



# shore lines

Spring / Summer 2010

## The View from Here

by Mary Beth Beuke  
President, North American Sea Glass Association

### "Sea Glass Colors the World"

Whether you love the muted, natural colors of old bottle glass; amber, sea foam green and frosty white or the rich colors-of-the-sea blues, sea glass offers a wide color palette for each of us to enjoy. It seems the farther reaching your collection has been gathered over time and terrain, the more varied it will be in color. That's when green, for example, no longer becomes just green but splits itself into olive, teal, lime, peridot and more. How many colors of sea glass are there, really? The answer: enough to capture the adoration of each one of us. My hope is that this "colorful" edition of Shorelines speaks to your sense of color.

Here's to celebrating the colorful world of sea glass!

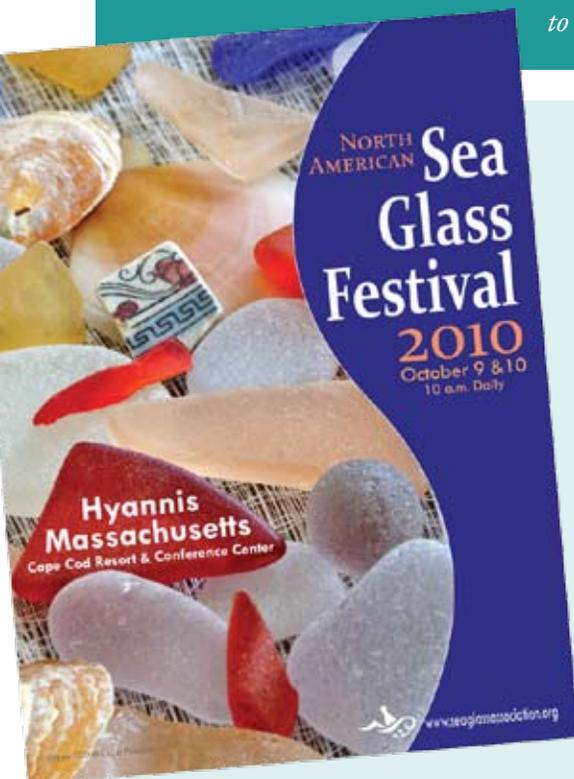


## NASGA Cares...

Last year NASGA has made donations of \$2,500 to the Surfriders and \$1,500 to the Presque Isle Partnership.

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## 2010 Sea Glass Festival, Hyannis, MA

On October 9th and 10th, 2010, beachcombers from across America will assemble in Hyannis, MA for the fifth 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 contest will be judged by board members of NASGA.

The festival is being held at the Resort and Conference Center at

Hyannis. The public is welcomed for a daily admission charge of \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

Visit [www.seaglassassociation.org](http://www.seaglassassociation.org) for more information.

## To All Sea Glass Collectors:

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 intended for displaying only. Space is limited.

Contact [seaglassjewels@yahoo.com](mailto:seaglassjewels@yahoo.com) for more details.

# Collector Interview: Ariadne Skyrianidou



*Ariadne Skyrianidou with her son Miltos on a beach in Chalkidiki, Greece.*

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

*Skyrianidou:* I remember collecting shells and sea treasures and crabs all my life. I can't really recall when exactly I started collecting sea glass but it must have been at around my twenties when I started travelling to the Greek isles. But I wasn't really passionate about collecting it. I just picked a couple of

pieces from every beach I went. I became totally passionate when I bought my summer house five years ago. In fact I decided to buy that specific house when while visiting its beach I found some little gems. It was as if the house and its beach was inviting me to buy it. So I did and this specific beach has been so generous to me.

**NASGA:** What is it about sea glass collecting that you enjoy?

*Skyrianidou:* I love the wandering on the beach, the continuous treasure hunting. For me the procedure of searching and finding is important. It gives me so much satisfaction to find any sea glass piece, but of course I do the happy dance when I find something special.

**NASGA:** Where do you collect your sea glass?

*Skyrianidou:* Wherever I go but regularly at the beach at my summer house in Chalkidiki, Northern Greece.

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

*Skyrianidou:* My first stopper looking pieces on this beach are memorable but I think the most memorable one was when at a spring visit there my husband found a fantastic golden-amber perfect piece. My only one find of such color and quality.

**NASGA:** What are some of your other favorite pieces of sea glass?

*Skyrianidou:* I love a tiny porcelain half face I found upsidedown on my beach and realized it is a frozen charlotte piece. I also adore my one and only little red piece, a couple of beads, a blue porcelain button and two



*I do the happy dance when I find something special.*

backgammon pieces. I also adore the beautiful pottery pieces. I think I adore all my sea glass finds! I also adore the sea glass sent to me as a gift from friends from around the world

from the vast sea glass community in which I have found many new friends who share the same passion!

**NASGA:** Do you know the origins of these pieces?

*Skyrianidou:* I definitely don't know the origins of these pieces and although in Greece we have a history that goes way back I don't think my pieces are older than 25 years!

**NASGA:** What do you do with your sea glass?

*Skyrianidou:* I usually display it and have it all around at home. I have made a couple of table tops with my sea tiles and a couple of wire wrapped jewelry pieces that I wear. I am not ready yet to drill it or make something major. I love taking photos of my collections.

**NASGA:** Do you have a sea glass collecting tip you would like to share with us?

*Skyrianidou:* I have a tip that does not have to do with collecting. It is the pay it forward tip or the sharing tip. Every time I share my sea glass I get more back. Every time someone offers me sea glass I offer some back and I offer someone else too and this becomes a chain of sharing and offering that always brings me back a lot of sea glass and a lot of happiness!

*Ariadne Skyrianidou lives in Thessaloniki, Greece collecting sea glass along the Greek Isles.*



## A Sand Sculptor is Born

At the age of 36, Janet Moore Schrader was diagnosed with stage IV Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. To get over the effects of treatment and the cancer itself, Janet started daily walks along Lake Michigan. Looking for answers among the beach treasure, Schrader found more than what she was looking for. The beach became a place of worship; for each Crinoid (fossil) found, she would give thanks for still being alive.

One day the shore was bare of rocks, so she built a sand castle. It was small and unimpressive. "There had to be a better way," she thought. At the local library Schrader found *Sand Castles Step-by-Step* by Lucinda Wierenga. With practice Schrader eventually became proficient in sand castle construction and now specializes in teaching sand sculpting. As her walks on the beach continue, she still collects sea glass and other treasures, which she sometimes uses in her sand sculptures.

### **NASGA: What do you do with the sea glass you find?**

*Schrader:* I give talks at schools and libraries. I carry my fossils in display boxes along with my glass. At home I created a quilt pattern using beach glass that I put inside a 12"x12" shadow box. On Lake Michigan we call it beach glass.

### **NASGA: Do you use sea glass in some of your sand sculptures?**

*Schrader:* I'm working on making permanent castles and wall art using the glass for windows.

### **NASGA: Do you have a favorite sand sculpture design?**

*Schrader:* I like to teach how to make sand serpents and dragons. The finishing touch is to place 3" smoke bombs into the nostrils.

### **NASGA: Do you do anything to "treat" your pieces, so they last longer?**

*Schrader:* When I'm done carving, I spray the sculpture with a water and Elmer's glue solution.

### **NASGA: Is this a full time job now?**

*Schrader:* Currently this is a part time job. When my boys are grown the goal is to teach sand sculpting in resorts around the world.

### **NASGA: Would you like to share a funny sand sculpting stories?**

*Schrader:* I love to make mermaids lounging on the beach. One day a young man approached me and told me



*Janet Moore Schrader on the beach with one of her favorite designs – a sand dragon.*

this story. He and a friend had been to the beach one evening to gaze at the stars. While enjoying the view the friend looked over and said "I think there is a dead body over there!" After a brief discussion on what they should do, they approached the lifeless form. That's when the laughter erupted. It was, of course, one of my mermaids. The smile on the young man's face was priceless.

*Janet Moore Schrader, aka the Sand Pirate, lives in Lakeside, MI with her husband and two sons and specializes in teaching sand sculpting. For more information visit her website at <http://sandpirate.net/>.*



# Sun-Colored Sea Glass

by Gary de Blois

Have you ever found a piece of sea glass that had a light purple or amethyst tint to it? Have you ever wondered where this glass came from? Well, believe it or not, it started out as clear glass, used in a variety of applications from beverage bottles, food containers, decorative tableware, door knobs, car windshields and more.

The most basic recipe used for making common glass is a silica sand, soda ash and limestone mixture referred to as soda-lime glass. Without the introduction of a clarifying agent this type of glass would have a light green-blue tint due to the iron impurities found in the sand. Many elements have been used to de-colorize glass but from the late 19th Century to the 1910s a compound known as manganese dioxide was commonly used.

Throughout history manganese was used in high concentrations to intentionally give glass an amethyst to purple color. Used in small amounts manganese would provide just enough purple tint to the raw glass to counteract the green hue from the iron, resulting in clear glass. Early in the 20th Century other compounds gained popularity as clarifying agents as they were more effective in the mass-produced bottle making process. [1]

It was later observed that glass containing manganese began to change from clear to an amethyst color, most notably in the sunny Southwest. It was soon realized that the manganese, when exposed to the UV light from the sun, caused the amethyst tint. Glass left out in the sand or placed in windows in the southwest commonly



*Glass from various sources containing manganese dioxide creates sun-colored amethyst sea glass.*

resulted in this amethyst tint which led to this type of glass being called sun-colored amethyst or desert glass. The intensity of the amethyst tint was dependent on

the amount of manganese used in the original glass mixture and how much exposure the object had to the sun.

So the next time you discover a piece of sea glass with that sun-colored amethyst tint you will understand that the shard is not only very old but nature had more involvement in its creation beyond the usual conditioning and frosting associated with sea glass.

1. <http://www.sha.org/bottle/colors.htm>

*It was later observed that glass containing manganese began to change from clear to an amethyst color...*

*Sea glass bottle tops from around the turn of the 20th Century.*



*A sun-colored amethyst sea glass door knob.*



**Do you have a sea glass story you would like to share?**

Tell us about it. Send an email with a brief description and a photo (if available) to [gary@seaglassassociation.org](mailto:gary@seaglassassociation.org).



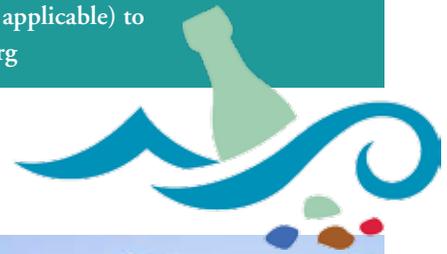
## A Sea Glass Table...

The table was an old wooden table with metal legs. I collected lots of light blue and white sea tiles and sea pottery and I used them to make the top of the table. I stuck them on with tile glue and then grouted them. I think the light blue tiles are pieces of old swimming pools or old bathroom tiles from the area. They are very well cooked!

– Ariadne Skyrianidou

## Have you created something with sea glass?

Tell us about it. Send an email with a brief description and a photo (if applicable) to [gary@seaglassassociation.org](mailto:gary@seaglassassociation.org)



See a photo album of last year's festival in Erie, PE by clicking [Festival '09!](#)



## Festival travel & lodging information:

Find travel and lodging information for the 2010 Sea Glass Festival being held in Hyannis, MA by clicking [Lodging & Tourism](#) or [Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis](#).



## Seaglass.Ning.com

Interested in becoming part of our sea glass community? Just click [Seaglass.Ning.com](http://Seaglass.Ning.com) to find out how.

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