

Historical Glass Museum



April 2023 Volume 7 Issue 2

Museum Location:

1157 N. Orange Street
Redlands, California
909-798-0868

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395



The Museum has a page on Facebook, for those who like to indulge in social media. Search for REDLANDS HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM. (There is an older page without the word Redlands, but we currently are not able to update it.)

We encourage you to "FOLLOW" our page, as that will alert you to any new posts that are made to the page. *If you would like to share photos of your collection, others will surely enjoy looking at them.*

Keeping in Touch

Things have been bustling at the Museum for the past couple of months. We had 80 visitors in February and 76 in March. That keeps our volunteer docents quite busy. If you would like to volunteer as a docent, even one day a month, we would love to have you.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Sales have been good in the Gift Shop over the past couple of months, and Steve & Shirley have been keeping the shop re-stocked with fresh merchandise as sales take place. Remember, this is a major source of our funding.

Get ready for Mother's Day by taking advantage of our **30% off sale (40% for members)** on Saturday April 15th and Sunday April 16th from 12-4 PM.

WORKSHOP APRIL 15th

We have another workshop on Fenton glass scheduled for April 15. More information can be found on page 6.

LANDSCAPING UPDATE

The landscaping project has been completed and the property is all set for Spring. The upgrade looks great and is a complement to our historic building. See a couple of pictures on page 5.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

We would like to encourage all of our members to share their experiences with glass. In each newsletter we try to have at least one article about a glass company or pattern, or even an experience related to glass collecting.

Most articles in the past have come from one or more of our Board members. While those articles are certainly of interest, we would like to hear from

YOU.

Yes, we are asking *you* to send us an article about your favorite pattern, a visit to a glass museum, perhaps your use of glass in a holiday decoration, or an exciting find at an antique shop. Something you would like to read about in the newsletter would be exactly what others would like, too. We invite you to share with all of us.

Send your article to:
webmaster@HistoricalGlassMuseum.com

SOME CHANGES

The Board of Directors recently voted on a couple of changes in our policy. Specifically:

Life Members will now receive 20% off in the gift shop as a perk of membership. This means that during gift shop sales, that 20% is *on top of* the sales discount.

The Board also voted to give **Docents** 20% off in the Gift Shop, as a reward for their service to the Museum (and indeed, for their service to all our members).

Regular members are entitled to 10% off in the gift shop, and that's over and above any advertised discount..

PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTION

By Kathi Jablonsky

HGM Inventory Update

The Museum inventory project is proceeding. We are now moving on to the paperweight collection of approximately 150 pieces. To support this, we recently received a generous grant from the Paperweight Collectors Association, Inc. (www.paperweight.org), a nonprofit organization dedicated to appreciating and collecting glass paperweights.



The PCA has offered to send us copies of their bulletin and other books on paperweights for our research library. They also plan on informing their members about the Museum, and how they might donate paperweights if they wish to.

We are always looking for assistance with the inventory project. If anyone is interested and available, please contact the inventory coordinator, Kathi Jablonsky at kj@jablonskyconsulting.com



Shelf of Advertising Paperweights

In keeping with an Easter theme for April, we'd like to show you some of the eggshaped paperweights from various makers we have come across so far.



While we have featured some individual egg-shaped paperweights, there are many other shapes and sizes on display, as seen in the two photos from the Museum.



Shelf of Advertising Paperweights

The paperweights in the Museum collection came from Nina Mashburn, (73 paperweights, 1994) and Keithe Bisnett & Bernice Zubrinsky, (110 paperweights, 2017).

THANKS TO OUR DONORS ...

We would like to acknowledge the donations of glass or other items, to be used either for display at the Museum or to be sold in the Gift Shop to support the Museum's operations. The following people donated glass and/or other items since the last newsletter. Thanks to all for your support of the Museum.

CASH DONATIONS:

January

\$20.00 Mary Rose Cademartori

February

\$65.00 Tim & Linda Keenan

\$250.00 Grant from

Paperweight Collectors Association

March

\$20.00 Merly & Michael McDowell

\$100.00 Dorothy Peterson

\$50.00 Joseph Leake

NON-MONETARY DONATIONS

John Tortarolo

Barbara Khacherian

Cheryl Bryan

Thomas Rigali-Roy

& Harold Cheyne III

Will Kleese

Andy Hoder

Estate of Martha Jo Morehouse

David & Linda Adams

Jacque Rocha

Jean Risaliti

Julie Humphrey

Bill Summers

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of these donors for their generosity.



WEST VIRGINIA ONCE AMONG CHIEF MANUFACTURERS OF GLASSWARE

By Amanda Larch



West Virginia was once among the world's chief exporters of glass, *supporting more than 400 factories* through the 20th century. Now, only a handful of manufacturers remain, though its glass museums and exhibits are growing as destinations for collectors.

What circumstances caused West Virginia to excel, and why did the industry wane? Historians say three factors may have combined to result in the boom and bust. Convenient river and rail transportation, the availability of gas and coal, and the proximity to Pittsburgh—itsself a glass giant—made for ideal conditions.

According to Tom Felt, archivist of the Museum of American Glass in West Virginia, as a rural state, with railroads running east to west and river systems connecting to much of the country, manufacturers could transport glass quickly and inexpensively. "Because West Virginia is such a small state compared, for instance, to Indiana, Ohio, or Pennsylvania, we probably had more glass factories per capita than any other state in the union," Felt said.

Larry Woods, president of the Museum's board of directors, said that early American glass was manufactured in larger cities like Boston and Philadelphia. Still, those factories began running out of resources, and they moved west to Pittsburgh before looking to West Virginia for its natural gas and coal production. The Wheeling and Morgantown areas were therefore ideal locations. "When natural gas got to be relatively inexpensive, it became the heat source that factories used for industry."

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WEST VIRGINIA GLASS

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“Glass is made under intense heat, and the buildings tended to be wooden structures, so there were a lot of fires,” Woods says. Many glass companies disappeared after a fire closed them down.

Many factories were located along what's now the I-79 corridor in the Monongahela Valley of the northern part of the state. Pressed glass companies Hazel-Atlas and Anchor Hocking were located in Clarksburg, and Morgantown was home to Seneca Glass Company and the Morgantown Glass Company. In Weston and surrounding areas, blown stemware was the primary product. “At one point in the late 1920s, Weston could boast they were making more blown stemware in this small town than any place else in the world,” Felt says. “It was the major industry here, along with the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum.”

Other parts of the state specialized in different styles of glassmaking as well. Kanawha Glass, in Dunbar, and Rainbow Glass, in Huntington, produced blown glass in bright colors, typifying the mid-century era of the 1960s and '70s. Probably the one thing that West Virginia did more than any other state was making marbles, which occurred in Clarksburg, Paden City, and other parts of the state.”

As glass manufacturing grew, more companies began opening in other parts of the state, and West Virginia companies exported glass virtually everywhere in the world. “The United States learned how to do machine-made glass, and a lot of that happened right here in West Virginia,” Felt says. “We were, at one time, preeminent in glass manufacturing.”

Many companies went out of business due to imports flooding the country. A desire for new styles and colors of glassware also contributed to the decline, as factories could not afford to keep up with changing tastes. “At one point, we had strong tariff laws that protected glassware, and when those laws were not renewed, it became possible for glass to come in from Europe and Asia at prices that we couldn't compete with because the U.S. companies were by and large pretty heavily unionized,” Felt says.

Another contributing factor is that gas was no longer an inexpensive fuel. Relying on gas, glass manufacturers needed to keep their furnaces burning constantly. “You have factories aging so badly that unless they're completely retrofitted, they simply can't do the new technology,” Felt says.

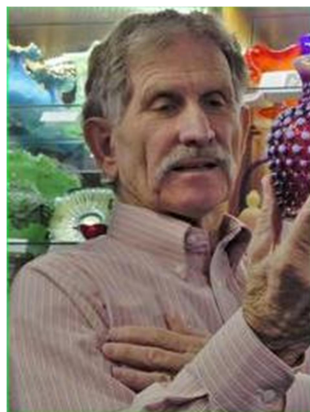
“A few of the factories ended up closed because they spent so much money trying to update their equipment and could not recoup the loss fast enough to keep them active.”

Only a handful of West Virginia glass manufacturers are still operating today, including Blenko Glass, in Milton, and Davis-Lynch Glass, in Morgantown, one of the few places with artists on staff still hand-painting glassware, Felt says. “It's something that we as Americans can be so proud of, and we here in West Virginia can be so proud that we produced such a wide variety of glass that's good, high-quality glass,” Felt says. “It's a tragedy that it's virtually all gone.”

Remembering and recognizing the proud history of glass manufacturers in the Mountain State is an objective of the Museum of American Glass in West Virginia. The future of glass in West Virginia, and the United States, lies in the hands of studio glass artists, Felt says. “I encourage people to look for their local studio artists and support them,” he says. “That's an important thing to do because that's the future of the glass industry as far as the United States is concerned.”

This article was originally published March 30, 2023, and is reproduced by permission of West Virginia Explorer (<https://wvexplorer.com>).

Author Amanda Larch is a freelance writer and editor.



At left is Bill Summers during one of his many Fenton Workshops given at the Museum. The workshops are free to the public and have proven to be quite popular.

Next Workshop will be:
April 15, 2023
See page 6 for details.

Group Tours of the Museum



Weekday group tours for groups of 8 or more visitors are available by appointment. The charge is \$5.00 per person, with a minimum charge of \$40.00. For information and bookings, call Bill Summers at **951-850-0915**.

Tour bus parking and a handicap ramp are available. The museum entrance and wheelchair ramp are located at the rear parking lot. There is also parking along the street curb on Western at Orange.

The Museum welcomed two tours in January, Plymouth Village Jan 26, 20 persons, and Redlands Area Historical Society, Jan 28, 34 persons. The next tours are scheduled for 15 persons on April 25th, 20 persons on July 11, and other tours are pending.

RESTORATION FUND

The Board of Directors established a Restoration Fund designated to set aside funds for restoration and maintenance of our century-old building.

The landscaping project has been completed, and it shows well with our historical building. We will next need to address a problem with the floor in the attic, which is bowing significantly and requires bracing and reinforcement. That should get resolved within the next few months.

After that, we need to look towards a new roof. The roof survived the recent rains in California with only a minor leak, but it's definitely time to contract for replacement as we head into the dry time of year.

The current balance in the fund is: **\$24,955.48**. The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. You may also designate "in Memory of " or "in Honor of " with your donation.

Checks should be made out to the Museum, with a note designating the Restoration Fund. Send to:

Historical Glass Museum
P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395

APRIL 2023 FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Our Museum survived the wild rains this season but it is now time to have the roof replaced. We have received various estimates and are now ready to proceed. We are currently waiting for city approval of the roofing plan for our historic house.

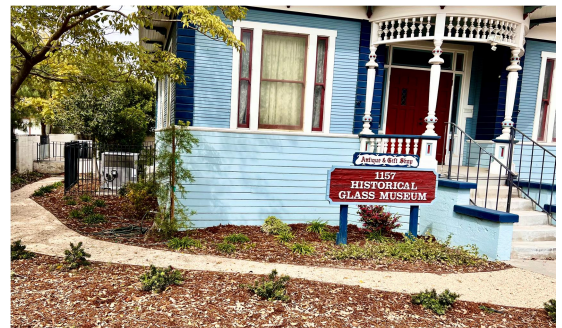
The current restoration fund will cover most of the cost, but we definitely will need to replenish the fund for other foundational repairs needed in the near future. We appreciate any monetary donations directed toward this project.

We are also looking at other fundraising opportunities such as a parking lot sale and a GoFundMe campaign. If any of our friends or members have experience locating grants and/or writing grant proposals, we would love to hear from you.

I am always grateful for our various volunteers who provide us with their time, energy and ideas to keep the museum clean and operational for all our glass loving friends.

Come in and take advantage of the upcoming Fenton Seminar and sale the weekend of April 15th . Remember, Mother's Day is coming up soon (May 14).

Steve



New Landscaping completed



April 15th Fenton Workshop “Coin Dot and Polka Dot, and Rarities”

The Museum is happy to announce another in the series of workshops on Fenton glass. On Saturday, April 15 beginning at 11:00 am, vice president Bill Summers will lead the session entitled “Fenton Coin Dot and Polka Dot, and Rarities.”



There IS a difference between the two, so come to the workshop to learn the differences.

The session begins at 11:00am and light refreshments will be served. There will be time at the end for discussion and “show and tell,” and door prizes will be awarded. The Gift Shop will be offering 30% off all weekend.

VERLYS WORKSHOP A BIG HIT

The workshop on Verlys glass was presented by Thomas Rigali Roy, the donor of the Verlys glass exhibit in the Museum.

The workshop was held on Saturday, February 11, 2023. We had a great turnout of 24 attendees. Thomas gave an exceptionally informative program, which was enjoyed by all those who attended. Thank you, Thomas.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:

Mary Rose Cademartori
Scott & Melodee Seccombe
Karen Hargrove
Carole Montgomery
Ken & Diana Thomsen
Sherri Harrier & Maria Galvez
Cynthia Nielsen
Maureen Griffith
Aniceta Zamborsky
Tammi Meeks
Joseph Leake

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM?

There are many ways to support the Museum. We are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, and donations are deductible on your income tax returns, to the fullest extent of current tax laws. Please speak to your accountant or tax professional for details about your particular situation.

Why not give a Gift Membership to a friend who collects glass, but may not know about us? Annual dues are only \$30 for a basic membership, plus \$5 for each additional person in the household. Membership dues for a glass club or other organization are only \$30 per year. And if a person is a full-time student, dues are only \$10 per year.

By the way, anyone can become a Life Member for a one-time payment of \$1,000. Life Members pay no annual dues. We added three Life Members in 2022.

If you live within a reasonable distance of the Museum, your support could be in the form of TIME. We need volunteer docents who would want to work one or two weekend days a month from noon to 4pm. It's fun, you meet lots of nice people, and you are supporting our efforts. We will train you !

You could also make a donation of glass or glass related items. It would really help our all-volunteer staff if you could provide a list describing the contents of your donation.

Of course, you can make a cash donation to the Museum, at any time, in any amount. You may specify “in Memory of” or “in Honor of” someone.