



June 2023 Potluck Newsletter

Our next potluck gathering is Saturday June 17, 2023

Where: Al Jaeger's, 20 Perry Road, Deerfield, NH 03037

Kiln Committee will meet 12:30- 2:00

Board Meeting from 1:00-2:00

General meeting 2:00

Followed by a potluck gathering.

Please join us at 10:00 in prepping wood for the kiln. Many hands make for less work.

Chairman's Message

This year we have a lot to celebrate as a guild. The most recent wood firing, the expanded kiln shed, both of which had fabulous groups working together. We are a participating kiln site for the first New England Woodfire Conference June 23-25 which will be another open firing.

And as we come together to celebrate for our annual potluck at Al's we will be voting for a new group of leaders bringing renewed excitement, energy and vision for growth, inclusion and participation.

It has been an honor and pleasure to have served as Chair and I will continue to be an active member.

As the new board begins, one area I think the guild could pursue is archiving our records in an organized fashion. I will bring the collection that was passed to me and my collection and we can see if anyone is gifted in that area.

Finally, let's celebrate who we are and be excited about our future together!

Love, Andy

Community News

2023 Have forgotten your membership Dues, here is the form to do it! [Here](#)

Reminder- you must be a current member to participate in the wood kiln!

Members:

If you have signed up for a Professional Profiles Page on our website, please take the next step to get you there. [Professional Profiles setup](#)

NHPG Community Wood Kiln

From the Kiln Committee

It's been a busy and productive spring and early summer at the NHPG Community Kiln. Members and friends gathered at the kiln shed April 22, 29 and May 6, 13 to work on the kiln shed addition. Together, we built trusses, notched posts, installed girts on posts, raised trusses with an ingenious pulley system and more. We made time for delicious potlucks and conversation each day. Many, many thanks to all who contributed to the effort! It was decided to take a break after the fourth work day and finish construction later this summer and fall.



The May open firing has just finished, and we look forward to firing again June 23-25 in conjunction with the first ever [New England Wood-fire Conference](#). September and October dates for firing are under discussion.

Anagama kiln construction will begin in the summer of 2024 and will be led by Eric Maglio and Belinda Bodnar. We project a need to raise at least another \$20,000 to cover the cost of new bricks, kiln shelves and more. Volunteers are

needed to help with this effort! If anyone has kiln shelves and kiln furniture (standard sizes in very good condition) and cement blocks to donate, please let Barbara Sorce know.



We're looking for folks who can come early - 10am - to the meeting at Al's on June 17 to help cut and stack wood for the upcoming firings. Bring gloves (and a chainsaw if you have one). If someone has a truck, it would be great to send a small crew to Cameron's in Farmington to get grades stakes for side stoke wood. Many hands make light work!

New England Wood-fire Conference



NHPG is participating in the first ever NEWFC! We are the only kiln from New Hampshire and the only community kiln to participate. Whether you wood-fire or not, this is an opportunity to visit wood-fire kilns and meet potters from New England and beyond. June 21-29 is the firing week. During the June 23-25 open firing, we will host guests from the conference. Visit Trevor Youngberg's Kiln Yard in Connecticut during this week where Wendy Jackson will be firing the Guppie Gama! June 30 to July 1, the conference centers in Connecticut at and around Trevor Youngberg's Kiln Yard with activities including guest speakers, kiln and gallery openings, guest speakers and more. Click [here](#) for more information and to sign up for the conference.

Rudy Houk Scholarship

Please accept my hearty and heartfelt THANK YOU for awarding me a Rudy Houk Scholarship, enabling me to attend [Stephen Proctor's "No Limits: Throwing in sections to achieve scale" workshop in Brattleboro Vermont.](#)

Steve Proctor is an excellent teacher. He is generous with information, communicates clearly, and is quick to perceive what each student needs in order to learn successfully.

The purpose of the workshop is to learn and practice throwing skills and techniques and learn about tools that are helpful when making large pots. While participants do actually make large pots (or try anyway) the intent is not necessarily to keep them. This might be disappointing in one way but very freeing in every other way! As a ceramics teacher myself, I appreciated the instruction and time I was given to learn and practice skills without the pressure of making a "must keep" project. I have been able to apply many of the techniques I learned in this workshop in my studio allowing me to make relatively larger forms using my usual clay body. I'm inspired to experiment with other clay bodies that will be more willing to become very large pots.

I wholeheartedly recommend this workshop to anyone who is interested in building new skills or honing current ones. When you want to explore techniques for making large pots or might enjoy a bit of comradery with other clay nerds please consider participating in [Stephen Proctor's "No Limits: Throwing in sections to achieve scale"](#)

Here are some key nuts and bolts to throwing large that I absorbed while attending the "No Limits" workshop.

1. To throw really big pots, use an open, fairly groggy, clay body. We used a clay body that is no longer commercially available called Schottman (a recipe devised by the late sculptor Tom Schottman in upstate NY). It contains 20% grog. Steve says, "The most similar body I have found is Laguna's Big Red. The key properties needed are: 1) groggy material to help hold the clay were thrown AND reduce shrinkage and cracking in firing, 2) open structure to allow moisture to easily move, and, if it is to live outdoors in winter, 3) low absorption. Other clays that are suitable include Laguna Soldate 60 and Sheffield 42."

- Schottman is very forgiving; super easy to eliminate any annoying air bubbles for example.
2. Make the clay you choose very soft. We sliced our clay into 1 ½” or so thick slices and layered them between very damp bath towels in a large plastic tote and left them overnight.
 3. Use huge, hefty bats. We’re takin’ ¾” thick or more and wide enough to accommodate the section of the pot you’re making plus a good finger grip for flipping.
 4. Rethink the scale of the ribs that might help you move large amounts of clay. An 8-10” 2x4 might be just the thing! Or maybe a drywall trowel?
 5. Throw the base and subsequent wall sections a bit thicker than you may be accustomed to. A ½” wall is not too thick for a very large pot.
 6. Throw sections such that the receiving rim is beveled from the inside out (taller on the inside). The rim of the section to be added should be beveled from the outside in. This way the wetter clay of the new section will hug into the base section as they stiffen, creating a more secure join between the two.
 7. Receiving sections of the pot should be very stiff leather hard, but not dry or crispy, in order to hold up under the weight of the added section. Use a propane torch or heat gun to speed stiffening but be careful not to crisp the edges.
 8. Score the bevels of both sections and apply a healthy layer of slip to one (I don’t remember if it matters which one) before joining sections. Score like you mean it! We used a serrated metal rib for this job.
 9. We used “paper clay” slip for joining. Basically, shredded toilet paper mixed with the same clay body we were throwing with plus enough water to make it about the consistency of Greek Yogurt.

Social Media and Website

Website:

Pam Nowell has started the new professional Page on our website. [Professional Profile Page](#). Make sure you are a member so you can participate in this exciting development. If you have already paid your dues and signed up for a free page, be sure to take the next step by sending Pam your information. Here is what she needs to help you get on our website. [Professional Profiles setup](#)

We now have a Google for nonprofits account which will streamline our media presence and help coordinate our email addresses for better communication.

Next will be our members only page. Stay tuned!

Social Media:

Rebecca Hillman, Pam Nowell and Tammy Ackerman have been busy this month streamlining our social media. It sure does take a village!

We would love to have. All members be able to post! We can help. Email your questions to [Rebecca Hillman our Social Media Coordinator](#).

Facebook:

You can post your photos and events by “liking” our Facebook, [NH Potters Guild Facebook Page](#)

Instagram for our wood kiln lovers,

we have an Instagram page just for our wood kiln: [NHPGKiln](https://www.instagram.com/new_hampshire_potters_guild)

Instagram:

Our site is in the midst of a review. It will be changing to be connected to our FB page and hopefully get an update so that more of our membership can post directly to it!

Please be patient while we maneuver and streamline these separate parts to our social media format. It is currently in review by Pamela, Rebecca, Tammy and Lydia..

https://www.instagram.com/new_hampshire_potters_guild

Places to Go:

An exhibition of her work will be at Lexington Arts Center this June 17 - July 1.

<https://www.lexart.org/exhibit-information/vibrant-harmony>

Here are images from Namhi's retrospective exhibition a few years ago at the Harvard Ceramics Program.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/harvardarts/albums/72157663971146124/>

She has work in the MFA and the Harvard Art Museums.

Workshops:



Naomi Lindenfeld is teaching a workshop as part of The Putney School Adult Studio Arts & Writing Week August 6th- 12th, 2023!

The focus will be on a variety of colored slip techniques. A different method will be explored each day! Naomi will also show ways of working with hand-built construction methods to make functional or sculptural pieces. This is a chance to dive deeply into hand-building and decorative, textural slip techniques. If you don't have access to a kiln, she will fire pieces after the workshop.

There are options to commute or stay on

campus.

The Vermont Jazz Center summer program will be happening at the same time. The campus will be spilling over with creative vibes!

For more info. and to register: [Putney adult summer ceramics workshop](#)

For questions contact Naomi at naomilin@sover.net



Donations, Needs and Wanted:

Wanted:

The NHPG wood kiln committee is in need of donations for:

Used standard sized kiln shelves in very good condition.

We also need cement blocks in very good condition.

Kiln posts.

These items would decrease the amount needed in our fundraising efforts.

Construction of the new Anagama style kiln is to start the Summer of 2024.

Please contact Barbara Sorce (basorce@gmail.com)

Wanted:

Sam Rochford, aspiring ceramics teacher and former student of mine at NHTI, is facilitating the ceramics program at the Scouts BSA camp in Gilmanton Ironworks, NH. The camp has a budget of up to \$500 to purchase a working electric kiln. They would also be very happy to entertain offers of a donated or discounted kiln. Are there any NHPG members who can help or have any leads for Sam to follow? Please let her know scrochford@gmail.com

Wanted:

My name is Mary, I currently live in Maine but will be moving to the Rochester NH area very soon.

I took my first pottery class about 5 years ago. Just like the majority of folks that start pottery, I was instantly hooked. What a wonderful way to be creative.

After taking classes all these years, I recently began working independently renting studio space.

I am looking for a similar situation where I have use of wheel and some equipment. I paid a fee for space in the kiln. I have my own tools and clay.

Contact information: 207-522-1465

marybernier854@gmail.com

Thank you

Mary Bernier

For Sale:



I have some pottery by Gerry Williams for sale. Bought these pieces years ago, and they have just been sitting on a shelf. I am downsizing a bit. So here is what I have. Thanks!

2 sets of goblets: 8-9" high One has his signature red glaze and the other is a varied glaze. Both are beautiful. I bought them and never used them. I would like \$150.00 per set.

1 coffee mug brown glaze 4": \$60.00

I pitcher varied green & brown glaze: 7" tall. \$125.00

Thanks so much.

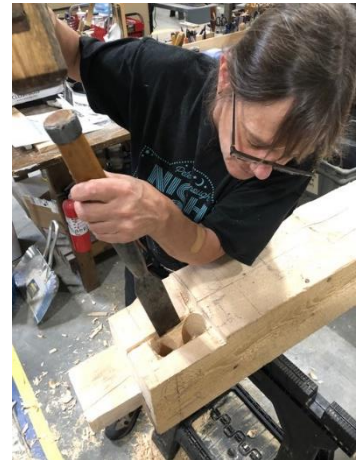
Grace mcfreije@comcast.net



Opportunities



Check out the Sharing Arts Ceramics Center in Dublin NH for classes, workshops and membership opportunities. Spring and Summer offerings will be coming soon. This is part of the MAXT Makerspace in Peterborough, NH. <https://www.maxtmakerspace.org/ceramics>



Important exhibit at MFA Boston March 4 —July 9, 2023. <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/hear-me-now-the-black-potters-of-old-edgefield-south-carolina>

Mud City Clay

Classes are back!

Check out their website for more information!

[classes link](#)

Center For the Arts

<https://centerfortheartsnh.org/visual-artists>

NH State Council on the Arts

<https://www.nh.gov/nharts/newsandcalendar/e-news/e-opps.htm#Awards>



WATERSHED
center for the ceramic arts

Check out current opportunities at Watershed!

<https://www.watershedceramics.org/>

The Clay Studio

<https://www.theclaystudio.org/exhibition-call-for-entries>

Rudy Houk Scholarship Fund

Application Form For more information please visit the website at [Rudy Houk Scholarship](#)

To fill out the application download [application form](#)

Guild Contacts

Board of Directors

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Biennial 2022

Chair

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Marcia_obrien@yahoo.com**Empty Bowls**

Chair

Linda Fletcher

mudsinger@gmail.com**Community Kiln Committee**

Chair

Building Manager (Clerk of the Works)

Lydia Grey
Barbara Sorce
Al Jaeger
Belinda Bodnar
David Ernster
Don Williams
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Eric.maglio@gmail.com,**Kiln Shed Addition** *Design, sourcing materials, budget, organizing work crews.*Al Jaeger
Don Williams
Lil Bailey
Patsy Belt
Selinda Chiquione
Barbara Sorce**Kiln Building Workshop** *Design, sourcing materials, budget, site preparation, instruction*Eric Maglio
Belinda Bodnar
Barbara Sorce
Patsy Belt
Lil Bailey**Kiln Building Workshop - PR and Registration** *Getting the word out, signing up participants (registration, collecting \$, lodging info, mid-day meal)*Lydia Grey
Linda Fletcher
Wendy Jackson
Joanie Curry**2023 Firings, including NW Wood Firing Conference firing.**Frank McGinn
Don Williams
Hiromi Satoh
Lydia Grey**Fundraising**Tammy Ackerman
Pamela Nowell
Rebecca Hillman