

# Clay Notes

**MARCH 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

Susan Luster  
[susisolar@aol.com](mailto:susisolar@aol.com)

### Corresponding Secretary

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

### Treasurer

Lauren Brockman  
[ltbrockman@hotmail.com](mailto:ltbrockman@hotmail.com)

### Recording Secretary

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

### Librarian

Christina Sydor  
[chris@boweninsurance.com](mailto:chris@boweninsurance.com)

## Guild Meeting Help Request

Please email Susan Luster [susisolar@aol.com](mailto:susisolar@aol.com) ahead of the meeting time if you can help with the setup or breakdown which normally involves moving and stacking chairs.

## NEXT TPG MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 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.

## MARCH PROGRAM Displaying & Marketing Your Pots

by Susan Luster

Merchandising professional and stained glass artist Deborah Rodgers will present a variety of ways to show your pots to sell at craft shows. She will set up a mock display with elements for indoors and outdoors, discuss signage and other visual components. She has brought her two areas of expertise together to help several artists present their work in ways that help increase sales.

## TPG NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUEST

We are looking for candidates for Vice President and Treasurer to serve during 2011-2012. If you are interested in one of these positions or would like to suggest a candidate, please contact one of the committee members. They are Alice DeLisle (chair), Martin Stankus and Carol Clark.  
Thanks,  
Alice DeLisle

## MEETING MINUTES

### TPG February 2011 Business Meeting

Recorded by: Joanne Wood

Vice President Susan Luster welcomed new members and visitors.

**Minutes:** Joanne Wood stood in for Recording Secretary Neal O'Briant who was not in attendance and asked if anyone

had changes to the minutes from January as posted in the newsletter. Minutes were approved.

### Corresponding Secretary's

**Report:** Joanne Wood reported that the new membership directory was sent to members and she requested any changes be sent to her.

**Library Report:** Christina Sydor reported that Edge Barnes had completed scanning the books from Audrey Heatwole's library. Christina will finish cataloging the others manually and will get with the Webmaster to put the library information on the TPG web page.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lauren Brockman reported that the membership goal had been met and that the "family" category membership had increased which created more revenue. Lauren stated that Leah Decker, winner of the drawing for the \$100 Highwater Clay gift certificate for her donation of bowls to the Stone Soup project in 2010 was presented her certificate at the meeting. Lauren requested and received member suggestions for anyone who had knowledge regarding non profit tax laws.

### Webmaster's Report:

Gail Lawson announced that she had added the new membership listing to the TPG website. She encouraged members who would like their own web page on the TPG website to view the website and send to her email address information that they'd like posted about themselves as well as 3 large to 6 small photos. More information will be included in the next newsletter. Gail also discussed the Tails at Twilight event and asked those who had volunteered pots to bring them to the March meeting. A form was given to the participants to complete and bring with the pots.

**Urban Ministries:** Donna Kanich announced that she was stepping down as the guild's coordinator for the event after five years. A new coordinator is needed this year.

**Workshop:** Donna Kanich reported emails were sent to paid participants for the Ellen Shankin workshop March 25-27. Anyone who signed up for the workshop

but did not receive an email should contact Donna.

**Additional announcement:**

Susan announced that the NC Pottery Collectors Guild would meet on Friday, Feb 4 at 7 pm.

**Refreshments:** Susan thanked Cheryl Weisz for bringing refreshments. Lauren Brockman volunteered to bring refreshments to the March meeting.

**New Business:** Alice DeLisle announced that she is Chairing the nominating committee. New Officers needed are Vice President and Treasurer. She requested that anyone interested in these offices or wanting to be on the nominating committee should contact her.

Martin Stankus announced that the event Planet Earth will be held in Raleigh at the Capital Grounds on Saturday, April 16, from 11 – 5. Participants have used Guild shelves in the past. There is no fee and members use the Guild's centralized checkout. Martin also announced that Artsposure will be held May 21 and 22 this year. He will provide more information at the next meeting.

Jay Levine requested donations for the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society's auction at their biannual conference. Fish themes are welcome as are all other donations. Donations may be left at the NC State Craft Center with Jay's name on the container.

**Program:** This evening's program is a Roundtable Discussion on Electric Kilns. Susan Luster presented the TPG Member panel. Mary Ann Purser focused on the bisque process, Cindy Aldrich on Glaze firing, and Andi Dees on electric kiln troubleshooting and maintenance.

Mary Ann highly recommends getting to know your kiln company's technicians and asking questions. Some tips from the tech were that the temp that pieces are bisqued to affects glaze application, the higher the temp the tighter the pores which lessens water absorption when applying glazes; thermocouples are great but use cones to check problem spots; keep open spaces around edges of shelves to keep heat

from reflecting back to the elements.

Cindy changes elements once a year; she upgraded to a new programmable kiln and uses cone packs to determine when the firing is done. She uses taller posts at the bottom to compensate for cooler temps there.

Andi Dees troubleshoots all kilns at Jordan Hall; for safety reasons, she suggests adding a timer if electric kiln doesn't have one. Regular maintenance should include vacuuming kiln elements; to change all elements if one is changed to avoid hot spots; change thermocouple when changing elements; test fire with cone pack; check for air leaks...1/4 inch space allows heat to escape and should be filled with fiber; tighten all bands periodically. In response during the question and answer segment, Andi also suggested performing the "paper test" if the kiln is firing unevenly or taking a longer time than anticipated ... offset pieces of paper on each element, turn on kiln, turn off lights and watch to see how the paper ignites to determine if all elements are firing properly.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Kiln Wash Recipe from Cindy Aldrich**

Here is the kiln wash recipe I use. This allows you to flip your kiln shelves frequently to prevent warping. It really works! There are lots of other recipes out there so if you don't like this one try others.

**Kiln Wash**  
20% ball clay  
80% Alumina Hydrate

I sand the old wash off the shelves - VERY easy, wipe them with a damp sponge, flip to new side and put one thin coat of kiln wash on them. Please note that the alumina hydrate doesn't dissolve in water so stir it frequently. This recipe is not as good as traditional kiln wash for allowing you to easily remove glaze drips but they can still be removed. As I sand the shelves I save the old alumina from them and just pour it into the container of kiln wash - recycling!!

**MEMBER NEWS**

**Theresa Glisson, Martin Stankus and Emily Lees** have pieces featured in the latest 500 series book recently released by Lark



Publications titled **500 Raku Pots**.

Theresa's piece is on page 226 and Martin's is on 227 – quite a coincidence that out of 500 pieces, these TPG members happen to have their photos across from each other.

**Alice DeLisle** is participating in the **Piedmont Craftsmen New Members Show**, Mar 4-28, 2011. The Piedmont Craftsmen Gallery is located at 601 N. Trade St., Winston-Salem.

**RedSky Gallery** is featuring Alice's new work entitled "Breakout" Mar 25-Apr 21. The exhibit will be in their new location at 1523 Elizabeth Ave, Charlotte.

**TPG Stone Soup Coordinator from Donna Kanich**

Urban Ministries Stone Soup bowl coordinator is needed. Not hard, just beg and plead, collect the bowls and keep track of how many each person brings for the raffle.

For questions contact Donna Kanich at [dkanich@earthlink.net](mailto:dkanich@earthlink.net).

**Edge Barnes** will lead an **Aluminum Foil Sagggar Fire workshop** at **Pocosin Arts** on April 16 & 17. Edge will give demonstrations and provide

participants an opportunity to fire bisqued pots in a bon-fire or primitive kiln setup.



For more information, please contact [www.pocosinarts.org](http://www.pocosinarts.org) and click on the "Studio" button to see the workshops. Edge's info is in the middle of that page.

**Emily Lees** was juried in as a member of the **Orange County Artists Guild**. The Guild is a non-profit organization created by a group of diverse artists in the year 2000 to increase the visibility and recognition of area artists and craftspeople. Artists are juried into the guild once annually. The primary project of the guild is the annual Orange County Open Studio Tour, which is held the first two weekends in November.

### **DONATION REQUEST From Jay Levine**

As many of you know a portion of my day job focuses on conducting research focused on the conservation of one of some of the endangered groups of animals on the planet, freshwater mussels and snails.

Every two years the **Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society** holds an auction at their biannual conference. Four years ago many of you helped out by providing donations to support the auction and raise money to support graduate students working on these endangered animals. One of the items, a giant snail, became an annual item at the auction, where the winner agrees to hold it for two years and then relinquish it for auction again at the next auction.

Our next meeting is the first week in April and I'm gathering donations to carry to the meeting for the auction. We would great appreciate any items you are willing to donate. In particular, items with an aquatic theme like fish, clams, crayfish and snails do well at the auction.

Please drop off any items that you can donate at the Crafts Center, with note indicating they are for me, and I'll carry them to Louisville with me when I head to the meeting.

**Effie Martakis Watson** joins a host of talented and creative studio artists in various media at the new **Gilded Palette Gallery** located at 123 South White Street, Wake Forest, NC, open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**Chris Campbell's** work is currently on display at the **Arts Center** in downtown Rocky Mount, NC in an exhibit titled "20 Potters, 20 Teachers". This exhibit is open and runs through May 15, 2011.

Chris also will conduct workshops in various locations as noted below...

### **HOT CLAY** at Idyllwild Arts

For more info, go to

<http://www.idyllwildarts.org/workshop-q10479-c10325->

[Hot\\_ClayCeramics.aspx#clay](http://www.idyllwildarts.org/workshop-q10479-c10325-Hot_ClayCeramics.aspx#clay)

Colored Clay

Chris Campbell

July 3-8

Six-day session

This workshop will teach students how to color clay, fade those colors and make secondary colors. We will be creating murrini and cane patterns, then using these patterns in our work. We will explore other methods of using colored clays including murrini ware, marbled patterns, colored slip decoration, layered slip sgraffito and veneer.

Materials: A complete materials list will be sent upon registration.

Tuition: \$655

Lab fee: \$70

Enrollment limited to 16 students.

### **MASTER CLASS with Chris Campbell**

April 15 - 18, 2011

The Ranch Center for Arts and Crafts, Snohomish, WA

For more information, go to

<http://www.artattheranch.com/1501.html>

Learn to color clay, mix slips, create secondary colors, fading colors, murrini patterns and more - from the master herself! Spend four fabulous days exploring these unique techniques and patterns - using them in a variety of ways. Familiarity with clay will enhance your learning experience.

Course #11MC415/8 \$465. + materials fee

Chris Campbell

Chris Campbell Pottery, llc

Designs in Fine Porcelain

919-215-8644

<http://www.ccpottery.com/>

## **TPG EVENTS**

### **ELLEN SHANKIN**

**March 26 & 27**

There is a free slide show March 25th at 7pm at the NCSU Crafts Center.



### **Workshop Fee:**

NCSU Students - \$45; TPG

Members - \$75; all others - \$105

- Limit of 35 participant
- Ellen is going to demonstrate how she throws and alters her pots.
- Go to [www.trianglepotters.org](http://www.trianglepotters.org) for a registration form

### **PLANET EARTH CELEBRATION**

Sign up for this sales event began at the Feb TPG meeting and will continue at the March meeting.



The event is on April 16 from 11:00 to 5:00 on the State Capital grounds.

We will share the

TPG shelves (10 sets) for display of work and will have a common payment table as well as a kids' clay table and demo if there are willing demonstrators.

For more info on the larger event, go to

[www.planetearthcelebration.com](http://www.planetearthcelebration.com)

or contact Martin Stankus at [tinroofpot@bellsouth.net](mailto:tinroofpot@bellsouth.net).

### **ARTSPLOSURE**

Sign up for this event will begin at the March TPG meeting. The two day event is on May 21 and 22. We can accommodate 22 4'x6' display areas and sharing one space is encouraged. All participants must provide a \$25 registration fee (checks payable to **Artsposure**) and sign a waiver form to participate.

More info on the event will be provided in April at their website

[www.artsplosure.org](http://www.artsplosure.org).

You may also contact Martin Stankus for info at

[tinroofpot@bellsouth.net](mailto:tinroofpot@bellsouth.net).

## OTHER EVENTS

**There's a new Face** at the **NCSU Craft Center**...

**Gaines Bailey** has joined the Center as Clay Studio Manager... His duties include maintenance of studio equipment, mixing glazes, and kiln firings. Gaines fills the vacancy left by Laurie Knopf who recently relocated to Wisconsin.

**Town of Cary is hiring** painting instructors (any medium), woodworking instructors, and pottery instructors (again).

Applications must be filled out online through the Town's website at [www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org). Click on the Employment link.

**Pullen Arts Center** has openings for a **Director** and **Assistant Director** for their summer Art4Fun Camp. For info: [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov).

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition

The Workhouse Arts Center-Ceramics Program is pleased to announce a "Call for Entries" for its **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition**.

We invite you to apply online through Juried Art Services at [www.juriedartservices.com](http://www.juriedartservices.com).

This 1st Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition asks artists to explore the theme of "Confinement" in their functional, and/or sculptural ceramic artwork.

The Juror is Ellen Shankin.

The entry submittal deadline is May 4, 2011.

Exhibition Dates: August 3 thru August 28, 2011

Awards: Best in Show \$350

1st place \$250

2nd place \$150 and

Honorable Mentions.

Entry fee: \$30 for up to three entries.

**Call for artists:**  
**8th Annual "Art on the Neuse" Outdoor Festival/Art Exhibition** located in picturesque Oriental, NC is now accepting registration for sale of artists' works on Saturday, June 18,

2011. (Rain day is June 25.)

Fee \$30 per artist for up to 10' x 10' sq display area. There is no commission charged on the sale of artists' artworks.

We accept original works of fine art and master craftsmanship in a variety of media.

NO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS OR DEALERS.

First time exhibitors should submit 3 photos of their works with their registration.

For further information, please contact Per Erichsen at [pererichsen@aol.com](mailto:pererichsen@aol.com) or call: 252-571-1458. Or visit our website: [www.pamlicoarts.org](http://www.pamlicoarts.org)

### Mint Museum Uptown to Host Seminal Symposium on British Ceramics

A public symposium organized by the Mint Museum of Craft + Design will be part of a closing celebration for the inaugural exhibition, *Contemporary British Studio Ceramics: The Grainer Collection* during its final week on view. Featuring innovative discussions by leading international art scholars and artists on important trends and developments in contemporary British ceramics, the Symposium will be held Thursday, 10 March, 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the Mint Museum Uptown (at Levine Center for the Arts, 500 South Tryon Street) and is free with museum admission.

For more information, contact Education Assistant Karen Vidamo at 704.337.2098 or [karen.vidamo@mintmuseum.org](mailto:karen.vidamo@mintmuseum.org)

### SLIPPERY TRAILS

**By Joanne Wood**

Since there were no submissions for Slippery Trails this month, I offer my recent adventures in clay.

In the winter, my plan is to create Punkin People next to my warm woodstove in my living room since I am not normally very active in my cold basement studio.

I begin by throwing as many closed hollow forms with a "stem" that I *want* to...and there ends my plan!

The joy in all of this is that I have no knowledge of who will show up

... or why! Many times, these little creations will reflect my mood! (You should see the Grumpy Gus punkin!) Sometimes I start out trying to make something definite, and then suddenly something totally different appears...like when I was working on a Rudolph the Red Nose punkin that my five year old granddaughter had so sweetly requested ...



but when I was about half way done, Sophia the dachshund appeared! Thankfully Natalie is thrilled and still thinks Grandma is pretty cool!

I guess what my rambling leads to is the concept of creativity and the freedom to give in to the unknown. By allowing myself to react to the moment (*I don't feel I have much choice in this anyway*), I have gotten some real surprises that are fun and satisfying for the most part ... and ultimately, if a Punkin Person makes me smile, I feel I have succeeded!

I will end with this thought... granted, there has to be enough skill to make the punkin shape, but that's all the credit I will take – I leave the rest up to the universe!

#### 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