

## Discover the Seagrove Potteries

Seagrove is a Community of Working Potters & home to the North Carolina Pottery Center

**You're invited....**

to visit the Seagrove potters at their workshops & studios nestled in the countryside.

Experience a diversity of pottery from contemporary, one-of-a-kind art pottery, to traditional utilitarian forms, & folk art

**It's an Adventure....**

Pick up a free colored map at any of the pottery shops

Seagrove is located in the Center of North Carolina 40 miles south of Greensboro on Hwy. 220 (future I-73, I-74)

[www.discoverseagrove.com](http://www.discoverseagrove.com)

## American Craft Week in Seagrove

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jugs could be packed in a wagon or later a train car for distribution. Such economies of scale are evidenced through much of Seagrove pottery history. Incidentally, the straight sided form is one of the most technically difficult to master as the eye perceives no room for error while viewing it. Such craft has never stopped in Seagrove.

It was the discovery of a Jugtown pie plate by Raleigh, NC, socialite Julianna Busbee that is credited with saving the Seagrove pottery community in the early 1900s when prohibition had wiped out the whiskey jug trade and cheaply manufactured goods were overtaking the functional pottery market. The Busbees moved into a log cabin and nurtured the old designs decorating their rustic home with the craft of the day. Mrs. Busbee owned and operated a tea room in Greenwich Village, NY, and her husband Jaques shipped wares to be sold there and later to a store they opened on the Upper East Side. Along with pottery, they promoted and sold other American made craft - a tradition that Jugtown continues to this day. The Busbees are credited with reviving the industry with new ideas and technologies including Oriental forms and helped to perpetuate a sense of history and tradition with published articles.

Dorothy and Walter Auman opened a pottery museum in the original Seagrove train depot in 1968 to help preserve and promote the strong regional identity of Seagrove Pottery. They worked tirelessly to spread the word of the craft, working with NC politician Skipper Bowles to develop and distribute the first pottery trail map of the area - a tradition that continues to this day. Dot and Walter befriended local talent with an interest in the craft and newcomers to the area alike with hopes to continue the tradition.

Simultaneously, in 1968 Nancy Sweezy arrived at Jugtown to see it faltering. Ms. Sweezy was one of the co-founders of the not-for-profit organization Country Roads, Inc., dedicated to the research and marketing of folk crafts. Under her guidance, Country Roads purchased Jugtown and she revived the pottery operation, introducing new glazes to replace prohibited ones that had used lead and established a new apprentice program and marketing models.

There are countless stories pertaining to the craft of Seagrove and we can't list them all here but we'll entice you with a few.

The 14th shop opened in the '70s was Dover Pottery (closed in 2019) owned by Al McCanless and wife Milly and operated by their offspring. Al became one the premier crystalline artists in the community, later joined by Pam and Buster Kennedy of Uwharrie Crystalline, Frank Neef of Pottery by Frank and Bruce Gholson of Bulldog and others who dabble in the highly technical specialty glazing techniques, producing crystals each as unique as snowflakes. Al's son Eck McCanless worked at the family business for years before branching out on his own in 2011, and now specializes in a technique known as agateware, the intricate art of blending and carving different colored



Works by JLK Jewelry

clays to produce highly individualized pieces.

In addition to working with clay, many Seagrove potters are also proficient musicians. Is music a craft or an art? Aforementioned Al McCanless "Fiddlin' Al" is well known in bluegrass circles as a fine fiddler playing in numerous bands including The New Deal String Band, Red Clay Ramblers, Bluegrass Experience and Outliers. Al's son Eck plays all kinds of stringed instruments but is best known for his singing, songwriting and guitar playing abilities in his current band the Radio. Other Seagrove potters are musicians as well, including superb banjo picker Matthew Nance of Windsong Pottery, who plays bluegrass across the state. Nance is also a fine barber and operates a shop in addition to producing his excellent pottery forms. Is styling hair an art or craft...

We think the craft of gardening can be an art and numerous Seagrove potters dabble in both. Janice and Bruce Latham of Latham's Pottery operate a blueberry farm in season and sell their pottery berry draining bowls in numerous glazes to hold them. Anne Partna of Blue Hen Pottery is a beekeeper in addition to making pottery and has begun to harvest organic honey from her bees to complement her often bee themed mugs, honey jars, teapots and jewelry.

Is jewelry art or craft? Many Seagrove potters are making ceramic art to adorn folk's bodies, including Rhonda McCanless of McCanless Pottery, Breanna Cooper of Macon a Mess Pottery and Jennie Lorette Keatts of JLK Jewelry at Jugtown who combines precious metals and clay.

Some call cooking craft and some call it art, Seagrove potters call it all good when made in one of their handcrafted dishes whether it's a bundt pan from Hickory Hill Pottery, or a single cookie baker (with recipe included) from McNeill's Pottery. Numerous Seagrove potters bakeware and recipes are featured in the cookbook, *Kiln to Kitchen: Favorite Recipes from Beloved North Carolina Potters*, by Jean Anderson, including Ben Owen's wild persimmon pudding. Recently, The Red Truck Bakery Farmhouse Bakery released their

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## Starworks Glass Pumpkin Patch

October 1 - 24

Thousands of hand blown pumpkins!  
Huge selection of colors, shapes, styles and finishes!

9am - 5pm  
Closed Sun.  
Sat. by RSVP



SHOP ONLINE OCT. 3  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!



Starworks [www.StarworksNC.org](http://www.StarworksNC.org)

100 Russll Dr. Star, NC 27356 (910) 428-9001

new cookbook featuring delicious treats served on Jugtown Pottery wares.

Today, there are numerous Seagrove Potters who have work in museum collections throughout NC, the United States and even other countries. And numerous potters have traveled throughout the United States and internationally to study and also to teach. The potters of Seagrove continue to grow and evolve, attracting potters who join the community from other places including Estonia (Blue Hen), Korea (Seagrove Art Pottery) and Japan (Studio Touya). And while the traditional methods of learning pottery of apprenticeship, journeyman, production potter, familial connection and physical proximity continue to this day other potters arrive at Seagrove trained in well respected Colleges and Universities such as Montgomery Community College, East Carolina University, Alfred University and numerous residencies and workshops.

Circling back to the question, art or craft? All we know is that there is plenty of pottery produced in Seagrove that just gives you all the feels of fine handmade skills, and that's enough for us. Regardless of whether you think pottery is art or craft, we invite you to come see us and decide for yourselves.

The potters of Seagrove don't need a special week, special event or national recognition to invite you to a visit. To come and meet the artists and see where their work is made and experience the sense of place and the timeless quality. The genuine sense of the past that gives pride and purpose and guidance to the present.

Special Events During American Craft



Works by Blue Hen Pottery

Week:

- Potters Pumpkin Patch featuring special events at Blue Hen, Crystal King, Seagrove Stoneware, Thomas Pottery, and Triangle Studio, Saturdays in October
- RD Mahan Kiln Opening & Turkey Roast, from the Ground Up Pottery, Oct. 1-2, 2022
- Jugtown presents Tamed and Untamed: The Intrigue of Animals, Oct. 8, 2022
- JLK Jewelry joins Jugtown with her animal jewelry sale, Oct. 8, 2022

If you can't make a visit during October, SAVE THE DATE, for our biggest event of the year, the 15th Annual Celebration of Seagrove Potters, Indoor Show at the Historic Luck's Cannery in the Thompson Arts and Event Hall, and Self-Guided Driving Studio Tour, held Nov. 19 & 20, featuring exclusively handmade Seagrove pottery, - a new and exciting event and venue!

For further info visit (<https://discoverseagrove.com/>).

## Seagrove Potters Offer Pumpkin Patch Trail in Seagrove, NC, During Month of October

Seagrove Potters in Seagrove, NC, offers a free Pumpkin Patch Trail on Saturdays in October including: Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2022, from 10am-5pm each day.

Participating pottery shops include: Blue Hen Pottery, 247 W. Main St., Sea-

grove, NC  
Crystal King Pottery, 2475 Hwy. 705, Seagrove, NC  
Seagrove Stoneware Pottery, 129 E. Main St., Seagrove, NC

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