



# ClayFolk

NEWSLETTER Dec-Jan 2012

**CLAYFOLK  
PO Box 1334  
JACKSONVILLE, OR 97530**

The Clayfolk Newsletter is published five times a year.

Deadlines for submissions are :

DEC 1 ----- FOR----- DEC/JAN

FEB 1 ----- FOR----- FEB/MAR

APRIL 1 ----- FOR----- APRIL/MAY/JUNE

JULY 1 ----- FOR----- JULY/AUG

SEPT 1 ----- FOR----- SEPT/OCT/NOV

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## Message From the President

Thanks to each and every one of our Clayfolk members who participated in the 2012 Clayfolk Show and Sale. The organizational work of the Chairs and their committee members, the folks on the front line who completed work shifts and the untiring leadership of our Show Chair, and patron saint of potters (check out the website slide show), Jim Keith, all contributed to our highly successful show. Every time I turned around I saw an advertisement for our show, and during the show our members tirelessly worked the sales area, fed us soups and more, photographed our work, kept the little ones busy, plied us with music, educated both potters and attendees with demos, announced winners, kept phone lines running, and so much more. I overheard many excited, positive comments from customers who were thrilled over visiting the booths of their favorite returning artists and then expressed delight over the work displayed by the artists who joined the show for the first time. It's amazing that no matter how high we set the bar, we manage to raise it each year. The talent, creativity, hard work and positive attitudes have made this, the 37<sup>th</sup> Clayfolk Show and Sale, the best yet. I know I speak for Jim Keith when I tell you it's been an honor and privilege to work with all of you.

I look forward to seeing you at the January 20<sup>th</sup> potluck and gift exchange, and if you're a chair, remember the 1:30 mandatory chair meeting which will be held prior to the 2:30 general meeting.

Shirley Huft,  
Clayfolk President

## **Membership Application (Enclosed)**

**Don't forget to send in your membership renewal.** If the renewal form is received by January 31<sup>st</sup>, you will receive 3 points. If you miss the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, your renewal must be received no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> in order to qualify for the 2013 Clayfolk Show and Sale. Please remember to fill out the ballot to ratify Teri Nelson as the Member-at-Large on the Clayfolk Board.

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## **Mandatory Chair Meeting**

Sunday – January 20, 2012 – 1:30 PM

Talent Firehouse

Bring your suggestions on how to make next year's show even more outstanding. Write down your notes now as it's easy to forget.

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## **Potluck and Gift Exchange**

Sunday – January 20, 2012 – 2:30 PM

An Agenda will be sent out via e-news to our members

The general meeting will once again be held at the Talent Firehouse on Hwy 99, just north of the Colver/Suncrest intersection. This is a great time to celebrate the Show's success, catch up on news and enjoy a yummy potluck. Please bring a wrapped ceramic piece if you would like to participate in our annual gift exchange.

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## **Board Meeting**

Thursday – December 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM

Rudy and Lynita Zajack's home

## **New Books at Libraries**

(Check Clayfolk Website/Resources for more books)

### **Jackson County**

From a Slab of Clay by Daryl E. Baird  
Ceramic Bead Jewelry by Jennifer Heynen  
Surface Design for Ceramics by Maureen Mills  
The Craft and Art of Clay by Susan Peterson & Jon Peterson  
The Surface Techniques of Steven Hill (DVD)  
Bill van Gilder's Pottery Techniques (DVD)  
Layered Surfaces with Erin Furimsky (DVD)

### **Josephine County**

Naked Raku and Related Bare Clay Techniques by Eduardo Lazo  
The Many Faces of Mata Ortiz  
The Best of 500 Ceramics: Celebrating a Decade in Clay  
Handbuilding with Mitch Lyons (DVD)  
Get a Handle On It by Tony Clennell (DVD)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

One of our local clay artists Jeff Cunningham passed away Nov. 23. Jeff worked at Southern Oregon Pottery Supply for many years and some of you will remember him loading your vehicle with clay and materials. He also spent many Saturdays teaching the Saturday community education class at RCC, helping bring the joy of working with clay to others. For those of you who did not know him, he was a great alternative firing potter. His large saggar fire vases are much admired. Jeff was very concerned about form - he talked about "catching the bubble." Thoughtful, considerate, insightful, a friend in clay, Jeff will be missed. Per his wishes, there will be no memorial service. Donations may be made in his name to Family Friends, 402 NW "F" Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526.

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## Preparing Pottery for a Pit-firing (For March Meeting)

First, please be aware that though we try hard to avoid it, there is always some fraction of pieces lost to breakage in a pit fire for a variety of reasons (some mentioned below).

1. Use cone 5 to 10 stoneware or any body that responds well to heat shock (e.g., a clay suitable for raku). PLEASE please please **label your pieces with your mark**.
2. Caveat: A few pieces are usually lost to cracking. Works smaller than a man's fist may be difficult to find unless placed in a larger pot. Thin rims & walls, large or flat pieces (e.g., plates) and areas that don't have structural support (e.g., handles attached at only one end or projections sticking out) are especially vulnerable to breakage. A vulnerable piece can sometimes be protected from the fuel weight and heat shock by placing it inside another pot. Pieces composed of more than one part, that have been "slip-glued" together may come apart because one part may heat up and expand more quickly than the other part. Pottery can be made using the wheel, slab, pinch or coil.
3. If you want your pottery to shine,
  - a. When it is leather hard, rub a smooth stone, rubber rib or other smooth object over it. This pushes the grog under the surface of your piece. Some think that applying terra sigillata may increase the likelihood of more color, perhaps because of the finer particles in the terra sig. See the last weblink below for terra sig techniques.
  - b. When your pottery is bone dry, burnish it a second time. Smooth salad oil onto a 3 square-inch section of your pottery at a time. After it dries, it will look hazy. Rub a smooth stone, plastic bag or chamois over the pottery and it should develop a high shine.
4. Bisque fire burnished pottery to cone 010; unburnished to Cone 06 for additional strength. If you bisque fire burnished work at too high a temperature, it will lose its shine when the grog resurfaces. Your pottery will still be fragile, so handle it carefully.
5. You can bring organic material to place over your pottery. Some people wrap pieces in straw, seaweed, fertilizer or other materials. You may also place copper wire or colorants mentioned in the links below, on your pottery. Wrapping newspaper around the additives may reduce their tendency to fall away from the piece. Last year, sprinkled sawdust saturated with copper sulfate produced some great colors & we'll do that again. Wherever your pottery touches the sawdust on the bottom of the pit, it will turn black, so be sure to get it placed the way you want it.

The 1<sup>st</sup> link below has info on what colors various additives may produce.

[http://www.claystation.com/technical/firing/pit\\_techniques/intro.html](http://www.claystation.com/technical/firing/pit_techniques/intro.html)

<http://vickihardin.com/articles/pit-fire-ceramics.html>

<http://groups.csail.mit.edu/mac/users/adams/Pottery/pit.html>

For more advanced information on using Terra Sigillata and some great photos, see:

<http://www.robertcomptonpottery.com/Method%20of-Pit-Firing-Pottery.htm>

After it's fired, you may clean your piece with a damp cloth, dry it & bring it to a high shine. Some people use a "wax", like "Pledge with Future Shine" floor finish or any acrylic polymer, no-buff finish. However, some prefer Johnson's Paste Wax to buff the surface to a soft, more natural glow.

**And again, label your pieces with your mark.** Thanks. Marylou Schoes

# **RENEWING CLAYFOLK MEMBERSHIP**

**Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st**

Clayfolk membership dues are \$15 per year and are due by January 1st. Dues are not prorated for members renewing mid-year. Members who turn in their membership application and dues on or before January 31st, will receive 3 points at the end of the membership year. Members who do not turn in their membership application and dues on or before May 31st will not be accepted into that year's annual Show. Membership entitles you to the newsletter, discounted workshop fees and an opportunity to apply to be in the annual Show and Sale.

Questions? Contact Don Clarke, Membership Chair, 541-683-6330 or [membership@clayfolk.org](mailto:membership@clayfolk.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Pottery Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Main areas of interest in clay : \_\_\_\_\_

How do you want to receive your newsletters, workshop information, and other announcements ?

E-mail (we recommend this)  US mail  Both  None  Please check one

If you would like to be included in the membership Gallery on our webpage ([www.clayfolk.org](http://www.clayfolk.org)), please indicate which information you would like included by checking the appropriate boxes :

Name  Business/Studio Name  E-Mail address  Phone Number  Webpage

You will be contacted by the webmaster regarding your images.

Do you currently offer classes? Yes  No

Would you be interested in teaching a workshop? Yes  No

Make your checks payable to Clayfolk

Mail this completed form plus \$15 dues to  
Clayfolk, PO Box 1334, Jacksonville, OR 97530

## **Ratification BALLOT**

Teri Nelson was voted Member-at-Large on the Clayfolk Board but did not receive votes from over 50% of the Clayfolk Membership. Please vote yes or no and return the ballot with your membership form.

Member-at-Large Teri Nelson YES  NO

## **DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE**

Single  or Shared  Membership - Postmark Date \_\_\_\_\_ Years Paid for \_\_\_\_\_