

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

A Non-Profit Organization

Winter 2025

New Leadership for NAGC

Dear Friends:

The President's Letter from Interim President Alice Saville outlines the new Board that is now managing the Club. I believe they will bring fresh energy and vision to the Club and move the organization forward. The Board followed a procedure outlined in our by-laws to appoint interim leadership as we had struggled for some

time to identify candidates for election. I feel hopeful that the Club will prosper and grow in the days ahead. I will continue to stay involved in our Chapter here in Pittsburgh and with the *Bulletin* as Gail Bardhan is retiring after many successful years of editing this scholarly publication.

I want to thank Gail and the many other Club members who have continued to contribute their time and

expertise at both the Chapter and national level. Our common interest in glass binds us together and links us to the founders of this Club and those who have sustained it for more than 90 years. I wish you all the best for the holidays and for a happy and healthy New Year!

Yours in glass,
Anne Madarasz

Chapter and NAGC News

Coventry Glass and Bottle Show

The Museum of Connecticut Glass (MOCG), located in Coventry, CT, on the site of the famous Coventry Glass Works (1812–1852), hosted the 53rd annual glass and bottle show and sale on Saturday, October 9, 2025. This show, traditionally held the Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend, continues to be a favorite of glass collectors from throughout the country since its beginning at the Norman C. Heckler & Co. glass auction company farm in Woodstock Valley, CT.

The 2025 show was co-sponsored by the Southern Connecticut Antique Bottle & Glass Collectors Association (a part of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors) and featured 37 quality glass and bottle dealers from around New England and as far away as Michigan. The show is a tailgate type event held outdoors on the

Museum of Connecticut Glass property, the site designated as the nation's only National Historic Glass Factory District on the National Register. Dealers and buyers enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage surrounding the show field, guided tours of the MOCG 1812 John Turner House and educational center and finding the glass shards scattered throughout the fields from the early Coventry Glass Works.

Several members of the Westchester Glass Club, an NAGC chapter club, participated as dealers and organizers of the Coventry show and members of the Cape Cod Glass Club, also an NAGC chapter club, were seen searching for and buying glass treasures.

The Westchester Glass Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Somers, NY. Information can be

obtained by contacting Bruce Mitchell (Lfranz465@hotmail.com) or at www.westchesterglassclub.com.

*Kindly submitted by Bruce Mitchell,
WGC vice president*



Cape Cod Glass Club members Kathy and Bob Allison, searching for treasures at tailgate tables of Westchester Glass Club member Bruce Mitchell.

Westchester Glass Club

Recent Westchester Glass Club meetings focused on glass identification. The Club includes time for show-n-tell and glass identification as part of every meeting. The October and November meetings featured glass identification as the primary topic, *The Glass Identification Comundrum*. The October meeting offered a talk and discussion of the various characteristics and evidence of authentic older glass to aid identification, such as wear, color, form, metal (lead or non-lead) and other factors. The November meeting focused more on the difficulties of glass identification, including the confusing puzzle caused by reproductions and foreign manufacturing. Also, the value of the many available online resources was reviewed and discussed. Only a few years ago collectors and students of American glass garnered knowledge by reading books and journals, attending glass shows and clubs, visiting glass museums, talking with experienced collectors and dealers, etc. More recently, new and advanced collectors seem to be relying more on online computer and smart phone resources, many of which can be valuable and reliable resources for identification, but others used with extreme caution. One example of a widely used smart phone resource

discussed and demonstrated is the Google search camera. As demonstrated, the information provided by the Google search often has minimal value and accuracy due to its reliance on very spurious sources. Glass identification can be a puzzle hard to solve and will continue to be an important topic for the Westchester Glass Club.

—Bruce Mitchell, WGC vice president

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Founders Chapter

The Founders Chapter visited the studio of Sid Hutter in Boston, MA, in October for an intimate tour of the

studio of this acclaimed glass artist. Sid, best known for his sculptural forms that manipulate color, light, and refraction through carefully layered and polished glass, welcomed members into his workspace for a behind-the-scenes look at works on table tops and above their heads. The tour included a discussion of the evolution of his practice, from early experiments with industrial glass to his recent exploration of color-shifting laminates that change appearance under different lighting conditions. He was a gracious host and is a remarkable artist. For more information, please visit www.sidneyhutter.com.



Letter to the Editor

An excerpt from a letter from Joan E. Kaiser (Cape Cod Glass Club):

“I am writing to correct information in the Founders Chapter article that appeared in the Summer 2025 issue of *Glass Shards*. The glassworks site dug up as part of the Boston’s Big Dig was that of American Flint Glass Company on B Street in South Boston. This is

detailed in Chapter 5 of *The Glass Industry in South Boston*. For information about the Mount Washington Glass Works, please read Chapter 6, and Kenneth Wilson’s book *Mount Washington & Pairpoint Glass*. This gives me the opportunity to beg someone (Hi, Kirk) to write “The Glass Industry in East Cambridge,” probably

a ten-year project. This would include the New England Glass Company, American Glass Manufactory, Boston Silver Glass Company, and a few commercial mold companies”. To contact Joan, please call (508) 760-6417.

Interim President's Letter

Dear Friends:

National American Glass Club— Interim Board Update

An Interim Board of the National American Glass Club was voted in on October 9, 2025, during a board meeting held on Zoom. In attendance were many club members and a quorum of seven directors and four officers. Let us all welcome and support the new board: Alice Saville (President), Jay Rogers (1st Vice President), Kirk Nelson (2nd Vice President), Linda Reed (Treasurer), and Peggy Hooper, Susan Haller, Carolyn S. Needell, Louis Lopilato, and Tracy Lowrey (Directors). The Interim Board also welcomes Karen Petraglia, Francis Allen, and Anne Madarasz as advisors. The Interim Board will serve until May 31, 2026, and hold a new election by NAGC members.

We want to assure our membership that work is underway to revitalize and rebuild our national organization. As many of you know, recent years have presented many challenges. Nevertheless, the club's history, mission, and purpose are still quite relevant which fills us with the resolve to move forward.

Our goal is to restore a truly active, national community of collectors, scholars, artists, and lovers of glass, and to support the programs and publications that have defined the club for more than **nine decades!** In a few years, we will reach our 100th anniversary which is even more reason to keep these fires burning for the next generation.

We invite and encourage all current and past members to take part in this effort.

We need your help in the following areas:

- Verifying current members' contact information, especially email addresses
- Reconnecting with past members by obtaining current contact information
- Identifying potential new members
- Attending virtual organizational meetings
- Developing plans for future educational programming

The recent Zoom meeting featuring our own Amy McHugh presenting *Brilliant Color: Glass Innovation and Design from 1880 to 1935* was

sensational and marks a new beginning for us. We would love to hear from other members willing to share their time and their research on glass-related topics. Non-professionals take note! If you are willing to volunteer time, ideas, or expertise—or if you simply wish to stay informed—please contact the Interim Board. Every contribution, large or small, will help us move forward.

The National American Glass Club has always been strengthened by the knowledge, generosity, and enthusiasm of its membership. With your support, we believe this next chapter can be as meaningful as the club's historic past. Together we can ensure that NAGC continues to serve as an important center for scholarship, appreciation, and fellowship within the glass community.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Alice Saville
Interim President
The Interim Board, National
American Glass Club
Contact us at planetalicesaville@gmail.com

Corning Museum of Glass

Across centuries and continents, glass has come to silently shape our daily lives, from moments of collective celebration to acts of self-expression. Its purpose goes beyond serving food; it represents the human connections that make gathering at the table special.

The exhibition *Talk: A Global Gathering*, on view until May 2026, explores the history of dining and gaming through the rich artistry and timeless role of glass in bringing us together.

Our lives are full of distractions, but the best gatherings can cause us to

lose track of time and temporarily forget our obligations. With this exhibit, the Junior Curators invite you to take the opportunity to creatively connect people around your table with food, fun, and glass.

You will see a wide array of glass used in special social occasions, from ancient Mediterranean game pieces to a stunning Art Nouveau flower holder.

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS
1 Museum Way
Corning, NY 14830
(800) 732-6845
www.cmog.org



Flower holder. J. W. Walsh Ltd., 1903–1910.
H: 23.5 cm (Corning Museum of Glass, 59.2.8).

Northern Lights at the Glasmuseum Lette

Northern Lights features works made by artists whose homes are in the Scandinavian countries, Iceland, or northern Germany.

Working with glass has a long and renowned tradition in the north that still exerts a strong influence on the international art and design world.

Major pioneers of the European studio glass movement came from here, among them Sweden's best-known glass artist and designer Bertil Vallien as well as the "forefather" of Danish glass art, Finn Lynggaard. One of the most innovative and influential glass artists anywhere in the world is Hamburg-born Klaus Moje, who succeeded in establishing a glass art

movement in Australia in the early 1980s.

Reflecting on this artistic potential from the far north, the versatile glass art produced by the *Northern Lights* is nothing short of spectacular. It boasts many more facets than the clear, functional aesthetic that many



Seeds. Anna Ehrner, 2011, 2005, 2004.

associate with Nordic glass design. Cool design and free-form art seem to intermingle here in a uniquely fresh and original way. Glass art from northern countries displays just as wide a range of artistic individuality and inventiveness as glass art from southern, western or eastern countries. It is by turns formally perfect and poetic, experimental and imaginative, but it is always based on consummate skill and professionalism.

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

Vaseline Glass Collectors, Inc. Annual Convention

Held on Cape Cod, MA, in October, the VGCI celebrated Vaseline glass collecting with fun and flair. Besides speakers, dinners and displays, the group enjoyed three tours: Harvard's Museum of Natural History to see the famed glass flowers, the New Bedford Museum of Glass, and the Sandwich Glass Museum. Lectures were on various topics including Andrew Daniels *Brilliant Cut Glass* and Julian Rogers *New England Glass: A World of Color*. Awards were given for best displays and Harriet Finks's won for

Best Theme. An amazing collection of Hobnail Rubina Verde lamps, cruets, syrups, pitchers, tumblers, and bowls made a stunning show of color. Next year's convention will be in October 2026, in Wichita, KS, and is not to be missed. Visit the website to see more pictures from the convention and learn more about this great group of glass collectors.

Harriet Finks's collection of Hobnail Rubina Verde, which one the award for Best Theme.

VGCI
5134 Deerview Park Dr.
Cleves, OH 45002
(513) 941-9292
www.vaselineglass.org



Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

A Legacy of Giving: The Sue Soy Collection, on view now until August 31, 2026. Sue Soy was an avid and prolific collector of glass paperweights whose passion for these elaborate creations reflects her deep appreciation for their artistry and history. A dear friend to many—including the staff of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass—Sue bequeathed her collection of more than 600 paperweights to the museum following her passing in 2024. This exhibition pays tribute to Sue's legacy by highlighting



Double Rose Magnum paperweight. Caithness, undated.

a selection of these special treasures, including contemporary work by artists including Cathy Richardson, Damon MacNaught, Mayauel Ward, Melissa Ayotte, Alison Ruzsa, Paul Stankard, and Ken Rosenfeld.

BERGSTROM-MAHLER
MUSEUM OF GLASS
165 North Park Ave.
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 751.4658
<https://bmmglass.com>

Glass Calendar

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

Until March 15, 2026

Tapio Wirkkala: Still
CHRYSLER MUSEUM OF ART
One Memorial Place
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 664-6200
<https://chrysler.org>

After more than 70 years, the everyday objects designed by Tapio Wirkkala are still highly appealing and distinctly modern. Wirkkala first caught the attention of the design world in the 1950s, winning praise for the minimalism and naturalism of his Scandinavian aesthetic. He designed functional items—tableware, jewelry, furniture, and lighting—as well as architecture and art, crafted from materials including glass, wood, metal, ceramic, and plastic. He became an iconic figure of Mid-Century Modern design. *Still* highlights Wirkkala's craftsmanship in glass as well as his works in ceramic, wood, and silver.



Ashtray (about 1948–1960) vase (about 1950–1951), and vase about 1950–1964. Tapio Wirkkala.

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January 8, 2026

STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY
Stretch Out Discussion
www.stretchglassociety.org

Show Off Your Dolphins is the topic of our next Stretch Out discussion at 8pm Eastern on Zoom. Fenton made dolphin pieces in all different

shapes, sizes, and colors. We'll be amazed at the variety we see. You're also welcome to share new finds or pieces you'd like identified. The next discussion will be on March 12, 2026, on Blue Stretch Glass.

Information is available on our website or e-mail us at info@stretchglassociety.org.



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February 14–15, 2026

Clearwater Elegant & Depression Glass Show and Sale
Morningside Recreation Complex
2400 Harn Blvd.
Clearwater FL 33764
(319) 939-3837
gingerbreadantiques77@gmail.com

The Clearwater Elegant & Depression Glass Show and Sale is an annual event offering items suitable for all collector levels. It features American glassware from the 1800s–1980s, including Depression and Elegant glass, Pyrex, and Mid-Century pieces.

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February 28, 2026

GREEN RIVER DEPRESSION ERA GLASS CLUB
48th Annual Green River Glass Show and Sale
Kent Commons
525 4th Ave. N.
Kent, WA 98032
(206) 406-7773

The event will feature vintage glassware from major makers like Fostoria, Fenton, and Cambridge, aiming to educate on timeless craftsmanship. Special guests Randy and Debbie Coe.

* * * *

March 3, 2026

THE CHARLES HOSMER MORSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART
Beyond Glass: The Paintings of Louis Comfort Tiffany
445 North Park Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789
(407) 645-5311
<https://morsemuseum.org>

Though lauded for his innovations in glass, Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933) began his artistic career as a painter and continued the practice throughout his life. This exhibition showcases his paintings and continuous exploration of color and light in the medium.

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March 20–21, 2026

NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS
Spring Quarterly Meeting and Annual Auction
P.O. Box 416
Cambridge, OH 43725
(740) 432-4245
<https://cambridgeglass.org>
e-mail: membership@cambridgeglass.org

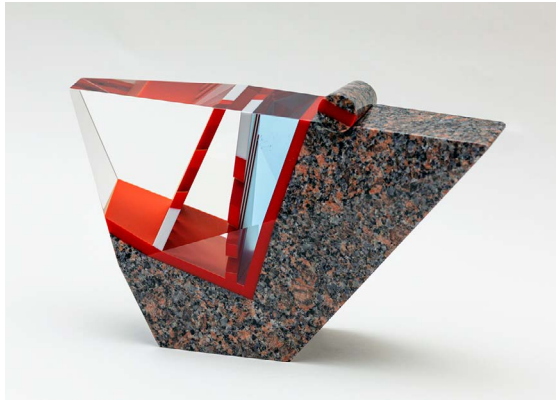
The Spring quarterly meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2026, both in person at The National Museum of Cambridge Glass and online via Zoom. The following day, the NCC will host the annual auction of Cambridge Glass at the Apple Tree Action Center, Newark, OH. See our website or e-mail us for more information.

Perfume Bottle Exhibition at Racine Art Museum

Perfume bottles may not be the first thing people think about relative to how glass is used, but they have a history of production and refinement that spans centuries and continents. More than just functional items, these bottles reflect layered choices relating to design, history, luxury, class, and skill. In modern societies, they are also pivotal in product brand development and advertisement.

Some contemporary glass artists have utilized perfume bottles for experimentation and exploration—not necessarily function. This desire to challenge functionality runs parallel with the desire to produce usable and practical objects. Whether creating bottles as the focus of their practice or as a limited area of production, they combine their individualized styles and techniques with historical precedents.

RAM Collects: Contemporary Perfume Bottles (through February 21, 2026) draws from the museum’s permanent collection—the largest collection of contemporary craft in North America—and features over 20 glass perfume bottles from the last quarter of the 20th century. Most of the artists represented also created other kinds of work in glass. For example, Audrey Handler is well known for still lifes combining glass fruit and miniature figures, and Jon Kuhn created the beloved *Pendulum Cluster* that hangs overhead at RAM’s front entrance.



Perfume bottle. William Carlson, 1991.

RACINE ART MUSEUM
441 Main St.
Racine, WI 53403
(262) 638-8300
www.ramart.org

MARCH 1, 2026
DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE'S

www.glassclub.org
Visit NAGC Web page:

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ATTENTION READERS!
The next deadline for the *Glass Shards* will be
March 1, 2026
Submit news to Alice Saville, *Glass Shards* Editor, at
planetahicesaville@gmail.com

Return Service Requested



The National American
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