

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

June 2026

Club in Need of New President by August 1, 2026

Dear Members

I want to inform you I will be finishing out this year of Tom Limback's term as President. I have given a lot of thought to running for President again and have decided NOT to seek re-election for President of the club. I am not leaving the club, but feel it is time for someone else to take over and bring in new ideas. I have talked with Dan Madura, our Vice President, and he has informed me he will not run for President.

The club needs a President in order for it to continue. The club cannot operate without a President. We, the officers, have set a date of August 1, 2026

for someone to step forward to take this position. If no one will step up and run for this position, we will have to discontinue the club and stop the Gala. It was our hope by moving the meetings to six times a year and changing the meeting time to the afternoon, we would have more people attending meetings and make it possible to fill the board positions.

We have a fantastic club and the Gala has grown each year.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me.

Connie Duncan
President

A Message from Our President



By Connie Duncan

Can't believe it is time for another club newsletter. I was not able to lead the meeting on April 11 because I was on a nine-day vacation. Thank you to Dan Madura for running the April meeting.

I also want to thank Bobbie Stanley for his wonderful program. I have heard some people say they thought Cameo Opalescent glass was kind of plain and boring. My understanding is Bobbie and Kristina have a wonderful collection and it really surprised everyone.

The Gala was discussed and this year's auction is full. The auction listing and pictures will be coming

in the future.

Registrations and room reservations at the Embassy Suites have been coming in for the Gala. Please remember to contact Dan Madura if you are going to be selling glass and want to be on the second floor.

I am working on glass for Glass Sales and hope to have something new to add. CC and Karen are busy painting and they have talked with other artists about painting pieces for the Gala.

Everyone be safe hunting for that next special piece of Fenton.

Connie

Next Meeting—NEW TIME

Meeting Date: June 13, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Sterling Full Gospel Church,
3007 S. Sterling Ave.,
Independence, Mo.
Program: Peggy Hoyer
Treats: Jackie Oglesby

Table of Contents

Gala Registration Information	2
April Meeting Presentation	3
Jon Saffell, Fenton Designer, Part II	4
Is it Fenton or Is it Not?	9
Antique Shop Funnies	9
FFOGKC April Meeting Minutes	10
Finds From the Road	11

A Message From Your Gala Coordinator, Dan Madura



Save the dates! 2026 Gala September 10-12th — Our 26th Year!

Go to our website to see all registration and hotel reservation links:

<https://fentonfinderskc.net/>

The website will always have the most up-to-date information. I will also be doing more emails this year to keep everyone updated. Here are a few highlights:

The Second Floor is Filling Up!

The second floor is filling up fast! If you plan on selling glass out of your room, please make your hotel reservations and complete your registration. You will be contacted to work out your room assignment. If you sold glass last year, but have decided not to sell this year, please contact me and let me know:
dmadura.ffogkc@gmail.com

Big Display

“Fenton Celebrates America” coordinated by Amanda Herman, Kristina Stanley, and Carol Rigsby, will be to coincide with the 250th anniversary of our country. The display will consist of Red, White, and Blue glass, Fenton Bicentennial pieces, and any other glassware created by Fenton that commemorates America. Do you want to contribute glass? Go to the website for more information.

Luncheon Speaker

Cal Hackeman, President of the Stretch Glass Society. Cal will be featuring a selection of red, white, and blue stretch glass complementing our Big Display. This is a great seminar not to be missed! The Stretch Glass Society has a wonderful and informative website: <https://www.stretchglassociety.org/>

Glass Painting

CC Hardman and Karen Easton will be demonstrating their art of glass painting. This has always been very informative with great stories of painting at the Fenton factory. They paint many pieces that are for sale to the attendees to benefit the club. These are a limited edition never to be repeated. See the FFOGKC website for more information.

Registration

Some have reported not seeing the checkout button when registering on their phone. The quick simple fix is to rotate your phone to landscape orientation. The button will then appear.

Cheers!

Your Vice President,

Dan

Fenton's Cameo Opalescent Shared at April Meeting

By Michelle Pennington

Bobbie Stanley gave a presentation on one of his newer collections, Cameo Opalescent, a beige opalescent color Fenton produced from 1926 to 1927. The pattern was re-introduced in 1979 and was produced until 1982.

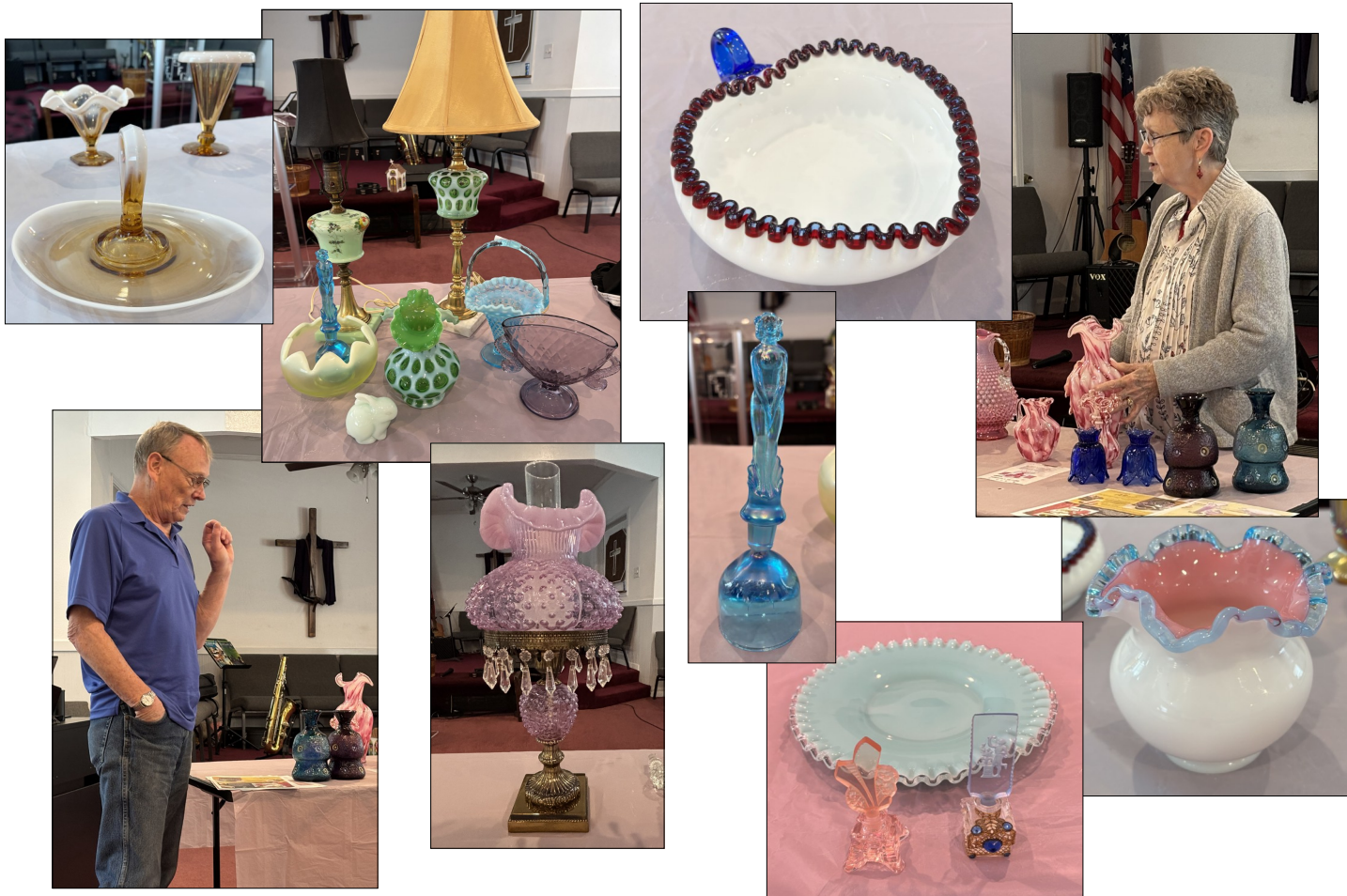
Bobbie's collection of Cameo Opalescent started innocently enough, with the purchase of a #1512 flared bowl off Facebook Marketplace, but the collection has grown quickly. Among the pieces Bobbie shared was a beautiful 16-inch vase with alternating bands of the cameo color and opalescence. This was actually a swung vase, produced from Fenton's #1554 flower pot. He also shared a variety of bowls made from the #857 mould, a favorite of Fenton's at the time. Bobbie gave all of

us the opportunity to see a very rare piece, an oval handled tray that is cupped. The tray is one of only two known to exist. Thank you, Bobbie, for sharing your collection with us!



Some other members shared their new finds, including Jackie Oglesby who brought in the 8 -1/2 inch Silver Turquoise plate she was missing when she gave her presentation on February 14, Carol Rigsby brought in a very unusual Celeste Blue September Morn Nymph on a font, and Craig Ricklefs brought

in a piece he had been on the hunt for and was finally able to purchase - a Rose Magnola Student Lamp with prisms that completed his collection of Rose Magnola Hobnail. We appreciate all who shared with us!



Jon Saffell, Fenton Product Designer, Second in a Series

By Sarah Smith

This is the second in a series of articles on Jon Saffell, a prominent designer for Fenton from 1994 to 2004.

Jon Saffell was hired by Fenton in 1994 to be a product designer and sculptor.



Jon Saffell, working at Fenton.

In this article we will explore his figurals designed between 2000 and 2006.



But we have one last Saffell piece from 1999. Fenton's #5328 Little Sister Doll—a young girl in a long dress, holding a teddy bear.

The Little Sister Doll, in this floral decoration, was the Nancy Fenton 1999 Spring Showcase Dealer Exclusive. The decoration was designed by Kim Plauché (now Kim Barley), it was numbered, and only available through April 30, 1999.

This miniature kitten was an immediate hit when it was introduced in 2000.

Fenton's #5365 Miniature Kitten. Measuring just 2-3/4 inches tall, this little fellow was introduced in 2000.



Another miniature animal began its production in 2000, Fenton's #5251 Baby Bear. In the 2000 General Catalog, the Baby Bear is shown in Cobalt, Aquamarine, Ice Blue, and Violet.



Fenton's #5251 Baby Bear. Measuring just 2-3/4 inches tall, this little fellow was introduced in 2000 along with the miniature kitten.

Another animal made its way from Jon Saffell's design to Fenton's production in 2000, the #5271 Stylized Butterfly. This four-inch tall figurine was produced in 2000 in Violet, Empress Rose, Cobalt, Aquamarine, Champagne, and Ice Blue.

Fenton's #5271 Stylized Butterfly. This 4-inch figurine was part of a number of new Saffell "Critters" introduced in 2000.



The last non-holiday piece Saffell produced for 2000 was Fenton's #5137 large Dolphin. It was shown in the 2000 General Catalog in Aquamarine, Ice Blue, and Ice Blue Pearl (iridized Ice Blue).



Fenton's #5137 large Dolphin is 5-1/4 inches tall. It was produced for the first time in 2000, in Aquamarine, Ice Blue, and Ice Blue Pearl, an iridized version of Ice Blue.

When the Christmas 2000 catalog rolled out, there were several lovely new surprises for collectors. The first was the Fenton #5267 Penguin. This charming fellow was offered in two decorations that initial year, "Magnolia Holiday" on Spruce Green and "Frosty Friends" a winter scarf and greens motif on opal satin designed by Martha Reynolds.



Fenton's #5267 4-1/2 inch Penguin. Left: "Magnolia Holiday" on Spruce Green and Right: "Frosty Friends" on opal satin were the first two versions offered.

(continued on page 5)

Jon Saffell, Fenton Product Designer 1994-2004

(continued from page 4)

We are lucky enough to have one of Jon Saffell's original drawings of our next two figurines, the Snowman (#5268) and Snowlady (#5269), two of Fenton's most popular Christmas/winter pieces.



An original drawing by Jon Saffell of his delightful Snowman and Snowlady who debuted in 2000.

Fenton's #5268 Snowman and #5269 Snowlady (both 4 inches tall), in the "Frosty Friends" on opal satin design by Martha Reynolds.



With the immediate popularity of the Nativity Set produced between 1997 and 1999, Fenton was motivated to produce a second Nativity design. The release of the #5070 Christmas Star Holy Family in 2001, with the figurines of Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus was a graceful, almost stylized approach, to this classic art form.



Fenton's Christmas Star Holy Family. Joseph is 7-1/2 inches tall, Mary is 6-1/2 inches tall, and Infant Jesus in the small manger is 3-1/2 inches long.

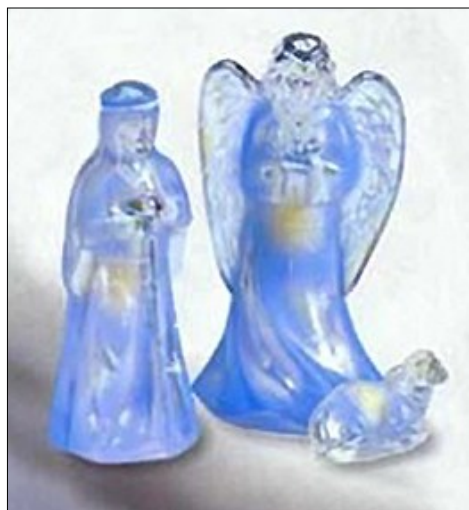
The #8595 Imperial Slipper was introduced in 2001. It was 6-1/2 inches long and had delicate detail. The Imperial Slipper was available in the 2001 General Catalog in Red Carnival, Willow Green, Violet, and Pink Chiffon.



Fenton's #8595 Imperial Slipper, introduced in 2001. This Violet slipper has hand painted swans on the side.

Fenton continued building on the success of the Christmas Star Holy Family in 2001, with the next three pieces in the series, the Shepherd, the Gloria Angel, and the Lamb were released in 2002. The ware number for this group of three was #5104.

Fenton did re-release the Holy Family from 2001, but in the 2002 second edition, changed the design of the glittering stars, so the first edition would remain easily identifiable.



Fenton's Christmas Star Shepherd, Gloria Angel, and Lamb. Produced in Crystal, then decorated in a design by Kim Plauché (now Kim Barley) of glittering white stars and airbrushed blue intended to mimic the winter sky.

(continued on page 6)

Jon Saffell, Fenton Product Designer 1994-2004

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With the success of its Christmas glass, it was only natural Fenton would seek to begin producing Halloween lines. Jon Saffell designed some collector favorites beginning with the loveable #5278 ghost figurine. In 2002, this 5-1/2 inch tall ghost was made in French Opalescent, and hand painted with a spiderweb design. He was named "Gaspar."



Fenton's #5278 French Opalescent ghost figurine, named Gaspar. The 5-1/2 inch tall ghost was hand painted with the spider and web design.

If there is a ghost, it's only natural to have a witch. So Jon Saffell designed a wonderful witch figurine who also debuted in 2002. Produced in black glass, and hand painted with a green face and hands, and her satchel reading, "Warts, Toads, Spiders." She is 6-1/2 inches tall and Fenton named her "Grenelda the Witch."

Fenton's #5284 Grenelda the Witch figurine. She is 6-1/2 inches tall. Produced in black glass, with green painted face and hands, with her satchel painted to read "Warts, Toads, Spiders."



Every witch needs her cat, so Jon Saffell design Fenton's #5291 Scaredy Cat. With an arched back and vertical tail, it is safe to guess this is not a cat in a good mood. He is 4-1/2 inches tall, and hand painted with a spider web across his hind quarters.



Fenton's #5291 Scaredy Cat in black glass with hand painted spider web. The cat is 4-1/2 inches tall.

More critters joined the Fenton line-up in 2002, starting with the #5274 frog, measuring 2-1/2 inches. Both this frog mould and the following turtle mould were part of the "Into the Pond" group.

Fenton's #5272 frog debuted in 2002 as part of the "Into the Pond" group. It was produced in Violet, Blue Topaz, Crystal, and Willow Green. All four colors had hand painted floral designs.



The second member of the "Into the Pond" series was Fenton's #5266 turtle. This adorable turtle is 4 inches long, and was produced in the same four colors for the series as the #5274 frog was, Violet, Blue Topaz, Crystal, and Willow Green.



Fenton's #5266 turtle in Willow Green.

A third new aquatic figural for 2002 was the #5276 Asian Goldfish, or Koi. It was one of the two Glass Messenger exclusives for the year. While the Glass Messenger Koi was produced in Sunset, the Asian Goldfish was also produced in Amethyst Carnival and Blue Topaz in 2002.

Fenton's #5276 Koi in Sunset. Its color ranges from pinks to sienna.



The last critter Jon Saffell designed for 2002 was the #5262 Baby Bunny. Produced for the "Hugs for You" series in Pink, Violet, Blue Topaz, and Willow Green, each was hand painted with a different

(continued on page 7)

Jon Saffell, Fenton Product Designer 1994-2004

(continued from page 6)

design including flowers, bees, dragonflies, and butterflies, and a loving phrase such as “Hugs for You,” and “Butterfly Kisses.”



Fenton's 3-inch tall #5262 Baby Bunny in Blue Topaz. Also produced in Pink, Violet, and Willow Green in the “Hugs for You” series.

2003 saw the addition of the Three Wise Men to the Christmas Star Nativity series, and the completion of the first edition. As with the addition of the Angel, Shepherd, and Lamb in 2002, previous parts of the nativity were available as second editions, with a slightly different glittering star pattern, to help distinguish first edition pieces from later editions. The first edition pieces of the Three Wise Men were identified as Fenton ware #5059.

Fenton's #5059 set of Three Wise Men in the Christmas Star Nativity series. This set completed the series. Melchoir is 5-1/2 inches tall, Gaspar is 7-1/2 inches tall, and Balthazar is 7-1/4 inches tall.



Another two Christmas favorites had their initial catalog run in 2003. Both Fenton's #5294 Hugging Santa and the #5563 7-inch Stylized Christmas Tree were designed by Jon Saffell and premiered in 2003.

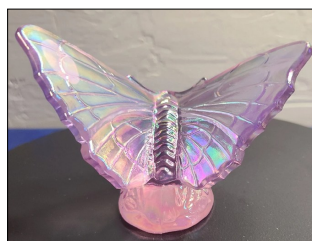


Fenton's #5294 Hugging Santa named “Nick” hand painted in the “Frosty Friends” design by Stacy Williams. He is 4-1/2 inches tall.

At 7 inches tall, Fenton's #5563 Stylized Christmas Tree (shown here in Royal Lenten Rose) debuted in 2003. Other colors available that year were Spruce Green and Autumn Gold.



Fenton's 2003 Spring catalog saw a new sculpture from Jon Saffell, the #5296 3-inch Butterfly. It was available from that Spring catalog in Blue, Violet, Sunset, Willow Green, Rose, and Opal Mist.



Fenton's #5296 3-inch Butterfly. Advertised for the first time in the Fenton 2003 Spring Catalog.

Fenton's adorable Lop Eared Bunny (#5293) entered the collector world in the Spring 2004 catalog.

Fenton's #5293 Lop-eared Bunny from the Spring 2004 catalog. He is decorated in Robin Spindler's “Dewdrops” design.



Fenton's sweet Grooming Cat (#5074) is another collector favorite by Jon Saffell. She was introduced in 2004.



Fenton's #5074 Grooming Cat is 4-inches tall. She debuted in the Spring 2004 catalog, and is shown here in Robin Spindler's “Dewdrops” design.

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Jon Saffell, Fenton Product Designer 1994-2004

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2004 saw the introduction of another sweet cat, the Jon Saffell #5064 Sleeping Kitten. She was available in several decorations including a floral chintz pattern by Frances Burton, Dewdrops by Robin Spindler, Inspirations (no designer named), and Irish Treasures by Robin Spindler.

Fenton's #5064 Sleeping Kitten in the "Inspirations" design. The Sleeping Kitten is 3-1/2 inches long.



Jon Saffell also designed a dog for those dog-lovers among the Fenton collectors. In 2004, the #5085 4-inch Puppy was available in the 2004 Spring and General catalogs.



Fenton's #5085 Puppy was available in the 2004 Spring and General catalogs. It is shown here in Amethyst Carnival. It was also available that first year in the Dewdrops pattern by Robin Spindler, Grape Arbor on French Opalescent by Kim Barley, and Ruby Amberina Stretch.

Fenton's #5066 4-inch Hummingbird figurine was another 2004 Jon Saffell sculpture that was almost an instant hit with collectors. Its graceful curved form can enhance any display.

Fenton's #5066 4-inch Hummingbird was released in 2004. It was initially available in Sunset, Celeste Blue (example at right), Amethyst, Rosemilk, Green Apple, and Violet.



Another one of Jon Saffell's very popular angels became available to collectors in 2004. This is the #5034 5-inch Angel. She is often seen decorated with a jeweled cross just below her hands which are folded in prayer. Her first appearance in a Fenton catalog was the 2004 Dealer catalog.

Fenton's #5034 5-inch Angel. She is decorated in Kim Barley's "Frostberries" design.



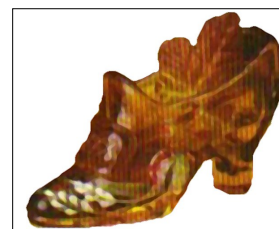
Jon Saffell's #5087 4-inch Dolphin was released to production in 2005, after Jon had left Fenton.



Fenton's #5087 4-inch Dolphin, from the Fenton 2005 General Catalog. It is an iridized Violet.

The last figural design of Jon Saffell's we will share is the #7737 4-1/2 inch Shoe. This is a heeled shoe with a large buckle. In the 2006 Dealer Catalog, it is shown in Autumn Gold with Frances Burton's "Wheatberry" design hand painted.

Fenton's #7737 4-1/2 inch Shoe from the 2006 Dealer Catalog, hand painted in Frances Burton's Wheatberry design.



This concludes the section on Jon Saffell's figurals designed for Fenton. I will next look at his vases and baskets. Please join me!

Is it Fenton or Is it Not?

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

By Anne Blackmore

Those of you who read this column regularly may be scratching your heads at the change-up in the headline. This time, I realized I'd found a bunch of Fenton glass labeled as glass made by *other* companies. Perhaps by sharing some of these, readers may find some new ideas of where to look for their favorite pieces in on-line searches.

Fenton #573 Jade Vase

This hard-to-find Fenton Jade vase from the 1930s was found listed on eBay as "Fire King Jadeite Art Deco ruffled edge vase." They had a few words correct—it is a ruffled edge vase.



The description was, sadly, pretty obviously written by an AI tool. It stated "Made of glass and featuring the signature Fire-King brand...." I'm curious as to how that works as there is no actual signature on this vase. It also listed "packaged in a box" as a feature!

This is not the first piece of Fenton I've found listed under Fire King.

Fenton #1093 Milk Glass Open Edge Bowl

Fenton's Open Edge line of bowls and plates produced in the 1930s are quite popular with collectors.



This harder-to-find three-row milk glass open edge bowl was listed on eBay as "Rare Westmoreland Milk Glass Round Open Lace Bowl Basketweave Footed". Overall, it's not a bad description, except for the glaring error in the manufacturer of the piece being Westmoreland, rather than Fenton. While Westmoreland did make a lot of excellent quality milk glass, so did Fenton, and this is a well-known Fenton mould shape. The seller would likely do better to list this piece properly, because the #1903 Open Edge line items with the three little feet like this bowl has are considerably harder to find than those bowls without them.



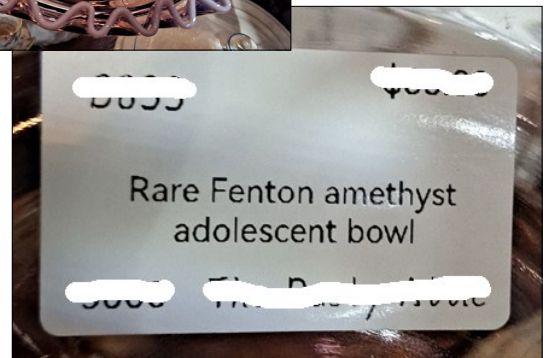
Antique Shop Fenton Funnies

Sometimes we find more than good glass in antique malls. Every once in a while, we find a good laugh along the way!

A little while back we spotted a #100 Wide Rib bowl in Amethyst Opalescent, so I moved in closer to look at the price tag. While the price was higher than we were willing to pay, the price tag did give us a good chuckle.

We Fenton collectors are familiar with the color Amethyst Opalescent, and the word "opalescent" in general. But, it would seem not everyone is. Instead of saying "Amethyst Opalescent", this seller identified the bowl as "Amethyst *Adolescent*."

Given that this beautiful bowl is well over 100 years old, it is well beyond being an adolescent!



Minutes of the FFOGKC Meeting, April 11, 2026

The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City was called to order by our Vice President/Gala Coordinator, Dan Madura, at 1:05 p.m.

Dan asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 14, 2026 meeting minutes published in the April newsletter. No one had any additions or corrections to the minutes, so Janet Wilke moved to approve the minutes, Peggy Hoyer seconded Janet's motion and the minutes were approved as published.

Janet Wilke gave the treasurer's report for March.

Old Business

With Janet W. in attendance, Craig Ricklefs brought up the four-percent fee for paying for the storage unit by credit card. To avoid the fee, we would need to pay by check. Craig stated the storage unit rent is currently paid until the first of June and he will forward the invoice to Janet when he receives it so she can pay the rent by check at that time.

New Business

Dan Madura shared registration has been opened (earlier than usual) for the Gala. Janet W. stated 37 people are currently registered.

Michelle Pennington discussed the glass blowing class on May 2, 2026, stating the cost would be \$65 per person regardless of the number attending, but we would need to send Englewood Arts Center half of the registration fees as a deposit as soon as possible. She also provided some copies of the waiver that would need to be signed and a couple of other forms in connection with the class.

Amanda Herman discussed the additional glass needed for this year's Gala display. She stated she would write an article concerning what glass is needed to be published in the next newsletter. She

specifically mentioned since last year's Gala display was all older glass, she would like to have some of the newer red carnival and other newer glass for this year's display. Members may e-mail her with information on the pieces they can bring for the display.

She said photographs would not be necessary.

Our program was provided by Bobbie Stanley on Fenton's Cameo Opalescent glass produced from 1926 to 1927. He provided many examples of the glass, including an oval handled tray that only two are known to exist.



After a brief break, members showed off some of their recent acquisitions. Some of those items were a red and blue double-crested heart dish brought in by Bobbie Stanley, Jackie Oglesby brought in the 8-1/2 inch Silver Turquoise plate she was missing when she gave her presentation on February 14, Carol Rigsby brought in a very unusual Celeste Blue September Morn Nymph on a font, and Craig Ricklefs brought in a piece he had been on the hunt for and was finally able to purchase - a Rose Magnola Student Lamp with prisms that completed his collection of Rose Magnola Hobnail.

Peggy Hoyer agreed to present the program at our June meeting. It will be focused on transportation-related pieces hand painted by Michael Dickinson. Jackie Oglesby agreed to bring treats.

Dan Madura made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Amanda Herman seconded that motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Pennington
Secretary

Finds from the Road

Are We Seeing Double?



By Anne Blackmore

In the middle of March, we finally had time to relax and stop at one of our favorite shops in the greater Chicago area .

Like normal, we did not find anything in the first part of the shop. So, we made our way to the second half of the shop. This half offered us some stunning art glass at the beginning, at very high “we know what we have” kind of pricing. So, we admired it for a while, and moved on into the rest of the shop. In one corner, we found a shelf filled with lovely English blue opalescent glass by Davidson. Only the seller had it marked as “Northwood.” We picked up several of these 1890-era lovelies.

Around the corner, is our favorite booth, filled primarily with Victorian-era and other various art glass. Max found three fabulous old cranberry opalescent tumblers – a Stars and Stripes, a Christmas Snowflake, and best of all, a Poinsettia. I could see he was debating.

As we headed back into the main room, the booth owner came in to restock. We struck up a conversation with him and by the time we left, he and Max had come to a price agreement on all three of those stunning cranberry tumblers!

As we began looking in the main room again, we stopped in a booth with some kitschy kinds of things. Max went to the back of the space, and some hens on nests caught my eye. At first, I thought I had seen a 1950s Fenton milk glass chick on a nest, so I went in closer to see the price.

Then I realized what I’d really seen, and my knees went weak – a McKee milk glass Double Chick six-inch covered dish, produced in Jeannette, Pa. circa 1870-1899. We had seen this piece sell for \$400 at a Greentown Glass auction in October 2013, and

had not seen another one since. I did some research on line and saw closed auction values up to \$1,500. I pointed it out to Max, who turned around quickly, his eyes getting big.

Always the level-headed one, he asked if there was any damage. No damage, but the McKee top was sitting on what was probably a Westmoreland base. Not too unusual, bases to covered animal dishes were often broken, and many are interchangeable. The proper McKee base is called a “split rib” base, with two layers of vertical ribs going around the circumference of the base. The proper base also has the McKee logo in the center of the interior.

We had seen this Double Chick covered dish, in chocolate glass, sell at the same 2013 Greentown Glass auction for \$4000. Because it was made by Indiana Tumbler and Goblet (aka Greentown Glass), it has a Greentown Glass base, and not a McKee base. There is just one of these known to exist. Just recently, that same piece sold for \$8000.



Then came the real question... how much for this milk glass beauty? I was very afraid it was going to be sky-high considering what a very scarce piece this is (even with its wrong base). Relief swept over

me, as I realized Max and I could not eat at Chili’s for the price marked on this little beauty. I felt tears come to my eyes.

Now the hunt is on for the proper base. McKee made a significant menagerie of six-inch milk glass covered dishes including a horse, turkey, squirrel, dove, and elephant, and some are relatively common. Our hope is to find a more common dish and replace the top with our rare Double Chick top.

We are not milk glass collectors, but we do love a good rare piece when we find it, and this McKee Double Chick covered dish certainly fits the bill.

Happy hunting, dear friends!

