

CAROLINA
Guild  News
CLAYMATTERS

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President

Babs Goodall
704-537-9248
gbpottery@mindspring.com

Vice President

Mary Miller
704-489-9494
clayandglass@charter.net

Secretary & Membership

Linda Day
704-362-2777
lindaday@carolina.rr.com

Program Director

Greg Goodall
704-537-9248
gbpottery@mindspring.com

Treasurer

Mary Ann Bice
803- 684-6280
yorkbandit@comporium.net

WebMaster

Ross Coppola

Newsletter

Judy Ward- Circulation
803-927-9741
judy_ward@carolina.rr.com

Ron Philbeck-Publication
704-480-6046
claymattersnews@yahoo.com

Note from the President

Hello Everyone,

Mary Mason did an outstanding demonstration, showing how she creates her organic forms and revealing her ingenuity in making tools that facilitated that process. She and her techniques are quite amazing! She also shared many terrific tips, shortcuts and ideas. The turnout was really good, especially on Income tax day! Thank you Mary.

The Guild also wants to thank Doc Welty for his major contributions with the design and creation of the new Barn Sale Banners and signs, and with the financial contribution making this quality level possible for our Guild. The banners and signs are a vast improvement over what we had, boosting our Guild's image to that of 100% professional excellence. We took the banners and signs to the Guild meeting and showed everyone. The room exploded with applause and lots of oohhs, aahs and yeses!! Totally impressive! Come out to the Spring Barn Sale May 12 not only to support the sale as Guild members but to see our new look!

Dottie Baker is our featured artist for the next regular meeting which is May 20 at 3:00 PM at Carolina Clay Connection. She will be presenting slides and information on "Characteristics of a Good Pot: Tools for Self-critique." She will also be bringing anonymous pots for all of us to try out our skills at critique so that we may incorporate them in our daily production of work.

The opening at Prometheus Gallery in Rock Hill on April 19 was a successful event with a fair number of Guild members in attendance as well as a steady stream of visitors for the Gallery Crawl, in spite of the pouring rain! The exhibition of the Guild's work looked really nice and very professional! Pots were selling. We thank you Bob Hasselle for opening your gallery to us. If you have time, it is worth the trip to see the old Post Office Building conversion into art space, and to visit the Prometheus Gallery and Bob's, Jo Maddox's and Liz Lee's spaces as well.

Thank you to Michelle Hicks and Janet Johnson for taking over the Airport Display and changing it out in March. They will be changing it out every three months; so, they are urging each of you to begin now making your best pots to send to represent our Guild and the Charlotte area for the next change out time.

On another note, thank you to Michelle Hicks for arranging for Sylvia Coppola and me to have an interview with Leela Vox on 103.7 WSOC radio to promote our Guild and the Barn Sale. It aired at 5:50 Sunday morning April 22 when there are 6,000-9,000 listeners. They will be the early customers at the Barn Sale! Free publicity of that nature is great for creating awareness in our community.

Hope to see all of you at the Spring Barn Sale May 12 and at the regular meeting May 20.

Babs Goodall



Artist of the Month

Dottie Baker

As a person who has been in love with making pots for the last 38 years, I was VERY surprised when, about a year after the closely spaced deaths of my mother and older sister, a series of small sculptures demanded to be made. The central metaphor of pots – interior space as human spirit, defined by a “skin” of clay on the outside – needed to be replaced with another view of the inside / outside dichotomy. The view of a real and open space inside has been replaced with an allusion to an inside. Or rather, in *Sliced Fruit*, the allusion to two insides, one vibrant and sweet and the other as crusty and aged as the decaying exterior.

Are these new pieces a permanent paradigm shift in my thinking about the human spirit? I don't know, but right now the spirit's mystery and ethereal quality seems much more tangible, and at the same time, just out of view.

Dottie Baker

Fall 2006

BIO

Dottie Baker earned her B.F.A. from Eastern Michigan University in 1976, and her M.F.A. from Ohio State University in 1981. She has done undergraduate work at the State Universities of New York at New Paltz and Brockport, and has studied at Penland School of Craft in North Carolina, and Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts in Maine. She was an artist-in-residence for a year at Anderson Ranch Center for the Arts, in Colorado.

Since 1976, Ms. Baker has shown her work in juried regional and national exhibitions all over the U.S., and has won awards in several of them. Her work has been published in *Clay Times* magazine. She wrote a segment of the textbook *Ceramics: Mastering the Craft* at the invitation of its author, Richard Zakin. After a lifetime of making pots, she recently took a detour into making sculpture, work that focuses on sliced and shifted fruit/vegetable forms.

Ms. Baker has taught art at the college level for 22 years, 18 of them at CPCC. Before moving to Charlotte, she taught at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Allegheny College, and the State University of New York College at Oswego. Recently, she was given a CPCC Arts and Communication Division Excellence in Teaching Award.

At CPCC, Ms. Baker was 3-D Program Director from 1989-1994, expanding enrollment and improving instruction in that area. Several of the part-time faculty she hired have gone on to become nationally known in their field. She has also served on Faculty Senate (now College Senate) and numerous committees, including the Central Campus Planning Committee and many search committees. She is currently serving on the Faculty Welfare Committee. She is also the advisor to Clay Bodies Club, the CPCC student ceramics organization.

Ms. Baker was one of the founding members of Carolina Clay Matters Guild, a regional organization of professional potters, and is a member of NCECA, the National Council for Education in the Ceramic Arts. In 2001, she organized and led regional college students who assisted ceramists at that organization's annual conference, held in Charlotte that year. For this, and for curating an exhibit that was a part of the 2001 NCECA conference which drew hundreds of visitors from all over the world to central campus, she was cited by CPCC for exceptional service to the school.

Spring Barn Sale, May 12: We are lucky enough to have hired Lib Moss's grandson's group to come and play music at the barn sale. Several Guild members have heard them and said how good they are. Their group is called the *Classic Celtic* from Hickory, North Carolina. They play Celtic music as well as classical music and many other types of music.

Additional Barn Sale News: We do have some volunteers who are not participating in the sale, scheduled to help at the barn sale doing several small jobs. If you are not participating but would like to help, please contact Verna Witt at verna@carolina.rr.com

Prometheus Gallery Exhibit: Sylvia Coppola and Brenda Roberts will be picking up the pots from the show on May 8th and dropping most of them off at Carolina Clay Connction unless you brought them Sylvia's house. This way you can get them and have them for the Barn Sale--that is if they do not sell at the gallery.

Carolina Claymatters Guild Calendar 2007

Meetings are held at Carolina Clay Connection unless otherwise noted.

Potluck dinner follows. Bring a favorite dish

- May 12** **Spring Barn Sale** 10:00am - 4:00pm at the McAlpine Business Park
- May 20** **3pm** **Dottie Baker:** Characteristics of a good pot will be discussed using slide format; actual critique of anonymous pots to practice how to evaluate your own work: self critique.
- June 24** **3pm** **Adrienne Dellinger** will demonstrate lid making and more.
NOTE: This is the fourth Sunday due to Father's Day occurring on the third Sunday.
- July** **No meeting**
- August 19** **Annual Summer Picnic** at Janet and Ro Johnson's cabin on Lake Norman. Directions will follow in subsequent newsletters. Remember to bring several pots/ sculpture to show new directions you are pursuing or techniques and glazes that you are using for our annual "Show and Tell." Bring a covered dish

Congratulations to Sylvia Coppola for recently winning Third Place in the Sculpture Clay Division at the Northwest Artist League exhibition at the Wilkes Art Gallery in North Wilkesboro. She won First Place last year. This Spring, Sylvia also won First Place in the Pottery Division of the Union County Doug Helms Memorial Show and **Andy Smith** won Best of Show. These winnings are monetary prize awards which in addition to the exposure and the opportunity to sell their pots, makes it worthwhile for them to enter competitions and shows of this nature.

Congratulations to John and Jan Myers on having an article and photographs of their pottery published in *Southern Living* May 2007 issue.

Volunteers are needed for overseeing our Guild's Gallery at Carolina Clay Connection for three month slots: June, July and August; and September, October and November. We need a total of four people: two people per three months to work as a team who will commit to checking on the gallery to make sure that it is clean and presentable to the public. This is a simple task that you can do when you drop by Carolina Clay Connection to pick up clay or some other item. It is up to the rest of us to bring in our pots and rotate out ones that have been there for more than three months at a time. We are fortunate to have the space so we need to take care of it.

Now Accepting Students

After years of refusing to do so, I am now accepting students. At this time, I will be giving private lessons, 4:30-6:30 Tuesday-Friday. If you or anyone you know is interested, let me know and I can send an information sheet that explains pricing and exactly what will be covered in the classes.

Frazier Handmade Pottery

Kimbrell Frazier, Potter 2547 East Main Street Lincolnton, NC 28092 704.477.8406

E mail kf@frazierpottery.com www.frazierpottery.com



Carolina ClayMatters
2132 Hawkins Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
704 394 2529
www.carolinaclaymatters.org

For Membership information contact
Linda Day
704-362-2777 lindaday@carolina.rr.com



Sponge Tips

Send your tips to Robert and Marti at 704 735 5946 or hovisr@bellsouth.net You'll win a sponge if published!

Of Interest

Summer Ceramics – 2007 A Course in Creating and Critiquing

May 21 through June 28, 2007 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5pm to 9pm. Open studio on those days from 10am to 5pm CPMC Ceramics Studio (CE 100A)

Instructor – Dottie Baker To register and pay: come to the first class or contact Dottie Baker @ 704-330-6110 or dottie.baker@cpcc.edu Cost: \$125.00 plus parking

In 2007 Bluegill Pottery will be offering individualized pottery workshops during the spring and summer.

- * Don't have time for a full week or two out of town? Stay at home and choose from 1-3 day workshop!
- * Learn the skills that YOU want to work on. This is individualized to suit your needs.
- * This is hands-on. You will learn a skill then practice it right then.
- * Use your own clay or work with our studio clays. Bisque and glaze firing can be arranged if you don't have access to a kiln.

You can contact Vicki at bluegillpottery@bellsouth.net or by phone at 704-824-9928. Check out the gallery/studio and work at www.bluegillpottery.com or come by!

If you aren't interested but know someone who might benefit, feel free to pass the word on!

Thanks, Vicki Gill Bluegill Pottery 4522 W. Wilkinson Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28056

Snail Mail: P.O. Box 311, Lowell, NC 28098

704-824-9928, www.bluegillpottery.com