Notes from the Executive Director

This convention season seems to have flown by quickly and that always means spring is on its way in Vermont. As I sit in the office writing this, the temperature outside is in the 60's, and the sun is shining. The end of convention season means the activity level in our industry is increasing and this year is no exception. Aside from our members filling your orders, there has been a lot of activity on the legislative side that has kept our office quite busy. This year I have the pleasure of serving as President of the Vermont Society of Association Executives (VSAE), a position I will hold for two years. Many people often ask me why associations belong to an association. It's a great way to network and share many common interests such as health insurance, workers compensation, and any tax issues that affect small business owners. This past January, the VSAE hosted a legislative breakfast with Governor James Douglas as our honored guest. He recognizes the importance of associations and how together we can insure a bright economic future for our collective industries. Of course the big item on the agenda is health care, which is on the minds of every business in our country. For companies today, health care dollars take a deep bite out of the bottom line. Our members provide “top shelf” health insurance none the less, along with vacation and pension benefits. It's important to recognize just how far domestic manufacturers will go to provide good benefits for their employees along with a safe working environment. When you have a manufacturer that provides top quality benefits and a top quality working environment, doesn’t make sense that they produce a superior quality product? Remember that our members and their employees put a lot of pride in their craftsmanship, which is probably one reason our membership proudly celebrated 116 years as an association in April of this year. When an industry has accumulated that much longevity, it is because companies recognize that responsibility to customers goes far beyond simply selling a monument. As I have often said, when you purchase from BGA members, you get a fine product wrapped in quality and service.

(Continued on Page 29)
Reflecting on the changes and technological improvements in our lives.

The call of spring birds and fresh shades of green in Vermont are so welcome after a long winter. Springtime is a renewed opportunity to have access to photograph the impressive memorials crafted by the BGA member firms.

The spring issue of Barre Life includes a look at family operations at Riverton Memorials, Suzanna LaGue’s memories of the BGA in the 1950’s, and a description of our new DVD release featuring innovative technology.

We were pleased to receive so many kind letters and comments at the conventions complimenting our 2005 Barre Life calendar. We always appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Come visit the Green Mountain state soon to experience first hand the superb craftsmanship of our member firms. I wish you all continued success, and a wonderful spring!

Jim Eaton, Editor

MOVING OR NEW ADDRESS?

Please take the time to notify us with your new address. Once a magazine is returned to the BGA, your name is removed from the subscription list.
If you have granite industry related items they may be of interest to The Vermont Granite Museum of Barre
802-476-4605, P.O. Box 282, Barre, VT 05641
www.granitemuseum.com

Letters to Barre Life

When historian John Johnson of Marshfield was cataloging the Granite Museum’s collections, he found a photograph of a display of Barre granite memorials taken in the 40’s or 50’s. Among the items on the table were some miniature memorials that appeared to be made out of granite. No one we asked was familiar with that marketing tool.

A few months later I was at an Archie Steenburgh auction in New Hampshire, and among the items up for sale was the salesman’s kit from the Hosmer Granite Co. of Groton, Vermont. In addition to several dozen stereopticon slides and linen-backed photos of memorial headstones, were four sets of miniature granite dies and bases.

The items are now part of the Granite Museum’s collection, and on display at our Depot Square office until restoration of the building gets underway. If you’re in the area, stop by and see them. Keep in mind that the Granite Museum is happy to accept items relating to the history of the granite industry.

Tom Bellville

Thank you for the beautiful calendar. We will display this in our showroom.

Pohl & King Monument Company

I wish to compliment the BGA on the fine looking calendar I received, I am truly impressed!!!! I am proudly displaying it in my office as I write.

I would also like to comment on the column from Milton Lyndes. I never knew the man and was not selling granite at the time, but how appropriate his statements are today, we need to do all we can to keep our manufacturing plants in this country running. I do not believe in offering products not manufactured in this country.

I have always been impressed with the quality of the monuments I order from Barre. I am proud to say to my customer’s that your loved one’s monument will be manufactured in the heart of Vermont by the best craftsmen in the world.

In closing, please keep up the great work the BGA performs and I look forward to Barre Life, especially the techniques featured on occasion.

Bill Cook
Cooks Monuments

We wish to thank you for the beautiful calendar. It will be on display in our library.

West Rutland Library
Recollections of Suzanna LaGue

Walking up the granite steps into the front entrance, Suzanna saw that the BGA building still looks the same on the outside. Inside everything has been remodeled. She couldn’t believe the sense of added light and the use of granite throughout the building.

Her memories of working at the Barre Granite Association from 1959 to 1963 reflect how much has changed in the industry, yet how the highest standards of quality remains the same.

She recalled working with Milton V. Lyndes, the General Manager at the time, a position similar to the Executive Vice President today. “He was a brilliant and quiet man. He was able to make employees feel important, too.” His motto was, “I’m never too busy to talk to a member.” Members were the center of the BGA and Milton lived by that rule. Milton expected everyone to learn the members’ voices on the phone and not have to ask, “Who is calling?” Taking care of members was the most important job for every employee; the same can be said for today’s BGA. The BGA was their resource center and still is. When dealers came to visit, the BGA would set up tours and helped members to show them around Barre, as we continue to do today.

“The BGA quality seals were sacred and guarded carefully. The BGA had four inspectors on the payroll and this was all they did and they were the best in the world. They each had a route to inspect monuments at members’ sheds. The monuments had to pass a very strict inspection.” That is true to this day. The BGA seal is a symbol of hallmark, pride, craftsmanship and the best granite in the world. The old and worn seals are still cut into pieces to avoid any fraudulent use of the seal. “The inspectors were Alan Reid, with 46 years experience, Joe Peduzzi, with 44 years of experience, Alcide Pacetti, with 47 years of experience, and Frank Paul, with 40 years of experience.”

Suzanna spoke of the transition in terminology from graveyard to cemetery. She feels Hope Cemetery in Barre is an exquisite example of the quality and pride of craftsmanship. “Each piece is a tribute to those who have passed on. These are very personal tributes to our loved ones. All of the Barre cemeteries are a reflection of spectacular work. While walking through the Wilson Cemetery and Elmwood Cemetery one can feel the sense of peace instilled into these displays of quality artwork.”

(Continued on Page 5)
Of special interest to folks who have been associated with the granite industry for many years, Suzanna recalled many prominent people from that era gone by. The local quarries “up on the hill” were Wells Lamson, Rock of Ages, Whitmore & Morse, E.L. Smith and the Pirie Quarry. She reminisced about Dick McBride, who worked at the BGA and had been director of sales at Jones Brothers, Harry Bonazzoli and Mary Chouinard who handled the trucking and shipping department of the BGA, Wendell Smith of Wells Lamson Quarry, Adam & Irene Podskalny, the owners of Adams Granite, Ernest Beers of Rock of Ages, and John Salvador, accountant at Colombo Granite.

Some things have changed. Computers have replaced typing then retyping with carbon copies instead of photocopies. Fax machines simplify communications that formerly required numerous phone calls.

Mrs. LaGue summed up her feelings by saying, “Buildings change, time changes, however, the Barre hallmark quality and craftsmanship of Barre Granite Association’s members is still the best in the world today!”

The BGA building is as busy today as years ago, as this class for member firms presented by the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center shows.

The granite steps that Suzanna refers to were recently expertly maintained by Joseph V. and Matthew J. Calcagnii of BGA member firm, Granite Corporation of Barre.
“Everything for Stone Working”, the motto of Granite City Tool Co., has remained unchanged during its 120 years. Originating in Barre, Vt. at the beginning of the granite boom in 1885, it was the first manufacturer of stone working tools in the area. At that time Barre was a village with a handful of granite sheds located between the end of the C.V. Railroad spur at Depot Square and adjacent Granite Street. Almost all granite finishing and quarrying was done by hand held steel-forged tools. The sheds were filled with craftsmen working individually.

In 1893 the establishment, known then as New England Granite Tool Works, constructed a new building at 11 Blackwell Street in Barre where it remains today. It is probably the only firm in town continuously operating on the same site.

By 1912 William G. Cumming, a highly skilled machinist, and son of an early Barre granite manufacturer, joined the firm. Technology had so changed by 1917, when he purchased the firm, that he was able to immediately expand its product line and markets. Pneumatic powered machinery had become the mainstay of the industry, vastly increasing the volume of production, but, at the same time, filling the air with clouds of stone dust which, when breathed constantly, led to the deadly occupational lung disease silicosis. Mr. Cumming made the development and installation of stone dust removal equipment a priority, eventually ridding the industry of the disease by the mid 1930’s.

Through the years Granite City Tool has been at the forefront of new technology in stone working. In 1936 William Cumming patented a combination electric grinding and polishing machine which, at an affordable cost, processed stone from slab to monument. Hundreds of the machines were sold around the world.

During World War II, the company production line produced chisels to maintain the U.S. fleet worldwide.

In the years that followed, the company was one of the first to introduce wire sawing and diamond blades.

By 1990 the Granite City Tool Co. brought pioneering computer technology to the trade. It has been a leader in applying the versatility of diamond products to fabrication of memorials and counter tops.

For 90 years, the business has been owned and operated by the same family, with Donald Allen, nephew of Mr. Cumming, currently in charge at Barre. Also in the family is an independent company of the same name, located in Waite Park, Minn., serving the western market.

An aerial view of the company today, still at it's 1893 location.

The Barre sales team is led by (L-R) Mike Lawson, Don Allen, C.E.O., and Tom Begin, all industry veterans with an average of over 30 years of experience.

Granite City Tool Company
11 Blackwell St.
Barre, VT 05641
800-451-4570
802-476-3137
Fax 802-476-8403
www.granitecitytoolvt.com
Don Fontana and Kerry Zorzi display two awards for Adams Granite Company this year. One for Supplier of the Year from Peter Troost Monument Co. and the second for 25 years of continuous membership from MBNA.

Their philosophy of THINK QUALITY on the granite sign at the plant is recognized and rewarded.

A New BGA 2 DVD Set is Available - 21st Century Granite Innovation & Craftsmanship

The Barre Granite Association is proud to announce a new 2 DVD set highlighting innovative new technologies in the granite industry. 21st Century Granite Innovation & Craftsmanship provides a behind the scenes look at the large computerized saws that have become state of the art equipment in the industry. The DVD features scenes of the latest equipment and skilled, talented, craftsman in action producing memorials and granite products of the highest caliber. 21st Century Granite Innovation & Craftsmanship VOLUME 1 is designed to be played in your retail show room to showcase the process of memorial art creation for your clients with a music sound track. The second DVD VOLUME 2 includes narration and facts pertaining to the granite industry scenes and is useful for answering commonly asked questions. Running time is approximately 15 minutes.

This DVD is a great way to show your customers what goes into making a quality memorial!

Endless Choices, the latest BGA video of memorial art is also now available on DVD.

TO ORDER: MAIL, CALL, FAX or E-MAIL THE BGA TODAY ORDER INFORMATION ON P. 36

_A New BGA 2 DVD Set is Available - 21st Century Granite Innovation & Craftsmanship $24.95

_Endless Choices - the latest BGA video of Memorial Art on DVD $19.95

Plus shipping & handling

(Continued on Page 36)
Stanislaw Lutostanski of Stanislaw Lutostanski Sculpture Studio applies the finishing details on the hand carved statue of Saint Casimir for St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Manhattan. Elements such as the delicate chain links allow zero tolerance for errors and requires patience and concentration. The dedication of the Carrea marble statue on May 1, 2005 completes the year long endeavor.
Stone Art School Schedule

The Art of Sandblasting
Instructor Homer Peake
May 13th - 15th
The use of sandblasting in lettering, shaping and carving granite intended for the independent artist.

Introduction to Sandblasting in the Memorial Arts
Instructor Homer Peake
June 10th - 12th
A class for the beginner: Learn how to prepare and apply stencils, operate sandblasting equipment, and create a finished work of your own design.

Raised Letters
Instructor Homer Peake
June 24th - 26th
The class will show you how to create both square and rounded raised letters.

Shape Carving
Instructor Homer Peake
July 15th - 17th
The class will cover the techniques of shape carving in the creation of cultivated roses and other designs.

Cemetery Work in the Great Outdoors
Instructor Homer Peake
August 5th - 7th
A hands-on class in field and cemetery work. Learn how to match existing work, make repairs, and other skills and techniques needed to work the field.

Shape Carving
August 19th - 21st
This will be a repeat of our July class.

Clay Modeling
Instructor Giuliano Cecchinelli
Saturday Mornings
Under the watchful eye of the instructor, students of any age will learn the techniques of modeling in clay. Students will also learn how to make plaster casts of their work.

Etching on Black Granite
Instructor Anita Lucero
Every Other Saturday Morning
The class format teaches students the theory of light and dark and allows them to practice their drawing techniques as well as the basic skills of etching.
Donald Chase and Bill Amell join Jeff Gordon at the Montpelier Granite Works as the newest members of the sandblast team. They each have “old school” training and each have almost twenty-five years in the granite industry trade. “Old school” experience means they can cut rubber stencil by hand as well as working with computerized cut stencil.

The new team improves the turn around time and production capabilities at Montpelier Granite Works.

Benches donated by Colonial Granite Co., Pepin Granite Company and Anderson Finishing Co. are now all installed at the North and South rest areas of Interstate 89 near exit 3, Randolph, VT.
Riverton Memorial Inc., nestled into the countryside on Route 12 in Northfield Falls, Vermont, is truly a family business. Since 1964, Riverton has been manufacturing memorials in a variety of granites from slants and heart-shaped markers to fine duplicate and shell-rock memorials.

Founded by Ernest Lavigne Sr., the company is now managed by Ernie Lavigne, Jr., president, who is ably assisted by eight other Lavigne family members including four sons, two daughters, two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law and a grandson.

At Riverton Memorials, everything revolves around granite. This family owned company is constantly improving its facility and equipment to better handle customer needs and the mainstay of their daily production. Recently, the roller system has been extensively improved, and a new production saw has been added to the equipment line.

Riverton takes great pride in their craftsmanship of American made memorials, as well as tending to customer’s import needs.

Riverton Memorials is a company that continues the finest tradition in quality memorial manufacturing.

Phone: 800-643-8082 / 802-485-3371
Fax: 800-952-8268 / 802-485-6535
rivertonmemorial@trans-video.net
Created and designed by the Woodward/Knight family in collaboration with Butch Gandin. Set on their property in West Newbury, Vermont. This Rib Mountain Granite memorial has polished faces, balance dusted with set backs on both front and back, stippled finish on the star portion and bottom blued for added effect. The overall size is 3’4” in length, 3’8” tall.
This memorial was manufactured for Plymouth Memorial Studio, Joseph Yosco, Morris Plains, New Jersey. The Canadian Pink Granite die is 4' long, 2'6" high. The base is 5' in length.

Todd Anderson shows some of the work that goes into creating fine monuments.
This intricately detailed sandblasted monument was manufactured for Empire Granite of Worcester, Massachusetts. Barre Granite was selected for fabrication of this 3’ 10” monument, polished two, balance rock pitched monument. The Barre Granite base is 5’ 4” in length, polished top, balance rock pitch.
This Barre Gray Granite monument was manufactured for Quintana’s Memorials in Chaplin, Connecticut. The cross shape die is 4’ tall, polished 2, with a niche for the light. The polished 4¾” raised letters were hand tooled. The sub-base is 5’ x 1’2” x 8”, polished 3 with rock pitched ends. The bottom base is 6’ x 1’6” x 8” with a polished top, balance rock pitched.
This classic Barre Granite memorial was assembled from four pieces. The overall size is 8’ 1” long by 5’ 4” wide by 6’ 2” tall. Manufactured for Shaffer Memorials of Loyalhanna, Pennsylvania.
This all polished, special shape monument was manufactured from Black Granite. The overall size is 3’ 6” long and 2’ 6” tall. This monument has a 6⅛” cut-through family name (making it very unique) with a special hand-etched floral design encompassing the family name and custom hand-etched flame of eternal life. The inscription was sandblasted.

A base, which accompanied this special monument, was manufactured from Black Granite. The size of the base is 3’ 6” long and 1’ wide. It has a polished flat top and a 2” polished margin an all four sides.
The 4’ niche of “Our Lady of Sorrows,” in 3½” relief, was hand carved on a 6’ die by owner, George Kurjanowicz, in Barre Gray Granite. This was sculptured for Adams Granite Company’s customer Volpe Monument Co. of West Hartford, Connecticut.
This memorial commemorating the victims of 9/11 who lived in Prince Williams County, Virginia, was manufactured for Architectural Stone Services, LTD of Baltimore, Maryland who installed the granite wall and stone benches.
This Select Barre Gray granite four crypt mausoleum was manufactured for Tasker Monuments of Dover, New Hampshire. The mausoleum has an all polished finish with rock pitched sides on the floor. The overall size is 6'11" x 9'10" x 6'3" which includes a 1'2" extension built on the rear of the mausoleum for 24 cremation urns, as shown here with the shutters removed.
This Medium Barre Granite spire is 4' 8" tall, 2' wide, all steeled, tapered with an apex top. The sub base is 2' 8" by 2' 8" by 1' 4" all steeled, tapered and chamfered on four sides. The base is 3' 10" by 3' 10" by 10" steeled drop wash, balanced rock pitch, with a 1½" dusted margin. Manufactured for Mayes Memorials of Lemont, Pennsylvania.
This memorial was erected and dedicated by the Vermont Military Order of the Purple Heart in the courtyard of the Veterans Hospital in White River Jct., VT. Vermont Governor James Douglas, second from right, attended the dedication with members of the Vermont Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Manufactured for Bona Fide Memorials of Jersey City, NJ, the India Red Granite die is 4’ 2” long by 3’ 4” tall, polished two, dusted beveled top, balance rock pitch. The India Red Granite base measures 5’ long, with a polished flat top, dusted front, balance rock pitch. The Purple Heart is sculptured and finished with purple and gold litho.

Hutchins & Perreault has manufactured many of the Purple Heart Memorials, which are located in states all over the country.
This Korean War Memorial Monument was manufactured for Ficco Memorials of Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

The Medium Barre Granite die is 6' 6" long and 4' 2" high, all steeled custom top and ends, sandblast carved. The Medium Barre Granite base is 8' long steeled flat top, balance rock pitch.
This memorial was manufactured in the U.S.A. for a local fireman who lost his life in a tragic accident at the Twin State Speedway in Claremont, New Hampshire. A scene from the event and their portraits were hand etched on the Impala Black die. The Barre Gray Granite base is all steeled and lettered.
This gate house wall is an example of the 19,738 sq. feet of Woodbury and Jet Mist Granite used for the paving, curved walls, gate house walls and curbing produced for President’s Park in Washington, D.C. Manufactured for the Lorton Contracting Co. in Springfield, Virginia.
Kevin Spaulding and Adam Martin present Mark Gheradi with the first prize, Jamaica cruise for two, at his office at Buttura & Gherardi Granite Artisans.

Kevin and Adam also present G.I.V. president, Jeff Martell, with the second prize, New Orleans vacation for two.

Miles Supply Company recently announced the winners for their 50th Anniversary give-a-way promotion. The promotion, co-sponsored by 3M, gave 3M stencil customers a chance to win one of three prizes. The promotion was so successful, Miles Supply plans to kick off a similar promotion later in 2005.

Mark Crook presents Nanette Payne, of Century Granite, the $500 third prize from Miles Supply.

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Elberton, Georgia
phone (888) 283-5863
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Montrose, Pennsylvania
phone (888) 278-8383
fax (570) 278-0436
The Barre Street Community Playground

A community playground project is underway in Montpelier, VT. The planners are very interested in incorporating kid friendly granite sculptural elements in the design. If you have any ideas or interest in the project please contact -

The Barre Street Community Playground
Committee Chair: Chris Canavan 802-229-1199

Canavan family members assist in setting up one way signs in the first construction phase.

The Little Prince brings enjoyment to children at the Aldrich Library in Barre

Few stories are as widely read or as universally cherished by children as well as adults as Antoine de Saint-Exupery’s The Little Prince, first published in 1943. An original Barre Granite sculpture of the prince now graces the Katherine Patterson Children’s Room at the Aldrich Public Library in Barre.

George Kurjanowicz, of BGA member firm Kurjanowicz Sculpture Studio, secured a grant from the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury to fund his apprentice, Alan Frascoia, to hand carve The Little Prince. The inscription sandblasting was donated by Culture Craft Memorials.

Kallista Parton, 19 months old

Olivia Rousse, and Oliver Johnson, both age 2, enjoy a hands on experience with the new Little Prince.
The compelling statues presented in the book are located in Southern Indiana, yet they are representative of the types of captivating sculpture that can be found in cemeteries all across the United States. Collectively, these amazing pieces of art represent a significant, yet under appreciated, facet of American history, art, and photography – as well as cemetery sculpture.

In this stunning book, the magnificence and poignancy of Indiana's extraordinary cemetery statuary treasures that have virtually gone unnoticed – are revealed, for all to see, in stunning black and white imagery by acclaimed Hoosier photographer, John Bower. Also included is commentary by Bower describing his project, as well, as heartwarming stories about some of the people the statues were erected to honor.

As Indiana University's Claude Cookman concludes in his moving foreword, "With John Bower, I look at all these obituaries in stone and bronze and I celebrate the human spirit that produced them. I will never see cemeteries the same way again." And, neither will you, or anyone else, who sees the image filled pages of Guardians of the Soul.

In order to create this compelling book, Bower and his wife drove 10,000 miles, comprehensively exploring over 200 cemeteries. The book contains 189 high-quality images, all reproduced in two color duotones to give them a slight brownish tint.

Guardians of the Soul retails for $22.00, free shipping, (add $1.32 sales tax - Indiana residents only). Specifics can be found at their web site: www.studioindiana.com.

This beautifully photographed and printed book provides a wonderful resource. It also illustrates the advantages of granite as the effects of the weather on limestone and marble are documented.

(Continued from Page 1)

I hope you will have a chance to visit Barre this summer and see our members in action. You can also check out the continuing work on the Vermont Granite Museum, which is progressing along quite nicely. Also, allow me to share a couple of photos from my visit to Memphis last January. I had the opportunity to spend some time with Tom and Gloria Carrigg, and we visited the Martin Luther King Museum and Graceland. The following pictures were taken by Gloria Carrigg, with my thanks. It was truly amazing to visit these historical places. See you in the summer issue, and I hope you all enjoyed the calendars that we sent you. If you did not receive one, please give us a call.

John P. Castaldo
Voting Members

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Ordering and shipping information on Page 32

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This issue features
North Barre Granite Co.

This beautiful Barre Granite memorial was manufactured for Sprung Monuments of North Lindenhurst, New York measures 21’ in length, 1’ 8” in width and 5’ 2” in height.

Continued from p. 7 "Scenes from the new DVD"

The 21st Century Granite Innovation & Craftsmanship DVD takes you inside BGA manufacturing facilities to see memorials being created from the quarry to cutting and polishing, sandblasting a rose and much more. Ordering information is on p. 7. The DVD was shown at the BGA booth at some of the conventions and was well received. Order your copy risk free today. Your satisfaction is guaranteed.

Barre Life encourages you to submit contemporary monument design sketches.

Send in those paper napkin concepts and filed away projects that you felt were too contemporary. The best of these submissions will be published in future issues of the magazine. Pencil drawings and computer prints are all welcome!
This personal memorial was cut here in the USA of India Red Granite. The heart is convex and all polished. The base has an axed margin to match the waves and dolphin sculpted by BGA member, Eric Oberg. The sandblasting was completed by member firm, B & B Monumental Engravers. The monument was produced for Mt. Pleasant Memorials of Gloucester, Massachusetts.