

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be December 9th, 2023, at the Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N. Holmes Street, Gladstone MO 64118. Starting at 1:00 PM until ? This will be our Christmas dinner so be sure to reserve your meal with Dan before Thanksgiving. The dinner is free for members and lots of fun. Dan will tell us all more in his submission below.

Above are a couple of pictures featuring some but not all of the glass that our members brought home from the Gala. They were very happy about their finds. We also took the time in the October meeting to vote to send \$500.00 each to Harvesters, Ronald McDonald's House, City Union Mission Family Center, and Uplift (a local program that helps out homeless), we also collected well over \$2000.00 for the Tiny Homes for Vets charity that we have adopted for the Gala. Thank you all who helped that out. Dan took the time to explain to us some of the very good reasons he has for resigning, we want to give him all the support that he needs now while also letting him know that we will miss his leadership.

We want to take this time to say to Dan Madura thank you so much for all you have done for the club. There is no question that our club has benefitted from your leadership, and we really wish that you could continue in your position as our president. We do understand that life sometimes gets in the way of what we want to do and so instead do what we must do just as you are doing now. We are very glad you will continue helping us out as a member of the club. We can at least still benefit from your advice and wisdom.

Because of Dan's resignation we must hold elections again for the position of president to finish Dan's term which will be end in December 2024. Due to the lateness of the year with our next meeting the Christmas party and our next official meeting not till February of 2024 we are asking any who are interested in the position to send information about themselves to Connie Duncan at Fenton123@aol.com. This information should be short and to the point about yourself and your interest in Fenton and in the position. Please send it to Connie by December

20th. Ballots will be sent out and we will let everyone know the results as soon as possible. And now a word from Dan Madura, our President.

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 door prizes given out during the event. 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

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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, and now Connie Duncan would like to let us know the results of the survey that we handed out at the Gala with some explanations of what we can and cannot do as well as why some things are just beyond our control. We want to thank all who responded.



SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all that filled out the Gala Survey. We had 29 surveys returned. Here is a sampling of the answers to the questions asked. Most people liked the location of the hotel. Yes, the hotel is showing wear and tear as it is aging. An update was

scheduled to be done when Covid set in and was delayed. We have been told that the update will be done soon but there will be no structural changes made.

We also do not know when the updates will be started. We can forward your suggestions to the hotel management, but we are one of many groups and guests that pass through the front doors. I will send a list to the hotel that addresses your concerns. Always remember that it is hard to make 100 plus people happy all the time.

HOTEL RATES

Most would be okay with a rate increase if the update is done. The most average threshold per night was \$150.00 to \$175.00. Don't forget the area taxes added to this amount to which the hotel has no say in will add to that amount.

Luncheon and Banquet Meals

When you book a hotel for a function you have to meet a room count set by the hotel to guarantee the rate. If you do not meet the room count the renting group has to pay the difference which could be thousands of dollars. The banquet rooms are free of charge with the amount of food purchased. We can tell you the price of a buffet meal is much higher than what is charged for a sit-down meal. With that said we are going to check into having a lighter luncheon, for example soup and salad, to see if the prices are better. When trying to pick a banquet meal or luncheon we only have so many choices in a price range that is comfortable for everyone. We cannot ask the hospitality room to take on any more work than they are doing now. I do not think you will find any other function that has a hospitality room like the Gala's. The two rooms that hold the food are only made possible by the work of club members and the donations of money and food that our members provide to supplement the club's contribution. We do want to thank all of you for making donations of food and money, you make it possible.

Favorite Part of the Gala

Meeting other collectors ranked high. Most liked not having to leave the hotel after they arrived. Many enjoyed the audience participation in the seminars. Of course, room shopping is always fun.

Least Favorite

Felt hurried at mealtime. Auctions. Food at the banquet. Drive to and from the Gala. Dealing with the elevators. Some of you requested more to do. The Gala committee is only so big and can do so much. I will tell you that most of the committee members left the Gala worn out. The corner rooms that sale glass we hope to have fixed in 2024, but we cannot guarantee they will be. I thought I had it fixed this year but that was not the case. While some did request more to do some said that they did not have time to visit.

Educational Seminars

We really received some good ideas from all of you. We will explore these ideas. We have already asked some of the people who you requested but they have turned us down. It is always hard to make one year better than the last, but we will keep trying.

Dues

Most were in favor of increasing the club's dues. These dues basically cover printing cost and mailing but not the cost of paper and color copies. We do not make money on dues. As a club we do not try to make money from people, the price of the meals at the Gala is just what

we pay the hotel. We do not mark up the price of the rooms. None of the Gala committee members are paid for all the work they do. We pay for our rooms and meals also. We do not pay the registration fee for the Gala, members voted that the committee members did not have to pay as a thank you for the work we do. Your Gala committee spends many hours working on the Gala and at the Gala and never receives money for gas mileage or anything else they donate. Members store supplies in their own homes and make many trips to the hotel to provide everything necessary for the Gala.

If you have any questions or would like to help at the Gala connect with one of our board members, Connie Duncan, Janet Wilke or Jackie Oglesby.

Hoping for a fantastic 2024 Gala!

Connie Duncan, Vice-President.

Thank you, Connie. And now a word from Anne Blackmore.

Finds from the Road

A Nautical Find in the Center of the Midwest

By Anne Blackmore



It seems you've caught us making another run for dog food. Since our local Sam's Club no longer carries our dogs' favorite, we have to drive approximately 90 minutes to get to a club that does. The good news is, these runs for our dogs' benefit also involve some great antique malls!

The first mall we stopped at was pretty disappointing. After walking up and down through the endless aisles and finding nothing, we headed to one of our favorite spots on the outskirts of town.

As always, we were greeted by name by the friendly folks at the front desk. We stood and talked for a while when one of the dealers offered to show us some interesting new items in one of his cases. We followed him around the corner to his case. When we did not find anything in there, we wandered down to where the open booth spaces started.

In one booth that runs along a wall, the glass is kind of crammed in and you almost need to stand back and take it in and see all the pieces. Glass is stacked in ways I would never dream of, and we typically take our time looking at this display.

Max and I looked the wall of glass up and down, stopping to discuss several pieces. Then as he moved on ahead of me, he suddenly stopped and lunged in to pick up an item. He came back to me and said, "Tell me this is what I think it is!"

I opened up an album in my phone's photo gallery and pulled up a photograph of several Duncan and Miller Sanibel/Nautical line pieces. Sure enough, Max had found the small Nautical line covered jar, which is labeled as a cigarette jar, in Duncan and Miller's Cranberry Pink color.

The Nautical line consists of the 5-1/2 inch tall, lidded cigarette jar, the 9 inch covered humidor, the anchor stem comport (which is considered extremely rare), and an ashtray. These pieces were produced circa 1935. The covered jars are designed to look like nautical lanterns, and the ashtrays have this look as well, to some degree. The comport is open but has the 3-D anchor in the stem. All the items have heavy opalescence and are designed with many elements of lines and circles, all of which are easily damaged if the item is bumped.



And yet, here was the 5-1/2 inch cigarette jar simply sitting out on an open shelf. It was in perfect condition. Neither of us have ever seen a piece of the Nautical line in person before, let alone had the opportunity to purchase one at a location in "the wild". After we "ooooed" and "aahhed" over it for a short while, and then checked it over for damage, our moment of truth arrived. Was this going to be priced crazy high like it should be due to its scarcity? Come on, baby.... Max flipped that price tag over and it was stunningly low. We laughed and could not believe our good fortune to find such an amazing piece of glass for a reasonable price.

Duncan and Miller made some of the most amazing opalescent colors in the 1930s and are well-known for the Nautical and Sanibel lines. Many of their design lines centered around the sea, with fish, shells, anchors, boat lanterns, etc. Combined with the soft opalescent colors, the pieces could take you away to the beautiful sandy beaches of America's seashores.

Needless to say, the cranberry pink cigarette box came home with us. We found lots of other goodies that day, but nothing quite as stunning as our Nautical line piece.

Happy Hunting and Happy Holidays

Thank you, Anne, as always you have brought to our attention something that we have never seen before. Now Ellen Stohler has some information for us on Fenton's Working Elephant.

FENTON WORKING ELEPHANTS

By Ellen Stohler



Fenton Working Elephants Have a Story to Tell Beginning in the 1920's with the creation of the Elephant Flower Bowl designed by Frank L. Fenton the elephant figurine has been part of the Fenton line in many variations. The elephant motif was used several times over the years. Recent examples include some pieces in my collection: the Burmese Mother elephant with Baby elephant designed in 2010 by Robin Spindler for Mother's Day, the OOAK Elephant Favrene Pillow vase designed by Robin Spindler and the Cobalt Elephant vase designed by Robin Spindler, one of ten made For Lenox. While I have many elephants in my collection I have favored collecting the #5123 working elephant.



Foreman Harry Bridges designed the awesome working elephant in 1972. The rare blue satin, scarce white satin and crystal satin working elephants were made during this time. My collection includes these as well as a rare blue satin elephant on fount. I have never heard or seen of another one, so I believe my blue elephant on fount to be OOAK.

I also, have a shiny crystal working elephant on fount. Unfortunately, Fenton discontinued making the working elephant in 1972 because of difficulty with the mould in producing the working elephant. Thirty years passed before a decision was made to begin producing the



#5123 working elephant mould. Kathy See reworked the mould with the result that the shiny topaz working elephant was sold in the Fenton Gift Shop in 2002. The shiny topaz working elephant as well as the satinized are in my collection. Both glow under a black light. During the remainder of the 2000's the Burmese and the shiny and satinized Indigo Blue elephants were sold in the Fenton line and added to my collection. A few years before the factory closed, I believe twelve shiny blue working elephants on fount were available at a VIP Night. I was fortunate to acquire one. In addition to making the #5123 working elephants for the Fenton line the elephants



were made as special orders for the National Fenton Glass Club (NFGS). Some of the colors were Natural Grey, Periwinkle, Chocolate and Iridized Ruby. The ruby iridized elephant was on the 2011 NFGS convention pin. I think that all of the working elephants made by the factory for the Gift Shop and the NFGS are harder to find. When the Fenton factory ceased production in 2011 Fenton Collectibles in Springfield, Missouri leased the working elephant mould to do special

orders for the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City (FFOGKC). Some former Fenton designers have created awesome designs for the NFGS special orders including Martha Reynolds, CC Hardman, Susan Bryan as did Gift Shop designers Michelle Kibbe and Robin Spindler. Some of my OoAK elephants have been acquired from the Silent Auction held in the special



glass room during an NFGS conventions. Once the Fenton factory closed Fenton moulds were sold to the clubs, Mosser and individuals. I was delighted when the NFGS Board purchased the #5123 working elephant mould. Any elephants made for the club by Mosser have the NFGS logo on them. In 2018 Susan Bryan designed a Crown Tuscan working elephant with dainty blue flowers and butterflies. Since then, several more elephants have been made for the Club. The elephant for me signifies strength, power, intelligence and caring as members of elephant herds look after one another.



Thank you, Ellen. I will look at Fenton's working elephant with much more appreciation than I have before because of the information that you shared with us. Last but not least Tom Limback has some information for us on the Pineapple Bowl that he brought to glass id at the Gala. Hate to tell everyone, but he has already turn down offers to buy this beauty.

Marigold Carnival Pineapple Bowl

By Tom Limback



Most Fenton collectors are familiar with the Fenton pineapple pattern introduced in the late 1930's. The colors include crystal, crystal satin, rose satin and ruby. What most collectors do not know is that the pineapple bowl can also be found in seldom seen marigold and cobalt blue carnival. Pictured here is the pineapple 10 " bowl in marigold seated on its 3 scroll feet, a side view and inside view. The pattern is

on the outside and the inside is plain. The pineapple pattern lends itself to being iridized due to the deep and strong pineapple design which makes a striking iridescence. I am not sure when the marigold and cobalt blue carnival bowls were available since carnival was in the line around 1910-1915(Maybe the mould was made around 1915 and not put into production until the late 1930's). Due to the scarcity of the pieces found, these probably were just sample pieces. Not sure why such a striking marigold bowl is found in such a limited number. There probably has been less than five marigold bowls reported....with cobalt blue carnival even more scarce. These rarities are out there. It's a matter of keeping one's eye open especially when traversing through malls, perusing carnival auctions or surfing the internet. Just an FYI: I was

able to sneak upon this one on the internet for less than \$40. Probably the going price is around \$250 - \$350.

Thank you, Tom. I must be honest; I have been checking out eBay ever since I first saw this beautiful bowl. No, another one has not shown up.

We have more news, I started writing the newsletter in 2004, at that time it was one page long and there were no pictures or articles. Slowly, I began to change it by providing more information on the club and Gala, then adding pictures. When I began, I printed it on my home printer and then glued the pictures on to it since it was so expensive to print the color pages on my small printer. I was also unsure on how to transfer the pictures from my camera to my computer. This included my putting postage on the newsletters, folding them and taping it shut so it would go through the mail. Wonderful Bernie Johnson realized as our membership grew that the work was too much for me as I was also working a full-time job at the time and moved at a meeting that we find a printer that could take over all that work and I would just have to get the newsletter together and send it to the printer to print and mail. I have learned so much since I began, about getting a newsletter together and about Fenton. It has been fun. But we have found a new editor for the newsletter who will have a fresh outlook and who knows more about glass and Fenton than most of us do. Anne Blackmore has volunteered to take over the newsletter for us. We are so happy to welcome her to the position of editor. Please let her know how much we are looking forward to the first newsletter she gets together for us in February. Please support her by sending contributions to be added to the newsletter, as you can tell by this newsletter those contributions make the newsletter so much better. Thank you again Anne for all that you do for us and what you will do in the future.

Please join us for the Christmas party at the Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N. Holmes Street, Gladstone, MO 64118, this year we will be able to all be in one room and will have so much fun and so much good food. Don't forget to bring your homemade dessert to add to the fun (I might be shopping for something good at the store so if you don't have time to make, we all have time to buy.)

Jackie Oglesby
Secretary

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

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