



Wheaton Arts, A Touch of Glass
Thursday, July 1, 2010 8:00AM – 4:30PM

NJGS Leaders: Richard Dalton and Bill Graff

The American glass industry began in southern New Jersey because of the availability of natural resources such as wood, silica sand and soda ash. The nation's earliest successful glass factory was founded in 1739 by Caspar Wistar in Salem County along Alloway's Creek. Many of the nation's foremost glass factories operated in South Jersey.

In 1888, Dr. Theodore Corson Wheaton, a pharmacist, began making his own pharmaceutical bottles in a glass factory in Millville. From these beginnings today's giant glass manufacturer, Wheaton USA, formerly Wheaton Industries, Inc., evolved.

Dr. Wheaton's grandson, Frank H. Wheaton, Jr., after visiting the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York, felt that these treasured museum pieces should be displayed in the areas in which they were produced...southern New Jersey. In 1968, he purchased a collection of American glass from the Bucks County Glass Museum which became the foundation for what is now Museum of American Glass Collection at WheatonArts.

The early collection was housed in the Wheaton family home in Millville. During this period, Mr. Wheaton assembled a group to build and design what he envisioned as a "typical cross-roads glass community at the turn of the 20th century that included a glass museum."

In 1973, a re-creation the T. C. Wheaton Glass Factory and the Museum of American Glass opened. Today, the collection is the most comprehensive exhibit of American glass in the world. The collection is arranged in chronological order beginning with glass from the first successful glass factory in America dating from 1739, to contemporary art glass.

To better utilize the facilities offered by the glass factory, a program to support emerging contemporary glass artists was created in 1983. Recognizing the needs of contemporary glass artists to have access to hot glass, a group of artists worked with WheatonArts to establish the "Creative Glass Center of America." Here contemporary glass artists are provided with the facilities, equipment, time and housing to further develop their art.

WheatonArts consists of over 60 acres with 20 buildings. The **Museum of American Glass** houses over 7,000 objects, both historic and contemporary. The **Glass Studio** presents daily, interpretive demonstrations for the public with artists showing traditional and contemporary glassblowing techniques. The **Artist Studios** has artists demonstrating the traditional southern New Jersey crafts, pottery, wood and flameworking. The

Museum Stores consist of the General Store, Arthur Gorham Paperweight Shop, Brownstone Emporium and Boutique, Christmas Shop and The Gallery of Fine Craft.

Inclement weather: The trip is scheduled, rain or shine.

Cost: The trip will cost \$50, which includes transportation, admission to Wheaton Arts, glassblowing demonstration, a guided tour of the museum, and lunch.

How many people: Registration is limited to 50 people.

Facilities: Restrooms and museum shops. Lunch will consist of Country Clubhouse Triple Decker Sandwich... sliced turkey, crisp bacon, letuce and tomato. Served with potato salad and pickle. Coffee, tea or ice tea. Vegetarian lunch on request.