

SGS 2010 Convention, Show & Sale Highlights

by Cal Hackeman

It took a year to plan, and then in three days it was over, but the three days were packed with intensity, fun and excitement. The transformation of the Comfort Inn's Marie Antoinette Ballroom began early Wednesday morning. Hotel staff had been busy the night before setting up tables according to our floor plan, which called for a few changes from previous conventions. In approximately three hours a small group of energetic SGS members had dressed more than 60 tables with skirts and covers; placed signage indicating who and what would be where and we were ready for SGS members to begin arriving for the annual ritual of showing and discussing, buying and selling and generally overdosing on, iridescent stretch glass. By mid afternoon on Wednesday, July 28th, the convention show room was full of magnificent iridescent stretch glass – well over 1,000 items including rare and unusual vases, 2010 souvenirs and whimsies, items for sale ranging from perfumes and powder puffs, to sherbets and plates, to bowls and candlesticks, to more vases. There were even a few cheese and cracker sets, sugars and creamers, lemonade sets, cigarette holders, nut cups and salts being offered for sale or featured in member displays. “A Garden of Vases” grew and took shape as members brought over 200 examples for the club display, providing an array of iridescent stretch glass vases from all the vintage and contemporary makers.

After the Board of Directors met to conduct the business of the Society on Wednesday afternoon, members Mike and Cyndi Getchius put out a spread of Wisconsin cheeses and crackers and began popping the corks on a few bottles of wine, signaling the start of the Wine and Cheese Welcoming Reception. As usual, everyone had a wonderful time renewing friendships, meeting new members, checking out the iridescent glass that was on display and being offered for sale, and getting familiar with the schedule for the next couple of days. By 10:30pm everyone had left for their rooms, the lights were turned out, and we turned our attention to getting some sleep in anticipation of an exciting Stampede on Thursday morning. Unfortunately, not everyone in the hotel was asleep overnight, as one or more “visitors” entered the convention show room during the night and removed eight pieces of glass, primarily from members’ for sale tables. This was discovered on Thursday morning when members began arriving and noticing items missing from their tables. The local police were summoned, police reports were completed, fingerprints were taken, and everyone regrouped for a delayed stampede at 1pm.

The “Stampede” was as exciting as ever, with

many members snatching up special items for their collections at a hurried and frantic pace. After an hour or so, things settled down to a steady routine of buying and selling for most of the rest of the day. Sales and purchases were still being completed well into Friday. We never really know how much “business” is transacted among members during the annual convention, show and sale, but from casual observations it seems that it is safe to say at least a couple hundred pieces of iridescent stretch glass changed hands and the number could be significantly higher – no one is really counting. On Thursday afternoon Dave Shetlar led us in a discussion of members’ displays and sale items. As always, Dave’s expertise and insights help everyone to become more knowledgeable about iridescent stretch glass.

After a brief rest late Thursday afternoon, we assembled for our annual banquet which featured an all new (and delicious) menu topped off with a selection of homemade pies. With everyone’s appetite (for food, that is) satisfied, we turned our attention to learning about the “Other Collections” we have. You will find an article about this elsewhere in this newsletter, so all I will say here is that it is indeed amazing to see and hear about all the things we collect. With day two of the convention behind us, we again headed off to bed but not before engaging security to keep a watchful eye on our stretch glass over night.

Friday morning saw many members heading out to shop at a local flea market and the host of shops in and around Marietta as well as visiting Fenton Art Glass to purchase contemporary glass. By noon, Messrs. Burns, Smith and Richards had unpacked over 200 pieces of stretch, Fenton and other collectible glassware which would be offered for sale in a live auction in the evening. This late addition to our convention schedule created lots of excitement, especially when a Celeste Blue (stretch glass) punch cup was added to the items to be sold in the auction. Lunchtime arrived with members being treated to a feast of subs, salads, chips and cookies before President Tim Cantrell called the annual business meeting to order. As if it was a carefully scripted performance, the annual business meeting proceeded without interruption as the members present and voting approved no change in membership dues for 2011, elected a new Secretary and Treasurer (Marilyn Farr and Mary Lynn Padovano, respectively, both retiring after serving in these positions) and three Directors. We welcome Jan Reichling as our new Secretary and Jim Steinbach as our new Treasurer. Lynda Randolph was elected to the Board as a Director and Mike Getchius and I were re-elected as Directors. We continue to be in search of a member who is willing to

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serve as Vice President, so if you are that person, please let President Tim know of your interest.

With the official business out of the way, we once again turned our attention to learning about iridescent stretch glass, as Dave Shetlar and I presented and discussed the Garden of Vases club display and answered questions from members and guests. Long time member, Augusta Keith, made a surprise appearance much to everyone's delight. We began to "tear down" and "pack up" but then stopped briefly in the late afternoon to turn our attention to buying yet more glassware, this time with the help of auctioneer Bill Richards, Sr. Offered for sale were a number of iridized and unidized pieces of contemporary glass from Fenton Art Glass as well as several more of the whimsies made from the SGS 2010 Convention souvenir in an auction jointly promoted by NFGS and SGS. We next wrapped up the silent auction of vintage and 2010 convention souvenir whimsies. Then we returned to packing in order to make way for those who were making their way into the ballroom for the final event of the convention - the live auction of vintage glassware conducted by Tom Burns. This auction included the sale of a number of examples of iridescent stretch glass, among them a 10" Celeste Blue iridized cut ovals candlestick, the previously mentioned Celeste Blue punch cup, numerous pairs of candlesticks, vases, bowls, and a green iridized Adam's Rib vase. Late on Friday night we again turned out the lights and returned to our hotel rooms; the 2010 Convention Show and Sale was complete and the 60 members and many guests who had participated had once again satisfied – at least temporarily – their quest.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who helped to make this convention, show and sale a reality. Many SGS members assisted with set up and tear down, hosted the registration and welcome table, helped with meals, auctions and activities of all sorts – in fact, just about everyone who was at the convention helped in some way. I want to join President Tim in especially thanking my Executive Assistant at Grant Thornton, Debi Terry, who was responsible for all the collateral, mailings, signage, supplies and more for the convention; without her help there would have been no registration packets, table signage, meeting agendas, etc. Finally, I want to give a special welcome and thanks to one of our newest members, Michael Krupar, from Silver Spring, MD. Michael learned that I was chairing the 2010 Convention several months ago and offered to come to Marietta and help. He was instrumental in making the 2010 Convention happen – and in the process acquired a bit of an interest in iridescent stretch glass.

To everyone who wasn't able to join us, I hope these highlights and photographs help you virtually participate in our annual gathering and we hope you will be able to join us at the 2011 Convention, Show and Sale on July 27-29, 2011 when we once again return to Marietta, OH.





Lynda Randolph and Paul Schmitz view the Shetlars' and Simpsons' displays of U.S. Glass Company stretch glass in opaque colors.



Tim Cantrell and Tom Monoski admire an Imperial red paneled bowl.



Mike & Cyndi Getchius, Mary Lynn Padovano, and John Madeley enjoy the banquet buffet.



Tom Smith introduces Fenton collector, Susie Ballard, to stretch glass.



SGS/NFGS Auction whimsies



Roger Christensen inspects items for the Richards/Burns auction.



Dave Shetlar and Cal Hackeman present the club display, **A Garden of Vases**

