

# Clay Notes

OCTOBER 2011

Clay Notes, the monthly *Triangle Potters Guild* newsletter, and the TPG membership form are now 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 be meeting 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  
[stileser@aol.com](mailto:stileser@aol.com)

### Recording Secretary

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

### Librarian

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

## NEXT TPG MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2011

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

Time: 7:30 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.

## OCTOBER PROGRAM

### Travis Owens

Submitted by Jimmy Sodano

In the world of pottery modesty seems to be king and on a back country road is a small wooden sign with a simple name...Jugtown.

Travis Owens began working in the pottery studio early in life and grew up learning the trade from his family.

Travis received a Bachelors' degree in Art and Design from NC State

University in 2007 and continues to study the work of his great grandfather, grandfather, and parents, as well as historical pottery. Travis has developed a variety of forms that show respect for his roots

and a sense of his own style. Travis has also conducted workshops and throwing demonstrations at the NC Museum of History, the NC Museum of Art

and the Mint Museum of Art. He has shown his pots in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, New York and New Hampshire.

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"I grew up looking at and making pots, that's what my family has done for generations. I work with local clays and make pieces that reflect the process. Essentially, a good pot has a definite, simple shape, a continuing line, and a glaze that suits



the pot's character; that's what I work for with every piece." -Travis Owens

## 2011/2012 TPG PROPOSED BUDGET

Please review the TPG Budget attachment. We will discuss and vote on it at the next meeting.

## MEETING MINUTES TPG September 2011 Business Meeting

Recorded by: Neal O'Briant

President Jo Ellen Westmoreland welcomed returning members and guests.

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

**President's Report:** Jo Ellen thanked outgoing officers for their service: treasurer Lauren Brockman and vice president Susan Luster. She welcomed new board members: treasurer Elise Stiles and vice president Jimmy Sodano. She announced that Susan had agreed to be an advisory member to the board this year. Jo Ellen asked for anyone who was a tax attorney or CPA or was related to one to let her know.

**Library Report:** Jo Ellen presented information librarian Christina Sydor had emailed her. Christina hopes to complete the project of adding the books from Audrey's library this month. Bill Schmitz copied new videos to be added to the library, and Christina will bring them sometime in September.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Joanne Wood asked for any members who had not received the newsletter to let her know.

**Treasurer's Report:** Elise Stiles said the current balance in our account is \$2,799. She asked for members to renew their memberships. She said the proposed budget would be presented to members in October.

**Clayfest and Webmaster's Report:** Gail Lawson said that several members had expressed an interest in the guild organizing a sale for members. She said the flea market at the N.C. State Fairgrounds was a good location but that it was closed the month of October for the fair and

that it was too late to try to organize an event for this September. She suggested doing a spring event in 2012 or planning for an event in September 2012. Gail also asked members to send their information to her for their pages on the guild's website.

**Refreshments:** Jo Ellen thanked Jimmy Sodano for bringing refreshments to the meeting.

Charlene Poissel volunteered to bring refreshments in October.

**Urban Ministries:** Anne Terry said that the committee had been gathering bowls for the November Stone Soup Supper. Gail Lawson volunteered that she could add a running tally to the website.

**Workshop Committee:** Jimmy Sodano announced that Ben Owen III will present the spring TPG workshop on February 3-4. The Friday night event will be open to all members and will be lieu of the regular meeting that month. Ben will show slides and begin throwing at the Friday night event. The Saturday workshop will feature more throwing and glaze information. The proposed cost for the workshop will be \$60 for members, \$35 for NSCU students, and \$80 for the general public. Registration will open to members and NCSU students on November 1. The public will be able to register December 1 if any spaces remain.

**New Business:** Joanne Wood shared an invitation for the guild to participate in Heritage Day at Historic Oak View County Park on October 1. Asked if anyone would volunteer to lead the guild's participation. Gail Lawson volunteered and several members said they were interested in participating. She said each participant could sell directly to buyers instead of having a centralized payment table.

**Announcements:** Edge Barnes announced that he would be participating at Pottery Fest in Wake Forest on September 10. TPG member Tanya Casteel was featured in an article in the News and Observer on Saturday, September 3. Alice DeLisle suggested the guild organize a food drive for Urban Ministries.

**Vice President's Report:** Jimmy Sodano reported that he had worked on scheduling the speakers for the coming year based on members' input to his questionnaire in May.

October's speaker will be Travis Owens of Jugtown on the history of North Carolina pottery. Other presenters at future meetings include David Fernandez and Julia Fisher. Jimmy introduced the speaker, Daniel Johnston of Seagrove.

**Program:** Daniel Johnston introduced his partner, Kate Waltman, and his apprentice, John Vigeland. Daniel showed slides of his experiences as an apprentice to Mark Hewitt and to Clive Bowen in North Devon, England. The slides also covered his extended trip to Phon Bok, Thailand, and pictures of his pots and studio in Seagrove. Daniel showed a DVD of his 100 pot project before demonstrating how to make large pots with coils on a Thai wheel.

## TPG EVENTS BOWLS NEEDED...

Bring your nice bowls, plates or mugs for Stone Soup to the Craft Center **NOW** please... this is the annual fundraiser for Wake County's Urban Ministry. Pieces sell for \$20 to \$25; you will receive a donation letter. Bring items to a meeting, or place them on a specially marked shelf at the Craft Center. We need at least 300 items this year.

Please contact Sarah Peters at [saralec4@bellsouth.net](mailto:saralec4@bellsouth.net) or Anne Terry at [terryanne@gmail.com](mailto:terryanne@gmail.com) or Emily Malpass [emily.malpass@gmail.com](mailto:emily.malpass@gmail.com).

## ... FOOD IS NEEDED TOO!

**The Shelves are Empty at Urban Ministries...** so the **NCSU Craft Center** has set aside the month of **October** as a time to collect food to help the Urban Ministries of Wake County continue their food distribution program. All guild members associated with the Craft Center are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items (preferably not in glass containers) to the Craft Center at **anytime** during operating hours in October.

Although needs vary from time to time, right now there is a particular need for canned soup, canned beans and vegetables, canned pasta sauce, dry pasta, dry beans, rice, cereal, oatmeal, grits. They don't need peanut butter at this time!

Thank you to all guild members who donate at this time of need.

## MEMBER NEWS Artspllosure 2012 Coordinator...

After coordinating (with the help of many others) TPG's participation in the annual Artspllosure event since 2005, I feel it is time to share my experience and contacts with a new organizer so this popular guild event will continue. Artspllosure is really a group effort, but it does help to have one person take responsibility for meeting deadlines. A request for an organizer will be made at the October meeting. Please consider this opportunity for service to the TPG and gain a wealth of experience. Thanks!

**Martin Stankus**

## from Deb Wright...

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

### Alamance Studio Tour 2011

Saturday, October 15 10 – 5 pm

Sunday, October 16 12 – 5 pm

This event features 52 artists and is sponsored by the Alamance Artisans Guild and the Alamance County Arts Council. For more details, check out [www.alamancestudiotour.com](http://www.alamancestudiotour.com)

## from Effie Martakis-Watson...

### Benson Saturday Stroll

### Benson NC

### October 29, 2011

This year's fall stroll will have a "healthy harvest" and theme will feature a one mile family fun cupcake walk for cancer and a 5k run. All proceeds for the cupcake walk will be donated to the American Cancer Society. There will also be medical professionals offering checkups and screenings. You can obtain a vendor application by contacting [jestallings@townofbenison.com](mailto:jestallings@townofbenison.com) or call at 919-894-1606 with questions. [www.townofbenison.com](http://www.townofbenison.com)

## from Bill & Joyce Newton...

Bill & Joyce Newton will participate at **An Occasion For The Arts, on October 1 & 2** in Williamsburg VA.

## from Cheryl Weisz...

**For Sale: Bailey tabletop slab roller.** Produces 16" wide x 18" long even slabs of clay. 4 thickness boards and canvas cloth included. Perfect condition. New in 2010 cost \$263. Asking \$175.00. Contact: Cheryl Weisz 919-787-7497.

### from Doug Debastiani...

Pullen Arts Center is hosting a two day workshop **Pouring Vessels and Teaware with Seo Eo**, ECU professor and artist, on Nov 5 & 6 at the Pullen Art Center.

Cost is \$120 for city residents and \$132 for non-residents. The Art Center currently has a display of his work. This will be a participating event with a tea social at the end and the pieces to be fired at a later date.

Contact [eliza.kizer@raleighnc.gov](mailto:eliza.kizer@raleighnc.gov) or [betty.mckim@raleighnc.gov](mailto:betty.mckim@raleighnc.gov) for more information.

*(Editor's Note: more details are included on the attachment)*

### from Chris Campbell...

**Handbuilding with Colored Clay - Chris Campbell**

**November 5-6, 2011**

**9 am to 5 pm**

**Sawtooth Center for Visual Art, Winston Salem NC**

This workshop will focus on using colored clay and colored clay patterns in hand building projects specifically geared for Holiday Sales or Giving. Chris will bring colored clay and pre-made colored patterned clay loaves for you to use. Student may combine these loaves to make new images. Fees include one bag of P5 white porcelain.

For more information check the Sawtooth site:

<http://www.sawtooth.org/classes/ceramics/handbuilding-with-colored-clay.html>

### Dining with FRANK

Aug 30 thru Nov 5, 2011

"Dining with FRANK" is an exciting exhibition that includes ceramics and furniture, as well as paintings and other creations which show how the dining experience can be elevated to its own art form. The exhibition will include a lively schedule of food and wine tastings, two catered dinners and several special talks to celebrate the art of "Dining with FRANK."

FRVNC gallery

109 E Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
919.636.4135

[brich@frankisart.com](mailto:brich@frankisart.com)  
[www.frankisart.com](http://www.frankisart.com)

## OTHER EVENTS

### You Are Invited...

"Wild Fire"

**Alamance County Stoneware Past and Present and**

**"Remember Me as You Pass By..."**

**North Carolina**

**Ceramic Grave Markers**

Currently on display thru October 29 at the North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove is a collection of historical grave markers and stoneware pots. Works created in the mid 1800's plus newer pots by contemporary Alamance County potters are displayed at this exhibit.

### You Are Invited...

to attend the **Opening Reception for Fall Exhibitions on**

**Sunday, October 9, 2 – 5 pm**

at the Maria V. Howard Arts Center located at the Imperial Centre in downtown **Rocky Mount, NC.**

The event will include the official renaming of the Arts Center, the National Embroiderer's Guild of America shows, a guided Tour of Sculpture Salmagundi, and a Trompe L'oeil painting demonstration.

There are seven new exhibits and reception refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the Arts Center.

For more information, contact Marion Weathers, Registrar Maria V. Howard Arts Center at the Imperial Centre

[Registrar@rockymountnc.gov](mailto:Registrar@rockymountnc.gov)

## GLOSSARY

An excerpt from **Successful Tips for Buying and Using Pottery Clay**, compiled by Ceramics Publications Co. a **FREE** publication that may be downloaded by members of [www.ceramicartsdaily.org](http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org)

**ABSORPTION** The ability of a fired clay to absorb water. Used as a gauge of vitrification

**AIR-FLOATED; AIR-FLOATING**

Industrial method used in processing of raw clays, where powdered clay is floated in an airstream to settle out heavier particles.

**BALL CLAY Al2O3·2SiO2·2H2O**—

Deposited in marshy areas. Very fine particle size, high plasticity, high drying shrinkage, high in organic contaminants. Fires white or off white.

**BASALT BODY; BASALT WARE**

Clay body with sufficient amounts of dark clays and/or metallic oxides to fire dark brown or black.

## BENTONITE Al2O3·5SiO2·H2O

montmorillonitic clay formed from decomposition of airborne volcanic ash—finest particle size of all clays—plasticizer (three times as powerful as ball clay), suspension agent, should be used in quantities of no more than 3% of dry materials weight.

**BONE CHINA** Translucent porcelain containing bone ash.

**CARBONDALE CLAY** Refractory red stoneware clay, used to obtain rich red and brown colors in high-fire clay bodies.

**CLAY** Widely occurring aluminum silicate mineral resulting from natural decomposition of feldspar and granite. Composed of microscopic disk-shaped platelets that give clay its slippery, plastic quality.

**CLAY BODY** Clay mixture formulated of clays and other ceramic raw materials to give desired working characteristics.

**DEAIRING** The process of removing the air from a plastic clay mass, usually accomplished through wedging, or far more effectively with a vacuum deairing pugmill. (go to [www.ceramicartsdaily.org](http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org) for more info on how to become a member.)

## LINKS

Please note that two links have been added ...both offer a wealth of information about the art scene in Raleigh and North Carolina. You might want to get on their email listings.

### 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

### Litmus Gallery

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

### North Carolina Arts Council

[www.ncarts.org/events](http://www.ncarts.org/events)

### City of Raleigh Arts Commission

[www.arts.commission@raleigh.gov](mailto:www.arts.commission@raleigh.gov)