

## Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday May 10TH, 2008 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M .

There is, unfortunately, more bad news to report. Sharon Bragg is very seriously in. Sharon, and her husband Chuck, joined us at the Gala last year so they are new members. We are very sorry to hear about her illness. The last report was that Chuck is also doing poorly so everyone who can please let them know that they are in your thoughts and prayers.

Please let me take the time to thank everyone who makes the effort to inform me about what is going on with our members. It is very difficult to keep track of everything that is going on with our members when so many of our members are out of state. In truth I have trouble keeping up with the members that are in the same state. Please keep the information coming. Our members are our most valuable asset and we need, as well as, want to know what is going on with you.

The meeting in April featured non Fenton collectibles. We had Annette Himstedt dolls, a picture frame full of beautiful cameos, casino coins, half dollars, perfume bottles, powder boxes, a Blenko decanter, a walking egg cup and a Model T. Well, at least the picture of a Model T that a member was very proud of, and with good reason. It was a fun meeting with a chance to learn about the interest of our members outside of Fenton Glass.

The show and tell portion that featured favorite buys from the Gala was great with a set of nine Fostoria swung glass vases (heirloom collection, 1959 - 61), a Cactus Jar whimsey, a Robert Barber #8961 Turquoise hanging heart bottle, a #0010 10" Labyrinth vase that had a special added blue line of glass running around it - a sample vase, ca. 1975, a Milk Glass Dancing Ladies Bowl, a Rosaline Nymph in a hand painted bowl that was a Gala Whimsey in 2004, a #1433 Coindot Ruby vase ca 1985 - 2000, a #1700 Lincoln Inn Ruby Sherbert ca 1928 - 1940, a #9458 RU Red Carnival glass Swan vase ca 2006, a #8222 Rosaline basket weave bowl ca 1977 - 78, and a 2003 Heirloom collection vase with a butterfly attached to the vase, a #76607" Frosted Asters on Blue Satin vase ca 1985, a black handled plate with silver painting, we thought might be Cambridge, a Ebay purchase and the new Dave Fetty, Kelsey Murphy Maiden Fern vase.

Spring is here at last, at least it is here some days - some days it's kind of cold still. It is warm enough to go out and start working on gardens and it's almost time to mow the grass - again. So a lot of us are getting ready for the conventions that are coming up so very fast. It seems like there is plenty of time but there really isn't. I'm trying to decide on what to do for my table display and having a hard time coming up with something new (for me). We had some really great ones last year that were new, including a display of Kelsey Murphy's cameo glass made from Fenton Glassware - if I remember correctly all were in Fenton's line but they were also all very hard to get. There was a great display of Fenton's Halloween glassware that they just started making in the last 5 or 6 years, a display of Heart Optic glassware, baskets, pitchers, as well as wonderful tables of old Fenton glass. So many tables, it was great to see how people used their imaginations to set up the glass in interesting as well as incorporating information on their tables in such a way that the education was painless. Every year something new appears just when you think that you have seen every thing that can be displayed something wonderful and breathtakingly new appears. It is a part of the conventions that never ever grows old.

Today while shopping I found so many things that would be great in the hospitably room at the Gala. Serving trays and such that would make a great addition to the stuff that we already have. There are a lot of things to plan for. Have you thought about what you can bring to the Gala for the hospitably room? We always have so many great items that people make at home. There are always lots of requests for recipes and well as people saying that they will not be able to eat again for a couple of days after leaving the Gala. That always makes us feel good. There was a deal made last year that will require at least one homemade banana cream pie to appear in the hospitably room. There will be a barbeque dinner again Thursday night for everyone who has registered for the Gala. And lots and lots of other good food. Please keep in back of your mind that September will be here before we know it and start planning on bringing in your goodies.

Steve and Connie Duncan are working hard on the auction. They will need the list of glass that everyone wants to place in the Gala auction by the May meeting. Hopefully there will be enough glass listed with us that there will be no need to look further for glass. That being said, Steve had to turn away glass last year so the sooner that they get your list the better. For those who have never put glass in the auction before it would be well to keep in mind that the better that they ID their glass for sale the better. Sometimes when you are selling a Dave Fetty one of a kind or a whimsey from the special room it can be kind of difficult but do the best you can and if you have any doubts include a picture with your description and hopefully Steve, Connie, or Nick will be able to help you. The glass will need to be clean and numbered for the auction. Connie is always good at getting these numbers to us in a very timely manner. Eddie Powers is our auctioneer and he always does a wonderful job of selling our glass. Eddie does not know a whole lot about glass, but he does know how to run a fast and entertaining auction.

We have experts on hand for glass id as well as people getting ready to set up the big glass display. That, of course, is what Richard Speaight is working hard to get together. Everyone who is interested in having some of their glass in the display will need to start getting their list of glass ready for Richard to check. The display will feature Favrene, Ruby and Rosalene glass. If you are interested in bringing in some of your glass for the big display Richard and Sara will be back for the May meeting so it will be helpful to him to have the list or if you prefer bring pictures of your glass to the meeting or send him the list and or pictures to his address that is in the roster which should be out at the same time as this newsletter. This is going to be a hard display to put together. There is a lot of great glass out there so deciding on what to include and exclude will be a challenge. It will also be difficult to balance it out between the glass types.

Ruby has been around for a long time so it goes without saying that we could do a whole display just on Ruby, now wouldn't that be something? While Favrene has not been around as long Fenton has produced quite a bit of it, so it should make for a wonderful display, Rosalene has been around for quite awhile now as well, the most difficult part of a display that features Rosalene is that while it has been around since 1976 Fenton only rarely puts it in line, most often it has been sold thru the Fenton Gift Shop. Rosalene was first created by Frederick Carder. Carder was a English born glassmaker who emigrated to the United States with his family in 1903 where he co-founded the Steuben Glass works with Thomas J. Hawkes in Coming, NY. There they produced a large range of beautiful and colorful glass that is highly

sought after today. Rosalene was one of the formulas that was produce by them. Fenton first started to recreate it in 1976. Correctly made Rosalene is very corrosive to the day tanks which make it very difficult and expensive to make. This is a beautiful pink variegated glass that is heat sensitive and therefore difficult to control. It took Fenton a long time to get the formula correct and when they first started making it the glass was not very popular. In 1979 it was discontinued. That is when people began to discover its beauty. Fenton has since made it again; in fact it is our souvenir piece, a Dancing Ladies Vase. The most difficult items to find that were produced in the first very short time period that Fenton's Rosalene was produced is the #9480 Chessie Box and the #8452 Fan vase. Rosalene will make a very colorful and attractive display for us at the Gala, it will be difficult to find and catalog this glass for the display. Richard will have his job cut out for him on this display so if you have glass that you want in the display please let him know as soon as possible so that he can start getting it organized for us.

As you can see we are entering a very busy period of time for all of us in the club. And there has been no mention of Bev Spencer and Joy Livengood who are working with the Embassy Suites to get our rooms and the hotel ready for the convention. They work very hard to get our luncheon and dinner planned down to the littlest detail. They make arrangements for our rooms so as many of us as possible are on the 2nd floor where all the action - at least all the glass sales are. To help them out please make your room reservations as soon as you can (816-891-7788) and ask for the Gala room rate. And if you want to sale glass please let them know so that they can make sure to put you on the second floor if there is room. It is getting very crowded on that floor now so make your plans and arrangements early. Remember that you can cancel out of your room 24 hours before your arrival time without paying anything. We will miss you if you can't make it but it is worse if you want to come but can't because you can't get a room. Bev and Joy will work hard for you but can only do so much if you wait until the day before the Gala starts to make your plans.

There is so much work to do so that we all can have fun for just a few days a year. Is it worth it? Oh yes. If you don't believe me come and see for yourself. There are so many who have not been named that work hard to bring the Gala, as well as the national conventions to life for us but it is a work of joy. We all enjoy what we do and hope that it brings as much joy to all who attend. We get to meet so many wonderful people and learn so much about the glass that we all love that the work seems to be play.

This month the program for our meeting will be on Lladro porcelain that Roger Thomsen collects. Lladro is a very collectable porcelain that is made in Spain. Three brothers, Juan, Jose and Vicente Lladro formed "Lladro", the company that is now world famous for the quality and beauty of its porcelain sculptures. They started producing items such as vases and jugs and in 1953 and in 1956 started producing sculptures. In 1958 they moved their company from their small shop in the village of Valencia to Tavernes Blanques. In 1969 the City of Porcelain was opened. Currently over 2000 people work there and thousands of people tour the "city" just to get a glimpse of the famous porcelain figures being created. We should be able to learn a lot from Roger about this wonderful collectable. **(Publ. Note: After the newsletter was mailed Roger had a schedule conflict and will not be able to do this program in May. This will be the June program.)**

The new roster should be out about the same time as this newsletter so as a reminder, please let me know of any mistakes that need to be corrected (my address and email is in the roster). As any long time member can tell you, my typing is not the best and my proofreading is even worse so please let me know of any corrections that need to be made and they will be put in upcoming newsletters to that everyone will have them. Thanks.

Well now is the time to ask everyone to take care of themselves and to be careful. And, plan on attending the meeting in May to learn more about Lladro and to be sure to bring some glass for show and tell so that we can keep up to date on the Fenton treasures that are being found in and around Kansas City or on Ebay.

Jackie Oglesby  
Secretary



