

2008 Convention Wrap Up

by Pam Steinbach, Convention Director

The 2008 Stretch Glass Society Convention may be history, but the memories live on. About one third of our membership made the trip to Marietta, OH and they were lively participants in all our activities. The club display "A Rainbow of Glass" highlighted one piece of glass in each of the 42 colors in which stretch glass was manufactured. Next to each piece was a card with the official color name and which glass companies made that color. Additional information was provided by Dave Shetlar during his Club Display Review. It might not



have been the "showiest" display we ever had, but it was immensely educational. Hopefully now we will all use the correct color names when discussing Stretch Glass with other collectors.

The party began on Wednesday with a wine and cheese party organized by Mike and Cyndi Getchius who brought some wonderful Wisconsin cheeses for us to sample. Thursday was our fast and furious Sales Stampede where we draw numbers, line up and at the official time, race to the sale tables to purchase that piece of Stretch Glass that we MUST have.

Guests at our banquet on Thursday evening included George and Nancy Fenton, Dave Fetty and CC Hardman. After dinner we listened to fellow collector and author Tom Smith relate some lovely personal stories and anecdotes about the late Frank M. Fenton, whom we all miss. An unexpected, but very interesting highlight of the banquet was when George Fenton asked to say a few words. (See related story by Dave Shetlar on page 6 for more details.)

Friday began with a glass identification lesson from our technical advisor Dave Shetlar who always gives us great tips on ways to identify stretch glass (if you don't have your Stretch Glass book handy). We then had a box lunch and business meeting where we elected new officers and conducted business. After a short break, the real fun began.

The Stretch Glass Society and the National Fenton Glass Society had made arrangements to obtain, from the Fenton Art Glass Company, six special pieces of glass produced by Dave Fetty, Fenton's Master Craftsman. This effort was spearheaded by our own Les Rowe who is also a member of the NFGS. Three of

these pieces were iridized and three were not. Les also arranged for auctioneer Melody Canfield to preside over a joint auction by both clubs. An impressive number of NFGS members were on hand and the auction began. It started slowly but Melody cajoled and sweet talked bidders to open their wallets and before long, the auction was in full swing. I am happy to report that the sales were split 50-50 with SGS members winning three pieces and NFGS members winning three pieces. It was great fun and truly a pleasure working so closely with the NFGS to make this event happen.

Following the auction, Dave Fetty, Fenton's Master Craftsman, presented "A Progressive Glass Display". While explaining how he makes a piece of glass from start to finish, Fetty referred to various tools he uses and pointed to sample pieces of glass in these various stages of completion. Afterward he presented a video taken in the Fenton factory showing the actual procedure in progress. It was truly interesting and amazing to see.

It was now time for our Silent Auctions to end. Jim Steinbach, our Ways and Means Director, had obtained some interesting pieces of Stretch Glass. Our own John Madeley (co-author of *American Iridescent Stretch Glass*) had generously donated a group of black double dolphin whimsys which were produced by Fenton at the same time as our convention piece in 1997. We also had 19 pieces of vintage stretch glass to be sold. Last, but not least, we had commissioned Fenton artist CC Hardman to decorate five of our past year's souvenirs and these beautiful pieces were also included in our Silent Auction.

All our members were given bidding numbers and were instructed to write their bids on the accompanying bid sheet in front of each piece of glass. By using numbers rather than names, the bidding was "silent". Approximately ten minutes before this auction was to end, I noticed most all of our members standing around the tables. Someone would write in a last minute bid and someone else would quickly run over and up their bid. This got to be so spirited, one member refused to put the pen back down so the other member couldn't bid again! This was all done in good-spirited fun and everyone was having a great time. Out of 26 assigned bidding numbers, we had 14 different, successful bidders including one absentee bidder!

The two raffle pieces were won by Arna Simpson and August Keith.

This year's convention could not have happened without the help of many of our members pitching in. Thanks to all who helped make this convention one to remember. To those of you who did not attend, we hope to see you next year: July 29-31, 2009 at the Comfort Inn and Marietta, OH.



"A Rainbow of Glass"



Mike & Cyndi Getchius



Dave Shetlar's Club Display Review



Dave Fetty



Tom Smith



Banquet



George Fenton



CC Hardman Silent Auction Pieces



Melody Canfield & Les Rowe



NFGS/SGS Auction