

# The Refresher

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 5 – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

MID-AMERICA CHAPTER OF THE COCA-COLA COLLECTORS CLUB

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## Member Dates

### SEPTEMBER

#### BIRTHDAYS:

Melanie Bower ..... 1  
 Sandy Palmer ..... 1  
 Karen Grindel..... 11  
 Rita Porter ..... 21  
 Ana Hockett ..... 26

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

Matt and Judi Webb..... 7  
 Dan and Melody Frese ..... 8  
 Ted and Susan Farley ..... 9  
 Nancy and Darrel Price ..... 17

### OCTOBER

#### BIRTHDAYS:

Gary Grindel..... 2  
 Deloris Goldberg ..... 8  
 Darrell Price ..... 12  
 Drew Sommerer ..... 12  
 Duane Bower ..... 14  
 Tim Parker ..... 18  
 Justin Sweetalla..... 27  
 Nancy Price ..... 28  
 Trudy Shirley ..... 31

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

Terry and Paula Schmidt ..... 2  
 Mark and Betty Pryor..... 15

## JOANIE'S GIBBERISH

Another summer is about ready to Segway into fall and I love the different colors in the trees. I want to thank the 35 members who attended our August meeting. Craig and I were happy to host the meeting. We hope everyone had a good time. The food was great and chatter was even better. A big THANK YOU for those bringing food and Show and Tell items which made the event a great success. If interested, pictures of our meeting are on the National Coca-Cola Club's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Coca-Cola-Collectors-Club-195017995223>.

Your officers will remain the same for the next year. Your officers are Joanie Shover-President, Bruce Carter-VP, Rita Porter-Secretary, Treasurer-Melody Frese, Editor-Traci Menke, Historian-Stephanie Goldberg.

The board is in the process of choosing a theme for our next Spring Fling. We really

enjoy planning and brainstorming to make this event fun for all. The next meeting will be at Pegah's Family Restaurant, 12122 W 87th Street, Lenexa, Kansas 66215. **We will begin at 1:00 PM with lunch with the meeting to follow. A selling table will be available for you. If you have a show and tell item bring it also.**

Planning ahead, the Christmas Luncheon will be at the First United Methodist Church in Blue Springs on December 7, 2019. In order to prevent over ordering food, an RSVP will be requested. Please be prompt to return the RSVP that will be in the October newsletter.

Please continue prayers for Gary Grindel, Ted Farley, Judi Webb, Mark Pryor and Mike Cottengim as they continue to recuperate from various surgeries and health issues.

Respectfully,  
 Joanie

## FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE 2019-2020

October 5	Pegah's	1:00 PM	Lenexa, KS
December 7	United Methodist Church	1:00 PM	Blue Springs, MO
February 1, 2020	Tuscany's	1:00 PM	Blue Springs, MO
April 24-25, 2020	Garden Hilton	1:00 PM	Independence, MO

## MID-AMERICA COCA COLA CLUB

### August 3, 2019 Chapter Meeting

The August meeting was held at the home of Craig and Joanie Shover. Joanie called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with a welcome to everyone, especially those who haven't been able to attend for a while.

Joanie reported that plans were underway for Spring Fling, 2020, which will be held at the

Hilton Inn in Independence. We will be spending a little less so that we will be able to spend more for the 2021 Spring Fling, the club's big birthday bash. Bruce Carter added that the Hereford House will be the caterer.

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Rita Porter had submitted the minutes for the February meeting and they were included in a prior newsletter. Karen Grindel moved that the minutes be accepted and Stephanie Goldberg seconded. All voted in favor, minutes approved. Melody Frese gave the Treasurer's Report starting with the month of June. We began with a balance of \$6,110.88 and ended with \$6,498.88. The month of July began with \$6,498.88 and ended with \$6,529.88. Membership dues have been collected and the website fee of \$99.00 has been paid. A motion was made by Mark Magel to accept the report and Nanette Wilkinson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Traci Menke had no report. Stephanie reported she had been updating the website and wanted national convention pictures.

Brian Van Fossen commented that he thought the auction prices were good and room selling went well at the national convention. Those attending agreed that there were a lot of buyers there. The National TCCCC intends to continue to conduct the premium auction during the silent auction. Several items were placed together with high minimums for these good items. All the auction pieces are on the national website together with pictures and

prices. Both Jerry Lierly and Brian enjoyed the side trip to the Cedartown Museum. The museum collection was great quality and presented well. It was a worthwhile trip.

Joanie stated that the nominations for officers on the board for this chapter had closed at the end of the last meeting. The by-laws require a time for those who wish to run for office to let the officers know. Karen moved that the present officers remain in office. Mark Menke seconded. Motion approved.

In new business, Joanie announced the meetings schedule for the next year. October 5th meeting will be held at Pegah's on 87th St., the Christmas Party will be December 7, at the church in Blue Springs, the February 1 meeting will be held at Tuscany's in Blue Springs. She told the members that the Christmas Party will be held in the same location in Blue Springs as last year, but this year we will need to RSVP. Last year, we had too much food left over. An accurate count of members who will attend is needed before the food is ordered.

The remaining part of the meeting began with show and tell. Mark Menke brought a display piece he had designed in the shape of a bottle to display bottle openers. He also explained which of the openers were for refrigerator doors. Martin Wells brought sea glass. He had mounted pieces from all over the world along with bottles from WWII.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### JUNE 2019 BALANCE

Beginning balance	\$6110.88
Revenue	\$ 420.00
Expenses (Spring Fling)	\$ 32.00

**Ending Balance \$6498.88**

### JULY 2019 BALANCE

Beginning balance	\$6498.88
Revenue	\$330.00
Expenses (Spring Fling)	\$299.00

**Ending Balance \$6529.88**

Members also discussed an article online about sea glass. Mark Magel brought a motorcycle coke tin he had found. Ginny Wohlgemuth brought a postage stamp holder from 1902. She explained she had traded for this piece with another collector who was hoping to complete the items in the jigsaw puzzle and needed a key chain. Joanie had found a metal miniature carriers from the 1930's. Mark Magel won the 50/50 raffle and door prizes were awarded to Ginny, Mark, Nanette, Ted Farley, Melody, Rose Mary Hartshorn, Elizabeth Van Fossen, Rita, Noretta and Stephanie. Melody moved the meeting to adjourn and Bruce seconded. Meeting adjourned.

## PHOTO GALLERY



From Ginny and Dale Wohlgemuth.



A thermometer from the Schmidt Museum. It is also Schmidt Museum Book.



FUN & CONVERSATION



Roger Herron brought us a game card with punch buttons to win a free 24 bottle case of Coke. Every time you bought gas you came closer to winning a soda.



Leave it to Martin Wells to make a beautiful creation using a World War II bottle and sea glass.



# WHY COCA-COLA BOTTLES ARE A CHERISHED FIND FOR SEA GLASS COLLECTORS- THE JOURNEY

By: Laura Randall (March 2, 2015)

Richard LaMotte knew he had a winner when he spotted a small shard of aquamarine glass one day sitting amid the reeds, rocks, and oyster and clam shells that line the shore near his home on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay.

It turned out to be the heel of a Coca-Cola bottle, smoothed and tumbled for decades by fresh and saltwater waves into an elegantly frosted nugget. LaMotte estimates that it dates back to the 1930s, when the bayside town of Tolchester, Md., attracted tens of thousands of sun seekers from Baltimore and elsewhere every weekend.

"It's the size of a thumb and perfectly worn," said LaMotte, the author of *Pure Sea Glass*, a color-photograph reference guide to finding and collecting sea glass. His wife Nancy, a jewelry designer, uses the sea glass in her work, he said, but he decided to keep this piece for himself.

"I told her I didn't want her to make jewelry out of that one," he said with a chuckle. The piece



Credit: Nancy LaMotte

is now displayed in a custom cabinet along with other treasured specimens the couple have found over the last decade -- a perfectly worn red-hued nugget from the edge of a warning light, a smooth piece of lavender sea glass from an antique perfume stopper, a yellow glass knob in the shape of a bear's head that may have belonged to a century-old jar lid.

Since its patenting in late 1915, the Coca-Cola contour bottle has been widely celebrated, from its appearance on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1950 to its immortalization by artists like Andy Warhol. Now, as the bottle marks its 100th anniversary, it has picked up a new set of admirers: the growing number of sea glass collectors who cherish its aquamarine green color and the nostalgia that comes with a century-old possession.

"It's frosty, sea-foamy and beautiful like the ocean. It's also nostalgic for a lot of people," said Mary Beth Beuke, founder and former president

of the North American Sea Glass Association and the author of *The Ultimate Guide to Sea Glass*.

An estimated 75 percent of sea glass comes from bottles, and Coke bottles make up the majority of the burnished antique green sea glass found on beaches from Maine to Japan. That's due in large part to the company's use of the color green in its glass bottles, LaMotte said.

"Automation came in the 1900s and bottling companies switched" to clear and brown colors for efficiency reasons, he said. "It wiped out all the blues and greens. Coke was the exception. It continued with that nice soft green color from 1915 until well into the 1960s."

Prior to 1915, Coca-Cola bottles were amber or a clear hue known as flint, explains Ted Ryan, Coke's director of heritage communications. When the company standardized and went with the contour bottle, also known as the "hobble-skirt" or "Mae West" bottle for its hourglass curves, it wanted to standardize on a color as well and chose a light green color also known as German green, he explained. It was later called Georgia green in homage to the company's home state.

"Nobody else had ever done this up to that point. So they picked a green, the green we all know today," Ryan said. "We religiously enforced the use of the green dye. If we caught bottlers going back to flint, which was cheaper, we would make them come back to that proper green. It became the standard color of the company."

If you're lucky, collectors say, you might find a piece of a Coke bottle that still has the raised lettering of the patent date and year and name of the town where it was bottled, or the raised horizontal lines that run from the neck to the heel of the contour bottle. These distinctive marks are rare for sea glass, Beuke notes, since decades of ocean tumbling tend to smooth it all away.

Sea glass essentially comes from jars, bottles, tableware and other items that were discarded into the ocean via coastal landfills, shipwrecks, and the pre-recycling habits of people in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Decades of wave action, or natural tumbling, turn it into the pretty, smooth and frosted nuggets sought out by jewelry designers and collectors.

Recycling, returnable bottles and the increased



Credit: Mary Beth Beuke

use of plastic have made sea glass like LaMotte's treasured Coke-bottle heel harder to find, but that may have helped fuel its popularity in recent years, collectors say.

"People see that it's going away, so a lot more jewelers are buying and paying more for sea glass jewelry because they can't find it anymore," LaMotte said. The Internet and glossy magazine and newspaper features have also helped expand its fan base, he said.

In Japan, contour Coke bottles have gone through a similar artistic rebirth of sorts. Coke shipped thousands of bottles to servicemen stationed overseas during World War II, including Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands. When residents returned their war-torn island, some resourceful artists began collecting discarded Coke bottles and repurposing them into everything from simple glass bulbs to exquisitely patterned vases. Known as "Ryukyu glass," it has developed into a trademark craft on the island and a major tourism attraction.

More recently, designer Oki Sato transformed the contour bottle into elegant green glass tableware as part of Coca-Cola Japan's ongoing program in design sustainability.

Once favored largely by jewelry-makers, sea glass is now being used in all sorts of creative ways, from swimming pool decor to wall hangings and wind chimes, as more people embrace its mix of beauty and history, Beuke notes.

"It represents something historic that's been on a long journey," she explained. "That's where the life metaphor comes in: this is something that was made more beautiful after having gone through a harsh environment, but it comes out pretty and softened at the end."



# Mid-America Chapter of the Coca-Cola Collectors Club

September/October 2019 NEWSLETTER

Joanie Shover

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Coca-Cola Days

Atlanta, IA  
September 27-28, 2019

### Mid-America TCCCC

Pegah's Restaurant  
October 5, 2019  
1:00 PM

### MinniFest

Minnatonka, MN  
October 17-19

## MID-AMERICA BOARD

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