Greetings, Sea Glass Community!

NASGA hopes each of you are having a happy and healthy 2013 thus far, and that the weather has cooperated at least minimally, to allow some time for exploring along the shore. Plans for hosting the 8th annual North American Sea Glass Festival are well under way, as the NASGA board, including our festival chairperson, Dianne, along with our indispensable event manager, Roxann, have been busy organizing our return to the Virginia Beach Convention Center, over the Columbus Day holiday Weekend, October 12 & 13...

Approximately 60 exhibitors are expected to participate in this year’s event, and attendees will have the opportunity to observe sea glass in numerous forms! The festival will feature authors, signing their latest published works, a host of talented artists, offering sea glass jewelry and home décor items, as well as a selection of suppliers boasting loose sea glass and additional materials for those who wish to produce their own creations. Other highlights of the event will include a lineup of fascinating beachcombing-related presentations, and of course, the infamous Shard of the Year (SOTY) contest, allowing spectators a chance to observe some of the most unique and interesting sea glass specimens found along the world’s shores (speaking of which, please note the exquisite and rare winning shards from the previous festival, featured inside this issue)! Whether intending to participate as an exhibitor or an attendee, we are confident that this year’s festival will prove to be a satisfying, memorable event!

Please be sure to note the upcoming annual NASGA festival on your calendars. More information about the event, including reserving room accommodations at the recently renovated Doubletree Hotel, opposite the Convention Center, will be posted on the association’s web site, as new details emerge. We hope sea glass enthusiasts enjoy this issue of the Shorelines Newsletter, and we look forward to seeing many of you this coming October 12 & 13, at the 8th annual North American Sea Glass Association festival!

NASGA Cares

The 2012 recipients of our annual giving campaign were The Old Coastguard Museum, Friends of First Landing State Park and The Virginia Beach Aquarium Educational Foundation (all located in Virginia Beach, VA).

Do you have a piece of sea glass that might be the next “Shard of the Year”? Get more info about the contest by clicking Shard Contest.
Collector Interview:
Joe Brillhart Pennsylvania

by Ellie Mercier

This issue’s interview features Joe Brillhart, an avid collector residing in Pennsylvania who shares details of his favorite pastime with Shorelines editor, Ellie Mercier...

Editor: How long have you been collecting the shards?
Joe: I’m well into my fifth decade!

Editor: How did you become interested in sea/beach glass?
Joe: Although I’ve been interested in collecting for numerous years, my wife and I purchased a house in Top Sail, N.C, about five years ago, to have a home close to our daughter who settled in the area. It was at that time that I became obsessed with collecting sea glass, among other treasures along the shore, during my daily runs.

Editor: Can you share with readers, details of the most interesting piece you have found?
Joe: I found a piece that is encrusted in a silver metal – still boggles my mind as to what it is, yet I’m afraid to put any pressure on the piece in order to learn the origin, for fear of breaking the shard...

Editor: What are the usual areas in which you enjoy combing?
Joe: I often beachcomb for sea glass in North Carolina, however I have also sought shards on the beaches of Hawaii, as well as Italy and the Island of Rhodes, in Greece, and in Malta, off the coast of North Africa.

Editor: Besides hunting for prized shards, are there other objects that you collect while beach combing?
Joe: Oh yes – I collect sharks teeth, now numbering several hundred, including a couple of surprisingly large Megalodon incisors, most of which I have made into necklace pendants for my wide-eyed grandchildren. In addition, when I stumble upon it, I collect unusual beach flotsam and jetsam for an, ‘as yet only speculative and yet to be determined,’ possible use. Anything eclectic or weird goes in the bag!

Editor: Aside from discovering remnants, what else about combing do you enjoy?
Joe: As I stated earlier, I enjoy running, and the ability to combine exercising with treasure hunting is certainly more of an incentive to get outside!

Editor: Do you have a memorable combing experience you can share with our readers?
Joe: As someone who’s well into his 5th decade of running, I began picking up shards on my daily beach runs.

Editor: Do you do anything special with your collection, and if so, can you tell us about it?
Joe: I’m not a very experienced sea glass artist, having only produced few pieces, one entitled, “Bottom Feeder,” a large sea glass and other found objects, autobiographical work, including over 700 shards, that I created one year or so ago. It weighs in at over 65 pounds and is almost six feet in length. It’s logistically problematic, was recently turned down for a juried exhibit when they noted its size, and is destined probably for the beach house, if not earlier commandeered by my daughter in law for her rec room. As you know, I’ve played with creating sea glass jewelry over the last year or so, but I’m definitely still on the learning curve with that.

Editor: Do you have any tips for other collectors?
Joe: ...Like food dropped on the floor, I believe in “the five second rule.” (For artists like myself who do large projects requiring 1000’s of shards) Although some collectors may be offended by such an act, If I observe a piece of glass on the beach, no matter how recent or non-tumbled it is, it goes into the bag as qualified “sea glass.” Hey, when you put hundreds of shards into a single work, you need every single one you can find!

Editor: What are some of your other interests/hobbies?
Joe: Although I owned and ran an independent insurance agency here in York, PA, for about 35 years, I’m now...
Interview From page 2

pretty much retired from that. I still do a bit of farming, but not as much as in prior years, when I raised market lambs and grass fed poultry. For almost two years I’ve been heavily involved in researching and writing on Swiss immigrant family genealogy here in the Pennsylvania Dutch country.

Editor: Aside from discovering remnants, what else about combing do you enjoy?

Joe: As I stated earlier, I enjoy running, and the ability to combine exercising with treasure hunting is certainly more of an incentive to get outside!

Editor: You sure are immensely creative! Have you made anything else special from your finds, other than ‘Bottom Feeder’?

Joe: About 20 years ago I took a couple welding courses from the local VO-tech, found a sympathetic junk yard owner to give me mining rights, and set out doing a bunch of metal found object whimsical stuff that I like to think is visionary, but which, charitably, is often referred to as just outsider or primitive. In keeping with an aquatic theme, included above is “Sunny”, a 3/8 inch double plate steel (I must have a thing for heavy almost un-transportable stuff) piece that’s from that period about 10 years back. Also in the fish mode is “Painted Lady”, a recently completed costume jewelry, copper, stainless, sharks teeth, Formica counter top compilation that a soon to married 2nd cousin, once removed, has expressed wedding gift sympathies for.

Joe: Now I’d like to ask you a question, is that okay?

Editor: Sure – makes my job much easier! Fire away...

Joe: I’ve been looking all over for something and thought that maybe your readers could help me find such a container: I’m searching for the perfect glass container for a display of sea glass. It can be tall and should have a base that won’t tip easily. But above all it must be THIN from front to back to allow light to trickle through. Anybody collect these?

Editor: I’m going to throw this question to my readers (Help)! If any of our sea glass savvy readers can help Joe out with an ideal container to house his favorite treasures, please, please contact him, at joebrillhart@comcast.net

Thanks very much, Joe, for the interesting feedback, and keep creating – we need more nautical artists like you in the world!

Happy beachcombing to all!

Have you created something with sea glass?

Tell us about it. Send an email with a brief description and a photo (if applicable) to emercier@seaglassassociation.org.
Another Chance to Beachcomb during Mother Nature’s Most Optimal Conditions for Prosperous Searches, Awaits…

by Ellie Mercier

For those who may have missed the opportunity to scour the shores in search of unique, ocean tumbled treasures during last year’s perigee spring tide occurrences, (conceivably some the most ideal conditions in which to score premium sea glass finds), don’t lose hope! An equally beneficial, if not more desirable prospect for enthusiasts to engage in prosperous searches is just around the corner…

To ensure that the day doesn’t pass by unnoticed avid sea glass aficionados might want to mark June 23, 2013 on their calendars, as a potentially prosperous date for planning a beachcombing expedition. Sunday, June 23, of 2013, is scheduled to coincide with not only a spring tide, or even a perigean spring tide, yet beachcombers will be treated to possible extreme high tides as the result of the next scheduled proxigean spring tide, a phenomena occurring no more than once every 1.5 years, or approximately once every eighteen months, enabling tides often twenty percent higher than those generated during normal perigean spring tides.

In an effort to illustrate Mother Nature’s role in producing proxigean spring tides, which allow sea glass enthusiasts possibly ideal conditions in which to search, loyal readers of Shorelines may recall a similar article published in the winter, 2012 issue, featuring potentially successful dates for beachcombing last year, thanks to the occurrence of perigean spring tides. For those who may have missed the article, or for others who may need to refresh their memories, spring tides occur twice monthly, during each full and new moon, and cause somewhat exaggerated ranges in high and low tides. However, perigean spring tides transpire when a new or full moon coincides with the perigee of the moon, the moon’s closest approach to earth each month, when it can be as much as is 30,000 miles closer to the earth than at apogee, when the moon is furthest from the earth, resulting in even more dramatic heightened tidal ranges, and especially preferable conditions for beachcombing. Yet during proxigean spring tides, as the one we will experience on June 23, not only will a new moon occur simultaneously with perigee, (enabling a perigee spring tide), yet the moon will also be positioned between the sun and the earth, and as a result will be closest to the earth than any other time in the previous eighteen months, or in the eighteen months following this date, and will cause a gravitational pull so strong that the Earth may experience extremely high tides, again, often twenty percent higher than high tides brought about during the phenomena of perigee spring tides.

As one who readily admits to taking advantage of beachcombing during ‘technically’ ideal conditions of Mother Nature in which to discover prized sea glass finds, (to both score unique remnants, as well as to entertain my curiosity of whether searching under such optimal conditions actually does increase one’s odds of successful outings, given my cynical nature), I can attest that thus far, I am convinced that there are clear benefits of venturing out during spring tides, perigean spring tides and proxigean spring tides, as well as a few days following memorable storms, to search the shores. So convinced, as a matter of fact, that I do not schedule dates for future beachcombing getaways until researching any upcoming conditions of natural phenomena that may increase my chances of experiencing fruitful expeditions. Of course, I cannot absolutely guarantee that the credit for discovering the frosty, blue marble (pictured above), which I found in 2012, during a trip to the Abacos, is owed to the fact that it was found while searching under a full moon, or that the increase in glistening blue willow pottery finds I often discover after a storm wouldn’t have been found otherwise, yet as a romantic collector, I would sure like to believe that my efforts to honor the conditions of Mother Nature, often pay off!

For more information about how the phases of the moon affect searching for sea glass, consult literature on the correlation between phases of the moon and ocean tides, particularly the phenomena of Spring tides and Perigee Spring Tides.
A Royal Ruby Red Sea Glass Gem

by Gary de Blois

This newsletter’s featured gem is a highly prized bottom of a red sea glass bottle from Puerto Rico. This particular bottle bottom shard originated from a unique beer bottle produced for Schlitz Brewing Company by the Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation.

In the history of glassmaking, red glass was produced by the difficult and expensive process of using gold to achieve the ruby red color. Such red glass was usually not made in large quantities and reserved for more expensive tableware and decorative objects. This is the main reason why red sea glass is so hard to find.

In 1938 the Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation started production of a new type of red glass named Royal Ruby, in which the deep red color was achieved by the addition of cuprous (copper) oxide to the molten glass rather than gold chloride. Eliminating gold from the process reduced the costs but the manufacturing process was still exacting, and Royal Ruby glassware was still generally not made in large quantities.

In 1949 however, the Schlitz Brewing Company contracted Anchor Hocking to manufacture Royal Ruby beer bottles for its upcoming 100th anniversary celebration. In total, nine different Royal Ruby beer bottles were designed and submitted in limited quantities to Schlitz for consideration. Only three made it into final production with the 7 oz and 32 oz making up the majority. The production runs were 1949, 1950 and 1963 in which over 54 million bottles were distributed.

From the diameter of this sea glass bottom, a little over 2”, we can assume it came from the 7 ounce sized bottle. The embossed markings indicate that it was manufactured in 1950. It can be safe to assume that this particular sea glass shard has been tumbling around in the ocean for over 50 years!

Puerto Rico still remains a good source of red and cranberry sea glass from antique glassware that incorporated gold, but I have noticed that much more of it these days is of the Royal Ruby variety. While antique red glass (using gold) and Royal Ruby were used in many decorative and fanciful objects such as pressed cut dishes, bowls and candle holders, don’t be surprised if your collection of red sea glass also contains shards from an ordinary beer bottle.

This article was first published in Sea Glass Journal.

REFERENCES:
Recap of the 2012 Sea Glass Festival!

The 8th annual NASGA Sea Glass Festival took place on September 15th & 16th, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Thousands of sea/beach glass enthusiasts attended the event, which highlighted a collector's area, exhibitors, lectures, a raffle, and the famous shard of the Year Contest!

As usual, it was an enjoyable, sea-glass filled weekend!

The first visitors have a tough decision to make: where to go first.

There was something for every sea glass lover at this festival!

See FESTIVAL, continued on page 7
Bottle collectors at the Shard ID area offered expertise in determining the origins of sea glass.

Many enthusiasts brought their collections along to display in the Collector’s Area.

Guest lecturers spoke about sea glass, the environment and much more!

Thank you to all who helped make this event a resounding success!

Tables will be provided in a designated Collectors’ Area for those who would like to display their sea glass collection for all to see. This will be a “no sell” zone, and is for displaying only. Space is limited. Please go to the NASGA website for more details.

See FESTIVAL, continued on page 8
The judges had their work cut out for them in deciding all the winners of the different categories.

This year’s grand prize was a rare, orange lid, possibly to a cigarette box, submitted by Andrea Watters.

This year’s contest had quite the gathering of sea glass!

The tension builds as the attendees await the final verdict from the judges.

Seaglass.Ning.com
Interested in becoming part of our sea glass community? Just click Seaglass.Ning.com to find out how.

See all the winners of the contest by clicking Festival 2012!

We hope to see all of you again in Virginia Beach!