



THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

50th
Anniversary

A charitable organization founded April 20, 1974, in Denver, PA.

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Fifty years of promoting and celebrating American stretch glass - see what you are missing!

March 2024

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Convention 2024

By Vickie Rowe

The 2024 convention is less than 5 months away! It's not too early to start planning to attend it. The convention team has been working hard in planning the 50th annual convention, which will take place

August 15-17, 2024 in Denver, PA at the Comfort Inn. *(Please note that the dates in the 2024 calendar are not correct).* The theme is: Fifty years of promoting and celebrating American stretch glass - See what you are missing! Plan to attend now to see some beautiful marigold stretch glass, which is the theme for the convention display.

The registration materials will be sent out by email (or USPS for those without email addresses) by May 1st. Forms will be available to download from the website, www.stretchglassociety.org You will also be able to register online through the website.

Remember to book your hotel room ASAP by calling the Comfort Inn in Denver, PA (717-336-7541). Please tell them you are with The Stretch Glass Society to get the reduced rate of \$99 for Thursday night and \$129 for Friday and Saturday nights plus tax. The deadline to be eligible for these rates is July 15th. The address is: 1 Denver Road, Denver, PA. You can also book your room reservation at www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/YK70L6



We have some new happenings for this year's convention. We have a new menu and caterer. There will be prime rib (with a carving station), roasted breast of turkey, salad, veggies and whipped potatoes for your banquet meal, as well as dessert.

We are excited to promote our souvenir booklet, sponsored by Matthew Wroda Auctions. The 50th Anniversary celebration is the ideal time to provide members with the history of the Stretch Glass Society.

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Convention 2024

(Continued from page 1)

Included in the booklet will be pictures of our souvenirs, a narrative history of The SGS, as well as a list of past and present board members and officers. All current members will receive the booklet, which will be distributed at the convention. Those who are unable to attend the convention will receive their booklet by mail after the convention.

For the first time in several years, we will have a new souvenir for sale. Actually, it's a "new" version of a previous souvenir. Please see the details in another article in this newsletter.

We have heard from several members that they will be attending the convention this year for the first time or the first time in a while. This is great! You will have fun and learn about stretch glass from each other and our presenters. Join us for many activities, great meals, lots of fantastic stretch glass and, most important, engaging conversation with others who share your interest in stretch glass. And there will be opportunities for some of the stretch glass to go home with you – imagine how excited you will be when you win or purchase one or a few or even many piece(s) of stretch glass. It will be Christmas in August for sure. As a bonus, Denver is very close to Adamstown where there are several antique malls.



Sneak Peak of the Convention Schedule

By Vickie Rowe

On Thursday, August 15th, we start the convention with our Welcome Reception. It's a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships, as well as greet newcomers to the convention. There will be lots of delicious food. Tom & Debra Burns will have the auction glass set up for previewing. Don't forget about the First Timers' Stampede.

We start Friday morning with the Annual Meeting, and Election of board members and officers. After a brief break, Dave Shetlar will have "Show and Tell" with the souvenirs made for the Stretch Glass Society, dating back to 1974.

After lunch, there will be time to explore some of the many antique shops in the Adamstown/Denver area. Return back to the hotel for the auction by Burns Auction Service. Featured in this auction is the collection of Joanne Rodgers, one of the charter members of the Stretch Glass Society. Joanne has been collecting stretch glass for many years and there will be about 300 pieces to entice you to bid.

We begin Saturday morning with Unusual, Interesting, Rare, New Finds and/or Favorite Glass moderated by Cal Hackeman. At last year's convention, we were very impressed with the response from the attendees. We decided to offer the show and share this year, as we know that many of you have found some unusual, interesting, and/or new finds. Please bring them and share them with the rest of us!

Our infamous White Elephant auction will begin after lunch on Saturday. For those of you who haven't been to one of our recent conventions, we encourage you to bring something (it doesn't have to be glass) to be auctioned off. In the past, members have brought chocolate, books on glass, jewelry, wine....just to give you an idea. Your auction "find" helps us to offset the cost of the convention. There's even a white glass elephant that goes home with the highest bidder, only to return the following year to go home with the new high bidder.

After the White Elephant auction, Dave and Renee Shetlar will do the review of the convention display. This year's theme is marigold, and six out of the nine companies that made stretch glass produced glass in this color. Start looking through your glass to see what pieces of marigold stretch glass you could bring for the display. We always learn so much from Dave and Renee when they do the review of the glass. Dave's contact information is listed on the page with the Board of Directors. Please let him know what pieces of glass you will be bringing.

Our final event of the convention is the banquet, followed by the banquet speaker. This year, Dave Shetlar will be speaking on the History of the Stretch Glass Society. Rumor has it that there might be a trivia contest related to this topic. It will be a wonderful way to finish celebrating our 50th Anniversary.



Stretch Glass “Gold!”

Celebrating the Stretch Glass Society 50th Anniversary, Part 1.

David Shetlar

Our Stretch Glass Society has survived and is thriving after 50 years of existence! As part of our annual convention, we will be celebrating our anniversary with our display of “gold” stretch glass. While many pieces of stretch glass have been decorated with gold enamel accents, we are talking about marigold. It appears that six of the nine stretch glass manufacturers included some form of marigold pieces in their stretch glass lines. I don’t know of any marigold stretch glass pieces made by Central, U.S. Glass or Vineland. Before our convention, I want to give you a preview of what might show up for the club display. In this article I’ll show some of the pieces made by Diamond and Fenton. I find it interesting that Diamond and Fenton’s marigold pieces have subtle to no stretch effect in the iridescence, but since they included the pieces in their stretch glass lines, we include them. Remember that what we call marigold today is generally the result of spraying (doping) the glass with a solution containing iron sulfate salts. Apparently, it was a very unpopular dope because sulfuric acid would come off the sprayed surface. This would irritate the worker’s eyes and eat away at the equipment.

Diamond apparently used the term “Gold” to refer to the marigold pieces in their Rainbow Lustre line and this color is not extremely common like Fenton’s Grecian Gold pieces. I’ll start with Diamond’s candleholders. The “Mae West” trumpet-shaped candleholders (Fig. 1) are quite common in blue and green, but Gold examples are less common but obtainable which is the same case for the spindle-shaped holders (Fig. 2). The blown-molded candleholders/bud vases (Fig. 3) in the 9.5” form and the 7” form (not shown) are also known but the Adam’s Rib (#900) version (Fig. 9) is very difficult to find. I know of only one set of the “Pastel Panels” pitcher and tumbler sets (Fig. 4) which are also most commonly seen in blue and green. Comports are very uncommon in Gold (Fig. 5) and I have only seen two of the Adam’s Rib comports in Gold (Fig. 11). Two marigold stands are known, and Cal discovered a punch bowl that fits perfectly on one of the stands (Fig. 6). A couple of candle-bowls (Fig. 7) are known in Gold and car vases (Fig. 8), marked Benzer, are fairly obtainable. Gold plates (Fig. 12) are very rare and the “crinkle” vases (Fig. 10) are known in the corset and pinched forms. I didn’t have space to show a Diamond heart-handled server in Gold, but a couple are known. Finally, the typical Diamond sherbet (Fig. 13) is known but the one figured has a flower cutting decoration. Notice that I haven’t included any Diamond bowls other than the fish bowl. The most common one is a large (12 inch) flared bowl with a ground base. Those rarely have strong gold iridescence and usually have good stretch effect.

Fenton Art Glass company made a great amount of marigold stretch glass which they called Grecian Gold. Unfortunately, very little of this has strong stretch effect. Most is shiny to satiny. The first example does have excellent stretch effect (Fig. 15). I’ve seen two of these bowls and they appear to be the Fenton #2005 bowl that has a 3 3/8-inch base with no collar. This bowl is also known in Royal Blue! Almost any Fenton bowl can be found in Grecian Gold and the iridescence can range from a pale marigold [e.g., #603 cupped bowl with match-stick cutting (Fig. 16), #604 punch bowl (Fig. 21) and #109 rose bowl (Fig. 17)] to a deep orangish marigold [e.g., #231 low bowl (Fig. 14), #604 low bowl (Fig. 21), #857 “melon rib” cupped bowl (Fig. 26), #847 “melon rib” low bowl (Fig. 28), “5-rings” bowl, crimped (Fig. 29), and #647 flared-cupped bowl with cut oval decoration (Fig. 35)]. The #9 candy jar (Fig. 22) is most commonly found with grape or floral cuttings. The #643 covered bonbon (Fig. 18) is quite obtainable, but the ribbed #943 covered bonbon (Fig. 23) is not common in any color (this one has the silver leaf decoration on the lid). The most difficult covered jar would be the #857 bonbon with a floral-knob lid (Fig. 34). Comports in Grecian Gold are also obtainable, but I’ll only show the #9 one with six crimps (Fig. 19) and the #250 “high-standard” with a flared-cupped top (Fig. 20). Many of the Fenton vases can be found in Grecian Gold, but the #400 square-top one (Fig. 24) has very dark iridescence, and I’ve only seen one of the 12-inch high #891 vase (Fig. 30). The #2 creamer and sugar set (Fig. 31) has deep iridescence set off by the applied cobalt blue handles. Most of the colognes and bath jars come in Grecian Gold. Shown here is a #56 ½ (flower top) cologne (Fig. 33) and the #17 bath jar (Fig. 27). The cigarette box (Fig. 25) also has a floral cutting with an acid-etched band around the lid margins. Notice the typical flared sherbet (Fig. 32) of Fenton compared to the Diamond one above. The Fenton one is on a specific sherbet plate that has an offset ring in which the base of the sherbet fits.

By now, you may have realized that I haven’t included the various Fenton pitchers, tumblers and candleholders (except for the #349 ones in Fig. 35 that have cut oval decoration!), plates and servers. There are just too many pieces to illustrate in one discussion, so I’ll try to cover them in another newsletter. All-in-all, single pieces of marigold stretch glass rarely get much attention, but when clustered together, like in the color page, they make a considerable impression of GOLD!



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. 19



Fig. 16



Fig. 21



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



Fig. 26



Fig. 27



Fig. 28



Fig. 29



Fig. 30



Fig. 31



Fig. 32



Fig. 33



Fig. 34



Fig. 35