



Between the Tides

Network Newsletter for Sea Glass Collectors

July 2004

Borne out of a love for the ocean and their passion for collecting sea glass, Gloucester artists Joanne Schreiber and Nancy Larson happened to meet on a beach several months ago. Inspired by their shared fascination with the tumbled glass and pottery shards that wash up along the shoreline, the two women thought it would be a wonderful idea to meet and connect with other collectors as well! Therefore we are pleased to present the first issue of "Between The Tides," our very own network newsletter. Our vision is to offer collectors of sea glass various opportunities to network with one another.

Who We Are

Joanne is a professional musician, artist, reiki practitioner and events planner. A devout sea glass fanatic for the last 8 years, she has turned her ocean treasures into objects of beauty.

Nancy is a well-known jewelry designer and goldsmith. From starfish to stickle-backs, sea-shells to seaglass, Nancy has spent her entire life living on the ocean collecting her "ocean gems!"

The two artists were recently featured on the front page of the Gloucester Daily Times. The article helped promote the first sea glass collector's gathering held at Nancy's studio. Seaglass enthusiasts were invited to bring along their personal collections of found objects and share their stories with one another. The gathering was great fun with an unexpectedly large turnout of 60 collector's in attendance.

Who They Were

Barbara Burnham's passion for combing the beaches is unparalleled. She brought with her an extraordinary collection of antique porcelain doll parts referred to as frozen charlottes. Having carefully cataloged each piece, she then mounted them in a frame to pass onto her grandchildren. Among her other "finds" are a civil war belt buckle and a piece of sea glass in the form of a cross.

Wendy Pierson is another avid collector who shares her love of sea glass with children. As a teacher, she has developed a workshop that she teaches which involves storytelling, drawing and the making of mosaics incorporating sea glass. Wendy can be found combing Cape Ann beaches year round.

Grace Curcuru and her sister Mary Parisi brought several decorative jars filled with sea glass of all colors including rare cobalt blues and reds. In memory of their mother Rose, the sisters also shared her collection of multicolored beads. Rose had been collecting these ocean tumbled glass beads for over 50 years.

Karen Benson, who has been beachcombing for only one year, displayed a vast collection of shards and other curios. One particularly thrilling moment was when a pottery shard from Karen's collection (matching in pattern and color) fit perfectly together with one from Nancy Larson's! Discovered by these two different women at two different times, these shards were from the same plate! Whoa !!!

Featured Artist of the Month

✱ Joanne Schreiber ✱



Mosaic fish mirror using pottery shards from the beach

As a little girl, I dreamed of becoming a paleontologist discovering rare fossils and ancient artifacts at some dig on some far off, exotic mountainside. Never happened!

In 1996, I moved across the street from one of our lovely local beaches here on Cape Ann.

One day, as I was about to take my first walk there, I had this memory suddenly flash into my mind. It was the image of a mosaic tile made with pottery shards that a friend had created and then embedded into her bedroom wall many years ago.

My next thought was: "Hmm...I wonder if I'll find any of that here?" In retrospect, it has occurred to me that having that particular memory at that particular moment was rather prophetic. Imagine my delight and amazement as I started finding and collecting these gloriously patterned fragments of pottery, the likes of which I had never seen or even knew existed!

I was further intrigued by the mystery behind why these shards were there to begin with. Pursuing the path of inquiry, I uncovered some fascinating stories regarding the history of these shards. The hundreds of shipwrecks, the turn of the century grand resort hotels all along the North Shore and more- all contributed to the existence of these ocean tumbled relics. And what a precious and thrilling adventure for that little girl who still lives in my heart, to be discovering shards of antiquity beneath her very feet!

Catch the Wave!

Look for our August issue of *Between The Tides* with jeweler "extraordinaire" Nancy Larson as our featured collector. *Between The Tides* is intended to serve as a forum for sea glass enthusiasts of all ages. We welcome any stories of interest and intriguing tidbits of information that you would like to share.

Scheduled for Oct. 9, 2004 is the first annual Sea Glass Festival of Cape Ann! Stay tuned for more details about this exciting event in upcoming issues.

You can also help us spread the word and generate more interest in this network and the Sea Glass Festival by sharing copies of *Between The Tides* with family, friends and community. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas and suggestions.

Recommended Reading:

A must read for sea glass collectors everywhere is: *Sea Glass Chronicles* by C.S. Lambert. This beautifully photographed book is considered the 'bible' of sea glass. You will learn all kinds of fascinating history and even be able to date your own shard remnants due to the in-depth research done by the author.

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✱ *Contact us with your ideas and suggestions*
See you "Between the Tides!"