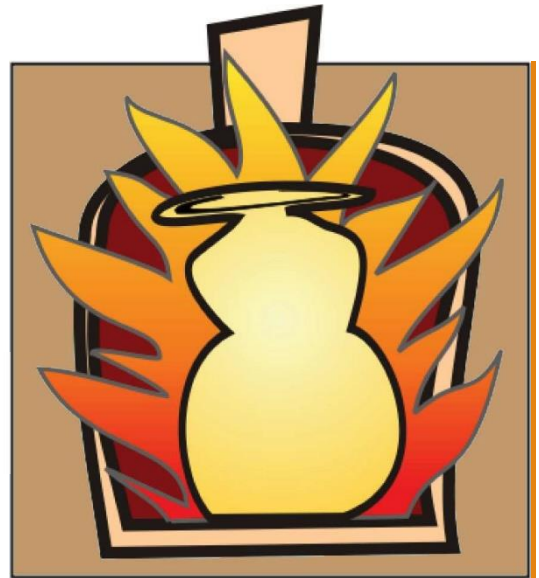




Caption this!

*Send your
idea for a
title that
absolutely
fits this piece.
I'm sure we'll
have an
amazing
prize for the
winning
entry!*

**Newsletter@
clayfolk.org**



**CLAYFOLK
April 2021
Newsletter**

IN THIS ISSUE

As the Wheel Turns:

I can't believe it is already the middle of April. Things just seem to keep spinning faster in my world. I wish I was spending more time at my wheel, but unfortunately I keep being pulled in other directions; son Charlie has officially moved to Australia, I finally have a new to me barely used KM Skutt kiln ready to plug in (yes I am joining the computer world of firing), and progress (paperwork/permits) on rebuilding two buildings I lost in the Alameda fire is moving forward.

This is the time of year when initial planning for the Clayfolk Show gets going and this year is no different. A BIG thank you to everyone who participated in the recent surveys. The feedback is important and directly helps guide the decision making for the board and this organization. We are hopeful about changes the vaccines will bring, BUT we recognize a November 19-21, show at the Medford Armory has unknowns that we will have to navigate as we get closer to

showtime. You will find the show information and application in this newsletter.

I want to thank Bill Thompson for stepping up to volunteer to be Clayfolk's Secretary. Pat Richey had been juggling two big jobs: Secretary and Webmaster, and this will allow her to focus on Webmaster. We are very grateful Pat was willing to do two jobs! BUT it is important in a volunteer organization to spread the work load. At the end of the day it makes us a much stronger organization having many people engaged.

I am looking forward to the April 25th Pit Firing described in our last newsletter, Clayfolk's June 26th "Swap Meet & Picnic" in Grants Pass, and the Lucy Fagella's workshop in July. As I head out into the studio and focus on my work I am reminded that everyday is a gift and I look forward to sharing time with YOU at the Pit Firing and Swap Meet & Picnic.

Swap Meet! Picnic! Bring a little or a lot☺ Join us for a "live" meeting in June at Reinhart Volunteer Park in Grants Pass (look for the Clayfolk sign)

(Don't use Google Maps? Contact: gratefuldadpottery@gmail.com for directions)

2020 CLAYFOLK OFFICERS

President: Bonnie Morgan

president@clayfolk.org

Vice President: Sally Pursell

vicepresident@clayfolk.org

Secretary: Patricia Richey

secretary@clayfolk.org

Treasurer: Debbie Thompson

treasurer@clayfolk.org

Members at Large

- Kat Hackett

- Jim Nordal

- Janice Shenker

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archivist: Ben Wood

archivist@clayfolk.org

Empty Bowls

- Jackson Co.: Polly Beach

- Josephine Co.: Bernie Delallo
and Janice Shenker

- Douglas Co.: Peppi Melick

emptybowls@clayfolk.org

Enews: Bob Causey

enews@clayfolk.org

Library: Viviana Padilla

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Newsletter: Michael McKinney

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Photo Booth: Penelope Dews

photobooth@clayfolk.org

Points: Patt Causey

points@clayfolk.org

Scholarship: Betsy Moore

scholarship@clayfolk.org

Show Chair: Michael McKinney

showchair@clayfolk.org

Webmaster: Pat Richey

webmaster@clayfolk.org

Workshops: Carole Hayne and Peppi

Melick workshops@clayfolk.org

Volunteer positions available in Clayfolk

As you've heard by now, the Show is going on at the Medford Armory the weekend before Thanksgiving...check out the position below.

Sales Chair trainee: current chair Debbie Thompson

- "Order supplies, oversee set-up and tear down sales area. Do a pre-show training of cashiers. Be team captain for a shift, train committee members."

This is a Show specific position. Some prep work is involved but the position focuses on the Show; no year round tasks. This is a great opportunity for an out-of-town member.

Secretary (or trainee): current chair Pat Richey

Position filled by Bill Thompson!
Clayfolk scores again! Woohoo!

For trainee positions and the co-chair position, contact these current members with any questions. To apply, send a note of interest to president@clayfolk.org. Include your "why", relevant skills that will help you be successful in that position and any other helpful details.

Complete job descriptions on the Clayfolk website at:
www.clayfolk.org/membership/position-descriptions/

Southern Oregon Clay Distributors

The pandemic and fires in Southern Oregon have continued to challenge and close many small businesses BUT luckily for all of us who depend on a local supplier Southern Oregon Clay Distributors continues under the steady hand of Felix and Johnathan.

Currently they are open afternoons by appointment Wednesday through Saturday. Orders are also available for curbside pickup. If you are an Amaco glaze user, Felix reports they have all the new ones in stock. They can be reached at 541-535-1311.



Pinhole Dilemma Part 2

by Bob Causey

Testing our way to a solution to the pesky pinhole problem seemed to be the logical route. In Part 1 of this article (February Clayfolk newsletter) I described how this issue that suddenly appeared, how it predominantly affected certain clays and glazes and what my wife, Patt and I had done to learn about the causes and solutions. In order to isolate the problem clay and glaze combinations we made the test plates pictured above. This led to additional sieving as well as adjustments to the thickness of some of our glazes.

Still, the cause of the pinholing was not obvious. What probably should have been obvious is that we must have had a kiln problem that for some reason was mostly affecting certain glazes. Thinking back, I remembered one bowl which was fired before the test showed a field of pinholes only on one side, which was the side nearest the elements. I wondered if this was a clue that the elements were not heating evenly. After watching the wonderful troubleshooting videos on the Skutt website (<https://skutt.com/skutt-resources/troubleshooting/>), I performed the "Visual Test" on both electric kilns: a test they failed miserably. Next, I called Skutt and talked with a very helpful and patient technical service representative named Perry. Putting all this together led me to the conclusion that it was time to replace the elements in both kilns. If you're going to do that, why not replace those broken bricks and on the larger kiln, with

the electronic controller, it also made sense to replace the relays.

This is a project best done when you have not committed yourself to fulfilling a large order for a customer, as we had recently done. Without any other options, the best we could do was to order the parts as quickly as possible and clear the calendar for a big repair job. We ended up sourcing all the necessary parts from Georgie's Ceramic Supply, Southern Oregon Clay Distributors and Skutt. Since I had assisted a friend in the replacement of elements on a Skutt kiln years ago, I felt confident that I could tackle this job. Again, the videos on the Skutt site and another phone conversation with Perry assured me that this was a doable project; although, not a cheap project. I replaced many bricks, which increased the cost, bringing the total repair cost for both kilns to around \$900, a good use of our Stimulus money!



After putting the kilns back together and firing a test with witness cones we were very pleased to see that everything was working as it should. I can now say that the solution to our pinhole problem consisted of the following:

1. Make sure your kiln is heating evenly and to the correct temperature.
2. When bisque firing, slowly is the key. We use the following program with the Skutt 1227 programmable or when using the manual Skutt 818 we turn up in four-hour steps.

Three-Segment Bisque Firing Program

#1 30° per hour to 200°, hold 2 to 6 hours

#2 75° per hour to 1,000°, no hold

#3 150° per hour to 1945°, no hold

#3	180°	1,150°	no
#4	300°	1,967°	no
#5	120°	2,185°*	5
minutes			
#6	125°	1,900°	30
minutes, Envirovent off			

Manual Kiln Bisque Firing

Fire on low for four hours, then medium for four hours before turning to high.

3. We use the following Ramp/Hold program when glaze firing in our programmable kiln.

Ramp/Hold Glaze Firing Program

Segment	Rate	Temperature	
	<u>Hold</u>		
#1	200°	250°	
	no		
#2	400°	1,000°	no

*Note: I increased segment #5 from that listed in part 1 of this article. Thanks to Camille Hoffman (follow her on Facebook) and Perry from Skutt.

As a postscript to this little adventure, we just unloaded 25 glazed mugs this morning and I am pleased to announce that there are no pinholes whatsoever! We did however, have the glaze crawl on two mugs. Ceramics is full of challenges and fresh opportunities to learn!

Happenings...



Pit Fire April 25, time to get your burnished pots shiny! Debbie and Bill Thompson are preparing to rekindle the annual (well, used to be annual) Pit Fire. This event is open to all Clayfolk members. Similar to many of our prior events/workshops, gauging interest is a key piece to effective planning. IF you have any interest, curiosity or desire to attend, please share your interest with them at cftreasurer@yahoo.com.

Check here for the complete article:

<https://www.clayfolk.org/wordpress1/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Newsletter-Feb-2021.pdf>



A fine example of what can happen in a pit fire!

Fun Fact: Clayfolk is currently maintaining a 120 membership total.

Did you know?

- A staple remover works well to hold a piece for dipping into glaze.
- A blue scratch pad is softer than a green one; use for blending or softening glaze application.
- A Giffin grip helps accelerate burnishing

Clayfolk Show 2021: update

Our Clayfolk membership participated in a survey (well, two surveys technically) to determine interest in an alternate Show location and dates. Survey results led our Board to select the Medford Armory for a potential live event this year. We are moving forward with plans for the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. The Show [Application](#) (click link) is revised for 2021; careful reading suggested.

I'm getting lots of questions, comments and suggestions. This is great! I don't have solid answers for these questions, comments and suggestions at this time. This is not so great! Know that as details emerge, you, our precious Clayfolk member and potential Show vendor, will be informed of such details.

One trend to watch is the number of people in Oregon getting vaccinated against Covid-19 combined with the number of people having

developed antibodies by way of being sick with Covid-19. The term "community immunity" is the broad target (so far as I can gather). Between now and November I expect we'll be seeing several trends that impact the "how" of our Show.

I can share our maximum capacity per Oregon Health Authority:

Lower Risk: 75% occupancy

Moderate Risk: 50% or 150 people (smaller #)

High Risk: 25% or 150 people (smaller #)

Extreme Risk: 25% or 100 people (smaller #)

Our new mantra might be, "If we're low, we go with the Show." Stay tuned. Stay safe. And, if you're curious, I got on the Moderna vaccine "bus"...seriously, a four-week wait.

By Michael McKinney, Show Chair 2021

showchair@clayfolk.org

UPDATE! Show application deadline July 1



Lucy Fagella workshop being offered on-line in July.

The Clayfolk Workshop Committee is pleased to announce that Lucy Fagella has agreed to do a 3-hour workshop on July 17, 2021. The workshop will be focused on making pots with lids. Lucy has 4 or 5 different styles of lidded pots that she will demonstrate how to throw. The workshop will be divided into two sessions. The first session will be from 10:30 to noon and the second from 1 to 2:30. It will cost \$25 to link into the Zoom workshop for Clayfolk members and \$30 for non-members. More information will be included in the next newsletter on how to register and pay for the workshop.

Lucy is a studio potter who lives in Greenfield Massachusetts. She mainly makes functional ware for the kitchen. She also makes urns. Many ceramic magazines have featured her and her pottery. Take a look at her webpage <https://www.lucyfagella.com/> More information will be included in the next newsletter on how to register and pay for the workshop.

NOTE: Workshop is pending Board approval

Clayfolk Meetings Calendar: changes are possible!

Month	Meeting type	Meeting location	Host	Time
March 18 (Thursday)	Board	Zoom	President	6:30 p.m.
March 28 (Sunday)	General	Zoom	TBA	TBA
June 17 (Thursday)	Board	Zoom	TBA	NA
June 26 (Saturday)	General	Reinhart Volunteer Park, Grants Pass	Michael McKinney	2:30-4:00
August 12 (Thursday)	Board	TBA	TBA	NA
August 22 (Sunday)	General	TBA	TBA	TBA
October 14 (Thursday)	Board	TBA	TBA	NA
October 24 (Sunday)	Show Chairs	GP Museum of Arts	Michael McKinney	12:30-2:00 Reports
October 24 (Sunday)	General	GP Museum of Arts	Carole Hayne	2:30-4:00 Booth Pick
TBA	Show and Sale	TBA	Show Chair	Show and Sale

Check Clayfolk calendar online for updates at clayfolk.org

Pottery co-op Anyone?

For the past several Fridays, Michael McKinney (me, aka Grateful Dad Pottery) has been hosting a pop-up at 115 SW G Street in Grants Pass. What fabulous store frontage you say, indeed it is! If familiar with Grants Pass you know that G Street is at the center of the downtown district. The owner currently has the space (13.5' Wide by 39' Deep for display) for lease at \$1265/month.

The owner and I spoke about the possibility of a pottery co-op on a month to month basis...hmm, interesting. My thinking is:

- 12-15 or so participating artists, everyone "minds" the store 1-2 days/month
- A feature display space for the on duty artist (permanent displays for everyone else)
- I can facilitate a **shared** effort and help plan the logistics (calendar, access, other)

Details:

- The space is part of the restored Blind George building.
- There is a kitchenette and bathroom
- It is 750 sq feet with 14' x 12' storage above the kitchen.
- In total it rents for \$1.30/sq ft. This is below market value.
- (For reference) The building across on the E corner of 6th and G rents for \$1.50/sq ft
- 115 and 117 G Street have the most foot traffic in all downtown.
- deposit of \$1000

If interested, contact Michael at gratefuldadpottery@gmail.com and we'll Zoom☺

