

# Clay Notes

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**Clay Notes**, the monthly *Triangle Potters Guild* newsletter, and the TPG membership form are available at [www.trianglepotters.org](http://www.trianglepotters.org)

To get your announcements and news in the newsletter, send to:

[trianglepottersguild@yahoo.com](mailto:trianglepottersguild@yahoo.com)

by the 15th of each month.

## Our monthly meetings

are held on the first Tuesday of each month (no meetings June, July and August) at 7:30 pm. We will meet at the NCSU Craft Center, 100 Jensen Dr, Raleigh, NC.

## Visitors are Welcome!

### TPG BOARD

#### President

Jo Ellen Westmoreland  
[jo\\_westmoreland@ncsu.edu](mailto:jo_westmoreland@ncsu.edu)

#### Vice President

Jimmy Sodano  
[sodanopottery@yahoo.com](mailto:sodanopottery@yahoo.com)

#### Corresponding Secretary

Joanne Wood  
252-478-5385  
[jobear0101@peoplepc.com](mailto:jobear0101@peoplepc.com)

#### Treasurer

Elise Stiles  
[stileses@aol.com](mailto:stileses@aol.com)

#### Recording Secretary

Neal O'Briant  
[neal126@yahoo.com](mailto:neal126@yahoo.com)

#### Librarian

Christina Sydor  
[clsydor@gmail.com](mailto:clsydor@gmail.com)



**Will he see his shadow on Feb 2?**

## NEXT TPG MEETING

**Date:** Friday, February 3, 2012

**Location:** NCSU Craft Center, Thompson Hall, NCSU, 100 Jensen Dr, Raleigh

**Time:** 6:30 pm

Parking is available in the parking deck directly across from The Crafts Center entrance. You may be ticketed or towed if you park on the street – this is student parking only.

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

### Ben Owen Slide Presentation

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Date:** Friday, February 3, 2012

“Ben Owen III (B. 1968) has made pottery for sale since he was 13 years old at the site where his grandfather and father established



the Old Plank Road Pottery in the Seagrove area of Piedmont North Carolina in 1959. He worked at

the potter's wheel during high school and in the early 1990s while in college. He produced work in the shapes, glazes and traditions of his grandfather. As he grew older and more experienced, he traveled in the US attending workshops and conferences.

He also traveled abroad, to Japan, Australia, New Zealand and to Europe and recently to China where he diversified his experience while taking advantage of an exchange program and visiting local artist.

Over the years, Ben has been com-missioned to make work for Bob Hope, Perry Como, Elizabeth Taylor, Ronald Reagan and recently making a special gift for musical artist James Taylor as a lifetime achievement award on behalf of the University of North Carolina. He



has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including NC Living treasure in 2004 and being featured in the 2005 N.C. Museum of Art show "The Potters Eye".

(Editor's note: above information was obtained directly from Ben's website, [www.benowenpottery.com](http://www.benowenpottery.com))

## MEETING MINUTES

### TPG January 2012

#### Business Meeting

Recorded by: Neal O'Briant

President Jo Ellen Westmoreland welcomed returning members, new members, and guests.

**Minutes:** Recording Secretary Neal O'Briant asked if anyone had changes to the minutes from December as posted in the newsletter. Minutes were approved.

**Library Report:** Christina Sydor thanked Chris Schafele for donating about a dozen books to the library. Christina said that the two journals the library receives, *Ceramics Technical* and *Ceramics Art and Perspective*, do not get much use. She asked if there were strong objections to dropping the subscriptions. No one objected.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Jo Ellen reported for Joanne Wood that the newsletter had gone out to all the members. Contact Joanne if you did not receive it. She is up to date with her membership list.

**Treasurer's Report:** Elise Stiles reported that there are almost 90 members. The guild's bank account balance is roughly \$6,500, which includes workshop registration money.

#### Workshop Committee Report:

Donna Kanich reported that the workshop was full. There are 36 participants signed up, with 30 of them being guild members plus six other participants. Jo Ellen reminded members that the guild's meeting in February will be at 6:30 before the Friday night of the workshop. She encouraged members to get to the Crafts Center early since that night of the workshop will be open to the public.

**Refreshments:** Jo Ellen thanked Carol Clark for bringing refreshments. Eoline Killough volunteered to bring refreshments in March.

**President's Report:** Jo Ellen announced that there were T-shirts

available for purchase at \$15 per shirt. These were the T-shirts leftover from several years ago. She still needs volunteers for a nominating committee.

### New Business and

**announcements:** Jo Ellen announced that there were spaces available in several Crafts Center pottery classes, including Julie Olsen's flower pots and sets with trays, Conrad Weiser's raku workshop, and Cheryl Weisz's art business class. Chris Schafele announced that she had some books for sale that the library had copies of already. Carol Clark said she had made nametags for all new members but had not stuffed them yet into the badge holders. Edge Barnes announced that registration was open for the N.C. Potters Conference in March. Information about the conference was in the newsletter.

### Vice President's Report and

**Speaker:** Jimmy Sodano and Frank Neef were absent. There was no program.

## TPG EVENTS

### Artspllosure

**Dates:** May 19th - 20th, 2012

**Registration fee:** \$25.00

Signup will be available at the March 6th meeting along with additional information. Twenty-three (23) spaces are available and sharing a space is acceptable.

Jimmy Sodano

Artspllosure Coordinator



## MEMBER NEWS

### from Cheryl Weisz ...

#### ARTIST EXPRESS

The **Artist Express** is a reality-result based workshop. Artists gain rewards (personal satisfaction, greater income, public recognition) from creating or performing their art during the workshop.

A **FREE one hour information evening at 7pm Thursday, February 23** at the NCSU Crafts Center will provide specific information on course materials, previous participant's success stories, a Q&A session and a sample exercise in which those in attendance will take home a valuable experience to rekindle their passion for their art and what they want to accomplish from it.

(This workshop, conducted by TPG member **Cheryl Weisz**) is scheduled for Thursday evenings, 6:30pm - 9:30 pm, March 15 - April 26, 2012 (skips April 5th) at the NCSU Crafts Center. Workshop fee: Students: \$49, Affiliate: \$88 or General Public: \$98. You are cordially invited to attend.

### from Jan Harris ...

#### Hillsborough Downtown Arts and Crafts Show Call for Artists

**Date:** April 14 (rain date: April 15)

#### Place:

Hillsborough/Orange Visitors Ctr  
150 East King St, Hillsborough, NC

**Application deadline:** February 16  
[www.hillsboroughartscouncil.org/arts\\_craftsshow.html](http://www.hillsboroughartscouncil.org/arts_craftsshow.html)

### from Angie Williams ...

#### Artists for Animals Faire

The Apex Arts Council will host this arts show which benefits area animal rescue groups.

**Date:** April 21 (rain date April 28)

**Time:** 10 am - 6 pm

**Place:** Cloer Family Vineyards, Apex NC

#### Registration Fee:

\$25.00 if rec'd by Feb 1 (\$35 rec'd after)

For more information, go to

[www.apexartscouncil.org/events/artists\\_foranimalsfaire](http://www.apexartscouncil.org/events/artists_foranimalsfaire) or contact Bob Crowley, 919-349-3557.

## MEMBER QUESTIONS

### from Angelia Hayes...

I have been looking for a photographer to do professional pictures for submissions. Is there a good way to find one that has experience photographing pottery? I have seen work of a few photographers that looks good, but I am looking for great and with glossy glazes it is very difficult. So I am curious if other potters have found someone they really like they could recommend or is there a procedure known that would help me do it myself?

~~~~~  
One more thing, I am looking to buy a new electric kiln this year and would like to know what brand other potters like. Right now I am only bisque firing in my electric kiln and want to upgrade to an automatic kiln so I can fire without flipping switches. I may want to glaze fire in the new one as well as bisque so do not want to limit myself by picking the wrong one. Has anyone fired an electric kiln to cone 10? Not saying I would ever want to, but if I blew up my

gas kiln to the point of not being able to repair it, I may want to try cone 10 in the electric kiln. I wouldn't want to buy and mix all new glazes for another cone at the same time if I can avoid it. Any suggestions are appreciated. (Editor's note: please contact Angelia at [ahayes2004@yahoo.com](mailto:ahayes2004@yahoo.com) or send your suggestions to [trianglepottersguild@yahoo.com](mailto:trianglepottersguild@yahoo.com) and I will pass the info to her as well as to our membership.)

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

### Gallery Window

### Shopping Spree

All NCSU Craft Center participants, instructors, and staff are invited to help fill the Craft Center street front windows with handcrafted work suitable for sale for Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day gifts.

For more information, contact [jo\\_westmoreland@ncsu.edu](mailto:jo_westmoreland@ncsu.edu).

### 2012 NC Potters Conference

The **2012 NC Potters Conference** will be held on March 2 - March 4. Presenters are Cynthia Bringle, John Glick, Jack Troy, Ronan Peterson, Martha Glover and Jake Johnson. More information is available at [www.randolphartsguild.com](http://www.randolphartsguild.com).

#### LINKS

##### The Crafts Center

[www.ncsu.edu/crafts](http://www.ncsu.edu/crafts)  
(919) 515-2457

##### Sertoma Arts Center

[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)  
(919) 420-2329

##### Pullen Arts Center

[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)  
(919) 831-6126

##### Claymakers

[www.claymakers.com](http://www.claymakers.com)  
(919) 530-8355

##### Durham Arts Council

[www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org)  
(919) 560-2726

##### Jordan Hall Arts Center

[www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org)  
(919) 469-4069

##### Central Carolina Community College (CCCC)

[www.cccc.edu](http://www.cccc.edu)

##### Finch Pottery

[www.danfinch.com](http://www.danfinch.com)  
(252) 235-4664  
(919) 742-4156

##### Litmus Gallery

[www.litmusgallery.com](http://www.litmusgallery.com)  
(919) 571-3605