



Collar City Clay Guild

NEWLETTER

MARCH ISSUE 2008

Items Included:

- *February Meeting*
- *Items of Interest*
- *Pottery Fest Update*
- *Spring CCCG Calendar*

February Meeting: Tips & Tricks



Paul cuts pots evenly off the hump with string

The February meeting featured a brief review of current business followed by various members demonstrating a myriad of helpful clay tips and tricks. This was a meeting topic from last year that was repeated due to its popularity. The meeting was attended by approximately 25 members. Nice to see you all!

Paul Hoagland showed us how to cut pots evenly off the hump using only a thin string such as dental floss.

John Visser showed us his home-made sculpture tools using scraps of hard wood and found objects. He also demonstrated lifting pots off the wheel using a favorite elongated rib.

Harriet Hauser showed us a bat she modified to hold smaller square

bats perfect for cups or other small items thrown in large numbers. This allows the potter to throw many forms and best utilize shelf space.

MaryPat Hopper brought canvas circles cut perfectly to fit standard bats. She demonstrated using these on slip covered bats as a method to remove plates or platters without cutting through the bottoms.

Susan Nowogrodzki showed an alternate technique using tinfoil on her bat to remove thin bottomed plates and platters. Tin foil can be reused several times.

Joan Griffin brought sanding disks for an quick and easy method of smoothing pot bottoms by attaching sand paper to old bats.



Susan removes thin platters from bats with tinfoil

Joan-Claire Veriditas demonstrated how a standard kitchen potato peeler creates a hole size perfect for clock mechanisms, and also for trimming leather hard edges.

Lee Glasheen demonstrated the use of construction grade Styrofoam to create unique forms for slab work. She also brought her favorite adhesive for bonding the foam to create larger and more complex forms.

Marie De Vito showed us her innovative Japanese tools purchased from a recent trip abroad. She says kitchen stores are her favorite place to search for new and interesting tools.



Marie shows Japanese wooden tools

Items of Interest:

- **Saint Rose Seeks Handmade Bowl Donations**

The College of Saint Rose, Office of Spiritual Life is asking for donations from local potters to assist with their "Fill Their Bowls" charity dinner on Thursday March 27th. All proceeds from the event to benefit the Homeless Action Committee of Albany. Bowls are being collected now. Bowls can be dropped off with Bianca at the Broken Mold in Troy. She is accepting bowls until March 14th. Please contact Whitney @ 518-454-2116 for further information, or alternate drop-off dates.



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

CCCG has the opportunity to participate as a group (or individual) in this show Memorial Day weekend. 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. Application deadline is March 8th, please contact our activity director, Lee Glasheen (glasheen412@hotmail.com) if you are interested in participating as part of the Guild. The nominal booth fee would be split among all who participate. Please contact Marie De Vito (lulutravis@yahoo.com) if you would rather participate individually for this show.



- **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.

- **NCECA 2008, 42nd Annual Conference**

CONFLUENCE: Innovation, Community, Environment. This year's event will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the David L Lawrence Convention Center March 19-22, 2008. Conference features events and exhibitions for clay enthusiasts of all types. Visit: (www.nceca.net/conference/2008) for further information.

Clay Guild Featured Artist for Auction

CCCG has been asked to be the “FEATURED ARTIST” for the WMHT Great TV Auction in April. This is the first time that 3-dimensional artists have been in this coveted position. This means excellent exposure on television and on the auction website as well.

As our media sponsor, WMHT will advertise the Pottery Fest on radio and television for 4 weeks, which will afford the guild approx. \$6000 in advertising. This has effectively doubled our coverage from last year. It is important to have a 100% showing of support to compensate for the extra attention which will be given to our group and individual members. Participants are asked to contribute a platter form in the \$150 or more range. This form has the greatest number of possibilities and is the most flexible creatively. Similar forms will help us to be promoted as a group.



Each piece must be delivered to Northeast Ceramics 2nd floor no later than **Wednesday, March 26th** from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Please deliver all work wrapped securely (bubble wrap, or the like) for transport to WMHT. Your name and/or business card should also be included with the piece. The work will be taken to the WMHT studio, where it will be professionally photographed at the station for live website viewing prior to the Auction.

The TV portion of the Auction will be completed just before Pottery Fest weekend, and all of our work will have been featured and bid on prior to the show. The website portion of the Auction will also feature hot links to our CCCG website which will be up and running at that time.

Your T-Shirt Designs Wanted!



Your input is still required to help us design T-shirts for Collar City Clay Guild. We will be selling these to members and the public for Pottery Fest and other events.

Every idea will be considered. Designs can be simply sketched on paper or submitted more formally. Submittals may be presented to any member of the Executive Committee between now and March 30th. Winning designs will be voted on by a majority of members no later than the end of March in order to be produced for May's Pottery Fest.

Pottery Fest Update

At this time we have (43) potters signed up for this event. A few remaining indoor and unlimited outdoor booths are still available.

Thank you all for submitting pictures for the postcards and flyers. These have been ordered and will be available for pickup at River Street studios as early as the 2nd week of March. Please help us to promote this event by sending the postcards out to your customers and displaying rack cards and posters with your local businesses.

We are asking members who will not be selling at PotteryFest 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 (joangriffin@daviesoffice.com) if you can assist.

Member Melissa Enslin is looking for another potter who can share her booth for the weekend. Please contact her (eaglewoman3@verizon.net) to organize.



CCCG Calendar of Upcoming Events

March Guild Meeting 3/30

Field Trip to **Canajoharie**

Meet in the parking lot at River Street for Carpooling at 11am.

We will visit member Harry Barse's "Harry's Pottery" store and also to visit the Arkell museum. The museum features American art by Winslow Homer, Georgia O'Keefe, and Andrew Wyeth.

April Guild Meeting 4/27

Pre-Pottery Fest Organizational Gathering

Location to be determined.

May Guild Meeting 5/25

Field Trip to Vermont for

"Vermont Days" and/ or group participation in Bennington MayFest Art Show

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, printmakers, etc.

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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