

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2003

Minutes from NHPG Meeting on Sunday, October 19, 2003. Meeting hosted by Yildiz Grodowski in Salem, NH.

POTTER'S MARKET - Location and time still to be determined. *Possibilities include:* Summer, outside, in conjunction with open studio tours in Manchester, i.e. trolley tours on Thursdays, piggy backing it with some other established event. *Ideas for promotion:* Direct mail, Press releases, join with a non-profit and include a silent auction as a fund-raiser for the non-profit, posters/ads (a date and season need to be determined first). *Possible locations:* Singer Family Park in Manchester, Sterling Park. If the location was inside, November was discussed as a better time.

The discussion then turned to the name. Is "market" the image we would like to project? Just Potter's was mentioned. The format was also mentioned. Very simple booths and/or tables were suggested to make it as inclusive as possible. With that idea, there will be potential to grow.

The upcoming newsletter should focus on planning the Potter's Market and looking for participants. A clip out coupon was suggested for Members to send and an article written by the Show Committee was also suggested. A tentative date of

the first week of November, 2004 was established, along with a nominal entry fee. This information would be handed over to the Committee. Yildiz (as a Committee Member) will look into possible locations. It was mentioned that the Committee needs to seriously address marketing for this event.

WEB - It was unanimous that www.nhpotters.org should be registered as our domain name.

DUES - The prospect of dues being raised was brought up. Different levels of membership possibility, along with fee based services, possibly future links on the Guild's Website or an artist's spotlight on the web. The January newsletter will emphasize dues now due. Members not paid by March, 2004 will not be eligible for the Sheffield discount.

2005 BI-ANNUAL GUILD SHOW - Scheduling the show for March was suggested. Workshops could be coordinated with the show's juror. Ron Turnow, representing the Committee, has contacted Sharon Arts Center, but hasn't heard back. Other possibilities include Holderness School, Colby Sawyer and Dartmouth.

WORKSHOPS - June 2004, Nick Joerling will be holding a workshop at either PSC or NHIA. Information will be in the newsletter. Fridays at NHIA 5-7pm. One hour talks, slides and demos are being scheduled, Check the NHIA Website for more information.

Minutes taken by Devitt Liptak

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Potters Guild

POTLUCK

New Hampshire Potters Guild
c/o Linda Fletcher
18 Depot Road
Candia, NH 03034

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Potters Guild

POTLUCK

Volume 9

Winter 2004

Brown Trout Pottery

NHPG Member Gary Rith went to Bennington College to study painting, and thankfully discovered pottery instead. After an apprenticeship with Dean White of New York State and several years on a Chicago detour teaching special education, Gary opened up Brown Trout Pottery full-time in 1997.



Gary takes a break at his Hillsboro, NH studio to pose with several of his Piggy Banks.

In 1988 Gary made his first piggy bank, and his obsession with pigs in pottery has hounded him since. Gary's piggy banks got bigger, smaller, multicolored, and more animals, like fish and dog banks, were also developed. And then Gary and his wife, Maude, got a puppy. Buster stayed in a playpen at night, and would sometimes hang over the side to watch what was going on. This was inspirational, which is how the little animals started hanging around and over the edges of Gary's pots. Now, dogs, pigs, elephants, ducks, etc. appear on Gary's lids, spouts, even stretched out like swimsuit models on bowls.



'Pig' Cookie Jar and Pitcher

Another potter recently asked Gary, "Why not put little animals on all your pots?"...Why not indeed?

Gary uses a Cone 6 white stoneware that he glazes with very bright, shiny and colorful glazes. The glaze

recipes Gary uses are his own. He developed his color palette by trial and of course, a lot of error. You can find more about Gary and his work by logging onto his Website at:

<http://www.geocities.com/garyrith/pottery.html> or by e-mail: mrith@tds.com

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2004

President Jeff Brown called the meeting to order at 2:00pm at the Manchester Public Library.

Seventeen Members attended. Jeff explained that instead of POTLUCK, yellow postcard notices of the meeting were sent to the Membership. Several people present asked that meeting reminders be mailed earlier to facilitate planning. Chief topics of discussion included types and times of future NHPG shows, issues related to dues and the finances of the NHPG, content and operation of POTLUCK, anticipated workshops, and information concerning individual members.

John moved to have meetings on fixed dates and times in January, March, June, August, and October so that everyone can count on these dates annually. Yildiz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. We will further discuss/set dates at the March Meeting.

The Annual March Business Meeting will be held at Jeff's on March 28, 2004 at 3:00pm. Members are asked to bring a dish for the annual potluck supper. The traditional 'pot swap' is also planned. The June meeting will be held at Plymouth State College during the Nick Joerling workshop scheduled to take place June 21-25, 2004. The August meeting will be at 5:30pm on Wed. the 11th at the Mt. Sunapee lodge during the League of NH Craftsmen Fair. The October/November meeting will be at Sue Babine's home/studio in Goffstown.

Linda Fletcher is willing to take over the Empty Bowls Project previously led by Robin McGregor. (Rich and Robin

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President's Notes

The kiln-building workshop for the NHPG's Community Kiln is still in the planning stages. In the meantime the site has been prepared for the kiln, and there is a temporary gas kiln built on the site. The Kiln Committee is working on the details for firing protocol. The kiln that will be built during the workshop will be a convertible wood/gas fired combination kiln.

The Nick Joerling workshop is scheduled to take place June 21st through the 25th at Plymouth State College in Plymouth, NH. It will be a hands-on workshop focusing on developing functional pottery forms using thrown and altered techniques. The title of the workshop is "Pots/Possibilities". Plymouth is taking care of the publicity and the registration. In addition to the workshop, there will be a slide show one evening during the week. Details and application forms will be coming soon.

The NHPG has the opportunity to staff a hands-on activity during the League Show at the Sunapee Craft Fair called "Pottery at the Fair". It involves short handbuilding and potters wheel lessons given to the public (for a fee), with the public having the option to pay to have their wares fired. The League of NH Craftsmen Headquarters has asked if the Potters Guild would be interested in running the program this year, as it was popular with fair-goers last year. Taking this on will require commitments from several people each day to manage and operate this activity. We should strive to have a minimum of three people each day; two to give lessons, and one to organize and manage the daily schedule.

The Sunapee Craft Fair is always held during the month of August. Anyone interested in providing the public with a "short" pottery lesson can contact me at: (603) 942-8829, E-mail: jeff@jeffbrownpottery.com, or come to the meeting on the 28th.

The NHPG's Website is slowly evolving. Take a look at: www.jeffbrownpottery.com/guild.html

There is now a member profile on the Guild's homepage that will be periodically changing. This addition to the Website depends on your participation. If you would like to see your work on the front page of the Guild's site, please send me a write up with digital photos on you and your work. You can submit just a short paragraph or two [the Readers' Digest Version] or an in-depth/detailed story about how you started your

journey in clay. In addition, we would also like to include these member profiles in "POTLUCK". Please send any links, articles, photos, classifieds, and/or events that you think should go on our Website to me at:

jeff@jeffbrownpottery.com.

For new Guild Members, the upcoming March meeting is the Annual Business Meeting, which is the time we elect new officers and make plans for the following year. This is also the meeting that we exchange claywork with each other, so pick out a good piece for the pot-swap and bring a dish to share at the potluck dinner.

Excepting nominations for the next two years are:

Chris Archer - Vice-president

Aaron Tester - Newsletter editor



Annual Business Meeting

March 28, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the NHPG will be both a pot exchange and potluck dinner at Jeff Brown Pottery located at 950 1st NH Turnpike in Northwood, NH jeff@jeffbrownpottery.com.

From Portsmouth I-95:

- Take (exit #4) US-4 NORTH toward N.H. LAKES/SPAULDING TPKE/WHITE MTS.
- You will go over the bridge then take (exit #6 W) Rt. 4 toward Durham/ Concord. Continue on Rt.4 about 22 miles to Northwood.
- Look for the Northwood Town Hall on your right .
- Bow Lake Rd. and Coe-Brown Northwood Academy will be just past the Town Hall.
- 950 is the 4th house on the right from the flashing yellow light at the Academy parking lot.
- Look for the Jeff Brown Pottery sign.

From Concord I-93:

- Take (exit #15E), the I-393 EAST/US-202 EAST/US-4 EAST exit toward LOUDON/PORTSMOUTH
- Merge onto Rt. 4/ Rt. 202 and continue for 17 miles from I-93
- Look for Jeffrey Dr. on your left
- 950 is the 4th house on the left after Jeffrey Dr.
- Look for the Jeff Brown Pottery sign

From Manchester

- Take Rt.101 East to Exit 3 (Candia/Deerfield)
- Go trough Candia and Deerfield and follow to the end of Rt. 43
- Turn Left on Rt. 4. and go 3 miles
- Look for the Northwood Town Hall on your right
- Bow Lake Rd. and Coe-Brown Northwood Academy will be just past the Town Hall
- 950 is the 4th house on the right from the flashing yellow light at the Academy parking lot
- Look for the Jeff Brown Pottery sign

For an interactive map go to:

<http://www.jeffbrownpottery.com/guild1.html#meeting>

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are moving to Nevada.) Linda asked that another Member accept the position of Treasurer. Responsibilities include preparing the annual report for the state. No one present expressed interest in the position.

· Al Jaeger has offered to house the NHPG's videos and library materials at the New Hampshire Institute of Art making them available when the Institute is open. Materials will still continue to be available to Members at meetings.

· NHPG has the opportunity to sponsor and staff a hands-on activity during the League Show at Sunapee. Rob Rossel will not be doing the "Pottery at the Fair" this year and the League has asked if the Guild would be interested, as it has been popular with fair-goers. Sue Babine proposed that through the newsletter we could assess Member interest in participating. Chris noted his considerable personal success with similar activities because of the high level of public appeal. Jeff said that the Guild would have to guarantee enough volunteer support to ensure the activity's success. Members at the meeting showed enough interest to pursue this further.

· One of the new features of the Guild Website is a Featured Potters Guild Member on the front page. Gary Edward Rith is the current featured Member.

· Chris Archer has developed a design idea for a new brochure as a publicity hand out for NHPG. It will be available for Membership review at the March Meeting.

· The Sheffield discount only applies to NHPG Members who have paid dues.

· The Nick Joerling workshop is scheduled to take place June 21-25, 2004 at Plymouth State College. It will be a hands-on workshop focusing on developing functional pottery forms using thrown and altered techniques. The title of the workshop is "Pots/Possibilities". Jane Perryman, a nationally known pit-firing potter who spends time in the Seacoast area in the spring, is interested in giving a workshop for the Guild in April.

· The mothers of both Robin McGregor and Ron Tornow recently passed away. The Secretary will send condolences on behalf of the membership.

· Information for the next newsletter deadline is February 15, 2004.

Several extended conversations occurred. Initially, Members turned their attention to the matters of sales, shows, and exhibits. Several locations for the Bi-Annual Exhibition were looked into, including the Lamont Gallery at Phillips Exeter Academy, which is already booked through 2006. Jeff said that he would ask if they would host the 2007 exhibition. John Baymore mentioned that most venues plan several years in advance, and if we wanted to have the exhibition in a high profile location the Guild should plan 4-6 years in advance by "locking in the space" even if the

precise theme has not yet been determined. Ron Tornow questioned the criteria for the location of the exhibition. Are we seeking convenience of location (parking/accessibility), maximum visibility, or do we want to have a hi-profile venue based on its reputation. Others questioned whether the exhibit should keep the same venue, or travel to different venues, possibly even traveling to out-of-state schools or galleries, maybe even to NCECA. Committee Members for the Bi-Annual Exhibit are Ron Tornow, Jeff Brown, and Sue Babine.

Discussion also took place regarding The Potters Market. Should it be held each year? in the fall? inside or outside? for Christmas? Or, in the future, maybe both? The idea behind a "Potters Market", unlike the Bi-Annual Exhibition, and LNHC Sunapee show, would be a less formal event. No elaborate booths, just a simple table layout with a minimum of effort. Those having less experience with shows could share a group co-op table. The more seasoned exhibitors could help those who are new to marketing their work. It would be somewhat of a marketing workshop for new potters and a great way to present pottery and clay sculpture to the public. John Baymore said that success of such ventures increases in succeeding years, but that good publicity is key to the success of any event. Chris suggested seeking sponsorship from organizations/businesses like PSNH to defray cost of events. Ron Tornow advocated considering the mill building at 55 Commercial St. in Manchester. Members speculated about the cost and the duration of events, as well as how many potters might participate. Ron suggested using a newsletter survey to gauge the volume of interest, number of participants, and their willingness to invest financially. Committee Members for the Potters Market under consideration are Roger Galuska, Melissa Zych, Jeff Brown, and Yildiz Grodowski. The Members present discussed options for funding publicity for our events. Ideas ranged from seeking grants and media coverage, to utilizing Member mailing lists. "What is a Guild?" Chris Archer asked, suggesting that we seek visibility through increased publicity. He envisions a Guild Member offering an answer to this question in TV interviews with WMUR, WUNH, and other stations that might view information about our organization as a public interest story. At several points discussion returned to the question of whether NHPG should increase the dues, thereby enhancing the potential to support Guild events, workshops, the Website, and promotion of NHPG in general. Discussion about increasing annual dues will be continued at the March meeting. Sue Babine shared information on the Vermont Arts and Crafts Festival, Watershed, and Snow Farm. Members wishing to share information on classes and activities should contact the newsletter editor.

Motion to adjourn was unanimous at 4:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

January 25, 2004

Kathy Feltz