

*In the Grove with Rhonda McCanless*

Wheels are spinning and kilns are firing every day in Seagrove as potters busily prepare for the 4th Annual Celebration of Spring and the 4th Annual North Carolina Pottery Festival.

The Celebration is presented by the Seagrove Area Potters Association on April 21 and 22, 2012, and will have 36 Seagrove area pottery shops participating. Those shops will welcome visitors for studio tours, kiln openings, demonstrations, door prizes, refreshments and more. Some shops will have special guest artists. A couple of shops are offering the chance for visitors to get their hands dirty with hands-on activities.



Vernon and Pam Owens at Jugtown Pottery

All of the participating potteries will have new wares available fresh from the kiln. Many will focus on spring items, including planters, birdhouses and garden pieces. For a complete list of participating shops, visit the Celebration of Seagrove Potters website ([www.celebrationofseagrovepotters.com](http://www.celebrationofseagrovepotters.com)). Click the link for "Seagrove Potters Kiln Openings – April 21 and 22."

The Celebration of Seagrove Potters Facebook page is updated daily with photos of work and information about what each shop will offer that weekend. April's *In the Grove* will also cover how individual shops intend to celebrate spring.

The NC Pottery Festival was formerly known as the Seagrove Pottery Festival and held at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, NC, in the past. It gets a name change this year and will relocate to Seagrove Elementary School, 528 Old Plank Road in Seagrove.

## Captain James and Emma Holt White House in Graham, NC, Features Works by Dave Urena and Annual Youth Art

The Alamance County Arts Council in cooperation with Asolare Fine Arts Academy will host an exhibition of works by Dave Urena, through Apr. 21, 2012, on view in the SunTrust Gallery of the Captain James and Emma Holt White House in Graham, NC. Also on view through Apr. 21, 2012, in the Sister Galleries will be the 54th Visual Arts Competition for Young People.

Dave Urena is a language teacher, designer/art director and photographer living in Winston Salem, NC. His approach to photcollage is to assemble photos taken from multiple points of view creating a novel perspective and sense of space that goes beyond simple wide angle perspective.

Urena was bitten by the travel bug early in life. His father's engineering work – and parents' interest in exploring – landed the family along the center cities of the Appalachian/Allegheny area from Tennessee to Pennsylvania; over the Atlantic to Portugal; briefly through the San Francisco Bay area; across the Pacific to the tropical Philippines; and to the inland highlands of southeastern Brazil. Urena returned to the United States- after

The event will be held April 14 and 15, 2012, from 9am - 6pm, both days. Admission is \$5. Over 60 artisans, including potters and other craftspeople will have booths. Demonstrations will be held each day, and food vendors will be on site. The event is hosted by the Museum of NC Traditional Pottery. For more information, call 336/873-7887 or send e-mail to ([ncpottery122@embarqmail.com](mailto:ncpottery122@embarqmail.com)).



The North Carolina Pottery Center will have a pottery identification day on April 14, 2012, from noon - 2pm. The NCPC will also have a one-day student clay camp for middle school students on April 7, 2012. The camp is sponsored by the Grassroots Grant, Randolph Arts Guild and the NCPC. This is a free camp and will be held in the Education Building. Interested parties should call 336/873-8430 for more information.

Finally, congratulations go out to Seagrove's Phil Pollet (Old Gap Pottery). Pollet's raku tea bowls have been selected for the International Chawan Spring Expo in Nara, Japan, April 10-15, 2012. This is an invitational event with only 28 other potters from around the world selected to participate. Chawan is a Japanese term that refers to special tea bowls used in a Zen Buddhist tea ceremony. 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)).

graduating from the *Escola Americana de Belo Horizonte* (Brazil) – to study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA, Education) and at the School of Design at North Carolina State University in Raleigh ( MA, Visual Design).

While following a satisfying career as a graphic designer and art director, Urena turned his attention to using his life-long travel experiences as subject matter to develop his interest in documentary and artistic photography. He is a member of SEED Gallery in the Winston Salem Arts District and a fellow of the Asolare Fine Arts Foundation, Lexington, NC.

The *Visual Arts Competition for Young People* was one of the first Arts Council sponsored programs to be initiated upon the founding of the Arts Council 56 years ago. It has continued annually since its inception and this year we celebrate 54 years of honoring Alamance County's student artists.

The exhibition/competition is a juried show for Alamance County students enrolled in grades 7 through 12. The competition consists of two divisions judged separately: Division I, Middle

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## Celebration of Seagrove Potters

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Work by Carol Gentithes

Each shop is celebrating Spring in its own way. Hours may differ from shop to shop.

Participating potteries include: Southern Spirits Pottery @ A. Teague Village, Avery Pottery & Tileworks, Ben Owen Pottery, Blue Hen Pottery, BlueStone Pottery, Bulldog Pottery, Caldwell-Hohl Artworks, Chris Luther Pottery, Crystal King Pottery, Dean and Martin Pottery, Dirt Works Pottery, Donna Craven Pot-

tery, Eck McCanless Pottery, Fireshadow Pottery, From the Ground Up Pottery, Great White Oak Gallery, Hickory Hill, JLK Jewelry at Jugtown, Johnston & Gentithes Art Pottery, Jugtown Pottery, Kings Pottery, Lathams Pottery, Luck's Ware, Lufkin Pottery, McNeill's Pottery, Michele Hastings & Jeff Brown Pottery, Nichols Pottery, O'Quinn Pottery, Pottery by Frank Neef, Ray Pottery, Seagrove Stoneware, Smith Pottery, Studio Touya, Thomas Pottery, Tom Gray Pottery, and Whynot Pottery.



Work by Frank Neef

For further info visit the Seagrove Area Potters Association at ([www.discoverseagrove.com](http://www.discoverseagrove.com)) or visit ([www.celebrationofseagrovepotters.com](http://www.celebrationofseagrovepotters.com)).


## Captain James and Emma Holt White House

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School, grades 7 and 8 and Division II, High School, grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Entries are selected and submitted by the visual art instructors from each participating school.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Arts Council at 336/226-4495 or visit ([www.artsalamance.com](http://www.artsalamance.com)).

Don't see your information here? Did you send it? The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Apr. 24th for the May 2012 issue and May 24 for the June 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.



**Carolina Clay Resource Directory is our attempt at *Carolina Arts* newspaper to create a focal point for info about the clay community in both North and South Carolina. We may not be everything some want, but we'll try and bring our readers the most news about what's going on, where you can find it, and info about the individuals and organizations involved in the Carolina community. Whether you call it clay, pottery, ceramics - if you don't see what should be here - just let us know about it so we can add it to the mix.**

For the Carolina Clay Resource Directory go to:  
[www.carolinaarts.com/ccrd/carolinaclay.html](http://www.carolinaarts.com/ccrd/carolinaclay.html)

For the Carolina Clay Resource Directory Blog go to:  
<http://carolinaclayresourcedirectory.wordpress.com/>

*Join us for the Celebration of Spring, April 21 & 22!*

# Eck McCanless Pottery



Eck is offering visitors the chance to get their hands dirty with hands-on wheel and Agateware carving demonstrations during the Celebration of Spring.

**April 21, 10-5  
April 22, 10-4**

6077 Old US Hwy 220  
Seagrove, NC 27341

(336) 873-7412

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