

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be AUGUST 12TH, 2023 at the Sterling Full Gospel Church located at 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, MO. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

There were a few contenders for first place for favorite Fenton Artist in June's meeting. There were several Martha Reynolds pieces as well as a vase that was designed and painted by D. Barbour that was found in the special room in the 1990's. A Dave Fetty vase was brought in, after all isn't Dave Fetty a glass artist? We also had many examples of CC Hardman's work. She is fast becoming many of our members' favorite artist. We know that many artists have been overlooked at this meeting due to members not being able to be at the meeting, after all Michael Dickinson and Robin Spindler should both make many people's list of a favorite Fenton artist. Perhaps most surprising is we did not get one example of Louise Piper work on the table; we must do this program again and try to get more examples of some of Fenton's great artists.

56 Days, 6 Hours, 58 Minutes!!

A joint Gala update from Dan and Connie:

We hope that everyone had a great July 4th and are enjoying the rest of their summer.

As of the writing of this article, 7/19, the countdown clock to the beginning of the Gala, 9/14, on our website is ticking away. We are less than two months away!

We had our Gala committee meeting recently. This meeting is the last one before the Gala. During this meeting we finalized glass offerings for the raffle, silent auction and the whimsey auction, which is held after the dinner on Saturday evening. After listening to input from last year, we will offer 5 silent auction offerings this year. Some of these lots will have multiple pieces. Check in to the website after August 1st. Pictures of the glass will be posted.
www.fentonfinderskc.net/gala-2023

For the first time, we will have a general membership meeting before walking the big glass display on Friday. We will be discussing topics such as:

- Finalizing nominations for secretary and vice president
- Club reports: Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President
- Discussion of the survey enclosed in your registration packet
- Volunteers
- And much more.

We plan to keep this meeting moving so we can have plenty of time to walk "The Crests of Fenton" display.

A quick room recap:

There are plenty of rooms still available.

The Gala rate of \$132/night ends August 23rd!

If you plan on selling glass out of your room and wish to be on the second floor, unfortunately it is full. We are reserving rooms on the third floor. There will be signage on the second floor and other key areas that glass is also for sale on the third floor. Contact Connie Duncan soon, if you wish to do this.

Call/Text: (913) 634-4544

Email: fenton123@aol.com

Here is the information to book your room:

Online:

https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=MKCPDES&arrivalDate=2023-09-13&departureDate=2023-09-17&groupCode=FGA&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink&bm-verify=AAQAAAAH_____9scoLQUzoDy3dxcndvEV9ncPXD4z1x3_c3QZvxLeviAxGzjOjFNUhI3ub4lb4Owo1YqsgNjiuKTpF648RhqLuBYbLzjzZCOgAUOm_bpkCLpleNo7fBUSd7zj4MgJPfOYLifGxijkx0iVIfQi2dbR460E3k_t8PKHdJFlorS6Iz1uXH6FUdCHbu8t7gK4rg5BiLxgoQwml4lbpLdLcUdR6ovAn74KC3f2b0PgH_UQcAnZpxUK5_bdZYqmO5ZUJ-Jg1AkNoeydwVI-apLxUPXBCQXiN4JjzeioOXi3e019EfnVuatTKVDPckc_XxTGrdLKMb-XDebgnmiUHMPmLZFcqhzmziz1tHYN4AQAQi1ob9GrvS2qor7vN_2QSEVR6sscYb-kCHhcbpT97sY4CfXhOaVI3gJgHXeIK2Z5tzZQCEMtPRnRI226ik5SbMLOYBDeLB932-ijK5L6uruaVDXi_yjw1XWVXzjjDDY3d4BYa-YLeEI3a_lkIfmFJcU9h7QG5lrrVk4ZRcSIz0yRYa1YFGsPpFal7c

Copy and paste this link into your browser. This newsletter is done as a .pdf file. Links in this format usually don't "click" right. You can also go to our website and get the link (below).

Our website:

The most current information is available on our website.

www.fentonfinderskc.net

Call Direct:

(816) 891-7788 Ask for the "Fenton Glass Gala" rate.

Some key dates to remember:

- August 14th: The registration rate will increase by \$5, from \$35 to \$40.
- August 23rd: The Gala rate of \$132/per night will no longer be available. After that date, you can still book a room, but you will be at the going hotel rate and that time of booking.

The best way to get up-to-the-minute information is by going to our website.

Registration:

If you have not yet registered for the Gala, please do so ASAP. Booking your room does not complete your registration. That is just part of it. You must go to the website to register. If you are not able to register through the website, the best and easiest way, please contact Janet Wilke.

Individual table displays are still available!

These are the tables that line the walls in the big glass display room (Salon E). This is an opportunity to show attendees your special collections. These will be walked and discussed at our Friday morning seminar. Many interesting and educational discussions occur at the seminar. We are lagging behind last year's count of 19 tables! Many thanks to those who have already reserved a table. If you have already registered but did not reserve a table and would like one, please email Dan at dmadura.ffogkc@gmail.com.

We still need volunteers!

The Gala takes a lot of time to plan and run. It would be much appreciated to donate time. Even a small donation of your time would be appreciated. Here are some ways you can help:

Hospitality set-up and staffing

- Wednesday (set-up only)
- Thursday (staffing)
- Friday (staffing)
- Saturday (staffing)
- Saturday (tear down)

Big Display

- Wednesday afternoon (riser set-up)
- Wednesday evening (glass set-up)
- Saturday afternoon (tear down)

Auction

- Thursday (set-up)
- Saturday morning (glass walkers and bid spotters)
- Saturday afternoon (whimsey set-up)

Club glass sales

- Wednesday (set-up)
- Sunday morning (tear down)

Registration Table

- Thursday afternoon
- Friday morning

To volunteer, please go to the website link below. Scroll down to "HELP VOLUNTEER AT OUR ANNUAL GALA". Tell us what you would like to help with. Please be specific: job, day, and time available. Even if you can do an hour here and there, just let us know on the form.

<https://fentonfinderskc.net/gala-2023>

If you cannot submit through our website, which is the best and easiest way, please contact Dan Madura: dmadura.ffogkc@gmail.com 816-560-3738.

Y I K E S !!

We have gotten a few emails and phone calls about an email that was received by folks who went to the Gala last year. If you look closely at the date, it says 2022.

Please ignore this email!

It was sent by mistake. Someone, I won't say who (Dan), pressed the wrong button. Please don't take this as a bill for registration this year. You pay for your registration when you check on the website.

We are so looking forward to seeing everyone at the Gala!

Dan Madura, President

Connie Duncan, Vice President

Menus for the luncheon and dinner banquet:

Luncheon

Mixed Green Salad

With Sliced Cucumbers, Cherry Tomatoes, Julienne Carrots and Croutons
Dressing choices: Ranch, Balsamic, and Raspberry Vinaigrette.

Chicken Breast with Sun-dried Tomato Cream Sauce

With Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Apple Pie

Bread service, water, and iced tea

Dinner

Spinach Salad

With Dried Cranberries, Candied Walnuts and Feta Cheese tossed with a Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing.

8 oz. Sirloin Steak

With Rosemary Demi Glaze (brown sauce), Roasted Potatoes, and County Style Green Beans.

NOTE: All steaks will be cooked to medium.

Crème Brûlée with Fruit AND Ultimate Chocolate Cake with Mousse Filling

These two deserts will be alternately set. Feel free to switch or share. They both sounded yummy, so this is a way to do both!

Bread service, water, iced tea, coffee, and Assorted Hot Herbal Teas.

Thank you, Dan and Connie, that is a lot of information. Something else to keep in mind is that we almost always have a few cancelations before the Gala which opens opportunities to move to the second floor. Connie will take care of this automatically. Also, if you need to cancel your room due to health, family emergency or for other reasons please contact Dan or Connie before cancelling your room reservation. It is possible that someone who learned about Gala too late to get the Gala room rate will be happy to take over your reservation. And as mentioned in Dan and Connie's article please register for the Gala at either our website, <https://fentonfinderskc.net/gala-2023> or you can use the registration that is included on the last page of the newsletter or contact Janet Wilke, whatever works best for you. To be honest, we used our website to register, it was fast, easy and safe.

This is the last newsletter before the Gala and we want to talk about donations, Denise Adams and her father, Joe Bradshaw are again donating most of the door prizes for our luncheon and dinner, thank you Denise and Joe for your generous gift. If there is anyone who would like to donate something for door prizes for either the luncheon or dinner, please let Dan Madura know, you need not wrap anything, just give the item or items to Dan Madura in the glass sales room. We must admit it is getting harder and harder to find Fenton glass to give as door prizes for the Gala so any help will be appreciated. Your gift this year may or may not be used until next year due to the Gala being pretty well planned already but would be greatly appreciated and will be used at a future Gala. Thank you.

Our charity of choice this year for the Gala is the same as last year, Veteran's Community Project, while this charity started in Kansas City it has expanded to many different cities. Their goal is to provide tiny homes for homeless Veterans and give them a chance to get off the street and become self-sufficient. Yes, we will be asking for monetary contributions for this great charity by selling a piece of glass at the whimsy auction, but we are also seeking donations of the more personal kind. They are in need of shampoos, toothpaste, toothbrushes and any personal care item that you might want to or be able to donate, we will have a box located at the registration desk so you can drop off items for your convenience when you pick up your packet at the registration desk and also at the banquet dinner where if you didn't use the personal care items in your room you will have a chance to donate them to our veterans. Amanda Herman contacted the charity and got a list of most needed items, thank you Amanda that is a big help.

Gift cards in small denominations (\$10 and \$20) from stores like Walmart, Target, Quick Trip, Aldi, Save-A-Lot, Visa/Mastercard, and Dollar Tree help Veterans purchase gas and other necessities. Home Depot gift cards to supply tools, parts and maintenance for the homes. New dishes, linens, towels in white, black, red, beige/tan, and blue/green.

Most Needed Items:

Balloon whisks
Clear shower curtain liners
Men's XL and larger pocket tees
Men's XL and larger boxer briefs
Gatorade or Propel individual powder packets for water bottles
Peanut butter Sandwich crackers

Thank you all for giving to such a worthy cause.
And now a word from Anne Blackmore.

Finds from the Road

A Rose by Any Other Name

By Anne Blackmore



Max and I are known primarily as collectors of old glass. But we also like, appreciate, and collect some newer glass. One of our favorite newer brands of glass is Viking. In our personal collection we have many pieces from their Epic line including swung vases, many dogs and cats, roosters, the little covered mint jars, and of course, mushrooms.

In truth though, Viking is not a new company. It started life as the New Martinsville Glass Company, of New Martinsville, W. Va. in 1900. New Martinsville was known widely for its pressed wares, blown Muranese line, beautiful glass etches, and its colorful pieces later in its

history.

In the late 1930s, Scandinavian glass began to grow in popularity, and New Martinsville decided to change its name to "Viking Glass" to capitalize on this trend. However, with the onset of war in Europe and in the Pacific, and the United States entering the war in 1941, New Martinsville gradually began to implement its name change beginning in December of that year. They initiated use of a Viking ship logo blended with the New Martinsville logo in 1943. In June 1944, shareholders voted to officially change the name of the firm to Viking Glass Company, but this change was not recorded with government entities until almost five years later.

Viking is probably best known by modern collectors for its Epic line, which includes pieces from the 1950s into the 1970s, fully encompassing the Mid-Century Modern era. The Epic line has everything from far-out enormous swung vases and owl-shaped fairy lights to the ultimate favorite, the psychedelic mushroom, which was made in four very groovy sizes. Most of the Epic line was produced in four colors: blue (Bluenique), orange (Persimmon), green (Avocado), and Amber. Some pieces were also made in Ruby, and those items tend to be more highly desired by today's collectors. There were some other less-common colors, including Charcoal Blue, Steel, Brown, Thistle, and Teaberry, and those can also be very highly collectible.

But there is one piece that has eluded us for these years we've been collecting Viking, their Gypsy Rose. This is a very desirable piece by today's collectors, but according to people who worked at the Viking plant in New Martinsville, W. Va., "[The roses] were tough to make and many broke as they came out of the mould," per the VikingArtGlass.com website. This, of course, translates to "There are nowhere near enough to satisfy the demands of modern collectors." The piece debuted in 1971 and was produced in the four standard Epic colors (Bluenique, Avocado, Persimmon, and Amber), but one has been found in Ruby. The rose is 4-1/4 inches across the blossom, and 6-1/2 inches long.



We had stopped at an antique mall known for its Mid-Century Modern in northern Indiana in the early spring. It's a fairly large place, and we walked a long time before we came upon a dealer who was restocking her case. She had quite a bit of MCM glass displayed in her case, so we simply stood back and watched for a while as she unpacked and placed her new items. Then she started to unwrap a piece I did not immediately recognize... lump on one end, long skinny thing. What?? Then she started to unwrap the lumpy end. Oh. Wow. It's an avocado Gypsy Rose. We both moved forward and asked if we could see the rose before she set it in the case.

She handed it to us, and I had Max feel it over for damage first. He did not find any issues, even when he held it up to the light. I also looked it over and was quite pleased. She had it marked at a very nice price considering the piece, and she offered us about a 25% discount because we were there and obviously loved the rose. We were delighted! She marked it appropriately and took it up to the counter to be held for us.

Sadly, we did not find anything else on our trip to this mall. But the Gypsy Rose was such a feather in our cap, we did not mind! It went directly into our Viking collection at home.

Happy hunting, dear friends! And don't forget to stop and smell the roses!

Thank you, Anne, what a wonderful and unique piece of glass, we would love to see the red rose, it must be breathtaking. We are looking forward to seeing you and Max at the Gala!

With all the talk of the Gala we don't want to forget some of the glass from show and tell from our meeting in June. Please enjoy.

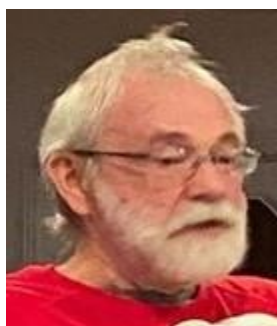


A beautiful Cranberry Hobnail basket with a Coin Dot Ivy Ball and Butter dish. The last piece is either a experimental piece of Fenton or a vase made for someone else, this is one piece that needs to go to glass Id on Thursday night. On the next page we have a couple of Blue carnival glass handled guest sets with two Dancing Ladies vases, a footed vase, a Rose Diamond Optic water set and a ring holder. Some very nice glass.



Before we get to our last article, we just want to remind everyone to bring something for the Hospitality Room, a salad or a sweet, or cheese for fruit or something special that you make for our enjoyment. Don't forget to bring something for glass id, this is our first event (after our barbeque dinner) of the Gala. It is a chance to share something rare that most people don't get to see, a chance to find out who made that piece of glass, Fenton or another company, and a chance to learn more about the glass we love. Something new this year, we are setting up our small glass displays on Wednesday between 1 pm to 4 pm. If you are waiting for your room to open up it will give you something to do and a chance to look at the big display. Last but not least don't forget to sign up for a small table display.

Blue Opalescent Rib Optic



By Tom Limback

The focus of this article will be on Blue Opalescent Rib Optic for the August Fenton Finders program. The Blue Opalescent Rib Optic product line is different than the Blue Opalescent Swirl Optic. The rib optic has vertical optics. The swirl optics have swirl optics that normally start from the bottom left and curve to the upper right.

I never really gave much thought about the production of the Blue Opalescent Rib Optic line. The date of production for the Blue Opalescent swirl optic was 1939. Most references to the date of the Blue Opalescent Rib Optic line are as a passing reference to the swirl optic alluding that the production of both optics were in the late 1930's. Actually, the date of production for Blue Opalescent Rib Optic is hard to determine due to the company production records for the 1920's for this rib optic are not available.

The current reference material mentions the production of the Blue Opalescent Rib Optic is the late 1930's. I think the production date for the Blue Opalescent Rib Optic is more in line with the early to mid-1920's rather than the late 1930's. My reasoning for this is that the available pieces are more associated with molds in the production line of the 1920's rather than the molds in the production lines of the late 1930's. Blue Opalescent Rib Optic items such as the #220 and #222 water sets, #2 creamer and sugar, #401 tumble-up, #1502 guest set, and 891 12" vase are of the same molds as the items in the different stretch line such as the Celeste Blue, Topaz Stretch and Velva Rose Stretch lines produced in the 1920's.

For the August program the Blue Opalescent Rib Optic pieces I have will be discussed. For this article I will focus mainly on the water sets. Another article later this fall will be the focus of other items available in the Blue Opalescent Rib Optic line.

Shown are 4 of the blue rib optic water sets with different tumblers, bases and coasters available in the early 1920's. These are the same sets available in the stretch line. The Blue

Opalescent Rib Optic water sets also came with a striking applied cobalt handle as was available on the stretch water sets but also came with the applied translucent blue handle. Other water sets either with the cobalt blue handles and cobalt blue coasters or the translucent blue handles paired with the translucent blue coasters make a striking water set.



The first set with the applied cobalt handles is the #222 ice tea set consisting of the #222 ice tea tankard with the applied cobalt handle paired with a cobalt blue base and the #222 tumblers with the applied cobalt handles paired with the cobalt coasters for the tumblers.



The next set is the #220 water set with the applied cobalt handles consisting of the #220 pitcher/cover paired with the cobalt pitcher coaster(not base) and the #220 tumblers paired with the cobalt tumbler coasters.



The picture to the right features two #222 Blue Opalescent Rib Optic tankards. The one on the left has the light Blue transparent handle and the one on the left a Cobalt handle. The Cobalt handle ice tea tankard, depending on the source of light, might appear as a misleading black handle.



The next set is the #222 ice tea tankard with the applied transparent Blue handle and the #222 tumblers without any handles. I bought this set, as shown, from Tom Smith about a month before his passing. When I bought the set, he made a casual comment that he had never sold this set before. I thought to myself, this ice tea tankard is not that scarce. It took me a couple of weeks staring at tankard before I realized Tom was referring to the applied transparent blue handle.



The last set is the #220 pitcher/cover with the #222 (not #220) tumblers both with the applied transparent blue handles. Several years ago, I had the opportunity to find one #222 tumbler with the applied transparent blue handle. I kept telling myself there's got to be more than one tumbler. Recently I found the water set of the #220 pitcher/cover with 4 #222 tumblers with applied transparent blue handles paired with the transparent blue coasters. Since the set was from a private non-collector, I assume that was the way the original set was sold and purchased. Just a FYI. Since this #220 water set was purchased with the #222 tumblers it may be the #220 tumblers with the applied transparent blue handles don't exist. If they do exist, they are quite elusive. I'd appreciate it if anyone owns or has seen the #220 tumbler with the applied translucent handle that you would drop me note at telimback@aol.com.



Probably one of the most elusive Fenton pieces in the rib optic line is the syrup pitcher with the applied cobalt handle. I think there are less than 3 or 4 known. In the photo above it is shown sitting next to the #220 pitcher to show the size reference.

The syrup cover is not plain but has the same shape and panels as the larger #220 pitcher cover. I took a closeup of the syrup cover to show the panels on the cover since it is hard to distinguish the panels on top of the syrup pitcher. Inside the pitcher are also the elongated panels which gives the syrup the opalescent vertical ribs when reheated.

When first seen, I thought maybe the syrup pitcher was the 1924 creamer. Evidently this syrup pitcher has its own number. When compared to the 1924 French opalescent creamer, the syrup pitcher was at least 1/2 inch taller. The syrup pitcher's bottom circumference is about an 1/8 to 1/4 inch wider than the 1924 French opalescent creamer. The syrup cover did not fit inside the 1924 French opalescent creamer.

For information and to see more Blue Opalescent Rib Optic glass join me at the Sterling Church on August 12th.

Thank you, Tom, we are looking forward to your second article on Fenton's early Blue Opalescent Rib Optic glassware.

We hope you had a wonderful 4th of July and for those who attended the national conventions we hope you had a wonderful time. We also hope you are planning on attending the Gala as well where the temperatures will be cooler and the glass hot. Tom Limback will be presenting a program on Blue Opalescent Rib Optic for the August meeting, and we will be discussing nominations for the office of Vice-President and Secretary, the vote will take place at the Gala. Dan Madura will be bringing the treats. Don't forget to bring glass for show and tell. See you Saturday August 12th for our meeting and September 14th for the Gala.

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary

Gala 2023

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

Registration Form

Or go to fentonfinderskc.net to register online, if you prefer.

Name _____

(The way you want your name tag to be.)

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # () _____

Email Address _____

"Early" Registration Fee (until August 14, 2023) # ____ @ \$35.00 \$ _____

or Registration Fee (August 15, 2023 & after) # ____ @ \$40.00 \$ _____

Friday, Sept. 15, 2023, Luncheon 12:00 pm # ____ @ \$32.00 \$ _____

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, Banquet 6:00 pm # ____ @ \$40.00 \$ _____

Dues: Single \$5.00 or Family (at 1 address) \$7.50 \$ _____

Donation to Hospitality Room (optional)..... \$ _____

Total Enclosed\$ _____

Will you be bringing a display? Yes ____ No ____

Will you be bringing glass for sale? Yes ____ No ____

Make Checks Payable to: **Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City**

Visa____ Mastercard ____ Discover ____ AMEX ____ Paypal _____

Expires ____/____ 3 numbers from back of card _ _ _

Month Year

(To authorize your charge transaction, please print & sign your name as it appears on your card.)

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Send to: **Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City**

Janet Wilke, Treasurer

P O Box 67071

Topeka, KS 66667-0071

