

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

December 2024

Planning Begins for Gala 2025—Our 25th!

By Connie Duncan
Vice President & Gala Chairperson

Announcing the 25th Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City Gala, scheduled for September 11 - 14, 2025, at the Embassy Suites, Tiffany Springs near Kansas City Airport.

The Gala committee will have its first meeting soon to work on beginning the planning.

We are happy to say the 2024 event was our sec-

ond largest Gala in 24 years and would like to thank all who attended. We are always looking for volunteers to help us during the Gala, from helping in hospitality to walking auction items. We will also need Fenton pieces for our big display.

We will have a lot more information to post after our meeting. I will be in touch with the hotel when reservations can be made. Information can be found at our website, newsletter, and Facebook page.

FFGKC Holiday Party

By Denise Adams

FFOGKC's 2024 Holiday Party is Saturday, December 14, at 1:00 p.m. Central. Guests will be treated to a traditional holiday meal catered by Sugar & Spice Catering. All are encouraged to bring their prized desserts to share (because we know holiday calories don't count!).



Highlights of the party include fantastic door prizes and a spirited game of "Dirty Bingo" where winners can "steal" a gift of Fenton, and hope they don't end up with the "Zonk" (damaged piece).

This year's location is at b4 Bakery & Eatery, 1443 Swift Avenue, North Kansas City, Mo. 64116. The location is easily accessed by major roads and has plenty of parking.

There is no charge for FFOGKC members, and non-member guests are \$25.00 each. **RSVPs are due by Friday, November 15**, to Denise Adams via email at dbradshaw@kc.surewest.net or by phone/text to 913-244-7239. Cash, check, or credit card are accepted at the event for pre-registered, non-members/guests.

Door prize donations of Fenton are always appreciated – please reach out to Denise. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!



The Board and leadership of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City wishes Joy & Happiness to all our members this December, and a happy, healthy New Year!!

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City is February 8, 2025. Join us at Sterling Full Gospel Church, 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, Mo. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

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Thank You to All Who Helped with Gala Auction

By Connie Duncan

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Saturday morning auction during the Gala. We hope you were able to get that special piece you wanted for your collection.

My special thanks to the following people for helping set up the auction: Joy and Eric Livengood, Sarah and Tim Smith, Max Blackmore, and Laurie and Jim Wroda.

The following folks helped on Saturday morning during the auction: Terri Moore, Peggy Hoyer, Vic Lemon, Karen Easton, David Jaques, and Bobbie Stanley worked as runners. Thanks to Max Blackmore and Tim Smith for being our ring men, and to Denise Adams for being such an excellent clerk. Laurie Wroda, Janet Wilke, and Dan Mandua did an amazing job getting everyone checked out. The auction would not happen without the help of our auctioneer, Jim Wroda. Thank you to all who make this event possible!

The 2025 Gala auction will be handled by Jackie Oglesby and Tom Limback. If you are interested in selling some glass in that auction, please contact them.



December Fenton Funny

Lots of times, collectors find things on the shelves of antique malls marked as Fenton that are not. This small circle-shaped piece of glass, with flowers and leaves in the top was marked with a seller's tag indicating it was a "Fenton iridescent blue votive." I laughed out loud at the pink

candle stuck in it, knowing this piece is Fenton's #8698 small clock. The clock at the antique mall is missing its mechanism, so the seller stuck a pink candle in it.

At the right is an example of a Fenton #8698 clock with the proper works.



Our Favorite Girls Attended their First Gala

Special thanks for Laurie and Jim Wroda for bringing our favorite girls, Faith and Hope, with them this year. They are the absolute goodest girls who let us play ball with them in the atrium, love on them during seminars, and they made us laugh!



Above: Faith stole Hope's ball.

Right: Hope playing fort in the table covers.



Photos from the October 2024 FFGKC Club Meeting

By Jackie Oglesby

We had a very good time at the meeting in October. Many members showed up to show their support for Tom Limback and Janet Wilke in their re-election campaigns. Both Tom and Janet were elected, and will serve two more years in the positions of president, Tom Limback and treasurer, Janet Wilke.

Thank you so much to Tom and Janet for being willing to do the work our club needs done in order to function.

We also had a very good turn out of glass for our

program. We had baskets, vases, animals, fish, and nymphs, as well as many other beautiful Fenton pieces showing up from the Gala and from finds made during the summer. One member even brought in four very sad examples of poor packing that resulted in broken glass. One basket was in so many pieces he left it in the box and shook the box to display it and did not try to take the basket out. He felt the shipping

company was not responsible, but rather the very poor way the sellers packed the glass resulted in the glass being broken. Very, very sad.

I hope that you enjoy the pictures as much as I enjoyed the meeting. Thank you and hope to see you at the Christmas Party in December!



Some of the glass brought to be shared at the October 2024 FFGKC club meeting.

More beautiful glass shared at the October club meeting!



Right: One club member shared some broken glass received due to poor packaging by the seller. Those pieces are on the lower left of the photo.



Fenton Look-a-Likes Seminar Draws Rave Reviews

Stephen Embry spoke to the Gala crowd after the Luncheon on Friday about his array of Fenton Look-a-Likes. He started off with the top three “offenders” and this particularly well-known offender went so far as to draw boos and hisses from the audience.

While we all recognize it as a non-Fenton vase, it is repeatedly listed, marked, and sold as Fenton by folks on-line and in shops, who either don’t know better or who are just out to make money and don’t care about getting the ID right. It has a heavy gob of crystal on the base, and such poor artwork, it would never be confused with Fenton by collectors.



Stephen Embry with “Public Enemy number 1” during his Fenton Look-a-Likes seminar.

Sadly, those sellers have figured out that the Fenton name sells glass, and that’s what most of them care about most.

His presentation also included information on cranberry glass, Burmese glass, baskets, crested pieces, and some hand painted vases.

There were both older and newer Fenton wanna-bes, including a handful of older A.A. Importing pieces and newer Asian imports. Embry’s warm sense of humor encouraged audience participation, and great information flowed both directions.

Gala Raffle Earns Club \$791; Won by Debbie Coe



Above: Dan Madura double-checks Debbie’s winning ticket number and presents her with the Lavender Satin vase hand painted with colorful birds by CC Hardman.



Above: Debbie Coe (left) showing her newly-won Lavender Satin hand painted colorful birds vase as her husband, Randy Coe (right) smiles approvingly.



Don't Know What it is? Share it at Gala's Glass ID

A favorite event at every Gala is the Glass ID seminar. Attendees are encouraged to bring glass pieces they need help identifying or would like to share with the group.

All the items are placed on the table in front of the ID panel, this year made up of Sarah Smith, and Anne and Max Blackmore, and each panelist gives information



Gala Glass ID panel, L-R: Sarah Smith, Anne Blackmore, Max Blackmore (photo courtesy of Stephen Embry).

and opinions about the item. The panelists encourage audience input and the use of books to solve any mysteries.

There are often 35 to 50 items shared by the audience, and it's not often the panel is stumped, but it does happen.



Bobbie Stanley sharing the story of how he and Kristina obtained this bowl.

Audience members who bring items are encouraged to share the stories of how they obtained the piece, and what they may already know about it.

Bobbie Stanley shared how he and Kristina bought their blue Fenton bowl with a deep ruby crest for a mere five dollars at a flea market where the bowl was on a crowded, dirty table. When they got home with it, they were ecstatic to find it in

John Walk's Fenton Rarities 1940-1985, with a value listed as "undetermined" because the bowl is so rare.

Glass ID is a good time and a great learning experience!

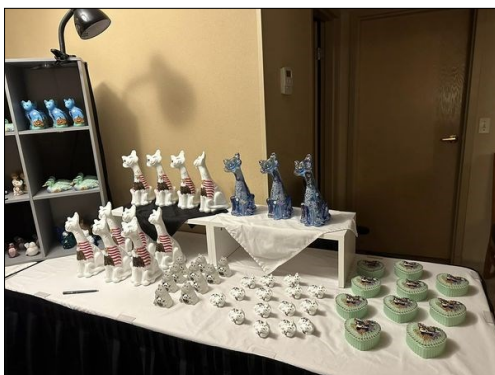


Additional glass shared at the 2024 Gala Glass ID.

New Location, New Guidelines for Club Glass Sales

In 2024, Club Glass Sales moved to the west side of second floor, and had some new guidelines.

First Time attendees were given entry to Glass Sales first, similar to what happens at the national conventions. A limit of pieces able to be purchased on the first day of Glass Sales was held to three. The goal was to allow more people to have an opportunity to purchase a beautiful souvenir of the Gala to take home with them.



First Half of the 2024 Individual Display Tables

At the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City 2024 Gala, we were so lucky to have 18 different Individual Display Tables shared with us by our members. Everything from the oldest to the newest types of Fenton, and Fenton-related glass, were

proudly displayed in the finest fashion. We will be publishing half of the tables in this issue, and the second half of the tables in the February 2025 issue of the newsletter. Thank you to everyone who shared their glass!



Table 1

Our first display table was a double table of Fenton's Dancing Ladies pieces. There were some of the 1930s urns and bowls, as well as a large sampling of the contemporary urns, many of which were produced for the FFGKC club.



Table 2

Table 2, presented by John Walk and Barbara Garrison, was a dazzling display of the 1937-1938 Fenton acid etch pattern, Silvertone. Particularly unusual items included the 12-piece punch set and the narrow relish.



Table 3

The Colorado Girls shared their favorite boats with us in Table 3. They showed both the sides up and sides down versions of the canoe bowls, as well as the contemporary carnival Viking Ship. The two small canoe ashtrays are very difficult to find.



Table 4

"Under the Sea" was the theme of Table 4. Our displayer shared many Fenton sea critters like whales, leaping trout, Koi fish, sun fish, off hand fish by Dave Fetty, but also water's edge items like a lighthouse, bear lifeguards, and bear pirate!

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First Half of the 2024 Individual Display Tables

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Table 5

Fenton's #893 ginger jar was shown on Table 5. This is a hard-to-find shape in any color, but our displayer brought 13 different examples, plus a Jade lamp complete with a Fenton cutting and solid Jade base. It was also great to see each jar had the appropriate six-toed ginger jar base.



Table 6

Craig Ricklefs stunned the Gala members by re-creating a 1993 Fenton Historical Collection Rose Magnolia in Hobnail original advertisement. He shared how difficult this color is to collect because different lighting impacts it very dramatically, making the glass almost impossible to buy on-line.



Table 7

Kristina and Bobbie Stanley presented us a phenomenal table of Fenton glass made for Rubel in the 1950s. Produced primarily in deep emerald green, Fenton and Paden City both made glass for Rubel. Fenton's pieces are a darker, richer green.



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First Half of the 2024 Individual Display Tables

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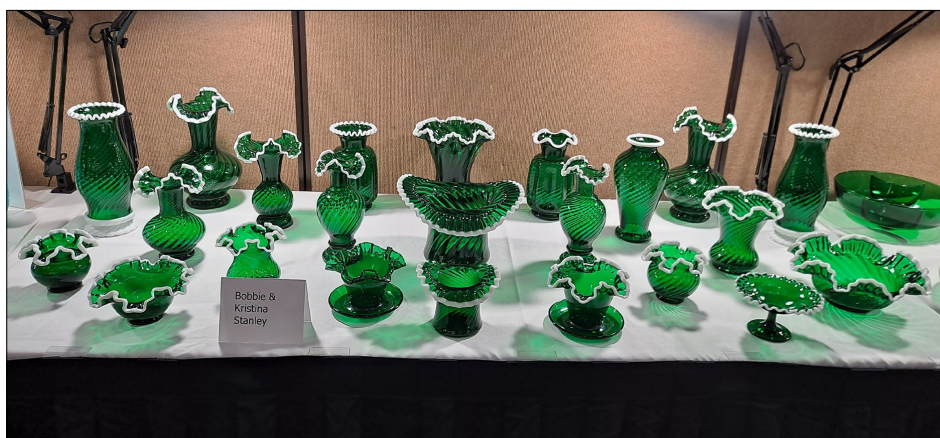


Table 8

Kristina and Bobbie Stanley shared a second collection on Table 8, their Emerald Snowcrest. This deep green glass with its stark white crest was produced in the 1950s, both for Fenton's own line (those items have a swirl optic) and for L.G. Wright (those pieces are plain with no optic).



Table 9

The 1950s was a popular theme in our display tables this year. Tom Limback, our FFGKC club president, presented a part of his Fenton Turquoise, including hobnail, Teardrop, Cape Cod, and Block and Star. Arguably, the most difficult piece on the table was the #5602 Buffet Set.



Max Blackmore, Sarah Smith, and Anne Blackmore led the Individual Display Table Review. Each table is discussed, and rarities, difficult pieces, items with interesting mould histories, and the like are discussed. Members who set up and shared tables with the group were encouraged to speak about their table, along with the seminar leaders.

The remaining nine display tables will be shared in the February 2025 issue of the newsletter.

Thank you very much to Stephen Embry for the Table Review seminar photos.

Have these Individual Display Tables inspired you? Now is a great time to start thinking about what you might want to share at Gala in 2025!



Is it Fenton or Is it Not?

Non-Fenton Items Advertised as Fenton in Shops and On-Line

By Anne Blackmore

U.S. Glass No. 15,140—Athenia Open Comport



This beautiful crystal comport, with platinum decoration, was found at an antique mall in the greater Kansas City area. The tag reads, "Fenton Silver Rim Glass Compote, \$39." When I took this photo, a friend and I were shopping. My friend is a collector of this pattern. She burst out laughing, and said, "I've got one for your

newsletter!" Indeed she did.

This comport was produced by U.S. Glass in Pittsburgh, in approximately 1912, at the end of the Early American Pattern Glass era. While U.S. Glass called it "pattern 15,140, this line has several collector names including "Athenia", "Reverse 44", and "Paneled 44".



The U.S. Glass logo is embossed in the bowl of this comport.

The Athenia line was typically produced in crystal, or crystal with the platinum or a colorful stain. It can very rarely be found in blue or topaz.

It's difficult to imagine confusing this pattern with a Fenton piece, as it has the U.S. Glass logo embossed in the center of the bowl, just above where the stem attaches.

Northwood Jade Twist Candlesticks

Candlesticks in jade glass. These are almost always going to be mis-labeled as Fenton!

Sure enough, I spotted these beauties on eBay a short while ago, and they were, indeed, labeled by the seller, as Fenton. Being a jade collector myself,

this color will always catch my eye. I knew immediately, this was not a Fenton mould shape.



Instead, these 10-1/4 inch tall candlesticks were made by the H. Northwood Co. of Wheeling, W.Va. Jade was introduced in 1924 and was noted in the November 8, 1923 issue of *Pottery, Glass, and Brass Salesman* to be "remarkable for its true simulation to the genuine Chinese jade."

Given the ware number 725, these large, imposing candlesticks were paired with an even larger, two handled oval bowl (ware #724), creating a console set. Fenton did obtain the mould for the #724 console bowl after Northwood's closing in 1926, but either did not get the candlestick mould, or never produced it.

Northwood was known to have produced the #725 candlestick in jade, topaz, Chinese Coral, black, amber, blue, and a pair is known in Luna.

Diamond Glass-Ware Co. Spindle Candlesticks



Several glass companies made blue stretch in the 1920s, so it's easy to understand why these lovely candlesticks would be mistaken for Fenton.

While I was not able to find a ware number for these candlesticks, they are listed as Diamond Glass-Ware Company in *The Candlestick Book, Volume 1* by Tom Felt and Elaine & Rich Stoehr.

Diamond was organized in 1913 by Thomas and Alfred Dugan in Indiana, Pa., after they resigned from the Dugan Glass Co. The factory burned in June 1931, and was not rebuilt.

This spindle-style candlestick is known in pink, green, and blue iridescent, and golden lustre.

Minutes of the FFGKC Meeting, October 12, 2024

The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City was called to order by our President, Tom Limback at 7:00 p.m.

Tom Limback called for corrections and additions to the meeting notes for the August 10, 2024, club meeting notes as published in October's newsletter; there were none. Paula Snow moved that they be accepted as printed. Connie Duncan seconded the motion, and it was passed by a vote of our members.

Janet Wilke gave the treasurers report for August and September of 2024.

Old Business

We had elections, Tom Limback had been nominated and had agreed to run for President and Janet Wilke had been nominated and had agreed to run for Treasurer. Both were reelected to office at the meeting which included four write-in votes for them.

Tom asked Connie Duncan for an update on Gala 2024. She reported that most things went very well. One problem was the hotel being slow to get the bill to us. Janet Wilke, after going over the bill, has questioned some of the charges and we are waiting to hear from the hotel for the final bill. Glass sales went well, as did the Saturday morning auction and Whimsy auction. Connie mentioned that we do have trouble getting glass made and is in talks with FAG-CA about doing a run of glass with them. Pam Shaffer volunteered that she had a friend who had contacts with several groups that have glass made and she thought they could help us. Connie reported that plans have started to be made for the 2025 Gala.

Connie also said that she would no longer be doing the auction, and that Tom Limback and Jackie Oglesby will be doing the auctions in the future. Jackie reported that they have had requests to hold around 150 spots for glass in 2025's auction already, but still needed to get lists and pictures to officially reserve those spots for the consigners. She

indicated that anyone who wishes to put glass in the auction it would be best to get the list and pictures in as soon as possible so that your glass will get in the auction. Just requesting a spot will not hold it.

New Business

Janet Wilke reminded us this is the time of year we make donations and suggested we might want to think about increasing the amount we give to \$750.00. Our usual charities are Harvesters, City Union Mission Family Center, Ronald McDonald House, and Uplift. Connie Duncan moved

we give \$750.00 to each of the charities, and Janet Wilke seconded the motion. It was passed by a vote of our members.

Janet also brought up it is also the time we send thank you gifts to Jim Wroda and CC Hardman for all the work they do for us to make our Gala a success. Connie Duncan moved we send them each \$750.00, and Dave Jaques seconded the motion. It was passed by a vote of our members.

Tom Limback won the door prize, a pink ring holder and a test sample for Amber glass.

The program for October was a group program on Gala and Summer Finds.

Treats for October, none.

The program for February will be on heart relish dishes, presented by Janet Wilke.

The treats for February will be provided by Connie Duncan

Janet Wilke moved that we leave at 8:44 p.m.

Connie Duncan seconded the motion. We left.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jackie Oglesby



Some of the glass shared at the October 12, 2024 meeting of the FFGKC.

Finds from the Road

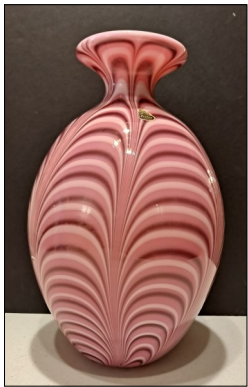
The Long and Winding Road



By Anne Blackmore

About four years ago, Max and I were antique shopping with very dear friends. We had a great route planned in and around, suburban Minneapolis, Minn. After shopping the outlying area, we drove closer to the metro area. This town has several antique shops within walking distance of each other, so we parked and walked between the stores.

At the first store, we found a couple of mid-century vases. This was definitely a happy-maker, as these vases are such good sellers. The second store is one of our favorites. We have purchased such a wide variety of items there; it is always exciting for us to schedule a trip to this shop. Sure enough, Max spotted two Cooperative Flint flower frogs almost right away as we walked in. The Coop frogs are easily identified by their thin, flat shape, and by the embossed writing on the back of them – Pat'd June 21, 1921.



Fenton Hyacinth Vase, part of the 1975-1976 Robert Barber line.

As we moved into the next section of the store, behind the large checkout desk, was the most amazing Fenton Hyacinth Vase. This 12-1/2 inch tall vase is pink, and has very dark pink and white pulled feather loops on it. Every loop was perfect. We knew the price was not going to be cheap, and a quick peek in the case confirmed this. Max and I stepped back to discuss the pros and cons of the purchase, and had just decided to go ahead and do it, when one of our friends said, “Would you please open the case so I could look at the big pink vase?” Drat. We snoozed and we loosed.

The Hyacinth Feather Vase was part of Fenton’s Robert Barber collection in the 1975-1976 time frame, and was ware number 0001. Production was limited to 450 pieces in April 1975. Robert Barber was a “glass-artist in residence” at Fenton in 1975. He initially designed four items, which were well-

received, but the second group Fenton commissioned sold poorly and ended their trial with Barber’s offhand glass. Fenton redirected Barber’s efforts elsewhere, including to a collection of art glass eggs. These eggs were originally a way for Barber to determine if various colors would work together (i.e., cool properly together, etc.), but it was decided they were eye-catching enough to be put in the line for sale. When the eggs did not sell as well as hoped, Barber was let go by Fenton in 1977.

Interestingly, the pieces in the Fenton “Barber Line” were not actually made by Robert Barber, but only designed by him. With Fenton workers being members of the American Flint Glass Workers Union, all glassworkers creating glass for Fenton had to be part of the union. Because Barber was not a union member, he was only allowed to work on his own projects during off hours, or to instruct the craftsmen how to make his designs, but he could not create items for sale and he was not part of the team creating his pieces for the Fenton line. Two craftsmen whose names are well-known to collectors were responsible for nearly all the Barber line pieces, Dave Fetty and Delmer Stowasser. Both were extraordinary craftsmen and created amazing glass.

But, back to the antique mall.... She and he are among our very best friends, and you don’t keep your very best friends if you get upset with them over a piece of glass. Even a beautiful, perfect piece of glass. We always believe in “people before glass.” So, we bit our tongues, oo’ed and aahh’ed over it, and complimented them on their good purchase.

We’ve enjoyed looking at it when visiting their home. Then this year, at the Fenton Gala in Kansas City, they had this wonderful, perfect piece for sale in their room! Max was very excited and snapped it up right away. Both of them seemed surprised, so he shared the original story about how they beat him to it back all those years ago and how he has loved it all this time.

It felt really good to know we had hidden our disappointment so well. They quoted us a nice price on this wondrous piece of art glass, and of course, Max said “yes” in an instant. Now we just need to find the perfect place for it in our cabinets!

