

From the Editor

Dear Readers,

As I am sitting here on our back porch, it came to me that spring is a busy season. The birds are busy nesting (including the nest on our front porch and one in the glass shop). The woodbees are strafing the back yard in search of food and shelter. Even the fig tree promises a bountiful harvest, if the mockingbirds don't get there first.

Of course, the glass world is no different. Already this year we have enjoyed Lewis' Best Bead Show, The International Flameworking Conference in Salem, The Glasscraft Expo, Bead & Button in Milwaukee and few others I'm sure am forgetting. Even as I am writing this, the G.A.S. conference in New Orleans is only two weeks away.

More shows and conferences are being added every year. Teaching facilities are in almost (if not all) of the 50 states. Young children are being introduced to the wonders of flameworking through new art programs being developed in intermediate and high schools. What a joyous time to be involved with glass. Opportunities abound. If you're not finding enough to do, I would say look just a bit harder.

So as I am enjoying one of the last spring days of this season, I realize that these opportunities are here because of the groundwork laid by a handful of passionate flameworkers. These guys and gals were on the torch before you could call Glasscraft and have it shipped overnight. You may look at some of them today and say to yourself "well, they've got it made". If so, it is well deserved. They struggled, moving from show to show or season to season to make sure that their families were fed and the torch stayed lit. They knew how special flameworking was (and is). Without the dedication of these few, we might not have the blessing and opportunities we have today.

I probably won't name everyone that I want to. If you want to add to the list, please let us know.

Fred Birkhill
Bandhu-Scott Dunham
Shane Fero
Suellen Fowler
Hans Godo Frabel
Harold Hacker
Homer Hoyt
Robert Mickelsen
Harald Eberhart

Chuck Murphy
Ray Olson
Sally Prasch
Bob Snodgrass
Paul Stankard
Jim Thingwold
Paul Troutman
Milon Townsend
Lewis Wilson

So the next time your busy as a bee at springtime, take a moment to reflect on those who struggled many years to bring flameworking to as many as possible. You see one of these guys or gals at a show, take a moment to say thanks for making it easier for me to butter my bread.

Enjoy the spring, be inspired and love what you do. Not every one is a flameworker. Until next time, we hope your light continues to shine and your torch stays lit.

Flame-On,
William Menzies

Contact The Flow at 1-903-539-4806
jenniferquaid@sbcglobal.net for Jen
w_menzies@hotmail.com for Wil

the FLOW Vol. 22
Iss. 2

The Flow
713 WSW Loop 323 #101
Tyler, TX 75701

Contact us for subscription changes, article submissions or letters to the editor.
Subscription rates: U.S. (continental) \$28 per year (4 issues); Single issues \$8.99 US (continental).

Editor & Art Director Jennifer Quaid
Marketing Director William H. Menzies, Jr.
Publisher Kelly Reese
Founding Editor William H. Menzies, Jr.

A special thanks to everyone at Glass Alchemy (Henry, Susan & Didi), Northstar (Barbara), ABR Imagery (Ross), Arrow Springs (Craig & Lori), Art Glass House (Ron Jr. & Rocio), Coatings by Sandberg (Jerry, Nona & Howard), Colored Sands (Todd), Glasscraft (Rich & Janelle), Frantz (Amber & Mike), Glass Torch Technologies (Willy & Wally), Jim Moore Tools (Jim & Liz), Litton Engineering (Charles & Victor), Phillips Safety (Ryan), Living Glass Works (Marcel & Deveron), Delphi (Jennifer), Tecnolux (Joe & David), Trev's Glass (Phyllis & Trev), Paragon (Arnold & John), Pegasus (Ron & Mark Trent), Skutt Kilns (Mike S), Winship (Dave & John), Snodgrass Glass Supply (Bob, Marie & Ben), Bethlehem Apparatus (Bruce), Steve Sizelove, Eugene Glass School, Craft Emergency Relief Fund, Happy Harold Cooney, Josh Grant, Milon Townsend, Doug Remschneider & Dale Smeltzer.

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