



February 2001

Cape Cod Potters Incorporated Newsletter

Cape Cod Potters Incorporated



Special points of interest:

- From our President
- From our Vice-President
- Cape Cod Potters Advertising Brochure Due February 28, 2001
- Chris Green Workshop
- Johanna Chase
- Pictures from Ron Geering's workshop

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From The President, Brain Brader

Hello,

I want to thank Ron Geering for a great workshop and to Ron Dean for a thorough job of making this well attended workshop happen, and to the many others that helped out. I know everyone who attended was impressed by his techniques used for slip trailing, marbling and feathering. The slide show from England and his numerous pottery slipware pieces made it a very satisfying presentation. Some of the techniques I learned were shared with my pottery students the following week.

Thank you Lois Hirshberg for hosting the annual meeting/potluck at your beautiful house. It was great to have a chance to see your beautiful raku art on the walls. As always these meetings bring together great food and pottery. I hope we didn't leave too much of a mess as we raced home from the meeting to watch the N.Y. Giants lose.

Here are a couple of workshops that I am definitely planning to attend, and feel that most of us would find very useful.

Sunday, March 11 at Scargo Pottery in Dennis, with Chris Greene—photographing pottery for specific uses - web pages or e-mail, 1-2 color brochures and rack cards, glossy 4-color print etc.

Sunday April 29 at the Creative Art Center in Chatham, with Josie Chase—working with plaster as a technique to make unique pottery forms that would be difficult to achieve with other methods.

Feb 28 deadline to be included in this year's Cape Potters Brochure. This is the single best way of advertising your pottery on the cape. Please note - include a photo with a clean uncluttered background to be used on the brochure cover, even if your photo was used last year!

Our next executive meeting is Friday, Feb 16 at 7:30 at Emma-Marie Snedeker's house in Chatham. If this newsletter arrives in time, please plan to attend, and help make this a great year for all of us through your input of ideas. The best way to start is to just call for directions and show up at the meeting. If you don't get to this one then try the next one.

Soup bowls should be spinning off the wheel this week in order to be finished and delivered by March 1.

Give me a call at 255 1556 or 255 9457 if you wish to pool resources to do some raku firing this spring at my house or perhaps the beach? I have a propane burner and some glaze recipes. Maybe I can use my small electric kiln for the raku kiln.

Brian

From The Vice President, Ron Dean

Ron Geering's workshop was well worth attending. I'm glad so many came.

Ron brought a nice selection of pots as examples of traditional and contemporary slipware. Much of the time was spent showing many techniques and methods Ron uses. The day concluded with a slide presentation of a trip to England. I only wish we had allotted more time. If you would like to visit Ron, he likes the company, his studio is located at 246 Woods Hole Road, Falmouth, MA. It might be best to call first. 508 457-0841.

Thanks Ron for putting on a great workshop. There will be more photos in the next newsletter. Another workshop scheduled is Mold Making for Potters. This will be held on Sunday, April 29 at the Creative Arts Center in Chatham.

Johanna Chase, a potter from Dartmouth, MA, received her BFA from U. Mass at Dartmouth. Influenced by figures and figurative movement as well as life forms, Johanna wanted to make pots that were asymmetrical and easy to reproduce. Groupings in mind so pieces interact with each other visually and functionally. Casting was a method that would achieve this. I liked Josies pots the first time I saw them. They seemed to capture motion and are nice to use. I think this will be an interesting workshop. Potters have many applications for using plaster as a tool. The workshop will be from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be a pot luck lunch so bring something to share.

Ron Dean

Soup Bowls for Hunger 2001



This year's fund raiser will take place on Wednesday April, 11 at the Cape Cod Technical Regional High School. Watts Turkey Farm will be donating turkeys for the soup. Petal Carte Flowers and Flora D'Elegance will be donating flowers for the tables. Our bag/placemats will come from Cape Cod Paper Company and be decorated by Nauset Middle School Art Club, Chatham High School and Girl Scout Troop number 951. The Girl Scouts will help out the night of the event, along with our own members and staff at the Tech. Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank will underwrite the expenses so that all the proceeds can go directly to the Family Pantry.

WE NEED BOWLS NOW!

We would like to have all the bowls by March 1st. Please give as many as you can, wrap them and box them. Each bowl should be large enough to easily hold one and one half cups of soup. Bowls may be dropped off at Kemp Pottery at the rotary, Heart Pottery Route 6A Dennis, and Dean Pottery at 1000 Osterville-West Barnstable Road Marstons Mills.

Gail Turner & Nancy Craemer

Chris Green Workshop

This workshop will take place on Sunday, March 11th, from two to five at Scargo Stoneware Pottery, Route 6A Dennis. Chris teaches photography at the Creative Arts Center and is the professional photographer for a number of art and craft people. You may learn more about Chris by going to his website, www.ChrisGreen.com or email Chris at: Chris@ChrisGreen.com. This workshop will cover two topics: photographic needs and how to plan a design with a focus on the internet. It will involve a discussion of goals which will determine your course of design. The workshop will cost \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Please make checks payable to Cape Cod Potters Inc. and fill out the registration form enclosed.

More on the Chris Green Workshop...

From Chris Green...

I have been photographing artwork on Cape Cod for nearly 10 years. From pottery to paintings to installations, I have made photographs of all manner of art. I have been making fine art photographs of my own for over 15 years. I have designed my own web sites from scratch several times over, as well as consulted with many of my photography clients over web design concepts.

I am uniquely positioned to speak about the important issues driving photographic choices for internet design, print design, and portfolio presentation. I have been asked the same questions many times over and I have the answers. I also believe I have a few very useful things to say about internet design concepts. I look forward to sharing my experience with the Cape Cod Potters, and I know I will spread at least a little enlightenment.

Chris Green

Cape Cod Potters Brochure

Your information, photograph and check are due by February 28th. Please honor this date.

Your cooperation helps Linda Kemp tremendously, Thank You...

Johanna Chase Workshop

**Mold Making for Potters
Sunday, April 29, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Creative Arts Center in Chatham.**

Johanna Chase, a potter from Dartmouth, MA, received her BFA from U. Mass at Dartmouth. Influenced by figures and figurative movement as well as life forms, Johanna wanted to make pots that were asymmetrical and easy to reproduce. Groupings in mind so pieces interact with each other visually and functionally. Casting was a method that would achieve this.

Some photo's Johanna sent us...



Ron Geering's Workshop

We would like to thank Ron Geering for a GREAT workshop. His technique is most inspiring and "fun". Ron brought in many of his works for a fantastic cross-section of his work.

Thanks Ron..



The Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held at Lois Hirshberg's home in Marstons Mills, THANKS LOIS for a great meeting and a pot luck dinner. We elected our executive board as follows:

President: Brian Brader
 Vice President: Ron Dean
 Treasurer: Emma-Marie Snedeker
 Secretary: Sharon Shaffer
 Newsletter: Mark Brouillette

Two new (unofficial) positions were filled:
 Co-op Elder: Eve Carey (Self Proclaimed)
 The Nudge: Gail Turner (bugs people to get stuff done...)

From Ron Geering

Ron had some requests for this list at his workshop and sent his "suggested reading" list and his article on "Slipware Potters in the North of England".

- My workshop Suggested Reading for R. Geering's Slipware Workshop
- Allan, J.P., Medieval and Post-medieval Finds from Exeter, 1971-1980, Exeter City Council and The University of Exeter
- Barber, Edwin Atlee, Tulip Ware of the Pennsylvania-German Potters, Dover Publications
- Bivins, John Jr., The Moravian Potters in North Carolina, The University of North Carolina Press

(Continued on page 4)

From Ron Geering *Continued...*

- Brears, Peter C.D., *The English Country Potter*, David and Charles
- Brears, Peter, *North Country Folk Art*, John Donald
- Clark, Garth, *The Potter's Art*, Phaidon
- Cooper, Ronald G., *English Slipware Dishes 1650-1850*, Alec Tiranti
- Eden, Victoria and Michael, *Slipware - Contemporary Approaches*, University of Pennsylvania Press
- Grigsby, Leslie B., *English Slip-Decorated Earthenware at Williamsburg*, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Guiland, Harold F., *Early American Folk Pottery*, Chilton
- Hurst, John G.; Neal, David S.; van B
- Ketchum, William C. Jr., *American Redware*, Henry Holt and Company
- McGarva, Andrew, *Country Pottery - Traditional Earthenware of Britain*, A&C Black
- Phillips, Anthony, *Slips and Slipware*, Batsford
- Starr, Irma, *Welcome to the World of English Slipware*, self published
- Supinen, Marja, A.B. *Iris, Suuri Yritys, Kunstannusosakeyhtiö Taide*
- Watkins, C. Malcolm, *North Devon Pottery and Its Export to America in the 17th Century*, United States National Museum Bulletin 225
- Wondrausch, Mary, *Mary Wondrausch on Slipware*, A&C Black

Slipware Potters in the North of England

Slipware Potters in the North of England by R. Geering

Recently Barbara and I made our second trip to the Lake District of England. We had been there for a few days three years ago but, as luck would have it, the weather was so wet and foggy that we couldn't see the mountains or enjoy the scenery. The landscape was full of drenched hikers peering at ordnance survey maps protected in special plastic cases hung around their necks. We were able to get a hint of the beauty of this area and decided it needed more exploration. After all, it is the land of Ruskin, Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter, and Arthur Ransome. I was determined that this second trip would be pure pleasure but the arrival of a new book, *Slipware - Contemporary Approaches*, tempted me into thinking perhaps a visit to one or two slipware potters, in the area, might be prudent.

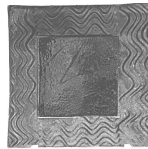


Two potter couples immediately came to the top of our list: Peter & Jill Dick and Victoria & Michael Eden (who are the authors of the new slipware book). Peter Dick seemed to be an interesting guy. He had worked with Cardew at Abuja and with Ray Finch at Winchcombe Pottery. I had seen some of his work in an older obscure book on slipware pottery and was

particularly attracted to the small birds and other animals that appeared on top of his pots. He runs a small workshop with his wife Jill (also from Winchcombe) in the village of Coxwold in North Yorkshire (a day trip from the Lakes). I could not find Coxwold on the 1 inch = 4.75 miles road map we had nor could I find Peter in any of the listings on the World Wide Web. I did find the Edens on the web, contacted them through email, and they graciously gave us directions to Peter's and an invitation to visit them. As it turned out Coxwold was on our map (but not in the index) and was the next village over from Robert Thompsons furniture shop (the mouseman of Kilburn); so the day trip got even better.

We still didn't have Peter's phone number so we arrived unannounced on a weekday morning. We were first greeted by Peter's apprentice, a younger man who works at the pottery part-time. At one time Peter and Jill had a number of employees but they had scaled their operation back to just themselves. The addition of an apprentice was fairly new. When I explained I was a slipware potter from the U.S. he introduced us to Peter and we immediately began to talk shop. We toured the workspaces (two wheels, a hand building area, and a wonderful courtyard for warm weather) and the kiln rooms. Peter

has a reputation for his wood fired slipware pieces. He fires these at a higher than normal temperature (2156¼ F) and gets some interesting ash effects and very deep yellows, browns, and blacks from this kiln. However, most of his production is from an electric kiln usually fired to Cone 03. He uses a lot of green and blue colored slips in over all patterns of floral and leaf designs with jumping frogs and fish. The copper green slip he uses bleeds slightly into the glaze giving a pleasant water color effect. We were invited to his house (just yards away on the site of an old railroad station) for a lunch of rather queer soup, cheese, good bread, jam, and tea. Unfortunately Jill was away at the university, for the day, studying social work (Barbara's field). After lunch we went back to the showroom to pick out a few pieces to bring back with us. Barbara was drawn to the wood fired pieces (of which there were only a few) and I found a great covered dish with the green slip and a charming chickenish bird on the lid. As we were paying up I noticed that he took credit cards, which slightly surprised me. He explained that he had started doing so recently so he could take credit card orders from America for pie birds. It seems that indirectly he got connected to the Pie Birds Collectors Association in the U.S. and, through the Web, they were becoming a significant part of his business. Peter was very generous with his time and I was surprised by how many useful little things I learned in our short visit.



The Edens were becoming difficult to connect with. Victoria had come down with a bad cold and we had to postpone one visit. This finally resolved itself into a dinner invitation at their house and pottery on our last evening in England. We entered their wonderful 16th Century farmhouse greeted by friendly faces and the aroma of freshly baked lasagna. We were informed that the house was haunted by a notorious 18th Century gentleman rake who had ended his days there, down on his luck. They have tastefully restored and modernized the property and converted the barn into a pottery workshop. The Edens have traveled the back roads of Europe visiting traditional and contemporary slipware potteries. Much of their collected material is contained in their excellent book. As might be expected, the walls and table were covered with slipware pottery. Their most current project is the creation of an exhibition of contemporary slipware pottery which will tour England, Europe, and, if sponsorship is found, the U.S. Their current production is comprised of very contemporary looking shapes covered with clear, brilliantly colored glazes. They also produce a line of wares with slip trailed dots, in traditional colors, and some excellent examples of combing in wet slip. Michael was much taken by some of the glaze effects he was getting from their wood fired kiln. (Victoria and I felt he was in grave danger of becoming a stoneware potter.) The showroom area of their studio is quite small. Although they live quite close to the Lake District (just south of Kendal) their pottery is out of the way so they sell most of their wares in galleries and gift shops across England, Europe, and the U.S. We came away with a lovely square plate with bold combing on the borders and a dark glaze effect in the middle that so fascinated Michael. This couple has already done much to revitalize the slipware tradition.

Last, I need to mention the work of Brian Trueman whose work we came across in numerous galleries throughout the Lake District. He has a workshop in Sedbergh, between the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales. He is able to capture the beauty of the English landscape with spare sgraffito linework through white slip. Often areas of his tiles and plates are left unglazed to highlight the color of the red clay he uses and to create textural contrast.



Our second try at the Lake District was an unqualified success. The weather was good, the hiking was excellent, the scones and meringues were huge and slathered in cream, the pubs were atmospheric and plentiful, and the tea was served in lashings. In the lovely village of Keswick, there was this pottery for sale for only about \$60,000...!...!

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