

Guild at a Glance

South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 4733 West Saanich Road, Victoria

December 10, 2012

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 14, Issue 4

December's Meeting – Derek Kasper

Derek Kasper, originator of "No Two Alike Ceramic Arts" did a demonstration for our Guild at the November meeting. Derek gave a most interesting talk. Examples of his work and a power point show of his invented and hand- made tools and equipment left most of us in awe.



His fluted vessels were made using a set of "support fingers" cut from plywood on the outside.

Another of Derek's invention was a spray booth made of a 45-gallon plastic drum. A 4" drain pipe sucks out any dust, which can otherwise ruin the glaze. The air is taken directly outside. There is also an integrated banding wheel to turn the pot. The spray cans are used with a special attachment, which can be obtained from a car supply company.

For a textured spray, Derek uses slip.

He also showed pictures of his drying cabinet made from a standard bookshelf with a dust enclosure, like the ones used in building construction.

On the demo table were examples of plywood "cradles", which are used to produce equal slabs for 8-sided containers.

The workmanship, which goes into making these intricate tools is simply amazing, not to talk about the resulting wonderful pots!

More hints and tools:

A number of bent dinner knives of different sizes come in handy for textured surfaces (i.e. "chattering").

Another useful piece of equipment is a pipe. The pot is simply put upside down on the pipe to elevate it above the wheel when spray painting.

For drilling holes, get drill bits from a tile shop with diamond tips.

Thank you, Derek, for a most inspiring talk and demo!

For those of us who were interested in the online throwing videos of Hsinchuen Lin that Derek mentioned, they can be found at and through:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lavHQ_WCy-q&feature=em-uploademail

The next Guild Meeting is

Monday

January 14th

7:30 St. Michael's

Anglican Church

4733 West Saanich Road

Don't forget the

Raffle !

submitted by Heidi

Mark Your Calendar

Coming in January Sue Hayes: Pottery Merchandizing, Trends & Directions

Begin 2013 by better understanding today's market. Sue Hayes, of Sidestreet Studio in Oak Bay will be speaking to us at our January meeting. Topics she plans to cover include: what she looks for in the work of an artist she will represent; what future trends she sees in ceramic art; how she displays work and builds relationships with both artists and buyers. In addition Sue will answer questions from Guild members. This is certain to be an informative and enjoyable evening.

Then and Now – Penny Jones

Penny began making pots when she was living in Port Hardy approximately four decades ago and continues to make pots in her Cobble Hill studio today (...and is President of our Guild this year).

THEN her living circumstances were remote – the road to Port Hardy was only accessible to 'civilians' once logging hours had passed each day. The available equipment was a 14 inch inside diameter electric kiln purchased by a grant to the Arts Council (which Penny was instrumental in organizing) that was used to fire Duncan (commercial) glazes – as shown in photo on right.

NOW she does not consider Cobble Hill to be at all remote. The same small kiln is still in use – Penny fires Raku with it when she's not using her newer kiln to sagar-fire red clay with horsehair, salt or ferric chloride. Commercial glazes? They are a thing of Penny's past.



Nancy Wall, *Earthen Vessels Pottery*, invites you to view her pottery, on display
Nov. 15 - Dec. 31 in the lobby of the **Mary Winspear Centre**
2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney

'You Know You're a Potter If ...' – by John Britt - *Part 3*

This is the final installment of the wit of John Britt, a renowned North Carolina potter (see his work at <http://johnbrittpottery.com>) , an able teacher (he's taught at MISSA, for example), a published author (his book, "The Complete Guide to High Fire Glazes", is in the guild library).

You know you're a potter if (cont'd) :

36. If you have used the word "eutectic" in a sentence.
37. You need to choose between buying clay and buying gas.
38. You have been to more than 20 potlucks in a year.
39. You ask your mom to buy some of your pots this month.
40. You are afraid of cristobalite.
41. You take a day off from potting to throw bowls for Empty Bowls.
42. You have 5 old broken down kilns in your backyard up on cinderblocks, and you insist you are going to make them into soda kilns someday. (not to mention 4 old cars on cinderblocks, and a washer on the porch.)
43. You look at your pants in the morning and consider wearing them again since they will get dirty in 5 minutes anyway.
44. You think the phrase "nice ash" is funny.
45. You have 20 five gallons buckets filled with slip that you have to recycle.
46. You open a bag of old clay and think that rotten egg smell means it is good.
47. You consider peeing in your clay to make it more plastic.
48. You consider making a glaze from your recently deceased pet.
49. You look on-line for human ash glaze recipes.
50. You compile a list of 50 ways "You know you're a potter if..."

Copyright , John Britt

Submitted by Helen P

Your 2012-2013 Executive

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Additional Fluxes For Low and Mid Fire

Additional fluxes
can be lots of fun.
For low or mid fire . . .
be sure to use one.

Lower heat in the kiln
may not be enough
to melt glaze ingredients
so we add some more stuff.

Lead, zinc or boron
will do the trick
they boost all the fluxes
to melt oh so quick.

Lead oxide, of course,
is a toxic one.
Take extra care
if you must use some.

If you must use lead,
choose a lead-bearing frit
and a low fire stable glaze
or for food, it's unfit.

For a stable glaze
to use in low fire,
boron, **instead** of lead,
could fulfill your desire.

For mid fire glazes
you need boron or zinc
to melt them enough
so the oxides will link.

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Poem of the Month

Zinc oxide is handy,
so much it can do . . .
as a flux, an opacifier
and a crystal maker too!

Zinc affects colorants
we know that is true –
for better or worse,
depends on your view.

Boric oxide can be
a whole lot of fun.
As a flux and a glass former . . .
it's an important one.

Gerstley borate and colemanite
and boron frits too . . .
add boric oxide to glaze
to melt the whole brew.

To lower the firing temperature
of a cone 10 glaze,
line blend boron or zinc,
incrementally raised.

Lead, zinc and boron
react even more.
Need extra melt?
That's what they're for!

For low or mid fire,
you'll need one of these.
As "additional fluxes" . . .,
they are sure to please.

Member's Tip

Lid Too Tight?

You know how sometimes after firing a lidded vessel [*casserole, teapot, etc.*] it is just a bit too tight - even after cooling?

Well, a trip to the automotive shop might have just the item to help fix that. Water based **Valve Paste** applied around the lid and then twisted back and forth in place for a couple minutes, works surprisingly well.

This can save you the guesswork of trying to find the exact part of the rim or lid flange that you'd perhaps otherwise try to sand by hand.

submitted by Nancy W.





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{ Friday, December 14th 5-9
(Opening Reception)
Saturday, December 15th 10-5
Sunday, December 16th 11-4 }



brought to you by:



Tozan Society

It is with great sadness that I send this news to our Tozan membership. Our good friend and fellow potter Gari Whelan passed away on November 17. Since 1995 Gari has been a friend and mentor to all of us at the Tozan firings and work parties, both at the Malaspina Campus and Tamagawa University. In 2002 Gari and I had a great trip to the International Woodfire Festival in Aomori, Japan. This spring we spent a week in Seattle at NCECA. I will always remember his joy at everything he saw and participated in. We all will share good memories of woodfiring with Gari over the past years. He was truly one of a kind, a great man, and a loving human being.

God bless him and those who will miss him.

Ian Natrass, Nanaimo Tozan Cultural Society

ADVERTIZING RATES

Business card size (2" X 3 1/2") :
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**Sale announcements, events,
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contact editor at:
eartharts@me.com

Guild at a Glance

... is the newsletter for the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild.

It is published monthly, September through June, and is available on line at: www.victoriapotters.ca

Articles and items of interest to members are welcome and will be included as space permits. Items for inclusion are best emailed to the editor, Louise P, at: eartharts@shaw.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The earlier submissions are received, the more likely there will be room to include them. Our meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Be kind to the editor, please send items for inclusion before the

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Staff

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vcart@shaw.ca

We're now stocking heavy duty canvas from Pakistan. Great for making wareboards or wedding tables. \$8.95 per yard.

Custom wareboards are available as well, call for details.

Dirty Girl pottery tools available including foot fetish, wiggle wire and oak angle wood tools. These make great stocking stuffers.

We have tea pot handles from England, finest quality cane sized from 3" to 8". Great selection, priced from \$5.75 to \$12.95 each.

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The Very Last Page

It's not that often that I end up with an uneven number of pages, giving me the choice that you either receive a blank page at the end of your newsletter – or that I have a whole page to fill with whatever I want. I chose the latter. - Louise



May your winter celebrations be blessed with joy and abundance, warmth and relaxation.

See you in the New Year – refreshed and ready for another time of being busy and productive.
the Editor

New Year's Resolution – Reduce Stress

In March, attend to Tri-Annual Clay Symposium in Burnaby at the Shadbolt Centre (info online at http://www.canadianclaysymposium.com/Canadian_Clay_Symposium/Home.htm) ... AND ... take the bus we're arranging so you can go & return in one day and not have to drive on the Lower Mainland.

email eartharts@shaw.ca

Coming in January

Bad weather isn't the only thing you can look forward to. Starting up again in January and going 'till June, each month there will be a South Vancouver Island Potters Guild meeting, complete with interesting speakers – such as Sue Hayes in January or Michael Giles in February. DO come to see what's happening. Who knows, you just might learn something. You certainly will have a good time.

Also beginning in January will be another year of newsletters. The *Guild At A Glance* will continue to report what's happened at the last meeting, give a hint of what will happen at the next, celebrate your past activities and promote those activities to come. Three things are very much worth looking for: (1) 'Outside the Studio', bi-monthly articles from our Web Weaver on all things related to computers; (2) continuation of 'Then and Now' – vignettes of members' pasts and presents and (3) a return series 'Meet the Member' in which you'll meet and learn about one of our more recent colleagues.

I'm really excited about writing 'Meet the Member'. January will introduce us all to **Angela Pistrucci** – the most interesting of women. Hint: you may recognize her work (at right) or take a class from her at Coast Collective.



**Don't Put Coal in the Editor's Stocking
be NICE to Her**

submit to the newsletter, often and EARLY

The deadline for inclusion is the first Monday of each month, earlier is much better.

email eartharts@shaw.ca