



## In The Grove

*In the Grove with Rhonda McCanless*

Pottery country is in full-swing again, not that it ever really rests. Even in the slow months of January and February, Seagrove potters are still making pots every day even if they're not holding kiln openings. March, however, is filled with many special events and activities.

The 19th Annual Kovack Pottery Spring Event takes place March 10 through March 18, 2012. Craig and Michelle Kovack spend months creating special numbered, limited-edition pieces that come with signed certificates of authenticity. These pieces, as well as their certificates of authenticity, will only be available during the event.

This year, the event will feature festival favorites, new items and door prizes. Visit Kovack's website ([www.kovackpottery.com](http://www.kovackpottery.com)) to print a 10% off coupon for the event. The coupon can also be printed from Kovack Pottery's Facebook page. The shop specializes in decorative functional wares, wheel-thrown by Craig and hand-painted by Michelle.



Work by Bruce Gholson



Work by Samantha Henneke

"Daffie Days" are here again at Bulldog Pottery. "Daffie Days," Bulldog's spring kiln opening, will be held March 30 through April 1, 2012. Potters Bruce Gholson and Samantha Henneke created the annual event to welcome the beginning of spring and celebrate the flowers that come with it. An array of Gholson and Henneke's studio art pottery, including a variety of elegant vases will be available during the event. The potters will be on hand to discuss their most recent work and offer tasty treats to those who visit.

Bulldog Pottery specializes in flowing glazes, including their molybdenum crystalline glazes that feature diamond-shaped iridescent crystals. To find out more about Gholson and Henneke, visit their blog, "Around and About with Bulldog Pottery" ([www.bulldogpottery.blogspot.com](http://www.bulldogpottery.blogspot.com)).

History buffs may be pleased to know Westmoore Pottery will host the New Amstel Militia reenactment group for a 17th century reenactment on March 31, 2012. The group will be dressed in full period

garb and will portray individuals from the Dutch colonies at New Amsterdam and New Amstel in the 17th century. They will use historically accurate replicas of 17th century pottery made by Westmoore potters David and Mary Farrell, who are well-known for their historical pottery.



Photo from the New Amstel Militia

The Farrells will be available during the event to discuss and answer questions about the past uses of available wares, methods of production and other topics of interest. More information can be found on their website ([www.westmoorepottery.com](http://www.westmoorepottery.com)).

The North Carolina Pottery Center (NCPC) has announced two special event days that coincide with the "What's Upstairs?" exhibit that began last month. On March 10, 2012, the NCPC will release a new catalog of Alamance County historical stoneware. The text is by potter and curator Mark Hewitt.

Two catalogs will be released on April 14, 2012. One highlights pieces from the NCPC's permanent collection, with text by exhibit curator, Steve Compton. The other catalog is a rare grouping of 19th and 20th century grave markers, with text by Dr. Charles Zug.

Both events are open to the public and will be held from noon to 2pm. The catalogs will be for sale. Curators will sign catalogs and answer questions. Visitors are encouraged to bring in old North Carolina pottery pieces to learn more about them from the experts. More information can be found on the NCPC website ([www.ncpotterycenter.org](http://www.ncpotterycenter.org)).

Several Seagrove potters will participate in the 15th Annual Catawba Valley Pottery and Antiques Festival on March 24, 2012, at the Hickory Metro Convention Center in Hickory, NC. This juried event will feature more than 115 vendors. Seagrove's Daniel Johnston will be the special guest speaker this year. The lecture will begin at 11am. More information can be found on the festival's website ([www.catawbavalleypotteryfestival.org](http://www.catawbavalleypotteryfestival.org)).

Last but not least, congratulations are in order for Seagrove potters, Ben Owen III and David Stuempfle. Owen received honorable mention in the Arts & Culture category of *Southern Living's* "Heroes of the New South," featured in the March 2012 issue of the magazine. Stuempfle is featured in the March issue of *Martha Stewart Living*. A behind the scenes photo blog about the story can be found on the Martha Stewart website (<http://thecraftsd-ep.marthastewart.com>).

Rhonda McCanless is editor and publisher of *In the Grove*, a monthly newsletter about Seagrove, NC, that focuses on pottery news. Click the link to see the latest issue. Rhonda can often be found at her husband's pottery shop, Eck McCanless Pottery ([www.eckmccanless.webs.com](http://www.eckmccanless.webs.com)), located at 6077 Old US Highway 220 in Seagrove, NC. She can be reached at 336/879-6950 or by e-mail at ([professional\\_page@rtmc.net](mailto:professional_page@rtmc.net)).

## 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)

Discover one of Seagrove's newest pottery shops...

## Eck McCanless Pottery



Eck is a second-generation Seagrove potter who has spent nearly 20 years perfecting his craft. He specializes in Agateware, Crystalline and Stoneware.

6077 Old US Hwy 220  
Seagrove, NC 27341  
(336) 873-7412

[www.EckMcCanless.webs.com](http://www.EckMcCanless.webs.com)

## Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Offers Works by E. Faye Collins & Lucy Spencer

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting a two-person exhibit of handmade paper collages by E. Faye Collins and oil paintings by Lucy Spencer, on view through Mar. 31, 2012. A reception will be held on Mar. 11, from 2-4pm.



Lucy Spencer, *Conversation*, oil on canvas, 8" x 10"

Collins' collages reflect her interest in the details of plant, especially the leaves, related shapes, and colors. Spencer's paintings include birds in trees and fanciful landscapes, ranging in size from very small to very large.

Collins says that collage is a medium that allows the composition to be reformed and refined to the maker's satisfaction before the pasting down. She is an avid gardener and patron of trees, an admirer of tomatoes and nature, and a novice birder.

Collins is a native of the Guilford

College area in Greensboro, NC, where she resides today. She has a BFA and a MFA in painting and printmaking from the University of NC in Greensboro. She has studied at Kent State Blossom Festival, Penland and Arrowmont craft schools

Spencer earned her BFA from the University of Georgia, and her MFA from the University of NC at Greensboro. She taught art for 30 years in Guilford, Alamance, and Forsyth Counties, and operated the Ark Gallery in her home in Greensboro for 3 years.



E. Faye Collins, *Circle Ritual*, collage and handmade paper, 26" x 16"

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 336/723-5890 or visit ([www.Artworks-Gallery.org](http://www.Artworks-Gallery.org)).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Mar. 24th for the April 2012 issue and Apr. 24 for the May 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.