



New England Paperweight Collectors Association

Newsletter



Spring 2010

Spring 2010 NEPCA Meeting

Spring NEPCA meeting at Mansfield April 24

The Spring meeting of the New England Paperweight Collector Association will be held April 24 at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, MA. Featured speakers will be Cathy Richardson, paperweight artist from Winona, Minnesota, and Bernard A. (Ben) Drabeck, past president of the NEPCA and president of the Paperweight Collectors Association.

The meeting will open at 10, when President Clara Ayotte welcomes everyone to a day of paperweight fun and enlightenment. The first Dealers' Fair will begin the festivities at 9.

Clara will introduce the first speaker, Cathy Richardson who comes from the Midwest. An art-

ist of great gifts and accomplishments, she is known for her beautiful paperweight bouquets as well as her depiction of undersea life. (See accompanying article for a statement of her artistic creed.) Another hour of the Dealers' Fair will follow her presentation.

After lunch, featured speaker will be Ben Drabeck, The title of his talk, "Is It Art," relates to a question which has been long neglected and needs, he thinks, to be brought to the forefront of the minds of every collector. Paperweights have long been the poor stepchild in the artistic community, if indeed they are allowed within the door at all. It is his contention that the beauty, skill and artistry found in the finest paperweights make these glass

objects true works of art. It is his high hope that those who hear his presentation will give paperweights the high marks they deserve in the artistic pantheon. His talk will be followed by the concluding segment of the Dealers' Fair.

The Dealers' Fair, which will be organized by William Pitt, dealers' representative, will include, besides Mr. Pitt, Leo Kaplan Ltd., Therese McNamara, and Roger Jacobsen (represented by Mr. Drabeck). He expects that these dealers will have their usual wonderful array of beautiful paperweights on display.

The spring meeting should offer a wonderful day of enchantments to all our members. We hope to see all of you there.

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NEPCA President's Message

February, 2010 — Is Spring just around the corner??

Maybe, maybe not! As I sit gazing out the window at another white-grey day it is hard to believe that in just a few short weeks, spring will be upon us, and with that comes the thoughts of bulbs shooting out of the ground and signs of warmer days not too far away. Maybe, maybe not!

Oh well, not to worry. With my own flowers perennially and eternally blooming and enclosed in crystal, I can enjoy what cannot be yet seen outside. With that and thoughts of our "spring

meeting" soon approaching, I can put aside thoughts of winter weather as I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

Our fall meeting was a sensational success. As you may remember, we did something completely different for our autumnal get-together. The entire meeting was held at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH.

For those of you who could not join us I am so pleased to report that our members had a fabulous day viewing the Henry M. Fuller

collection and the newly refurbished Museum. We had 70 members attending, the largest group we have had in quite some time.

After the meeting, several members came up and said how pleased they were with the arrangements that had been made by our treasurer Emile Tetu and me! Many said they especially liked the beautiful and spacious luncheon room where we enjoyed a really delicious buffet. All the board members and I were very pleased to hear we had done a "good job"!

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Editor:
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Cathy Richardson

Cathy Richardson, our visiting glass artist, has her bachelor's degree in geology from Boston University (1971). She received her master's degree in 1972 and her doctorate in 1977, both in geology and both from Harvard.

From 1987-1997, she was a stained glass artist at Nature's Image Studio in Ames, IA. In 1991 at the Pilchuck Glass School, she studied with Narcisus Qualiata.

In 1996 at the Corning School of Glass, she studied lamp working with Bandhu Scott Dunham and from 1997-1999, she was a glass student at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. In 2000, she attended the Corning School of Glass where she studied lamp working with Shane Fero and Fred Birkhill.

In 2001, she built Touchstone Glass, her studio in Winona MN. Her studies in glass continued, however, as a student of lamp working with Loren Stump at the Corning School of Glass. She also studied lamp working with Loren Stump.

In 2004, she studied lamp working and paperweight making with Chris Buzzini. In the same year, she began making lamp worked paperweights.

Cathy Richardson — in her own words

I was born in Washington D.C. and grew up in Falls Church, Virginia. I was interested in art at a young age and spent a lot of time learning to draw and paint. I also loved wandering in the woods near our house, helping my mother in her gardens and greenhouses, wandering on beaches near the Chesapeake Bay (when my father went fishing), and reading books. Through these early experiences, I developed a life-long love of both art and nature.

I chose not to study art in college, however, and instead pursued a career in geology (BA, MA and PhD). When research funding dried in the 1980's, I returned to my first love, art, and

built a stained glass business. My images in stained glass drew heavily on nature-flowers, prairie grasses, trees, birds, sea creatures and people. I admired the flowing organic lines in the work done by Art Nouveau artists such as Alphonse Mucha as well as some of the beautifully done old books and manuscripts with elaborate borders. Many of my paintings as well as my stained glass panels incorporated intricate borders that set off the naturalistic interiors. Other artistic influences at this time came from the abstract naturalism found in paintings of Georgia O'Keefe, the soft beauty of the Impressionist painters and the beautiful realism and sense of light in the 20th Century photographers--particularly Ansel Adams.

Throughout my artistic journey, I have retained a fascination for small details, the interplay of light, color, and textures. I depict natural settings in my current work and try to find a way to present each plant or animal in an environment that seems real and yet shows it off in an artistic composition. It is my hope that my paperweights catch the interest of the viewer and entice him into my tiny world to look in ever greater detail.

I met my husband at Boston University in 1967 and we married in 1971. My husband and I have traveled many paths over the long years. I have watched him become a geology professor, excellent teacher, and finally director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Iowa State University. Later he was an associate provost at Bowling Green State University and then a Vice President at Winona State University. He is now retired and works with me every day at the studio keeping the books, working on my website, polishing and grinding paperweights, packing and shipping orders and generally helping where needed. We have two children--our daughter, Meredith works for Fidelity in Raleigh, NC and is married and the mother of two boys. Our son, Colin works with me at the studio and is building a career in glass. He is married and also has two active boys.

Announcements

Washington DC has been selected as the site of the 2011 PCA Convention. Highlight of the convention will be the opportunity to view the fine collection of paperweights at the Smithsonian Museum. The collection has been hidden away since the mid 1970s.



The new site of the New Bedford Museum of Glass will be open soon, according to Kirk Nelson, Curator. Workers are busy getting the facility ready to display a fine collection of beautiful glass. Kirk plans to make the museum into a paperweight center.



A Midsummer Paperweight Auction will be held at the Douglas Auction Gallery in South Deerfield, MA. To consign antique or contemporary weights for the sale, call (413)665 2877.



Larry Selman has retired from the paperweight business, but his L.H. Selman Ltd continues as a new operation relocated to Chicago. The business, now owned by the Clark family, is located at 10 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago, IL, very near the Chicago Art Institute.



Dues Reminder

You should have received the invoice for your 2010 dues last month. If you have not already taken care of this, please do so as soon as possible. A copy of the invoice form is included with this newsletter for your convenience.



Presidents Message (continued)...

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking of board members, I would like to take this time to thank everyone who continues to help me prepare interesting and enjoyable meetings. It continues to amaze me how many are willing to give of their personal time to meet me wherever it may be and spend a few hours together on constructing new and innovative days for all of us to enjoy. Fabulous!

Now, in conjunction with my positive remarks of appreciation, I also at this time have a HUGE Favor to ask? Over this past year, due to personal reasons or other commitments, we have lost a couple of board members, and although we miss them dearly, it is time to make a plea to fill these vacant seats. At the same time, we look forward to welcoming new people with new ideas!

The Board meets four times a year. Two of those meetings take place the afternoon before our regular meetings in the spring and fall. The other two meetings usually take place in January and August at various locations – all within a reasonable distance for traveling.

PLEASE give this some thought, and if you have any questions I would be very happy to sit with you at the meeting and talk about our agendas.

Another related thought has to do with our newsletter. As you may know, Ben has been serving as the editor of the

newsletter for 7 or 8 years and he is finding it difficult to balance his workload. I would therefore appreciate a volunteer to take his place. I would also appreciate articles for our newsletter. I am sure many of you have great "collecting" stories to share that the rest of our membership would enjoy reading. These can be sent to Editor Ben via email. (Ben's email: BEADRA2314@mac.com; Mary's email: mes@SayreClan.com)

Join us on April 25, when our guest speaker will be glass artist Cathy Richardson. I am sure you will all enjoy meeting and seeing all her beautiful items.

Our afternoon session will be open to the public. Ben Drabeck President of the PCA will present his talk — "Is it Art?"

We will also have our popular show and tell paperweight feature. The theme this spring is "Under the sea."

It should be a fun day, and I look forward to seeing all of you!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We will be celebrating our 35th anniversary next year. Stay tuned as we have a fun program brewing, probably involving a weekend!!

For more information please check our web site www.nepaperweight.org Or contact me at 603 860-4073

Clara Ayotte

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In Remembrance

In the past few months we have lost two members of PCA that were very instrumental leaders in their clubs.

Beverly Leichter Schindler of Vienna, Virginia passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2009. Bev was a talented artist and a loyal member of PCA. She was a Founding Member of the MD-DC-VA Paperweight Collectors Association in 1977 and served as its president for many years.

I will always personally remember Bev as a great lover of paperweights, and a true lover of art. With a smile on her face and a "flamboyant flare"! She will be missed .

Stanley B. Kruger of Voorhees, New Jersey passed away on December 29, 2009. Stanley was a long-time President of the Delaware Valley Paperweight Collectors and a former vice-president of PCA. He was also very instrumental in the past few years with our "Paperweight Fest" weekends at Wheaton. He always had a special style and handled his positions with great care and perfection. He is another fine gentleman who will be missed in our circle of friends.

NEPCA would like to send our condolences to their families, along with my personal heartfelt sympathy.

PAPERWEIGHT FEST

The 2010 Paperweight Fest will be held at Wheaton Arts in Millville, NJ, May 13, 14, and 15. The event is sponsored by Wheaton Arts in association with the Delaware Valley Paperweight Collector Association.

The formal program begins with a Artists' and Dealers' Fair at the Event Center on Thursday evening. Several speakers will be featured on Friday and Saturday, including Kirk Nelson of the New Bedford Museum of Glass and Gay Taylor, who will talk on Millville Crimp Roses.

Other speakers are John Hawley ("Gillinder Brothers at the Centennial"), Paul Dunlop ("Clichy Garlands"), Colin Mahoney ("Rare Paul Ysart Paperweights") and Mike Hunter ("What's new from Twists Glass").

Wheaton Arts will offer their usual opportunity for attendees to create their own paperweights. On Thursday, however, they will have an opportunity to work with a select group of artists, including our own Rick or Melissa Ayotte.

The Fest will conclude Saturday evening with a banquet, at which the winners of the third Wheaton Arts Great Paperweight Raffle will be announced.

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April 24, 2010

Spring 2010 Meeting



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