

## FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday March 8th, 2008 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th, Raytown Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M .

To begin with a few corrections; The cost of the book Bernie got us is a total of \$23.00 and the broken piece of Fenton at the Christmas party was claimed by the winner. It was a basket that she did not have and since she collected baskets she decided it wasn't broke that bad. However there were several people who spoke up and said they had some broken Fenton that they would contribute to the club for a prize next year. I would like to add that if you still wanted the book that Bernie ordered for us, Fenton Art Glass, a Centennial of Glass Making 1907 - 2007, Bernie is still collecting names. He needs at least six people to order the book so that he can get the price break for you. Right now I believe that 2 more people have signed up for it so if you are interested in this book contact him at [rbi052@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbi052@sbcglobal.net) or 913-294-5728 and he will take care of that for you.

Now for the important correction - yes I did it again, did not forget to remind everyone that the membership dues need to be paid but did forget to tell everyone where to send their check. First for everyone who has sent the money to me it is okay. I have given Janet Wilke their names and will hand over the checks to her at the meeting. he will then deposit the checks into the clubs account as soon as she can so your memberships are updated. For everyone else out there who has not renewed as yet please send your dues to Janet Wilke at FFOGKC, PO Box 67071, Topeka, Ks 66667. Make the checks out to FFOGKC and we will update your membership. If there is any problems please let Janet know either by writing her at the above address or sending her a email [kenwilke@networksplus.net](mailto:kenwilke@networksplus.net). And, speaking of Janet, she had some exciting news for us, she will soon be entering the ranks of the retired. So congratulations Janet. We hope that you will enjoy all the free time that you will have now.

We had a very exciting meeting last month with a wonderful display of glass. Bernie came thru like he always does and not only displayed his wonderful glass, he gave me the information I needed to give to you about his glass. He displayed two of his collections, the 1999 Historic Collection of Gold Amberina and the 1998 Royal Purple Historic Collection. Gold Amberina is a glass color that was patented by Joseph Locke in the mid 1880's. He included lead in his recipe but Fenton did not. It is made by casing a bud of gold ruby glass with amber with the techniques used in gathering and blowing allowing the ruby to remain mostly towards the top and the amber towards the bottom. This is the same techniques are used with mulberry and rubina verde. All six items in the Historic collection, but the lamp, are pictured on page # 1 and were

limited to a run of 2500, the lamp was limited to 950, but less than 50 left the factory and are now selling in excess of \$1500. One of our members found a blank at the factory and convinced Kathleen Sponsler to make him one, Bernie got him to make a deal so he is now the proud owner.

The Royal Purple Historic Collection of 1998 was just as striking as the Gold Amberina. Royal Purple must be blown as the color will fail when pressed. Francis Burton designed the Colonial Scroll decoration using as inspiration the ceiling decoration of a South Carolina plantation called Drayton Hall. The collection actually started in 1997 when Fenton made a powder box for QVC that is very hard to find as there were only 350 made. The bulk of the pieces were made in 1998 and limited to 2950 pieces except the lamp which is limited to 1450. The final piece of his collection was a jar made for QVC in 2002. Bernie found it in the Fenton Gift Shop on our last bus trip to Fenton. With the help of Nick Duncan he acquired a top and base and it now a Ginger Jar - a very exciting piece that I was trying to figure out a way to take home with me. Didn't get to do it!

The show and tell portion of the meeting was just as good as Bernie's program. It included a pair of Celeste Blue stretch glass candlesticks with Ebony base ca. 1920's; a Blue hanging Heart Chalice from NFGS; a small collection of the Cranberry Heart Optic Sentiments Collection, 3 vases, a basket and perfume; a vase that was made by the new owner of the old Gibson Glass Factory. We can hope that they will try to make some of Cameo Glass that Gibson was working on. There also was a Blenko vase that had been worked on by Mac Mackesty (MACO Art Glass) a local (MO.) artist who learned sand carving from famed Cameo artist Marialyce Hawke. The vase started out as a rather plain amber fan vase with a clear glass foot to a wonderful sand carved vase that just took our breathe away. Mr. Mackesty is indeed a very talented artist. There was also a ebony vase made by Fenton that he had sand carved a dragon. This was the same vase that Fenton used for the Elephant Walk Vase.

There were 4 vases designed by cameo artists Kelsey Murphy and Robert Bomkamp, the new 9" Fairy Frolic, the Burmese Sunset Floral, the Pinecone milkglass over dark green vase, and the Favre with Feathers sand carved in it. A Topaz Dave Fetty vase with hanging hearts and ebony trim; two perfumes with heart shape stoppers a lovely sitting bird with hand painted hearts; a green heart shape trinket box that included jewelry when first produced; a nicely made hanging heart vase, unknown maker; a Rose Quartz Vase with a one of a kind hand painted decoration by Martha Reynolds; two samples of the Rosaline Dancing Ladies Vases that will be for sale soon and a Blue Carnival Glass Dancing Ladies Vase that HOACG has for sale this year. Their convention will be in April at the Embassy Suites for everyone who is interested in attending - they also have lots of glass for sale. A very nice showing indeed.

The Gala committee has been hard at work, they want you to know that it is now okay to make your reservations for Gala 2008 at the Embassy Suites, 816-891-7788. We have held back more rooms this year so hopefully we will have enough. So make your reservations early. Remember, if something happens and you can not make the Gala you are able to cancel your room 24 hours before your arrival date and there is no bill to pay. However, if that happens and if you are able, contact Bev Spencer or Joy Livengood at [bevandjon@aol.com](mailto:bevandjon@aol.com) They may have some people that have not been able to make their reservations in time and will want your room. In any case it is easier to make your reservations early and get your room now than trying to get it at the last minute.

We have also decided on the theme for the big display - well at least we hope we have it down. Richard Speaight is in charge of the display and he is hiding out during our Midwestern winter in Arizona so when we hear from him it will be official. The committee decided to split the theme this year and feature three different kinds of glass Favre, Rosaline, and Ruby, kind of a Red, Blue and pinky White theme. Of course I'm excited about it as when I did some checking around the house I found 5 different Ginger Jars in Rosaline as well as one Favre ginger jar that is a one of a kind that I have hopes of making the big display. We should have something exciting for everyone. So everyone who has some glass that they want to add to the display please check out your glass and make a list complete with information needed on the glass and get it ready to give to Richard when he returns in April or May. A real easy way to do this is to

take pictures and put the information on the back of the picture so that Richard has all the information that he needs to make decisions on what to include in the display. It really is not too early to do this.

Also if you want to start planning for your display table it is time start that as well. As always for everyone who attends the National conventions it is a great chance to practice for the Gala - just kidding. You will be able to just keep your display packed up for the Gala after showing off at the main conventions. The only difference from displaying at the National conventions is that there is no judging in KC. We want the knowledge and the excitement of seeing all the glass. There is also the fact that our tables are rectangle instead of round but it is easy to make the changes from round to rectangle. Last year we had a great turn out and many of the people who took their glass to West Virginia were kind enough to bring their glass to KC as well so for those of us who are unable to make it to the National conventions were able to enjoy those great displays. For those people in our club who wants to display in the F AGCA convention please contact Phyllis and Stanley Wood, display committee chairpersons, [phylliswo7@verizon.net](mailto:phylliswo7@verizon.net) for information concerning that. They do have some rules that we do not so it is important to make sure that you have that information but it is easy to move from one function to the next and so very exciting to display your glass at the National conventions.

For anyone considering ordering the Fenton Art Glass Book from Bernie I have a short review to offer. It has, as most books on Fenton does, some wonderful pictures of Fenton glass. There were many that I was familiar with but many that I had never seen before in any of the books that I own. There were some surprises as well including a picture on page 46 of a Wild Rose satin etched console set that had no known identification to the writers. One book that does identify the set is Tom Smith's Fenton Rarities. But overall it is a valuable tool for the Fenton collector, as with all these books some of the prices seem high and some seem low for the glass however as we all know the price of glass changes from one area of the country to another so it does help out in giving the collector something to base the price of a piece of glass on. So my recommendation is to buy, of course I always feel that way as there is never enough information out there for the Fenton collector.

Jack and Beverly McKeehan have contacted me with a new email address, [wmckeehan@kc.rr.com](mailto:wmckeehan@kc.rr.com) , please update your roster. For those who have just joined and not gotten a roster yet I will be sending a new one out in a couple of months for everyone so please be patient and you will get a new and updated one soon.

Who is this strange person? Let me introduce you to Nick Duncan, our new vice president. Nick got his first piece of Fenton from his grandparents (probably a Birthstone Bear) at age seven or eight. Every Christmas they would buy animals, bears or dogs for him. Nick's collection has grown from mallards and various animals including many Dave Fetty pieces on which he has done a program for our club. He also searches out early art glass designs. He has a couple of cabinets to display his glass but doesn't have room to put it all out. One of his favorite pieces is a 6.5 inch flared vase in Moonstone that was made in the 1930's. The artist, Otto Gertler, put a scene with an oriental pagoda on it, and flowers below. He has only seen three examples of this piece.



Nick has been to many of the F AGCA and NFGS conventions and has made many friends over the years. He has also attended every Gala as well as helped out in setting up displays and our auctions. He has spent time visiting with the staff at the Fenton Gift Shop and Factory. He has spent a lot of time on the factory floor learning what it takes to make a piece of Fenton. Nick has also helped with the children's functions at the FAGCA convention and understands what it takes to keep the young involved in the collecting of Fenton. He enjoys looking through books about Fenton and has gained much of his knowledge about Fenton doing this. He has also gained knowledge from many of the Fenton collectors he has meet over the years. All this experience in so young a person will help make Nick a good person to have as our Vice President.

The program for our March meeting will be on glass of the 1930's presented by Steve Duncan. This will cover a lot of information so I won't even attempt to set up the program Steve has collected a lot of this glass and knows more than a lot of experts on this glass so be sure to come and learn from our expert. Our show and tell program will be green glass for St. Pat's Day. So bring your green glass or your glass that you wish to show off and be sure and come for our March meeting. Be careful and enjoy the start of spring in March (I hope).

Jackie Oglesby  
Secretary

