

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Summer 2023

Club and Chapter News

Cape Cod Glass Club

More than two dozen members of the CCGC welcomed outgoing NAGC president Anne Madarasz as the speaker at their annual Spring Luncheon meeting on Tuesday, June 6, in Sandwich, MA. The Club enjoyed a lovely lunch in the Heritage Room at the historic Dan'l Webster Inn before the program. Kirk Nelson, NAGC director and historian, and executive director at the New Bedford Museum of Glass welcomed attendees and introduced the program. A number of NAGC members from the Founders and Pittsburgh Chapters and the

Westchester Club joined by Zoom. Mary Childs, the new executive director at the Sandwich Glass Museum, also attended the Luncheon.

Anne's program, *Ten Treasures from the Heinz History Center's Collection*, traced the lineage of the institution's collection beginning in 1951 with Lowell Innes. He issued a call to members of the Historical Society of Western, PA, to work with him and Society executive director Charles McClintock to build a museum-quality collection of early American glass made in the "Pittsburgh district." The two enlisted

leaders from the glass world, such as Dorothy Daniels and George and Helen McKearin in this effort. This collection formed the nucleus of the institution's holdings when the Society began planning, in 1992, for a long-term exhibit on Western Pennsylvania glass in the new History Center they were building downtown. Anne's illustrated talk focused on glass that unveiled interesting stories about objects made in the Pittsburgh area, as well as sharing how museums collect and the history behind significant pieces in the museum's collection.

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Barry Art Museum

Through December 31, 2023, the Barry Art Museum features the exhibition *PERSPECTIVES: Modern and Contemporary Glass from the Waitzer Collection*, debuting selections from the Waitzer family's extraordinary gift of 165 glass artworks to the museum.

Leah and Richard Waitzer of Norfolk, VA, shared a life-long interest in the arts that blossomed into a passion for collecting modern American painting and international glass sculpture. Mentors and friends to the Barrys, their

internationally significant collection includes works that span the history of modern glass, from Louis Comfort Tiffany to Dale Chihuly and Lino



Cityscape. Jay Musler, 1999.

Tagliapietra, and more. An exhibition catalog includes an introduction from Executive Director Charlotte Potter Kasic and extensive notes on the work from Barry Art Museum's Executive Director Emeritus Dr. Jutta-Annette Page

BARRY ART MUSEUM
1075 W. 43rd St.
Norfolk, VA 23529
(757) 683-6200
barryartmuseum.odu.edu

President's Letter

Friends,

I hope this finds you all enjoying the summer—attending glass conventions and shows, searching out special pieces at flea markets and yard sales, and visiting local museums near home or as you travel. Even as our Pittsburgh Chapter is on hiatus until our Fall Picnic in September, we are taking advantage of the many seminars, gatherings, and shows in our area to shop, learn, and share with other glass enthusiasts.

This year is the NAGC's 90th anniversary. The Club has a long and recognized history for its publications, seminars, Chapter meetings, research, and knowledgeable collectors and members. We need to sustain and grow the Club as we move towards a century of leadership in the field of glass. Our Chapter has refocused on membership retention and growth, even as we deal with the challenges of transitioning back to in person meetings and securing new, engaging programming that draws a crowd. As

our very successful partnership with the History Center demonstrates, we are strongest when we work together with community partners. Dedicate yourself to the future sustainability of the NAGC—get involved locally and in the National club. Our history is strong—let's ensure that the Club's future is bright!

Yours in glass,
Anne Madarasz
President, NAGC

New Book on Bryce Glass

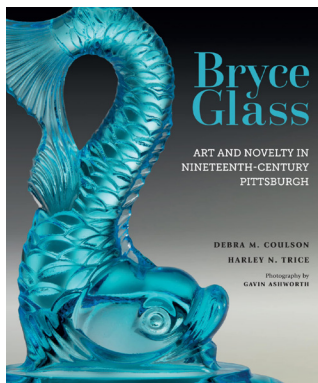
More than 110 glass lovers gathered for an engaging evening program to unveil *Bryce Glass: Art and Novelty in Nineteenth-Century Pittsburgh* by Debra M. Coulson and Harley N. Trice. Held in the Detre Library and Archives at the Senator John Heinz History Center on April 11, the Lowell Innes Pittsburgh Chapter of the NAGC partnered with the History Center for this successful program. The evening featured illustrated talks by both the authors and a book sale and signing after the lectures. Introduced by History Center Chief Curator and Historian Anne Madarasz, the authors shared the research they had done in the archives at the museum, as well

as detailing many of the attributions and discoveries they made while writing the book.

History Center archivist Sierra Green put together a small display from the Bryce/Lenox collection (searchable online at <https://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt%3AUS-QQS-mss800/viewer>) and shared information about the resources available. Attendees lingered over refreshments after the program, talking with the authors, and sharing in the fellowship of the evening.

The beautifully illustrated book proved worthy of all this attention. Featuring a forward by Brock Jobe of the Winterthur Museum, and

co-written by a descendent of James Bryce, Harley Trice, this valuable resource includes 220 color and 70 black-and-white photographs. The illustrations, by noted photographer Gavin Ashworth, support the excellent research done by the authors. The book also includes tips for identification and detailed references to original catalogs for support. The section on Novelties is especially valuable. Pieces are shown in all variations of color, size, and shape. This well-researched and documented book finally gives the Bryce company, one of the longest-lived manufacturers in American glass, its proper place in the field.



Cover of the new publication on Bryce glass.



Author Debra Coulson shares research on Bryce glassware.



Authors Debra Coulson and Harley Trice sign books after the program.

New Exhibits at Sandwich Glass Museum

A Pinch of Salt is now open at the museum through December 30, 2023. Guest curator Maria Martell shares her extensive collection of vintage salts, many of which were created at the Boston and Sandwich Glass Company. Though many of the objects date to the 19th and 20th centuries, the story of salt as a commodity is much older. Just as there were spice and silk routes, salt routes developed as important networks for commerce and cultural exchange. Salt was coveted, hoarded, traded, and fought over. It is not surprising that “salts,” small



vessels used to contain the valuable mineral, were creatively fashioned and cherished items of daily use at the dining table well into the 20th century. Owning salts became a status symbol during the Middle Ages. During the Victorian Era saltshakers were invented, but due to salt clumping they did not become popular until later years.

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Through October 30th the museum is also hosting *Green Mountain Glass*, featuring work by artist Michael Egan. He works with a range of colors and forms to reveal compelling glass sculptures and vessels. Egan describes his work as both simple and complex, with the colors of each piece being unique in the way they might move, bend or reflect light. Egan describes the process of making glass as intense, precise, and exciting.

Egan left his small farming hometown of Fayston, VT, to pursue a B.A. in sculpture at the University of Vermont. While he was in Burlington his life was changed when he met glass artist Alan Goldfarb, his future mentor. Hired as Goldfarb's first assistant, Egan ran Goldfarb's second workstation. Egan's work is informed by



intricate traditional cane of the Mura-no tradition. The rods he crafts are carefully manipulated to transform into one of a kind artworks. Egan draws inspiration from the beautiful natural surroundings at his studio, Green Mountain Glass Works, nestled in the mountains in Granville, VT.

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM
129 Main St.
Sandwich, MA, 02563
(508) 888-0251
<https://sandwichglassmuseum.org>

Antique French Paperweights

The first paperweight Evangeline Bergstrom collected was an antique Baccarat from 1847. It was by chance that she found herself at an antiques show in Florida while satisfying her interest in stamp collecting. The paperweight reminded her of one that belonged to her grandmother more than 50 years prior. In fact, Mrs. Bergstrom didn't start collecting paperweights until she was 63 years old! Take a journey into the past and examine antique French paperweights that Mrs. Bergstrom or her contemporaries



Faceted *millefiori* butterfly paperweight. Compagnie des Verreries et Cristalleries de Baccarat, about 1845–1855.

would have collected. Learn about characteristic hallmarks of lampwork, *millefiori*, and sulphide paperweights from the factories of St. Louis, Clichy, and Baccarat, as well as Pantin and St. Mande. The exhibition is on view through July 23, 2023.

BERGSTROM-MAHLER
MUSEUM OF GLASS
165 North Park Ave.
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 751-4658
<https://bmmglass.com>

Amber Cowan Exhibition at WheatonArts

Alchemy of Adornment (through December 31, 2023) invites visitors to revel in the enchanting worlds of Philadelphia-based artist and educator Amber Cowan. Using the techniques of glassblowing and flameworking, Cowan transforms American pressed glass into exuberantly adorned wall installations and free-standing sculptures. Her lush assemblages lure the viewer into fanciful narratives rich with symbolism and themes of transformation, femininity, and nostalgia.

The decline of the American glass industry is at the very heart of Cowan's work. By the end of the 20th century, inexpensive pressed milky white and colored glass candy dishes, vases, and novelties—once proudly displayed in American homes—had fallen from

favor. Fashion changed, and sentimental memories faded as generations passed. Amber Cowan places this glass back in the spotlight by masterfully remelting and sculpting cullet (factory scrap glass) to create new elements and blending them with found, sought, and donated antique glass. Most of the forms and distinctive cullet colors will never be made again, as they are products of defunct factories that once thrived in the “midwestern” glassmaking region of western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

WHEATONARTS
1501 Glasstown Rd.
Millville, NJ 08332
(856) 825-6800
www.wheatonarts.org



Cornucopia in Shell. Amber Cowan, 2021.

New Exhibit and Annual Seminar at The Corning Museum of Glass

Dig Deeper: Discovering an Ancient Glass Workshop, which runs through January 7, 2024, reveals new insights into ancient glassblowing and glass-making. Presenting artifacts from a fourth-century CE glass workshop discovered in Jalame, Israel, the exhibition allows visitors to experience ancient glassblowing in immersive and experiential new ways. Organized by Katherine A. Larson, Curator of Ancient Glass at the Museum, the show features excavated chunks of raw glass, parts of the glassmaking furnace, glassblowing debris, dozens of fragments from utilitarian glass vessels, and coins displayed alongside intact vessels of the types made at Jalame.

The excavations at Jalame, co-organized by the Corning Museum and the University of Missouri, Columbia, were conducted between 1963 and 1971. Objects found at the site revealed that the glass workshop there made both raw glass and finished glass vessels in the same location—unusual for the period.



The 61st Annual Seminar on Glass, to be held online on October 19 and 20, will compliment this exhibition. The program will explore the ways archaeologists study glass and glass-making in the ancient world, with particular focus on the site of Jalame in modern Israel. The Seminar will include an international roster of keynote speakers, papers, and moderated panels. Between sessions, registrants

will enjoy virtual tours, glassblowing demonstrations, and opportunities to network with colleagues in Community Rooms.

THE CORNING MUSEUM
OF GLASS
One Museum Way
Corning, NY 14830
(607) 937-5371
www.cmog.org

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised. More information is available on our Web page at www.glassclub.org)

Through August 31, 2023

THE IMAGINE MUSEUM

Family Fun Every Day

1901 Central Ave.

St. Petersburg, FL 33713

(727) 300-1700

www.imaginemuseum.com

Join us in a scavenger hunt to save little glass alien creatures who are lost in space. Be among the first to embark on this “out of this world” adventure. Once you find all nine extraterrestrial visitors, stop by the museum retail store to claim your exclusive prize!



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June 30–October 29, 2023

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM

All Creatures Great and Small

129 Main St.

Sandwich, MA, 02563

(508) 888-0251

<https://sandwichglassmuseum.org>

Celebrate the joy and whimsy of the natural world through glass sculptures created by four New England based artists: Mariel Bass, Claire Kelly, Jennifer Violette, and Caterina Weintraub.



Opus Segmentatum. Claire Kelly, 2022.

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August 10-12, 2023

STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

49th Annual Convention

and Stretch Glass Show

Held at the Comfort Inn

1 Denver Rd.

Denver, PA 17517

www.stretchglassociety.org

E-mail: info@stretchglassociety.org

This year's theme is “Beverage Sets and Drinking Vessels” and includes the seminar, *History of the Smaller Stretch Glass Companies*, presented by John Rowe. View the schedule at www.stretchglassociety.org/sgs-2023-convention-schedule.

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August 12, 2023

BERGSTROM-MAHLER

MUSEUM OF GLASS

Glass Arts Festival

165 North Park Ave.

Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 751-4658

<https://bmmglass.com>

This year, the festival will be juried by Shawn Waggoner, host of the podcast, *Talking Out Your Glass*. This admission-free event will support artists and provide brand new experiences celebrating everything glass.

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October 7, 2023

THE MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT GLASS

Coventry Tailgate Bottle, Glass, and Stoneware Show

289 North River Rd.

Coventry, CT 06238

www.glassmuseum.org

Sponsored by the Museum of Connecticut Glass and the Southern Connecticut Antique Bottle & Glass Collectors Assoc. Located on the historic grounds

of the Coventry Glass Factory. More than 30 dealers featuring glass, antique bottles, and stoneware. There will also be an open house and tours of the historic Captain Turner house and 1935 barn. Contact Bruce Mitchell at (860) 508-6269 or LFranz465@hotmail.com.



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October 19–21, 2023

VASELINE GLASS COLLECTORS

24th Annual VGCI Convention

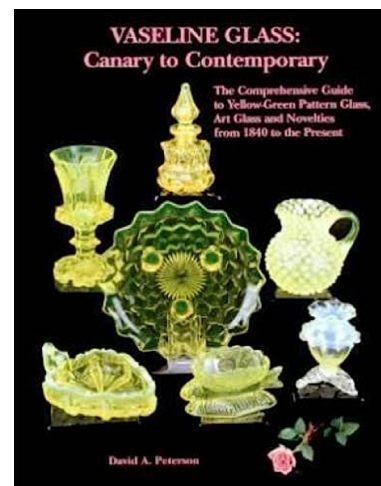
Held at the Holiday Inn

3535 Ulmerton Rd.

Clearwater, FL 33762

<https://www.vaselineglass.org>

Optional trip to The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL. The VGCI is also proud to announce that it has acquired all rights to *Vaseline Glass: Canary to Contemporary* and is in the process of revising and updating the book. The hope is to make the book available for purchase at the convention.



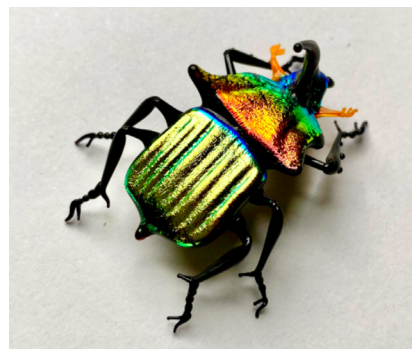
Glasmuseum Lette Features Lamp Glass

Glasmuseum Lette regularly focuses on specific themes in order to introduce people to different glass art techniques, tracing their development and importance on the current glass art scene. After last year's show that highlighted cold glass techniques, *To Be on Fire* (on view through October 2023) takes a look at lamp glass.

Lamp glass is blown freely over the open flame of a lamp rather than molded in a furnace. Up until the mid-19th century, an oil lamp was used, equipped with an additional air supply. Today, gas burners are used.

Lampworking is a very old technique that dates back to antiquity. The craft began to flourish in Venice, Italy, in the 16th century. France, the Netherlands, and Germany became additional key locations. Today, as in the past, the center of German lamp glassmaking is the Thuringian Forest, specifically the town of Lauscha.

GLASMUSEUM LETTE
Lette Berg 38
48653 Coesfeld-Lette
Germany
www.glasmuseum-lette.de



Regenbogen-Skarabäus. Falk Bauer, 2022.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE?

Visit NAGC Web page:
www.glassclub.org

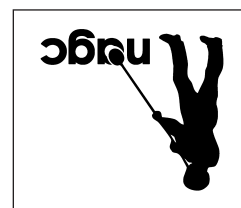
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ATTENTION READERS!

The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be

September 1, 2023

Submit news to Alice Saville, *Glass Shards* Editor, at
planetalsaville@gmail.com



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Glass Club
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Andes, NY 13731

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