

Studio Newsletter

August 11, 2010

Volume 5, Issue 8

August Mini Show and Teapot Contest

There were so many great clay creations submitted for these contests that choosing first, second, and third place in both categories was difficult. Here are the results after all the votes were tallied:

◆ PIP Contest

1st Place—Barb Throne

2nd Place—Barbara Baker

3rd Place—Amy Leisure

◆ Teapot Contest

1st Place—Orbry Chamblee

2nd Place—Colleen Black-Dunigan

3rd Place—(Two-way Tie)

Barb Throne & Clifton Vance



PIP Winners



Teapot Winners

Special points of interest:

- Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Studio.
- Remember to clean up the studio before you leave.
- Wheel and hand-building classes schedule tentative depending on enrollment.
- PIP and Teapot winning pieces to be on display in the Studio's display case in the clubhouse.

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August Meeting Minutes ~ Thea Patterson

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Pottery Studio meeting 8/5/10

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Throne. Seventeen members attended. There were no guests. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for approval. Carole Standridge made a motion that the minutes for the last meeting be passed; Pam Boles seconded the motion; motion passed.

New business:

Glaze committee:

- Andrew Swartzfager brought two pieces that he glazed using a simple crackle glaze over cone 10 black. In one case, the piece was dipped halfway into the crackle and resulted in large white crackles after firing in the large gas kiln. The second piece was sprayed both with black and crackle and fired in the outdoor Brodnax kiln, resulting in a greenish bumpy finish. Barbara Throne noted that the Brodnax kiln heats up very fast and probably fires to cone 11. She speculated that this is what created the difference in appearance in the two pieces. Andrew said he will test the glaze over other colors. Marian Gooding noted that you can add colored stains to the crackle glaze as well.
- Andrew also brought a piece that he fired using a rutile glaze created by Colleen Black-Dunigan. This resulted in a beautiful brown finish that broke into iridescent purple on textured areas.
- Barbara Throne said we need to develop more cone 10 glazes, that what we have is pretty old and stale. Now that we are firing the cone 10 kilns regularly, we should “kick up” our choices of glaze.
- Kay mentioned that anyone using Aqua Ice over black should be aware that it runs badly if applied thickly over another color and crawls if used alone. Application should be even but not too thick.

Publicity: Carole and Kay are working on a story about the Pottery Activity that will appear on the front page of the September LMRA newspaper.

Workshops & classes: Holly’s hand-building class will begin whenever enough people sign up for the class; currently only one person has signed up. Kay will start a new wheel class August 16th to run six weeks with Labor Day off, also dependent upon sufficient enrollment.

Pottery in the Park:

- Eleven people have submitted applications for Pottery in the Park. These include 10 LMRA members plus Colleen’s husband.
- The price to participate is \$30 for LMRA members, \$40 for non-members, and \$15 for “newbies.” The “newbie” option is not on the application; it is only available to LMRA members, and anyone interested should contact Kay for more information. Be sure to write “PIP” in the notes section of your check. After October 1st, the cost to apply will be \$50 for members and non-members alike.
- Non-pottery exhibitors are welcome but must still be selling hand-made items. Anyone selling non-pottery items are asked to note this on their application.
- The Pottery Activity will be using pavilions 1 through 6 and 8 through 10. The Glass Activity will be in pavilion 7 again, and the Rock Hounds will be in pavilions 11 through 15. We will be sharing the cost of ads with these activities.



Studio Calendar:

- **Aug 30, Cone 10 Redux Firing**
- **Sept 2, monthly meeting**
- **Oct 7, monthly meeting**
- **Oct 2, Studio Clean-Up**
- **Oct 9—10, PIP**
- **Nov 4, monthly meeting**
- **Dec 2, Christmas Party (tentative date)**



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August Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

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- Applications are available on the studio website, www.lmrpotterystudio.com. Barbara Baker said she will put an application in the Texas Pottery and Sculpture Guild newsletter as well.
- Kay will submit photos from today's mini-show and teapot contest for the postcards.
- We need more cylinders for PIP. Kay suggested putting some sort of sprig or decoration on them; customers don't want to buy the same plain cylinder year after year. Be sure to mark "PIP" on the bottom, either incised or painted on with iron oxide.

Kilns:

- Barbara Throne asked if anyone thought we need new shelves for the large gas kiln. Bobby Darr said we have several warped shelves. Sharon said someone put kiln wash on both sides of the cone 10 shelves, which has resulted in a major problem with flying kiln trash on pieces being firing. (Please coat only one side!) Barbara suggested that we buy 5 to 7 new hollow-core shelves. Andrew made a motion to buy five shelves immediately. This was seconded by Thea and approved.

Miscellany:

- Andrew Swartzfager and Barbara Throne will be entering items in the Texas State Fair competition.
- Several members mentioned a technique they learned recently from Daphne Hatcher when she spoke at the TPSG meeting. Daphne makes "stilts" on which to fire fully glazed items by making balls of clay, rolling them in alumina hydrate, and gluing them to the item prior to glaze firing. The balls will not stick to the piece, and the glue keeps the balls in place while loading. Sharon said to be sure the balls are completely dry before loading the piece so they don't explode during firing.
- Carole mentioned that the pug mill needs to be cleaned. Barbara Baker said that TPSG member John Houston is planning to join LMRA and has said he has experience cleaning pug mills and will oversee the job.
- Orbry complained that unknown members are leaving the studio in a very dirty condition. He has come in to find dirty bats and glazing equipment in the sinks, wheels covered with clay, and wax on the glazing tables. Also, no one may store bags of clay on the floor of the studio. Members should put their clay in their lockers or take it home. Barbara asked that everyone do their part to keep things as clean as possible, and anyone seeing a member breaking the rules should speak up and instruct that member to clean up after themselves.
- There will be a major studio clean-up day the weekend before Pottery in the Park.
- The Texas Clay Art Festival will be October 23rd and 24th in Gruene, Texas. Several members have gone in years past and recommend it highly.
- Kay reported that she will be going on a mission trip with Amazon Outreach for 10 days, starting November 5th. She is soliciting donations of cash or goods, including summer clothing, sandals, toiletries, soap, hair products, nail polish, toys and candy. There are spaces available if anyone is interested in going; the cost is \$2000 plus air fare.

Special points of interest:

- Applications for Pottery in the Park available on Studio website.
- Need more cylinder-shaped pieces for PIP.
- Studio needs new shelves for the cone 10 reduction kiln
- Andrew Swartzfager & Barb Throne are entering ceramic pieces at the Texas State Fair
- Major studio clean up day scheduled the weekend before PIP
- Kay Bernier is taking donations for Amazon Outreach

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August Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

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There was no additional business, and the meeting was adjourned.

Orbry won the pot draw, two bowls by Ron Hollister. Sherri Davis won a door prize, a pony roller and sponge.

Orbry won first place in the Teapot Contest with his set which included teapot, cups and tray. Colleen Black-Dunigan won second place with a faceted, rutile-glazed teapot. Barbara Throne and Clifton Vance tied for third place with a dragon teapot (Barbara) and a graceful celadon pot (Clifton). Barbara Throne also won first place in the mini-show with a sculpture of a horned toad. Barbara Baker won second place with a dish, and Amy Leisure won third place with a lantern.

Following the mini-show, Orbry showed a video, "Potbank: The Last Bottle-Oven Firing," about china manufacture in England.

Magnesium Crawl Glazes ~ Marian Gooding

One of our members brought a pot to show us at the August meeting, Thursday, August 5th. It was a good example of the interesting textures that high magnesium glazes can provide. Variations on these types of glazes have been around many years and are known as crawl glazes, bead glazes, or reticulated glazes. Lichen, lizard, toad-skin, and other such glazes are related. Commercial manufacturers offer them under various names -- "foam" (Mayco) is one such designation. Slips are also used to affect a crawled textured. Crawl glazes and slips can be formulated for all cones and some examples follow. The basis of this textural effect has to do with the medium viscosity and high surface tension of the magnesia (magnesium oxide). Surface tension is the tendency of a material to adhere due to molecular attraction. During firing when some liquid melt is available the material will tend to form little tight spheres. Materials with a low surface tension, when in liquid form, will tend to spread out. For glazes magnesia is usually sourced from insoluble magnesium carbonate, dolomite, and talc.

One of the oldest and most popular magnesium crawl glaze recipes is from Robert Sperry and it seems to work well from cone 06 oxidation to cone 10 reduction:

Nepheline Syenite	65
Magnesium Carbonate	25
Ball Clay	10
For color add 7-10% stain	

Mark Burluson in his book "The Ceramic Glaze Handbook" offers this simple cone 10 reduction beading glaze that looks very similar to what Andy showed us at the meeting:

Nepheline syenite	55
Magnesium carbonate	45

The piece in his photo example was of this beading glaze over a black slip. He also uses this base bead glaze with 2% cobalt to create a nice blue bead.

Richard Burkett contributed the following white cone 6, oxidation or
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Special points of interest:

- Recycled/pugged clay available at the studio for PIP and Empty Bowls.
- Orbry won the pot draw
- Sherri Davis won a door prize
- Variations on Magnesium Crawl Glazes

Magnesium Crawl Glazes (cont'd)

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reduction crawl glaze to Clayart (1997) and it appears in Ceramics Monthly (October 2000):

Nepheline Syenite	70.00
Magnesium Carbonate	25.00
Ball Clay	5.00

John Britt has shared an opaque cone 6 lichen glaze that tends to bead with increasing temperature:

F-4 Feldspar	30.00
Magnesium Carbonate	31.00
EPK Kaolin	19.00
Talc	8.00
Pemco P-25	6.00
Zinc Oxide	6.00

Val Cushing has a cone 06 to 04 glaze called "Beads" that is applied over a slip or underglaze:

Magnesium Carbonate	33.3
Borax	26.7
Gerstley Borate	33.3
Flint	6.7

Lana Wilson's white version of a low temp crawl glaze (cone 06-04) works well from all reports:

Nepheline syenite	60
Magnesium carbonate	22
Kentucky ball clay (or OM-4 or other)	18

There's a photo of this glaze with the Clayart photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/clayart/1355647449/>

Meagan Chaney Studios, <http://www.meaganchaney.com/artist.php?page=artist&subpage=recipes> has good photos of crawl and lichen glazes and offers this cone 04 crawl recipe:

Gerstley Borate	46.5
Magnesium Carbonate	31.0
EPK	18.6
Borax	3.9
Zircopax	5.5

Another good glaze is this cone 04 oxidation bead glaze from Mark Burleson's book:

Frit 3195	55
EPK	20
Magnesium carbonate	25

Add for Bermuda green – 7% Mason stain 6242 or try 8% rutile

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Most potters seem to favor a thick application of glaze, in a layered, non-smooth application by usual glazing methods - dipping, pouring, brushing, slip trailing, spraying, etc. Spraying, unless multiple layers are used, seems to yield a more orange peel-like or finely pebbled surface than the more dramatic reticulated textures achieved by other glazing methods. The size of the little globs and spheroids will change with different methods of application and the amount of magnesium carbonate present. Colorants (stains or oxides) may be added to the base crawl or bead glaze or a light spray of a favorite colored glaze or oxide may be used over a crawl glaze to good effect. Your choice of underglaze or slip (with crawl glaze over) may be any color. Crawl glazes will all be opaque. In general, higher temperatures tend to yield glossier surfaces and more rounded globs of glaze. Glazed ware can be delicate and subject to cracking and flaking when handled – after glazing it is best to handle them as little as possible and to put them right into the kiln before a firing.

Julie Rozman two thirds of the way down in one blog entry at “Design – Realized” has a few photos of a line blend based on Sperry Mud Crackle that shows clearly the effects of changing magnesium carbonate proportions: <http://design-realized.com/adventures/page/7/>

While fun and rewarding there is a downside to crawl glazes – they’re not always good for food-safe functional ware; some can be temperamental, many, especially on vertical surfaces, are subject to sliding or crawling right off the base of a pot while firing; pop-offs and pings during firing can be common; poor adhesion post-firing may occur; not all crawl glaze and glaze combinations will work successfully together. If using a slip under, smooth slip seem to work best for folks. If using a glaze base with crawl over, a more fluid underglaze sometimes gives good results for some. Cobalt blues may turn a pink to purple in magnesium crawl glazes and copper may flash pink. Test, test, test and keep good notes of successes and failures with recipes and slip or glaze combinations. Magnesium carbonate has a very low toxicity but it can be very fluffy so be sure to wear a mask when mixing. Save a little energy in case an angle grinder is needed for a little shelf cleaning...

Crawl glazes can be made with other types of glazes; zinc oxide is probably the most common crawl ingredient after magnesium carbonate.

The surface tension of common ceramic materials, listed from highest to lowest:

MgO	ZrO ₂ /TiO ₂
Al ₂ O ₃	BaO
CaO/SrO	SiO ₂
ZnO	B ₂ O ₃
Li ₂ O	K ₂ O/Na ₂ O

Want to learn more from a master? Try Robin Hopper’s February 18, 2009 article “Lichens and Lizards and Leopards, Oh My! Reticulated Glaze Recipes For Wild Ceramic Surfaces” at Ceramic Arts Daily:

<http://ceramicartsdaily.staging.10floor.com/feature/featuredetail/2009-02/reticulatedglazes.aspx>

Happy glazing!

Marian Gooding
Neon-Cat Ceramics

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/neon-cat/>
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AND
FLIGHTS OF FANTASY
SCULPTURE**

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Carolyn Adkisson's Classes and Workshops. Carolyn teaches classes in clay, precious metal clay, and jewelry making at her studio. For a schedule of classes and workshops visit her web page: <http://www.earthtoart.com/>

Jazz by the Boulevard, Sept 10—11, on the lawn of the Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth. Eighth annual festival features jazz/blues and artworks.

James Watkins Workshop: *Alternative Kilns/Firing Techniques*, Sept 16—18, in Kerrville. Fee: \$215. This workshop will focus on fast firing techniques, surface decoration, and finding creative inspiration from the physical environment. For details: www.hcaf.com/vac/workshops/2010/workshop2010_watkins.htm

Cottonwood Art Festival: Oct 2—3; Hours both days 9:00—6:00. 230 Exhibitors in Richardson. For details visit web site: www.cottonwoodartfestival.com/

Pottery in the Park: Oct 9—10; Hours both days 10:00—5:00. Pottery and glass art available for sale. Wheel demos. Hands-on demos. Glaze your own piece and have it raku fired while you wait. Tour the studio and talk with the artists. Free admission/parking. Sponsored by the Potters Studio at

Lockheed Martin Recreation Area in Fort Worth. For details: <http://lmrapotterystudio.com/pages/pip.html>

Pam Summers Raku Firing Workshop. October 23, 2:00 pm—9:00 pm at the Cliff House Studio. Check her web site for details: www.cliffhousestudio.com/

Texas Clay Festival: Oct 23—24; Hours Saturday 10:00—6:00, Sunday 10:00—5:00 in Gruene, Texas. For schedules and information: www.texasclayfestival.com/home.html

Robin Hopper Workshop: Oct 29—31, in Lubbock. Friday evening will be a meet/greet type of evening with a full “Texas” style meal and probably a power point presentation. Saturday and Sunday workshop with Robin. \$250. For details contact Janis Hubble, President of Llano Estacado Clay Guild at Hubbmom1@aol.com or call (806) 789-7960.

Texas Pottery & Sculpture Guild Annual Holiday Sale. Nov 5 (5:00 pm—9:00pm) & Nov 6 (10:00 am—4:00 pm), at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy St. Meet the artists reception on Friday.

Coming Events:

- **Carolyn Adkisson Classes in Fort Worth**
- **Jazz by the Blvd, Fort Worth**
- **James Watkins Workshop in Kerrville**
- **Cottonwood Art Festival, Richardson**
- **Pottery in the Park, LMRA**
- **Pam Summers Raku Workshop, Fort Worth**
- **Texas Clay Festival in Gruene**
- **Robin Hopper Workshop**
- **TPSG Holiday Sale, Fort Worth**

