



by Rhonda McCanless

For over 200 years Seagrove, NC, potters have spent their days turning, sculpting, assembling, glazing, painting, carving, firing, experimenting, testing and perfecting their craft. They create beautiful imaginative pieces of art and sturdy functional wares. Most of their creations add beauty to the world and serve a functional purpose at the same time. Seagrove pottery has been a part of the American craft tradition for generations, so it only makes sense that Seagrove pottery shops would participate in American Craft Week, October 5-14, 2012.

The North Carolina Pottery Center is partnering with several shops for a special event on Oct. 13 in honor of American Craft Week. Turn in a machine made ceramic item (mug, bowl, flower pot, etc.) at the pottery center from 10am to 2pm and receive a coupon good for 25% off a replacement item in one of the participating shops.



Works by Michael Mahan of From the Ground Up Pottery

Those shops include, but are not limited to Crystal King Pottery, Eck McCanless Pottery, DirtWorks Pottery, From the Ground Up, Gingerbread House Pottery, Great White Oak Gallery, Keith Martindale Pottery, Pottery by Frank Neef, Potts Pottery, Rockhouse Pottery, Thomas Pottery and Westmoore Pottery. The pottery center will have a complete listing of participating shops on the day of the event.

Seagrove Potters of Historic Busbee Road are American Craft Week sponsors. Other shops are celebrating American Craft Week in different ways. Some will have special offerings, and all Seagrove area shops invite people to visit their shops and learn more about this American craft.



Work by Bobbie Thomas of Thomas Pottery

Thomas Pottery's fall kiln opening, "Festival of Leaves" is Oct. 6, 2012, from 10am to 5pm. Enjoy tours of the fall decorations in the shop, tours of the studio and refreshments. To celebrate the season, Thomas Pottery will adorn trays, platters and vases with leaf patterns. Visiting artists will bring handmade crafts and jewelry to the event. For more information, visit (www.thomaspottery.com).

The Randolph Ramble Open Studio Tour is Oct. 20 & 21, 2012. The tour, presented by the Randolph Arts Guild and sponsored by the Co-Op of Seagrove Potters, the Liberty Artisan and Craft Gallery

and participating artists, will spotlight a diverse selection of art by regional artists in Randolph County. Studios will be open for the self-guided driving tour from 10am to 5pm on Oct. 20, and 1 to 4pm on Oct. 21. Maps can be picked up at the Moring Arts Center in Asheboro, NC.

Seagrove participants include the Co-Op of Seagrove Potters, Great White Oak Gallery, Johnston & Gentithes Art Pottery, Michèle Hastings & Jeff Brown Pottery, Seagrove Stoneware and Snowhill Pottery & Tileworks. More information can be found at (www.randolphartsguild.com).



David Stuempfle at work

David Stuempfle Pottery will hold a Fall Kiln Sale Oct. 27, 2012, from 9am to 5pm. The sale will feature Stuempfle's latest wood-fired pieces. The shop is only open for special events and by appointment. For more information, visit (www.stuempflepottery.com).

Cady Clay Works 2012 Wood-fired Kiln Opening is Nov. 3, from 9am to 5pm. The opening will feature over 600 new pots from the shop's most recent wood firing, including carved porcelain vases, bean pots, lamps, flower pots, and dinnerware. There will also be some new pottery creatures in the firing, including owls, turtles and chickens. Kiln tours will be available. For more information, call 910/464-5661.

As mentioned in last month's column, the R.D. Mahan Turkey Roast and Kiln Opening at From the Ground Up is Oct. 6, from 9am to 6pm, and Oct. 7, 2012, from noon to 5pm. More information can be found at (www.fromthegrounduppots.com).

Whynot Pottery is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Oct. 13, from 9am to 5pm, and Oct. 14, 2012, from 11am to 4pm. For more information, call 336/873-9276 or e-mail to (contact@whynotpottery.com).

The STARworks Glass Pumpkin Patch and STARworks Ceramics Clay Pumpkin Workshop is Oct. 6. More information can be found at (www.starworksnc.org).

Rhonda McCanless is editor and publisher of *In the Grove*, a monthly newsletter about Seagrove, NC, that focuses on pottery news. Click the link to see the latest issue. Rhonda works full-time for Central Park NC in Star and can sometimes be found at her husband's pottery shop, Eck McCanless Pottery, located at 6077 Old US Highway 220 in Seagrove, NC. She can be reached at 336/879-6950 or e-mail to (professional_page@rtmc.net).



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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Oct. 24th for the November 2012 issue and Nov. 24 for the December 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com) or mail to:
Carolina Arts, P.O. Drawer 427, Bonneau, SC 29431