




Carolina Clay Guild newsletter

ISSUE 3
05/06.04

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Guild Officers

2003-04

President

Molly Lithgo



Vice-President

Patricia Harden



Secretary

George Hayes



Treasurer

Marcy Maury

From the
President

Special Thanks to many of our members for donating pots for the Guild booth on April 18th at the Triad Pottery Festival! We had so many donations, many being delivered the morning of the show, that Marcy (our coordinating booth attendant) lost track of names! But, the booth raised \$500.00 for the guild, and is still going! I have studio space at the new arts collaborative in Greensboro, "Lyndon Street Artworks", and am able to display our remaining Guild donations. The Lyndon Street studios are open during the week, but even more importantly, open for community events such as First Thursdays and Arts Alive. We will continue to collect from your donations. Thank you everyone for your help and support! This is really getting our name out and raising awareness for our local potters.

Many of you are also aware of the success of the Girl Scout project hosted by the Pottery Center in Seagrove. Marcy Maury (Guild Treasurer) coordinated Carolina Clay Guild volunteers with the Pottery Center. As a thank you for the Guild's volunteers, the Pottery Center is letting us do a woodfiring in one of their kilns. Loading for the wood-firing at the

Pottery Center is May 22nd. Also on May 22nd, come and join with fellow members at the Pottery Center for the opening reception of the Carolina Clay Guild pottery exhibition, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. The work of about 15 Guild members will be on display thru June 26th.

In other Guild news, many of you are aware that Lisa Skeen and Leanne Pizio are planning a trip as volunteers with the Indian Church Village Artisans in Belize. Look for more details in this newsletter. We will be voting on Lisa's request for financial support from the Guild at the next meeting on June 12th. Pat Harden Vice President) has been collecting various proposals from members, from which we will vote. If you have any ideas to contribute, please call Pat: 336-342-6478, or email: contact@carolinaclayguild.com.

And lastly, have you noticed our new newsletter format? A special THANK YOU to Debbie McDaniel for organizing, developing, and getting this totally together for us. Thank you Debbie!! What a great job!

Hope everyone has some fun
in the clay-room!

Happy Potting! – Molly

New Member Debbie McDaniel

Working in the advertising industry for over sixteen years can make a person a little crazy. So, instead of seeking out a psychiatrist in 2003, I decided to sign up for a pottery class. And, Wow! What a great experience it has been. Everyone I've met through the Art Alliance has been very encouraging and helpful. I really look forward to my evenings in the studio! I've teased my friends, they call me Debb, (and often recipients of my work) and tell them 2003 was the year of quantity, 2004 is the year of quality.

My plate is always full with being a wife, mother of two grown boys. I love to run, cycle, and kayak. I play in the handbell choir and sing in the choir at my church in Kernersville. I work for Coyne Beahm Shouse, which is an advertising and marketing firm in Greensboro.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and getting more involved in the guild. So, stop by some Wednesday evening and just say- hi!



Debb - Mug and Lidded Bowl w/pine cone decoration; Matte Blue-Brown Glaze (2004)

Meeting Schedule

June 12

Jim Duxbury will discuss/demonstrate respirators for ceramic safety. We will also vote on the Guild financial request from L. Skeen & L. Pizio.

August 14

We will make ornaments for our children's activity for the Music Academy fundraiser in Sept.

October 16

Program: Guild member Sally Hayes will demonstrate creating sculptural pieces.

December 11

Program: Guild member, Cindy Biles, will demonstrate her handbuilt pottery.

NOTE:

All meetings are held every other month on Saturday mornings.

Time: 10:00 AM - 12 Noon

Where: David Cole's Studio

4541 Peeples Rd.

Oak Ridge, NC 27310

Phone: Studio - 336-668-0025

Home - 336-668-2192

* check website for map

Remember, our meetings offer a good opportunity to keep informed, present a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas and information, and a chance to meet fellow potters.

Guild member, Tom Thornberg, presented an enjoyable and informative program on creating surfaces on slabs at the April meeting. Thanks Tom!

If you are interested in being a presenter at one of the meetings (45 minutes to an hour), please contact *Mary Griffin* at 336-674-9300. We have many talented potters in our Guild!

Member News

Member Lisa Skeen writes:

Greetings y'all,

If you are regular readers of Clayart, you may have read our Guild member Billie Mitchell's posts about her trip to Belize to work with the Indian Church Village Artisans (ICVA). This is a community group in a small village in Belize where they don't even have electricity! (But they DO have lots of skeletons, tarantulas and scorpions...) It's near a Mayan ruin site on the interior of Belize (not near the resorts and beaches) and many of the adults are Guatemalan refugees. The ICVA has been set up to teach reticulating and clay work to the natives so they can sell their work to tourists visiting Belize and thus raise their standard of living. They need teachers, but can't afford to pay for them. They also need tools to work with. They have a couple of kickwheels, and process their own clay from a nearby vein in the ground.

Leanne Pixie and I have volunteered to go down this fall (hopefully in October) and work for 2 weeks, but we will need to have sponsors and fund raising to get the money to go; neither of us can afford to pay the airfare and expenses. This is NOT a vacation - we'll be working, and there ARE NO luxury accommodations - we'll prolly be staying with a family in the village, and we have to buy our food and pay for a place to sleep.

We're each asking everyone we know, and will be having a fundraiser or two in conjunction with a local gallery to raise the money, as well as putting out information and donation collection jars at any shows we have.

We need about \$3000 total to cover airfare, fees, transportation, lodging, etc. for both of us. (would you believe Belize charges \$1000 to get OUT of the country?<2>)

I'd like to ask the CIG to sponsor us in this effort. Yes, this is a blatant request for financial support! NO, as far as I am aware, it is not tax deductible. We will certainly appreciate any financial help, and also donations of tools you aren't using any more to take with us. We will definitely look forward to making a presentation to the group about our experience upon our return.

Please tell anyone who is able to contribute, financial contributions or tools can be sent to me at the following address:

Living Tree Pottery
8406 Hudson James Road
Summerfield, NC 27358

Please write **BEUZES** on the memo line if you send a check. This \$ will be kept in a separate account especially for the trip.

You can go to this website for information about the program.

http://www.beyondtouring.com/Community/community_love.htm

Thanks much for your time and consideration, and please let me know any questions you have!

Lisa

www.living-tree.net

Living Tree Pottery, Summerfield, NC

Girl Scout Project Update

Sixteen people from our Clay Guild went to Seagrove to help the NC Pottery Center with the first (annual ?) NC Girl Scout Project. Lots of girls! The NC Pottery Center worked with the NC Girl Scout Council to offer a special pottery badge. Girls went through 4 stations:

- a museum tour/scavenger hunt
- an archeological "dig"
- watching a wheel thrown exhibition
- making a hand built clay piece with oven bake clay

The Carolina Clay Guild volunteers 'manned' the throwing and hand building stations. It was kind of fun! The first Saturday we helped out was a beautiful warm day, and the pre-adolescent girls were happy to be there and delightful in their joy with the clay. The second Saturday it was cool and windy - so we were all crowded into the education building - and the girls were a little older (that wonderful early adolescent age, when nothing suits them and they are pretty sure they don't

want to be there). But we had a good time - and won many of them over, despite themselves!

We won the love and affection of the NC Pottery people - who would have been up the creek without us! Our reward is a wood firing in the two level kiln planned for May 22 (loading), 23 (firing), and 29 (unloading). It was a real pleasure to work with Terry Zug (Acting Director) and Meredith Heywood (Board Member) to make the Girl Scout project a big success. It was a great public service and a nice way to get to know more about the NC Pottery Center. Hope we can work more with the Center in the future!

Thanks to the volunteers for their time: Tom Vick, Cindy Biles, Sara White, Margaret Jessup, Jean Caviness, Jim Petersen, Judy Merrill, Kay Arnold, Mary Griffin, Susan Cutter, Betsy Welch, Ray Welch, Paul Suhr, Wanda Baker, Cherie Lachocki and Marcy Maury.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

SILVIE GRANATELLI WORKSHOP

Silvie is one of the excellent potters who works in the 16 Hands Pottery Area near Floyd, VA (west central Virginia). She uses porcelain and cuts, pieces, alters, and recreates it. Then she adds textures with lots of variety and flair. Decorates with underglaze, painting lovely still life inside the serving pieces. And finishes it with lovely glazing. But don't take my word for it, go look at the web site that has an extensive gallery of her work: www.16hands.com. There are many fine artists to see at this web site, but be sure to look at the lovely work that Silvie produces - then sign up for the workshop!

When: Saturday, September 11 & Sunday, September 12

Time: 9:00-5:00

Where: Arts Alliance Studio, Cultural Arts Building (corner of Friendly Ave and Davis Street), Greensboro, NC

What: Wheel thrown pieces with lots of alterations

Cost: \$60 for members, \$80 for non-members.

Send your money for registration to: Carolina Clay Guild P.O. Box 5656, Greensboro, NC 27435



Silvie Granatelli: Swan Ewer

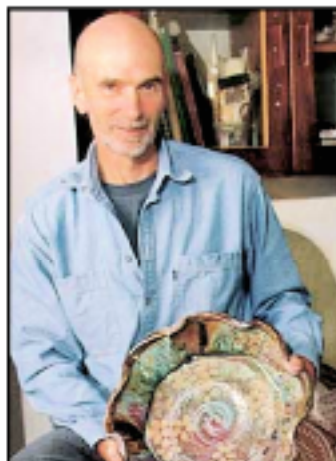


Silvie Granatelli: Teapot w/cup & saucer

JOHN CALVER WORKSHOP

This is going to be a great workshop!!! John Calver taught a 2-day workshop at Rockingham Community College for our Clay Guild in June 2003.

We all loved him. He is a wealth of clay knowledge - has worked his entire life in ceramics. I think he has seen it all - and is willing to share absolutely everything he knows.



John in his studio

When: Wednesday, October 8 through Sunday, October 10 (5 days!)

Where: Rockingham Community College

Lunch: Bring your own.

Except for the last day - on Sunday we will probably do something special.

Cost: \$200.00 for members, \$250.00 for non-members - this is for hands-on participation in the full workshop.

For a one day registration (which is observation only) \$ 25 for members, \$35.00 for non-members

Clay: We are waiting to hear from John Calver about his clay preference - but we will have the clay available for sale at the workshop.

On Thursday evening there will be a special reception and show opening at Moring Art Center in Asheboro. All participants are welcome to attend.



Plate, 10 inch diameter. (2003)

Registration is now being accepted. Plan your life around this! It is worth it. Send registration and fee to: Carolina Clay Guild PO Box 5656 Greensboro, NC 27435

John Calver

Altering and decorating Thrown Forms

John Calver originally worked as a civil engineer, and was introduced to clay at an adult education class. His hobby became all consuming, and in 1974 he set up as a full time potter in England making earthenware. However, enticed by the rich surface effects and glazes possible with reduced stoneware, he changed tack to develop the colorful, highly decorated work for which he is well known in the U.K. In 1990 he was elected a Fellow of the Craft Potters' Association of Great Britain. Over the past fifteen years, John has given numerous workshops and demonstrations in the U.K., Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

5 Day Workshop Program

Day 1

Throwing plates, cutting rims, decorating with profiles, ribs, fabric, combs, and by chattering.

Throwing flat oval, and flat rectangular dishes, handles made from coils. Making simple bamboo profile tools.

Day 2

Throwing square and hexagonal dishes, with handles from wire loop tools, and various feet made from coils.

Slip decoration by sponging, trailing, and paper resist. Throwing and constructing soap dishes.

Making sponge stamps and wire loop tools.

Day 3

Throwing an oval asymmetric jug. Throwing and constructing a goblet. Slides showing the development of John's work. Biscuit firing.

Day 4

Glazing and packing the gas kiln.

Throwing and assembling a candle holder,

Day 5

Throwing a bottle, decoration with facets, rollers, and inlaid chatter. Throwing bowls, deeply spiraled and from an uncentered block of clay, Firing the gas kiln.

Clay Guild Fund Raiser Update

Triad Area Spring Pottery Festival
Greeneboro Farmers' Curb Market
Sunday, April 18th

Lots of our members had booths at the Spring Pottery Festival. The day was warm and sunny. The crowd was good. And a lot of money changed hands! The Carolina Clay Guild had a booth set up for our "FIRST EVER FUND RAISER".... Okay, it wasn't really our first ever - but it was the first in a long time, so it was special! Members were very generous in giving the Guild pots to sell.

When I arrived to set up the booth I had four pots in hand. So I tried to give half our booth space away, thinking that it was going to look pretty silly to have just a couple of pots in all that area. But people kept coming over bringing me pots, and just like the story about the porridge that fills the bowl then pours out onto the floor and out the door, I all of the sudden had bowls everywhere! We filled all the space and then had more than we could show off - so had to put some in reserve for a 'rotation of stock' as the first pieces sold. My plan was to keep a list of the names of individuals who gave us pots so we could list you individually in the newsletter. But it didn't take long before I gave up on keeping names and just tried to say thank you as people stopped by to give me pottery pieces.

We sold lots of pieces, and those that didn't sell went 'home' with Molly Lithgo - who has set them up in her Lyndon Street clay-making space and has sold some off the shelf in her studio.

THANK YOU - one and all for making this a great success. How much money did we make??? After paying the booth fee.....just under \$500!



A New Comers Briefing:
Beauty is in the eye of
the Beholder

Thanks to Dorcas Midkiff and the Rockingham County Clay Guild newsletter for allowing us to republish this article:

So you are new to the wonderful world of creating pottery! Pottery is such a tactile art, and one in which the medium has a mind of it's own. Until you learn to work with this malleable creature, there will be failures and many unplanned shapes that find their way through your hands in to this world, some pleasant surprises, others complete disasters. Or are they? Many of my not so perfect pieces have turned into saleable items with a simple tug on the clay in the right direction or addition of decoration. Before you scrape it off the bat, ask a classmate what they think. We are often our own worst critic.

You need only to attend one of our workshops to see that even the professionals are seldom perfect in every throw. Allan Long, a work shop guest in 2003, had a small wobble in a large platter he was throwing for us. In all seriousness he looked at us and ask if we wanted the secret to taking this wobble out in one step. There were head bobs and eager yases from the group. In one movement of his foot...yes foot, the wobble disappeared. He had stopped the wheel from turning...and the wobble was no longer apparent. "How many people spin their pottery at home," he asked. A word from someone who has been there...throw from your heart and soul, let the clay tell you what it wants to become. Then when it is not what you had planned, consider that a good thing...not a mistake. You have given in to the clay.

All that to say this...your work is an extension of you...and your willingness to be one with the clay. There will be good days and bad days, but all days in clay are a learning experience. Share those creations. There is someone whoes eyes will light up when they see your mistake for sale. Display at the next show and see your work appreciated...and sell!

Submitted by Dorcas Midkiff

In the Beginnings of...
Carolina Clay Guild

Before there was a Carolina Clay Guild, there was a women's craft cooperative called the Mud Daubers, which began in the mid-1970s. By the mid-1980s, more very talented candidates were asking to become Mud Daubers than the organization could comfortably accommodate. This group of women decided to see if people in the area would be interested in joining a potters guild open to anyone interested in clay.

Eileen Black, a Greensboro potter who had been part of a potters guild in Florida, came to a Mud Daubers meeting November 1984 to report on the Ceramics League of Miami. She suggested that the proposed potters guild start by forming a partnership with Sawtooth in Winston-Salem and that the Mud Daubers get a list of area potters and send out a questionnaire to measure interest. Over 20 potters responded positively to the idea, and on May 2, 1985, the first organizational meeting of what soon became the Carolina Clay Guild was held at Sawtooth.

Tom Cooper, Director of pottery at Sawtooth, participated, with 17 area potters, in the wide ranging discussion about why a guild would be helpful. Within a short time, almost 40 potters became charter members. On July 16, 1985, Eileen Black became the first President of Carolina Clay Guild. By-Laws were written. Newsletters were sent. A directory was printed. A contest was held to design a logo and tee shirts and aprons bearing the CCG logo were proudly worn at the early shows.

So...who still has the first directory and an original tee shirt or apron?

Submitted by Emilie Sandin

Other Events Not Sponsored by CCG

DIY - Bill van Gilder

Watch for ceramic artist, *Bill van Gilder*, coming soon on the *DIY* channel, which is owned by *H&G* available through cable or satellite. It will be a 30 minute, five days a week program on pottery. *Bill van Gilder* may be a future workshop presenter for the Guild. He also has a column in *Clay Times* entitled "Teaching Techniques."

Workshops

Odyssey (Asheville, NC) is hosting several summer workshops beginning in May. Call 828-285-0210 or visit www.highwaterclays.com for more information.

Dan Finch Demo Workshop

Hosted by the Rockingham County Clay Guild. June 12 & 13 at RCC.

Contact: *Pat Harden*, 336-3426478

Claymakers (Durham, NC) will host *Gay Smith*, June 7-11 & *Victoria Christen*, June 14-18. For more information call 919-530-8355 or visit www.claymakers.com

Cynthia Aldrich Exhibit

Theatre Art Galleries in High Point, NC is currently exhibiting an installation by Durham ceramic artist, *Cynthia Aldrich*, in Gallery B. It is well worth your trip. Note that Cynthia's goddess figures are coil built! Thru April 16.

Shakerag Workshops

June 13-18 and June 20-25

First week (June 13-18)

- *Peter Beasecker* will teach a day wheel-throwing class entitled "Generating New Ideas."
- *Mary Barringer*, will teach a clay handbuilding class entitled "Building a Surface".
- *Brett Yancy Collins* will teach "Web Design for Studio Artists".

Second week (June 20-25)

- *Suze Lindsay* will teach a wheel-throwing class entitled "Exploring the Teapot"
- *Kathy Triplett* will teach "Sconces to Wall Sculpture."
- *Scott McCamey* will teach "Digital Artists' Books".

Information is on our website: www.shakerag.org

Studio Intensives - 2005

June 12-17: *Cynthia Bringle* (wheel-throwing, clay), *Jean Hicks* (felting), *Jim Ann Howard* (watercolor), *Pradip Malde* (digital photography, video), *Sandi Pierantozzi* (hand-building, clay), *Cynthia Thompson* (papermaking).

June 19-24: *Wendy Erickson* (digital arts, textiles), *Kathy Guss* and *Steve Robison* (hand-building, clay), *Helen Hlobert* (papermaking, lighting), *Jeff Oestreich* and *Lana Wilson* (hand-building and wheel-throwing, clay), *Lynne Vogel* (spinning, dyeing, knitting).

Contact: *Claire D. Reishman*

Director, Shakerag Workshops

St. Andrew's-Sewanee

290 Quintard Road, Sewanee, Tennessee 37375

931-968-0210, Extension 3165

Classifieds

For Sale

Time to liquidate for me.. For Sale. Olympic Kiln 2827 with a new set of elements (you install). Elements 206.40 and \$500.00 for kiln. By the way.. I am not including my shipping charges on any of these items. This kiln was originally an all electric kiln, but Mel Jacobson came to Lisa Skeen's home back a few months ago and did a workshop and this is the kiln he changed to accept gas/electric firings.. He also sprayed it with ITC to protect the kiln for a longer life and firings.. I took out the switches but still have them. you could either put them back in or just use the kiln for gas alone.. Next.. a Paragon A99/B kiln.. The Kiln is 450 and elements to replace the broken or old ones \$45.00 . I will give the new owner bricks to replace broken ones, no charge. I have also a new Raku Bumer from Ward's Burers \$169.00 and lastly a Skutt Wall Controller with a new thermocouple. I used this ONE TIME! \$450 for this item..Anyone interested please call my home here in Greensboro. 294-5771
Thanks, Carolyn Moore

John Calver Workshop
Repeat of the Article on the workshop
published in August 2003

June 28-29, 2003

John is from northwest England – the lake district – and his slide show included pictures of his home and studio (a nice size building behind his house) covered with ivy and flowers. It looked like a fairy tale home nestled in green rolling hills. He went to college to become a Civil Engineer and while a student took his first ceramics class – and fell in love with clay. John finished his degree and worked for a couple of years in Engineering while simultaneously building kilns and experimenting with clay. Then he launched his life long career in the ceramics business (think his parents were happy about it??).

John buys commercial clays – for our workshop he asked us to get Cone 10 stoneware in white or off white with a little grog in it. At home he buys premixed clay off the shelf – sometimes smooth clay and sometimes with a little grog. Throwing forms gracefully, John described in detail the mechanics of how he thought through his forms and positioned his hands and fingers. He fires in a reduction kiln that holds a huge amount of pottery – something like 35 cubic feet. The kiln is run four times a year. Between the throwing and the firing were the most complicated set of manipulations I have ever seen done! All of his many techniques of altering and manipulating the clay he shared with us. And as he explained "I am not worried about anyone copying my style and producing similar pieces – anyone willing to labor through all these steps is welcome to it!"

John did a lot of work with iron oxide slips. On several plates he brushed on the slip while the piece was still wet and then rested a metal tool in the center of the piece – pulling toward the edge (a bent piece of metal – like metal stripping) and allowed it to bounce off the rotating clay and create a most wonderful pattern of small geometric cuts in the clay – called "chattering".

He cut the rim into many elaborate designs – sometimes pulling the plate into a 'square-like' finished shape and other times with curves and points. He used stamps and fabric to impress designs – sometimes producing a very subtle pattern on the finished piece. Slab pieces that had been texturized were added to many pieces – for handles and feet. One of the most impressive displays of pottery skills John did while talking about something else... have you ever seen a perfectly uniform four foot handle pulled by hand? One of those things that made me shake my head and scratch....

My favorite: John threw a plate and with the metal rib laid a circular pattern from the center out – so that you could just see the edge of the cut in the wet clay. Then he cut the piece off the wheel and skillfully threw the piece on a flat surface to stretch it – changing it from round – to distinctly oblong – but never touching the 'edge' created by the metal rib. He turned the sides of the piece up, added a handle and some feet – to end up with a delightful small serving tray. The amazing thing is that he uses up to 4 (and his web site says "6") thin layers of glaze – which brings out this pattern of circular cuts to be prominently featured in the finished piece.

If you have not had the pleasure of seeing John Calver's exquisitely finished pieces – you have to get a hold of the Ceramics Monthly, December 2000 (featured on the cover). Or there is a wonderful web site (www.studiopottery.co.uk) that hosts web pages for more than 130 potters in England (visit this site to get an idea of what our Clay Guild would like to do to promote your pottery!). When you go to this site – be sure to look up John Calver's work – but take the time to view a bunch of really talented potters.