



December 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2** Co-President's Message
- 3** Membership Renewals
- 4** 50th Celebration
- 4** Bill Crowl Acquisition
- 6** Road Trip Finds
- 8** Great Lakes Carnival Club Presentation
- 9** VP Message
- 10** Stretch Out Discussion
- 11** Convention 2024
- 12** Tree of Life
- 14** Christmas Open House
- 15** New Pieces Near & Far
- 16** Holiday Decorating
- 17** 2024 Stretch Out Discussions
- 17** Calendar Correction
- 18** Holiday Match Up Game
- 18** Pretty Things
- 17** 2024 Board of Directors

2024 – Golden (50th) Anniversary of the Stretch Glass Society!

By Dave Shetlar

It's a bit hard to believe, but it's been nearly 50 years since the Stretch Glass Society was formed during its first meeting held on April 21 & 22, 1974 at the Colonial Motor Lodge, Denver, PA.

From our files, there was a notice prepared that announced this first meeting. Apparently, this was handed out and mailed to carnival glass collectors and others known to collect iridescent stretch glass. Organization of the group was credited to Bill



Crowl who talked about having a collectors' meeting out of his room at the Marshall Shaffers Carnival Glass sale held in Akron, OH. Rose and Carl Schleede of Spencerport, NY worked with Harry Heathwole (Dayton, VA), Jabe Tarter (Akron, OH), and Berry Wiggins (Orange, VA) to reserve rooms at the Colonial Motor Lodge. They then notified all that they could think of to simply



come, set up displays to show, sell and trade glass. The Saturday breakfast was listed at \$1.95, the evening banquet was \$4.75 and rooms were \$20.00! That was certainly a different time!!

Fifty years ago, Jim Farr was elected as the first president, Harry Heathwole was our first secretary & treasurer, with Jean Eckhart, Carl Schleede and Jabe Tarter becoming the first directors. In the first directory dated July 15, 1974, there were 38 memberships listed, with most of these being

(Continued on page 2)

Golden (50th) Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

family memberships with two people. Today, we have a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and a board of directors with seven members, each assigned specific tasks. On top of that, we have a membership administrator, a newsletter editor (including other things like the annual calendar), and our webmaster. And our memberships hover around 150 (again, with the majority of these being family memberships).

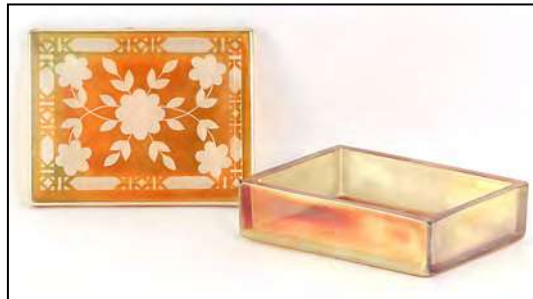
Cal Hackeman and Jeff Hodges have volunteered to lead a committee

that will be working on promoting iridescent stretch glass in 2024 with an emphasis on the Society's 50th Anniversary.

Vickie Rowe has another committee that is busy planning our Convention activities where "golden" stretch glass will be featured. Our club display will consist of many pieces of "marigold" stretch glass (Diamond's Gold; Fenton's Grecian Gold; Imperial's Rose Ice, Pearl Ruby & Pearl Green; Jeannette's Gold & Amber; Lancaster's Rose Ice & Aztec; and Northwood's "marigold"). This under-appreciated stretch color can make a strong impression when it is accumulated together in a large display, so check your collection and be prepared to loan your best pieces to be displayed with the rest of the club display. I have also been assigned the task of creating a display and discussing all the club pieces that have been made. I'm still looking for an "apple" that was made for the club in the early years.

Renee and I are working with some of our "old timers" to create a display that will feature a chronology of the leadership of our club, places where we have had our annual meetings, and pictures of previous meetings. As usual, if you have personal photos (or newspaper clippings) of previous

meetings, especially any meetings prior to 2000, please share them with us! We would like to have images of both glass and participants. While attending the Thanksgiving Randy Clark auction, Randy came up to Renee and I with a shoe box full of thick envelopes. He said that his workers were going to toss them out, but he looked at the pictures within each envelope and realized that they were pictures of past stretch glass conventions, from 1985 to 2008. Many of the images have names of the people written on the backs. It is a treasure trove of information! I'm hoping that we can get a few more of the 1974 to 1985 pictures!



Co-Presidents' Message

Happy holidays! We hope that you were able to spend time with friends and family during Thanksgiving. We're starting to decorate our home in preparation for the Christmas holidays, which will include displaying some of our red, white and green stretch glass.

We are excited for events happening in 2024. We will celebrate our 50th anniversary in January by taking a cruise to Alaska at the end of May. Soon after we return, we will be preparing for our trip to the Stretch Glass Society's 50th anniversary in August.

Please remember to renew your annual dues. The board of directors did not recommend any change in dues and this was approved at the annual meeting. Thank you in advance for your financial support of the Stretch Glass Society.

Happy hunting and we hope you find some new treasures to add to your collections.



Vickie and John Rowe

Vickie and John Rowe
Co-Presidents 2023-2025

November Road Trip Finds!

By Dave (& Renee) Shetlar

Over the last few months, it has been pretty uneventful trying to find stretch glass at our local antique malls and flea markets. But we decided we would head out a day early to give a talk on stretch glass to the Great Lakes Carnival Glass Club's convention. We actually got lost in Decatur, IN and ended up downtown where there was a prominent sign for an antique mall. Not expecting much, but needing to stretch (no pun intended) our legs, we headed in. Our normal routine is for Renee to do the ground floor and I'll do any upstairs or downstairs. I headed left on my way to the stairs and saw several pieces of carnival glass (yawn), but then I spotted a beautiful U.S. Glass #179 vase in topaz in a cabinet - \$45! Probably had a chip or something, but I made a note of it. I then went upstairs, nothing. Went down stairs and it appeared to be a bit like a poorly lit dungeon, but I forged on. I then spotted a Tangerine candy jar on a shelf with \$28 on the sticker, but the booth had "half off!" Figured it had a crack or chip, perfect!! Yeah! By the time I got back upstairs, Renee had finished her side of the mall and mentioned that there was a blue bowl with Diamond candleholders in a booth. Took a look and I realized that the bowl was actually a Fenton #2007 and the \$15 price tag was even better. We both then looked over the U.S. Glass vase and it was perfect AND 10% off! Now we were both pumped up at finding some nice stretch glass.



U.S. Vase 179 large flared, Topaz



Fenton Bowl, #2007, cupped, Celeste Blue

As we continued our trip, we were unsuccessful in the next three malls. Two big malls only had some common pieces that were either too expensive for our tastes or were pieces we already had. I wanted to stop in Coldwater, MI, but by the time we got to the turn-off, there was only about 15 minutes left before their posted closing times. So, on to Lansing, MI for the convention. We got to the convention just in time for their Thursday meet-and-greet with dinner! Our host, Maxine Burkheart (you know, the lady that tolerates Wally!) graciously welcomed us and got us fed. She also reminded us that there were member rooms to visit after dinner. After dinner, Renee decided she'd had enough, but I went room hopping. I soon found a Northwood #640 bowl in emerald green and at a satisfactory price. Several other rooms had stretch glass, but most were items that I already had. However, I noticed that one person had what appeared to be the lid to a Fenton #10 bonbon in Tangerine. It was \$90 and I had spent most of my cash. Figured it would be there the next day.

The next day, we hit the local bank ATM and replenished our cash. Since my talk wasn't until the evening banquet, we decided to drive back to Coldwater, MI where I knew there were two to three malls. The first small mall was kind of cluttered, but we came away with a Fenton #573 vase in Velva Rose (\$45) and a Northwood bowl #638 in Jade Blue. The bowl had calcium deposits inside which likely explained the \$10 price! I was able to easily get all traces of the deposits off with muriatic acid when I got home!



Fenton Vase #573, crimped, Velva Rose



Fenton Candy Jar #837, Tangerine



Northwood Bowl #640, Emerald Green



Northwood Bowl #638, Jade Blue

(Continued on page 7)

November Road Trip Finds!

(Continued from page 6)



Fenton Vase #847, swung fan, Celeste Blue



Northwood Bowl #617, Topaz



Imperial Bowl #7255 Mayo, Marigold on Pink



Fenton Bowl, #600, low, Ruby Stretch

The next mall was much larger and better organized. There we found a Fenton #847 fan vase in Celeste Blue, marked 40% off of \$48 – deal! Another booth had a boat-load of “vaseline” glass and I was expecting some high prices, but I got a Fenton #317 handled server and a Northwood #617 bowl for decent prices. The next mall, again, appeared to be more like garage sale items, but we soon spotted another Fenton handled server in Celeste blue at \$14 with half off! The same booth had a little Imperial #7255 mayo with marigold on pink iridescence, again half off of \$12! Finally, we hit the next mall complex but the huge facility only yielded a Fenton #400 vase in Persian Pearl. By this time Maxine had called in somewhat a panic to tell us that we had to rush back and set up our display because the hotel wouldn’t allow anyone in the room while they were setting up! In short, we got back and set up, then cleaned up and the banquet went well.



Fenton Handled Server #317, Topaz



Fenton Handled Server #317, Celeste Blue

After the banquet, I thought I would go get the tangerine lid, but it was already gone! Rats! I then visited with Kathy and Galen Johnson to discuss the Hooked on Carnival (and stretch) pricing guide. On my way out, I spotted the tangerine lid, for \$90!! I asked if they could do any better and indeed they could! I thought the lid was for the bonbon, but when I got home, it was too large! What? I then realized that it was the lid to a round jar that doesn’t have a pedestal foot! I have the jar in Velva Rose, so now I’m looking for the jar base in Tangerine! I’ve seen them at some previous auctions but avoided them because I didn’t have a lid. I won’t do that again!!

On the way home, we stopped in Toledo and at Jeffrey’s (just north of Findley, OH). Not much, but in Jeffrey’s I found a really nice Fenton #600 low bowl in dark ruby stretch. Not cheap, but well worth the \$63 final price. I guess the

moral of this travel story is that stretch glass is out there, but you are likely not to find much at the major malls along interstate roads. Get off and away from the interstates and you might be surprised at what you find. Also, it has been our experience that most of the carnival glass collectors also pick up and sell stretch glass. If you can make any of the carnival glass conventions, do so!



Fenton Vase #400, square, Persian Pearl

Northwood's Tree of Life Bowls and Comports

By Dave Shetlar

After reviewing the technical articles that I've produced over the decades, I noticed that I only briefly covered what collectors call "Tree of Life" pieces. These were made in stretch glass by Northwood. The term, Tree of Life, appears to be an ancient reference to many potential religious concepts that used a tree as a symbol of balance and harmony, growth and fertility, peace and love, etc. However, when I tried to draw the design used on the Northwood pieces, it became immediately apparent that the lines are much more like what I see in reeds and grasses, not tree trunk bark! But, with a casual inspection, I can see why folks thought that the design looked like tree bark and with the tops spreading out, those could look like the canopy of a tree.

There are three basic forms that Northwood made: a square-footed bowl with the top being treated to make many different forms; a small, eight-sided foot comport; and a taller 12-sided foot comport.

The footed bowls come in all the colors of stretch glass that we know that Northwood made, except for the white, custard and Jade Blue. Also, I only know of one original catalog page that illustrates three of these bowls with their numbers. In the accompanying picture page, these are the bowls and their shapes: Fig. 1, #609, flared in Topaz (also Fig. 21 in Russet); Fig. 2, cupped in emerald green (also, Fig. 16 in marigold); Fig. 3, #807, square in Russet; Fig. 4, #605, "regular" (we would call it a low bowl) in marigold to crystal; Fig. 5, rolled edges or two-sides-up in crystal; Fig. 6, four sides up in Blue Iris; Fig. 7, Jack in the pulpit (JIP) in Royal Purple; and Fig. 8, rose bowl in Topaz. The most difficult shapes to find are the rose bowl and four sides up. I've only seen a couple of each. The two-sides-up forms are usually found in crystal, blue (Fig. 10) and Royal Purple (Fig. 20). Notice that Fig. 9 appears to be the four sides up form, but the base doesn't have the pattern. The color is also a darker purple than the normal Royal Purple stretch. Only a few of the plain-footed bowls have been found which leads me to believe that the bowl was originally made with a plain square foot, but they decided that it wasn't interesting enough, so they added the tree bark/reeds design. I've also included three of the square-shaped bowls in the three shades of blue: Fig. 11, a pale blue with a slight green cast; Fig. 12, a "normal" blue; Fig. 13, a darker blue that collectors often call "sapphire" blue. The Royal Purple can also vary. Fig. 14 is a bowl that has more of a blue-purple cast, and Fig. 15 is a bowl in the more classic Royal Purple shade. The Jack in the pulpit forms are popular with collectors as they display the stretch effect well: Fig. 17 in Blue; Fig. 18 in crystal; and, Fig. 19 in Topaz. More of the normal bowls are: Fig. 22 in a dark Royal Purple; Fig. 22 in a normal Royal Purple; Fig. 24 in normal Blue; Fig. 25 in emerald green; and, Fig. 26 in Topaz.

In summary, you could potentially amass quite a large collection of just the square-footed bowls if you were able to get all the shapes in all the colors. Difficult colors to obtain are emerald green, Russet, and the darker purples.

The small comports (Figs. 27-33) are fairly obtainable but are only seen in Blue and Topaz. I have heard of a marigold example but have never seen it. If you look inside the stem and bowls of these pieces, you often will find the classic N-in-a-circle logo. The three basic shapes are: "normal" (Figs. 27 & 28), cupped (Fig. 29) and card tray (30). These little comports are also commonly found without the Tree of Life pattern on the stems (Figs. 31-33). When these show up on eBay, you have to check out the stems to see if they are plain or have the design!

The large comports are impressive pieces and are most commonly found in a cupped in shape (Figs. 34-38), occasionally in the "normal" shape (Fig. 39), and often in a cake-plate form (Figs. 40-42). Like the smaller comports, you can sometimes find the N-in-a-circle mark inside the stem where it joins the top. The most common colors are Blue and Topaz. Notice that the three shades of blue can be found (Figs. 34, green-blue; 35, normal Blue; 36, sapphire blue). A truly rare piece showed up some years ago in a translucent custard glass with a marigold iridescence (Fig. 38). Other, less common colors are marigold (Fig. 40) and crystal (Fig. 41)



Figure 7



Figure 19



Figure 40



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

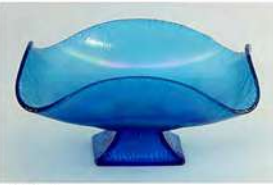


Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



Fig. 25



Fig. 26



Fig. 27



Fig. 28



Fig. 29



Fig. 30



Fig. 31



Fig. 32



Fig. 33



Fig. 34



Fig. 35



Fig. 36



Fig. 37



Fig. 38



Fig. 39



Fig. 40



Fig. 41



Fig. 42