

Summer 2007

Shore Lines

©Mary Beth Beuke

Newsletter of the North American Sea Glass Association

The view from here

The President's Message

My name is Mary Beth Beuke. I am a lifelong beachcomber and president of the North American Sea Glass Association. I volunteer my time with NASGA on a daily basis from my post along the beautiful Pacific Northwest shores. It is an honor to work with our eight board members and with the growing sea glass community as we share our love for genuine, naturally tumbled sea glass.

2007 has been an exciting year for the North American Sea Glass Association! We became an official non-profit organization, connecting sea glass collectors and enthusiasts from all over the globe via the seaglassassociation.com website and our annual Sea Glass Festival. We are growing and appreciate your help and support!

The future looks bright as we continue to plan for a Sea Glass Festival on the East Coast in addition to our upcoming festival in Santa Cruz, California on Oct. 6th and 7th, 2007.

Please enjoy your newsletter and don't forget to view the NASGA website to get the latest on the association, the festivals and more.

Mary Beth Beuke



Sea Glass Festival 2007



It is likely that twice as many sea glass collectors know about the upcoming Sea Glass Festival in Santa Cruz than last year. Those that attended the 2006 event enjoyed what was observed as a "family reunion type of atmosphere" as noted by Sally Sessions who manages the Coconut Grove facility. The demand from the locals continued on page 2

Collector Interview: Penny Parker of England

Q. When did you begin collecting?

A. When we moved to the region about 15 years ago, the glass in the sand caught my magpie eye while walking the dogs.

Q. In what region do you collect sea glass?

A. The North East shores of England, as far south as Whitby.

Q. Do you know some of the history behind the multi-colored shards you find?

A. Yes, there are a number of origins for the "multies," from plate glass to decorative items. Glass has been manufactured in our region for hundreds of years. Even Pyrex® was first manufactured here. We find quite a lot of green Jadeite tile pieces.



continued on page 4

to repeat the event in Santa Cruz was so great that our all-volunteer board agreed to return to California despite strong pleas from a broad audience of East Coast collectors.

The decision turned out to be a good one since finding a good location to handle a growing festival is never easy. The 2007 event will again feature jewelry and other crafts made solely from genuine sea glass along with lectures, door prizes and the crowd favorite Shard of the Year Contest. Last year 12-year-old Bailey Ryan won the \$1,000 grand

prize with her well worn and hollow turquoise-colored decanter stopper.

For more information on the upcoming Festival or the 2006 event visit our web site page: www.seaglassassociation.com/Sea-glass-festival-NASGA.html

For those looking to make plans for 2008, we will be hosting the first North American Sea Glass Festival on the East Coast in Lewes, Delaware. Lewes is known as "The First Town in the First State" and recently celebrated its 375th

anniversary. Collectors will have the opportunity to find glass over 237 years old from the wreck of the Severn that routinely washes ashore on Lewes Beach. Since the dates selected are October 11-12, 2008 the popular "Point" will be open to beachcombers at Cape Henlopen State Park where the Delaware Bay empties into the Atlantic. This will be the first event in the east since the late Joanne Schreiber hosted her successful Northeast Sea Glass Festival up in Gloucester, Massachusetts in October of 2004.

Sea Glass & Shark's Teeth

By Deb Weissler

Photo credit: Deb Weissler



The Middle Peninsula of Virginia is blessed with a bounty of beaches along the Chesapeake Bay and her tidal tributaries, each rich with the detritus of eons. For seashell and sea glass collectors and fossil hunters the region offers long stretches of wild beaches, small sand and gravel strands and coves filled with treasure.

On cool mornings before the sun worshippers arrive, the beaches of the Rappahannock are perfect places to hunt. One morning my friend, Mary Roggio, and I were walking our dogs along the shore, chatting and keeping eyes out for Mary's favorite find—shark's teeth. With a collection numbering in the hundreds, Mary's daily walks along the riverbank rarely failed to yield a tooth or two.

In a region once covered by warm tropical seas, these riverbanks yield up



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their fossil treasures with each storm or downpour. Northerly winds provide enough wave action to uncover sharks teeth, whale vertebrae and sandstone fossils, sending them ashore. With twice daily tidal changes and strong currents, the Rappahannock is also a good source for sea glass washing in from the shipping lanes of the Chesapeake Bay two miles downstream.

Periodically Mary would stoop and pick up a promising shape, only to discover a twig or stone disguised as a shark's tooth. A grunt of disgust and Mary would toss the wayward discards back into the river. It was one of those moments when my eyes, the sunlight and her hand motion juxtaposed and I hollered "stop!" Mary's arm froze in mid toss and I eagerly snatched the dark rock she was about to pitch.

The sunlight glinted on glass that, when held up to the light, revealed a deep shade of green containing hundreds of small bubbles. Black glass--a truly rare find on any beach! Ecstatic, I tucked the treasure into my pocket, and eagerly looked about for more.

Mary was content with her handful of small Tiger Sharks teeth, something my eyes had not yet been calibrated to find. Hungry now for sea glass I almost overlooked the mother of all sharks' teeth lying at the high tide line. It was a two inch long blue and gray beauty, from the lower jaw of an ancient Great White shark. Mary, who had searched this stretch of beach for months, hailed it "beginner's luck", and she may be right. Compared to other teeth found in the area, this was by far one of the largest.

Two rare treasures in a single day! A sea glass collector turned shark's teeth hunter couldn't have asked for more--until the next time!

Deb Weissler is a freelance writer who resides in Gloucester, Virginia.

Tide Watch

The Best Beachcombing Days for 2007

By Richard LaMotte



Painting "Earth and Moon" by Greg Mort from the book *Voyages* © Greg Mort Collection

Avid beachcombers know the importance of the moon on the varying tide lines that they carefully examine. While some prefer to search for sea glass along the high tide line, others prefer to explore the low tide line. Most novices know that even after a storm the area at or between both tide lines can be very fruitful. What many don't know is that some full moons are more helpful than others when it comes to exposing more sea glass.

Tides are significantly influenced by the moon's gravitational pull as it passes our planet on an elliptical path. It comes closest to earth once a month during what is known as "perigee" or its closest pass. When the moon is near the earth at perigee and is either a "full" or "new" moon the tidal shifts are far more severe. These are called Perigean Spring Tides since they happen only when all the right elements--the sun and moon and its most extreme phases--align together close to our planet. On the downside, if these conditions are accompanied with strong storms the potential for damage to property and beaches from tidal surges can be devastating.

In the fall of 2007 there are two dates that stand out for beachcombers to mark on their calendars. These are

Friday, October 26th and Saturday, November 24th. Both coincide with a full moon during perigee. Take the time to comb the beaches during those fall dates and it could prove to be well worth the effort. Note that the days just prior or following a Perigean Spring Tide can be productive so don't limit yourself to just one day if possible. As usual it is best to go just prior to the first low tide of the day, but we all know the early riser can find some of the overnight gems, as well.

The winter months in North America routinely bring better sea glass as a result of dramatic tide changes and beaches being buffeted by storms. However, a strong offshore wind can negate much the effect of a spring tide. Bodies of water in more protected areas such as bays and rivers see less of an effect from spring tides than the ocean beaches. Check local tide tables either on the internet or local news to see when the first receding tide will come during the dates listed above. Weather can be unpredictable but the moon seems to be a rather dependable ally. Since November 24th is the Saturday after Thanksgiving it could be an ideal day to walk off some extra calories or introduce a favorite relative to a new hobby.

continued from page 1

Q. You have found an abundant number of marbles; do you have any idea why so many were left in your region?

A. We have numerous types, the regular cat's eyes, and old fashioned dark blue marbles with white milk glass swirls, milk glass marbles, and Codd bottle marbles. Codd marbles were manufactured for just a few years [late 1800's and early 1900's], as bottle stoppers, almost always aqua or white, but I do have a few green ones and one amethyst example.

We occasionally find clay marbles, sea worn like pottery pieces, not frosted but usually cream colored.

These are very rare as they date from the early 1900s. We find mainly Codd marbles from numerous bottle works in our area. They made them along with the bottles. People in my area know I have a passion for sea marbles. My day job I work as a massage therapist and I do massages in exchange for sea marbles! Just as well really as we usually find only one or two marbles a month!



Q. Tell us about the Solitaire boards you outfit with sea glass marbles.

A. I have two reproduction scrimshaw Solitaire boards—original scrimshaw was carved from whale bone. I particularly like this particular board with its carvings of mermen, sea creatures and other sea related themes. The marbles are all regular sized some very rare colors, red and my amethyst Codd—so beautiful!

I also have a number of really small peewee sea marbles. So I looked for a small antique board to display them on. I found a wooden board only 6 inches across which shows the peewees really well.

Q. What other projects are you working on with your sea glass?

I have a range of Solitaire boards carved for me with sea related phrases and animals. We sometimes find sea glass bubbles, as the name suggests, almost round frosty pieces in every color. I love collecting those; it is such a thrill to find a perfect bubble. I have also just finished a small book about English Sea Glass, which is being printed at the moment, called *Extraordinary English Sea Glass*, going into the history and types of English Glass, the origins in more detail and some stories of extraordinary finds. I am also collecting

stories about other people's extraordinary finds, for a compilation.

Q. What is your most memorable event beachcombing?

Today was pretty good actually [8/26/07], Like I said, we usually find one or two marbles a month. It has been FIVE weeks since my last marble (I am truly addicted!) Today we went to a very difficult to reach beach, scaling a cliff to get there, and discovered EIGHT! All of them Codd marbles, all beautifully frosted perfect orbs. One a very rare yellow hue, my first! That was pretty thrilling

Contact information

I am happy to hear from anyone who has had an extraordinary find they are happy to share. I can be contacted by emailing EnglishSeaGlass@aol.com. I do sell my glass and boards on Ebay, though very rarely my marbles. I NEED those!!

lake superior
BEACH GLASS

Join beachcomber and author, Linda Webster, as she shares the history of glass deposits in Lake Superior.

There is a window of time when discarded glass was deposited in our lakes.

Tidal waves move it to distant shores; sand and rock action change forever its original characteristics.

Along comes a beachcomber and attempts to reconstruct its history.

Linda Webster, *Lake Superior Beach Glass*

Contact Linda Webster - PO Box 851 - Bayfield, WI 54814
715.779.3865 - gardenia81@centurytel.net
Soft cover, 6 in x 5 in, 22 pages, \$15.00 + shipping

BY LINDA M. WEBSTER

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Newsletter

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