

# Studio Newsletter

July 17, 2008

Volume 3, Issue 7

## Special points of interest:

- Our next meeting is Thursday, August 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Studio
- Bring bisque ware to the August meeting for Don's Raku Party
- Bring finished pieces to the meeting for the Mini Show

## August Meeting Event

Raku Party — Don will demo how he fires his wonderful "horsehair raku." Bring some bisque ware to the meeting if you wish to participate in the party. Don says, "White clay works best for horsehair raku and the smoother the better, such as polishing terra sig."

## Cone 10 Kiln Firing

The weather was really hot over the Fourth of July weekend, but several members braved the heat to come out and help load the gas kiln. A special thanks to everyone who helped load. The kiln gods smiled on us this time; some very nice pieces came out of the firing. Kay Bernier provided the photograph.



## July Meeting Minutes

Both Don Hudnall and Holly Thompson were not able to attend the July meeting. Carole Standridge stepped in for Don, and Sharon Wetherby took the Minutes for Holly.

Carole called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the members present reviewed and accepted the minutes from the June meeting as published in the newsletter. Carole introduced Pam Luke, a new member. Pam is taking Holly's hand building class.

**Upcoming Events at the Studio.** Tony and Sharon will be loading the cone 10 gas kiln on Friday, July 4. They encourage members to come to the studio to help load. They will fire the kiln on Saturday, July 5, and invite members to come to the studio for that day as well as on Friday's loading.

The studio will have a *Raku Party* at the August meeting if there is no burn ban in place. Also, the August meeting is the time for the annual Mini Show. Each member can bring one finished piece to the meeting for judging. The

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## July Meeting Event



Barb Throne demonstrated her chattering techniques on several leather hard pieces. She made it look so easy! Barb also made chattering tools to give to everyone who came to the July meeting.

Here's a link to Brad Sondahl's web site with details about chattering techniques and instructions for making your own tool: (copy/paste the link) <http://sondahl.com/potthots.html#Tobikanna>

## Bridget Hauser's Decorating Stains

Bridget Hauser furnished the following recipes to Orbry Chamblee to share with the members of our studio. Bridget used these stains on the pots she made at our June workshop.

### Base:

Nepheline Syenite	1 part
Gerstly Borate	1 part
Tri-Calcium Phosphate	1 part
Ferro Frit 3110	1 part

### Rutile Wash:

Rutile	8 parts
Borax	1/2 part

### Cobalt Wash:

Cobalt Carbonate	5 parts
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For Color Additions:

### Iron Wash:

Red Iron Oxide	8 parts
Albany Slip (or substitute)	8 parts

- Barb Throne demos chattering
- Bridget Hauser's Decorating Stains
- Mini Show for PIP
- Hollister's cone 10 glazes donated to Janet Rodriguez for Empty Bowls

## July Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

members present will vote on the pieces to select first and second place winners. These pieces will be photographed and printed on the Pottery in the Park (PIP) postcards. If there are enough entered pieces, we may select a third place winner in addition to first and second. The studio has awarded \$50 to the first place winner in the past. After discussion, Barb Throne motioned that we increase the award from \$50 to \$75; Joe Chambers seconded the motion. Carole will contact Mike Sawatzky, our Commissioner, for approval.

**Glaze Committee Report.** Carole reported she has put better labels on some of the cone 6 glaze buckets, but she has not started testing the stains that Rachel gave the studio. She also hasn't been able to extrude the new test tiles that were discussed at the May meeting.

Barb Throne donated the miscellaneous buckets of cone 10 glazes (that Ron Hollister gave the studio) to Janet Rodriguez for use in this year's Empty Bowls event.

### Albany Slip Sub ~ Karmien Bowman

	Grams
Red Art Clay	73.14
Neph Syenite	5.01
EPK Kaolin	3.59
Dolomite	6.86
Whiting	6.06
Silica	5.34
Total (1 cup)	100.00

*(Continued on page 3)*

# July Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

Carole announced that Don Hudnall will be retiring in January 2009 and may be moving away from our area shortly after retirement. We potters will certainly miss Don and Tara.

**Publicity.** Barbara Baker reported that she will start adding PIP information to her articles for the LMRA Newspaper.

**Newsletter Status.** Sharon Wetherby will publish the Bridget Hauser stain recipes that Bridget sent to Orbry.

**Web Site.** Molly Hale asks that members send her pictures of their pottery to add to the gallery on our web site.

**Empty Bowls.** Bisque bowls for this event are stored on the shelf in the glaze room. Members are encouraged to glaze some when glazing their own pots. Please identify these bowls with "LMRA"; either stamp/scratch on the clay when forming or mark on bisque with oxide when glazing. Kay Bernier will work up a business card design that individual members can sign and tape to finished bowls.

**Workshops.** Paul Fehlburg's workshop is still scheduled for July 26.

Orbry reported that the studio made approximately \$1200 on the Four-Artists workshop in June. He also told us that the visiting artists suggested that we reposition our electric kilns so that the controller boxes are turned out instead of facing the neighboring kilns. The heat from the other kilns can shorten the life of the electronics in the controllers.

**Old Business.** Don and Jack Patrick weren't able to find oil drums for new raku kilns. Don may be able to locate some in Louisiana, and Darla Morris also has one. Orbry found one used drum that he delivered to the studio at the meeting. The members also discussed the use of soda/salt in the raku kilns which has contributed to the wear and tear on the kilns. The use of either soda or salt should be contained in a leak-proof saggar because the fumes created during firing will corrode the metal drums.

**Classes.** Rachel's wheel classes are postponed until enough students enroll and prepay class fees.

**Miscellaneous.** Carole needs input for a John Logan article for *John Logan's Legends of Clay Award*.

**Pot Draw.** Molly Hale won the two love bird pieces furnished by Marsha Law. These love birds were still warm from the fire.

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## Studio Calendar

- Aug—Raku Party, horsehair demo and Mini Show for PIP
- Sept—Stamp/mail postcards for PIP
- Oct—Studio cleanup & PIP
- Nov—Texturing on tiles
- Dec—Christmas party

- Send pictures of your pottery to Molly Hale for our Web Site
- **Save our Kilns** Contain use of soda and salt for firing at the studio

## Event Notices

**8/1, Annie Chrietzberg Workshop, Handbuilding Functional pots with Pizzazz!** Annie Chrietzberg will teach a one-day workshop from 10:00 am—5:00 pm. At the Creative Arts Center in Dallas. Fee \$95. For details contact Diana Pollak at the CAC, (214) 320-1275.

[www.creativeartscenter.org](http://www.creativeartscenter.org)

**8/9 & 8/16, Workshop: Raku Party with Earline Green,** Creative Arts Center, Dallas, TX. Workshop times are 10:00 am—4:00 pm both days. Students will create pieces by throwing (if they have prior experience) or handbuilding simple forms the first day. During the second, students will participate in the firing process.

**8/12—8/14, Workshop: Majolica Glazing/Painting on Clay with Lynn Armstrong,** Creative Arts Center, Dallas, TX. Workshop times are 10:00 am—noon. Learn methods to transfer your own designs onto the surfaces of your pottery and then paint them with ceramic stains to produce translucent watercolor effects.

**8/30—11/30, Exhibit: Warren MacKenzie: The Legacy of an American Potter.** Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main, Houston, TX, [www.crafthouston.org/](http://www.crafthouston.org/) This comprehensive retrospective presents seminal works produced by Warren MacKenzie over a fifty-year period (1948—2006). Representing various styles, forms and approaches to the art of clay, this exhibit will undoubtedly shed new light on the life

and work of one of America's foremost studio potters. MacKenzie's life and work reflects the changing role of the ceramic artist in society, from the early modern philosophy of producing works for industry to the emergence of the individual studio potter in the 1950's.

This exhibition traces the art of MacKenzie through works on loan from over thirty institutional and individual collections. The exhibition explores his development as a potter from his early studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to his unique experiences working with the world-renowned ceramic artists Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada. The exhibition will present over 350 works, an audio station, photographs, didactic materials, films, gallery guide and a fully illustrated catalogue with essays by Rob Silberman and Catherine Futter.

**10/25—10/26, Texas Clay Festival 2008.** This year is the 16th annual Texas Clay Festival held in historic Gruene, TX (four miles north of New Braunfels). The festival is held Rain or Shine on the grounds of Buck Pottery. This year's show will feature over fifty fine, Texas artists working in clay today. The artists will be demonstrating throughout both days, and admission is free. For more information, call the Buck Pottery in Gruene at (830) 629-7975 or visit the Texas Clay Festival's website: [www.texasclayfestival.com](http://www.texasclayfestival.com)

## Coming Events

- Workshops at the Creative Arts Center in Dallas
- Warren MacKenzie exhibition in Houston
- Texas Clay Festival in Gruene



Warren MacKenzie  
American Pioneer Studio Potter

## Empty Bowls

This has been an especially difficult economic year for many families in our community. Many of us are more fortunate than some who are unemployed and struggling to make ends meet. The bowls we make and donate to the Tarrant Area Food Bank will raise money to provide meals to those who are in need. It's not too soon to start making our bowls for the Food Bank's Empty Bowls 2009.





## Plaster and Plastic Storage Bins: Essentials for the Clay Studio

by Karen Dormaar and Carol Gleason

Today we bring you a couple of tips from Ceramic Arts Daily readers about two essential items for any clay studio: plaster and plastic storage bins. Plaster is used in the ceramic process for many things: for molds, as throwing bats and for reclaiming clay, to name a few. The two tips below address how plaster poured into plastic storage bins can make the reclaiming process easier and neater, and help you preserve pieces of pots or sculptures that didn't work out in one project for just the right future project. Thanks to Karen and Carol for submitting these tips! - Jennifer Harnetty, editor.



### Under-the-Bed or Around the Studio

Whenever I recycle clay slop on a plaster bat, it seems that I always have more clay than what the bat can hold. So I bought a plastic tub (the kind that fits under the bed) and poured plaster directly into the bottom half of the tub. Once the plaster has dried out, I can pour the clay slop on top anywhere from 1 to 3 inches thick on the bat without it going anywhere. An added bonus is that the tub comes with handles (some even have wheels), which makes it easier to move it around. Plus, the tub protects the slab from getting chipped. - Karen Dormaar, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

### Lana Wilson's Keeper Boxes

I attended a class given by Lana Wilson and have been using her method for using plastic pails for keeping your clay projects in workable condition until completion ever since. It has saved me many times including returning leather to workable when necessary. Take any good sealing plastic container like Rubbermaid and put plaster in the bottom approximately one inch in depth. Slowly stir in water till you get a sour cream consistency and the plaster and water are thoroughly mixed. At this point it would be a good idea to hit the sides or lift slightly and drop to release the bubbles. Put the top back on and let it set up. This container will always have some moisture in it and the moisture can be increased by putting in a cup or two of water onto the hardened plaster. Always keep the top on to retain the moisture. Pieces can be made and left in the box until needed then applied to your current work. Lana called it a "keeper box" and she couldn't have named it better. I now have a few of them in different sizes. I have made pieces that I find interesting, but are not usable with my current project. So I end up putting them in my keeper box and using them months later. - Carol Gleason, Howell, New Jersey.



Footnotes: Be very careful working with plaster around the studio.

**DO** work with plaster outside in the yard.

**DO NOT** wash plaster into the sinks/drains.

**DO NOT** get even the smallest piece of plaster into your clay.



**Potter's Studio**  
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<http://www.lmra.org/>

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

<http://lmrapotterystudio.com/>

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The fully-equipped Potter's Studio is open seven days a week during LMRA hours. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless notified otherwise. Classes are held on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Pottery Studio. Membership Fee: \$60 Individual; \$120 Guest.

**2007 Officers**

President ..... Don Hudnall, 817-676-4134 ([dhudnall@tx.rr.com](mailto:dhudnall@tx.rr.com))  
Vice President ... Carole Standridge, ([claylady1035@earthlink.net](mailto:claylady1035@earthlink.net))  
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**Committees**

Firing Committee: Various  
Glaze Committee: Carole Standridge  
Holiday Party: Mike Sawatzky  
Pottery-in-the-Park: Kay Bernier  
Workshops: Orbry Chamblee  
Empty Bowls: Barb Throne

**Newsletter**

Editor: Sharon Wetherby, 817-926-9828 ([sharon\\_wetherby@hotmail.com](mailto:sharon_wetherby@hotmail.com))

**Web Site**

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**Yahoo Groups**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LMRAPottery/>

To send an e-mail to the group: [LMRAPottery@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LMRAPottery@yahoogroups.com)

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