

# Clay Notes

DECEMBER 2011



**Clay Notes**, the monthly **Triangle Potters Guild** newsletter, and the TPG membership form are available at [www.trianglepotters.org](http://www.trianglepotters.org). To get your announcements and news in the newsletter, send to: [trianglepottersguild@yahoo.com](mailto:trianglepottersguild@yahoo.com) by the 15th of each month.

## Our monthly meetings

are held on the first Tuesday of each month (no meetings June, July and August) at 7:30 pm. We will meet at the NCSU Craft Center, 100 Jensen Dr, Raleigh, NC.

## Visitors are Welcome!



## TPG BOARD

### President

Jo Ellen Westmoreland  
[jo\\_westmoreland@ncsu.edu](mailto:jo_westmoreland@ncsu.edu)

### Vice President

Jimmy Sodano  
[sodanopottery@yahoo.com](mailto:sodanopottery@yahoo.com)

### Corresponding Secretary

Joanne Wood  
252-478-5385  
[jobear0101@peoplepc.com](mailto:jobear0101@peoplepc.com)

### Treasurer

Elise Stiles  
[stileses@aol.com](mailto:stileses@aol.com)

### Recording Secretary

Neal O'Briant  
[neal126@yahoo.com](mailto:neal126@yahoo.com)

### Librarian

Christina Sydor  
[clsydor@gmail.com](mailto:clsydor@gmail.com)

## NEXT TPG MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, December 6, 2011  
**Location:** NCSU Craft Center,  
Thompson Hall, NCSU,  
100 Jensen Dr, Raleigh  
**Time:** 7:30 pm

Parking is available in the parking deck directly across from The Crafts Center entrance. You may be ticketed or towed if you park on the street – this is student parking only.

## DECEMBER PROGRAM

### Julie Fischer

Submitted by Jimmy Sodano

Inspired by the outdoors and the beauty found in her garden, Julie's stoneware sculptures utilize the colors and shapes found around her. Julie first became interested in the craft around 1999 when she took her first pottery class in Tennessee. Through studies and various classes she progressed as an artist and began to develop her own style and focus.

Julie's first juried shows came in 2006 with the Tennessee Craft Fair in Nashville followed by her first nationally juried show at the Three Rivers Art Festival in Covington, Louisiana. By the time 2008 rolled around, Julie knew that pottery would be a full time part of her life. That year she joined Turning Point Clay Studio located in Brasstown, North Carolina and finally became a full time potter in 2009.

Most of Julie's work has been focused on building forms from joining and stacking thrown segments. "I consistently test glaze



combinations to provide unique and appealing options for a cone 6 oxidation environment". Currently Julie is experimenting with image transfer using iron oxide toner and water slide decal paper.



## MEETING MINUTES

### TPG November 2011 Business Meeting

Recorded by: Neal O'Briant

President Jo Ellen Westmoreland welcomed returning members, new members, and guests.

**Minutes:** Recording Secretary Neal O'Briant asked if anyone had changes to the minutes from October as posted in the newsletter. Minutes were approved.

**President's Report:** Jo Ellen announced that June Tung had donated a Shimpo pottery wheel to the Crafts Center, with it going to the Triangle Potters Guild if the Crafts Center could not use it. The wheel will be sold through sealed bids opened at the December meeting. The minimum bid is \$150. Gaines had cleaned the wheel, and Edge Barnes had checked it out. Jimmy Sodano had looked up used Shimpo wheels and said they were selling from \$250 to \$450. The first \$100 will go to the guild and any amount above that would go to a scholarship for N.C. State students to take classes at the Crafts Center. Joanne Wood will email a form to members to make the sealed bids. Members who wish to bid can drop off their sealed bids with Jo Ellen at the Crafts Center if they cannot make it to the December meeting.

**Vice President's Report:** Jimmy Sodano announced that registration for the February workshop with Ben Owen opened that day. Donna Kanich said she had already received six registrations. Forms were available for members wishing to register. The registration will be open to the public on December 1 if guild members and NCSU students don't fill up the available spots. Jimmy explained that the scheduled speaker for November, David Fernandez of Seagrove, had to cancel to attend a town meeting because he is running for mayor. Jimmy thanked members who had brought pots to share. December's speaker will be Julie Fischer. Jimmy would like to have a photo of members to make into a postcard to send to a thank you note to speakers.

**Library Report:** Christina Sydor showed off several new books, including *250 Tips, Techniques and*



*Trade Secrets for Potters, 500 Raku: Bold Explorations of a Dynamic Ceramics Technique* (which includes a photo of a pot by Martin Stankus), and *Electric Firing: Creative Techniques*. She also showed off the new DVDs available in the library. She received five books donated by the estate of Peggy Bye.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:**

Joanne Wood brought a flyer for the Jenny Lou Sherburne workshop that the Carolina Clay Guild is hosting in December. She will post it on a bulletin board at the Crafts Center. The information about the workshop is also in the November newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Elise Stiles reported that there are 72 members. The guild's bank account balance is roughly \$4,400. She encouraged people who had not renewed to do so at the meeting in order to receive the benefits of membership.

**Refreshments:** Lauren Brockman volunteered to bring refreshments in December.

**Urban Ministries:** Emily Malpass said that the committee had been gathering bowls for the November Stone Soup Supper with drop-off locations at Pullen Arts Center and the Crafts Center. The count before the meeting was 131 bowls. The committee members counted the bowls during the meeting and the total including all the bowls brought to the meeting was 288. Emily said that the Stone Soup fundraiser was going to take place in two parts on November 16: lunch at the Church of the Good Shepherd and supper at White Memorial Presbyterian Church. Members who would like to help out at either can email Emily. Volunteers are needed to help with kids clay (evening only), selection tables, and wrapping.

**New Business and**

**Announcements:** Jo Ellen announced that postcards for the Crafts Center sale were available for participants. She also talked about the N.C. Pottery Collectors Guild, which meets the first Friday of each month at the Crafts Center. The topic for November's meeting was insuring your collection. Julia Jones reported that Dan Finch's open house was going to be November 13. Teresa Glisson brought brochures for the event. Emily Malpass announced that the Carolina Designer Craftsmen Guild was awarding a \$500

scholarship to a high school student. Information is on the CDC website. Martin Stankus announced that Jimmy Sodano has volunteered to lead the guild's participation in Artsposure. Laurie McNair, who keeps the guild's shelves at her house, requested that members call her or email her before picking up or dropping off shelves. Jimmy Sodano said that he had met a local buyer for Hallmark. He was scheduled to meet with the buyer the following week. Hallmark is encouraging its stores to feature more local handmade crafts. He will bring back information from his meeting at the next guild meeting. Lauren Brockman announced that the pottery tent at the State Fair was successful. She volunteered to coordinate the guild's participation in the tent in 2012.

**Program:** Several members brought pots that meant something to them—either ones they had made themselves or ones made by someone else. Members who brought pieces and talked about what they meant to them were Jimmy Sodano, Kathy Rogers, Tracy Dryer, Martin Stankus, Christina Sydor, Cindy Aldrich, Maureen McGregor, Edge Barnes, Conrad Weiser, Johanna New, Mary O'Neill, Cheryl Weisz, Elise Stiles, Courtney Purnell, and Brenda Taylor.

**TPG EVENTS**  
**Stone Soup BOWLS ...**  
**the results!**

Submitted by Emily Malpass

- Approximately 300 pieces of pottery went home with donors at \$25 each – so we estimate \$7,500 was raised from TPG's participation alone! Attendance and fundraising figures are forthcoming from Urban Ministries.
- **THANK YOU** to TPG members who volunteered to work the lunch and dinner shifts, and a special thanks to Donna Kanich for storing the pottery at her home studio.
- If you participated in this year's event, please send any feedback to [emily.malpass@gmail.com](mailto:emily.malpass@gmail.com) to improve next year's Stone Soup.
- Anyone who donated at least 5 pieces (and who clearly marked their boxes) will be entered into the raffle for a \$100 Highwater Clay gift

certificate. 1 entry will be placed in the raffle for every 5 pieces donated. The winner will be selected at random during our December meeting!

- many heartfelt thanks from the committee and the Urban Ministry for each of your donations and gestures of support. It was a great event and a proud day to be a TPG member!

**MEMBER NEWS**  
**from Joanne Wood ...**



**Cheryl Weiss** and **Alice DeLisle** show their happy faces and Christmas colors at the November 19 NCSU Craft Fair.

**from Cindy Aldrich ...**

For Sale: 125 lbs Tucker red earthenware paper clay - its moldy and quite firm - just chop off moldy edges and rewet - \$0.20 per lb. Contact [cindyaldrich@gmail.com](mailto:cindyaldrich@gmail.com)

**from Harold Pelzel ...**

I have two wooden art show display shelving units for sale at \$50 each. They are a hinged frame type with wooden shelves. Each unit has 5 shelf rungs. The shelves are 16 inches deep and 5 ft. wide. The unit is 5 ft. high. I can be contacted at (919)462-1642 or email [hpelzel@nc.rr.com](mailto:hpelzel@nc.rr.com).

**OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...**

**Raku Kiln For Sale ...**

Suzanne Krill is selling her Raku Kiln made by Charlie Riggs and accessories. She is including a pyrometer; a Ward burner, 2 pairs of gloves, 2 raku tongs, glasses, some half shelves [3 unused half shelves 13" diameter and used shelf pieces



which may be functional], some shelf posts, a 40 lb propane tank, some firing containers, and a set up for a pulley, which I never used. Side poles were added so 2 people could lift the kiln. Also some additional bricks which seem to be in pretty good shape. All this for \$375. Please contact Suzanne Krill at (919)847-4702 or [skrill@mindspring.com](mailto:skrill@mindspring.com).

(Editor's note: I have photos that Suzanne sent to our TPG email address and will forward them to you if you are interested.)



## A Heartfelt Message! from Cheryl Weiss ...

### Cheerio Clay Folks!

It is at this time of year I annually pause several days to reflect and am grateful. Mostly I'm grateful for the "who" in my life, not the "whats" so much. After sharing a viewing of M.C. Richards' documentary "The Fire Within" with many pottery friends at the NCSU Museum, I am inspired to write.

At the TPG meeting this month - how magical! We showed our favorite pottery, gave a glimpse of ourselves to one another - what inspires us - who we really are. I feel I know you better. For that I am grateful. I was deeply graced by everyone who shared and I sat marveling at us all who gather monthly in this love of the clay. We are friends in the truest sense. I believe Jimmy S. said it best in the last meeting, "without you, I don't know where I'd be." That goes for me too.

At the risk of sounding odd, I want to say that I treasure each of you and appreciate your sharing with me, whether it is new discoveries you've found in clay, laughing with me at a crazy joke or just carrying on as we do. Everyone of you I have given a piece of my heart so that when we meet, I gather you in... an embrace... and feel the love we share. I plan on attending many more TPG meetings just so I can glimpse more of you... my friends.

Have a great holiday season! May it be your very best!

Love,  
Cheryl Weisz

## M.C. Richards

### Artist & Philosopher (1916-1999)

(Editor's note: I was one of the fortunate people to view **The Fire Within** last month. I excerpted and highlighted for emphasis or clarity this information about M.C. Richards which may be found online at [http://www.gratefulness.org/giftpeople/m.c.\\_richards.htm](http://www.gratefulness.org/giftpeople/m.c._richards.htm))

In her [M.C. Richards] talk on "Imagination and Authenticity as Doorways to Creation," given in Oakland in 1992 and published in Deborah Haynes' *Opening Our Moral Eye*, she said, "Imagination is Spiritual Perception and Authenticity is Spiritual Presence....We need the courage of authenticity to carry the originality of imagination into expression."

The courage of authenticity! In other words, we need to be our true selves in order to create something real. She wasn't into "excellence" she said. That's an external measure. She was into inner truth. Isn't this a truly freeing concept for the artist? Don't worry about the marketplace. **Don't worry about what you think others might consider beautiful. Find it within yourself: That's when the greatest art is made.** "Imagination", she continued, "means receptivity to the creative unconscious, the macrocosmic mind, the artistic mind."



The self that connects within and without *is* our authenticity, M.C. said. When we play with materials – clay, paint, wood, stone – we activate our connection with the archetypal world that ideal primitive form.

If we accept her teaching, then she forces us to develop our INNER I AM, our Sacred Wisdom, to guide ourselves in our artistic journeys. In our film, "M.C. Richards: The Fire Within," I asked her how one taps into intuition. Gently correcting me she suggested a different image: that receptivity opens the door to intuition. **We do not tap into our intuition; rather, we become receptive to it. We need to be open to the muse to find our way.**

Mary Caroline Richards died in 1999. The film "**M.C. Richards: The Fire Within**" was released in 2004 and can be found at [www.mcrichardsfilms.com](http://www.mcrichardsfilms.com). The excerpts above come from a talk he delivered in Belfast, Maine, on June 2, 2007.

## I offer my interpretation of "The Fire Within"...



...to remind you of the warmth, the beauty, and the dancing fire that is found in us all. I took this photo last year at the TPG Christmas Raku party at Conrad Weiser's home.  
Joanne Wood

## LINKS

### Claymakers

[www.claymakers.com](http://www.claymakers.com)

(919) 530-8355

### Cary Arts Center

[www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org)

(919) 924-3941

### Durham Arts Council

[www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org)

(919) 560-2726

### Central Carolina Community College (CCCC)

[www.cccc.edu](http://www.cccc.edu)

### Finch Pottery

[www.danfinch.com](http://www.danfinch.com)

(252) 235-4664

### Litmus Gallery

[www.litmusgallery.com](http://www.litmusgallery.com)

(919) 571-3605

### North Carolina Arts Council

[www.ncarts.org/events](http://www.ncarts.org/events)

### The NCSU Crafts Center

[www.ncsu.edu/crafts](http://www.ncsu.edu/crafts)

(919) 515-2457

### Pullen Arts Center

[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)

(919) 831-6126

### City of Raleigh Arts Commission

[www.arts.commission@raleigh.gov](mailto:www.arts.commission@raleigh.gov)

### Sertoma Arts Center

[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)

(919) 420-2329

