It Glitters, it Glows, but is "it" Safe?
Amazing Weekend Exhibit to Feature Uranium Glass

In Dearborn all that glitters and glows will prove to be not only valuable, but highly collectible and fascinating to see! A display of American-made glassware containing uranium dioxide will be on exhibit as part of the Michigan Depression Glass Society's 40th Annual All-Depression Era Glass Show and Sale the first weekend in November.

Does some of this glass actually glow? Yes, under ultraviolet black light conditions certain yellow-green colored glassware, known to collectors as Vaseline glass, will fluoresce to a magnificent shade of neon green. This is due to 2% uranium dioxide having been added to the glass making ingredients. It is an amazing phenomenon to observe and one which will be demonstrated under special lighting conditions at the event.

"All Vaseline glass is defined as uranium glass," explains MDGS secretary Jan Holdinski, "but not all uranium glass is considered Vaseline. This show will feature both, plus an incredible selection of collectible glassware made in America from the early 1900s to 1960s for sale."

Glassware colors besides the yellow-green Vaseline glass have had uranium dioxide added, including some green depression glass, Burmese glass and custard glass, with colors ranging from a pale off-white to a bright green, and all which will glow under UV light.

Many contemporary uses of uranium exploit its unique nuclear properties, so while uranium glassware remains highly collectible and adds a fascinating dimension to home decorating, many question whether it is safe for personal use or display.

"This glass is considered safe," explains Holdinski, who is an avid collector of uranium glass and enjoys displaying it in her home. "The emissions from this glass are consistent with background radiation that most people are exposed to on a daily basis."

In addition to viewing the display of uranium glass, attendees will also be able to shop from amongst over 20 vendors from across the country who will be selling American-made glassware in every hue of the rainbow, including many pieces with that unique green glow.

The event is considered one of the best Depression glass shows in the country and features glassware from well-known companies such as Fostoria, Heisey, Cambridge, Fenton, Anchor Hocking, Hazel Atlas and many others. The uranium glass exhibit will contain more than 100 pieces, but those who shop early should be able to find plenty of glowing-deals from vendors, who will have more than 10,000 pieces of glassware available for sale.

The event takes place Saturday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Avenue (US 12) at Greenfield Road, in Dearborn Michigan 48126. Parking is free; strollers are not permitted for safety reasons. A donation of $5 per person is requested for admittance and early attendance is recommended for the best selection.

The Michigan Depression Glass Society is a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation and study of American-manufactured glassware from the early 1900s to 1970 that meets in Livonia, MI. For more information about the club and the glass show, visit www.michigandepressionglass.com.