

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will start on Thursday, September 23rd, 2021, with registration beginning at 1:00 PM to 4 PM and the meeting will end on Saturday, September 25th, 2021, at around 10:00PM at the end of our banquet and our whimsy auction. The location will be the Embassy Suites, 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, I-29, exit 10, Kansas City MO 64153-2304. To contact the hotel please call 816-891-7788.

Hello everyone!

The 2021 Fenton Finders Gala is about to commence!

I am sure everyone is just as excited as I am. As I mentioned last month, I have been in very close contact with the hotel regarding the Kansas City mask mandate. Nothing has changed since our last newsletter. Masks are only required in the public areas of the hotel. This does not include meeting spaces and rooms. This does not affect breakfast and happy hour. They are treating it as a restaurant. You must wear your mask getting your drinks and food, but you can take them off at the table. This mandate expires on September 23rd, the first day of the gala, although it could be extended.



Just wanted to drop this quick note to keep everyone updated.

Dan Madura

President

Thank you, Dan



Now a word from our vice-president, Connie Duncan

Gala 2021 is almost here and I am excited to see everyone.

It is hard to believe 21 years have passed since the first meeting at Jon and Beverly Spencer's family room. After some discussion and ideas in place it was agreed to call the function a Gala.

Not having the Fenton Factory and the Fenton Gift Shop and Museum to tour and shop the Gala committee had lots of work and planning to do. A hotel was chosen first. Activities had to be planned. Glass ID was the first

activity added to the list. We needed to have a speaker who had knowledge of Fenton. Our first speaker was Ferrill Jean Rice cofounder of the FAGCA. Individual table displays were added for education. The highlight of the Gala is our big display with a theme chosen each year. An auction of 230 Fenton pieces of glass was placed in the schedule.

The committee worked with the Fenton company to bring good quality glass for the attendees to purchase. We started with logo rocks, footballs, and plates to finance the gala. The committee has worked hard to have quality glass produce over the last several years. We have been fortunate to have a fantastic group of Fenton Collectors attend the Gala and purchase our glass. Also, without the dedicated committee through the years and hard work the Gala would not have been possible.

Thank you all

Connie Duncan

Vice President

Thank you, Connie.

Now comes the time when all our planning pays off and the work of getting the Gala ready starts. Wednesday afternoon, September 22, 2021, there will be a lot of people heading to the Embassy Suites at the Kansas City Airport to check in and/or start getting everything set up for the Gala. This includes many glass sellers as well as the club members working on get the Gala set up. The shelves for the big display will be set up so that Thursday morning the glass can be unloaded and set up as quickly and safely as possible. The hospitality room will be set up and we welcome anyone who has the time and is willing to help set it up to come in and you will be set to work in one area or another. Dan Madura will be setting up the glass sales room as well as helping Connie Duncan set up the big display and we are sure if there are people available who would like to help that they will be put to work in one of the rooms. We hope to get the rooms early, at least by 12 and the hotel has promised to do their best to get these rooms ready for us so that we can start working right away but it may have to wait. Many of our sellers will be setting up their rooms Wednesday so one benefit of coming to help set up the Gala is that you may get a chance to see the sellers setting up their rooms and they may let you get a peek at their glass for sale. Check in time for rooms is 4:00PM so they may not be ready for anyone so no promises. Just a lot of hope. Please keep that in mind for Thursday as well, check in time is 4PM so while there is a good chance that you may get in your room before that it is possible you may have to wait, visit the hospitality room while waiting and then do some room shopping. Registration opens at 1:00PM and glass sales will be open next to the hospitality room so lots to do while waiting.

As you pack, don't forget to pack something for the potluck dinner in hospitality room. It looks like everything will be normal, as possible, with

extra cleaning so we will look forward to some good salads and even better desserts. Don't forget to bring a large appetite as well.

If you have not done so yet please don't forget to pack some glass for glass id. After the BBQ Thursday night this will be our first function and it is always a lot of fun, which makes learning something so much easier. Please if you can bring in something, it does not have to be Fenton, it may be a piece that you are not sure is Fenton or something special that you wish to share with us. Sometimes our experts, Max and Anne Blackmore and Melvin Lampton may end up telling you your glass is not Fenton, it maybe something much better or maybe not, if they do not know they may be able to give you an idea of where you can get more information about it. It is fun as well as educational but only if we bring in glass to be id.



Finds From the Road

A Good Day Just Keeps Getting Better

By Anne Blackmore

After the Fenton conventions in the Williamstown, W. Va. Area, Max, and I decided to "shop" our way home, since we did not shop on our way to the conventions. We also decided to take a different way home from our normal, allowing us to explore some shops we don't get to very often.

Barely out of town, we stopped at a new place and found some great things at great prices. Nice to have the day off to such a good start! When we arrived at the next shop, we really made a haul, Burmese, a great Alley Cat, a nice Fenton lamp, plus a really scarce Viking ashtray which will be a great addition to our Viking seminar coming up in October at the Glass Gathering being sponsored by the Museum of American Glass.

At the third stop, there were two shops plus a very small outdoor flea market. There was nothing for us at the first shop, but we found a signed Libbey crystal cut comport with their classic twist stem for practically nothing at the little flea market. The second shop at this stop was a humdinger!

The first booth we stopped in was marked fifty percent off. Right away the assumption is, the space will be completely picked over and nothing good will be left. Nope! We found a scarce 11-inch amethyst Cooperative Flint candlestick, a Greentown chocolate glass rare rabbit on nest, and an 1880s tiny milk glass smoke bell all for under \$25.00. The next few booths had some lovely, high-end pieces, but their prices reflected that. We appreciated but did not make any selections.

The booth in the corner is where we really found our prize! Here was a Fenton #570 fan vase (with the glass knob connector) in a color we had never seen before, plain Topaz. We had seen it in Topaz stretch glass, but not without the iridized finish. How interesting and unusual! Like all of Fenton's Topaz, the vase reacts vividly to a black light.

Plain Topaz was not a commonly used color; Topaz was typically iridized in older Fenton. In researching through Whitmyers' *Fenton Art Glass 1907-1939*, I found just a few references to plain Topaz: #549 8.5-inch candlestick, and #349 10 inch and #449 8.5-inch candlesticks (and both the #349 and #449 with cut ovals). We personally have a #232 candlestick that was stretched to 10 inches in plain Topaz in our collection.

It is reasonable to hypothesize Fenton produced this vase somewhere in the 1916 to approximately 1928 time period. Since it is not listed in any of the early Fenton books we looked in, it is also reasonable to think perhaps Fenton either simply made a test run of vases in this color or made a small amount of these for another company.

This vase takes the 5.5 inch long, narrow flower frog, so finding the matching frog will be our next challenge!

Happy Hunting, dear friends! We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

Thank you, Anne. We are looking forward to seeing you and Max soon!

Since we did not have a meeting last month, we thought it would be fun to present some of our favorite small table displays from years past for your enjoyment and inspiration. If you have not reserved your table yet please do. We still have some tables open, and we hope that seeing some of the tables from the past will inspire those who are hesitant about bringing some glass to display to do a table display. Contact Janet Wilke at kenwilke@cox.net to let her know that you would like to bring glass for a small table display. The pictures following are not our only favorites, after

20 years of small table displays it would be very difficult for us to pick a favorite, but only a few to let everyone see some of the beautiful displays that have been brought to the Gala for everyone's enjoyment.



Some beautiful old Ruby piece



Gorgeous old Black and Jade



Kaleidoscope Nursery Cup Plates & Coin Spot Lamps



1984 Artisan Series



Bears on a picnic



Charleton



Fenton Hats

More Fenton Hats



Mongolian Green, 1930's



Hummingbirds and Butterflies



Fenton's Angels



Birds of Winter

Do you have a favorite? There are so many possibilities!

We hope that everyone had a happy and safe Labor Day weekend and are now ready to pack up and come to Kansas City and enjoy three days of fun and meeting old and new friends. Randy and Debbie Coe are our special guests. They will be sharing a lot of information with us. Randy and Debbie are always a lot of fun. So, if you have any questions that you think that they can answer please bring them to the Gala. We have one, do they think that anyone will be able to do a book on the last decade that Fenton was in operation? We would really like to see that.

The weather is cooling off, still a little warm during the day and cool in the morning here in Kansas City so we can enjoy the outside while at the Gala, there are some golf courses close by the hotel as well as some antique malls and shopping centers (in case you want to do more than shop for glass).

It is also time to renew your membership, if you have not already done that, please either get with Janet Wilke at the Gala and renew your membership or send a check for \$5.00 for an individual membership or \$7.50 for a family membership to

Janet Wilke Treasurer

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

PO Box 67071, Topeka KS 66667-0071

We hope to see you soon, until then stay safe and keep on looking for that rare and/or hard to find piece of Fenton that you can brag about at the Gala!

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary

