

CAROLINA
CLAY
GUILD
newsletter

**Guild Officers
2007**

President
Clay Trotter



Vice-President
Ray Welch



Secretary
Cindy Biles



Treasurer
Kim Shireman



Programs



Workshops
Pat Harden
Molly Lithgo



Publicity
Betsy Welch



Newsletter Editors
Debb McDaniel
Susan O'Leary

PRESIDENT'S Message

Hi Everyone,

I hope the summer has been good to you but if you are like me, I am ready for some cooler weather. I have some notes from the last meeting that I would like to share with all of you.

First off, Susan O'Leary would like everyone to write up a bio on him or herself and then send it to Debb McDaniel [debbymcd@triad.rr.com] These can be used as a resource to be published in the newsletter as time and space allows. That helps us to learn a little more about our fellow artists and its great PR!

Next Vice President Ray Welch announced that we are now members with the North Carolina Arts Council and this will open up many opportunities on a much greater scale. In addition, he announced that our application is being reviewed for tax-exempt status. We then had a wonderful discussion that lasted for over an hour about sales opportunities in the triad area. Some of the shows that were mentioned were Morrisett, the Art Alliance sale in November, the Greensboro Farmers Market, the Sawtooth Center (Deck the Halls) in December, the Arboretum and the Eden show. In addition, Galleries that were highly recommended by fellow members were The Greyland Center, Associated Artist Gift Shop, the Cultural Center in Greenhill, Fat Cat limited in Oakridge, Lynn Morrow's Gallery in Pittsboro and Masterworks in Seagrove. Information like this is something a clay artist can really use, and here is an idea I just had, if there is a gallery owner out there who would like to present a program on their gallery or how a gallery works in general, things that a gallery is looking for or perhaps other things like inventory, setup, retailing, etc, please contact us.

Speaking of programs, anyone interested in doing a program for future guild meetings that might interest other members please contact Dottie or Jim Talley email: farmhouse pottery@bellsouth.net or 336-342-1060. Moreover, a leader needs to lead so I would like to announce that I will be doing a hand's on workshop on making clay whistles at the next guild meeting in October. Those interested need to bring a couple of pounds of your favorite clay, some modeling tools, fettling knife and lots of enthusiasm. I think it will be a lot of fun and it will be something we all enjoy, working with clay!

*I hope to see you there!
Clay Trotter*

**Carolina Clay Guild
Board Meeting, August 5, 2007
Minutes (updated August 8, 2007)**

The board of directors met at 3:00PM at Panera Bread in Greensboro, NC. Present were: Clay Trotter, president; Ray Welch, vice-president; Molly Lithgo; Debb McDaniel; Susan O'Leary; Betsy Welch; and Cindy Biles, secretary.

President Clay Trotter called the meeting to order and asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Not For Profit Status

Ray has been working on not for profit status for the Guild. Also in the works is application for tax exempt status. Ray has registered the guild as a member of the North Carolina Arts Council, which will give us a lot of benefits.

Guild Membership

Currently there are close to 120 members in the Guild. Those who have given written permission to do so are listed on the Guild's website.

Record of Meeting Proceedings

To help keep a permanent record of proceedings, Clay will tape record the meetings, beginning this month.

There was a short discussion of possible programs for the next 2 meetings. Having a program at each meeting would probably improve meeting attendance.

Newsletter

Debb will send the next newsletter out first week of September. The deadline to receive information from members is August 20. She will ask members to submit bios, artist's statements and other information that would be suitable to print in the newsletter. Debb will keep this on file to publish as appropriate or needed. This will ensure that there is enough material for each issue, and the information itself will be of interest to prospective members.

Workshops

Molly will send Debb a write up of the Hayne Bayless workshop to include in the newsletter. There was discussion about implementing strategies that would allow attendees to take photographs during workshops without distracting other participants or the presenter.

Upcoming workshops and possible presenters were also discussed.

Website

Kim Shireman has been updating the Guild's website. Board members discussed the possibility of redesigning the site. Since this is so labor intensive, we might consider hiring a website designer. Ray and Debb will check into this.

Holiday Show at 2 Art Chicks

We are planning to hold our annual holiday show at 2 Art Chicks, but show organizers should check with the gallery.

Meeting Schedule for 2008

To avoid confusion, the Guild will keep its current meeting schedule in 2008 (the second Saturday of alternate months): February 15, April 11, June 14, August 9, and October 11.

Member News

Some of our members have been published in professional journals, including Gene Arnold (photo in *Clay Times*) and Susan O'Leary (suggestion in *Ceramics Monthly*).

Submitted by Cindy Biles

**Carolina Clay Guild
Meeting
October 13, 2007**

Program: Clay Trotter, Making Whistles

Hand's on workshop making clay whistles. Those interested need to bring a couple of pounds of your favorite clay, some modeling tools, fettling knife and lots of enthusiasm. I think it will be a lot of fun and it will be something we all enjoy, working with clay!

All meetings are held at David Cole's Studio, from 10:00-12:00 noon.

David Cole's Studio
4541 Peebles Road
Oak Ridge, NC 27310
336-668-0025

A map to David Cole's Studio is on the website:
www.carolinaclayguild.org

Carolina Clay Guild News

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for submission to the next newsletter is November 3.

The next newsletter will cover the holiday season (Nov/Dec/Jan). If you want your article in the next newsletter, please forward to Debb McDaniel (debbsmcd@triad.rr.com) no later than Sat., Nov. 3.

Member News

Gene Arnold CCG member, was in the *Gallery* section of *Clay Times*.

CCG member Susan O'Leary was in the *Suggestions* column in *Ceramics Monthly*, May 2007.

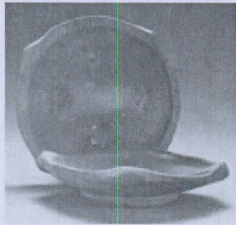
Member Bio's, News and Articles Needed

Want to be featured in the next newsletter? Have something you want to share with the CCG members? Have you attended a great workshop? Send your bios, news and workshop articles to Debb or Susan. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Kevin Crowe Workshop

September 8 & 9
Guilford College

"When the moon is right, we make pots that recognize and define sacred spaces, mystery and tenderness." – Kevin Crowe



Fee: \$100

All proceeds will support the
Guilford College Ceramics Department

Kevin produces wood-fired functional stoneware with strong Asian and English roots. His work ranges from 4" teabowls to 48" vases

Kevin conducts workshops throughout the United States on throwing pots and designing wood fired kilns. In 2003 he oversaw construction of the wood kiln at Penland and he has been advising local potter, Susan Cutter, on the construction of her wood fired kiln

Space is Limited so e-mail or call today!

Contact Charlie Tefft
ctefft@guilford.edu

or leave a message at (336)316-2338

Bill van Gilder Pottery Workshop

September 21 – 23

“The Functional Pot: Tips,
Tools
and Techniques”

presented by
Rockingham Community College

See information and registration form
included in this newsletter.

Other Local Workshops

Claymakers

705 Foster Street
Durham, NC 27701
Phone: 919-530-8355
Email: info@claymakers.com

Barbara McKenzie

Open Raku Firing

October 20, 2007, 9 to 5
November 17, 2007, 9 to 5
December 8, 2007, 9 to 5

These firing dates are open to those who have raku firing experience. Students will make work on their own and can use open studio the day prior to the firing for glazing their pots. We'll have a grill and a cooler for turning the day into an edible cook-out as well (bring your own favorite food and drink)! Limited to 6 participants.
Cost: \$60.00 per firing.

Adrian Arleo

Technique and Content:

Coil-Building Large Figurative Ceramic Sculpture

A Hands-On Workshop

January 5th-9th, 2008

9:00 to 5:00 each day

Cost of this workshop is \$400 plus a non-refundable registration fee of \$75. Full tuition is due by December 10, 2007. Fifty pounds of clay and bisque firing are included. Space is limited, so register early if you want to attend. You may call Claymakers at (919) 530-8355 to register by phone, with Visa or Mastercard.

Learn more about these workshops by going to:
www.claymakers.com/

Carolina Clay Guild

July Workshop

A Brief Review

by Molly Lithgo

Twenty-four participants enjoyed a very informative workshop recently presented by handbuilder, Hayne Bayless. Working with almost leather-hard slabs and various extrusions, Hayne constructs a wide range of both complex and simple pots. Like many potters, Hayne has an impressive selection of hand-made tools tailored to fit specific needs. Hayne also shared a vast array of hand-cut stencils cut with a variety of knives. He uses Tyvek (a vapor barrier paper used in the building industry) as a stencil material, which is strong, cuts easily and can be washed when decorating is complete. With the stencils, Hayne creates visual texture and pattern with black slip, which burns through the glazes during firing in his flat top reduction kiln. Hayne thrives on surface texture, often manipulated by stretching the clay.

Hayne demonstrated his belief that the "beauty of clay is in capturing and recording all the processes you have used in the piece."

Hayne Bayless is a full time studio potter. See more at: www.sidewaysstudio.com.

How was Penland

by Molly Lithgo

This past spring, I was fortunate enough to participate in an 8 week Penland Concentration taught by the legendary Cynthia Bringle. Since my return, I have been asked the same question many times: "How was it?" The nutshell answer: "Good." One friend verbalized everyone's blank stare to that response: "That doesn't tell me anything!" Yes, I know, but there is so much to "how it was"; in which category does your interest lie? So, I'll take a stab at a very brief synopsis of 8 weeks at Penland.

For anyone interested in the history of the Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, that is easy to find on-line or in their catalog. Situated just 3 hours from Greensboro and next door to Spruce Pine and Little Switzerland, the Penland School offers courses in drawing, painting, printmaking, book-arts, metals/jewelry, wood, iron, glass, and CLAY. There are 2 clay studios, "upper clay" for throwing and "lower clay" (those students call it "deeper clay") for hand building. Most students stay on campus and most formal class schedules ran from 9/9:30 AM – 4:30 PM, M – F. All studios are open 24/7. Our class had 18 students, 2 of which were studio assistants. Ages ranged from 18 – 68, and all are serious potters with only a handful being full-time. (continued next column)

Anyone who has had even a 2-day hands-on with Cynthia Bringle has gotten a small taste of what it's like spending 8 weeks in her class. Cynthia's workshops and classes are completely different from any other I have experienced. Most workshops consist of the artist demonstrating and explaining very particular techniques used in their own work. Many of us have gained valuable and well-rounded knowledge from these workshops. Cynthia, however, focuses on materials and process, i.e., how to throw better pots; your pots. Cynthia generally did 2 demos per day. We began with cylinders: chose the largest amount of clay you comfortably throw with all the time, add 2 lbs to that and alternate throwing cylinders between the 2 amounts. You must cut each cylinder in half. When the walls are consistent every time, then increase each amount by 2 lbs and continue. Oh yea, do this in only 3 pulls. With no pugmill, we did a lot of re-wedging! This was our 1st week. Long about Friday, we began with 15 mugs, each with 3 pulled handles. This also took several days, with most folks working after dinner and on the weekend. Everyone in the class agreed that when focusing on all of this very basic throwing, it is surprising to see how much you don't know. Group critiques on our green ware focused on better handle shape, size and placement for each particular mug. We also incorporated playing with a variety of shapes and sizes, giving everyone the opportunity to experiment with new or difficult forms. A few concentrated on perfecting particular shapes. We were happy to progress to 15 "normal" mugs, pitchers, covered pitchers, lidded jars, and altered lidded vessels, casseroles, goblets, and tea pots. With each new form came group critiques of green ware and bisque ware. With 18 students and an instructor, we had to be selective on which pieces were glaze fired. The rest was recycled. About the 4th week, we took a break from all of this, as Cynthia had volunteered our class to make the 450 mugs needed for the Annual Penland Benefit Auction held in August. Several field trips and visiting artists throughout broke up our daily routine. We did several reduction firings, raku, and mid-way moved to salt firing and soda firing.

Then there's the "magic mountain". Eight weeks at Penland is very different than a 1 or 2 week summer session. Summer sessions are "fun", a great vacation or get-a-way. Eight weeks = intense, with constant information. In addition to class, weekday evenings consist of instructor, studio assistant, and co-coordinator slides from each discipline, panel discussions, visiting artist slides and the monthly Penland Gallery opening. Visits to other studio disciplines are strongly encouraged. It takes about 2 weeks to fully adjust to the new daily routine of being a full-time student, meals at certain times (which you don't have to give a thought to preparing), a new bed, new people (this concentration was Penland's largest ever with about 95 students), no traffic (Penland is a walking campus), no newspapers or TV, and only the cell phone/radio/ipod/etc. that you bring along. The pace changes. The focus changes. The daily priority changes. "Concentration" is the perfect description of this 8 week time period, as everyone is buried in their discipline.

Natural Instincts
Regional Potter's Council Workshop
by Debbie McDaniel

One could not ask for a better setting and subject matter than the Potter's Council Regional Workshop "Natural Instincts" in Beaufort, NC. I along with 70 other potters attended this regional workshop.

I was able to meet potters from all over the U.S. and Canada. We were divided into two groups – A & B (Carolyn admits she messed up and should've named the groups P for Potters & C for Council) and were given our schedule of classes. The reasonable registration fee included hors d'oeuvres Fri. night, lunch and admission to the NC Aquarium Sat. afternoon and then dinner Sat. night and lunch on Sunday. We were shuttled around from site to site in a nice air conditioned bus and a pleasant bus driver. It made for a nice time to visit with the new friends we were making.

The featured artists were: Dan Finch, Elizabeth Priddy, Candace Young and Lois Sharpe of North Carolina and Marie Gibbons from Colorado. We all gained a wealth of knowledge on techniques for carving, modeling, brush-painting, three-dimensional stamping, complex glazing applications, reed and vine handle-making, and image development from these talented artists. We had hands-on times as well as demonstrations and lectures. During the luncheon at the NC Aquarium Janet Francoeur lead a roundtable discussion titled, Successfully Marketing Your Work. I gained valuable information from this discussion.

We were all treated to some swag – a set of AMACO velvet underglazes and some were lucky enough to win great door prizes by the sponsors of the workshop. I'm really looking forward to working with these in the near future.

The highlight at the end of two days of sharing and learning was participating in a Pottery Exchange. Each brought one piece of their personal work to trade with a fellow artist.

Elizabeth Priddy was the local potter in Beaufort that worked with the Potter's Council to organize the workshop. I would highly recommend attending future Potter's Council workshops. It was great fun!

Potter's Council Workshop
"Out of the Fire"

August 10-12, Atlanta Georgia
by Marcy Maury

Workshop Review:

Debbie McDaniel and I had the pleasure of attending a workshop sponsored by the Potter's Council. The Potter's Council is a branch of the American Ceramics Society – the organization that publishes Pottery Making Illustrated and Ceramics Monthly. They also sponsor eight workshops a year in sites all over the country. Earlier this year they had a workshop in Beaufort, NC – Debbie went to that one and gave it rave reviews. This workshop was held just outside Atlanta, GA and the theme was "Out of the Fire" – firing techniques and shapes and textures that make the most of the firings. It was a great workshop.

There were four workshop leaders – one Rick Berman lead a session on Sulko firing – where all the participants brought a piece of bisque ware and we glazed the pots and stacked them in a mound and fired. We were given a clue about what was to come when he started the workshop by reading a story of a great Japanese potter who loaded a large kiln with wild and crazy glazed pieces. When the firing was done he pulled one piece after another out of the wood kiln and threw them in the trash heap. Until he got to the back of the kiln where he brought out one last piece. He studied the piece – turning it over in his hands – and declared "Good firing".

*Pieces from Sulko firing
in Duluth, GA..*



Well – personally – I am not evolved enough to do an entire wood firing and have one piece come out of it – and be happy. But in our Sulko firing – that is about what happened. Debbie's piece and mine – were a part of the "trash heap" pieces. A couple of pieces really did come out beautifully. There were at least three very happy people!

But it was a well-run workshop with lots of interesting people and presenters. Maybe central NC should think about sponsoring a Potter's Council Workshop in 2009?