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Greg Milini

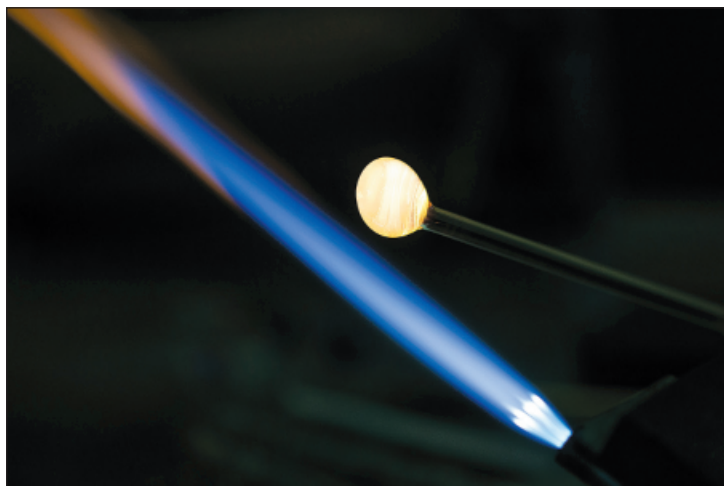
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Left: AJ Koran heats up a glass pendant as he teaches students. Koran has been studio owner Dan Neff's apprentice for the past seven months. **Right:** Beeswax ignites from the tweezers used to shape a glass paperweight.



Jenny Almquist, who came to Duluth for a girls' weekend from Eau Claire, Wis., concentrates as she shapes a glass pendant at Lake Superior Art Glass on June 14.



Passersby watch as Sammy Kwiatkowski torches a glass paperweight. When weather permits, Lake Superior Art Glass lets people watch artists work and learn.



Sammy Kwiatkowski puts on a show for passersby. He has worked on his craft at the shop for six of his 13 years as a glass artist.

LAKE SUPERIOR ART GLASS COMBINES COMMUNITY AND TOURISM

As summertime tourists and community members pass Lake Superior Art Glass, the open-air studio invites them to be blown away by the live demonstrations of glass blowers. Sometimes the artists are working on their own craft, and other times, they're teaching classes. On a Friday afternoon, 14-year-old Sophia Ryhorchuk traveled from the Twin Cities to take a class as a birthday present. Jennifer McBride and Jenny Almquist came from Eau Claire, Wis., to cross glass-blowing off their bucket lists and ended up spending the entire day there. For some of the artists who work and rent studio space at the gallery, glass blowing drew them in for more than just a few hours. Glass artist Sammy Kwiatkowski has been making glass art for 13 years, six of which he has spent at Lake Superior Art Glass. Whatever the purpose, the artists are happy to welcome art seekers in to slow down, enjoy the art that they're passionate about and hopefully ignite a fire in others for glass blowing, too.

Photo essay by Ellen Schmidt / eschmidt@duluthnews.com