



North Carolina Pottery Center NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

Catawba Valley Pottery Festival

The 13th annual Catawba Valley Pottery & Antiques Festival is scheduled for March 26 & 27, 2010, at the Hickory Metro Convention Center in Hickory, NC (located at Exit 125 off I-40). The Friday night preview party is from 7-10PM and includes an early buying opportunity with a catered Southern Supper and live music. Tickets are \$40 and must be purchased by March 19 (call 828-322-3943). Hours for Saturday are from 9AM-5PM; admission for adults is \$6 and for children 12 and under, \$2.

An important fundraiser for the North Carolina Pottery Center and the Catawba County Historical Society, the Pottery Festival focuses on Southern traditional pottery, offering both sales and educational features. A total of 112 dealers will be present, a mix of both contemporary potters and antique dealers. The potters focus on functional wares, face jugs, figurals, and forms linked to the Southern tradition. Antique dealers will offer pots and other items that complement and give context to traditional pottery.

The educational component of the Festival, including an exhibit and lecture, changes each year. For 2010 Dr. Steve Compton, a noted pottery collector and scholar, will deliver an illustrated lecture on "North Carolina Earthenware" on Saturday morning at 11AM. And the exhibit will feature rare pieces of lead glazed earthenware from across the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Other educational events on Saturday include a pottery identification clinic, pottery demonstrations on the wheel, and videos about pottery making which will be shown throughout the day.



Welcome New Board Members

On March 14, the North Carolina Pottery Center held its annual meeting and elected four new board members, each of whom brings valuable knowledge and experience to our organization.

Ann Busick (Fuquay Varina) is a graduate of Denison University and a retired high school teacher. Along with her husband, Monty, she is an enthusiastic collector and promoter of North Carolina pottery. A long-term supporter and volunteer at the Center, she has worked on the annual auction and other premier events.

Susan Greene (Asheboro) is a graduate of Belmont University and has served as Marketing Chair for SAPA (Seagrove Area Potters' Association) and also for the new fall festival, the Celebration of Seagrove Potters. She is currently a member of the Auction Committee at the Center. Susan notes that she is "passionate about cultural heritage, tourism, people, pottery, trees, plants, and the connection and promotion of them all."

Jennie L. Keatts (Seagrove) is the sister of board member Pam Owens and owner of JLK Jewelry, which was established at the Jugtown Pottery in 1999. A graduate of the University of Colorado, she worked for many years in hospitality and tourism marketing. Since moving to Seagrove, she has played a major role in the formation of SAPA and the development of the annual Celebration of Seagrove Potters festival.

Michael Kline (Bakersville) is a well known North Carolina potter and a Resident Artist at the Penland School of Crafts. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, he established his Okra Pottery Studio in 1993. He has developed a body of work in translucent porcelain as well as large-scale stoneware inspired by the traditional potters of the Catawba Valley and Seagrove regions.

Our new members will join the following returning members of the board: Linda Carnes-McNaughton, Bruce Daws, Cindy Edwards, Ed Henneke, Mark Hewitt, Meredith Heywood, Everette James, Pam Owens, Caroleen Sanders, Gay Smith, and Lane Wharton. Please thank them when you see them for their hard work for the Center

**2010 Greetings from
NCP Board President,
Dr. Linda Carnes-
McNaughton**

As springtime arrives in the Carolina piedmont, we are reminded of our world's renewed energies, those natural and those cultural. The renewed energies now abounding at the North Carolina Pottery Center are a testament to the hard work and dedication of its many supporters, the membership, the remarkable staff, and the resilient Board of Directors. Everyone of you have been a driving force as the Center faced new challenges created in main part by the national economic downturn, and the restricted funding sources.

Despite a shrinking economy, however, the Center, through creative responses, has grown in membership, exposure, and partnerships during this past year. During a special October fund-raising and membership drive, we welcomed over 320 new supporters to our museum organization. The Center opened its doors to over 16, 000 visitors, representing 47 of the 50 states, and 17 foreign countries. We hosted four premier exhibitions featuring Owen/Owens Family potters, the historic stoneware potters of Fayetteville, the historic and contemporary potters of the Catawba Valley, and now, the New Generation of Seagrove Potters. The Center has partnered once again with the Catawba Valley Pottery Festival in Hickory and participated in the local Celebration of Seagrove Pottery Festival.

Two members of our board were featured in a nationally broadcast show titled Crafts in America, which launched state-wide viewing parties from venues such as the famous Umstead Hotel in Cary to the well-known General Store in Pittsboro. Last spring's annual Auction, titled The Many Faces of the Center, brought new visitors, customers, and museum-goers to see our wonderful facilities and enjoy the excitement of a live pottery auction. Finally, we are proud to announce that the Center also, through state and national grant opportunities and some talented editors, sponsored three new publications: The Family Business: 175 Years of Pottery by the Owen/Owens Family, The Living Tradition: North Carolina Potters Speak, and Contemporary Pottery from North Carolina's American Indian Communities. The Living Tradition recently won the North Carolina Museums Council's 2010 award for Best Documentary Publication. All are available through the Center's gift shop.

The Center gained many new supporters this year, but sadly, we also lost two important members of North Carolina's pottery community. Mrs. Ann Ring, of Winston-Salem, was the key player in the capital campaign which raised nearly two million dollars to construct the Center. A special plaque has been placed in the Center's foyer to pay tribute to this community leader. And recently, we learned of the passing of a friend and motivator, Nancy Sweezy of Cambridge, MA, who spent many years reviving the Jugtown Pottery and then authored Raised in Clay and The Potter's Eye. The Center has placed a memorial brick in the front walkway to honor her. To these respected ladies, we owe much gratitude.

As we look ahead to more exciting exhibits, programming and events at the North Carolina Pottery Center, we

hope you will continue to check our webpage for current updates and news items. The Board of Directors, now composed of a 15-member panel, and our dedicated committees continue to expand to meet the challenge of promoting our state's pottery heritage and ongoing traditions. We hope you will visit the Center again and again, and bring your friends and family. Thank you for your continued interest and support. Stay tuned for more exciting news to come. See you at the Center!!

Annual Board Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Members and Board of Directors of the North Carolina Pottery Center was held in Seagrove on Sunday, March 14, 2010. In addition to our membership, we were delighted to have as distinguished guests the Honorable Allen Hale, Mayor of Seagrove; Charles "Terry" Zug, Professor Emeritus of Folklore and English at UNC-CH, and author of Turners And Burners; Mimi Saffer, Director of Strategic Relations at the American Board of Pediatrics; and Sid Luck, the Director of the Traditional Arts Programs for Students (TAPS) in Seagrove.

Elected to serve as new Directors, bringing total Board Membership to 15, were Michael Kline, a studio potter and a Resident Artist at Penland School of Crafts; Susan Greene, a resident of Asheboro involved in marketing for several pottery organizations; and Ann Busick, of Fuquay, a retired teacher and collector and promoter of North Carolina pottery. In addition, Jennie Keatts, of Seagrove, was seated by Board approval, in a position recently vacated by David Smith, who resigned because of new mayoral duties.

NCP Board President Linda Carnes-McNaughton described for the

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Members the highlights of the Center's operations for 2009, and expressed her gratitude that the Center has remained within budget and "in the black" despite the challenging economic environment. Pam Owens, Chairman of the Auction and Exhibitions Committee discussed the schedule of events she and her committee members are arranging for 2010 which will continue the rich tradition of the Center's programs. Finally, Carnes-McNaughton stressed the importance of the development during this year of a strategic long-range plan for the Center to secure funding for a full-time Director for the operations of the Center and for the continuation of its numerous exhibitions of North Carolina pottery.

In Memoriam: Ann Ring and Nancy Sweezy

The North Carolina Pottery community mourns the loss of two of its most ardent supporters, Ann Ring of Winston-Salem and Nancy Sweezy of Cambridge, MA. Both of these women played major roles in building the institutions that we all enjoy so much today.

No single individual deserves more credit for the existence of the North Carolina Pottery Center than Ann Ring. When we were in the early stages of planning the Center, her daughter, Ann Hall Wauford, brought her to our meetings and then, almost literally, twisted her arm to get her to head up our fundraising committee. Already an experienced fundraiser for established institutions like Old Salem and MESDA, Ann wasn't so convinced we could fund the Center. But she gave in to Ann Hall's prodding and took on the challenge. Years later she would allow that this was the most difficult task she'd ever undertaken.

Building the Center proved far more difficult than most expected, in large part because it was located in a rural area rather than a large city like Winston-Salem. Undeterred, Ann organized us all—most of us were novices at asking for money—and set us to work. She showed us how to bring donors down to Seagrove to tour the potteries and learn the area's history. She took us to businesses and foundations and legislators. And she worked tirelessly on her own to follow up on contacts and sell the idea of a North Carolina Pottery Center. Eventually, under Ann's leadership we raised the better part of two million dollars, a truly remarkable achievement.

Nancy Sweezy came to North Carolina in 1968 for the specific purpose of rescuing the then foundering Jugtown

Pottery. Working primarily with Vernon and Bobby Owens and Charles Moore, she set about developing new forms and glazes, recruiting talented apprentices, and instituting new marketing strategies to sell the pottery. And like the Busbees before her, she wrote articles and generally preached the gospel of North Carolina pottery to all who would listen. Just 15 years later, with Jugtown flourishing, she quietly passed on the business to Vernon and Pam Owens.

But Nancy's work was not finished with her "retirement." In 1984 she produced *Raised in Clay: The Southern Pottery Tradition*, which featured 17 traditional potteries in North Carolina. And then in 2005 she co-authored *The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery* with board member Mark Hewitt. This beautiful volume, paired with a major exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Art, revealed the deep roots and stunning artistry of our tradition. Many have pointed out that without Nancy's labors, our pottery industry would not have become what it is today. And she always did her work with exemplary tact and elegance and understanding.

New Generation of Seagrove Potters

Don't forget to come see our current exhibit, which features 15 younger potters of the Seagrove area, everyone from "A" (Blaine Avery) to "Z" (Jarod Zehmer). We particularly want to thank our sponsors for this event: The Randolph Arts Guild, Ann and Monty Busick, and Seagrove Creations. The range and quality of the work here leaves no doubt that Seagrove's future is in very good hands. And much of the work on display is available for sale.

On Saturday, March 20, the Center will host a Demonstration Day from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Come meet potters featured in the exhibit and watch them work on the wheel: Samantha Henneke, Crystal King, Travis Owens, Tommy Nichols, and Chad Brown. This event is open to the public and is free of charge. Note that this exhibit will close on April 10, so that we can set up for the annual auction. Don't miss this one!



North Carolina Pottery Center
233 East Avenue
Seagrove, NC 27341

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 4pm
336-873-8430 www.ncpotterycenter.org
info@ncpotterycenter.org

Exhibitions are made possible through the generosity of our membership, the North Carolina Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mary and Elliott Wood Foundation and the Goodnight Educational Foundation. Thank you!



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Special Thanks!

Terry Zug - Newsletter

Harriett Herring

Debra Garner

Scott & Bobbie Thomas

Going, Going, Gone to Pots Our 11th Annual Spring Auction

Mark your calendars for auction action on Sunday, April 25, 2010, and plan to attend. The spring auction is one of the major sources of funds for our educational programs, and offers a great way to support the Center. Doors will open at 3:30 with bluegrass music and hors d'oeuvres. Come early and socialize with fellow pottery aficionados and potters. At 4:30 prepare for the auction and take part in a raffle (for, among many other things, stays at the Umstead Hotel & Spa, the CVB Pinehurst Golf & Hotel, the Duck Smith House B&B, and the Seagrove Stoneware B&B). And then at 5:00 the serious stuff begins.

This year we will hold a traditional live auction with Leland Little Auction

& Estate Sales Ltd. from Hillsborough, NC. Leland, you will recall, helped us greatly with a major auction in September of 2008. Items will include both antique and contemporary pottery and pottery memorabilia. Check our website www.ncpotterycenter.org and www.llauctions.com for photographs of the items, and of course, they are all on display at the Center. The event is free to all—in lieu of tickets we will hold a “call for the cause” at the end of the auction.

Finally, we particularly want to thank our two Signature Sponsors for the auction: First Bank of Troy and Community One Bank of Seagrove. Many others have also contributed and are listed on our website. In particular, we want to give special thanks to Harriet Herring for her generous auction and exhibit sponsorship given in memory of her

father, W.I. Herring, Jr. When you have the opportunity, please thank all of our sponsors for their very generous support.

