

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be OCTOBER 14TH, 2023 at the Sterling Full Gospel Church located at 3007 S. Sterg Ave., Independence, MO. The meeting will start at 7:00PM.



Another Gala has come and gone. So much fun was had by all, as well as many pieces of glass changing hands. Bobbie Stanley, who has only been collecting Fenton for two years contributed over 90% of the glass on the big display. He and his wife Kristina have worked hard to collect this wonderful collection of Crest glass. Bobbie, with the help of Les Rowe presented the program on the big display Friday night and it was great. He gave many suggestions to our members on how he managed to collect this many pieces of crest glass, starting out with how he focused on collecting the unpainted early pieces of crest. He and his wife also post pictures of their collection on Facebook so if you want to view some of their wonderful collection check it out. His only disappointment he told us was that Connie Duncan, who was in charge of the big display, would not let him bring in as much glass as he wanted. He has already reserved two or maybe three small table displays for next year's Gala so that he can bring the glass that he could not bring this year. Thank you, Bobbie and Kristina, for all your hard work bringing all that glass for our display this year. And thank you everyone who contributed glass for the big display.



Les Rowe's program on rare pieces of Fenton's Crest glass was one program that I think many of us will remember for years to come. The glass was breathtakingly beautiful and the information priceless. The added bonus of our big display that included not only some rare and hard to find pieces of Fenton's Crest glass but included many examples of the various kinds of Crests that Fenton created over the many years that they produced this glass treatment starting with Blue Ridge in 1930's. Blue Ridge was the first Crest that Fenton produced, at least that was what I had understood but Les explained that the first Crest that Fenton produced was in the 1920's on Persian Pearl, they added a Blue Crest to some of that glass and it is truly beautiful and hard to find. Thank you, Les, for such a wonderful program.



This was the first year that we included a meeting at the Gala. Our members got a chance to nominate candidates for the position of Vice-President and Secretary. Dan Madura, our President lead the meeting and presented a list of requirements for the positions. Write in candidates are welcome. A ballot will be included in this newsletter so please vote. All mail in and email votes must be received by Oct 12th. Those who are voting by email must send their vote to both Janet Wilke and Dan Madura with their names and addresses on the email and it must be sent from the email address that we have on file. You must be a current member to vote. Dan also explained our need for volunteers to help with the Gala, many of the people that we have relied on for many years are getting older and need help to do the work that is needed to present the Gala and we need help. Many people have already stepped up and agreed to help but we need more. Thank you all for stepping up, this will make the Gala better than ever, as the old saying goes, many hands make light work. Dan also talked about the need that the club has to raise dues. Our dues are the lowest dues for any club that we have been able to find. It is the same amount that was charged when the club was formed in the 1980's and at that time it paid for the newsletter to be created and mailed out, now it does not even cover the cost of postage through most of our members receive the electronic version of the newsletter.

Our experts from glass id Thursday night also did the small table review and did a wonderful job. We want to thank Sarah Smith, Anne and Max Blackmore for doing this, they always do a wonderful job of providing information on glass id and on the small table reviews. Here they are with Dan Madura, our club's president explaining that the first table was overflow from the big display. Thank you all for all the help you provided for the Gala, you make it so much better.



We had some wonderful tables this year and we hope that you enjoyed them as much as we did. For all who attend the Gala we have a suggestion, since most of us take pictures of the small table displays and the ballroom is big it is sometimes very difficult to see the glass that is being reviewed during the small table review due to the crowds. This year I sat in the back and as each table was reviewed, I brought up the picture on my phone and was able to look at each piece of glass as Sarah, Anne, and Max spoke about it without having to try to get closer to see better. The following pages will contain those pictures without comment so we can all enjoy them.











Water Lily & Cattail
Fenton or Northwood?
Three Quick Tells

Fenton

1. Fenton has a basketweave pattern on the bottom edge.
2. The center of the Water Lily flower is composed of just a few large dots.
3. The Cattail flower is composed of lines.

Northwood

1. Northwood has NO basketweave pattern.
2. The center of the Water Lily flower is made up of many small dots.
3. The Cattail flower is made of many small dots.
4. Northwood piece may carry their logo:



Water Lily & Cattail
Fenton or Northwood?
Three Quick Tells

Fenton



Northwood



- Fenton made many shapes
- Northwood only made drink sets



I still haven't unpacked!

Someday we are going to do a poll to see how many weeks it takes to get all those totes unpacked.

On behalf of the 2023 Gala committee, we are so grateful that everyone had a wonderful time. We received some great feedback from many in person and through the Gala survey. We had 30 surveys returned. That's 26% of 114 attendees and in the survey world that is very good. That will help give us the information to make the Gala even better. The survey gave me some valuable information to take with me to the hotel to negotiate the 2025 contract.



Some quick Gala stats....

- 114 registered attendees: That is the largest turnout since Fenton closed.
- Big display: Over 200 pieces of quality Fenton Crests.
- 16 individual display tables: Best we have ever seen!
- One of the largest numbers of glass ID pieces we have seen.
- Glass sold in rooms on the second AND third floors.
- The first time we have ever had a jar of pickled eggs sold at the whimsey auction! (It fetched \$110)

Many thanks....

- Les Rowe for his expert contribution of rare and high-quality crests at the luncheon seminar.
- Bobbie Stanley for his contribution and organization of the big display.
- CC Hardman for painting for us Friday afternoon.
- Anne and Max Blackmore and Sarah Smith sharing their expertise during Glass ID and Individual Display Walks.
- Jim Wroda for his auctioneering expertise and his fantastic sense of humor.
- Jackie Oglesby for putting on the best hospitality room year after year.
- Glass contributions from NFGS, FAGCA, CC Hardman, Denise Adams and others who gave glass for future gifts.
- The Gala committee for pulling all this together.
- **Most of all**, the volunteers who contributed time to help with various tasks throughout the Gala. Many contacted us to volunteer in the future. MUCH APPRECIATED!

What to look forward to....

- Pictures and commentary about the Gala posted on the website and Facebook. (by mid-October)
- The 2024 Gala!

Nominations for Vice President and Secretary

Vice President: Connie Duncan

Secretary: Jackie Oglesby

They are both running unopposed. This will still require a vote from the membership. Write ins are also welcome.

Timeline:

Saturday, 9/24

- Voting open. The ballot will be enclosed in this newsletter. You can vote by:
 - Mailing in your ballot to Janet Wilke, Janet Wilke, Treasurer, Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City, PO Box 67071, Topeka KS 66667-0071
 - Emailing your vote to Janet Wilke at kenwilke@cox.net

Sunday, 10/22

- Voting Closes at 9 pm. All votes, mailed or emailed, must be received by this time.

Week of 10/23

- Winners contacted by Dan.

Saturday, 10/28

- Email blast to go out announcing winners.

Our annual FFOGKC Christmas get together and dinner.

This will be held on December 9th at 1 pm at Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N. Holmes Street, Gladstone, MO 64118. We always have a wonderful time. The highlight is dirty bingo where you can win some really great Fenton pieces... and also, the infamous booby prize. There are also many door prizes given out during the event. No one goes home empty handed! It's a lot of fun and we would like to see a great turn out this year. We had a wonderful time last year. Our caterer will be Sugar and Spice Catering out of Parkville, MO. They really put out some great food. Here is the menu again this year:

- Roasted turkey and ham
- Mashed potatoes, stuffing and gravy
- Southern style green beans (the good stuff with bacon!)
- Salad with your choice of Italian or homemade ranch dressing
- Cranberry sauce rolls and butter.
- Iced tea and water, coffee

Everyone attending is encouraged to bring their favorite holiday dessert to share. I will be bringing homemade Christmas cookies as usual. This is all served buffet style attended by the Sugar and Spice staff. We don't have to do anything except eat and have fun!

Because this is catered, we need to know the head count so they can prepare the feast. I will need an RSVP for all that plan to attend. There is no charge for FFOGKC members. If anyone would like to bring a guest, they are very welcome. There will be a \$25 charge for non-members.

RSVP's must be sent to me either by email or phone by **THANKSGIVING!**

This is earlier than last year. The caterer needs more time to prepare.

Email: dmadura.ffogkc@gmail.com Phone: 816-560-3738

I need to know how many members and how many non-members. For non-members, you can pay by cash, check or credit card at the event, but we still need an RSVP.

It was so great to see such a great turn out from some of our out-of-town members last year that we don't get to see that often. It would be nice to repeat that this year.

Dan Madura, President

Thank you, Dan, just for those who wish to know we had several candidates nominated besides Connie Duncan and Jackie Oglesby but Dan contacted the individuals and they declined to run. We hope in the future that they may change their minds as we can use the fresh outlooks and younger people who wish to help this club continue to grow and become more responsive to our members. Thank you all for your interest in the club.

And now a word from Anne Blackmore.

Finds from the Road

By Anne Blackmore



While Max and I are known for traveling around the country hunting for glass, we are very lucky to live in an area fairly rich with glass as well. A couple of months ago, we realized a large flea market near a larger town with good glass a couple hours away from us was coming up on Saturday, and folks very often hit the flea market early in the morning, then head into town to the shops. So, we decided to hit those shops on Friday.

On our way to the larger city, we drove through the country, and had to go through a small town known for its typically weak antique stores and cutesy shops. We hemmed and hawed about stopping, as we had gotten a late start from home. But, it had been a while since we'd shopped in this little burg, and so we parked on the town square and started walking. At the first shop, we only found one piece, but who could pass up a Fenton #857 Periwinkle flared bowl with the most amazing color? The bowl came with us!

The second shop found us negotiating for a large L.E. Smith floor vase. The seller turned out to be the man at the check-out counter and he and I came to a very happy price point for both of us. Score number two in the town we wanted to just drive through! We could not believe this little town was providing us such great treasures.

You may not know I collect the Johnson Brothers china pattern "Friendly Village". It was my family's good china as I was growing up, and I've been given that set. Here and there I am able to find and pick up additional pieces to add to it. The third store in our little town provided me two Friendly Village butter pats. Okay, this is crazy - we have not bought this much good stuff in this town in years.

The last store was a couple of blocks away, so we drove over to it. We walked in and the gentleman at the counter greeted us warmly. We walked around looking in the various booths, got through about two-thirds of the store and did not find anything. Ah well, looks like our streak is broken! As we walked the last aisle back up toward the front of the store, I veered to the right and Max went left. Then I hear Max right behind me, "Annie, look what I found."



I turned around and just stopped cold. Here he stood, holding a medium-sized, low crystal vase, with opal hearts suspended in amongst a net of opal lines running all around the piece. It had a light iridescence, a perfectly applied blue crest, and two little blue stub handles at the top. He turned it over so I could see the beautifully finished pontil mark on the base, then

righted it. Offhand glass is his strength, so I said, "I know it's old, is it Imperial?" He confirmed it was.

Many Fenton collectors know for a year in the 1925-1926 time period, Fenton brought in a team of European glass workers who produced a stunning line of offhand glass. Well, this very same team of workers started working at Imperial in 1923. This means many of the designs and motifs are similar to those Fenton collectors are familiar with, including threading, hanging hearts, crests, pulled loops, and absolute perfection in craftsmanship, can be seen in the Imperial line of freehand glass.

In *Imperial Glass Encyclopedia, Volume II*, edited by James Measell, it is fascinating to see old Imperial advertisements to dealers with prices like "assortment of 12 different, specially selected pieces for \$50.00." Freehand collectors are melting at the mere *thought* of obtaining 12 pieces of this glorious glass for \$50.00! While this averaged out to a little over \$4.00 per piece for dealers, the intended retail price to consumers was approximately \$25.00 per piece. That was an enormous amount of money in the early 1920s, especially for a true luxury item like these art glass pieces.

The vase was in perfect condition. I told Max if he wanted it, he should get it, knowing these freehand pieces can sell for several thousand dollars. Surely if it was just sitting in an open booth, it was not going to be *too* badly priced. Then he flipped over the price tag and grinned from ear to ear. It read "Heart vase" with a price so modest we could not have gotten a large Pizza Hut supreme pizza in its place. Max was incredibly happy; I just about had to tie a string around his ankle to keep him from floating off into the clouds!

We eventually got to our destination city, and the good finds continued there. But those are stories for another day!

Happy hunting, dear friends!

We do not want to miss out on reviewing the meeting in August where Tom Limback presented a wonderful program on Blue Opalescent Rib Optic. He had many wonderful examples of this beautiful glass and disussed the possible dates of production to be in the 1920's instead of the 1930's that is suggested in some books because of the moulds that were used.





Below are some of the wonderful pieces brought in for show and tell.



The October meeting will be the last before the December 9th Christmas dinner at the Gladstone Community Center. We will have a lot to do at the meeting, reviewing the Gala, checking out all the great glass found at the Gala (as well as others found between now and October). If any of our members have things around the house that would make a good door prizes at the Christmas dinner, it doesn't have to be Fenton glass, just something nice that others will enjoy.

We are starting to collect glass for next year's auction and to make it easier for everyone we want to list the club's rule for the auction. Please send Connie Duncan your lists of glass for the auction as soon as possible

Auction Rules

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

1. Auction will have no more than 250 pieces of Fenton Glass.
2. Each member is allowed to submit 25 good quality Fenton Art Glass pieces. Two or more pieces selling together for one lot will be considered as one item.
3. If the amount of 250 pieces is not met, we will open the auction back up only to those members that submitted glass to the auction, and they may add items. The club reserves the right to fill in extra space with club owned glass if necessary.
4. Each consignment item must have an estimated value of at least \$25.00. If an item submitted will not bring the \$25 value, it will be grouped with another piece.
5. Complete description of each piece includes name, color, mould #, artist, year, and any other important or unique information. Your description sells your item. Pictures must be provided. All items are to be photographed on a neutral (white preferred) background unless the piece shows better on a dark background such as white, custard or crystal.
6. Lists with descriptions and pictures must be submitted by March 1st. Spots will not be held until the list is submitted. Glass will be listed on the auction sheet as it was submitted. We do have the right to edit listing to fit our space.
7. All items must be first quality and not damaged. Glass must be clean. If any damage is found the seller will be contacted. Options will be given to the seller. Always remember as a seller you are representing our club.
8. The Gala committee will accept consignments of 250 pieces of good clean quality Fenton (\$25.00 value and above per piece). The consigned must make a request to the committee at least one year in advance. This request must be made by list and pictures of the glass to be consigned. The collection should be diverse and interesting. For example, a collection consisting of all milk glass would not be appropriate. The committee has the right to accept or reject the list.

Note: The Gala Saturday morning consignment auction is for the benefit of the attendees of the Gala and the local public. At no time will the auction be open to online auction houses.

Thank you, Connie, for providing this timely information. If you wish to place some glass in the club's auction for 2024, please get your information to Connie Duncan as soon as you can. It is as always first come first served. It just takes a short time to take your pictures and make your lists and since we all have cell phones now that take wonderful pictures, we don't need a fancy camera to do it.

Our program in October will feature Gala glass as well as show and tell. Please plan on attending. I know that Dan will want some direct feedback from our members on the Gala and I am sure that we all want to brag about the glass that we found at the Gala. Amanda Herman will be bringing treats.

Renewals are due October 1, 2023

Just a quick reminder, it is time to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Please send a check or money order (no cash) or credit cards for \$7.50 for a family membership or \$5.00 for an individual membership to:

Janet Wilke Treasurer

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

PO Box 67071 Topeka KS 66667-0071

Ballot

MUST BE RECEIVED BY Oct. 22, 2023

Vice-President

Connie Duncan _____

Write in candidate _____

Secretary

Jackie Oglesby _____

Write in candidate _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Please be sure your write in candidate will accept the position and thank you for your vote. Thank you.

Mail to:

Janet Wilke Treasurer

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

PO Box 67071 Topeka KS 66667-0071

Email:

kenwilke@cox.net

