



Mr. Don Malcolm Bagwell

August 9, 1948 - August 2, 2025

Don Bagwell, of Hoover, Alabama, passed away on August 2, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Lucille Bagwell, and by his siblings,

Lew Bagwell and June Allyson Lynn. Don was a gifted artist best known hand-blown studio art glass. His work was admired for its color, form, and craftsmanship and remains a lasting testament to his creativity. Don was as kind

as he was talented, a gentle soul with a generous heart. He will be deeply missed

by all who knew him. He is survived by his niece Jami Diana Lynn (Todd Cotharin);

his nephew, Jason Christopher Lynn (Ashley); Terry and Bill Schmidt (sister-in-law and brother-in-law), nephews Thomas Ryan Schmidt (Kendall) and Samuel William Schmidt (Ashley), siblings-in-law Thomas J Swope and Patrick Swope, and many other relatives and friends who will remember and honor his presence in their lives.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Shelby County Arts Council.

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still

waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Tribute Wall

GB

“ DB gave me a dogwood tree which we remain a constant reminder of his love of nature. He was a kind man...gentle and soft spoken. His talents were varied, and he excelled at every one— glassblowing, knife making, leather work, and concrete statues. He will be missed by everyone whose lives he touched.

Gretchen Birdwell - August 17, 2025 at 08:16 PM

LJ

“ DB was the dearest friend. He was such a kind soul and a deeply creative, inspired, and prolific artist. Walks with him were an exploration where his love of nature shone through every step. He brought joy to my heart and many hearts and I will always be grateful for the privilege of spending time with him. I am also grateful for the constant love and care he received from Gretchen in the last years. Although deeply sad to lose him on this earth, I know he is happy with his beloved Kelly.
Lynne Jenkins

Lynne Jenkins - August 15, 2025 at 10:59 AM

GB

Beautiful!!

Gretchen Birdwell - August 17, 2025 at 08:12 PM

BS

Don was my brother-in-law. He was very special to me. I met him after he married Kelly and was delighted to discover that we had many interests and values in common. He was not only a gifted artist, with the unique "eye" that only artists have, but he was also a man of Nature. He delighted in the plants and critters that abound on Mother Earth.

Don and Kelly spent many summers at our home in Minnesota as a base for their travels across the Upper Midwest, marketing their beautiful art at the many art shows in the area. In return, we were guests at their home in St. Augustine Florida for many vacations. During these times Don was a great uncle to our two sons, Tom and Sam. He really enjoyed them and was the "Fun Uncle" to them in their youth. He was always up for a little football, fun or mischief.

Don had a great sense of humor. We remember his quick and always funny comments and one-liners. And of course we delighted in his southern accent....he never did say "bicycle" the way we knew it! His art was truly amazing. I had the privilege of being able to watch him in his studio in Florida, producing the most wonderful pieces of art glass!! Many of his works replicated what he saw in Nature and were beautiful. Our home is filled with many of his pieces and will always be treasured.

Since the time Don traveled to Minnesota to pursue his MFA in art, he and Kelly lived in Florida and North Carolina. Although Kelly passed before they could both retire to his home area, it was a blessing that our favorite "Bama Boy" could return to his roots. There, Don found many wonderful and generous friends who surrounded him with love and care. Our family is grateful to ALL of them. Rest in peace with your beloved Kelly, my "Brother".

Bill Schmidt

Bill Schmidt - September 04, 2025 at 02:06 PM