New England Paperweight Collectors Association

Newsletter — Spring 2013

NEPCA President's Message

The time has come —
Passing of the Torch!

Although it doesn't feel like "Spring is in the air," the "season of rebirth" is coming and with that comes our April meeting! This meeting will mark the end of my service as NEPCA President. The by-laws specify two consecutive two-year terms – which I served. Add to that the two most recent years with Phil Edelman and me as "co-presidents" – clearly, it is time for me to step down after six years on the job.

When I look back at the 30-something years that I have been a member of NEPCA, I remember that when I joined, being president was not something I ever intended to do! There were many years that I felt really shy and happy simply to sit and listen! Well, I guess maturity did set in and with that came many fun years doing NEPCA business and working with a great group of board members who became good friends.

First, I was treasurer and then I became vice president. Finally, I arrived at the position of president. I have to tell you I was a little nervous about doing the job, but several people gave me courage and inspiration. In the background but certainly a

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Spring 2013 Meeting

by Ben Drabeck

Two exciting speakers will be featured at the spring meeting of the New England Paperweight Collectors Association – Debbie Tarsitano and Allan Port. The April 20 gathering will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Worcester.

Debbie is an NEPCA veteran. One of our premier glass artists, she began her career in glass in the mid 1970's mastering all the skills involved in working from the torch and enclosing her wondrous creations in crystal. One of her first appearances as a paperweight artist was at the Boston convention of the Paperweight Collectors Association in 1977.

We in the NEPCA know her best from her years of dedicated and brilliant artistry revealed through her world-famous paperweights. We have seen many glorious achievements, including magnificent dahlias, 50 flower magnums, and many extraordinary creations from partnerships with engraver Max Erlacher and Ed Poore.

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really big influence on me and someone I want to thank was Rachel Dohanian (who for years has as you know worked hard for our organization). After each meeting of the board or the NEPCA, she would either call or write and tell me that I had done a good job! Those words helped to build my confidence!

There are others I have to acknowledge as well, especially two board members who have helped in so many ways. Diane (Warning) our secretary keeps us in line, helping us know what we have done and what we are to do. Armed with her computer and organizational skills, she has kept ME focused on items I may have forgotten to mention at meetings!!

Also, I am grateful to Emile (Tetu), who has worked diligently keeping records as treasurer and tracking registrations. He has also negotiated with hotel management so we can keep within our budget. As a result, out Treasury is doing very well!

I must at the same time give special thanks to his wife Sue who has done more than her share of helping with meeting registrations, getting the badges ready, doing the raffles and anything else I may have asked her to do, and always with a smile.

Last but not least, I give a thank-you to Phil my co-president who has taken over many of my tasks over the past couple of years. His suggestions, humor and friendship have been a wonderful support to me!

I remember special people but I also remember special meetings. The meeting that I was most pleased to be part of was held at the Currier Gallery of Art (in Manchester, NH). This was my most successful meeting in terms of attendance – almost like the "old days" with 84 members and guests! I was very pleased to have members come up and tell me how much they enjoyed the day. Their expressions of appreciation really put a smile on my face.

The other special meeting for me was our "35th Anniversary" weekend celebration at the Cape Codder. Sixty-nine members attended and enjoyed a great program. We had special visitors (a representative of Julia's auctions showing a variety of weights from an upcoming sale) and Mitch Clark and Alexis Magaro from L.H. Selman of Chicago.

I am very pleased that Allan Port has agreed to be a candidate for the presidency of NEPCA. I feel he will do a great job in bringing interesting ideas to our meetings. Allan has been a member of our group for many years and he served as an adviser during my administration. Recently he accepted the position of Dealer Representative.

A great Spring meeting has been planned (see Ben's article) with Debbie Tarsitano joining us and giving a talk on what she has been doing in the past few years, along with Allan Port speaking on "Unexpected Pleasures – 20 years of Paperweight Collecting!" So please mark your calendars and join us for an enjoyable day!

Although I will no longer be at the helm of NEPCA, I've been told I am not going too far! I stay on the board as past president, with lots of fun and fewer responsibilities.

My Spring calendar is a little different this year, so I will not be at the meeting in April. I will, however, look forward to seeing everyone in Sturbridge in the Fall!

All my best!

Clara

NEPCA Contact Information

Co-Presidents	Clara Ayotte	president1@nepaperweight.org
	Phil Edelman	president2@nepaperweight.org
Vice President	Suzie Jacobson	vicepresident@nepaperweight.org
Secretary	Diane Warning	secretary@nepaperweight.org
Treasurer	Emile Tetu	treasurer@nepaperweight.org

The NEPCA Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the office of President. The President has the following responsibilities:

A. The President shall serve a term of two years and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.
B. The President shall call and preside at the regular meetings of the Association.
C. The President shall call and preside at the Board of Trustees meetings.
D. The President shall write the newsletter to the membership at least twice yearly.
E. The President shall appoint the Chairperson of any committee, as needed, to run the Association more efficiently.
F. The President shall make an annual Report at the Fall Meeting.

The Nominating Committee currently has one candidate for this office, Allan Port. If you would like to submit another candidate for this office contact a member of the Committee prior to April 10, 2013.

Nominating Committee,
Janet Green – PO Box 169, Walpole, MA. 02081
Melissa Ayotte – melissa@ayotteglassart.com
Bill Pitt – wipitt@aol.com

Spring 2013 Meeting… (continued)

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A few years ago, however, she felt the need for new artistic challenges and turned to other forms of creation in glass. Thus began a professional and personal journey which has lead to discoveries about both herself and her goals in glass. "You can call the talk 'Transitional Glass'," I will talk about the different types of glass I have made and the transitions this journey has taken me through."

Allan Port, a longtime member of the NEPCA and currently serving as Dealer Representative, will speak on "Unexpected Pleasures – 20 Years of Paperweight Collecting." For Allan, paperweights are a passion and a hobby that bring unexpected pleasures at every turn. He didn't plan his collection, he says, but rather let it take him where it wanted to go. There were many surprises. In his talk he will share pictures of some of his paperweights and also speak of these experiences and the good friends he made as a result. Allan has a Ph.D. in mathematics and taught at the university level before going into consulting and then the high tech world.

In honor of one of our featured speakers, members are asked to bring in a favorite Debbie Tarsitano paperweight for show and tell

The usual complement of dealers and artists will have their beautiful paperweights on display for everyone to enjoy.

Important note:

Room rate for the Hilton is $111. The cut-off date to get the reduced rate is April 1. SO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, SHOW UP (with your Debbie weight in hand) AND ENJOY THE DAY WITH YOUR PAPERWEIGHT COLLECTING FRIENDS. B.D.

Election of officers will be held at the spring meeting. The nominating committee (Janet Green, chair, William Pitt and Melissa Ayotte) will present a nomination for president. Nominations by email to a member of the committee by April 10 will be accepted.

Special Benefit Raffle at the April meeting will be for Alizon Ruzsa, whose studio suffered major damage from Hurricane Sandy. Dealers, artists and members are donating items for this special event. Note: this is a "matching" raffle - meaning that NEPCA will match the raffle proceeds up to $1000.

FALL NEPCA MEETING, STURBRIDGE
ON OCTOBER 26, 2013

Clinton Smith Wins NICHE Award

The 2013 Award for excellence in lampworked glass was presented by *Niche* magazine to Clinton Smith of Hinsdale, MA, for his paperweight, "Yellow and Orange Late Berkshire Summer." One of our youngest (and newest) NEPCA (and PCA) paperweight artists, Clinton and his wife Katie traveled to Philadelphia for the announcement and ceremonies on February 17th. The *Niche* award is given in recognition of the creative achievements of professional and student artists. Every year 40 professional award winners and 18 student award winners are chosen from close to 1000 entries in all craft media. Eight of these awards this year were given to glass artists.

Congratulations Clinton! —
We are proud of your success. BD

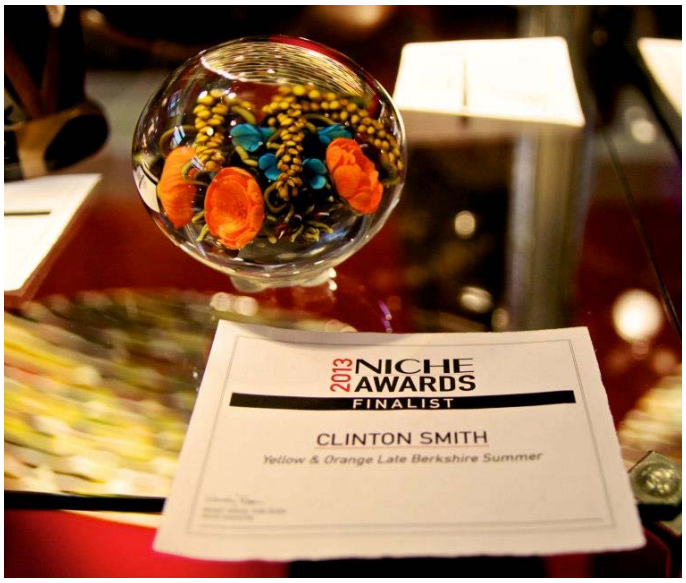

Image courtesy of Katie Malone Photography