



**STRETCH GLASS REVIEW**  
**Stretch Glass in the 21st Century**  
Stretch Out Discussion Call on April 9, 2020



The speakers for our discussions are Kitty and Russell Umbraco and Dave Shetlar. They are all noted experts on stretch glass having done extensive research and cataloging of stretch glass in addition to publishing books on stretch glass. They are life members of The Stretch Glass Society and Dave is a past Co-President. Current SGS President, Cal Hackeman, also contributes to our discussions. SGS Director, Bob Henkel, moderates the calls which are organized by SGS Director Mary Elda Arrington. SGS Secretary, Stephanie Bennett, selects and presents the photos of the stretch glass to be discussed. Members and guests of The Stretch Glass Society participate in the discussion.

We will be pleased to identify stretch glass for you if you send photos and dimensions of your stretch glass to us at [info@stretchglassociety.org](mailto:info@stretchglassociety.org). There is no charge for ID. You may also be interested in reading The SGS Quarterly featuring the most up-to-date information on recent discoveries of previously unreported stretch glass, informative in-depth articles about stretch glass and news of upcoming auctions and sales featuring stretch glass. This publication is provided to all members 4 times each year. Please consider supporting The Stretch Glass Society by becoming a member. Join us at [stretchglassociety.org](http://stretchglassociety.org) and tap into our extensive network of experts, photos and research. These Stretch Glass Reviews of the discussions are available several weeks after the call and are also posted on our website.

The Stretch Glass Society is pleased to share the insights and knowledge of our experts and hope you find the following summary educational and encouraging as you enjoy, collect, buy and sell stretch glass.



This Stretch Glass discussion on Stretch Glass in the 21st Century was different than any other, it was not a technical discussion of the stretch glass in the photos. Instead, you will see and read about how we can incorporate the stunning, iridescent early and late period stretch glass into our lives for entertaining, decorating of our homes and celebrating the holidays.

Beautiful spring colors grace this magnificent banquet table. The hyacinths provide a wonderful fragrance for the dinner. Sometimes when we say we want to decorate with stretch glass, we think it has to be all stretch glass. The reality is that you can mix and match many items and still come up with a nice theme. It appears that topless candy jars may have been used as the goblets; most of these were found, lid-less and together. The white hyacinths complement the white candles, dishes, bowls and tablecloth, enabling the different spring colors in the glass to show up so beautifully. There is glass from at least four of the nine companies which produced stretch glass on this table. It is a perfect example of how you can set a table and mix and match many pieces of stretch glass together.





This is another example of how one can mix and match different colors.



This photo shows a very pleasing monochromatic grouping, using all blue stretch glass. The blue accents in the white china complement the blue stretch glass. The white tablecloth with the blues and purples is the unifying agent and completes the 'look'.



This setting incorporates two complementary colors with the tablecloth pulling in the topaz and green colors in the stretch glass.



Each one of the place settings on this small round table has its own theme of colors - topaz, blue and green.



Using primarily Imperial stretch glass, small individual place settings include the wide range of colors that Imperial produced: Ruby Ice, Blue Ice, Green Ice and Amethyst Ice. The host/hostess also incorporated a couple of Imperial Jewels plates as well as examples of Iris Ice beverage ware.





This is a setting using the complementary colors of blue and marigold. White appears in the candles, china and tablecloth, with an overlay cloth to pull in the colors of the blue and marigold stretch glass. Even the platters under the plates are actually gold decorated. They go with the marigold stretch glass quite nicely.



We have had settings with a variety of colors, monochromatic, and two complementary colors. This 50th Anniversary setting shows the use of one primary color: topaz. There is a nice variety of items reminding us that stretch glass was produced in many shapes. Each teacup has a different china pattern that includes yellow or yellow green.



This Asian theme shows another way of combining the two complementary colors of topaz and green. At first glance, it looks like a knife was across each plate, but with further examination, it turns out these utensils are chopsticks. This reminds us that when using stretch glass for place settings, it is important to keep the food soft so that you do not have to use a knife and risk scratching the plate. A green opaque stretch glass vase goes very nicely with the Florentine Green tumblers and plates and the other topaz stretch glass.





With the exception of the first few place settings, many of the rest of these place settings are more appropriate for a luncheon. That is because stretch glass was actually designed and intended more for lunch or afternoon entertaining than it was for dinner. You will not find platters, covered vegetable dishes, butter dishes or salt and pepper sets in stretch glass. These are the items that you would need in order to serve a dinner and they do not exist in stretch glass. What we have here is the plate, sherbet with the under plate, and a tumbler for iced tea. There could be a pitcher on the table, along with candlesticks and vases for the flowers. This is a perfect way to use stretch glass for a nice light lunch for four people.

Apparently, some stretch glass was sold in sets appropriate for use with six people as we find the lemonade and iced tea pitchers being promoted with six tumblers or handled mugs.

There is not any period of glass that is better suited for holiday themes than stretch glass. You have just about every color you could possibly want for a holiday theme, within the thirty-five different colors in which stretch glass was produced during the early period. In the late period of production, Fenton sold stretch glass in many more colors and some new shapes.

Halloween starts out our holiday theme. Zak McCarney, one of our Stretch Glass Society members, uses primarily topaz stretch glass, but he manages to work in some pieces of Tangerine. He brings the Halloween theme in through the placemats, napkins, and the vintage Halloween noisemakers. His table setting includes a lemonade tumbler, cup & saucer, salad bowl, smaller plate, bigger plate, and sherbet for dessert. He has it all! He even has an orange salad spoon and fork to go in the big salad bowl. A pitcher is in the back. The item that is in the middle of the table is a late period Fenton topaz opalescent epergne. Zak has managed to work in both early period and some late period stretch glass on this table. Topaz stretch glass will glow under a black light, adding another dimension to this Halloween theme.



A very nice combination of glass from different periods of time is used to present a special Christmas theme. Included are ruby candlesticks as well as several Florentine Green serving pieces. These combine with crystal and Fenton glass decorated Christmas trees to give the table a festive look.



The following settings from Bob Henkel feature stretch glass along with china, silver and crystal. The stretch glass is a perfect accent regardless of the age, genre, or style of the items with which it is being used.

In this setting Bob chooses Northwood's Russet (olive green) stretch glass for his Christmas theme. The ruby goblets were on his grandmother's table. She had one comport - actually a jelly comport. Bob uses them as individual fruit comports or even desserts. The candles on the table are battery powered. They are certainly safer to use in stretch glass candleholders because you do not have to worry about them burning down and cracking the cups of the candleholders.





Bob is able to combine nostalgic family pieces in his venues. This is a beautiful pastel setting of pinks and browns. The plate picks up all the shades of the browns and pinks. The off-white napkins are edged in brown. They go with the dogwood pattern placemat that Bob's grandmother used to make. The fruit plate compote on the left is an early American pattern piece in "Kentucky". A tall stemmed comport holds fresh flowers in colors similar to the stretch glass sherbet.



This is a tea setting for Spring. Notice that the candy dish has plastic Easter eggs in it. The tea caddy is shown along with cut glass. The mat is Viennese embroidered, which picks up the gold in the tea pot and the gold on the edge of the teacups. Even the flatware is silver with a gold edge.





A tea setting in the summer calls for lots of blue and white. The brown napkins and placemat made of sticks that are bound together, make for a very informal feeling in the summer. The silver tray and a silver pot give this setting a special touch. The blue and white china is in a Spode pattern; these colors are picked up in the stretch glass vase and in the early American pattern glass in the Delaware pattern. The tea caddy itself is a blue and white Dutch piece.

There is actually only one piece of stretch glass in this setting (#1): the Blue Cobalt vase. You can see how that blue vase, the blue early American pressed glass Delaware pattern, and the blue and white china all goes together. Sometimes you may only have a couple pieces of stretch glass in the color that you're looking for, or maybe you only want to use a couple pieces. Some of the earlier settings either had all stretch glass or mostly stretch glass. Here, you just have one stretch glass vase that is used to accent everything else.



When you introduce red to the blue in the summer, it becomes Fourth of July. There is red in the Bakelite type flatware, the placemat, and in the flowers. The early American pattern glass goblet has stars in it. The Persian Pearl coffee cup has a cobalt blue rim. Because it's summer, Bob included an authentic stein for beer!



This is a very simple breakfast set with snowflakes on the plate and an Anchor Hocking coffee cup. The only stretch glass in this setting is the US reticulated piece in which Bob floats the flowers.



Now we come to some more of the holiday themes. This is a pretty impressive Fourth of July display. We have three punch bowls in Persian Pearl, Celeste Blue and ruby. Note the ruby stretch glass punch bowl base – it is a tough item to find in comparison to the red punch bowls, which are more plentiful. The four matching ruby candleholders are also not easily obtained.



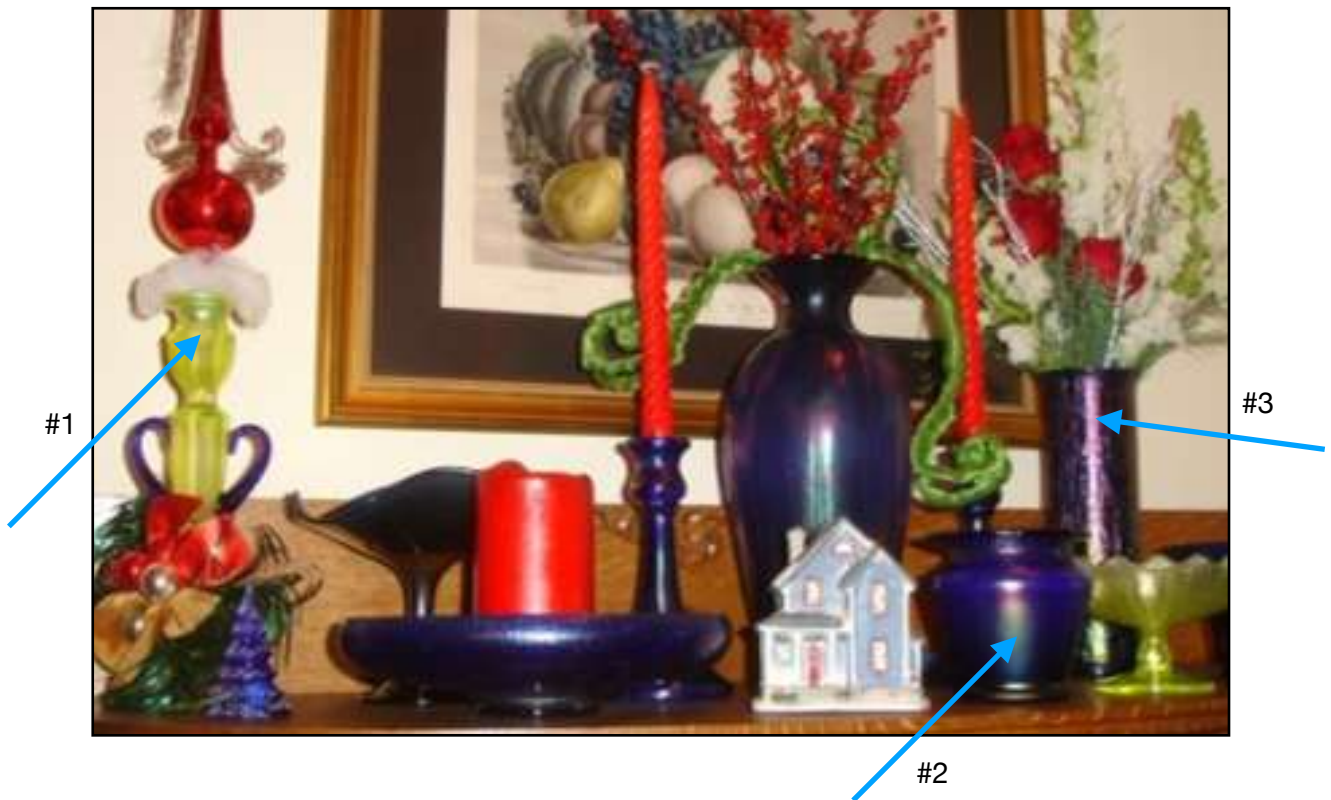
This is a fabulous Halloween display, using mostly Diamond's Egyptian Lustre – black opaque glass which was iridized and re-shaped. Notice the unique twist provided by putting a string of lights inside a swung Tangerine stretch glass vase!



Cal Hackeman doesn't necessarily put glass away to make room for holiday decorations. Instead, he decorates it just as he decorates the rest of the house when Christmas time comes. In this case, a Christmas tree of glass bulbs fits nicely inside the punch bowl and dresses it up a bit. The vase on the left has some holly berries just to give it some color for the holidays.



This is also a Christmas setting. The candlestick on the left (#1) is a handled topaz 10” candlestick; we believe this to have been created by one of the workers at the Fenton factory. Candlesticks with handles were not produced ‘in the line’ during either the early or late periods of stretch glass production. It’s the only one known. In that candlestick, instead of putting a candle, is a very vintage Victorian period tree topper. The glass tree topper has some silver strings coming out of the top of it. The rest of the pieces are all in colors similar to Fenton’s Royal Blue, often referred to as Cobalt by other glass companies. The little vase (#2) to the front next to the house is actually not a piece of stretch glass. It is art glass made by Possinger in Germany in the 1960-70s. Items from the Possinger line are often mistaken as stretch glass. While these items look like stretch glass, they all have a polished pontil on the bottom because they are blown, rather than molded, as is the case for stretch glass. The red candles and flowers help to make the top of the china cabinet look ‘Christmasy.’ The vase (#3) on the far right is Cobalt crackle. It has a surface crackle effect that Diamond used on a number of their vases. We commonly call it a cylinder vase.



In this Christmas setting, Cal and Jeff use stretch glass to serve food at their annual holiday open house. A Ruby Ice Imperial comport is filled with fruit salad.



A Fenton twin dolphin fan vase with cookies and another bowl of fruit salad.

There is no better way to serve shrimp than on a dolphin handled server. On the right-hand side, you will see a center-handled server with the edge coming up a little bit. They used it for a selection of pastries.





Stephanie Bennett is our Blue Stretch collector. This is how she incorporated her blue collection into a Thanksgiving setting. She started with a nice display of blue with some under plates. Placemats and runners with Celeste blue accents and china trimmed in Celeste Blue provide a background for this Thanksgiving dinner. Stretch glass bowls are used to serve salad and cranberries. Notice the cute little handmade turkeys that provide the finishing touch.



Our stretch glass does not always have to be used for serving food, eating or drinking. It can be a delight to gaze upon and refresh our memories of how we acquired a special piece or pieces. Stephanie loves to keep her pieces on display all the time. A lot of her blue stretch glass came from her first stretch glass friends. She thinks about them every time she looks out the window.

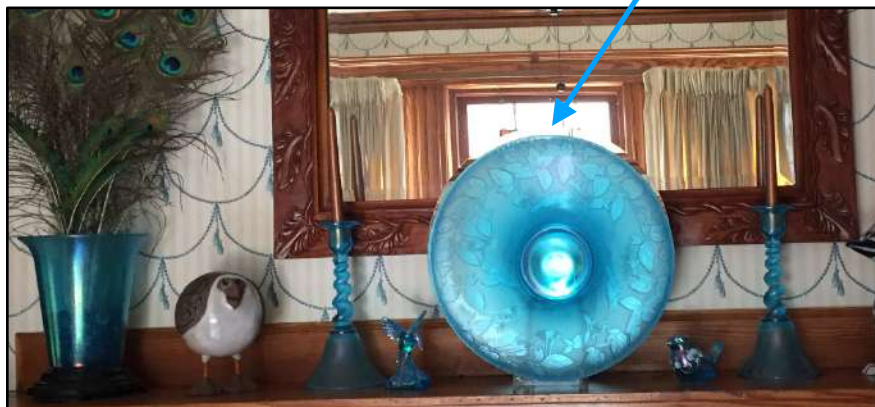
The eggs are displayed according to the season and all are iridized. They came from Linda and Ben Bensinger's shop, Hedge House, once the largest Fenton dealership in New England. The Fenton Finders of New England met there until they closed the shop recently. She had purchased 90th anniversary Celeste Blue pieces there long ago



This table setting is all Fenton. The happiness bird came from Becki Ann Selby at the 2019 convention. Stephanie found a 1985 FAGCA souvenir to go with it on eBay. (Stephanie only buys bananas that have Celeste Blue labels!)

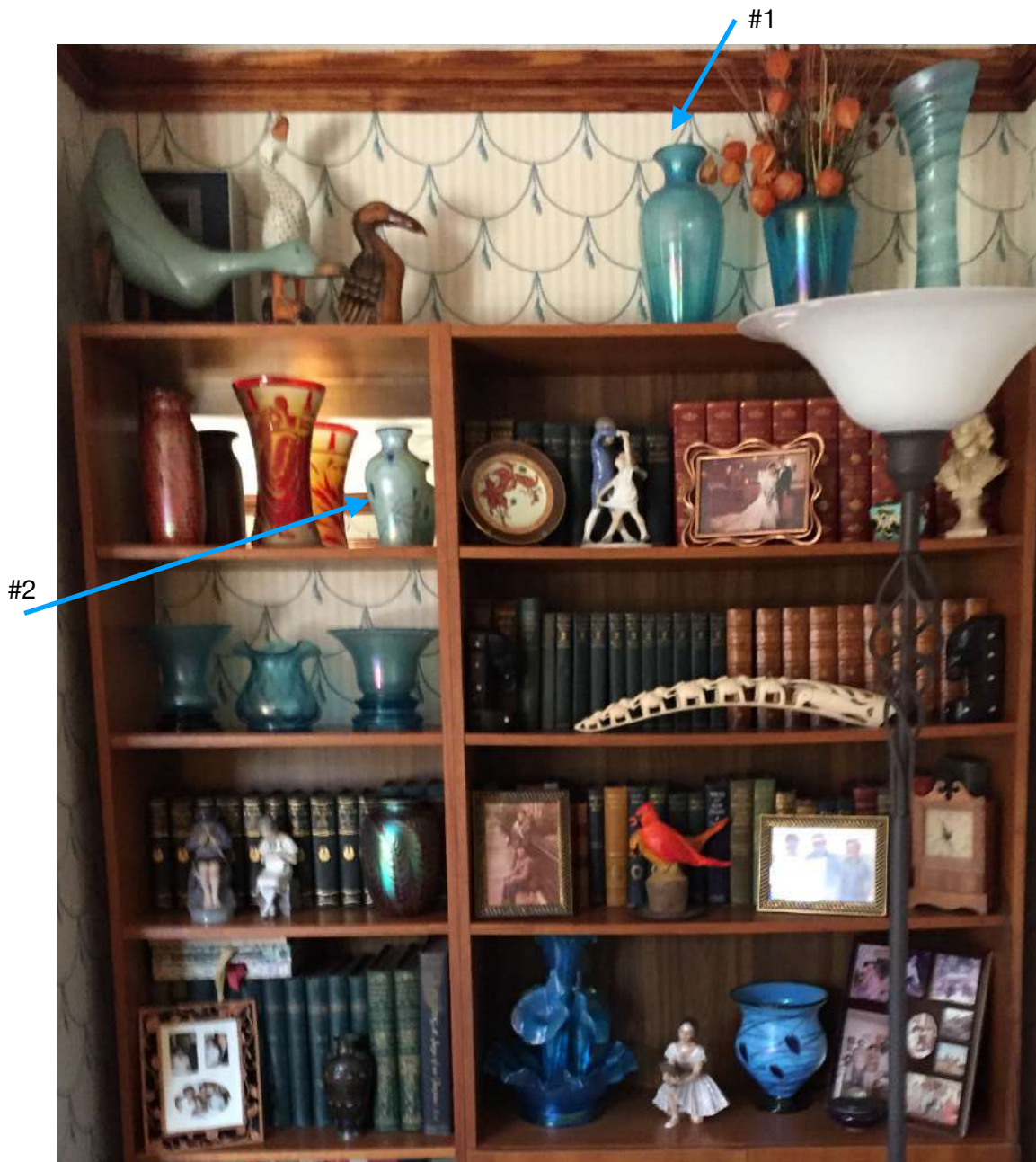


Stephanie bought the Fenton ice cream dish on the mantle from Bill Crowl in 1995 at Brimfield. There were a couple of years when Bill delivered her convention purchases to her at Brimfield. After handing over the glass she had already bought, he pulled out this beauty and said, "I thought you might like this." So, of course, she bought it! Twenty years later in 2015 Stephanie sent it to Kelsey Murphy, who carved it with hummingbirds and honeysuckle. It is carved on both the back and the front in three layers - satin, iridized and then there is stretch glass. It is just awesome! By the way, the candlesticks match the wallpaper. Stephanie wallpapered the room to go with her blue glass.





The Fenton vase (#891) on the top shelf of this bookcase on the left (#1) was found and purchased on eBay. Stephanie's friend Jan called her and said that she just had to get this vase. It was not a convenient time for Stephanie to bid. Later Jan contacted her and said, "It was a steal, I stole it for you! You have to have it!" Stephanie likes to have her pieces of glass out where she can see them because they remind her of fun times and great friends. In this bookcase we see blue stretch glass from several companies and from both the early and late periods of production along with a Dave Fetty 'hanging hearts' art glass vase (#2).



This Fenton Grecian Gold opalescent comport with matching candleholders is a favorite of Reg and Mary Elda Arrington. Notice the stunning black base on the candleholders and the crocheted heart doily. Both the high stemmed comport and the 'spindle' candleholders can be hard to find examples of stretch glass.



This is a mixture of early and late period Fenton Topaz stretch glass pieces, a small Tiffany-type lamp, small family photos and a blue decanter that is an old family piece. It is difficult to see, but there is a tiny topaz base under the wide cupped tulip shaped bowl. The three topaz opalescent pieces are hand painted from the late period.





We have examples of flowers in every kind of vase and for every occasion. Stretch Glass member, Mike Getchius only had the two red stretch glass pieces to celebrate Valentine's Day for his wife, Cindi. The rest of the pieces are from their collection of stretch glass.



Bob Henkel was our Stretch Glass Society resident florist at the 2019 SGS convention. He brought a large beautiful Celeste Blue container which picked up the blue of the Delphinium flowers. The dark purple houseplants, the greens and yellows and a little bit of orange made for a stunning arrangement.



The following pictures were the result from our 2019 convention design group. Members were encouraged to bring a stretch glass vase and Bob helped them each create a floral arrangement. It just shows you that each arrangement comes out a little bit differently, depending on the vase you use, even though you are working with the same selection of flowers.







Bob's seminar was beautiful, educational, and FUN !



## Preview of last call

Our last discussion in the 2019-2020 Stretch Out Discussion series will be May 14th on amber and Tangerine Stretch Glass. Fenton, Imperial, Northwood, US Glass, Vineland & Jeannette produced amber. Fenton was the only company to produce Tangerine Stretch Glass. This discussion will give you an opportunity to hear why none of the other companies opted to make stretch glass in an orange color. You will see that the production of amber stretch glass, while by more companies than Tangerine, did not involve a lot of items.

