



Collar City Clay Guild

October Meeting: Pit Firing



Stephanie displays the cauldron before pots are loaded

Many thanks to Polly and her husband for hosting the Sunday October 28th meeting. Twelve members enjoyed a beautiful fall day for our Pit Firing at Polly's house in Hoosick.

We loaded a huge old iron cauldron and several smaller trash cans for a variety of pit firing styles. We also smoked pots in an open pit. Materials we used were Epsom salts, copper wire, coffee grounds, Miracle Grow, hair gel and tooth paste. All of which contain ingredients that will produce color on low fire ware. Pit firing is the sort of thing you can easily do in your own backyard (subject to local burning regulations of course). It's a simple firing technique used in many ancient cultures across the globe and is still popular with many potters today.

Here's How:

Dig a pit or use fireproof container of the appropriate size, depending on the amount of work to be fired.

Place a bed of sand, sawdust or wood chips and other dry elements which will burn slowly, at the bottom of the pit. Place the pottery on top of this.

Carefully sprinkle oxides and carbonates around the pieces (particularly copper carbonate), which volatilize and result in flashes of color appearing on the fired work.

Cover the work with more sawdust, twisted newspapers, twigs and dung (if available), building up a mound over the pieces.

Use mesh or chicken wire between each layer if loading multiple pots. The screening will provide support so that the pots aren't damaged as the wood burns and the pit collapses.

Kindling is placed on the top layer and the pile is lit and allowed to burn for 15 to 20 minutes then covered with metal sheeting. The pit should be covered to keep the fire from burning too quickly. A slow burn, over eight hours is desirable. The pots need to get hot enough to accept the colorants, and the fuming chemicals need time to deposit a noticeable amount of color - a fast fire would not let either happen. A fast fire is also stressful on the pots; and you don't want to break them.

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER ISSUE 2007

Items Included:

- *October Meeting*
- *Empty Bowls Recap*
- *Items of Interest*
- *Fall CCCG Calendar*



Allow the kiln to cool overnight and open the next day.

Gently remove excess ash and residue from pots with water. Pieces can be waxed for finishing. Use a soft shoe brush or cotton cloth to bring out the shine without distorting the finish.



Tinfoil saggars were used to hold coloring elements close to the pots.

Empty Bowls Recap

On Monday, October 29, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Italian Community Center in Troy, eleven checks were given to the food banks/pantries in Troy.

The Third Annual Empty Bowls took in \$20,988 in our three hour event on October 7th of this year. Each of the eleven food banks/pantries in Troy will be receiving a check for \$1,908. This money will be used to feed the hungry in Troy.

Over the past three years, thousands of local people have attended the Empty Bowl events. Each year this fundraiser keeps growing in size and revenue. Thank you for all your support and generosity!



Bates-Miyamoto Design

Items of Interest:



- Every year CCCG members participate in selling their work for the **Troy Victorian Stroll**, this year on Sunday December 2nd. This is a fun holiday event that always draws a large crowd. We are negotiating for an empty storefront location along River Street near the Broken Mold Studio. Optimally, we will have this location for the entire weekend in order to take advantage of business generated by Friday's **Troy Night Out** on November 30th. Participants would share the cost and be required to assist in setup, disassembly, and selling of the work. With enough participants, members can split the weekend into shifts. Thereby providing sales coverage for the storefront but not be obligated to attend all three days. Please contact Lee Glasheen at: Glasheen412@hotmail.com or 518-273-5967 for further information.

CCCG Calendar of Upcoming Events

November Guild Meeting

Sponsored by Candace
Christiansen & Thomas Locker
Sunday 11/25

December Guild Event

Troy Night Out &
Victorian Stroll
Weekend of December 1st.

More details to follow.

January Guild Meeting

CCCG Holiday Party
Sunday 1/27

Program and details to follow.

At the beginning of our monthly gatherings we will have a business meeting. An agenda for the meeting will be sent out one week prior to each meeting. Please send items for the agenda ten days prior to the meeting. All topics for discussion can be sent to: phoagland@wmht.org.

November Meeting: Sunday 11/25 at 2pm

Candace and her husband Thomas have just built a new home and studio near Hunter Mountain. Thomas Locker is a Hudson River painter and the illustrator of more than thirty books for children, many of which he also wrote.

Candace Christiansen
2045 Co. Rt. 23C
East Jewett, NY
518-589-9232

Directions: Follow NYS Thruway to RT 23/Catskill exit 21B. Candice is approx. 21 miles from this exit. Follow route 23A toward Tannersville/Hunter. In the town of Tannersville turn left at the stop light, you are now 5 miles from the house. Continue approx. (2) miles to a stone church and split in the road. Bear left at the fork, continue approx. (3) miles. Candice is the first house on the left (with red door) past Scribner Hollow road.

Please bring a snack to share. We will have a short meeting followed by a tour of Thomas' painting studio & gallery.



NEWSLETTER

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