 518.885.7589.

## *Sally Prasch to teach ornament-making class at Museum Glassworks November 5*

World renowned scientific glassblower Sally Prasch will be teaching an ornament-making class called "Holiday Pretties" at the Museum Glassworks on Washington Street in Ballston Spa from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on November 5. Cost of the class – which will involve the use of borosilicate and tubing — is \$125. To register, please call 518.885.7589.

Described as being the perfect blend of advanced technical skill and intuitive creativity, Sally's background is in both scientific glassblowing and fine art. Her work is characterized by the combination of her technical skills and a strong art esthetic. She places other-worldly figures in glowing globes filled with rare gasses and constructs portraits of friends from broken shards picked out of the glass trash barrels. Well known for goblets made with coiled stems that bounce when handled, her latest work incorporates cast bronze with glass.



## Give the gift of a museum membership to yourself or another

This is just a gentle reminder that museum membership dues are due.

What better time to consider not only renewing your membership in this vital, vibrant organization, but encouraging others to join as well!

The gift of a membership in the National Bottle Museum is one that keeps on giving all year -- not only to the recipient but to those who benefit in a broad diversity of ways from the educational institution's programs.

For your convenience, we are posting both a membership renewal form and a gift membership form on the museum's web site that may be printed, filled out and returned with your check or money order. Those receiving gift memberships will receive a special holiday greeting card in the mail from the NBM.

To learn more, please visit us on-line at [www.nationalbottlemuseum.org](http://www.nationalbottlemuseum.org)



The *Bottle Muse* is the official newsletter of the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa, New York. Articles may be reprinted if proper credit is given, unless the author indicates a copyright.

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*Inside our next edition . . .*

## Meet bottle collector Nicholas Wroblewski

He may only be 11, but Nicholas Wroblewski has been bottle hunting and collecting “for as long as I can remember” and already owns about 350 antique glass pieces -- including the demijohn at right.

Nick, who resides in a ca. 1840-1860 farmhouse in Killingly, Connecticut, credits his late father -- who was “an avid dump and privy digger” as well as “a collector of New England beer bottles, beer cans and breweriana” with inspiring him to take up the hobby.

Nick’s membership in The Museum of Connecticut Glass in Coventry, CT, began earlier this year after he won a contest that required participants to answer questions about bottles and bottle collecting. The person with the best score won a free membership. The extraordinary Grade 7 student says he enjoys being part of starting a museum and learning about the history of a local glass works.

Staff and volunteers at the National Bottle Museum first became acquainted with Nick when he visited the not-for-profit educational institution in Ballston Spa, NY with grandparents Dot and Milt Wroblewski over the recent Labor Day weekend.

Nick has since taken the time to respond to a long list of questions that were sent to him by *Bottle Muse* editor Ann Hauprich. The resulting story will grace the centerspread of our next edition together with several photos -- including the ones on Pages 1 and 8 of this issue -- that were taken by Milt Wroblewski. The feature will also be showcased in full color on [www.nationalbottlemuseum.org](http://www.nationalbottlemuseum.org) starting around Thanksgiving.

