

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be FEBRUARY 11TH, 2023 at the Sterling Full Gospel Church located at 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, MO. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

Above is a picture of our four very happy dirty bingo winners. Caitin Cox, a new member who only joined last month was the winner of the broken piece of Fenton, as can be seen the shade of the lamp she won is missing. However, as can also be seen she is smiling because her aunt, Amanda Herman revealed that she has a shade that would be a match for the lamp, so Caitin won a very nice prize. Sue Winkel, a longtime member won a very nice Misty Blue Satin, Lily of the Valley candy jar with cover from 1997, Sue was busy during the dinner checking on her bids on Jim Wroda's auction that was running at the same time as the dinner (a true Fenton collector), Craig Ricklefs won a beautiful Pink Chiffon Opalescent hobnail vase, Craig who collects only hobnail and had a absolutely beautiful small table display at the Gala of a table setting of French Opalescent Hobnail was delighted with his winnings, and our last winner on the right is Debbie Claxton, another longtime member, won a beautiful Opaline 8 ½" vase made for the historic collection in 1996. She was excited because this will be the start of a new collection. All seem to be very happy, the rest of us were kind of sad, of course there is always next year!

We had over 30 members join us for our Christmas dinner, and we believe that everyone enjoyed themselves, the food was good, the bingo games fun and the company wonderful. We also had a short meeting to vote on the people who were nominated to be president and treasurer. Dan Madura was reelected to the office of president and Janet Wilke was reelected to the office of treasurer. We want to thank them for being willing to do the work that needs to be done to keep our club functioning. We discussed a few other things and voted on them; Dan Madura's article will go into detail on these items.

Meanwhile enjoy some pictures take of the party.



Steve Claxton enjoying some very good food

Door prizes, wrapped and ready for winners





A few of our members enjoying a pre meal visit and getting ready for some of the wonderful desserts that were brought in.
And now a word from our President, Dan Madura

Happy New Year!

We had a wonderful time at our annual Christmas party in December. We were able to chat with some friends that we do not see that often. Some drove quite a distance. We also had some new members join us! We had some really nice Fenton glass given as gifts and prizes.

It would be great to see more at the meetings!

Speaking of meetings....



Meeting and Newsletter Frequency

Two motions passed at our last meeting at the Christmas party in December:

- Our meeting frequency has been changed to the 2nd Saturday at 7 pm on the even months: February, April, June, August, October, December (Christmas Party 1 pm)
 - Points discussed: Many of our members are not able to travel as well as in the past. Some drive in from great distances. More planning time to make educational presentations more impactful. We will begin having a general membership meeting in Salon E sometime during the Gala in September.

- The newsletter frequency will be changed to the END of the month preceding meetings: January, March, May, July, September, November
 - Points discussed: This would decrease the rapidly rising costs of sending out the newsletter. It would be less of a strain on the secretary and contributors. This could allow more time for additional content. We will increase the amount of email blasts preceding the Gala and the Christmas party.

Restructuring and redistribution of responsibilities for the board of directors

As in the last newsletter, we discussed that there is a need to rethink board positions and responsibilities. One of this club's biggest events is our yearly Gala. This takes a lot of advance planning and many dedicated volunteers to run it. We had a great core of Gala committee members and volunteers to handle the workload in the past. Many members have retired from this event and the workload has been distributed to fewer members and volunteers. This has put a great strain on the event and their personal lives.

During 2023, we are going to explore rewriting the bylaws to allow for a Gala committee coordinator, which would be a board level position. We would redistribute some of the duties away from the president and some of the other board members to this new board position. They would be the chair of the Gala Committee, which is currently the president. We are going to be methodical about this and offer many opportunities for input. This would go for a vote of the membership, possibly at a special club membership meeting at the 2023 Gala. Exact timelines will be forthcoming, but we want to get the new bylaws in place by October 1st, 2023, so nominations could fill this position by January 1st, 2024.

Dan Madura, President

Thank you, Dan. It looks like there is a lot of work to be done in a very short period. Of course, that is why you get the big bucks.

And now a word from Anne Blackmore



Finds from the Road

By Anne Blackmore

In the middle of October, I received one of those telephone calls we all dread. I was informed my only biological uncle had passed. This was the uncle who had been a deputy sheriff but let me drive both his dune buggy and his moped on the streets many years before I was legal to do so. I loved his stories of helping people in the northern Wisconsin winters and of his arresting bad guys.

We made the trip to his celebration of life and arrived about three hours early. Truthfully, there isn't a lot to do in Superior. It's a hardworking city, known for its cold weather, hardy people, and the international shipping port it shares with Duluth, Minn.

But perhaps you can guess what we did after we had lunch? You betcha! We located a small antique shop out on the east end of town where we found a couple of nice things. Very encouraging when we had not expected to find anything at all.

Heading into the center of town, we spotted a grouping of three antique shops, all right next to each other. Nothing of note in the first or third shops, but at the second shop - oh, my! Max found a treasure even before we stepped inside the front door. As we approached the building, suddenly, Max inhaled deeply and said, "Check out the blue vase!"

There in the window was a Consolidated cased blue iridized Dogwood vase. According to *Phoenix & Consolidated Art Glass 1926-1980* by Jack D. Wilson, this gorgeous vase was part of Consolidated's Martelé line in 1931-1932. The color is Aqua Blue which was manufactured as a layer of blue glass cased over a white inner layer of glass.

We hurried inside and made for the shelves in the window. He continued directly, while something caught my eye on the wall shelves about halfway there. I stood and looked at a group of small vases. I was certain I'd seen a Fenton #251 bud vase but spotted nothing. So, I continued over to where Max had pulled the Blue Dogwood vase from the window. He had already looked it over for damage, and finding none, he sought out the price tag. We both expected the tag to be fairly significant because in its iridized form, this vase is highly desired by Consolidated collectors. Found the tag and it was simply marked "blue vase \$32".

If the Dogwood vase looks familiar to Fenton collectors, it should. Fenton actually copied the Consolidated mould to create their own Dogwood vases used in the 1980s era overlay colors. Fenton's Dogwood vases are 8 inches and 11 inches, while Consolidated only produced the 11 inch version. To differentiate the larger size, it is important to know which company made which colors.

As we turned to look through the rest of the shop, I stopped again at the shelves of small vases. I just couldn't shake the idea I'd seen a Fenton #251 vase in amongst the riffraff. As I gave up and started to walk away, my eye finally caught it - a Fenton Mandarin Red #251 bud vase, up one shelf, and way in the

back off to one side. My hand just shot up for that beauty! One more #251 for my collection, and a rarity at that. Thomas K. Smith shows the Mandarin #251 vase in his book *Early Fenton Rarities 1907-1938*. This seller also had no idea of the value of this nicely swirled, deep red vase. The price tag simply read "\$28", considerably less than the value shown in Smith's volume.

We started walking through the shop again but did not find anything else. Upon reaching the checkout counter, we prepared to pay out. The lady started writing up the ticket, then we looked up and saw a Fenton made for LG Wright lamp. It was a blue cased Embossed Roses student style lamp for an *incredibly* low price. The lady had to stop writing and get her ladder. We took that lamp with us too!

Our antiquing took up just enough time and we then gathered with my family to pay tribute to my uncle. It was good to reconnect with folks I had not seen in several years and hear some old family stories.

The pieces we found, especially the Mandarin #251, will always remind me of my uncle.

Happy hunting in this new year, dear friends!

Thank you, Anne. We are sorry for your loss but very happy that you have a wonderful piece of Fenton as a treasured reminder.



The program for our February meeting will be on Fenton's guest sets and tumble ups. It doesn't matter if you call them night sets, guest sets, or tumble ups these sets were produced by Fenton for many years. They can be found in the beautiful stretch glass produced in the 1920's and in Burmese, Topaz, and Cranberry made in the 2000's. Some can be hard to find if looking for the old guest sets. The hardest and therefore the most expensive sets would be the Victoria Topaz iridescent with the Curtain Optic or the Rib Optic pattern per Margaret and Kenn Whitmyer's book. The Cameo Opalescent night sets can also be difficult to find and bring a higher

price but not anywhere close to the Topaz with the Curtain Optic pattern. There is also the #1502 night set that included a tray and two glasses and a topper for the set that has a twin rib design on the base and was made in diamond optic in Aquamarine, Transparent Green and Rose. This set is also very difficult to find. The two guest sets pictured on page six of the newsletter is the #401 Grecian Gold Night Set with painted design on the left and the #200 Handled Guest Set in Celeste Blue Stretch with a Blue handle, it can also be found with a Black handle. Both of these sets were made in the 1920's. Many of the #401 sets were sold with cut decorations per the Whitmyer's

Jackie Oglesby will provide the program for February, Tumble Ups and Guest Sets, and Dan Madura will provide the treats. We hope that your holidays were wonderful and safe and that your New Year is safe and full of fun and lots of Fenton hunting and finding. It is rather surprising that we are already getting ready to celebrate another holiday, Valentine's Day. We understand that time goes faster as we get older but Valentine's Day is coming very fast this year. We hope you have a wonderful day with your special people. Please come to the first meeting of the new year and bring your glass for show and tell so that we can share your joy in your new or old treasures.

Included in this newsletter is our new roster for 2023, please review your information and verify that it is correct, if not please contact either Janet Wilke or myself, Jackie Oglesby so that we may correct it. Our contact information is on the first page of the roster. All the information that we have is what we had on December 31, 2022 so please update us on any change in your contact information or address. Thank you. You will receive it in two emails if you receive your newsletter by email and the roster will be attached to your newsletter if you receive a paper copy. Please paste the electronic copy of the roster to your computer for easy reference and keep your paper copy in a easy to find place so that you can contact other members or the board members for any problems or information that you need.

It is past time to renew memberships. If you have not already done so please renew. If unsure if you need to renew please check your name on the new roster. The renewal date is to the right of your name, if it shows 10/2022 please renew by sending \$5.00 for an individual membership or \$7.50 for a family membership to:

Renewals were due October 1, 2022

Send renewals to:

Janet Wilke Treasurer

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

PO Box 67071, Topeka KS 66667-0071

Thank you.

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary

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