



Northstar Glassworks, Inc.

Boro News Newsletter

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Northstar's Goal is to Educate the Glass Community

Northstar Puts Glass in Educator's Hands

A major goal of Northstar is to educate glassmakers of all kinds on the beauty of working with colored hard borosilicate. For many years Moretti/Effetre, Italian soft glass has been very popular for making beads and other small art pieces. However, artists are now finding that working with a harder glass allows them to create their art in totally new ways, which they were limited from before. Northstar's mission is to expose students to new colors, as well as educating them on how to work with borosilicate glass.

Suellen Fowler Taught Colored Vessels

Suellen put to good use Northstar's donation for her class at Corning, January 21st thru the 26th. Beginning to intermediate students were able to learn how to blow vessels on the end of a glass blowpipe, solid sculpture techniques, and how to mix colored cane by hand. The class focus was for students to work very expressively in detailed design and color, which is Suellen's trademark!



Flameworking Class at Linfield College

Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon received a donation of Borocolour® colored rods, frits and powders for their flameworking workshop from January 7th thru January 31st. Shaun Jarvis was instructing along with guest artist in residence Tom Covelle and his assistant Nick Aldinger. Tom was able to expose young minds to the possibilities of hard borosilicate using his 7 years experience with the medium. Upon my visit to the class, I noticed that the students were in awe of the demonstrations and excited to apply the techniques, which the visiting artists used.



Above, you can see the spacious workspace, which Linfield provides the students. Linfield is intending on expanding its class size for next term, due to its unadvertised popularity and demand for the class. Students were able to work on a variety of torches donated by Nortel and were able to garage and anneal their work in kilns donated by Aim and E.K. Miller. Many other companies donated as well. Pictured below, the class intently watched Tom and Nick work on a joint venture art piece. Tom explained what steps he was taking to prevent cracking the piece later and answered questions as they came up.



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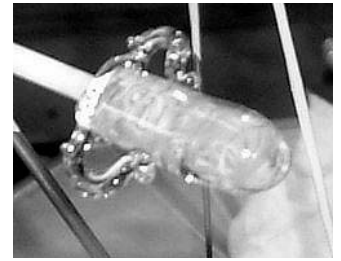
Pictured above, Tom works carefully at joining a large marble, which Nick created for the piece. Tom resets the torch for a finer flame to attach the marble completely to latticino nubs of glass. Below, from left to right, students Meriel Collins and Erin Gorringer work with Northstar Borocolour® perfecting their skills with colored borosilicate. Students received 120 hours of torch time during the class.



Soft Glass Flameworkers had a Wonderful Affair using Borosilicate with Ginny Sycuro

At Glasscraft in Golden, Colorado, Ginny Sycuro taught a soft glass to hard borosilicate crossover class sponsored by Northstar Glassworks January 26th and 27th. Soft glass flameworkers were shown how techniques they used with soft glass could be easily crossed over when using hard borosilicate, only with slight modifications to their style. Students learned how to create art pieces such as frogs, scent bottles on a mandrel, and beads.

Below, Ginny shows the class techniques she has discovered through working with the medium.



A mandrel formed scent vessel by Ginny Sycuro as a demonstration for the class.



Pictured above and below, students in Ginny's class had fun creating mandrel beads. Borosilicate beads on a mandrel pose only a slight challenge at first not to melt off the mandrel when working with such intense heat. Once this is achieved, they are a lot of fun!



Here are some beads created in the class by Kiki Beads below. Thank you Christina Schneider, for all of the great pictures of the class.

