

# Nic. Pottery



Newsletter of the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies Vol. 12 No. 2 Summer/Fall, 2011

## ANNUAL POTTERY FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 17



The seventh annual Cumberland Valley Pottery Festival will be held on Saturday, September 17, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Renfrew Park, 1010 East Main St., Waynesboro, PA. The festival, cosponsored by the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies and the Mont Alto Pottery Guild, is a clay-only celebration of the ceramic arts. The event is free and open to the public and will be held rain or shine.

During the festival, 25 regional potters and ceramic artists will display and sell their works. Visitors will have the opportunity to interact with the artisans and to explore the wide range of clay working techniques they



View from last year's Cumberland Valley Pottery Festival held in the Renfrew Park picnic grounds. Photo by Tracy Holliday (Editor's note: other photos from the 2010 festival used in this issue of Nic. Pottery are also the work of Holliday.)

use.

In addition to the potters, local artist and NCCS pottery instructor TomMcFarland and Mont Alto Pottery Guild founder and member James Smith will lead hands-on pottery workshops, assisted by guild mem-



bers Melodie Anderson-Smith, Mary Ashe-Mahr, Mike Bannon, Judy Hoffman Bolton, Nickole Bricker, Laurie Gamble, David Goldstein, Lisa Wagner and Kirk Wisard. Workshop participants will be able to create their own works in clay using a variety of techniques including hand building and slab rolling. The guild will later bisque fire the objects made and invite the makers to the Mont Alto studio on Saturday, October 22 (the center's open house), to glaze and refire their pieces.

During the festival, the guild will conduct a Raku pottery demonstration and firing near the picnic pavilion between noon and 2 PM. The guild will also operate a food stand with a variety of grilled foods, baked goods, fruits and drinks available. Live music will be performed by the traditional blue grass band Ladies in the Parlor from 11 AM to 2:30 PM.

### INSIDE

<b>MUSIC AT THE FESTIVAL</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>POTTERS AT THE FESTIVAL</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MONT ALTO POTTERY GUILD</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>BELL FAMILY REPRODUCTION FOR 2011</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FALL POTTERY CLASSES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NEW MEMBERS</b>	<b>8</b>

## MUSIC AT THE FESTIVAL

The Ladies in the Parlor, a four member bluegrass band, is composed of Barb Schmid, fiddle, Sharon Sacks, 5-string banjo, Suzanne Gates, bass, and Freya Qually, guitar. The band formed in 2003 and is known for its blend of energetic fiddling, drum-with-strings banjo, upfront guitar and driving bass, creating a buoyant,



From left to right, Suzanne Gates, York, Barb Schmid, Shrewsbury, Sharon Sacks, Lancaster, and Freya Qually, Fairfield, make up the traditional Appalachian music band, Ladies in the Parlor. The group will be playing from 11 AM to 2:30 PM at this year's Pottery Festival on Saturday, September 17.

danceable sound. The band also incorporates vocals of old and new songs in traditional Appalachian harmonies.

Barb Schmid is a member of the York trio, Late for Supper, the guitar and fiddle duo, Strings on Wings, and is a former member of the Baltimore based contra dance band, the MetroGnomes. Schmid teaches fiddle, competes in traditional music competitions, and has won a first place Old Time Fiddle ribbon at the annual Deer Creek Fiddler's Convention in Westminster, MD. Sharon Sacks has played banjo since 1995. She is a member of the Tin Kettle, plays Irish music on piano, guitar and whistle, and writes music. Suzanne Gates began playing classical bass in 1996 and moved to blue grass style bass a few years later. She currently plays with Late for Supper and has been a part of several bands, which have won ribbons in numerous festival competitions in

Maryland and Virginia. Freya Qually learned folk guitar as a child and began focusing on traditional music a decade ago as a member of The South Mountain String Band, a first place winner of the Old Time Band ribbon at the annual Deer Creek Fiddler's Convention. She also performs with Hay for Three and The River Rhythm Ramblers.

In addition to performing at the Deer Creek Fiddlers' Convention, Ladies in the Parlor have played at the Gettysburg History Meets the Arts, Landis Valley Museum Harvest Days, Coatesville Cultural Society concert series, York Fiddlers' Convention, the Harrisburg Fort Hunter Festival and numerous contra dances in Baltimore, Annapolis, Harrisburg, Lancaster and Elverson, PA.

## POTTERS AT THE FESTIVAL

(Editor's note: potters with • by their name indicates first time festival participants.)

Potters participating in the 2011 festival include Eve and Rich Adkins, Waynesboro; Karen Arrington, Laurel, MD; • Joy Bridy, Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia; Jack Handshaw, Fairfield; Bob Hughes, Conestoga; • Lisa Kovatch, Harper's Ferry; Michael Price McIntyre, Leitersburg; Kumiko Nuss and Annamarie Poole, Hagerstown; Janine Davis and Christine Tosten-Souders, Mercersburg; and guild members Ashe-Mahr and Bricker, Waynesboro; Bolton and Wagner, Smithsburg; Bannon, Fairfield; Gamble, Concord, Wishard, Mont Alto; and Goldstein and Smith, Fayetteville.

**EVE ADKINS** is a graduate of Antioch University with a major in ceramic arts and has been a working





potter for more than 20 years. She and her husband Rich own and operate the Garden Path Pottery from their home

on Shank Hess Road, Waynesboro. Her works have been exhibited at Penn State Mont Alto, Chambersburg Council for the Arts and the Smithsonian Art Train. Adkins creates ceramic forms that reflect her strong interest in cooking and gardening.



**KAREN ARRINGTON** received her BFA in Illustration from Moore College of Art in Philadelphia. She has studied pottery under Gary Irby, Mea Rea and Mary Gawlik and recently acquired studio space in the Greenbelt Community Center as an Artist In Residence. Arrington's pottery ranges from wood

fire, Raku, cone 10 reduction and cone 6 oxidation. She creates bead jewelry along with functional small to large bowls, mugs, teapots, plates, vases, wine glasses and tiles. "As a potter I find that every day there is something new to learn. The growing and creative process is never ending and that's what makes pottery so exciting for me."



• **JOY BRIDY** is a potter living in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Her travels have taken her coast to coast, from Seattle to Maine, to explore the hands-on world of clay and fire wood and salt kilns with curiosity.

Born and raised in Northwest Indiana, Joy received a BA in Studio Arts from Indiana University, Bloomington. After college, Joy explored the worlds of social work, moving from Head Start to group homes for people with autism, to a battered women's shelter and



transitional housing complex, singing a cappella all the way.

While in Pennsylvania, where she tumbled into a studio assistant position at Juniata College, she began teaching evening community classes, firing wood and soda kilns, growing

blueberries, and hitting the gym in the afternoons. Her natural tendencies to explore and travel have come in handy, leading her to Haystack Mountain School of Craft, Maine, as a Technical Assistant, a month on a Rotary sponsored cultural exchange in South Korea, and a summer residency at Pottery Northwest, Seattle, where she fired a new soda kiln, joined a recreational rowing club, walked from neighborhood to neighborhood, discovered the best coffee of her life, and got a taste for urban culture.

In Washington, DC, she continued her urban perambulations, working out of the Lee Arts Center in Falls Church VA, the Eastern Market Pottery, and the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop in her Eastern Market neighborhood, where she managed their clay studio and taught children and adults, handbuilding and wheel work, function and sculpture. Urban living encouraged Joy to



continue traveling, firing wood kilns across the country and visiting wood firing artists to discover first-hand the intensely rich and diverse culture of wood that is building momentum and personality.

Joy is currently working and teaching in her solo studio in the



rolling hills of Jefferson County, West Virginia, among neighbors of cows, horses, and peach orchards. She has recently finished a two year odyssey designing and building a bourry box wood kiln, and is now busy creating for the next firing, plus searching the local crevices for kiln firing crew members. Joy is a member of the Over The Mountain

Studio Tour, a driving tour of studios of Jefferson County, held the second week of every November.

**JANINE DAVIS** began her career as an artist working with painting, drawing, sculpture and design.

While studying at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC, she began working with clay. "From that time on I have continued to use clay as my primary medium and have since re-established my love for wheel throwing and hand building because of my desire to blend color, form and aesthetic beauty with the art of function." Davis owns and operates the Moon Dog Pottery in Welsh Run, PA.



**JACK HANDSHAW**, owner of Hobbitt House Pottery in Fairfield, began working with clay in high school, and continued learning pottery-making skills in the Army, eventually becoming a pottery instructor. "I have worked with many regional potters and they all have helped me develop a

keen understanding of pottery as an art form. I feel I am always learning and willing to try something different... without clay in my hands my life would not be complete."

**BOB HUGHES** began his pottery career in 1991 at Landis Valley Museum, Lancaster, as a craft

demonstrator producing and interpreting historic earthenware pottery. He is currently an art teacher in the Manheim Central School District and operates the River Rat Pottery. The works Hughes creates are inspired by traditional forms that he adapts to his own designs. He uses a 1860s style treadle wheel and a wood-fired beehive kiln.



• **LISA KOVATCH** “My love for functional craft took root during my early childhood in Kenya, surrounded by African women wearing exuberant textiles and by patterned basketry hanging for sale along the roadside. As I was growing up, my parents collected crafts and antiques so we visited a lot of markets and auctions. Textiles, Early American slipware, and colorful, mix & match Fiestaware were of particular interest to me and continue to inform my work today.”



My home and studio are tucked into the Appalachian foothills near the Shenandoah River. Daily walks provide endless inspiration: chartreuse leaves budding on rain-soaked branches, a cheerful patch of zinnias in a warm summer garden, a crisp blue sky above a freshly-tilled field. I hope my work becomes a treasured part of your daily experience!”



Lisa began her exploration of tilemaking when renovating the bathroom in her 1812 house. She’s the recipient of a 2011 Individual Artist Grant from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and currently serves as the



studio tech in the Art Department at Frederick Community College and

instructor for the college’s “Kids on Campus” pottery program.

**MICHAEL MCINTYRE** owns and operates the FireRobin Farm Pottery. He is a production potter and creates wheel thrown functional stoneware. Michael, “... realized my calling in pottery while being a stay-at-home dad.” He was raised on the eastern shore of Maryland and is a film and video editor by training. Michael became interested in pottery in 2004 and has trained

with well-known potters Ben Culbertson, Bill Van Gilder and Del Martin along with McFarland and Smith. “FireRobin” was coined by his aunt when searching for a business name for her hand-made puppet company that she founded in Vermont and is derived from the family name – Feierabend.



**KUMIKO NUSS**, a native of Japan, creates hand-built and wheel thrown works with vibrant



hand-drawn decorations. She has studied under Kristin Fay-Taylor, Allison Coles Serverance, McFarland and Smith.

**ANNAMARIE POOLE** is a co-founder and co-owner of the Blue Mist Pottery, Hagerstown, in partnership with Vivian Ogle. “Life often takes unexpected twists and turns. In my life, pottery is one of them. I’ve worked as a social worker for people with disabilities and dabbled



in various personal interests like quilting, batik, gardening and watercolor painting for most of my life. In 2002, having taken most of the art classes offered at Hagerstown Community College, I took a pottery class with



Ben Culbertson and knew immediately that clay would consume every bit of my available time and energy. I have been making pots ever since

and loving it.” Poole works in both porcelain and stoneware and is known for her carved floral designs and use of wax resist to produce multiple layers of colors and patterns.

**CHRISTINE TOSTEN-SOUDERS** set up a home studio in Mercersburg after taking pottery classes at Hagerstown Community College in 1994. “I am really inspired by

the early American pottery tradition, especially those of the Shenandoah Valley.



I enjoy turning on the wheel as well as hand sculpting figures.”

- Visitors to the Pottery Festival may park in Renfrew’s lower lot off Welty Road. For individuals with disabilities, reserved parking is also available in the lower lot. For more information, contact the center by e-mail at [jms48@psu.edu](mailto:jms48@psu.edu) or call (717) 456-0476.

participate in the guild is currently \$45 a month or \$125 for three months. Membership allows use of the pottery studio at the Mont Alto campus and covers the cost for clay, glazes, tools and firings.

In 2011 members of the pottery guild have or will have participated in the Community Free Clinic Potter’s Bowl, Mothers’ Day Pottery sale, Council for the Arts of Chambersburg Collector’s Choice auction, Humane Society of Washington County’s LuHowl fundraiser, Chambersburg’s ChamberFest Arts Celebration Day, Shippensburg’s Corn Festival, Cumberland Valley Pottery Festival, Penn National Farmers’ Market, Waynesboro Market Day, Cumberland Valley Crafts Guild Fall Studio Tour and the pottery guild’s end-of-semester holiday sale. For the year the guild will also have conducted two community pit firings and four community Raku firings.

On Saturday, October 22, the Nic. Center and guild will hold an open house from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. The open house is free to the public and will feature both a hands-on pottery workshop in the center’s studio, room 008, General Studies building on the Penn State Mont Alto campus, and the opening of the center’s fall exhibit, *Works of the Mont Alto Pottery Guild VIII*, on display in the center’s gallery, room 302. The annual exhibit highlights the variety of ceramic objects recently created by guild members. Following the open house, the exhibit will be available for visitation on weekdays from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM through November and by special arrangement.

## MONT ALTO POTTERY GUILD

The Mont Alto Pottery Guild was founded in 2003 as a ceramic arts cooperative by the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies at Penn State Mont Alto. Membership in the guild is available to any individual who has completed either a ceramic studio class at the college level or the center’s introductory pottery class led by Tom McFarland and James Smith. The cost to



# BELL FAMILY REPRODUCTION FOR 2011



The Nicodemus Center will be offering the twelfth piece in its annual series of Bell family reproductions this fall. The series now features one reproduction per year in a limited edition of 100. This year's reproduction is being created by the center's executive

director and ceramist James Smith.

The 2011 reproduction is a lead-glazed earthenware flowerpot and saucer set, decorated with white slip and manganese mocha diffusion. The flowerpot measures 6.25 inches in height and the saucer measures 7.75 inches in diameter at the rim. The set is attributed to John Bell and dates to the mid 1800s.

Mocha diffusion, also known as tobacco spit glaze, is created by dipping unfired, leatherhard clay (greenware) into white slip and, while the slip is still wet, applying by

brush a mild acid and metallic carbonate solution. The acid reacts with the alkaline lime in the slip, allowing the carbonate to diffuse out in a fern-like pattern. When fired with a clear glaze containing a small amount red iron oxide, the white slip appears to be yellow and, in this case, the manganese carbonate turns a light brown

to dark brown to black in color. The wire band around the rim of the flowerpot is not original and serves to prevent a crack in the rim from expanding.

Orders may be placed by using the form below or by e-mailing the center at [jms48@psu.edu](mailto:jms48@psu.edu). The cost is \$70 per set plus \$4.20 sales tax for center members and \$75 plus \$4.50 sales tax for nonmembers. After October 1, orders for the reproductions will also be available to the general public at the nonmembers price.



## PREVIOUS BELL FAMILY REPRODUCTIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

2000 – C. F. Bell small jug	\$45	2007 – I. Bell pie plate	\$50
2004 – John Bell vase	\$45	2008 – John Bell pitcher/basin set	\$65
2006 – John Bell mug	\$50	2010 – John Bell soap dish	\$65

## JOHN BELL FLOWERPOT/SAUCER SET – REPRODUCTION ORDER FORM 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Flowerpot/Saucer Sets Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ @ member price, \$70 + \$4.20 tax

Number of Flowerpot/Saucer Sets Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ @ nonmembers price, \$75 + \$4.50 tax

**PLEASE RETURN TO: NCCS • P.O. Box 533 • MONT ALTO, PA 17237-0533**

If you wish to prepay your order, please enclose a check payable to NCCS. The flowerpot and saucer set will be available for pickup on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 5 to 8 PM, Friday, Dec. 2, 11 AM to 4 PM, and Saturday, Dec. 3, 11 AM to 4 PM at our pottery studio, Room 008, General Studies building, Penn State Mont Alto. If requested, shipping can be arranged at an additional cost of \$25.00 per set. Thank you for your order.

## FALL POTTERY CLASS TO BE OFFERED AT PENN STATE MONT ALTO

The Nicodemus Center is offering an introduction to ceramics studio class for adults from October 5 through November 9. The class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 PM in the center's pottery studio, room 008, General Studies building on the Mont Alto campus. The instructor is Tom McFarland, fine arts teacher at St. Maria Goretti High School, Hagerstown, assisted by the center's executive director James Smith.

The class is designed to introduce students to the art of making pottery and sculptural objects in clay. Students receive instruction and produce their own projects using various clay working techniques that include coil construction, slab building, press molding and throwing on the potter's wheel. More advance techniques are available for intermediate students.

McFarland holds both Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the Maryland Institute's College of Art, Baltimore. He has more than 45 years experience as an art instructor and free-lance artist and is internationally know for his ceramic and fiberglass sculptures of sea turtles. Smith holds both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Anthropology from the College of William and Mary and has spent the last 30 years as an historic archaeologist and museum director working in

the field of historic folk pottery. He began creating his own works in 2003 and is the founder of the Mont Alto Pottery Guild.

The ceramic studio class size is limited to eight and pre-registration is required. The cost of the class is \$100 for center members and college faculty, staff and students and \$125 for the general public with a \$50 fee for materials for all registrants. Participants will have the opportunity to use the pottery studio outside class time. To pre-register for the October 6 sessions, e-mail the Nicodemus Center at [jms48@psu.edu](mailto:jms48@psu.edu) or call (717) 456-0476.

### NEW MEMBERS

Emily Barnett  
Marian Barnett  
May Cao  
Stephanie Erdice  
Alycia Hays  
Darlene Heath  
Sharon Magee  
Katie Maunz  
Aaron Moats  
Michelle Moats  
Beth Mulewich  
Anne Mummert  
Tracy Radtke

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Walter P. Smith (Secretary)  
Staci Grimes (Treasurer)  
Richard C. Bell  
Thomas S. Heefner  
Sally Sussman

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Kenton H. Broyles  
Donald W. Glasgow  
John W. Keller

### NCCS Staff

James M. Smith (Exec. Dir.)

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# NCCS

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