

Sometimes Your Elective Classes In College Become Your Life's Passion



Eric Meek, master hot glassmaker at work.

by John H. Vargo, Publisher

The Corning Museum of Glass' *GlassBarge* that is about to tour the Hudson River and the Erie Canal is a combination of skills, technology and creative artistry by a very talented team that travels with the *GlassBarge* to various communities along the way.

Eric Meek, Sr. Manager of Hot Glass Programs for The Corning Museum of Glass has been creating objects from glass for the last 25 years. However, his college objective was to be a biologist, it was only because of the fact that he was required to have an elective course, and he chose glassblowing, that he is now the manager of all Hot Glass Programs at the museum.

GlassBarge is coming to a river or canal town near you

Eric has also created the 45-minute program that will be presented on *GlassBarge*.

The program is really an overview of "blowing hot glass" into a shape that relates to the audience in some manner.

The *GlassBarge* tour will begin in late May in Brooklyn, NY, and continue up the Hudson River in June, then enter the Erie Canal and visit a wide variety of Erie Canal towns during the rest of the summer and fall.

Since most of the communities have a significant history, whether it is on the Hudson River or the Erie Canal, it is fairly easy to pick a relatable object to create in glass. For example, glassmakers often dip hot glass in water, creating a crackle finish on the glass. For the journey on the Erie Canal, objects with this technique have been dubbed "Kissed by the Canal."

The 90-foot long by 30-foot wide *GlassBarge* contains a stage with all the equipment required to create hot glass items as well as bleachers that will hold 150 people. All locations for the *GlassBarge* tour will soon be announced at www.cmog.org/GlassBarge.