

Antique Paperweights: What A Collection!

On April 24, PCA of Illinois was treated to a double exposure of fantastic paperweight collections.



Sam Alschuler and some of his fine collection

Member **Sam Alschuler** invited us to his Aurora home to view his extensive collection of antique paperweights. **Alex Vance** and **Jami Severstad** from the **Bergstrom-Mahler Museum** joined us and reviewed the museum collection. And, we welcomed **William Gaskill**, president of PCA, Inc.

After lunch at Banek's Restaurant, we gathered at **Sam Alschuler's** house to exclaim over his collection. Sam will tell you that he is only the curator of the collection; the collection "really" belonged to his late wife Winifred.

In their early years of collecting, Winnie and

her sister were traveling in Tennessee and visited a paperweight dealer. Later, Sam wrote to the dealer and asked him to pick out one or two paperweights to send to Sam so he could give them to his wife as gifts. The dealer sent ten weights and Sam bought them all. I believe Winnie had many welcome birthday presents after that!



Jami Severstad, Alex Vance, and paperweight

Alex Vance presented "The Quest for Collection Supremacy" and shared many statistics from the latest appraisal of the collection conducted by our very own **George Kuller**.

The total value of the **Bergstrom-Mahler** 2,227 item paperweight collection is \$4,238,940. The top 105 paperweights, appraised at \$9,000

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This newsletter also contains the registration form for the August 14 Ken Rosenfeld meeting. No other notice will be sent.

or more, make up of 48.67% of the total value of the collection.

Jami Severstad presented a slide show of the collection. One of the highlights included a rare **Baccarat** blue cameo-carved horse, which Jami brought with her. She let us *touch* this and another nine impressive paperweights.

PCA of Illinois was also pleased to have **William Gaskill** join us. William



Martha Foley and Fran Giangiorgi talk paperweights

encouraged PCA of Illinois members to join PCA, Inc. and invited us to attend the next convention and visit the Bergstrom-Mahler

Small Glass Works: A Special Collectors Weekend by Jerry Silverstein

There were seven Illinois residents attending the Small Glass Works: A Special Collectors Weekend



Jerry Silverstein, Nancy Alfano and Bruce Giangiorgi

held May 13-15, 2004 at **Wheaton Village** in Millville, New Jersey. This is a very exciting event which is held bi-annually. In attendance were glass and paperweight collectors, artists, and dealers. It was the first time the theme of the

weekend included more than paperweights.

Some of us, including **George Kulles** and myself, had the opportunity to create our own paperweights with the help of the glass artisans of Wheaton Village. It was quite an experience to gather glass from the furnace, work with the various pieces of equipment we associate with glass blowers, feel the heat of the furnace and the glory holes (2100 ° F), and finally the resultant paperweight signed "Made by Me."

A wine and cheese reception officially opened the event held at the impressive Museum of American Glass at Wheaton Village. The museum has a world renowned collection of contemporary and antique glass. Some of the events of the weekend included:

- Opening remarks by **Susan Gogan**, President of Wheaton Village
- A slide presentation by **William Gaskill**, President of the Paperweight Collectors Association, Inc.
- A presentation by **Josh Simpson**, a glass artist noted for his encased planets
- A discussion on "The Future: Artists Perspective" in which artists **Anne Booth**, **Gordon Smith**, **Jim Donofrio**, and **Debbie Tartistano** participated



Artist Josh Simpson at Wheaton Village

We were able to watch artist demonstrations by **Don Friel**, **Melissa Ayotte**, **Gordon Smith**, **Jim Donofrio**, and **Anne Booth**. **Tony De Palma** made his last public demonstration of the "Millville Rose." Workshop breakout sessions included discussions of the Boston and Sandwich Glass Company and the New England Glass Company flower paperweights led by **John**

Nominations Committee Volunteers Needed

The term of office for current officers is up!

At our next meeting, a Nominations and Elections Committee will be formed consisting of three members chosen from the membership at large. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall be responsible for generating names of potential candidates, and submitting a slate of one or more candidates for each office. This committee shall also be solely responsible for conducting the election, tallying and announcing the results. They shall also make provisions for absentee voting for those individuals unable to attend the Annual Membership Meeting in October.

What a Collection continued

museum in Neenah WI in 2005.

We had six entries in the "Ugliest Paperweight Competition" which was won by **Sheldon and Phyllis Baren**. For those who commented that they had much uglier paperweights at home, prove it and join in our next competition!

Many thanks to **Sam Alschuler** for sharing his impressive collection, **Alex Vance** and **Jami Severstad** for their presentations, **Jim Brown** and **Keith Lange** for donations for our contest prizes, and **William Gaskill** for joining us.

Small Glass Works continued

Hawley, "A Collection of American Paperweights" led by **Ken Brown**, and "A Survey of Contemporary Glass" led by **Gay Le Cleire Taylor**.

There was lots of good food, good discussions, and an opportunity to chat with collectors from all over the world. And, of course, the opportunity to purchase paperweights and small glass works to expand our collections. This was a wonderful experience and an event we will remember in years to come.

Paperweight Meeting Finances Paul Jokelson Writing Prize

At every meeting, members question Martha or me about the price of lunch. Other members question why we charge to attend the meeting if they are not having lunch.

The answer is simple. There are routine expenses for mailing notices, newsletters, and for the web site. Plus, every meeting has expenses. And, because we are a smaller group, it is difficult to get programs for meetings unless we help with expenses.

- When we had our meeting at Sam Alschuler's house, we had three speakers who we treated for lunch. (They paid their own travel expenses!)
- At our recent meeting at the Holiday Inn, there was a charge for the room where the dealers set up and we had our lecture. We also rented audiovisual equipment. Our expenses for this event exceeded what we collected.
- At our next meeting, we have expenses for our guest's travel. The McConnells have graciously volunteered to host both Ken Rosenfeld and the meeting.

Our membership fee does not begin to cover the expenses we incur during the year. We strive to be as economical as possible. We have a little fundraiser at every meeting and we recycle ink cartridges. Martha and I pay our way just like everyone else.

As with any group, most members understand the economics. Unfortunately, we have some members who have not paid for lunch or meeting fees.

So, what can you do to help? We welcome suggestions on how we can economically hold meetings, encourage your participation in and suggestions for fundraisers, ask that you ask dealers you have a relationship with to come to our meetings and sponsor a guest artist, and send your registration in early so we have an accurate count.

All input is very welcome. I hated to write this article but felt that once everyone understood some of the expenses involved, some of the problems would disappear. Thanks for your support!

The Paul Jokelson Writing Prize has been established by PCA, Inc. to encourage members to share their knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm for collecting glass paperweights. This semiannual award will be given to members of PCA, Inc. who author an article about paperweights that is published in a local or regional newsletter. The prize consists of \$300 plus the publication of the winning article in the PCA, Inc. newsletter. The prize will be awarded in March and October.

All articles must be original works produced by the authors, and must have appeared in publications within 180 days of the month when the prize is to be awarded. The article may contain photographs and graphics and must be at least 250 words in length.

Articles may be:

- A feature that summarizes research, interviews, or other paperweight activities
- A first person personal narrative
- A news article about an event or review of a book
- Photography, original cartoon, crossword puzzle or other

PCA of Illinois always welcomes articles by our members and meets the award qualification for publication in a regional newsletter.

Not a member of PCA, Inc.? Join at www.paperweightcollectors.org and mention that PCA of Illinois sent you! If we win a paperweight in the membership raffle, we will raffle it within our organization.

Submissions for the contest can be sent to John Hawley, 1246 East Liberty Street, Hernando, FL 34442.

RECYCLING CONTINUES!

Please continue to bring your empty ink and fax cartridges to meetings for recycling. In addition to helping the environment, we raised \$77 in 2003 for our treasury!

Upcoming Events

August 14, 2004

Members **Deb and Geoff McConnell** welcome the PCAI to their Lake Forest home. **Ken Rosenfeld** is our guest artist.

October 1, 2004

Christie's Auction of over 1,000 paperweights—see www.christies.com

October 17, 2004

Double Feature! Guest artist **Drew Ebelhare** plus **William Gaskill** will speak on "Symbols and Meaning in Folk Paperweights from New Jersey and the Midwest"

May 18-21, 2005

Paperweight Collectors Association convention in Neenah, Wisconsin

Visit our website at www.pcaofillinois.org

June Mini-Fair

Our June meeting featured a mini-fair with William Pitt Paperweights, The Paperweight Shoppe, and Portia Paperweights. The shopping was excellent. I am pretty sure that everyone left with at least one new paperweight and several, including Martha and me, purchased multiples.

William Pitt presented an informative slide presentation on New England Paperweights from past to present. Bill is an expert on New England paperweights and told us his initial and continuing interest is Pairpoint glass.

Larry Schwab and some of his paperweights for sale



Ellen Rostker completes her purchase from William Pitt and Keith Lange studies the paperweights for sale

Some of the unusual paperweights Bill discussed included a New England scramble with a white ground, a Paul Revere paperweight, and sulphides of Richard and Pat Nixon. It seems that Pat Nixon did not like her portrait and production was stopped. Bill showed us Pairpoint vases and candlesticks that used the first paperweight techniques including color and controlled bubbles. When William Burchfield was at Pairpoint, he made the first rose crimp which was later modified by having its outer layer of petals removed. Bill also covered contemporary paperweight makers including Melissa Ayotte, Josh Simpson, and Chris Heilman.

Sheldon Baren displays his purchase



Our thanks to the three dealers for coming to our meeting and a special thank you to Bill Pitt for coming from Massachusetts and sharing his knowledge of New England paperweights.

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fine paperweights

The next meeting of PCA of Illinois is August 14 and features artist Ken Rosenfeld.

The registration form is on the back of this page. No other mailing will be done.

Your Ad Could Be Here!

PCAI is selling advertising in future newsletters for the incredible price of \$25 for 1/8 page for three issues. Larger ads available. This is a great way for dealers, artists, collectors, and businesses to reach our members, showcase their business, and support our group

Paperweight Collectors Association of Illinois
Peggy Morrow
1635 Pebble Beach Drive
Hoffman Estates IL 60194

KEN ROSENFELD GUEST ARTIST ON AUGUST 14

Join The Paperweight Collectors Association of Illinois on August 14 for:

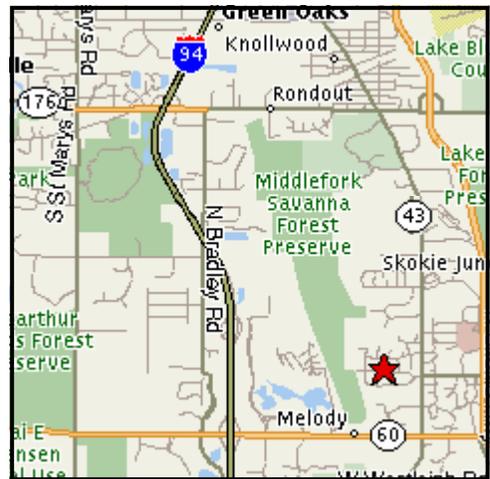
- Ken Rosenfeld will present a slide show of his works and have paperweights for sale
- Lunch provided by Deb and Geoff McConnell
- Donate your used ink and fax cartridges
- Sell or trade your 'extra' paperweights

10:30 Start time
11:30 Lunch
12:30 Ken Rosenfeld talk
3:00 End time

Deb and Geoff McConnell reside at
1262 W. Deerpath Rd
Lake Forest IL 60045
(847) 295-4114

Questions: Call Peggy at (847) 252-7445 or Martha at (847) 520-7556

Special thanks to Deb and Geoff for hosting the meeting, hosting Ken, and providing lunch!



Sign Up for Ken Rosenfeld Meeting

Yes, sign me up for the August 14 meeting featuring Ken Rosenfeld.

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please send \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a couple (to help cover Ken's travel expenses) by August 6 to:
Martha Foley 655 Le Parc Circle Buffalo Grove IL 60089