

Clay Notes

February 2013

Clay Notes, the monthly *Triangle Potters Guild* newsletter, and the TPG membership forms are available on our website at www.trianglepotters.org.

Submissions to Clay Notes: 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.

TPG Board

President

Elise Stiles
stileser@aol.com

Vice President

Eoline Killough
eolinekillough@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Neal O'Briant
neal126@yahoo.com

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Martin Stankus
Tinroofpot@bellsouth.net

Recording Secretary

Maureen McGregor
maureenmcgregor@live.com

Librarian

Edge Barnes
potsedge@gmail.com

Next TPG Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Location: NCSU Craft Center, 100 Jensen Dr., Raleigh

Time: 7:30 p.m.

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: Fred Johnston

Submitted by Eoline Killough, Vice President

Fred Johnston will be the presenter at the February 5 Triangle Potters Guild meeting. His potting history began in Seagrove in the mid '80s where he began working for several of the old pottery families including the Teagues, Owens and Chriscos. By 1988, he had enrolled at Montgomery Community College's Pottery Program where he was taught by Mike Feree, mentor to many potters in the Seagrove area and beyond. Mike convinced Fred that he should consider applying to Alfred University's Ceramics Program, which he begrudgingly did, and the rest, as they say, is history. Upon visiting Alfred, Fred realized that it was the place for him.

At Alfred, Fred received his BFA and also met his partner, the noted ceramist Carol Gentithes. From Alfred, he went to Penn State and received his MFA there under the tutelage of Chris Staley and other outstanding faculty. Arrowmont was the next stop in the journey, where Fred and Carol had a year-long residency.

Johnston and Gentithes have a fascinating website, where you can check out recent work and read their artist statements, bios and résumés (<http://johnstonandgentithes.com/>). I've enjoyed considering the questions Fred poses, "How can I extend the tradition of pottery?" and "How can I contribute?" The next TPG presentation promises to be a glimpse into the journey of a most talented and creative ceramic artist.

January Minutes

President Elise Stiles greeted the Guild and welcomed new member Adrienne Garnett, who is also a wood carver.

The minutes of November's meeting were provided to members in December's Newsletter.

President's Report: Conrad was thanked for hosting December's raku party. He reported continuing to fire pots until 8.00 p.m.!

Elise invited anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee to contact her.

Librarian's Report: Edge Barnes first of all pointed out that only dues payers have access to the library. He explained the new labeling of books and their reinforcement as well as reminding members that the checking out procedure has now changed and checkout cards are catalogued under the alphabetized titles of the books, excluding definite and indefinite articles.

Corresponding Secretary Neal O'Briant passed on an invitation from the Knightdale Chamber of Commerce.

Treasurer Martin Stankus reported that the Guild has funds of \$6,484 and a membership of 102.

Anne Terry and Emily Malpass were thanked for the success of the Empty Bowls project. Altogether 275 pots were sold and \$7,766 was raised. Members are encouraged to begin making next year's bowls early as we have only about 50 bowls in reserve.

The drawing of a name from among all those who had contributed multiples of five bowls gave the prize of a gift certificate to Mary Kay Buenker.

Donna Kanich introduced the topic of the Leah Leitson Workshop to be held at the Craft Center on the weekend of March 15, 16 and 17. It will begin with a free lecture on the Friday evening. Registration is \$75 for Guild members and Christina Sydor is accepting registrations. Non-members pay \$105.

JoEllen Westmoreland announced that there were several vacancies in courses scheduled to be taught at the Crafts Center.

It was announced that Vice President Eoline Killough has been scheduled to have surgery on January 9 but is expected to be back for February's meeting.

January's Program: Chris Luther is from a family of traditional North Carolina potters although he himself did not begin to throw until after he had graduated from college. He entertained us with tales of his background while he demonstrated a variety of hand built and thrown and altered pots.

Spring Workshop with Leah Leitson

The guild's spring workshop features Leah Leitson demonstrating her thrown, altered and assembled utilitarian ware. Registration will open for non-members beginning February 1. The dates are March 15-17. Friday night's event will be a slide show and lecture. Then the two-day workshop will deal with some of the ways to manipulate both the form and the surface of freshly thrown pots. Techniques and ideas of altered parts will be directed toward the making of functional pots. Surface decoration will include working with slips and carving. The registration form is available at <http://www.trianglepotters.org/Leah%20Leitson%20Registration%20Form%20PDF.pdf>.

Member News

From Jay Levine

The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society will be hosting their biannual auction to support graduate students working toward the conservation of some of the most endangered animals on the planet. Potters Guild members have previously donated items that were very well received during the auction. We are looking for ceramic items that have an aquatic theme, a fish, snail, slug, insect on them, or just any item that we can sell during our auction (a mug etc). Please bring any items you may have to donate to the February or March Guild meeting (or leave them at the crafts center). To learn more about these amazing animals, visit our web site at www.aeclab.org. Don't hesitate to send me a note if you have questions: Jay_Levine@ncsu.edu.

From Jim Fatata

Classes @ Litmus Gallery & Studios / www.litmusgallery.com. The following figurative workshops are scheduled for February:

Workshop #1: A female and male model will pose together for a morning and afternoon session, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 2–5 p.m. (lunch break 1–2 p.m.) on Saturday, February 9. Workshop cost: \$71. Bag of clay (25 lbs.) cost: \$14.

Workshop #2: A female model (female body builder) will pose for a morning and afternoon session, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 2–5 p.m. (lunch break 1–2 p.m.) on Saturday, February 23. Workshop cost: \$51. Bag of clay (25 lbs.) cost: \$14.

Total workshop cost for someone signing up for Workshops 1 & 2 is \$106 (\$16 dollar discount). One bag of clay (\$14) will probably be enough clay to do both Saturdays.

To advance skills in rendering human anatomy, nude models are used for figurative sculpture sessions. Check or cash/money order accepted (no credit cards). Model, sculpture stand, studio facility, and bisque firing of the finished sculptures are provided at no additional cost. Sculpture sessions are limited to 8 participants and those wishing to attend must reserve a space in advance. Those indicating a desire to attend will be notified if there is a space for them or if they are on the "wait list." The sessions will be held at Litmus Gallery & Studios, 312 W. Cabarrus Street in downtown Raleigh. These workshops are appropriate for beginners as well as experienced artists. Additional questions and/or to reserve a spot in the sessions: email artvision@bellsouth.net.

From Emily Lees

I am in a two-person show (with Janet Oldham) at the Horace Williams House in Chapel Hill in February. I will be exhibiting both stoneware and raku. The opening reception is Sunday, February 3, from 2 to 4 p.m.

From Cindy Aldrich

Cindy Aldrich will have two gallery openings in February. The first is for her blue and cream floral functional pottery and will be at Sunflower Studio and Gallery, Wake Forest. The opening is February 8, 5–7 p.m. The show goes February 8–28. The other show will be featuring her newest sculptures in clay, a kind of variations on a single form, and will be at Piedmont Craftsmen, Winston-Salem. That opening is February 15. A busy month!

From Chris Campbell

TPG Member Chris Campbell (chris@ccpottery.com) hopes you enjoyed reading her article on using the Skinner Blend technique to blend colored clays that appeared in the January issue of *Pottery Making Illustrated*. If you would like to try learning the technique she will be teaching a hands-on weekend workshop at Claymakers in Durham April 27–28, 2013. Claymakers is at 705 Foster St. in Durham, 919-530-8355 (www.claymakers.com).

There might also still be a spot or two open in her week-long workshop at the John Campbell Folk School, February 10–16, 1-828-837-2775 (www.folkschool.org).

Links

The Crafts Center
www.ncsu.edu/crafts
919-515-2457

Sertoma Arts Center
www.raleighnc.gov
919-420-2329

Pullen Arts Center
www.raleighnc.gov
919-831-6126

Claymakers
www.claymakers.com
919-530-8355

Durham Arts Council
www.durhamarts.org
919-560-2726

Jordan Hall Arts Center
www.townofcary.org
919-469-4069

**Central Carolina
Community College**
www.cccc.edu

Finch Pottery
www.danfinch.com
252-235-4664

Litmus Gallery
www.litmusgallery.com
919-571-3605

