



IT'S CONVENTION TIME AGAIN!!!

Open Salt Collectors (OSC) is excited to be hosting the
19th National Open Salt Convention (NOSC),
May 14-16, 2026 at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel,
1160 Thorn Run Road, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania 15108.

This packet from the 19th NOSC Committee contains the following:

- **Registration Form**—The deadline for returning the completed form with deposit should be postmarked no later than **March 13, 2026**
- **Hotel Information**—Instructions for making your hotel reservations at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel
- **Convention Salt**—Information about the convention salt and how to order it
- **Raffle Salts**—Information about the **THREE** extraordinary salts being offered and how to purchase tickets for a chance to win
- **Buy & Sell**— If you are planning to sell salts, remember to tell us how much space you will need on the registration form.
- **Auction**—Explanation of the auction procedure
- **Display Information**—Explanation of displays and the categories for judging
- **Speakers**—The listing of speakers and breakout session speakers and topics
- **Tour of the Duncan & Miller Glass Museum**
- **OPTIONAL TOUR** — Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and the Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History (**Thursday**)
- **Everything Else**—Tenderfoot Orientation, Door Prizes (new format), Throw-down Baskets, Hospitality Room, etc.
- **Restaurants near the Sheraton**
- **Things to Do in the Pittsburgh Area**

Please read all information carefully and make note of the following deadlines:

- **February 17, 2026**—Return your **convention salt order form** by this date; late orders cannot be accepted. This convention salt will be made in a limited number based on the number pre-ordered!
- **March 13, 2026**—Due date for **registration form** and **deposit**
- **April 1, 2026**— Auction items photos to Al Diamond to be included in the Auction catalog
- **April 13, 2026**—**Final Deadline Payment due** for **balance of OSC registration** (If only the deposit was paid by March 13, 2026.)
- **April 13, 2026**—Return your order form for your **raffle tickets**.
- **April 15, 2026**—**Absentee bid(s) in to Sherry Diamond**
- **April 28, 2026**—Registration fee nonrefundable after this date
- **April 28, 2026**—Deadline for the hotel special rate

For convention updates, other information and an electronic version of this packet go to:

<http://www.opensalts.info>



REGISTRATION FORM

19th National Open Salt Convention

May 14-16, 2026

Please print LEGIBLY and complete all information on the Registration Form below.

Name _____ Nickname for Badge _____

Name _____ Nickname for Badge _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+ 4 _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Number of people attending _____ x \$100 Deposit OR **\$345** Full = \$ _____ Total Enclosed

Payment Due Dates: \$100/person deposit due **March 13, 2026**, balance of **\$245** due by **April 13, 2026**.

Registration fee now includes dinners on both Thursday and Friday.

- I/We am/are registered for a Room at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel for (Circle all that apply):

Thursday, 5/14 Friday, 5/15 Saturday, 5/16

- Is this your first time at a National Open Salt Convention? _____
- I/We will need space for Buy & Sell Full Table _____ (8 ft) Half Table _____ (4 ft)
- I/We will need space for a Display (limited to **36" deep x 24" wide**) ___ YES ___ NO
- I/We plan to attend the tour of the **Duncan & Miller Glass Museum** on Friday.

Number of attendees _____

- I/We plan to go on the **Phipps/Carnegie Optional Tour** on Thursday afternoon _____

- Saturday Dinner options: **CASUAL DRESS FOR BANQUET**

_____ **Beef Tenderloin** whole roasted beef tenderloin sliced & served with a port wine sauce

_____ **Norwegian Salmon** lightly seared & baked salmon filet seasoned with herbs du Provence
in a balsamic reduction

_____ **Pork Tenderloin** slow roasted & sliced served with creamy apple cider sauce

- Describe any special dietary needs. _____

Registration fee non-refundable after April 28, 2026

Please make check payable to **OSC** and mail with completed registration form to:

19th NOSC 2026 ▲ Judy Johnson, 4475 Middle Cheshire Rd., Canandaigua, NY 14424

Questions? Contact Judy at (585) 752-4385 or Email: auntjudy1990@gmail.com



HOTEL INFORMATION

Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel

1160 Thorn Run Road

Coraopolis, PA 15108

Telephone #412-262-2400

The 19th NOSC will be held at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel in Coraopolis, PA.

The hotel is located 7.6 miles from the Pittsburgh Airport (PIT).



Pets are allowed but please check the pet policy on the hotel's website for information and fees.

The hotel offers free shuttle service to and from the airport.

The service is available only from 4am to 11am and from 4pm to 11pm.

Reservations:

A block of rooms has been set aside under at the special rate of **\$139.00 plus taxes and fees per night**. This rate only applies if staying Thursday through Saturday nights. The contracted rates are available three **(3) days pre/post** and must be reserved at the time the original reservation is made. To receive this special rate, you **must** mention the group name "[National Open Salt Convention](#)" when making reservations. **The final deadline for hotel reservations at this special rate is April 28, 2026.**

Here's your reservation link your guest can use to make reservations:

[Book your group rate for 19th National Open Salt Conventions](#)

All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. The hotel will not hold any reservations unless secured. Hotel check-in time begins at 3:00 pm and hotel check-out time is no later than 12 noon. **If you decide to cancel your hotel reservation, you must do so at least 48 hours in advance of your scheduled arrival date to avoid incurring charges.** For the free shuttle service from the airport, call the hotel from the Baggage Claim area at Door #8 (412-262-2400)

PLEASE NOTE

**Hotel charges are NOT included in the convention registration fee.
You must make your own hotel reservations and pay the hotel directly.**



CONVENTION SALT

The 19th NOSC Salt



If you haven't preordered your convention salt, here is another opportunity to do so.

19th NOSC Convention Salt is offered in two colors, white with a black rim and black pedestal base and green with a blue rim and blue pedestal base. These salts measure between 2" to 3" in diameter and stand approximately 2" high. Because each is handcrafted, measurements can vary slightly. These are being handcrafted exclusively for the 19th NOSC and will be signed by the artist.

Primavera Process

Primavera is an Italian glassblowing technique. In the context of glassblowing, *Primavera* refers to "fresh glass" or the "beginning of glass." A hot bubble of glass is plunged into a bucket of water that contains special chemicals. The meeting of hot glass and water is tempestuous. The water fizzes violently and cracks the surface of the glass while the chemicals in the water adhere to those cracks creating the web-like pattern. After the bubble is taken out of the water, it is heated. A layer of clear glass is gathered over it to encase the webbing pattern. This extra layer of clear prevents surface cracks in the glass and ensures an even surface.

— cut here —

ORDER FORM FOR 19th NOSC SALT

Remember, the deadline for ordering is February 7, 2026.

Return this completed form as soon as possible postmarked no later than **February 7, 2026**, with check or money order made payable to **OSC**. Send to: **Lesley Solkoske, 1208 NE 117th St., Seattle, WA 98125-5038**

If you have any questions, please contact Lesley by email at lgsolkoske@cox.net or by phone at 1-(203) 213-4091.

The 19th NOSC Salt is priced at **\$80.00**. If you cannot pick up your salt(s) at the Convention, please add **\$8.50** for ground advantage shipping for each salt ordered. Salts will be shipped after the convention.

Please indicate the quantity of each color that you are ordering.

White/Black _____ Green/Blue _____

☐ I will attend the 19th NOSC and pick up my salt(s). I enclose \$_____ (\$80.00 each) for _____ salt(s).

☐ I will not attend the 19th NOSC. Please mail my salt(s). I enclose \$_____ (**\$88.50 for each salt purchased. This includes ground advantage shipping & insurance**) for _____ salt(s) (**Please email Lesley to obtain the cost for international shipping.**)

Total enclosed \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____ Email _____



19th NOSC SALT RAFFLE



Daum Nancy



Clear Covered Lacy



Viennese Enamel

Tickets are \$10 each or 5 for \$40.

**YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN—BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER
SO WE CAN CALL YOU TO GIVE YOU THE GOOD NEWS!**

Keep this portion for your records - I sent \$ _____ for _____ tickets on _____. Check # _____
Ticket confirmation will be returned to you by email, where possible, or snail mail.
_____ cut here _____

Please return this completed form with your remittance by April 13, 2026.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Do you plan to attend the Convention? (circle one) **YES** **NO** **NOT SURE**

If my ticket is picked, my 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices in this order are (please mark **1, 2 or 3**):

_____ **Daum Nancy** _____ **Covered Lacy** _____ **Viennese Enamel**

I am purchasing _____ tickets (\$10 each or 5 for \$40 – no limit!) and enclose payment \$ _____.

(Your ticket stubs will be returned to you by mail if you are not attending the convention.)

Make check payable to OSC and mail to Karen Ludwig, 18 Merganser Way, Walpole, MA 02081



SALT AUCTION INFORMATION

A highlight of the convention for over 25 years, the NOSC SALT AUCTION will again be conducted during the 19th National Open Salt Convention in Pittsburgh. Beautiful and unique salts valued from \$10 to hundreds of dollars and more will be available to ALL salt club members bidding on site or by leaving absentee bids (if they can't attend the convention).

In 2026 we will again hold a **STANDARD AUCTION**. That means that items will start low and will progress until the piece is sold unless bidding does not achieve a minimum required for the item.

Al Diamond will once again be the auctioneer with several members volunteering to assist in the delivery of purchased items. Items purchased will be delivered to the attendee buyers immediately upon the closing of each sale, speeding the process. Payments will be accepted at the end of the auction.

SALE ITEMS AND DONATIONS INVITED!!! ALL PROCEEDS FROM DONATED SALTS WILL GO TOWARD THE 20TH NOSC TO MINIMIZE COSTS TO MEMBERS. PLEASE BE GENEROUS AND DONATE AN ITEM THAT WILL BECOME A TREASURED POSSESSION FOR ANOTHER MEMBER WHILE SUPPORTING THE OPEN SALT COLLECTING COMMUNITY!!!

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PRESENT YOUR SALTS TO A GROUP OF TRULY AVID COLLECTORS.

WE INVITE YOU TO SEND IN PICTURES (.JPEG format, please) to Al (al@agencyconsulting.com) or Sherry (sherry@agencyconsulting.com) of salts you wish to sell (no later than **April 1, 2026**) with the following information:

1. *Your name and the description of the salt for the catalogue*
2. *Your estimated retail value (best guesstimates are fine)*
3. **RESERVE** - Minimum acceptable value, **if any** (under which the salt may not be sold)
4. *Indicate if this is a **Sale Item** (15% of price benefits NOSC) or a **Donation** (100% of the price benefits NOSC) - This is a primary funding source for this and the next NOSC each year, so please be generous.*
5. *Attach one picture (or more) of the salt in .jpeg format*

NOTE: Bring your auction salts to the Auction Table **at Registration** in Pittsburgh. If you are not attending the convention, please send your auction items to Al & Sherry Diamond, 507 Kings Hwy, North, Cherry Hill, NJ by May 1, 2026

ABSENTEE BIDS

This year we will again accept Left Bids for all catalogued items. The catalogue will be prepared and available on line at the Open Salts website (www.opensalts.info) early in April. Send your absentee bids to Sherry@agencyconsulting.com. In case of identical bids, BOTH BIDDERS WILL BE INFORMED but the first one received will be honored. Absentee winners may pay by Paypal or by check. Please allow time for determination of shipping costs and packaging.

CREDIT CARDS:

This year we will again have the capability to accept credit cards as well as cash and checks.

BIDDER QUALIFICATION:

The auction will be open to all convention participants and all members of any of the US Regional Salt Clubs (NESOSC, OSCAR, CASC and OSSTW) and to subscribers to the National Newsletter. All that is required to bid is to join a regional club or to register for a subscription to the National Newsletter. (See newsletter subscription form in this packet).



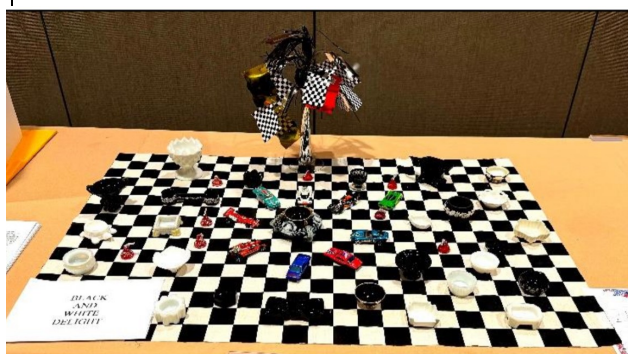
DISPLAYS

It's time to put on your creative thinking caps! Bring a convention display and share your creativity with your salty friends. Displays are always a highlight of our conventions!

Display Rules

- There is no set theme so let your imagination run free.
- The size of each display is limited to 36" wide x 24" deep.
- There is no limit to the number of salts you may use.
- A ribbon will be awarded for People's Choice (overall favorite voted by attendees).
- A ribbon will be awarded for the Most Informative display (voted by attendees).
- There will be time set aside for those who have brought displays to give a very brief overview and to answer questions, a total of no more than 3-5 minutes for each display.
- Those bringing displays may choose to distribute handouts if the display is designed to be informative.

18th NOSC Displays

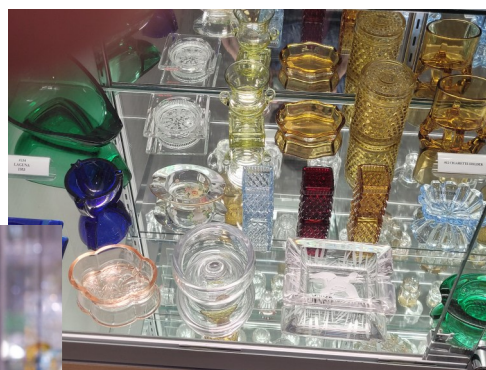




DUNCAN & MILLER GLASS MUSEUM



On Friday afternoon we will be traveling by motor coach to the Duncan & Miller Glass Museum. Dr. Kathleen Grant, Artistic Director, will be speaking about items in the kitchen case.



The cost of this tour is included in the registration fee.



**PHIPPS CONSERVATORY & BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND
THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART &
NATIONAL HISTORY
OPTIONAL ALL DAY TOUR**



Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens



The Carnegie Museum of Art & Natural History

May14, 2026

Cost \$110.00/person

The Optional Tour will leave the hotel at 9:15 am and return to the hotel at approximately 5:15 pm. We suggest arriving on Wednesday or earlier if you plan to participate in this tour. We will visit the Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens and the Carnegie Museums.

Every four years, the Carnegie organizes an international exhibition and 2026 will be the 59th Carnegie International so you will be able to visit exhibits as well as the permanent collection of the Carnegie Museum of Art & the Museum of Natural History. **Lunch will be on your own at the Carnegie.**

Limited to 35 people so it's first come, first served

Please print LEGIBLY and complete all information on the Optional Tour Form below.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+ 4 _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____

The cost of this tour is NOT included in the registration fee.

Please mail this form with a separate check, made out to OSC and in the memo line write in Optional Tour and mail in with your registration form.



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Anne Madarasz will be Saturday's featured speaker

Anne Madarasz has been at the Heinz History Center since 1992 and currently holds the titles of Director of the Curatorial Division, Chief Historian, and Director of the Western PA Sports Museum. A graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, she completed the coursework for her Ph.D at the University of Pennsylvania. She served as Project Director and Curator for "Glass: Shattering Notions." She was awarded a Richards Fellowship for research from the Corning Museum of Glass and lectures and writes frequently about Pittsburgh glass, regional industry, and the history of Pittsburgh sports. Anne serves as the national President of the National American Glass Club, was a founding Board member of the Pittsburgh Glass Center, and served on the board of the Mount Pleasant Glass Museum.

Kathleen Grant , M.D.

Dr. Grant, who will be presenting at the Duncan & Miller Glass Museum on Friday, was born in Reading, PA and is a graduate of Reading High School, Albright College in Reading, and Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. She completed a General Surgical Residency at Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh and a Cardiovascular Surgical Residency at UVA in Charlottesville, VA. She was one of the first twenty women to be board certified in Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery.

After retiring from the practice of Cardiovascular Surgery throughout the greater Pittsburgh area, Kathy joined the board of the National Duncan Glass Society which owns and operates the Duncan & Miller Glass Museum (NDGS) in Washington, PA. For the past 10 years she has been the editor of the Journal of the NDGS, a prolific author and speaker on the subject of American Glass production and design from EAPG to mid-century modern, and the curator of displays at the Duncan & Miller Glass Museum.



EVERYTHING ELSE

Tenderfoot Orientation

Are you attending your very first National Open Salt Convention? If so, then plan to attend the Thursday evening Tenderfoot Orientation. This session will enhance your convention experience. First-time attendees will receive a gift bag of salts.

Door Prizes

Door prizes will be provided by the various salt clubs so please **DO NOT BRING A DOOR PRIZE SALT**. Though not everyone will win a door prize, the salts offered will be welcome additions to lucky recipients' collections.

Throw-Down Baskets

You are welcome to bring a Theme Basket of your choice to be raffled off at the Saturday Night Banquet. Tickets will be priced at \$2.00 for one ticket and \$5 for three tickets and will be sold during the cocktail hour at the banquet.

Hospitality Room

The Hospitality Room will be open evenings. Snacks and beverages will be available. **The hotel has a "no alcohol brought-in" policy in public areas.**

Casual Dress for Saturday Banquet

Feel free to dress casually for the banquet. This should simplify packing.

Convention Website Address: <http://www.opensalts.info>

The Welcome Mat Is Out

The Planning Committee Members for the 19th National Open Salt Convention encourage any and all of the regional club members, past club members, subscribers to the National Newsletter, Facebook members and anyone else interested in collecting open salts to attend the convention, for an opportunity to meet and reconnect with fellow open salt collectors and to participate in the activities that will include a field trip to the Duncan & Miller Glass Museum, informative presentations, Buy & Sell sessions and a live auction.



RESTAURANTS NEAR THE SHERATON

HOTEL RESTAURANT

Sheraton Café, great for breakfast and dinner, specializes in American Cuisine.

BREAKFAST & TREATS

Eggs n'at, 8556 University Blvd. Coraopolis, PA (0.8 miles from Sheraton)

Vegetarian friendly, gluten free options—Open daily 7am-2pm

Bob Evans, 8405 University Blvd. Coraopolis, PA (0.8 miles from Sheraton)

Open 7am—9pm

Bruegger's Bagels, 1134 Thorn Run Rd. Extension, Coraopolis, PA (0.2 miles from Sheraton)

Open 6am—2pm

Kip's Ice Cream, 1136 Thorn Run Rd, Suite A2, Coraopolis, PA (0.2 miles from Sheraton)

Open daily 12-9pm

Milk Shake Factory, 9898 University Blvd, Suite 80, Moonship Township, PA (1.3 miles from Sheraton)

Open daily 12-10pm

LUNCH & DINNER

Armstrong's Restaurant, 1136 Thorn Run Rd Crossing, Coraopolis, PA (0.4 miles from Sheraton)

Italian, American Mon-Sat 11am—9:30pm, Sun 12-8pm

Casa Amigos Tequila Bar & Grill, 333 Rouser Road Bldg. 4, Coraopolis, PA (0.4 miles from Sheraton)

Mexican Mon-Fri 11am-10pm Sat 11:30am-10pm, Sun 12-9pm

Primanti Brothers, 8651 University Blvd., Moon Township, PA (0.8 miles from Sheraton)

Sandwiches, American Pub Mon-Fri 11am 12am, Sat & Sun 11am to 1am

Four Twelve Project, 988 Brodherd, Coraopolis, PA (2.2 miles from Sheraton)

American, variety—a wine and Dinery—focus on 100% PA wine, beer, and spirits

Reservations recommended Tues–Thurs 4pm –8pm, Fri & Sat 4-9pm, Closed Sunday

Hyeholde Restaurant 1516 Coraopolis Heights Road, Coraopolis, PA (0.4 miles from Sheraton)

Fine dining restaurant \$\$\$\$ Tues-Sat 4:30-9pm, closed Sunday



THINGS TO DO IN THE PITTSBURGH AREA

Pittsburgh Glass Center

5472 Penn Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

20.7 miles from the Sheraton, approx. 32 minutes

412-365-2145 - Located in Pittsburgh East End neighborhood, approx. 4 miles east of the Strip District in downtown Pittsburgh. Has a gallery and demonstrations. Free and open to the public, \$5 donation suggested. All classes and workshops are pre-registration only. Currently open daily 10 am to 7 pm.

Frick Art & Historical Center

7227 Reynolds Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15208

24 miles from the Sheraton, 35 minutes

In the Point Breeze neighborhood

412-371-0600

The Gardens, Permanent collections of the Frick Art Museum, and a section of the Car and Carriage Museum is always free. Admission is charged to the Clayton (the home) and other special exhibits. Currently open daily 10am to 5pm

Bayernhof Museum

225 St. Charles Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15215

23 miles from the Sheraton 35-40 minutes

19,000 sq. foot mansion has a large collection of antique automatic music boxes and furniture

(412)782-4231 Have to call in advance to book a tour, cost is \$10 cash and is collected at the end of the tour

Tours limited to 12 people and children 12 and older

The Andy Warhol Museum

17 Sandusky St., Pittsburgh

412-237-8300

\$25.00 adults, \$13 senior, Timed tickets—reserve online

Open: M, W, Th, Sat, Sun 10am to 5pm, Fri 10am to 10pm - Closed Tuesdays

Senator John Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania Museum

1212 Smallman Square, Pittsburgh

Open Daily 10am to 5pm 412-454-6000

OSC National Newsletter Subscription

If you would like to subscribe to our National Newsletter, please follow the instructions below:

Your subscription options are:

☐ **Email copy for 2026 only\$ 8**
☐ **Email copy for 2026 through 2028\$ 20**
☐ **US Mail copy for 2026 only\$ 28**

Questions?

Please contact Judy Johnson, Treasurer, at auntjudy1990@gmail.com or (585) 752-4385.

To Begin Your OSC Newsletter Subscription

Mark your subscription option above, **complete** the information below and mail this **entire form** with your check **payable to Open Salt Collectors** to:

Judy Johnson
OSC Treasurer
4475 Middle Cheshire Road
Canandaigua NY 14424

Join us on Facebook at
Open Salt Collectors of
the World

Please complete all items and return this entire form so that your contact information will be accurate in our records. Thank you!

Name(s) _____

State Address/Apt. _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

To which Regional Clubs, if any, do you belong?

CASC _____ **NESOSC** _____ **OSCAR** _____ **OSSTW:** _____

Please be assured your information will not be shared with anyone outside the open salt community.