

Guild at a Glance

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

May 14, 2012

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 13, Issue 9

April's Meeting – Sue Taylor – Salt Glazing

Sue Taylor brought us energy, expertise and enthusiasm for salt glazing.

She lives in the Comox Valley currently but studied in England with Walter Keeler. She built her own salt kiln with her husband and has successfully completed 15 firings. The design of the kiln is similar to Gordon Hutchen's. She stresses the importance of taking care of the kiln.



IT'S A PARTY !
The next Guild Meeting is
Monday
June 11th
7:30 St. Michael's
Anglican Church
4733 West Saanich Road

*Don't forget
the Raffle !*



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Sue uses porcelain clays, often decorates with slip and intricate carving. She glazes the inside of the pot and uses an airbrush to spray oxides on the outside.

During her presentation, Sue described her method of preparing the kiln, when and how to add salt/soda, how much, and tips to make the process more successful. She provided a slide show and beautiful samples of her work.

Her advice:

Keep careful records.

Experiment and continue to evolve!

pottery photos & text submitted by Nancy Alexander

photo of Sue Taylor thanks to Cathie Gailloux



EXPERIENCES OF NCECA

NCECA 2012 (National Council for Education in the Ceramic Arts) was held at the Washington Conference Centre in Seattle....the closest to Vancouver Island it is ever likely to come. Ester Galac, Linda Vigliotti, Betty Burroughs and Betty Patterson traveled on the Clipper from downtown Victoria to downtown Seattle and spent 4 days there.

We stayed at a hotel within walking distance of the Conference Centre and found we were among 5000+ attending this event! However, the Conference Centre is so large it easily accommodates large numbers. My favourite place at any NCECA is the "trade show" where commercial suppliers for ceramic tools, equipment, products and schools gather to sell and demonstrate their wares.

There were ongoing demonstrations on stage in the massive ballrooms.....for example Walter Keeler from England demo'd his functional pieces which remind one of tinware, alongside Tip Toland, a ...



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Experiences of NCECA continued



... sculptor and instructor living in the Seattle area. Her current focus is figurative ceramic busts that are very life-like, larger than life size and full of personality. Two huge screens were behind them to show what they were doing to those at the very back of the room. As well, two smaller screens showed a Power-Point slide show of their finished work.

Gallery displays showed work by potters from all over the US and Canada, a Kindergarten-Grade 12 room of ceramics that were amazing to see the care and imagination exhibited by these children, and a "cup sale" a room of hundreds of drinking vessels that were sold on the last day to "first come, first served". The line-up to get in on this was huge! There were also panel discussions, lectures, slide shows, etc. so your time there was always well-filled.

Some of Vancouver Island's Fired-Up potters had a show and sale in a gallery in Old Town, and there were other gallery shows of ceramics elsewhere throughout the Seattle area. Store fronts like Nordstrom's devoted a window to some aspect of ceramic art.

We had a great time there, saw lots of potters we knew, many of which were from the Island or the mainland. We can recommend the Clipper as a comfortable, easy way to go to Seattle. The terminal there is near Pike's Market so an easy short taxi ride to downtown hotels (and taxi rates are very reasonable). It's a 2 hour, 45 minute ride. We came home with lots of new tools and ideas for putting them to use.

Next year's NCECA will be in Houston, Texas.

many thanks to Betty Burroughs



Do you know who this is?

How tall the pot was?

How much it weighed?

*Ask one of the people who went
of NCECA.*

the Editor

Library Corner

First the good news from the library corner – the library order with the funds approved by the Guild in the February meeting has finally been placed and with optimism should be available for loans at the May meeting on the 14th. We have four DVD's on order: *The Surface Techniques of Steven Hill, Jeremy Randall – Slabs, Templates, Texture & Terra Sigillata, Glazing and Decorating Pottery with Nan Rothwell, Fundamentals of Mold Making and Slipcasting*. We also have two books coming: *Colour in Glazes* by Linda Bloomfield and *Naked Raku and Related Bare Clay Techniques* published by the American Ceramic Society.

Second is the 'bad news' – we've seen a bit of a jump in late returns to the library lately and thought a reminder of how the library operates would avoid financial disaster for some of you. The cost of not bringing a library back on the due date (the meeting following the loan of the item) is **\$5** for each missed month, and these accumulate for each item, so 3 items, for 3 months will cost \$45. But the policies of the library do allow for the fact that in all of our lives 'stuff happens' such as inclement weather, being 'under the weather' ourselves, or more cheerfully off on holidays – if this should apply to you, please remember that a quick email to the librarian helen.pedneault@shaw.ca up to one day after the meeting at which it was due, will provide a one month grace to an overdue item charge. Unfortunately, simply forgetting to bring it back or forgetting to send an email is not covered by the policy, so please don't ask for exceptions. *Cheers Helen*

... and EXPERIENCES IN VICTORIA – at the Art Gallery



On April 19th, a group of guild members joined Barry Till at the Art Gallery for a tour of the current exhibit of Chinese ceramics.

Many thanks to Toabias Tomlinson for arranging this tour – it was fabulous!

Beginning with a focus on tomb treasures, Barry followed their use and development over time. From Neolithic times, various utilitarian items were

buried with the dead, particularly with the bodies of those who had enjoyed high status in life. Initially life-sized (and accompanied by the sacrifice of 'real' people and animals), the intent was to continue to provide the soul of the dead with the service, comfort and support they had achieved / deserved while alive. The replacement of life-sized and real with scaled down items greatly reduced the burden of those who filled the tombs, and still provide a wonderful record of clothing, military materials, architecture, much about daily life in China across centuries.

Barry was a wonderful guide - full of information and enthusiasm.



As well as these funerary artifacts, there were examples of vessels made from different clays and early glazes. Barry told us about early

influences, whole towns of potters, lost recipes, magical teapots and how the Chinese insulted Sir Harry Parkes for his role in the Second Opium Wars.



Many Thanks to
Nancy Alexander
– reporter &
photographer



... and **EXPERIENCES ON SALTSRING**



... a few of us went to the **Wally Keeler** presentation on Saltspring on Monday (April 2nd).

Wally shared his techniques for his complex altered salt fired forms he is so well known for, we then had delicious treats and were treated to a great slide show after a slight delay as the techies worked on getting the computer to talk to the projector.

... ah Mercury was retrograde and we were on Saltspring ...
Thanks to Lois Iris

... and **EXPERIENCES OF VENERABLE POTTERS**

There is still a place where potters are venerated as public treasures, where schools encourage children to create with clay, where an impressive big national museum is entirely devoted to showcasing the history and importance of ceramic works of art in the life of a nation. I know; I was there, in January with my husband, in Taiwan. While traveling, we were fortunate to visit the **New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum**.

The national ceramics museum was opened in 2000 in the small city of Yingge, an efficient forty-five minute train ride west of Taipei Central Station. Our travel guide book, though, included a small warning: visitors must expect to negotiate frightful traffic in walking the two kilometres from the train station to the museum, with no sidewalks to ease the journey along narrow, buzzing streets. If only Lonely Planet were wrong. It wasn't. The traffic was there, and the sidewalks weren't. Enduring exhaust fumes, noise and danger, we inched our way along a winding thoroughfare. The museum came suddenly into view.

The stark steel frame and curving-glass design of the main building, where extensive permanent and temporary exhibitions are housed, was striking. As we entered, a smiling and bowing, formally attired museum director greeted us. There was no admission fee: "Tickets Free", as the brochure put it.

Behind the main complex, an expansive ceramics park was dotted with sculptures and featured a scenic wading pool filled with "floating" coloured ceramic balls.

At the end of the park was the firing area. Here, a functional anagama kiln was protected by a modern open structure whose roofline followed the contours of the kiln underneath. A young couple from the United States was in residence, leading a work team in building an arched bridge destined for a special place in the park.

One of the smaller out buildings displayed the winning entries of a recent "sculptured monsters" competition for school children. On another side of the park, a ceramics trail down a sunken pathway was lined with decorative tiles.

It was all quite wonderful. We want to go back.

Submitted by Elaine White and Brian Mason



Goodies and gallery at the June meeting:

The end of season get-together on June 11th features a gallery and a show-and-tell, followed by wine, coffee and edibles (*don't forget to bring a plate of finger food – sweet or savory – Ed*).

Particularly proud of a piece you have crafted this spring? Bring it along and be prepared to say a word or two about it, as we view the members' gallery.

Or bring a problem where you would welcome input, a technique you have developed, a piece of pottery you have collected from someone else's work, or perhaps a book featuring a potter's work, all for show and tell and sharing.

Last meeting before the annual sale on June 16th.

Rosemary Neering

Dear Penny,

As the recent recipient of the **SVIPG Ceramics Award** from the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria, I would like to thank all the members for narrowing the competitive field for me....

My heartfelt thanks goes out to all you wonderful potters,

Pamela Truscott-White

Submitted by Penny Jones



Outside the Studio

This month:

About SOCIAL MEDIA

There is a lot of talk about social media with a lot of "should" and "have to". Messages like "involve yourself in social media" and the all too common "like us on Facebook". What is it all about and what does it have to do with you as an artist?

The idea behind social media is that it is a conversation with an audience ("real" conversation) as opposed to announcing information (passive consumption). It is about media for social interaction and communication and there are over a billion people using some form of it. Different forms of social media are being used to gather audiences and followers.

Some examples of social media:

- blogs such as WordPress, Blogger
- micro blogs such as Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- Flickr
- YouTube
- Google+

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There is a big marketing aspect to it and large corporations as well as the more traditional stores you might see in your local mall are jumping into it and encouraging you to follow but it all began with the individual who had something to say.

And for all those billion+ people and companies using social media how do you get heard? **Find your tribe.** A tribe is described as those having similar interests or those being interested in what you are doing/creating. Once you reach out and communicate, the network engages - one person tells another person and so on and so on.

And how do you communicate? It's all about storytelling: you share something about yourself and your work/art and invite feedback -so be prepared to **talk** and **know your story**.

Your Story - ideas and inspiration:

Talk it up:
 who you are
 what you do
 what you have learned
 what you need to know or would like to learn
 what you have to offer
 what you've been doing in the past to get to this point in your life
 where you might go in the future and so on.

Think about:

Who is your audience?
 What do you want them to know?
 What would you like to know about them?
 How would you like to exchange information?
 How would you like people to contact you?
 How would you proceed if someone wanted to buy something from you?

Social media is about connecting to people. As an artist you can create a dialogue with people through your work. Present your work in the best way possible - clear detailed images with titles and descriptions, maybe even a story about how it came to be. Invite comments and conversation. Answer questions. Ask questions. And remember to keep everything current, fresh and ongoing.

Social media usage is here to stay but only get involved if you want to dialogue with others. There is no sense in having a blog with a few random posts or a twitter account that stays silent. Depending where you are in your career you may choose to find more real time face to face ways to interact with people and potential clients - and this is always good. If you sell your work, teach/mentor or want to reach out to a community of like minded people, consider social media as an additional tool.

If you are new to social media a good starting point might be a free blog service like wordpress.com. Test what it feels like to talk about your work, show photos, answer questions. If you're unsure of your path there is nothing like learning with a friend. Both of you could each start a blog and help each other along the learning path. Or you could go to a friend who is already blogging and ask for tips. Exchange information and posts. Talk to each other. It will take time to build an audience/tribe. Start with who you know - friends, family, current clients. Let them know you've started a blog and invite them to visit.

As with all things on the internet, do your research and consider what you want to remain private like phone numbers, birth dates etc. . And do check out the other forms of social media like Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and YouTube - an internet search will get you a lot of information.

If you have any questions please email them to me at design@earthwordcreative.com - Deb Clay

Upcoming Events

5th Annual 3-d Garden Show Sunday June 24th, 11am – 4pm
1507 Westall Avenue, Victoria



A one day show and sale by 7 full - time 3-D artists: Potters Cindy Gibson, Sid Samphire, Adele Samphire, and former Starfish Glassworks owner, Lisa Samphire together with Starfish gallery artists Peggy Brackett and Jo Ludwig invite you to an informal show and sale of recent and new work. All are welcome to visit Lisa's garden for a pleasant afternoon of viewing ceramics and glass. Free. info: Cindy 250-592-8257, cgpottery@shaw.ca

***South Vancouver Island
Potters' Guild next to the
Moss Street Market***

CLAY CONNECTS 2012

**Saturday, June 16th
10 am – 3 pm**

Thirty-two Guild members are gearing up for the big event: Clay Conencts, our annual show and sale on Saturday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Last year, the sale moved from St. Michael's Church to indoors and outdoors on the lawn at the Fairfield Gonzales Community centre next to the Moss Street Market. Aply supervised by Joan Kagan, it was a great success, as hundreds of people stopped to see and buy at tables inside and tables and tents outside. The success convinced Guild members to hold the sale once more at the 1335 Thurlow Street location.

Rack cards and posters will be available at the May meeting; please help out by taking some and distributing the material in your neighbourhood or in your potting and other circles. There will be a signup list for other volunteer activities as well.

Not able to take part in the sale? Guild members are invited to drop by, to see what their colleagues are producing, and, if desired, to lend a hand by helping out those who want to take a break from their tables, inviting people into the sale, or just talking clay with other potters and passersby.

Exhibiting this year at the sale are:

Nancy Alexander, Barb Bergstrom, Roger Champagne, Katia Chapman, Rachel Coward, Deb Clay, Paige Coull, Daniel Casey, Debbie Elkins, Joy Finlay, Ester Galac, Maria Green, Lois Ireland, Kris Jeffrey, Penny Jones, Joan Kagan, Derek Kasper, Belle Leon, Beth McMillin, Sophia Morrison, Rosemary Neering, Louise Parsons, Debra Slaco, Muriel Sibley, Priska Stabel, Faro Sullivan, Tobias Tomlinson, Pamela Truscott-White, Nancy Wall, Elaine White, and Susan Whitham.

Exhibition of Ceramic Art Celebrate the Salish Sea

Opening Gala:

Friday May 25, 6-9 pm / Sales from 6:30 pm

Exhibition continues:

Sat – Sun, May 26, 27, 10 am to 4 pm



firedup.ca

Fired Up!

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Info 250-592-8257

We who shape clay are in turn shaped by the place in which we live. The 28th annual *Fired Up!* show features that place – our complex, fragile, bountiful and beautiful home – the ecosystem of the Salish Sea.

Fired Up! members participating in 2012 are: Marlene Bowman, Alan Burgess, Meg Burgess, Cathi Jefferson, Gordon Hutchens, Glenys Marshall-Inman, Meira Mathison, Gary Merkel, Kinichi Shigeno and Pat Webber. Invited guest artists are: Samantha Dickie and Cindy Gibson.



Sandra Dolph Exhibition

'Boulders, Rocks, and Stone'
May 5 - 28, 2012

Opening reception May 5, 1-3pm

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Scattered Artists Studio Tour

May 19 and 20, Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm

Artists in the area north of Hillside, south of McKenzie and between Quadra, Swan Lake and Shelbourne invite you to discover what they do and why. Everyone is welcome on this free self-guided tour. Cindy Gibson is the only potter this year. If you live within these boundaries, consider joining us as an artist next year. We are an established tour that operates with few meetings and minimal cost, making it a low risk sales venture.

For INFO, map and a tour preview: www.scattered-artists.ca



WORK D'ART NEEDS NEW HOME



In 1996 during the summer MISSA program one of the posts holding shelves collapsed during a gas firing and the resulting pottery turmoil was this incredible "work d'art". Included in the fused creation are vessels by Lance Hall, Eric Roberts, instructor Tom Coleman of Las Vegas and others.....

Auctioned off for \$400 this project was mounted by Eric Roberts with inscription "Tempest in a Teapot".

No longer able to house this work properly Eric is offering it to MISSA or anyone interested in giving it a nice home. ----250-479-8089.

e.roberts@shaw.ca

www.madhattersshows.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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Your 2011-2012 Executive

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ADVERTIZING RATES

Business card size (2" X 3 1/2") :

\$10 per issue

or

\$75 for 10 issues

Quarter page ad (3 1/2" x 4 3/4") :

\$20 per issue

or

\$150 for 10 issues

**Sale announcements, events,
classified ads:**

FREE

contact editor at:

eartharts@me.com



Victoria Clay Art

654 Burnside Road W.
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8
250 384-3831
vcart@shaw.ca

We're now stocking heavy duty canvas from Pakistan. Great for making wareboards or wedging 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.

Great new items in stock for texture on clay such as: Amaco rollers, Mayco designer stamps, wooden rollers, star cutters, ribs, haxe tool, paddles, alphabet and number stamps, rasps, slip trailers, etc.

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