



Collar City Clay Guild

www.collarcityclayguild.com

NEWLETTER

April ISSUE 2008

Items Included:

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- *WMHT Donation*
- *Pottery Fest Update*
- *Spring CCCG Calendar*

March Meeting: Field Trip to Canajoharie



Admiring pottery at "Harry's Pottery" store

Our March meeting was a group trip to the Arkell Museum and was hosted by Harry Barse, owner of "Harry's Pottery" in Canajoharie, NY.

The meeting featured a guided tour of Harry's store followed by a brief review of current Guild business. Harry's Pottery has an eclectic collection of unusual hand-crafted gifts, including a large pottery selection created by multiple local artisans. Along with great pots, Harry stocks natural yarn, gifts from "Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond", jewelry, Whaler's candle chandelier, wall sconces and other tin work made by a local tinsmith. Pewter spoons, hand forged rush candlesticks and hand forged saw tooth rush chandeliers are created by a local blacksmith. Harry's store also features fine art, Mole Hollow Candles and McGillycuddy's Natural Soaps.

Afterwards, the group gathered at the Arkell a block or two away. The meeting was attended by 12 members.

The museum's main exhibition was

entitled, "**Arkell's Inspiration: The Marketing of Beech-Nut and Art for the People**". This was Bartlett Arkell's collection of late 19th and early 20th century American paintings and the use of his collection to market Beech-Nut products.

Other paintings featured included Arkell's collection of works by Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, and other American Impressionists. Also featured were portraiture by some of America's best known artists from the 18th through the early 20th century.

An adjoining exhibition featured a collection of immigrant and ethnic caricatures from *Judge* and *Puck* magazines dated from the late 19th century to World War I, a period of massive migration to the United States.



Taking a break from the Art

The images exhibited were sometimes humorous, sometimes very



disturbing. However, they depicted American values and attitudes towards immigrant groups of the period.

Thanks to all for a great day!

Items of Interest:

- **23rd Annual Bennington Mayfest Arts & Crafts Show**

This outdoor craft show runs on Saturday May 24th, 10am to 5pm rain or shine. Bennington's Main Street becomes a pedestrian-only boulevard with arts and crafts, food and entertainment. Mayfest is similar to Troy's Riverfest in June, attracting a wide range of visitors. Please contact Marie De Vito (lulutravis@yahoo.com) to participate.



- **Arts & Education Center Announces Summer Workshops**

The Sugar Maples Center for Creative Arts is located in the heart of the Catskill Region. Now in its fourth year, the school's mission is twofold: To create a Nationally-recognized center for the study of an expanding selection of visual and performing arts while simultaneously renovating the 80-acre, 22-building property that formerly comprised the Sugar Maples Resort in the scenic hamlet of Maplecrest. Upcoming workshops feature nationally recognized potters such as Susan Beecher, Suze Lindsay, Ellen Shankin, **Randy Brodnax**, and Bruce Dehnet. Please visit: <http://www.catskillmtn.org/education/sugar-maples/ceramics/index.html> for further information.

- **2008 Medieval Faire at the Cathedral of All Saints**

October 18th the Cathedral will host the 25th annual Medieval Faire featuring vendors, jousts, dancers and other entertainment. Pottery vendors sought. Please contact chairperson Carol Orr at 765-0013 to participate.

- **The Fort Klock Craft Fair**

is held each 2nd weekend of September 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Approximately 130 craftsmen and artisans from many of the surrounding states participate. May 15th is the vendor application deadline. This is a pleasant venue with good parking, easy to get to from Thruway just across the Mohawk. Homemade ethnic foods are available to the public on Saturday. For more information please contact Cindy Sinchak at 518-993-2352 or by Email: windsweptfarm@frontiernet.net

- **Troy Empty Bowls Update**

The committee is now underway planning this year's October event. The Guild membership voted to award two \$500 grants this year to cover glaze and firing costs for Empty Bowl projects to both the Arts Center and to Northeast Ceramics. Both venues have agreed to help facilitate bowl making to support the fundraiser. More information regarding times and studio availability to follow.

Potters Donate to WMHT Auction



John Visser's Donated Piece

Many thanks to the (29) potters who participated and gave so generously for the WMHT Great Auction donation. Pictures of all the work can be found in several locations. All the wonderful pots can be found on WMHT's website for pre-auction, as well as our on-line Flickr account.

All of the Guild's donated pots were professionally photographed for posting on the Auction's website as well as TV viewing. Pictures can be found at flickr.com, by searching un-

der *Collar City Clay Guild*. Our website is now up and running and will also link to the pots at: www.collarcityclayguild.com.

Potter John Visser will be featured as one of the Auction's major contributors. He was recently featured in the WMHT Outlook magazine and will be given promotional airtime when his piece is auctioned off.

In case you missed it, the article featured in Outlook states: "One might say that clay is in John Visser's blood. His great-grandfather was a monument carver from Germany. His father, a graduate of Pratt Institute, was a design engineer but used a variety of fine arts media, including clay. At John's home, clay was a source of family activity. When he was 12h he happened to see Toshiko Takeasu, throwing pots on public television. John was stopped in his tracks. It changed his life and he knew he had to try working with this clay."

John studied and apprenticed with Mike Smyser. He has worked with Regis Brodie from Skidmore College and managed three Capital Region Pottery Studios. John has been involved with the Arts Center of the Capital Region



since 1993 where he is currently the Chair Person of the Ceramics Department teaching ceramics and sculpting. John also maintains his own studio at Northeast Ceramics."

John's vase will appear on the WMHT auction website next week and all the other artist donations will appear the week after.

Be sure to check out the pre-bidding online or catch the auction live April 21st thru the 27th. Potters will be contacted by mail after the pieces are sold with information regarding the bids.



Pottery Fest Update

We have (45) potters committed to date and have a few more trickling in. All indoor locations are filled, leaving only outdoor spaces available.

Many of you have picked up postcards and flyers from North East Ceramics. It is imperative that each participating potter contribute to the promotion of the show by posting flyers and rack cards with local businesses and their customers. Please help us to spread the word in your respective communities. Great locations to leave cards would be coffee shops, restaurants, grocery stores, libraries, and other businesses members frequent.

Volunteers are urgently needed! We are asking members not selling, friends and family to volunteer for a portion of this weekend event. We will need assistance with tickets, demonstrations, booth sitting, and other small jobs. With your help, we can make this year's event bigger and better than before. Please contact Joan or MaryPat at (joangriffin@daviesoffice.com or mphopper@nycap.rr.com) to assist.



CCCG Calendar of Upcoming Events

April Guild Meeting 4/27

Pre-Pottery Fest Organizational Gathering

Location: North East Ceramics
2nd Fl Studios at 2pm

May Guild Meeting 5/25

Field Trip to Vermont for
"Vermont Days"

Each year, hundreds of Vermont artisans open their studio doors to the public, allowing you the chance to see the artistry behind the art. Participating artists include glass blowers, ironworkers, jewelers, painters, potters, print-makers, etc.

June Meeting 5/14

Troy's River Fest
Group participation in Street Fair

More information to follow

At the beginning of our monthly gatherings we will have a business meeting. An agenda for the meeting will be sent out one week prior to each meeting. Please send items for the agenda ten days prior to the meeting. All topics for discussion can be sent to: phoagland@wmht.org.



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COLLAR CITY CLAY GUILD
PO BOX 811
TROY, NY 12180-0811

Website: www.collarcityclayguild.com

E-mail: collarcityclayguild@hotmail.com