



Fall / Winter 2008

shore lines

The View from Here

Dear Sea Glass Enthusiast,

It's been said that by picking up sea glass you are making a contribution to keeping our beaches clean. And though most avid collectors would never like to see sea glass diminish entirely, the fact is, it is a dwindling treasure. That's why the August issue of *National Geographic* mentioned sea glass and the North American Sea Glass Association in its *Environment* section. NASGA has also recently donated funds to national shoreline restoration groups (see inset). And 90% of this newsletter is enjoyed online which cuts down on paper resources. My hope is that as you sea glass hunt, you stoop a few extra times to pick up that plastic bottle or trash and place it in the recycle bin.

NASGA cares...

This year NASGA has made donations of \$2,500 to the Ocean Conservancy and \$1,500 to the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware.

Green hunting to you all!

— *Mary Beth Beuke*
President, North American Sea Glass Association



A collecting tip...



by *Richard LaMotte*
Author, *Pure Sea Glass*

The best days for sea glass hunting this fall, based on Perigean Spring Tides with full moons, are November 13th and December 12th. Weather can always affect these but if you can get out during those dates give it a shot.



The '08 Sea Glass Festival Is Almost Upon Us!

On October 11th and 12th, 2008, beachcombers from across America will assemble in Lewes, Delaware at the third annual North American Sea Glass Festival. The event will feature artisans and collectors of this popular coastal collectible.

In addition to lectures and seminars the "Shard of the Year" contest will be held awarding a \$1,000 cash prize to the collector with the most rare and desirable piece of sea glass.

The festival is being held inside the University of Delaware's Virden Conference Center on the seaside campus. The public is welcomed for a weekend admission charge of \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

Click [Festival](#) for details on the agenda and list of exhibitors as well as travel information.

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Collector Interview: Linda Smith



NASGA: How did you become interested in collecting sea glass?

Smith: My grandmothers influenced my love of sea glass collecting. My paternal grandmother taught me the art of spying agates on Puget Sound, and my maternal grandmother showed me her special places for

shell collecting on Vancouver Island, Canada. So the love of combing the beach for treasures was inherited. It wasn't until 1978 that I discovered sea glass was another beach treasure option.

NASGA: What do you enjoy about sea glass collecting?

Smith: I love the hunt. For me there is the thrill of going somewhere new and finding that first piece, and then another and another. Most of all, I enjoy "playing" with my glass. I like to sort and organize by color and condition using Richard LaMotte's book, *Pure Sea Glass*. Sometimes, I will cover my dining room table with my pieces and just "play."

Sometimes, I will cover my dining room table with my pieces and just play.

NASGA: Where do you collect your sea glass?

Smith: The bulk of my collection comes from the Pacific Northwest, the shores of the San Juan Islands of Puget Sound, and the Northern California and British Columbia coast.

NASGA: Can you share one of your memorable beachcombing experiences?

Smith: One summer, I was sharing the beach with a group of elementary school students on a field trip. As they were excitedly exploring the flora and fauna, I heard one of them say, "This is the best day of my life so far." Little did this young man know how I, too felt this sentiment, because just moments before, I had found my most glorious piece of red glass.

NASGA: What are some of your favorite pieces?

Smith: I am very fond of my "pure" light-colored pieces. I love their contours, their etched surfaces. It is remarkable how many pastel hues really lurk in these seemingly white pieces. My humble collection of the colors of the



Linda Smith

Linda sometimes will cover her dining room table with sea glass and just "play."

rainbow are also special to me. In a sense they represent the joy of all of my beachcombing experiences.

NASGA: Do you know the origins of these pieces?

Smith: Typically, the early origins of glass in the Puget Sound area—especially the purples—derive from the bottles the early settlers discarded onto the beaches. When I hunt on one of the many bays in which Captain George

See [Collector](#) continued on page 5

**JUST for YOU
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Visit me at the festival with one of your favorite pieces of Beach Glass and I will be happy to make it into a unique piece of jewelry. Visit the store and see the large selection of Sea Glass books, Note cards, tidal clocks, and Delaware mementos.

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www.gemwrap.com**

Sea Glass Mural Graces New Visitor Center Near Boston

Two women, who became business partners in 2001, are finding artistic success and satisfaction in working with sea glass and other media, based on a folk art technique known as *pique assiette* (the French phrase translates to “stolen from the plate”).

Located in Hingham, MA, All Cracked Up is owned by Carol Smith-Sloan and Holly Rader. Their work in sea glass, ceramic and other media results in fun, functional pieces and was most recently featured in *Yankee Magazine*.

One of their well-known projects is a sea glass mural commissioned by the Boston Parks Department, installed at Spectacle Island in 2007.

When you walk on the beach, you can hear the clink, clink, clink of the glass turning in the surf.

The mural, a tribute to a close friend who worked in coastal conservation and who had passed away, is a colorful wave-patterned mosaic.

Smith-Sloan and Rader, with the help of six or seven children, collected nearly 400 pounds of glass on the Island, then

brought it to their studio to clean and sort. They transported some 10,000 shards of glass back to the Island to create the mural. The design was inspired by the logo for the Coastal Zone Management which “looked like a large tsunami wave.”

“Spectacle Island has spoiled us,” says Smith-Sloan. “It’s the mother lode. When you walk on the beach, you can hear the clink, clink, clink of the glass turning in the surf.”

Originally a Boston resort destination in the 1840s, Spectacle Island fell into disarray and was the site of a horse rendering plant and later a city landfill for decades.

It was redeveloped as part of Boston’s Big Dig, which dumped tons of dirt from the city’s massive highway relocation project. The island was then resurfaced with dirt, clay and topsoil, had trees planted, trails and buildings built, and even had a beach installed. The island reopened to

A detail of the sea glass mural.



This sea glass mural is a tribute to a close friend who worked in coastal conservation and who had passed away.

the public in 2006 and is now part of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area (www.nps.gov/boha/).

Other projects from All Cracked Up include mirrors, picture frames, and mantels. They also work on larger installations, such as a crown-molding surround for a bathroom mirror. The mirrors are surrounded by shards of sea glass, glued in a grout base. For photos, see www.allcrackedupbiz.com.

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Sea Glass Marbles – How Do They End Up On The Beach?

by Mary Beth Beuke

Occasionally, a true sea glass marble can be found on the beach. The rare finds in my collection are marbles I picked up along the Pacific Ocean. The rugged and rocky shores of the Pacific tumble our sea glass quite nicely. But why do we find a marble along the shore? How did it get there? What was its original use, and why, so many decades later, is it rolling around the beach?

How do marbles end up on the beach?

I've heard several theories (and speak about them often at sea glass seminars) about why marbles occasionally wash up on the world's beaches.

Reason #1 – Ballast: Years ago, ships were loaded with heavy items to provide ballast, and marbles made an inexpensive, effective weight. In the Puget Sound, where the tides move fast and the inlets can be narrow, ballast is key. It reminds me of white water rafting trips with my family through Hells Canyon in Idaho's back-country. The heavier, more weighted-down boats fare much better in the turbulent rapids than the lighter rafts. Ships



Mary Beth Beuke

Caribbean and Pacific Ocean Marble Collection: West Coast Sea Glass

along the Pacific's rough shore needed this weight to help with navigability. Yet should the vessel be smashed upon the rocks, the barrels of ballast marbles would surely be lost to sea, only to wash up on shore decades and centuries later.

Reason #2 – Target Practice: Long ago, young children played with sling shots, using marbles for ammunition. And the beach made a great place for target practice. Children played games by floating a "moving target" of driftwood off shore then shot their marbles out into the

See [Marbles](#) continued on page 5

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Marbles *from page 4*

water toward the target. The resulting marbles which laid just offshore eventually washed beach ward.

Reason #3 – Paint Mixing: Painters often dropped a handful of marbles into a can of paint to help mix the batch. When the paint was used up and the can was tossed into the city dump (often times the dump was a sea bluff at the edge of town), the salt water and ocean's natural biodegrading ability decomposed the paint can over the years. The marbles became what was left and each washed around upon the shore until individually beach combed.

May you discover a true sea glass marble during your next hunting trip.

Mary Beth Beuke is a jewelry designer and president of the North American Sea Glass Association.

*True Turquoise
Marble: Kalaloch,
WA*

Mary Beth Beuke

Collector *from page 2*

Vancouver anchored when he mapped Puget Sound in 1792, my imagination allows me to believe that perhaps I have found shards left by such early explorers.

NASGA: What do you do with your sea glass?

Smith: I quite simply enjoy having it. Sometimes I give away special heart-shaped pieces tucked into a card for loved ones. I enjoy combining colors; purple and light green are especially lovely in a vase on the windowsill.

NASGA: Any sea glass collecting tip to share?

Smith: Remember to look up! Don't forget to breathe in the air and listen to the rhythm of the sea, stone, and sand. Even if your pocket treasures are few, the hunt is always worthwhile.

Linda Smith lives with her husband, Lloyd, in Everett, WA. She is a retired teacher and works part time as a tutor.

NASGA mentioned in National Geographic

The August issue of *National Geographic* interviews Mary Beth Beuke, President of NASGA, on the increasing difficulty of finding sea glass for its *Environment* section.



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Sea Glass Festival Agenda

Viriden Center, Lewes, Delaware

Friday October 10th

4:00 PM Exhibitor Set Up

6:00 PM Commercial Members Meeting

Saturday October 11th

10:00 AM Exhibition opens

10:00 AM Shard identification booth opens

11:00 AM **Lecture** "From Breath and Fire" documentary
Lori DeSalvo & Scott Peterson

1:00 PM **Lecture** "The Lewes Severn Shipwreck Discovery"
Andrea Anderson

2:00 PM **Lecture** "Sailing the Greek Islands on a
Sea Glass Quest" Christeena Hockin-Minopetros

3:00 PM **Lecture** "To the Ends of The Earth"
Mary Beth Beuke

5:00 PM Exhibition Closes



See a photo album of last year's festival in Santa Cruz, CA by clicking [Festival '07!](#)



Sunday October 12th

10:00 AM Exhibition opens

11:00 AM **Lecture** "The Power of the Hunt" Celia Pearson

12:00 – 3:30 PM Entries begin for Shard of the Year Contest... get details by clicking [Shard Contest](#)

12:30 PM **Lecture** "The Archaeology of Beachcombing"
Deacon Ritterbush

2:00 PM **Lecture** "An Introduction to Sea Glass Identification"
Richard LaMotte

3:30 PM **Lecture** "Sea Glass of Puerto Rico" Lisl Armstrong

4:30 PM Shard of the Year Contest winners announced

5:00 PM: Exhibition Closes

Do You Collect Stamp Cancellations?

Every letter mailed from the Lewes Post Office on October 11th will have a special Sea Glass Festival cancellation!



Festival travel & lodging information:

Find travel and lodging information for the 2008 Sea Glass Festival being held at the Viriden Center in Lewes, Delaware by clicking [Lodging and Travel](#).



Proudly Presents

From Breath and Fire

~ A beach glass documentary ~

Premiering at The North American Sea Glass Festival
Saturday, October 11th, 11:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M.
Seating is limited

DVDs on sale at our booth all weekend
or through our website:
www.fromthepointofyou.com

Come see what inspires beach glass collectors like you!

Sea Glass Festival Exhibitors

Virden Center, Lewes, Delaware

Beaches

Lorie & Troy Dalrymple

Conneaut, OH

www.beachesinc.com

One-of-a-kind jewelry created from beach glass found on the shores of Lake Erie.

Colleen Townsend Jewelry

Colleen Townsend

Portsmouth RI

www.townsendjewelry.com

Handmade sea-glass jewelry featuring genuine shards from the New England coast.

Suncoast Sea Glass Jewelry

Valerie Weston

Odessa, FL

www.suncoastseaglass.com

Handcrafted sterling silver pendants featuring authentic sea glass from around the world, fine silver textures and elements, and freshwater pearls.

English & Cornish Sea Glass

Penny Parker, Val Robson

Plymouth, UK

Loose sea glass from Cornwall and other English coasts, and gift ideas inspired by sea glass.

From the Point of You, Inc.

Lori DeSalvo and Scott Petersen

Old Field, NY

www.fromthepointofyou.com

A documentary film that chronicles one beach-glass collector's journey to discover the passion, obsession and artwork of other New England collectors.

Gull Cottage Creations

Merrideth Wickman

Swansea, MA

Stained glass panels that incorporate sea glass and pottery shards collected from beaches in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Also ornaments, bevel pyramids, angels and lamps.

Just for You Unique Gifts

Michele Buckler

Lewes, DE

www.gemwrap.com

Jewelry crafted from natural sea-glass shards wire-wrapped in 14K gold filled, sterling or anti-tarnish silver. Also, sea glass themed note cards.

K&K Sales

Pam Korinke

Simi Valley, CA

Sea glass home décor and jewelry.

Katie Carrin

Oakland, CA

www.katiecarrin.com

Pendants and earrings combining sea glass from England's North Sea with gemstones and freshwater pearls.

Lisa Hall Jewelry

Lisa Hall

Northeast Harbor, ME

www.lisahalljewelry.com

Natural sea-glass jewelry set in gold and silver with precious stones and pearls.

Lovely Glassworks

Lynne Lovely

Saunderstown, RI

A stained-glass artist incorporating sea glass into Tiffany-style window panels, candle shelters, lamps, boxes, etc.

Low Tide Jewels

Margaret Miller

Kill Devil Hills, NC

www.lowtidejewels.com

Beach glass incorporated into sterling silver, gold-filled and 14K gold jewelry, plus nickel-ware frames, bookmarks and table art.

Marianna Bellantoni

Staten Island, NY

www.beachbaubles.ekwa.com

Sea-glass fashion accessories and home accents, including jewelry, cell-phone and wine-glass charms, bookmarks, hair pins, key chains, sun-catchers and wind chimes.

Marooned Crab Creations

Bonnie Gordon

Phoenix, AZ

Jewelry made from sea glass, pearls, shell and precious metals.

Out of the Blue Seaglass Jewelry

Lisl Armstrong

Englewood, FL

www.naturalseaglass.com

Handmade sea-glass jewelry with genuine shards from the shores of Puerto Rico.

Relish, Inc.

Jennifer & Terri Reed

Erie, PA

www.relishinc.com

Beach glass from Lake Erie set in sterling silver and 14K gold by master metal smiths.

See [Exhibitors](#) continued on page 8

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www.seaglassmedia.com

Shore Lines, Newsletter of the North American Sea Glass Association

Exhibitors *from page 7*

Ronay Designs

Lisa Ronay
San Anselmo, CA
www.lisaronay.com

Sea-glass jewelry set in sterling silver and 14K gold, hand fabricated with soldered, embossed and hammered finishes.

Sea Glass Jewels & Co.

Christeena Hockin Minopetros
Big Pine Key, FL
www.seaglassphotographicjourney.com

Authentic sea glass jewelry, sea-glass book, note cards, wine stoppers, pens and bookmarks.

Sea Glass Journal

Gary deBlois
Bristol, RI
www.seaglassjournal.com
www.seaglassmedia.com

On-line sea glass magazine. Sterling silver wire-wrapped and bezeled jewelry, sea-glass candle holders and photographs.

Sea Glass Publishing

Richard & Nancy LaMotte
Chestertown, MD
www.seaglasspublishing.com
www.pureseaglass.com

Pure Sea Glass, the definitive guide for collectors and beachcombers, plus note cards, pocket journal and guest book based on images from the book.

Sea Glass Treasures

Anne Marie Johnson
Holcombe, WI
www.seaglassin.com

Genuine wire-wrapped sea-glass jewelry, plus pictures, sail-boat pins and shards.

Sea-Beach Glass Artisans of North America

Handmade jewelry and note cards from three sea-glass artisans:

Beach Bum Jewels

Linda Mickevicius
Michigan City, IN.
www.beachbumjewels.com

iSea designs

Monica Branstrom
San Clemente, CA
www.iseadesigns.blogspot.com

Lake Erie Beach Glass

Jodie Pastor
Fairview, PA
www.lakeeriebeachglass.com

SMP Metalsmith

Steve Pawloski
Sarasota, FL
www.stevepawloski.com

Rare found beach objects combined with precious and semi-precious stones. Once worthless materials are elevated to prized status by this metal smith.

Souris by the Sea Treasures

Romeo Gallant
Souris, PEI, Canada
www.sourisbytheseatreasures.com

Genuine sea-glass jewelry, including rings and bracelets, plus wooden maps with imbedded sea glass, and shards.

suegray seaglass jewelry

Sue Gray Fitzpatrick
Newport, RI
www.suegrayseaglass.com

Creating sterling silver wire-wrapped sea-glass jewelry, wreaths and tableware for more than 15 years.

Tears from the Deep

Cindy Kuhn
Gahanna, OH
www.tearsfromthedeep.com

Sea-glass jewelry made with sterling silver and/or precious-metal clay.

The Earthlings

Jayne Hawley
Seaside, CA
3-D sculptures using California sea glass, pottery shards and driftwood. Some accented with blooming air plants created for the wall, sitting and hanging.

Tropical Sea Glass

Sharon Umbaugh
Hawaiian Islands
www.tropalseaglass.com

Collections of sea glass, extraordinary individual pieces and sea-glass jewelry from the Hawaiian islands.

Wemyss Sea Glass

David Hewitt
Fife, Scotland, UK
www.wemyssseaglass.co.uk

Artwork, wall hangings and sculptures using sea glass from Scotland.

West Coast Sea Glass

Mary Beth Beuke
Puget Sound, WA
www.westcoastseaglass.net

Naturally tumbled, loose sea glass, sea-glass jewelry in sterling silver, sea-glass photographs, rarity charts, genuine beach-combed glass ball fishing floats, and more.