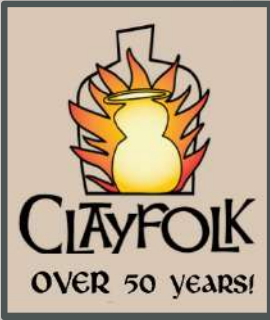


KRAKEN CHRONICAL



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2026.3

In this issue -

- [As the Wheel Turns](#)
- [Clayfolk Calendar](#)
- [General Meeting](#)
- [Octopi Everywhere](#)
- [Spring Show](#)
- [Potters in the Wild](#)
- [Rogue Valley Pottery](#)
- [Raku Firing](#)
- [Dennis Miners Workshop](#)
- [Train Kiln Update](#)
- [New Member](#)
- [Social Media](#)
- [Pit Fire](#)
- [Fall Show Update](#)
- [Name Tags](#)
- [Tips and Tricks](#)
- [Grant Opportunity](#)
- [Potter Humor](#)

LIMERICK OF THE QUARTER ~

CAN A TENTACLED CREATURE BE FOUND?
 IN ABUNDANCE ALL THE YEAR ROUND!
 ON A MUG, PLATE, OR A JAR
 GRACING POTS NEAR AND FAR -
 IN ALL SEASONS THESE CREATURES ABOUND!



You're KRACKEN me up!

A RIDDLE FOR YOU
HOW MANY TICKLES
DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE
AN OCTOPUS LAUGH?

(Answer on Page 30)



2025 CLAYFOLK OFFICERS

SEE CLAYFOLK DIRECTORY FOR
DIRECT EMAIL ADDRESSES

President: Tim Elliott

president@clayfolk.org

Vice President: Julia Janeway

vicepresident@clayfolk.org

Secretary: Lily Myers Kaplan

Lilymyerskaplan@gmail.com

Co-Treasurers:

Debbie Thompson & Ray Foster

cftreasurer@yahoo.com

Members at Large

Janice Shenker, Rosie Russell,
Doug Hill

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archivist: Lynita Zajack

Empty Bowls

- Jackson County:

Suzanne & Robert Call
Cheryl Lashley

- Josephine County:

-open

emptybowls@clayfolk.org

Enews: Dana Godley

enews@clayfolk.org

Membership: Doug Hill

Newsletter: Kathy Forester

newsletter@clayfolk.org

Points Chair: Ashley Ambrosio

springandvine@gmail.com

Scholarship: Betsy Moore

scholarship@clayfolk.org

Show Chair: Rob Call

recall1957@gmail.com

Webmaster: Pat Richey

webmaster@clayfolk.org

Workshop Committee:

Rosie Russell & Summer Brendlinger

workshops@clayfolk.org

Social Media: Kendra Ortner

clayfolksocialmedia@gmail.com

From Our President ~

I don't have much to say on the topic of octopuses, so I thought I'd ramble a little about my current work in the studio.



Lately, I have been diving deep into alternative firing techniques, particularly raku and saggar firing. As I find myself drifting away from cone 6 production work, I'm breaking free from the need for consistency and giving myself permission to simply make pots. Working with different forms every time I touch a piece of clay has become a new adventure. No two pieces are the same, and that's part of what I enjoy most. I have discovered that I am especially drawn to forms with a high shoulder.

Burnishing a pot takes far longer than making the darn thing, but I find it necessary if I want a smooth surface for terra sigillata. One of the things I've enjoyed learning is how to make my own terra sigillata using my clay body for saggar work. I primarily use foil saggars and have been very pleased with the results.

Much of my work incorporates copper sulfate,

~ Continued...

As the Wheel Turns, Cont.

copper carbonate, iron sulfate, and cobalt sulfate. I'm also experimenting with different types of vegetation, flowers, and even fungi to see what effects they produce during firing. The deeper I go into alternative firing, the more I realize how much there is to learn. Every firing teaches me something new, and that's what keeps me coming back. There is so much to explore, and I want to learn it all.

~ Tim Elliott, President



Clayfolk Calendar

Date 2026	Event type	Event location	Host	Activity	Time
June 28 (Sunday)	General Mtg	121 W. 2nd St., Phoenix, OR	Cheryl Lashley	ClayTalk: Show 'N Tell	2:30 – 4:00
August 20 (Thursday)	Board Mtg	TBA	TBA	NA	6:00 – 7:30
August 30 (Sunday)	General Mtg	TBA	TBA	TBA	2:30 – 4:00
October 2 – 4	Clay Fest	Lane County Fairgrounds	Local Clay	Pottery Show	Fri 5pm – 8pm, Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun 11am – 5pm
October 15 (Thursday)	Board Mtg	TBA	TBA	NA	6:00 – 7:30
October 25 (Sunday)	Fall Show Meeting	Grants Pass Museum of Art	Carole Hayne	NA	12:00 – 2:00a
October 25 (Sunday)	General Mtg	Grants Pass Museum of Art	Carole Hayne	Booth Pick	2:30 – 4:00



Make your own glazes, or interested in getting started?

Why not keep it interesting by adding yet more variables into your work??? Glaze group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at Jenny Harkin's studio. Contact Janet Capetty for more information.

jcapetty@gmail.com

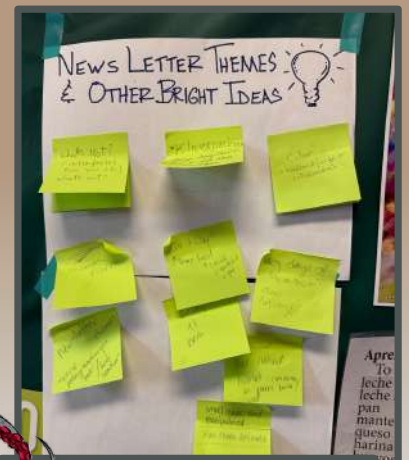
A recommendation from Roxanne Hunnicutt - I just noticed this "new to me" book that gives more great glazes from Kline. This book is a "A collaboration between noted potter and author Gabriel Kline and chemist Bill Collins, PhD, this unique book explores the science of glaze formulation, explaining essential testing techniques, equipment, and materials, demystifying the science of food-safe ceramics while empowering artists with reliable, studio-friendly methods."



June 28th General Meeting & Clay Talk...

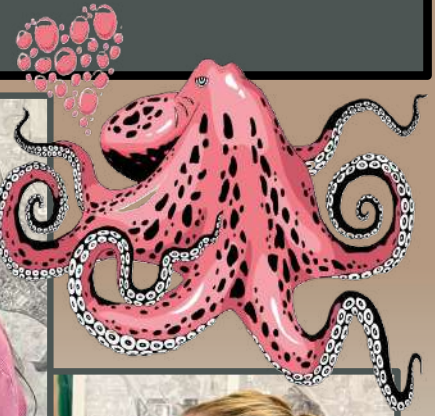


Thanks for hosting, Cheryl Lashley



Rob Call's Puzzle Jug...
Can Tim figure it out?
Yes. Yes, he can!

June 28th General Meeting & Clay Talk...



Clay Talk



Be it a lid or a plate...



Phil Fishwick's work - from the Ray Foster collection.



For the less ambitious ~



The Octo-roller - Insta-pus; no talent required!



Nautical Themed Chess Set - Complete with Octo-bishop. ~ Kathy Forester

The Kraken Strikes Again ...



Those dang tentacles!!!



~ Bernie's Famous Squid Bowls



From a Bandon Gallery



~ Christina Guerra



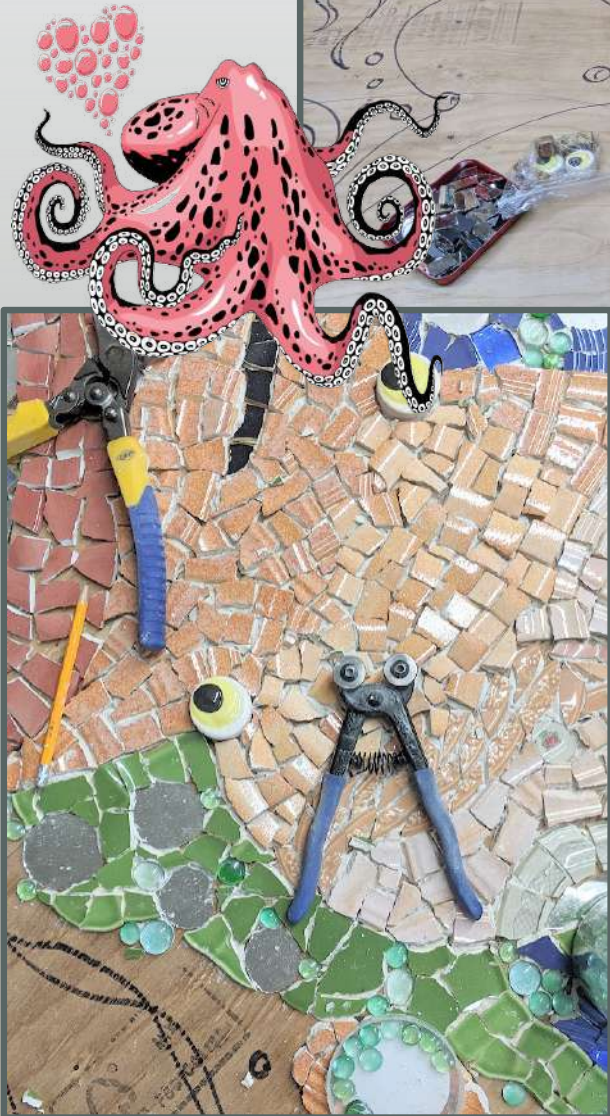
~ Linda Heisserman

Julie's First Mural... an Octopus!



The first mosaic I ever did. This is 1 year BC (before ceramics) and I collected tiles and plates to assemble this Octopus to attach to our pool house in the backyard.

~ Julie Furrer



Pre-Octipied

Some years ago, I got a commission from a marine biology grad student in the Sea Grant Program at Oregon State University. Could I make her a set of soup bowls with octopus? Could I ever!

Since then, they've squirmed their way onto nearly everything I make, including a sweet sculpture made in 2020, featuring a giant Pacific octopus and a baby mermaid, titled "Best Friends."

~ Frank Gosar



Octopi from Around the World ~

Contemporary ceramicist Keiko Masumoto, a Japanese artist, crafts ceramic octopus vessels that are both functional and aesthetically fascinating.



Keiko's work is very interesting. For more, check out her gallery at <https://www.g-murakoshi.com/en/artists/keiko-masumoto/>



Thank for sharing this, Roxanne!

Please pass the Snack-da-puss...

Snack-da-puss anyone?



All by, "Peace, Love & Puss" (You can't make that up!)



Lamp-to-pus



Pirate themed - complete with "dip ship"



Puss On Shrooms



My Sweet Adeline Art



A Beautiful Day for the Spring Show ~



Hey...
 What are
 these
 three up
 to???



For more photos, see the Spring Show Album -
 Thanks Kendra!

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPGWJmgaYxRJMbB22goHaievAYODwaZx5TRS1VQrHrFi1pwsMI1JvaKoQJgnzPLdg?ofsgid=103461041370957187851&email=kathy@arogueed.com&pli=1&key=aFhyQvYxSXJMvDN3S2UTRUU2V2+4Y1JTRXBQlN3>

Clayfolk Potters Spotted in the Wild...



1

Bandon, OR

Can you
name that
Potter?

(Answers on page 30)



2



3



Talent Gallery

Clayfolk Potters Spotted in the Wild...

4



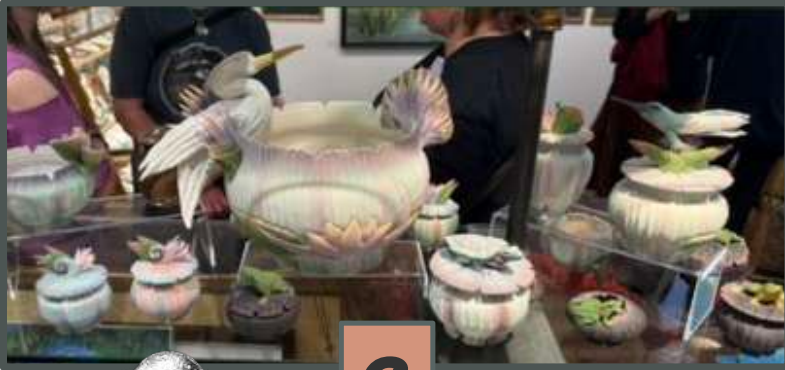
Art on First, Ashland

5



Bandon, OR

6



7



8



Pura Vida Gallery,
Jerome, AZ



Art on First, Ashland

Wednesday Night Skillz

These classes are designed to be a brush up on your skills and help support our pottery community on where they need specific processes. If you have an idea for a skillz night you'd like to see, please email Julie.



EXTRUDER USES
July 8th 5:00-6:30
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SKILLZ
CLASS WITH FRANK JACQUES



Register Here

POLISHING/SANDING FINISHING A PIECE
July 15th 5:00-6:30
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SKILLZ
CLASS WITH FRANK JACQUES



Register Here

CREATING CRACK-FREE ATTACHMENTS
July 22nd 5:00-6:30
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SKILLZ
CLASS WITH FRANK JACQUES



Register Here

A GOOD SPOUT
July 29th 5:00-6:30
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SKILLZ
CLASS WITH FRANK JACQUES



Register Here

WORKING WITH MOLDS
August 5th 5:00-6:30
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SKILLZ
CLASS WITH FRANK JACQUES



Register Here



High School, Middle School and Elementary Art Teacher Workshop Intensive

July 28th-30th 9:00am-1:00pm

This gathering is more than a technical workshop. It is an opportunity to connect with colleagues who understand the unique joys and challenges of teaching clay.

Led by veteran educator **Frank Jacques**, who brings more than 35 years of high school teaching experience. His goal is to create a collaborative environment where educators can ask questions, share experiences, troubleshoot classroom issues, and build lasting professional relationships.

541-255-3499

-Store Hours-

Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

JULIE@ROGUEVALLEYPOTTERYSUPPLY.COM



Reminder: If Ashland is too far, call and place an order to be picked up in Central Point that afternoon. We love serving our pottery community and strive to meet your pottery needs.

Rogue Valley Pottery Supply ~

Our Youth Residence

Opal Stagg

- Ashland Senior

Anya Saturn

- Ashland Senior

Bridgette Furrer

- Central Point Senior



This summer, Rogue Valley Pottery Studio invited a small group of High School Juniors and Seniors who are emerging ceramic artists into an immersive, process-driven internship designed to nurture voice, refine technique, and bring a body of work to life.

Over the course of three months, residence will become part of the rhythm of the studio. In August we'll present the students body of work in a studio show. Stay tuned!

Our Mission & Goals

Rogue Valley Pottery offers classes and clinics that support the growth of pottery knowledge in our valley. Our goal is to cultivate a depth of knowledge for our new up-and-coming potters. Education is our mission and we need our communities' help to bring scholarships to those who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford this education.

Scholarship Program

We're launching a Scholarship Program to help financially assist existing potters who want to participate in our classes but have limited funds. We often have requests for financial assistance, and we would like to invite the larger ceramic community to participate. Every little bit helps!

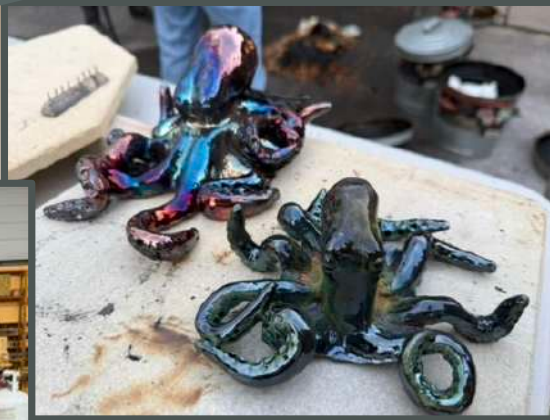


Raku-da-puss.... Is that a thing?

Which way
to the
raccoon
firing?



Seriously Siri? I
said, "Raku!"



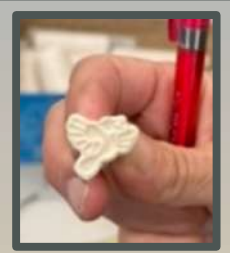
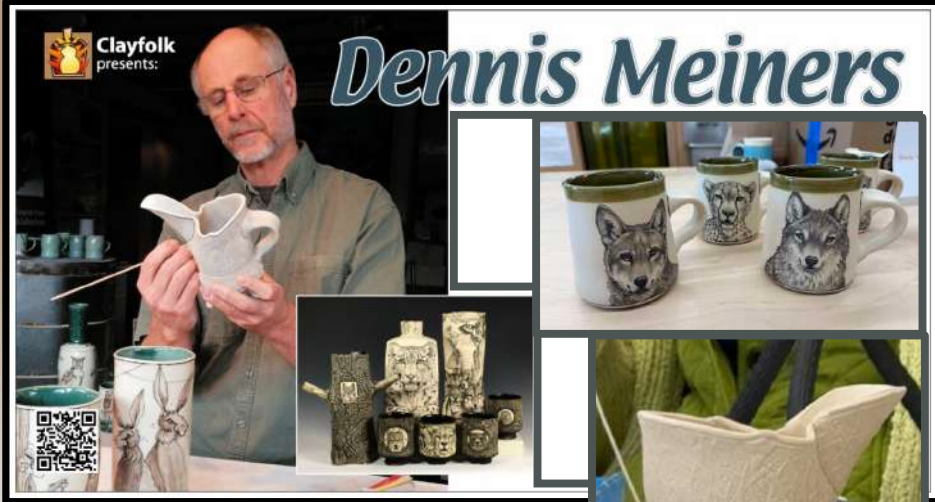
From the fire comes a complete octopus,
With a glaze that's absolutely A-plus.
But one quick miss-stroked
Now a tentacle's broke;
The fine piece is now called "Septa-puss."



First
Friday
Art
Walk,
Ashland



Dennis Meiners Workshop



Misery Loves Company!

I think the sides near bottom were too thin, so it melted and leaned over. The door then fused with the jar.

~ Linda Heisserman



But check out the rest of that load... and her other outstanding work...



Ask Linda to tell you the story behind this style – she turns lemons into lovely lemonade!



No Octopus Here ...

Okay Folks...it's nothing like an Octopus but it's a wild test pot! I've been collecting desert sands and applying as surface design...but this black sand collected in Central Oregon (aka volcanic sand) really knocked my socks off! Wow, so crazy how it melted and shines—gotta love it!!

~ Lily Myers Kaplan
Peace, Love, & Beauty Pottery



Train Kiln Update ...

We ended our season with a great firing in March.

Rogue Train Kiln



Our 2026-27 firing schedule is finalized:

Firings

- [October 23-25, 2026](#)
contingent on fire season ending

- [March 12-14, 2027](#)

Orientations (\$25, recommended for people who haven't fired with us before and would like to fire this season)

- [August 29, 2026](#)

- [January 16, 2027](#)



If you're interested, sign up before spaces run out!

Welcome Gail Ropel ~

I am a new member- I joined this month. I am Gail Ropel and have been doing pottery for 4 years now. I took some classes at the Northwest Ceramics studio and loved them. I am a member there and also do a lot of work at home. I do mostly hand building. I'm glad you are interested in epic failures because I've had a few, especially with glazing. Why can't glazes and clay play nice together?? I retired 5 years ago but I keep pretty busy. I am a CASA and now that it's summer, I volunteer at Britt. My husband is supportive of my pottery as our garage is his wood shop for woodworking. I look forward to meeting everyone.

~ Gail Ropel



Outdoor Solar Light



The biggest thing I've made is a lamp.



Social Media & Free Advertising ~

You can send Kendra your upcoming events to promote via social media!

What markets will you be doing in the next few months? Galleries? Classes?

Submit details for posts and include a photo!

The link: <https://forms.gle/sktd3aDTvSdLezhA7>



Thank you,
Kendra!

PLEASE READ THE FINE PRINT:

You can always send an email to clayfolksocialmedia@gmail.com (instead of filling out a form - if you don't like forms 👍)

* Please note, we cannot post flyers for non-Clayfolk events on our account's main feed -We want to post photos of your pottery!

If you are promoting an event, please TYPE OUT the details (date, time, location) then include an image of your pottery to promote!

If you have a bunch of upcoming events, it would be great to list a month's worth or something like that. 👍

Please tag @clayfolk in your own posts, and I will share them to the Clayfolk account's "stories" as I am able 👍 (These can be posters and fliers, since they will not go to our main pages) 👍

Share your upcoming events in advance so we can let our fans know!
And so I can schedule posts in advance!

clayfolksocialmedia@gmail.com

To access this form from our clayfolk.org website use this link <https://www.clayfolk.org/membership-stuff/member-login/clayfolk-social-media/> or use the website menus where you will find the Clayfolk Social Media Submissions page under the menu heading, member login.

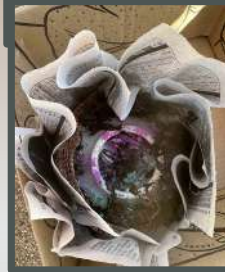
Pit Fire? Yes Please!



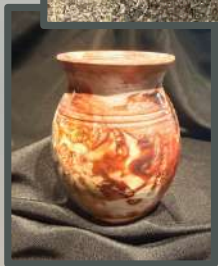
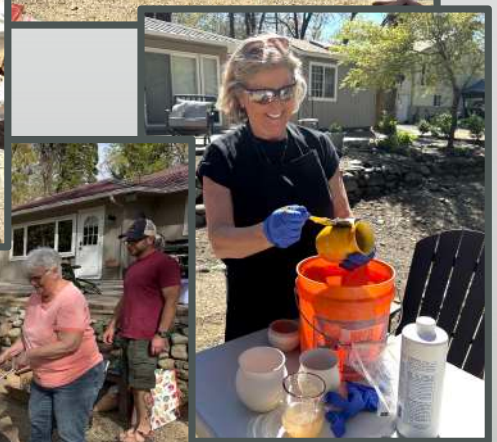
Thanks,
Sandie Allison
for hosting
the March
general
meeting and
the pit fire!
What fun!



The Watchers



Thanks for
the demo,
Ray Noppa



And then there's the food... yum!

For more photos, see Tim Elliot's album of pit fire photos:

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMJ38FTJYKipHPT1eICDBAqyLsfSuLIDfnMFFdHw7JfcXCNgvuJSovvMOV8doVHYg?key=SVgzTVBrVINJbm90d3pHb19sZXZoSXlyc1BqVmpn>

Celebrating Community & Clay: The 51st Clayfolk Fall Show & Sale

As members of Clayfolk we know the deep satisfaction that comes from shaping clay into something meaningful. Whether you're a longtime professional, a dedicated hobbyist, or somewhere in between, our Annual Fall Show & Sale stands as the highlight of our shared calendars. The Fall Show remains our signature event- the largest of its kind in southern Oregon- featuring functional, sculptural, and whimsical work of more than 70 members. It promises another vibrant celebration of our collective creativity, hard work, and fellowship. Every piece reflects the unique voice of a Clayfolk artist.

The 51st Clayfolk Show & Sale, is set for November 20-22, 2026, at the Medford Armory

The 51st Clayfolk Show & Sale, is set for November 20-22, 2026, at the Medford Armory. A contract has been signed, deposit made and an insurance policy acquired for the Fall Show venue. Hopefully, this Show will be as successful as last year's record setting 50th.



Rob Call, Show Chair, and Kelly Bowen, Scheduling

What makes the Fall Show & Sale truly special is that it is a member-driven tradition by us, for us, and about us. Since Clayfolk's beginnings in 1976, when a small group of potters gathered for potlucks to share ideas and experiences, our organization has grown into a thriving community of approximately 160 members spanning Oregon, Washington, and Northern California.



Bonus Points - More Octopi



To date 85 members have applied to participate. With this number there are artists on "Wait Lists." Order of Booth Pick is ranked by lifetime Clayfolk Volunteer Point accumulation. To see the current status please view:

<https://www.clayfolk.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Booth-Rank-July-Newsletter-Sheet1.pdf>

If you have questions concerning your Points please contact Ashley Ambrosio at: springandvine@gmail.com.

If a change of Booth size is desired please see the Booth Downsizing Protocol at: <https://www.clayfolk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Booth-Downsizing-Protocol-7-2025.pdf>



Committee Work ~

In the coming months some 25 Committees will be organized to create, publicize and implement the Clayfolk 51st Fall Show & Sale. Please consider joining a Show Committee if you have not done so already. Your volunteer Committee service is a great way to accumulate Clayfolk Volunteer Points, while helping produce the 2026 Fall Show.



If you would like to serve contact Rob Call, (see information below).

After Committees are established the 2026 Fall Show Work Schedules will be created and distributed. Schedules will incorporate requests made during the registration process. Kelly Bowen will do this critical work.

Refund Policy ~

As a reminder the 2026 Clayfolk Fall Show & Sale Refund Policy (minus applicable processing fee) is: Requested by July 31: 100% refund; From August 1-31: 50% refund;

After August 31: 0% refund.

Waitlist applicants: 100% refund if NO Booth Space is available.

We are looking forward to working with all the Clayfolk members, who together, will produce another successful Clayfolk Fall Show & Sale. If you have suggestions, questions or concerns please contact Rob Call, Chair, 2026 Clayfolk Fall Show & Sale at: recall1957@gmail.com or by text at: (541) 613-4198.

Where are people getting those name tags???

Want a personalized Clayfolk name tag? Because, while we all like to think we know everyone's name, many of us are actually relying on luck, ("Mike" is always a good guess) or strategically avoiding names completely!

The tags are made from maple—a classy upgrade from masking tape and a Sharpie. The light wood makes names easy to read, even across the room or after a late night in the pottery (making an octopus?).

Each tag comes with a magnetic back, so there's no pin to wrestle with and no holes in your favorite shirt. Your fancy potter clothing collection can rest easy.

The cost is \$5.00, and payment can be made when your tag arrives. Cash, check, or Venmo are all welcome. I trust everyone completely, although your name will be prominently displayed for easy identification.

You can pick up your tag at the next Clayfolk meeting, have it mailed, or possibly receive it via highly trained woodland creatures. The form includes all available delivery options. If you'd like your tag mailed, simply add \$2.50 for postage and include your mailing address at the bottom of the form. The postal service generally outperforms squirrels, though the competition is surprisingly close.

Questions? Feel free to email or text. I'm happy to help—and equally happy to reduce the number of conversations that begin with, "I know your face, but your name completely escapes me..."

Kathy Forester
541-601-2453
foresterpottery@gmail.com



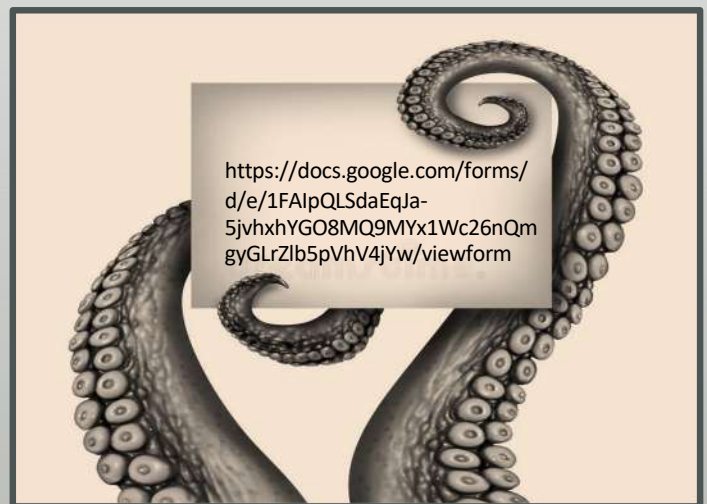
This is just an example – yours will have your actual name on it. I promise.

(Unless your name is Teri – in which case it might arrive misspelled...but we will definitely replace it, ASAP!

Thanks for your patience, Teri!)

Clayfolk Name Tag Order Form

Below is an example of the name tag. It is on light maple wood, and has a magnetic back. Use this form to provide the info that you would like on your name tag. The cost is \$5, which I will collect when I deliver your name tag. If you would like the name tag mailed, you can pay by check or Venmo. (Additional \$2.50 if mailing/postage is needed.)



This is the link to the form. Click on it – or copy and paste into your address bar (the place were you see the www.) to order your name tag.



DIY Plate Weights

It can be a challenge to keep plates flat, but there are things you can do to help [minimize warping](#). Controlled drying and compression go a long way in preventing warpage.

Make yourself another tool you can add to your anti-warping arsenal.

You can make your own weight bags using recycled materials. Mine, for example, were sewn from a cast-off cotton duvet cover. Simply cut out two circles in the desired size and sew them together (1), leaving an opening of roughly 2 inches (5 cm). Turn the piece right side out (2) and fill it with sand (3). They can also be filled with rice, beans, or clean cat litter. Lastly, close the opening by hand using a ladder stitch (which will be invisible) (4), or use a sewing machine for an easy (but visible) closing (5). Lay the weight on plates as they dry (6).



Tips: Use a straight stitch setting with very short stitches, so that no sand trickles through. Also, make sure your fabric is tightly woven—I first used a rather cheap fabric, which let the fine sand seep through. Of course, your plate weights don't have to be round in shape but could be oval, square, triangular, you name it!

The author - Mascha Lange is a ceramic artist and educator based in Leipzig, Germany. Under her label mala, she creates slab-built functional pottery finished in vibrant, expressive glazes. To see more of her work, including behind-the-scenes process posts and new pieces, visit Instagram [@malapottery](#).

Is a "Get Ready Grant" in your future?

I was honored to receive a "Get Ready Grant" from the Craft Emergency Relief Fund to make my in-house studio safer with HEPA air purifier. If you are a professional craft artist and need financial help with studio safety equipment check out CERF+ at cerfplus.org. They are great non-profit well known for emergency relief for craft artists. Makes you want to donate a percentage from your next studio sale! And be in touch if you'd like personal insight on how to approach grant writing, while not an expert I can share thoughts.

~ Jennifer Hill



Octi-facts...



The closest thing to aliens earth is the octopus!

In case you were serious about octopi, you should know what you are dealing with. 🤢

~ Carol Paquin

Check out this video for some truly amazing Octi-facts!

<https://youtube.com/shorts/0I5MNQrbczU?si=2d3JHLYGzcRkMQEN>

POTTER HUMOR

JUST FOR THE LAUGHS

Who are these thinkers?



Where's the beverage???



Just in case a referee is needed, Foster is prepared!



Has the media job driven Kendra to take up smoking?

Name that Potter

1. Peter Alsen
2. Julia Janeway
3. Dana Bilello-Barrow
4. Glenn Burris
5. Ray Foster
6. Nancy Adams
7. Carol Hayne
8. Nina Fernstrom-Duong

ARIDDLE FOR YOU
 How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?
 A: Ten-tickles.