

April 2007

HANDS IN CLAY

Ottawa Guild of Potters *Newsletter*

Guild Meeting Program

September 2007-May 2008

Sept.4, Oct.2, Nov.6, Dec.4, Jan.8,
Feb.5th, Mar.4, Apr.1, & May.

General Meetings are from 7:30 to 9:30
pm at the Nepean Visual Arts Center;
Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Drive,
(south of Hunt Club Rd.)

Executive Meetings are from 6:00-7:30
pm and are open to the public.

****Annual****
General Meeting
Tuesday
May 15th

See page 3 for further details!

Library

Before each monthly meeting, the Library
is open from 6:30 until 7:30.

If there is a book or video that are you are
looking for, let us know. It will be
considered when we purchase new
material. If an item is out on loan, we can
reserve it for you.

Your input is appreciated.

Linda Taylor
Librarian

OGP Website

The Website address is:

www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca

To view Newsletter online:

www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca/newsletter

Bruce Jones

Web Master

OGP Help Line

Chandler Swain

kidswain@sympatico.ca

(613) 256-6522

Victoria Jenkins

a.vjenkins@rogers.com

257-2588

Hanne Lawrence

brucehanne@rogers.com

825-1736

John Kobzey

829-2466

Membership News

**Please notify Judy of any changes to
your e-mail or postal address via
email/telephone.*

funkypoterie@tlb.sympatico.ca

Tel: 819-463-3716

Judy Rodrigue

Membership Secretary

Newsletter

Please send Newsletter comments and
contributions to:

newsletter@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

Tel: 819-682-2734

Amy Arts

Newsletter Editor

***** Deadline for May Newsletter
Submissions is Sunday the 20th! *****

Who's Who *In the Ottawa Guild of Potters*

President - Julien Couture

Vice-President - Kirstin Davidson

Past President - Chandler Swain

Treasurer - Sarah Hand

Membership - Judy Rodrigue

Newsletter Editor- Amy Arts

Newsletter Distribution - Marie Paquette

Librarian - Linda Taylor

Website Manager – Bruce Jones

Workshop Committee - Carol Badenoch, Amy Arts, Julien Couture

Members Album - Cathy Payne

Exhibition Convenor - Marie Hennessy

Refreshment Convenor - Wendy He

Guild Answering Machine- Penny Donaldson

Equipment Storage- Joyce Lemke

Sales Committee - Lis Allison (Chair), Lynda Soper, Debbie Gilmer, Pat Jessop, Ros Allchin

Standards and Education: Lucie Rossignol (Chair), Vickie Salinas, Lynda Northey,

Glenn Dunning, Saskia Praamsma, Julien Couture, Rita Redner, Anne Chambers

Bursary - Amy Arts

Secretary - Helen Stone



MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rediscovering Paula Murray

Did you know that Paula adds fiberglass to her porcelain?... And that she fires it to cone 9 or 10 and then glazes it... that Adrienne Clarkson gave one of Paula's pieces to G.W.Bush? If you are just learning this, then you missed her talk at our last meeting...You did not see her slides... You did not get to touch the amazing pieces she brought with her.
Thank You Paula!

A suggestion...

In order not to loose contact with Paula and so many others, in order to build a 'bridge' of some sort, I would suggest we could name all our Guests, (*speakers, master potters giving weekend workshops, invited judges to our spring show, etc.*); honorary members for a year! They could participate in the Guild activities, meetings, workshops, sales, etc. & of course, they could also receive our newsletter.
This would not cost the Guild a penny!

The end of my mandate

At our next meeting we will choose a new executive. My two years as president have gone by so fast...Thanks to Kirstin who made it so very easy! Joining the executive was a good way to get to know more members and learn the many aspects of our Guild. As past president, I will still participate and support the new executive. I invite all of you to eventually join in. We always need new people and new ideas!



Julien Couture

The Annual General Meeting date has now been confirmed!

The AGM will take place on Tuesday, May 15th beginning at 7:30. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to attend. This is the meeting where important decisions about the next year are made and will include the election of a new Executive.

Kirstin Davidson, Guild VP

Election of New Executive

One of the jobs of the Past President is to find guild members willing to stand for positions on the executive. If you are currently serving one of these positions, you may re-nominate yourself, or if you are interested in one of the positions may nominate yourself, or someone else. Please let me know if you are interested, as it is healthy to have a good slate of nominees. There isn't much of a

time commitment and it's good to do your bit for the guild!! Many new members have been stepping up and that's very inspiring.

Call or email. Tel: 613-256-6522 Email: kidswain@sympatico.ca

Thanks,

Cheers, Chandler

Noted Positions

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Newsletter, Workshop Committee Chair, Sales Committee Chair, Standards and Education Chair, Exhibition Convenor.

Membership Renewal



It's that time of the year again, time for membership renewal! Please fill out a Membership form and bring to the next meeting, or send it with a cheque as requested on the form.

If you are paying in cash at the meeting, please bring the correct amount, (\$30), as I do not carry a float. Happy Potting!

Judy Rodrigue

Guild Meeting Dates for 2007/2008

The dates are (all of which are Tuesdays):

September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, January 8 (this is the second Tuesday, chosen due to the 1st being a part of the Christmas school break), February 5, March 4, April 1 & May

Library Books and Videos - *Do you have a request?*



Is there a particular book or video that you would like to see in the Guild's Library?

It is that time of year when I order new books and videos for the library. Please email or phone me with your suggestions!

Thank-you, Linda Taylor, *Librarian*

613-256-7764

terrarossa@gmail.com

Congratulations!

At our meeting on April 3rd, two member's names were drawn for Guild sponsorship to attend the FUSION Conference at the end of May. Congratulations to Carol Badenoch and Joyce Lemke who won! Carol and Joyce will be taking pictures while at the Conference and will bring us back a presentation for our September meeting. Have fun ladies!!



UP & COMING WORKSHOPS

Pottery Workshop June 9, 10: ***** Updated times & location!***

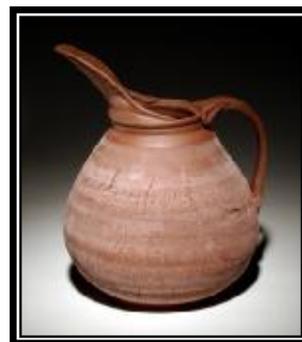
Eric Serritella is coming to Ottawa!

Eric Serritella is a nationally exhibiting ceramic artist trained in Chinese wheel-throwing techniques. He has studied twice in Asia with Master Ah Leon and other pottery masters.

His Opened Earth body of work is a culmination of experiences and inspirations during a 2004 artist residency in Taiwan.

“Opened Earth is an expression of the inner beauty and tactile range of clay,” he says.

“I appreciate how pottery reflects the earth’s durability and fragility—strong, yet easily destroyed if disrespected. Whether premeditated or spontaneously created, each piece is a relationship—the story of shared discovery. This is where the clay, the fire and I breathe our own lives —aspects of ourselves and our relationship— into the final form. The result has a life all its own.”



Serritella’s work has been exhibited in galleries and museums across the United States and featured in *Ceramics Monthly*, *Pottery Making Illustrated*, *Clay Times*, and *Ceramic Art* (Taiwan). 2006: *Ceramics Monthly*, “Opened Earth: The Beauty Within”, December 2006: *Pottery Making Illustrated*, (cover), “Unearthing Beauty: Revealing Surfaces from Within”, Sept./Oct.

2006: 2006 Clay Lover’s Calendar, Opened Earth teapot and pitcher

2005: *Clay Times*, July/August, Opened Earth vessel

2005: *Ceramics Monthly*, February, Opened Earth teapot

2004: *Ceramic Art*, “An American Potter Friend: Ah Li’s [Eric’s] Taiwan Pottery Trip”, Summer issue, by Wang, Shu-Lin

2004: Taipei County Yingge Ceramics Museum Quarterly, “New York to Taiwan, A Journey in Clay”, June/July/August (Summer)

2004: *Art Opportunities*, Finding, Entering and Winning, by Benny Shaboy

For examples of his work, visit www.muddypawspottery.com.

Workshop Details:

Cost: \$60

When: Saturday, June 9 and Sunday June 10: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Enjoy demonstration-style workshops, with potluck lunches

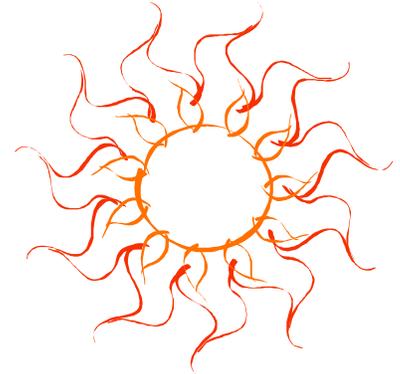
Location: Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington Street, Ottawa

Please make cheques out to: Ottawa Guild of Potters and mail to:

Carol Badenoch 66 Nestow Drive, Ottawa, K2G 4L8



*Local Co-operative Studio Space...
Something Worth Checking Out!*



Gladstone Clayworks

Formed in June 2003, Gladstone Clayworks functions as a co-operative studio, with members sharing communal wheels, tables, kilns, and shelving, as well as responsibility for committee-work, firings, safety, and clean-up details. Located at 949b Gladstone Ave., just west of Preston Street, in Ottawa's 'Little Italy'. The studio is housed in what was previously an old bread factory, but is now a building increasingly dedicated to artists and artisans working in a variety of media. The studio itself is a brightly lit, warm space of 1800 square ft. It has easy ground-floor access with parking right outside the door.

As a member, one has unlimited access to the studio, (*any time day or night*), storage shelving, access to communal equipment, and the opportunity to fire your own work and make your own glazes.

Membership requires payment of an initial membership fee of \$300. Monthly membership dues are \$110 per month.

If you would like to learn more, please call (613) 231-6177. All prospective new members will be contacted by our Membership Committee, asked to complete a questionnaire, and invited to meet with us to exchange information. We hope to hear from you!

We would love to welcome new potters and sculptors to our group!



**** Gladstone Clayworks will once again be participating in the City's "Doors Open" program. "Doors Open" allows members of the public to tour buildings not ordinarily open to them. As many of you know, Clayworks, as well as Enriched Bread Artists and other groups, are housed in an old bread factory at 951 (EBA, Loft Artists) and 949 B Gladstone Ave (Clayworks).**

Open House/Portes Ouvertes: June 2nd & 3rd , 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Keep an eye out for the City's promotional material and map in the Saturday edition of the Citizen, in late May.

WOOD-FIRING ON DENMAN ISLAND, B.C., by Marie Paquette

On March 14th, I arrived on Denman Island, off Vancouver Island just south of Comox, to take part into the firing of Gordon Hutchens's 10-year old anagama kiln. The kiln was loaded on the 15th. It took Gordon about 7 hours to carefully position the pieces of everyone in his 300 cubic feet Japanese-type kiln: all along that process, he tried to envision how the flames were going to travel through the pots. Fire is like water: it will take a direct line from the firebox to the chimney if given a chance! So pots have to be carefully placed to break the fire path to make sure each piece is circled with the roasting ash loaded flames.



Around 8 o'clock, the door was partially bricked up leaving an opening for stocking. Ambers



from the fire pit were introduced at the bottom of the firebox and fire was slowly built up to warm up the kiln and its load and then to start climbing up to 2400°F over 3 full days!

The front third of the 12 feet long cocoon-like chamber is the firebox with a grid floor where the logs are stocked; shelves are stacked in the remaining of the stepped chamber. Since the back is where it's going to be the coolest (cone 10 after 3 days), the glazed pots are loaded first. The mid-section of the shelves (cone 11 down) is a mix-match of glazed and unglazed pots,



and the front stack (cone 12 completely down) is preferably unglazed pieces. For the first 2 days, the stocking hole stayed open to hold back the fire and to prevent the front stack to get too hot compare to the rest of the chamber Being able to peek at the flames swirling around the pots added a lot of insight to the experience!



All participants had 3 shifts of 7-8 hours long. Each 10-15 minutes, two persons would each pass seven Fir logs from Gordon's property to the two stockers who would throw alternatively a log at a time into the firebox in a few seconds. For once the wood hits the burning wood in the firebox, it takes no time for the new flames to start liking the outside of the stocking hole and it's then impossible to get near it...

Once cone 010 is achieved, the reduction can start. We started to stock with ½ damp wood, ½ dry wood. For the first 5 minutes or so after each stocking, the kiln would spit

out black smoke by all possible openings! The kiln would loose 15 to 20 degrees each time we stocked to only start climbing up again and gaining a few more degrees –or not!- 5 to 10 minutes later. When the fire quiets down, it's time to stock again.

In between stockings, we would replenish the stocking wood, split some extra logs, share experiences, eat, play or listen to music, exchange e-mail addresses, eat again...

After 72 hours of a "quiet" but steady firing, on the 17th at 7pm, all openings of the kiln were sealed with a mixture of clay and sand except for 2 brick dampers in the chimney to prevent it from overheating.



The kiln was unloaded 3 days later to reveal beautiful surfaces on all and every pieces! Gordon said that it was the best firing he had in 23ish firings! The slow increase in temperature, the intense reduction we got, the rain we didn't get, the strong winds at times, the harmony around the anagama, the force of the flames and tons of well melted ashes had achieved gorgeous pots!



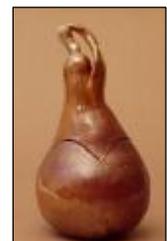
Gordon was the first one to handle each piece in wonder, studying every aspects of the passage of the flames loaded with ashes before passing it out. All the pots were placed on tables in the same order they were loaded so we could have an overview of the firing.

It was an incredibly great experience! Gordon Hutchens is not only a magnificent potter who masters a wide range of firing and glaze techniques –www.gordonhutchens.com- but also an excellent "pedagogue". He also is a very gentle man with a strong profound of life in all its diversity. It was a great privilege to have the opportunity to fire with him.



Photos *clockwise from top right corner*: 1)The inside of the kiln loaded; view of the grid floor of the firebox. 2) The cocoon like chamber of the anagama kiln. 3) View of the blowholes and the chimney during reduction. 4)View of the stocking hole and the chimney. 5) Pear jar, 10" high, natural ash glaze .

6)Gordon Hutchens unloading. 7)Gordon carefully analyzing each piece. 8)Dry wood waiting to be split and fired! 9) Looking into the kiln after 24 hours or so of firing.



Classifieds

For Sale Great Working Order!
Amaco 'Portable' 2 speed wheel. \$325 o.b.o.
Kickwheel, \$175 o.b.o.
Call 819-682-2734 or email abteam@sympatico.ca

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Looking to buy used wheel.

I am just starting a home studio and would like to buy a used wheel - electric or kick.
Will need some misc tools/supplies too if you have some to sell.
Please send details to [godwin_liz@yahoo\(dot\)ca](mailto:godwin_liz@yahoo(dot)ca)

Thanks!
Liz

•

Two electric kick wheels for sale.
Both wheels are excellent for throwing on especially if the power goes out!
I always used one for throwing and one for trimming.
One is an Estrin which has a large thin fly wheel. \$250
The second is smaller with a small thick fly wheel,
and may be a Pottery Supply House wheel. \$200
If you are interested please call me at 613 257 1075 or e-mail me at
ro.pott44@netscape.ca Rosemary mcGinnis.

Just a Reminder!

Please...

Bring your own coffee cup to our meetings!
Thank You!



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