

# Local Clay Notes

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Local Clay Meetings for 2004 : May 12<sup>th</sup>, September 16<sup>th</sup>, and November 17<sup>th</sup>

## The following are the minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Local Clay Membership Meeting

[ Note that they are not in the order of presentation, rather in grouped by subject ]

**In Attendance :** Don Clarke, Frank Gosar, Kay Irish, Mary Briggs, Barbara Ward, Paula MacCullen, Merry Newcomer, Kathleen Piper, Rhoda Fleischman, Katie Swenson, Daniel Hanson, Coni Tarquini, Valerie Gomes-Pereira, Christie Schreiber, Karl Smiley, Sandune, Terry Kirby, Sookjae McCarty, Ann Hubbard, Anne Glancey, Brian Gorrin, and Ellen Davidson

There was a **Board Meeting** called just before the regular members' meeting to discuss the replacement of Robert Wolchock who had resigned as ClayFest Chairperson. Don Clarke had volunteered to take on the position, but the replacement is a Board decision (per By-Laws). The Board unanimously voted Don in as Chairperson for ClayFest 2004.

Kay Irish took over the meeting as Michael Fromme (President) had a last-minute emergency with one of her animals and could not make the meeting.

### Committee Reports

**Treasurer :** Barbara Ward gave a brief overview of our finances stating that we had net income year to date of \$1260 and our current balance was \$6140. There was a handout that I would be more than happy to provide to anyone that is interested.

**Workshops :** Frank Gosar noted that the two recent workshops (Susan Roden's "Paper Clay" and Richey Bellinger's "A Richness of Form and Surface") brought in \$315 and \$340 respectively. He said they were well attended and remarked that Richey's presentation was outstanding! Frank reminded everyone that there is still one more workshop in the Spring series (Altered Forms and Soft Facets by Hank Murrow) and that it is this weekend. There are still openings so anyone interested can contact Frank directly ([workshops@clayfest.org](mailto:workshops@clayfest.org)) or 541-607-2708.

**ClayFest :** Don Clarke (that's me) gave an update to this year's show which is to be held Saturday and Sunday (October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>) at the Lane County Fairgrounds. The basics of his remarks were :

- The applications for the general membership will be available April 14<sup>th</sup>. A notice will go out to all Local Clay members the week prior to the availability reminding them of the date and providing several options for obtaining an application (including download from our webpage). As with past years, those participating in the 2003 show will automatically receive an application in the mail (mailed on April 7<sup>th</sup>). Don stressed that the show is "first come – first serve" based on the application's postmark date ... so if you want a chance at getting into the show ... mail those application quickly. The application deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup> but the show usually fills up way before that ...
- As with past years, there is always the option for "Gallery Only" and this too requires submitting the same application form. However, the deadline for Gallery Only is September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Don presented the budget for this year's show (\$12, 934) for approval. Copies of the budget and "cash flow" for the show were available for review. After brief discussion, the membership voted unanimously to approve the funding of this year's show as presented.
- There are still openings for Trainee positions. Trainees work with the current Chair on this year's show to learn the ropes, then take over as Chairperson for the 2005 show. It was specifically noted that we are in desperate need of volunteers for the following Trainee openings : Registrar, Mailing/Distribution, and Publicity. All current openings are posted on our webpage at <http://www.clayfest.org/chairs.htm> and the at the upcoming (March 16<sup>th</sup>) ClayFest Steering Committee meeting the goal is to fill all the openings so that Trainees can get involved early in the process. After an impassioned plea, two new members indicated an interest in getting involved.
- Don indicated that the fire marshal had approved the use of cardboard boxes/containers as pedestals for the show providing all exposed surfaces are treated with fireproof paint. More information will be

available in the Application form. It was again noted that any ClayFest participant who's booth does not pass the fire marshal's inspection will be shut down .. the show will open!

- For new members it was noted that a lot of information about ClayFest and Local Clay (ie : Empty Bowls, Workshops, etc) is available on our webpage ... [www.clayfest.org](http://www.clayfest.org)

**Clay in Education :** Mary Briggs indicated that she had yet to really get involved in the program but that she was ready and excited to take over the position. She and Kay briefly talked about the program so that everyone had a clear understanding of the goals and parameters. Katie Swenson discussed a proposal that she was working on to do some in-school teaching at Fox Hollow Elementary School. Her proposal had money for preparation, classroom time, supplies and firings; however, it was noted that the program only pays for "in classroom" teaching time. Given the fact that Katie has requested \$12/hour and the program pays \$25/hour, it was suggested that she rework her numbers and see if she could still afford to do the two educational proposals.

There was some discussion about the flexibility of the requirements/limitations given the fact that each situations different. It was specifically noted that some schools have ceramic equipment which allows the teacher/artist to use the school's kiln, etc to complete the students' work. Those schools and organizations that do not have this kind of support require the teacher/artist to find other means of firing the work which may require (at a minimum) lots of transportation and sometimes paying to have the work fired. It was suggested that individuals applying for Clay In Education funds broach this with the specific schools to see if other schools in the district would be willing to provide use of some of their facilities.

There was no agreement or decision on changing the current program's guidelines or structure.

**Empty Bowls :** Mary Briggs introduced Terry Kirby from FFLC. Terry gave another update on this year's event which has grown into a week-long series of events. First Terry thanked everyone that participated in the Throw-a-Thon which produced over 400 bowls and Frank thanked Terry for coming to Club Mud and boxing up all the bowls as they were unloaded from the kiln. Then Terry overviewed the following :

- This year the Empty Bowls Sale will be June 4<sup>th</sup>
- There will be a dinner (\$100 per plate) and auction of high-end work during the week's events. Terry provided a flyer and application for those interested in this event (I am attempting to get an electronic copy and post it on our website). Basically, the concept is to have artists donate high-end work which will be grouped with other items (ie : wines, linens, trips, etc) and displayed at the dinner/auction. The donating artist will receive 60% of the asking price if the items sell (if not all items will be returned to the artist). The deadline for participation (not for dropping off the work) is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Terry Kirby can be reached at 541-343-2822 or [tkirby@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:tkirby@foodforlanecounty.org)
- Many other events are planned (ie : a Family day at Brush Fire, silent auctions around town, etc) and it appeared that the Empty Bowls concept has grown significantly under the new FFLC committee from the event we have run in the past.
- All deliveries of bowls donated for the sale can be made directly to FFLC (770 Bailey Hill Drive, Eugene) or to Georgies Ceramics (1471 Railroad Boulevard, Eugene). All donated bowls should be well packed and have an indication of the price (although individual bowl price stickers are not necessary as FFLC prices each bowl with a special sticker).

**Upcoming Workshop :** Rhoda (the new Workshop Chair) discussed an opportunity she is pursuing to get Ruthanne Tudball ([www.ruthannetudball.com](http://www.ruthannetudball.com)) to do a workshop for Local Clay here in Eugene. Ruthanne is famous for her Soda Glazed work. Apparently she may be coming to the states (from England) in October and Rhoda is working with other local groups (ie : LCC, etc) to share the expenses and get us a great workshop. Rhoda asked for input from the group and it basically (lacking a lot of specifics on the artist and/or dates) lead to a request for an "affordable" workshop that was up to three days long. People generally did not feel a hands-on workshop was that valuable, but were concerned about the price. Rhoda indicated that she was working hard to get the price to be in line with our previous workshop pricing. Some dates were discussed and it was generally felt that after ClayFest would be best. Rhoda suggested people mark their calendar for the weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup> "just in case" we can pull this off ...

After the meeting ended, Sandune (aka Carolyn Osborne Summer) gave an informative presentation on her work with low-fired clays and pit firing.