

GOLD REVIEW

February 2023 Edition 2

Unveiling the 2023 Gold Collection



June 2nd & 3rd
Illinois State University

[CLICK TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



bloomington
GOLD
Corvettes USA

Words From Guy

Bloomington Gold Corvette enthusiasts,

The focus of this edition of the **REVIEW** will be the **2023 Gold Collection**.

Before we get lost in the details of the **2023 Collection**, I would like to send a huge **THANK YOU** to **Corvette Central** for their sponsorship of the collection. We could not do this without their support. It is with their help that we can once again hold the Gold Gala Thursday night as well as add several special touches to the display. As fellow Corvette lovers, they truly are Caretakers of the Legends.

Each fall, **Bloomington Gold's** *Special Collection* Selection Committee and I work together to select a theme for the upcoming show's special display. While the themes have been many, each year the committee, headed by Bill Locke, outdoes the previous year's collection.

With the **2022 Collection, A Gold Salute to the Gold Collection**, being probably one of the most priceless collections that the committee has compiled, what theme could they possibly come up with that will out-shine the beautiful cars of of 2022?? Well, read on my friends, as once again they have out done themselves....



Happy Trails
Guy Larsen
President
AKA Wise Guy



FROM THE FIRST V8 TO C8,
TRUSTED BY CORVETTE OWNERS SINCE 1975.

OFFERING OVER 60,000
CORVETTE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES.
CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE STORE.



corvettecentral.com | 800-345-4122
Sawyer, MI





Welcome to the
2023 Gold Collection:

A Salute to the
Corvette Z06

Presented by



2023 Gold Gala Reception

Thursday, June 1st
Bone Student Center
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
\$20 per person

Join us in the excitement as we present the cars at the
Gold Gala Salute to the Corvette Z06!
Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as you mingle with friends
and be one of the first to see the 2023 display
back where the *Special Collection* started in 1984.

Business casual attire is requested.



Presented by



A Gold Salute to the



Presented by

10 years after the release of the Corvette, a **Z06** options package was presented. Since then, the **Z06** package has been offered in 4 out of 7 generations. Each generation offering a more powerful version of the previous. To understand the passion for the **Z06**, one must first take a deep dive into the development of the **RPO Z06** over 60 years ago.



1963 Corvette Z06



2017 Corvette Z06

AN OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1963 RPO Z06 CHEVROLET CORVETTE

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH PERFORMANCE IN CORVETTES

Article by Marty Fowler

In May 1953 Zora Arkus-Duntov was hired as an assistant staff engineer at Chevrolet. The small block Chevrolet engine was being developed and Duntov wrote a letter to his bosses titled "Thoughts pertaining to Youth, Hotrodders, and Chevrolet" which detailed how the new Chevrolet small block V8 engine could overcome the Ford flathead V8 domination in preference by customers and the various racing communities. In 1955 he assisted in getting the new V8 into the underpowered Corvette. Soon it seemed Duntov was involved in anything high-performance related to the small block V8. At the Pike's Peak hill climb he set a stock car record in a 1956 Bel Air. Then he took a Corvette to Daytona Beach and set a record of 147.300 miles per hour average in the flying mile which required a two-way run. The speed was achieved by addition of the new "Duntov cam." Ed Cole was impressed enough to put Duntov in charge of fielding four Corvettes for the 12 hours of Sebring which was only six weeks away.

The three prototype Corvettes used at Daytona and one production 1956 Corvette made up the four Corvette team sent to Sebring, headed by veteran racer John Fitch. With only a few weeks to prepare, Fitch's team was literally testing and manufacturing parts as they worked to get the cars upgraded to withstand the twelve-hour race. Brakes were the most obvious area of attention, but other items were also addressed including steel 37-gallon fuel tanks to reduce fuel stops. The Corvettes did well enough that Campbell-Ewald, Chevrolet's advertising agency, created the famous "The Real McCoy" advertising campaign. In addition, six production SR1 Corvettes were assembled at the St. Louis assembly plant (less the steel 37-gallon fuel tank) for sale to the public. Corvette road racing had its start.

For 1957 Duntov had much more aggressive high-performance plans. Ed Cole was saying yes to high-performance and Duntov when given an inch would take a mile. The Corvette SS, a tube-frame magnesium body exotic race car, was developed to compete with the expensive race-only "production" European sports cars. He built a duplicate chassis of the Corvette SS with a fiberglass body, called "The Mule," for testing and to keep the real car away from publicity. Unknown at the time, the chassis from "The Mule" would be seen again under the body of the 1959 Stingray racer playing a part in the design of the 1963 Corvette. Duntov was developing the production Corvette racing program,

improving weak points and adding new features. John Fitch was again signed on as team manager and driver. A SR2 from the Styling Department received the latest high-performance upgrades from the racing team and was included in the 1957 Sebring program along with two production cars. The Thompson-Andrey #4 Corvette finished twelfth overall and first in GT 5.0. By anyone's measure that is racing success. The racing parts used on the Sebring Corvettes were released as Regular Production Options (RPOs). However, the racing success was short-lived. By June 1957 a newly imposed racing ban by the Automobile Manufacturers Association (AMA) shut down all manufacturer supported racing. Chevrolet stopped its support of racing teams after the AMA ban, but the new RPOs became the method used to let would be Corvette racers get their own heavy-duty and high-performance racing parts. It worked very well. The Corvette now could be equipped with RPOs including a fuel injected high-lift cam engine, a 4-speed close ratio transmission and heavy-duty brakes and suspension. All necessary parts to be competitive in racing.

Chevrolet Styling and Engineering Departments worked years in advance of new model introductions. In 1959 the Styling Department was already working on the design for the 1963 Corvette. Bill Mitchell, Vice President of Styling wanted to give the younger styling personnel a chance to change things up, so he tasked Pete Brock, Gene Garfinkle, Chuck Pohlman and Norm Neumann to come up with a completely new forward-thinking design. Larry Shinoda refined the design, and the result was the 1959 Stingray racer with the help of the 98-inch wheelbase "mule" chassis from Sebring. The tube chassis had independent rear suspension and was a racing chassis originally designed for Le Mans. Mitchell owned the car, and it was not officially connected to Chevrolet. He had Dick Thompson drive the car in a race at the Marlboro raceway on April 18, 1959 in the C-Modified class, finishing fourth in its first race. Thompson raced the car for the entire 1960 season and won the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) C-Modified class National Championship. It did not hurt for thousands of spectators to see the Stingray racer, which was easily the most beautiful car at any race appearance. Other racers got used to seeing the Stingray's six taillights.

[TO CONTINUE READING, CLICK HERE](#)



REGISTRATION FOR 2023 IS OPEN! June 2nd & 3rd, 2023, in Bloomington, IL.

While these are not all the events that Bloomington Gold has to offer, it is some of the more popular ones that attendees prefer to sign up for ahead of time!

TODAY IS THE DAY!

Buy Your Tickets Online and avoid the lines and gate fees!

2023 Advanced Pricing:

Single Day (good either day) \$25

Weekend Pass- \$45

Parking - Free!



**Note: Tickets will be mailed starting mid-March and will come from Illinois State University.*

[CLICK TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

IS 2023 THE YEAR FOR YOUR CORVETTE, CAMARO or RESTO MOD to be Gold Certified®?

Registration for Gold Certified®, SURVIVOR®, and Benchmark® is **OPEN!**

Bloomington Gold is recognized world-wide for its prestigious judging process of Corvettes, and now Camaros and the authentication a **Bloomington Gold Certification** brings to a car. Each year, owners bring their cars to be judged for Certification. The reason for doing so are many, but each has one final goal: to have their car be awarded either **Gold Certified®**, **SURVIVOR®** or the much coveted **Benchmark®** award or **RESTO MOD**.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

See **Certification Corner** on page 11 for more information about **Bloomington Gold Certification**.

GOLD MEMBERSHIP

Join us as we celebrate **10 years of Gold Membership!** In celebration of 10 years, **Bloomington Gold** is bringing back the **Gold Member pin!**

In addition, **Gold Members** will receive their **Gold Member polo** along with the following:

- 2 weekend tickets,
- Lounge with breakfast, refreshments, snacks and lunch daily
- Entry to the Gold Gala
- VIP Parking
- Friday Reception with give aways

Register today to receive your **Gold Member Gift** before the show!

Cost for Membership
(includes 2 weekend passes)
\$410 Advance
\$435 Starting March 1

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



The **Gold Member Pin** is about 1 inch wide.

THE 2023 ROAD TOUR

Remember what a blast you had on the **Road Tour in 2022?** Guess what! We are excited to announce the tour is returning again for 2023! With the word out among attendees and the communities along the route, expect this year's tour to be an extreme thrill ride!

The first 300 registrants will receive a free **2023 Gold Tour License Plate!** Plates will be picked up at the Show in the **Gold Store**.

Cost for the **Road Tour** is \$15 per car.

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)





REGISTRATION FOR VENDORS!

June 2nd & 3rd, 2023, in Bloomington, IL.

Talk to any vendor that attended the 2022 event and they will tell you that **Bloomington Gold** is **BACK** and an event that your business cannot afford to miss. From *Swap* to *Polish* to *Apparel* to *Cars*, **Bloomington Gold** Vendors sell it all!

Bloomington Gold offers a variety of locations for vendors to choose from, all offer high exposure and good traffic flow. It is up to you to choose the one that is right for you! Following are the display locations available:

Horton Field House - Horton Field House is an inside venue with protection from the elements and secure at night.

East Lot - This is a highly visible, high traffic lot with room for Semi's. In addition to dealer's, Gold Mine and the 50 Year Salute will be parked here.

Swap Meet Lot - The traditional swap meet is back! Spaces are on asphalt and are offered in 18' wide and 18' deep increments. Some of the spots offer shade from trees. Tent rental is also available.

Patio - Rigs & Larger Displays that request or require to be outside will be located on the North side of the East parking lot as well as in between Redbird and Horton Field House. There are also a few 10x10 spots on grass available.

Chevy Dealerships - Leman Chevy City will be the host dealership at the 2023 event offering both new and used Corvettes, Camaros and tow vehicles. Additional dealerships will be displaying in the east lot.

VENDOR SCHEDULE

Vendor Move in: Thursday, June 1
Vendor Gates Hours: 8am-5pm, June 2 & 3

Vendor spots include weekend passes along with parking. Complete details can be found online on the Vendor Contract.

[INFO ABOUT BEING A VENDOR](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR VENDOR MAPS](#)

Certification Corner

2023 is the year to Gold Certify your Corvette, Camaro or Resto Mod!

Understanding The Gold Standard® of Judging

Our highly qualified judges are known for their knowledge, courtesy and consistency for over 30 years.

For Corvettes:

GOLD CERTIFIED® - Friday, June 2
GOLD CERTIFIED® means that a Corvette has been "preserved in" or "restored to" within 95% of the way it appeared when it left the factory... no better, no worse, no different. A **GOLD CERTIFIED®** car appears as it would have just after completion of 'Typical Factory Production'.

SURVIVOR® - Saturday, June 3
SURVIVOR® recognizes Corvettes that have been preserved and highly unrestored. "Worn in but not worn out". For more information, see Bloomingtongold.com/Judging

BENCHMARK®
America's most prestigious Corvette award. Getting **BENCHMARK®** Certified documents the ultimate standard for unrestored vehicles. To achieve **BENCHMARK®** status, an unrestored Corvette must attain **GOLD CERTIFIED®** and Silver or Gold **SURVIVOR®** in the same weekend.

Resto Mod Certified - Friday, June 2
Resto Mod recognizes the seamless integration of today's possibilities into yesterday's performers by applying today's capabilities and styling enhancements that result in improved styling, handling, performance, and comfort to modern standards while retaining a classic original design. A **Bloomington Gold Certified® Resto Mod** is a Corvette that is modified more than 50% in all four of the following sections: engine, chassis, exterior and interior.

For Camaros:

Camaros Gold Certified® - Friday, June 2
1st Generation Camaros will be judged using the same guidelines that are used for Corvettes: A **GOLD CERTIFIED®** car appears as it would just after completion of "typical factory production." It means that a Camaro has been preserved or restored within 95% of the way it appeared when it left the factory - no better, no worse, no different. **Bloomington Gold's** standards for authenticity and condition are clear - the goal is to attain historic perfection, not cosmetic perfection.

[REGISTER FOR CERTIFICATION](#)

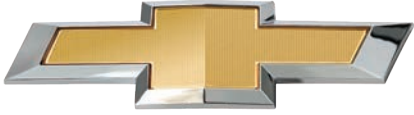
2023 Certification Schedule for all Categories

Staging - Beginning Thursday, June 1st at 8:00am
Owners Meeting - Friday, June 2nd at 7:45am
Awards Ceremony - Saturday, June 3rd at Redbird Arena

ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSSES MAY 15th.
REGISTER ONLINE AT BLOOMINGTONGOLD.COM

QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE? Contact:
Bethany Brucker, Judging Operations Manager, 309.888.2588, Beth@BloomingtonGold.com

PRESENTING SPONSORS:



CHEVROLET

LEMAN'S

CHEVY CITY



AMERICAN COLLECTORS
INSURANCE

OFFICIAL SPONSORS:



and Founding Members
Mia Pia and Joe Cacciatore



Coming in 2 Weeks:

What's new at

Bloomington Gold
in 2023?

Buy Your Tickets Today!

