

Playing in The Mud

Pottery For Pleasure

March 2025

Vol. 7

What's New in Pottery 101

Nancy Cohen and Lynne Hesney instructed 10 prospective pottery members in the February Pottery 101 class. During the class, each student was provided with a mentor who guided them in their introduction to hand-building pottery and studio procedures. At the end of the class, the students gave their teachers and mentors a round of applause! **Please welcome these new members: Sue Kleinman, Bridget Shafer, Pascale Perrault, Rita Heuter, Renee Chandler, Frank Piracci, Mary Davis, and Kimberly Bannister.** Thanks to our mentors—Nancy Cohen, Mary Willingham, Florence Holmes, Richard Briggs, Larry Hall, Magda Braun, Donna Saylor, Kathy Bacon, Elaine Dunham, and Ron Archer.



For the Birds!



On February 5, ten women flew into the pottery studio to learn from Florence, Lynne and Kathy how to make a bird house. The participants were provided different templates and examples, from traditional houses to round ones. Everyone had prepared a slab prior to class, so work began quickly. The three leaders fluttered around the studio and offered helpful tips and instruction to all. Look for a few bird houses in the March window display.

Filling Empty Bowls

Empty Bowls Luncheon, on March 21, seeks to raise awareness of and end hunger in the Metrolina region. Each guest receives a handcrafted bowl filled with soup, which serves as a reminder that someone's bowl is always empty. Our club donated 33 bowls to support this cause.

Helping the Butterfly Gardens



In 2016, Butterfly Gardens were started at SCCL for the preservation of the endangered Monarch butterfly. Milkweed, perennials and native species of plants were added and identified with metal stakes. Unfortunately, these stakes didn't last. In 2018, Donna Saylor, a PFP member, learned of this need and started making the identifying plant markers out of pottery. These markers have held up very well and are now used in seven gardens in our community. When markers are broken or new plants are added, Donna receives a list of the

plant names from the Butterfly Garden Coordinator. On your next walk, check out the work of your fellow potter.

Fresh out of the Kiln

"I just love this stencil and couldn't wait to use it!" Elaine Dunham applied various colors of underglaze over the stencil in the greenware stage to create this beautiful plate. Once it was bisqued, she used a clear glaze to finish it. She hopes to put it in the Fall craft fair.



If you are interested in trying this technique, check out this [Stenciling on Pottery](#) video from Hobbles Creek Pottery.

All about Shards

In a community studio, shards are supplied to help prevent glaze drips onto the kiln shelf. Ideally, shard placement covers the whole bottom of the piece and extends 1/2" beyond the edge.



Mistakes are made when members choose shards that are bloated, not level, or have spots of glaze on them. These should be discarded. Always put wax resist on the lower 1/4" of your piece, which will help keep the glaze from running off your piece of pottery. Remember to keep glaze layering to the top 1/3 of your piece. BUT sometimes glaze does run off and your piece sticks to the shard. All is not lost! A gentle tap on the table often releases it. If that doesn't work, put the piece into your freezer for an hour, then try to pry it off with a screwdriver or putty knife. **More great shard tips from Wendy Carter can be found in the Glaze folder on the website.**

Dates to Remember

- **March 4 Tuesday, 1-3 pm. Creating Colorful Birds with Lynne Hesney.** Up to 8 participants. Email [Neysa Bennet](#) to sign up.
- **March 21 Friday, 11:30-1:00 p.m. Empty Bowls Luncheon, Charlotte Convention Center.** [Click here](#) for more info.
- **March 31 Monday, 1-3 p.m. Monday Spotlight at the Lakehouse.** PFP will be the featured club. Contact [Martha Abrams](#) if you would like to help.
- **April 5 Saturday, 10 a.m - 2 p.m. SCCL Lifestyle Craft Fair**
- **April 9, Wednesday, 11-12 p.m. General membership meeting in the studio.**