

November 8th, 9th and 10th, over 300 lampworkers from all over the country descended upon Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Glassworkers from every walk of life gathered at the State Fair Grounds representing every form of hot glass. From beaders to blowers, fanciful and functional, all had come for Lewis Wilson's 2002 Flame-Off!

Kathy Wilson greeted us with a smile and made sure we knew where we were headed. Inside the first room, the Best Bead & Glass Show displayed such artists as Bill & Laura Rasmussen, Jesse Taj and George O'Grady.

Glass lovers from all over arrived to see some of the finest lampworked objects in the country. The event took off at a hectic pace.

The 57 contestants began arriving Friday morning.

ALBUQUERQUE FLAME 20

Lewis had 6 work stations and roughly 36 hours to pull it off. The troops began filing in. Ovens for the event, provided by AIM, Glasscraft and Paragon, were ramping up by 9 that morning. Torches were supplied by Carlisle, GTT and Nortel. Susan Webb and Didi Dahlsrud assisted Lewis by scheduling and timing the contestants.

And why would lampworkers, with names like Walton, Plane and Townsend, travel thousands of miles for such a gathering? Was it the glass? Perhaps. It also could have been the loot. With enormous support from manufacturers and distributors, Lewis was able to collect over 100 doorprizes worth over \$12,000! If that were not enough, contestants in the Flame-Off were competing for one of nine torches. There was a Delta donated by Crystal Myths. GTT donated 2 mirages, 2 phantoms, a lynx and a bobcat (Thanks Willy & Wally). Jean from Nortel donated the new "Red Max" and a hand torch. Prizes given away totalled over \$22,000! Whew!

**Milon
Townsend**



Greg Hoff

The highlights were many. Barry Lafler was one of the first to make the 50 yard dash to the oven, elephant goblet in hand.

Albuquerque Flame-Off Albuquerque Flame-Off Albuquerque Flame-Off



ALBUQUERQUE FLAME-OFF 2012

Others followed. Most made it, though a few didn't.

Milon sculpted with ease and confidence while Dellene Peraltla rolled dichroic sheets to sculpt her "Jerry Hand" (which won her a Delta Elite). The pace was insane. The gallery was packed with spectators. Artists were scrunching days worth of work into 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 hour windows. Marcel Braun sculpted a large octopus that normally would have taken him 2-3 days to complete. Doug Remschneider and Eli Aller completing pieces that couldn't be made in just 2 1/2 hours. The frenzied pace kept building.



Ben Muniz

even a new industry publication called "The Flow".

The contest drew to a close Saturday evening. An exhausted Lewis Wilson had not stopped running in 2 days. The combined effort created 9 sculptures, 8

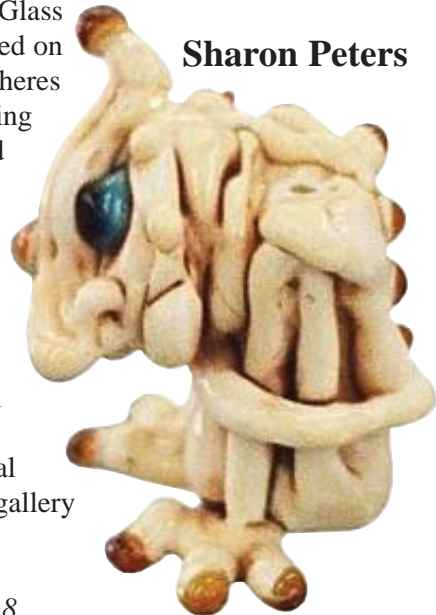
goblets, 24 marbles and 16 beads. The night was far from over. Willy Horn of Glass Torch Technologies was to unveil the "Python" (Iss. 1, Planely Speaking) later that night. Studio space was being provided by Niles

Mahlman and Doug Harroun of Albuquerque Glass Alliance. The AGA, complete with gallery and a 6000 cfm vent hood, was well prepared for the event. Over 200 folks showed to see the monster torch. Jaws dropped as demos were performed by Carsten Carlisle and Mike Plane. It should be said that the AGA had no problem accommodating the "Python" or the crowd that came with it. Again, torches raged late into the night.

By Sunday morning, the pace had slowed a bit. The day began with a lecture on working with dichroic coatings by Jerry Sandberg of Coatings by Sandberg. Henry Grimmer, of Glass Alchemy, also lectured on proper flame atmospheres and chemistry affecting colored glass. Crowd participation was amazing at both lectures. With a lathe provided by Wale Apparatus, Mike Plane put together a 24" vessel that incorporated 5 different frit and graal sections. Again, the gallery was full.

Continued on page 18.

Sharon Peters



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Bead

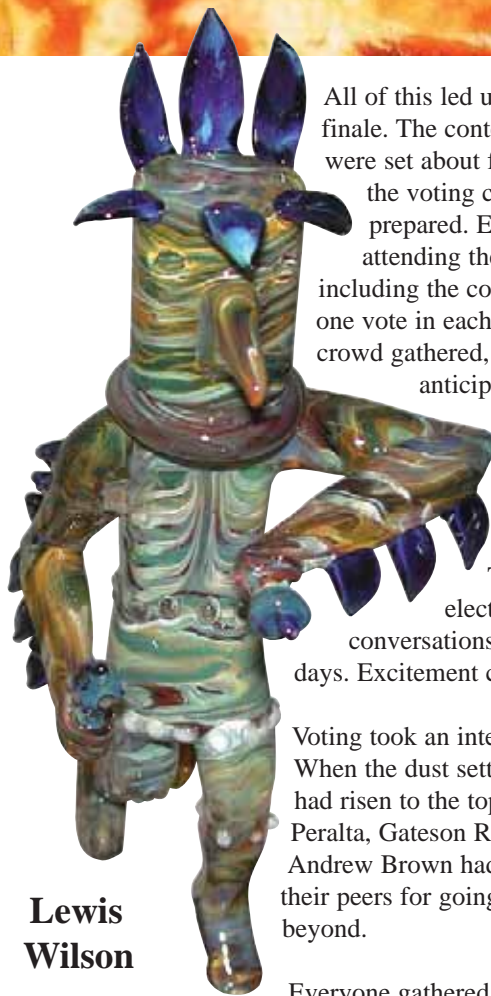
Total: 16

Andrew Brown
Terri Casbary Schmidt
Harold Cooney
Lauri Copeland
Keith Allen Engelman
Mike Ginsburg
Angi Graham
David A. Greene
Avery Gross
Craig Hamilton
Greg Hoff
Greg Hoglin
Ben Muniz
Sharon Peters
Ross Thackery
Pati Walton

Marble

Total: 24

Richard Carter
Francisco Chavez
Teri Conklin
Harold Cooney
Mike Edmonson
Aaron Golbert
Geraldo Goodwin
Tiger Larry Henderson
Greg Hoglin
Dave Jordan
Bryan Kitson
James Lantz
Tim Lortie
Joe Luyben
Jonah Magnoni
Shell Neisler
Brad Quintana
Bryan Ratcliffe
Gateson Recko
Josh Sable
Jesse Taj
Bob Taylor
Robin Taylor
Todd Taylor



**Lewis
Wilson**

All of this led up to the grand finale. The contestants' pieces were set about for display and the voting cards were prepared. Everyone attending the Flame-Off, including the contestants, had one vote in each category. The crowd gathered, eager with anticipation. The line of voters careened around the room, finally finding its way out the door. The crowd was electrified with conversations of the past two days. Excitement charged the air.

Voting took an intense two hours. When the dust settled, three names had risen to the top. Dellene Peralta, Gateson Recko, and Andrew Brown had been chosen by their peers for going above and beyond.

Everyone gathered close for the awards ceremony. A tribal feeling permeated the crowd as the weekend drew to an end. Upon reflection, we realized barriers had been broken. As pipemakers, we stand upon the shoulders of such giants as Mickelsen and Townsend. They are true Maestros. The last two days proved that pipemakers have the innovation and passion to carry the "torch".

As the raffle began, it seemed everyone's name would be drawn. Manufacturers and suppliers kept throwing in prizes as the ceremony progressed. There were 108 doorprizes in all. The first twelve were worth over \$10,000 alone. One thing was for sure, no one left the Flame-Off empty-handed.

Lewis Wilson spent 14 months of time preparing for the Flame-Off and Best Bead & Glass Show. Over the weekend, he lost eleven pounds pulling it off. The event went beyond his expectations. When asked about another Flame-Off, Wilson replies "not for a while."

Looie, our top hat is off to ya.

**Written by Wil Menzies
Photos by Richard Clark, Lauri
Copeland & Frank Ecker**

Sculpture/ Goblet

Total: 17

Eli Aller
Brian Bentley
Marcel Braun
Jeremy Danieo
Jared DeLong
Doni Hatz
Dina Kalahar
Ernie Kober
Barry Lafler
Zak Love
James Lynch
Roger Parramore
Dellene Peralta
Doug Remschneider
Todd Taylor
Lewis Wilson
Milon Townsend



**Zak
Love**

Second and Third Place Winners



Pati Walton



Bead

- 1st Andrew Brown
- 2nd Pati Walton
- 3rd Sharon Peters

Marble

- 1st Gateson Recko
- 2nd Josh Sable
- 3rd Jesse Taj

Sculpture & Goblet

- 1st Dellene Peralta
- 2nd Marcel Braun
- 3rd Eli Aller



Sharon Peters



Eli
Aller

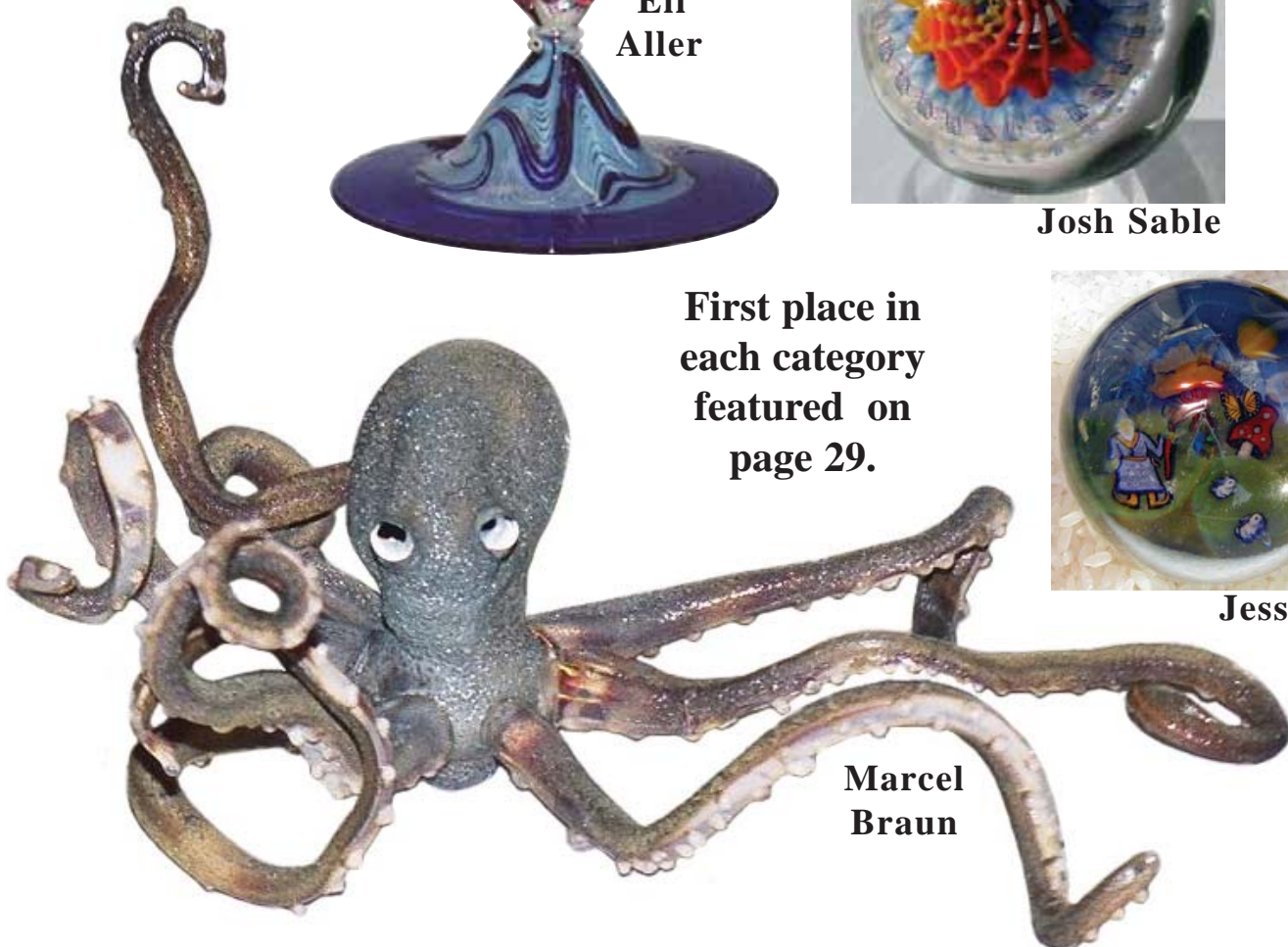


Josh Sable

First place in
each category
featured on
page 29.



Jesse Taj



Marcel
Braun

Andrew Brown

Torch time: 2 years

KBGlassworks@aol.com

505-254-2257



With only two years on the torch, Albuquerque resident Andrew Brown won first place and a GTT Mirage at Lewis Wilson's Flame-Off. In 1 1/2 hours, Andrew created a beautiful, blown geode bead using dichroic sheet glass and frit.

Starting with soft glass beads, Andrew moved to borosilicate about a year ago. Classes with Lewis Wilson and Bob Banford accelerated his understanding of this medium. With a bachelor in illustration and a minor in art history, Andrew finds inspiration from the works of such abstract artists as Paul Klee and Jackson Pollack. This young artist sees the limitless possibilities of glass. When asked what keeps your work fresh, "always test yourself, the colors and the limits of glass."



ALBUQUERQUE



With over a decade of glass experience, Gateson Recko carries the humility of a master. Starting in a hot shop, Gateson began lampworking as a way of learning about glass while the furnaces were charging. Lampworking soon turned into a full time job and Gateson's blown vessels would soon be sold in galleries across the nation.

Gateson Recko

Torch time: 7 years

www.tabooglass.com

gateson@navpoint.com

215-477-8666

While a student at Columbia University, Gateson devoted much of his time to graffiti and photography. Those experiences transitioned easily into glass, earning him a reputation for complex pattern work.

The "Universe Marble" created at the Flame-Off exhibits those complex patterns. Inspired by Josh Simpson "Planets" and star gazing while living in Taos,

Gateson draws the observer into his marble. Cosmic dust swirls around planetary orbs reminiscent of a Carl Sagan documentary. All this vastness put in a 3" boro marble.

I asked Gateson to share his philosophies about glass. "It takes years to truly master a material like glass. Be humble, allow yourself time to mature as an artist." I asked about the meditational qualities of lampworking, Gateson gave me this quote from the Tao Te Ching;

'Ordinary men hate solitude.
But the master makes use of it,
embracing his aloneness, realizing
he is one with the whole universe.'



Dellene Peralta

Torch time: 6 1/2 years

www.loveandlight.us

541-895-8730

beautiful "Jerry Hand" sculpture. It was like Christmas morning as Dellene beamed through her double-Handful of prizes.

The 27 year old artist, has worked with such Oregon greats as Bob Snodgrass and Clinton Roman. Her production background shows in her creative use of dichroic sheets. Dellene loves to sculpt, creating fantasy scenes with petite elves and faeries.



What's in the future for this young artist? "I see bigger sculptures", Dellene replies. "It is rare to see women swinging hot heavy glass. It's time for the female glassworker to rise and shine."



FLAME-OFF

Crystal Myths Inc.

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Albuquerque Flame-Off

2002 DVD SET

Available March 20

Bead contest—approx 3 hours

Marble contest—approx 2 ½ hours

Sculpture/Goblet contest—5 hours

Documentary—between one and two hours

We are still working on getting the entire flame-off on as few as possible DVDs. Now the early release fits on seven DVDs. This is without the documentary.

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