

18th National Open Salt Convention

Update #3 – 03-14-23

Dear Fellow Salt Collectors,

I hope this finds you well. I am forwarding this excerpt from an article that I received via email from The Discoverer. You will be able to read a bit about Pittsburgh, the site of our next convention that is scheduled for May 2024. A tour of Pittsburgh (with a stop at the Duquesne Incline pictured in the article and featured in the convention's logo) is planned.

As a reminder, if you are interested in ordering the millefiori salt (a fundraiser for the upcoming convention) that was featured in my last update, remember to do so by the May cutoff date.

I'm hoping to see you at the 18th NOSC. Be well.

Best,
Denise Lonergan
18th NOSC Coordinator

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Credit: Sean Pavone/ Shutterstock

Boasting some of the nation's most dramatic skylines, Pittsburgh has 446 road, pedestrian, and rail bridges that cross the three rivers that converge in this hilly corner of western Pennsylvania. The Allegheny and the Monongahela meet at the "Golden Triangle" to form the Ohio River at [Point State Park](#). Soak in Steel City's stellar views by riding one of Pittsburgh's two historic [funiculars](#) (inclines) that traverse the steep hills and wander through the more than 90 neighborhoods that comprise the city.

Known as an epicenter of steel (from which the NFL team gets its name), Pittsburgh's first two glass factories opened in 1797 and by 1920, 80% of the nation's glassware came from the area. Today the city is a hub for glass artists, and the [Pittsburgh Glass Center](#) draws students and artists from around the world. Pittsburgh is also an emerging [culinary hotbed](#), inspired by both its rich ethnic culture as well with cutting-edge fusion cuisine from ambitious young chefs who channel the revolutionary spirit of hometown icon Andy Warhol onto (art glass) plates.

18th National Open Salt Convention

Update #2 – 02-16-23

When organizing a convention, events must be thoughtfully planned and seemingly countless tasks must be accomplished. Thanks to the efforts of my fellow members of the 18th NOSC Planning Committee, several items on the To-Do List have been completed.

As I reported in my last update, the site for the convention has been chosen. The 18th NOSC will be held from May 16th – May 18th, 2024 at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel, 1160 Thorn Run Road, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. The room rate will be approximately \$154 per night including taxes.

An optional tour of the Pittsburgh area has been scheduled for Thursday afternoon, May 16th. If you wish to participate in this activity, you might consider arriving on May 15th. Information about this tour will be in the registration packet. One of the highlights of the tour will be a stop at the Duquesne Incline. Our logo for the 18th NOSC features this iconic Pittsburgh landmark.

The convention field trip to the Heinz History Center is scheduled for Friday, where a special tour will be conducted and where one of the convention speakers will present on the history of Pittsburgh glass. Attendees will also learn about how glass was etched. This promises to be an amazing experience.

A number of possible choices for a convention salt were considered. Stay tuned for more information on the salt that was chosen.

One of the salts that was not chosen, a beautiful millefiori, is being offered for sale exclusively as a fundraiser for the 18th NOSC. The artist is Shawn Messenger and the blown glass salt is described as “millefiori sunflowers” that “float upon a golden topaz background.” Please see the information on this fundraiser that accompanies this update.

I am sending this update that includes the information on the fundraiser as an email, having it posted on the OSC website at opensalts.info and on Facebook and submitting it for publication in the next national newsletter in an effort to reach as many people as possible.

If you have never attended an open salt convention before, I hope you will consider attending this one. To all my fellow open salters, stay well and stay tuned for more information about the 18th NOSC.

Best,

Denise Lonergan, 18th NOSC Coordinator

Members of the 18th NOSC Planning Committee

Carolyn Bugel, Al Diamond, Sherry Diamond, Judy Johnson, Kent Hudson, Mary Kern, Connie Kullgren, George Kullgren, Linda Kump, Karen Ludwig, Maria Martell, Cathy Pascoe, Susie Proctor, Lesley Solkoske, Linda Witt, David Wolfe, Donna Wolfe



Fundraiser for the 18th NATIONAL OPEN SALT CONVENTION (NOSC)

One of the tasks of the convention planning committee is to choose a convention salt. Donna Wolfe volunteered to contact several glass artists who were willing to make salts and to bring pictures of those salts to the committee for consideration. Glass artist Shawn Messenger's Sunflower Salt was one of the top choices of the committee, but it was felt that the salt was too expensive to be selected as the 18th NOSC's convention salt. Because millefiori salts are so rare and unique, the committee wanted to give fellow salt collectors the opportunity to purchase one of these incredible salts. Any profit realized will be used to help fund the 18th NOSC that will be held in Pittsburgh in May 2024. A picture of the salt is posted below, and information about the artist and the salt taken from her website follow.

Sunflower Salt by Shawn Messenger

Glass artist Shawn Messenger states, "I create my work with attention to detail, expression, and a little mystery so as to draw the viewer into my world. I would describe my work as impressionistic, inspired by flowers and gardens. I use a three-dimensional canvas of glass to produce landscapes with painterly effects." She describes her work as "gardens of glass, where you do not have to weed or water, and everything grows perfectly. If you get tired of the view, just turn the piece to find something new!"

Shawn creates her pieces in her urban studio, but her inspiration comes from the flower and vegetable gardens at her home. The details and colors of flowers have always intrigued her, along with the amazement of watching something grow.

Messenger starts her work by creating a colorful glass cane with an interior shaped like a flower. The cane is then sliced into small cross sections known as murrini. The murrini are arranged into floral compositions, heated, and then picked up with the blow pipe on a background of layered glass powders and chips. After the murrini are fused to the surface, a layer of clear glass is added and the piece is blown into its final shape.

Shawn Messenger graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art with a BFA in glass. She was among the first wave of women to receive a degree in glass from the Institute. Messenger attended the Pilchuck Glass School and studied with Dale Chihuly and Italo Scanga. She also attended Penland School of Crafts, studying with Richard and Jan Ritter and Dinah Hulet, concentrating on murrini.

Description of the Sunflower Salt

Millefiori sunflowers float upon a golden topaz background, and dichroic accents add a bit of sparkle to this joyful blown glass salt. Each piece is unique and will vary from others. The size is approximately 2-1/4" in diameter and 2" in height. The cost is \$120, including shipping and insurance within the U.S.

If you are interested in purchasing this salt in support of the 18th NOSC, please read the instructions on the order form carefully. Your support is greatly appreciated.





ORDER FORM for 18TH NOSC FUNDRAISER SALT

The cost for each salt is \$120 including shipping and insurance

If you wish to purchase one or more of these unique works of art, the cost for each salt is \$120, including shipping and insurance within the U.S. (If the salt will be shipped internationally, contact Donna Wolfe for the total.) There are two options for payment. You can write a check for \$120 for each salt purchased made payable to Donna Wolfe or you can submit a \$120 payment via Paypal to dwolfe.misc@comcast.net. The PayPal account is under the name David Wolfe. This is a limited-time opportunity. **Payment must be received by May 30, 2023.** Because these salts are being made to order exclusively for this convention fundraiser, payment must be received before your salt(s) will be ordered. No returns will be accepted. If paying by check, please fill out the bottom of this order form completely and detach and return it to the address listed. Be sure to include payment. If paying via Pay Pal, be sure to email Donna with your address or complete the form below and mail it to Donna at the address listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Wolfe at dwolfe.misc@comcast.net.

Please detach and return the order form below by May 30, 2023. Thank you for your support.

Please print all information below. Thank you.

I am paying via PayPal

Name

Street Address

City/Town

State

Zip

Email Address

Phone Number

I wish to order _____ salt(s) @ \$120.00 each Total _____

Please make checks payable to **Donna Wolfe** and mail to address below.

If you have questions, please contact Donna

Donna Wolfe

820 Sunlight Drive

York, PA 17402

717-515-8400

dwolfe.misc@comcast.net

18th National Open Salt Convention

Update #1 – 11-21-22

A contract has been signed for the 18th National Open Salt Convention (NOSC) scheduled for May 16 - May 18, 2024 at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel, 1160 Thorn Run Road, Coraopolis, PA. I am listing a few details below that I hope will be helpful if you are planning to attend and intriguing to those of you who are still trying to decide.

The cost for a room will be approximately \$154 per night including taxes. The hotel is planning a renovation in 2023, so guest rooms, meeting areas, the lobby and the restaurant should be updated and sparkling.

It is the Planning Committee's hope to schedule an optional tour of the Pittsburgh area on Thursday afternoon. You might wish to consider arriving on Wednesday, May 15 and participating in this activity. Further details will be provided for your planning purposes, so please be on the lookout for an occasional email or newsletter update and watch for postings on the OSC website at **opensalts.info** and/or on Facebook.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Most sincerely,

Denise Lonergan

Denise Lonergan
18th NOSC Coordinator
November 21, 2022