

Dear Friends and Members,

I can't say that pottery is completely recession proof, but the last two weekends I spent part or all of my time at pottery shows. I have seen crowds of pottery lovers flowing through the aisles in large numbers. They appeared to be spending their money on pots that are functional.

The first show I attended was the Catawba Valley Pottery Show. Several of our CCG members were participants and did well at the show.

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On Saturday there was a featured program presented by Mark Hewitt. His topic was "Why I love clay". One point that he made was that we should take more time learning and respecting the clay body that we are using.

Mark said the first thing he does when visiting a new pottery is to inspect their clay pile. He indicated that he could tell more of what was going on in the pottery than by visiting the showroom.

Mark touched on potters and organizations that have made contributions to the promotion of pottery in North Carolina. The Carolina Clay Guild was one of those organizations. Mark will be doing a workshop for our clay guild in September.

I was a participant at the Spring Triad Pottery Festival at the Greensboro Curb Market. Most of the potters I talked to had a good show and said the spring show was much better than the previous fall show.

Our clay guild became one of the sponsors of the show. I feel it was money well spent, since most of the folks at the show were our members. I also think the promotional efforts of Jim Rientjes and Molly Lithgo sure helped our cause.

Please put the following dates on your calendar for up coming meetings and guest programs:

Saturday, May 9th

Mike Fox – Lead Potter at Old Salem Moravian Village, will share history of local Moravian potters and the slip techniques that makes their work so special.

Saturday, August 8

Molly Lithgo underglazing techniques

Saturday October 10

Noah Carlton and Jim Talley on making potter tools

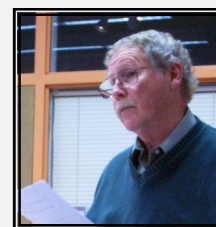
I look forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting:

Carolina Clay Guild Programs
Center for Visual Artists,
200 North Davie St.,
Greensboro, NC 27401
10:00am - noon

If you have any glaze recipes or tips on creating a pot, please bring them to the next meeting. Or, e-mail me @ dslater2@triad.rr.com. We will put them in the next newsletter.

I hope everyone will keep a positive approach toward the clay guild. We need your input so that we can make our organization an educational one that serves to better our members and our communities.

Sincerely,
Dave Slater
CCG President



Carolina Clay Guild Workshop

For more information contact Molly Lithgo: 336-275-1202 or mlithgo@triad.rr.com

"I have been trained in the Leach, Cardew, and Hewitt school of making pots. For nearly fifteen years I have devoted my time to understanding the many traditions that have inspired this school of thought. The drive to look closely at traditions using local materials and firing large wood-burning kilns has taken me from England to Thailand. The better I understand the idea behind these traditions the more relevant my pots will become in my own tradition and culture. I enjoy mining local clays and minerals for making and glazing pots. These raw materials can be far superior to most commercial materials if one invests the time to understanding their unique properties. Moreover I value my close relationship to the medium far more than the uniqueness of the materials themselves. It is this deep understanding of the craft that attracts me to the traditions of southeast Asia and the southeastern United States. It is my goal over a long career to make pots that reflect the culture and times in which I live."

Daniel Johnston

Workshop



Daniel Johnston had his first kiln opening in December of 2003. It was much anticipated and well attended and substantially supported by many other potters in the Seagrove pottery community. All in attendance at that first kiln opening agreed that it was long overdue and very much worth the wait. Daniel was born to a family of farmers and raised in the community of potters known as Seagrove in central North Carolina. He always knew that, like his farming family, he would work with the earth, but he had a hunch it would not be in the usual manner of tilling the soil and planting crops. Rather, digging his own clay, rendering it "throwable" and turning it into functional and beautiful vessels was what Daniel longed to do. He spent four years as an apprentice with Mark Hewitt, the much esteemed potter from Pittsboro, NC. He spent another year in Thailand, where he studied with masters of Asian pottery. Then he returned to his home in Seagrove and commenced to setting up his studio—taking trees from his land to build his studio; erecting a wood-burning kiln brick by brick and stuccoing the outside with locally-dug clay; even building a water tower of Thai design that catches rainwater and eliminated the need to dig a well.

Saturday, May 23

9:00-5:00

Rockingham Community
College Pottery Studio

Cost.....\$15.00!!!

Daniel Johnston Workshop Registration

Send your check for \$15.00 to confirm your space to:
CCG, PO Box 5656, Greensboro, NC 27435

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Bring your lunch and eat on the college grounds or feel free to drive to a local restaurant.

Making Majolica

After the general membership meeting on March 14, presenters Suzon Martin and Suzanne Cowan treated us to a fascinating program on creating majolica tiles.

Suzon had attended a Guild workshop with Matthias Osterman last June and demonstrated some of the techniques she learned there.

Suzon and Suzanne also shared tips on how to achieve those vibrant colors as well as the painterly effects that characterize Osterman's work.

And, we got to see beautiful examples made by Osterman, Cowan, Martin and Marcy Maury (is there anything she can't do???).



Suzon Martin points to photo of majolica technique as Suzanne Cowan assists at a recent CCG membership meeting.

Matthias Ostermann Remembered



Last year the Carolina Clay Guild sponsored a hands-on workshop with Matthias Ostermann. It was a great workshop. Everyone in attendance was touched by his depth of knowledge on ceramics and his willingness to share all he knew. So it is with sadness that we recently received the news that he passed away on April 19th.

He was not in good health when he taught the workshop. Sometimes he had to sit down and for part of the day he took a rest period. But he was so kind and had such a generous spirit – that he seemed driven to share his expertise.

Matthias became known for his majolica pottery and knowledge of the field. He wrote three well-received books and countless magazine articles about ceramics. His most recent exhibition 'Boats of Passage' was held in Toronto last December.

Several times in the year since his workshop we have gotten news that he was doing well and back to making pottery. But obviously it was a temporary improvement.

We are very lucky to have had Matthias present a workshop. Thanks Matthias!

Photo taken from <http://www.matthiasostermann.com/>
Please see web site for more information on Matthias's death and his life's work.

Photo Gallery

Photos from the *Suze Lindsay and Kent McLaughlin "Throwing Side By Side" Workshop* in February.



Carolina Clay Guild March Minutes

*Date: March 14, 2009
Location: Cultural Arts Center,
Greensboro, NC*

The Carolina Clay Guild held its first meeting at its new location, The Cultural Arts Center in downtown Greensboro.

President Dave Slater called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

Treasurer's report:

Debbie Sells reported that the workshops were affordable and at the same time making a little bit of money.

Newsletter

Dave reported that Dorcas Midkiff had agreed to do the technical part of our newsletter.

She is the editor of the Dan River Basin Assn. Newsletter "Currents."

We are looking for a couple of members to gather articles to give to Dorcas as well as someone to take photos at meetings and workshops.

Upcoming Workshops – 2009

Daniel Johnston
May 23rd at RCC

Kent McLaughlin
Aug 3 RCC (Brush Making)
also offered on 8/2 at Art Alliance

Mark Hewitt
Sept. 12 & 13 at RCC

Gay Smith
Jan 30th, 2010

Liz Zlot
Summerfield – late spring or early
summer (Handbuilding)

FYI

If you are not receiving e-mails contact Debbie Sells (dsells@triad.rr.com)

We are in search of a program for the May 9th meeting – if you are willing to present a program for the bi-monthly meetings, please contact Dave Slater (dslater2@triad.rr.com).

We also discussed Star Works, in Star, NC. They are making and distributing their own clay.

We sent thank you notes to Suzon Martin & Suzanne Cowan for their workshop on Maiolica.

The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.

Albert Einstein

CCG Newsletter Staff

Editor

Dorcas G Midkiff

Associate Editors

Maury Marcy
David Slater

Contributing Writers

Cindy Biles
Marcy Maury
Molly Lithgo

Photography

Cindy Biles
Ann Lynch

Carolina Clay Guild Workshop

For more information contact Molly Lithgo: 336-275-1202 or mlithgo@triad.rr.com



Mark Hewitt Workshop



Two Day Demonstration

Save the date:

September 12 & 13

Rockingham Community
College

Cost: \$75.00.

Born in Stoke-on-Trent, England, Mark is the son and grandson of directors of Spode, the fine china manufacturers. As a

student at Bristol University in the early 1970's, Mark read Bernard Leach's "A Potter's Book," and decided to become a studio potter rather than an industrial manager. This decision led to a three-year apprenticeship with Michael Cardew, and later another with Todd Piker in Connecticut, where Mark met his wife, Carol.

In 1983 they moved to Pittsboro NC and set up their pottery. Mark built a very large wood kiln and began making the distinctive functional pots for which he is known, specializing in very large planters and jars, along with finely made smaller items. He uses local clays and blends the different North Carolinian folk traditions together into a contemporary style that has attracted a sizeable following.

His work has been featured in the *Smithsonian* magazine and on the cover of *American Craft* magazine, he has written extensively in the ceramic press, and he has exhibited in London, New York and Tokyo, as well as throughout the US. He is well-represented in museum and private collections.

He recently co-curated a major exhibition with Nancy Sweezy entitled "The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery," at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC, October 30, 2005 – March 19, 2006. UNC Press has published a well-illustrated catalogue/book.

Mark's work was featured in the PBS series, "Craft in America," and in the accompanying book and travelling exhibition. The show was aired nationally in May 2007.

Bio information and photos taken from <http://www.hewittpottery.com>
Please see web site for more information on Mark Hewitt.

Mark Hewitt Workshop Registration

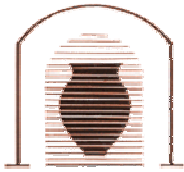
Send your check for \$75.00 to confirm your space to:
CCG, PO Box 5656, Greensboro, NC 27435

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Bring your lunch and eat on the college grounds or feel free to drive to a local restaurant.



CAROLINA
**CLAY
GUILD**

**PO Box 5656
Greensboro, NC 27435**

Please visit us at:
www.carolinaclayguild.com

**Carolina Clay Guild
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Publicity

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To:

Carolina Clay Guild Membership Form

Membership fees are due annually and cover the calendar year
January-December.

_____ Individual \$20.00

_____ Individual and Spouse \$25.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

My ceramic interest are: _____

If you would like your contact information listed in
Website Membership Directory please fill in following information.

Name _____

Pottery Name _____

Address _____

Webpage URL _____

Email Address _____

Send check with completed form to:
PO Box 5656, Greensboro, NC 27435