

# SEAGLASSWEAR™ & SEASTONEWEAR™

Jewelry from the sea by valerie gates



## TREASURES from the deep

by Jennifer Kain DeFoe  
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The basis of Woods Hole native Valerie Gates' collection, **SeaGlassWear**, is a stash of beach glass that took forty years of seaside strolling to amass. When her aunt passed away in July of 2002, Gates inherited several large tubs of glass that had been brushed to a soft patina by ocean sand. She shared the bequest with her relatives by wrapping inexpensive brass wire around the glass to create jewelry. So admired were her gifts that she substituted sterling silver wire to craft delicate, one-of-a-kind pieces and sold them under the brand name SeaGlassWear. The designs have become quite popular, something Gates partially attributes to "a whole group of people who just love sea glass." Word of mouth and quick sales on the Cape encouraged her to inquire about selling her jewelry at the Museum of Fine Arts gift shop in Boston. When they obliged last September, she contacted other museum shops around the country who were equally receptive. Remarkably, in less than a year Gates' sea glass has made a name for itself, and now it can be found in over thirty museum shops and fine galleries nationwide.

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