

TAKING SHAPE

THE POTTERS AND SCULPTORS NEWSLETTER

Laguna Woods Village, Laguna Woods, CA Second Quarter 2016

Debb Denbow, President



I'm so proud to know that the classes are going well in the studio. The instructors are introducing new projects and decorating techniques to keep students' interest peaked and motivated. I know that I am enjoying the challenges of creating new designs for my pieces.

Our next P & S potluck will be on Tuesday, April 5. We will plan to eat at 5:30, so please make sure you have your dish there a little before that. I'm excited to taste all of the shared recipes. Hope to see all of you then!

Lynda Borges, First Vice-President



We had a fun and successful Spring Exhibit -- thanks to all who participated. Vivian Basing did a great job planning the table configuration.

She also re-hemmed the table covers, picked rosemary from her garden, and made homemade mayonnaise for the sandwiches. Thanks, Vivian!!

This year, we made an effort to coordinate with the Art Studio's Spring Exhibit and that helped to boost attendance. Next year we should try to get all of Clubhouse 4 studios involved for a BIG bash!! Thanks to everyone who participated! Your displays were professional and amazing!!

Studio Hours

Open Studio During Scheduled Saddleback Classes:

Tuesday	12:00 pm—8:00 pm
Friday	8:30 am—4:00 pm
Saturday	8:30 am—4:00 pm
Sunday	8:30 am—4:00 pm

Sandy Davis, Head Supervisor's Message

We are having space issues in the Damp Room. We have very little space for large pieces, so don't put your work there if it can fit somewhere else. The supervisors will move your piece if it is not placed on the proper shelf to make room for larger pieces. If you need help finding a space, ask the Supervisor on duty to help you.

Don't put small pieces on large boards, or store work for more than one day on a bat because they take up too much space. If you are having trouble finding your work, try to use a brightly-colored ribbon or plastic cover so that you can easily identify your piece. Also, put your name in several places on the plastic cover in large easy-to-read letters. Thanks for your cooperation.



2016 Board of Directors

Debb Denbow, President; **Lynda Borges**, 1st Vice President/publicity; **Vivian Basing**, 2nd Vice President; **Susan Gaile-Bain**, Recording Secretary; **Rosemary Schalek**, Corresponding Secretary; **Marilyn De Leo Pollock**, Treasurer; **Heather Hayes**, Assistant Treasurer; **John Doyle**, Past President; Directors serving 2 years: **Jackie Thompson & James Abbott**; Directors serving 1 year: **Karen Napack & Sandy Davis**; **Bob Brodie**, Equipment and Purchasing; **Sandy Davis**, Head Supervisor/Membership; **Mary Doyle**, Librarian; **Rosemary Schalek and Mary Doyle**, Newsletter; **John Doyle**, Photographer.



2016 Board of Directors

Not Pictured are Jackie Thompson and James Abbott

MEET MOST OF THE REST OF THE 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Heather Hayes, Assistant Treasurer

I joined Potters & Sculptors over 10 years ago. My first degree was a BFA in Sculpture. Next I got a teaching credential and had to put my sculpture on hold. I'm so glad I moved to Laguna Woods, mainly because of the Ceramics Studio. I finally got to work on sculpture, my lifelong dream.

I became active in the club. I was First Vice-President and, at that time, in that office you handled all the parties and demos. Barbara Grosshans worked with me most of the time. We were a team. Now I am working as assistant to the treasurer. I count the money every week and make deposits into the bank. For 4 years I was the corresponding secretary.

John Doyle, Past President

I was born in Pittsburgh in 1942. I graduated from high school and spent 4 years in the US Air Force. Afterward, I went to art school and became a graphic designer. I worked in Los Angeles, eventually becoming Art Director and Creative Director. After a career spanning 36 years, from 1968 to 2004, Mary and I retired. We moved to Laguna Woods Village after visiting my sister and brother-in-law who lived here.

I joined the P & S Club and volunteered to become a supervisor. Then I became Head Supervisor, then First Vice President, and finally, served 3 years as President.

Every day at the studio is a good day for me.

Jackie Thompson, Two Year Director

After beginning clay at the YWCA studio in downtown Honolulu sometime in the late eighties, I found workshops to be a great way to make progress. I came to appreciate working in porcelain, making functional work, and being part of a co-op gallery.

I retired from my career in 2003, moved to the Mainland and continue to enjoy all aspects of ceramics.

Bob Brodie, Equipment and Purchasing

My first ceramic experience was as a senior in high school. After graduating, I followed the routine path of college, work, marriage, family, career and business opportunities. During the 80s I discovered adult ceramic classes in local high schools, and took advantage of them. Somewhere in the late 1990s I discovered that Saddleback College offered evening and Saturday classes that fit my schedule, then learned of the Emeritus program and was able to squeeze in a weekday class.

After becoming comfortable throwing on the wheel, I concentrated on mastering the technical aspects of "throwing." I had a few successes and many failures during that time. After a period of time my throwing skills were about as good as they were going to be, so I began concentrating on decorating with texture, oxides, stains and glazes. Again, there were successes and many failures.

It seems that glazing is a life-long learning experience, so I'm still trying to master that. I now concentrate on throwing, texturing, and decorating that seem to result in a larger percent of successes and fewer failures.

Mary Doyle, Librarian

John and I retired from our jobs in LA County in 2004 and headed to Laguna Woods, where John's sister and her husband lived. It was very attractive to us, and within no time, we were all settled in with family right up the street. Right away, I rented a couple of garden plots and kept busy with them, as well as a couple of part-time jobs.

For years, growing roses was my passion. It was fun! Eventually I joined the P&S Club and was instantly hooked on clay. I became known as the "Rose Lady" around the Studio, where I brought buckets of flowers to brighten everyone's day.

Eventually I had to say bye, bye to the garden and all those weeds! I love the classes in the Studio and the wide variety of interesting people I meet each day that I am there.

Upcoming Events:

April 5	P&S Potluck Dinner
May 13	Demonstration by Titia Estes
May 23	Saddleback College—Winter 2016 semester ends
May 31	Saddleback College—Summer 2016 semester begins
July 23	Mid-Summer Party
July 25	Saddleback College—Summer 2015 semester ends

GLAZE ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY BY Lola Lambly

Yikes! I walked into the studio one day and it looked like a small explosion had occurred in the glaze area. Not a good look for such a wonderful facility. A messy environment is not only an affront visually, but it causes accidents to precious work.

Glaze Etiquette

Just a few things will make everything work a lot better:

Put a piece of newspaper on the counter before starting the waxing and glazing process, it is so easy then just to pick up the newspaper when you are done and, viola! A clean counter top.

Be extra careful with the glaze buckets, make sure you put the right lid back on the appropriate glaze (the dried glaze on the underside of the lid will drop into the glaze bucket—don't want tomato in celadon!)

Make sure the stirring paddle is rinsed well after stirring, before hanging it back up

Be extra careful not to contaminate the glazes (i.e. don't double dip brushes into the glaze bucket, or drip a different glaze into the wrong bucket)

Underglaze Etiquette

Please be careful when using the various Coyote underglazes. Use a separate brush for each color jar - do not contaminate one color with another by using the same brush.

Oxides and Stains

Be sure to keep the various oxides and stains separate and uncontaminated - don't use the same brush.

Our work will benefit from this care; those of us that have been around a while can be a good example to the newer people and show them how to protect all of our work.

Attention Members:

Lately quite a few things have gone missing from our Studio. It's quite possible any of these items could have accidentally been packed away with your stuff in your haste to clean up and go home. If you find any canvasses, rolling pins, bats, turntables, pieces of foam, or anything else that you don't recognize, please return them; no questions will be asked. The instructors are asking the same of the students. And, if you have any foam, newspapers, or plastic you might wish to donate, this would be very appreciated.

Thanks for your understanding, folks.

Library News from Mary Doyle

Our Library is chock full of information and inspiration. We also have videos for your enjoyment. Please see me or any Supervisor for access to the shelves.

Books may be borrowed for two weeks and the DNR books are for Studio Use Only.

Sundy Hufft's family recently donated some of her lovely books on Southwest Pottery. Do plan to check them out and get some good ideas!

Happy Pottery-ing!



In the News

2016 Membership Directories are coming soon!

Private Garden Venue Show

The 4th annual private Laguna Beach Art Show is being planned for July 23-24, 2016.

The show highlights many of the local artists from south O.C., including our own Bob Brodie and others from our very prestigious Laguna Woods Village ceramics studio. The show also highlights garden art, paintings and jewelry from other counties in California. Details will follow as they develop.

In Memoriam

Longtime P&S Club Member, Rhoda Weissman, recently passed away. We will miss her in the studio!

CONTEST!



Let's have fun and maybe win a bag of clay or some tools! After reading this newsletter issue, can you answer this question? *"What are the two most popular clays in the Studio?"*

Please email Rosemary at rschalek@sbcglobal.net with your answer—the first ten members with the correct answer by **April 10th** will be added to a drawing for a free bag of clay or for \$7.00 worth of tools!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike Scortino, who was our First Quarter Winner!

Each member is eligible to win once per year!

Tips, Tricks & Techniques—BY Rosemary Schalek

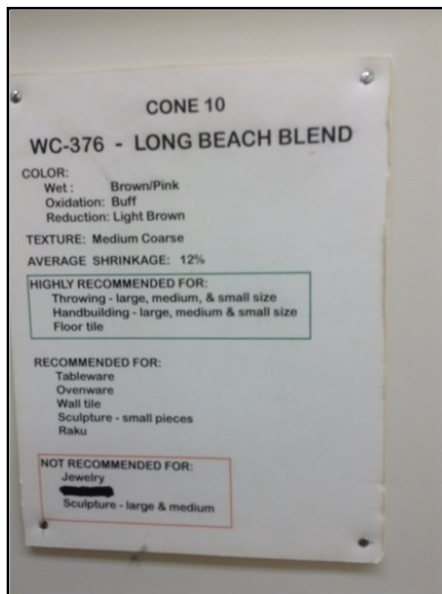
All About Our Clays in the Studio

Here in the Ceramics Studio, we are fortunate to have a wide variety of clays to choose from. There are labels describing each clay's properties on the cabinet door where the clay is stored.

At this time, we have 7 different clays available for our P&S Members to use:

Amador
B-Mix
Dave's
Porcelain
Long Beach
Stony White
Dark Brown
WSO

Be sure to check the label before you buy the clay to make sure it is suitable for what you intend to make.



Another consideration is how the clay body will look after it has been fired twice. You can see how the clay will look if you go into the glazing area. On the wall are sample tiles of some of the clays (*see next photo*) after being fired.

Amador
B-Mix
White Stoneware
Long Beach
409 CA (no longer available)
Amador
Brown

By checking the clay labels, as well as the glaze sample tiles, you can be sure to buy the clay that is right for your project.

Long Beach and **Stony White** are the most popular clays in the Studio, primarily because they are the most forgiving on the wheel, and also easy to work with in hand building.

Long Beach has always been the most used clay, but **Stony White** has become more popular due to brighter glaze colors.

B-Mix is next most popular. Due to very fine sand, it feels like porcelain. **Amador**, **WSO**, **Porcelain**, and **Dark Brown** are next in popularity, in that order.

Amador and **Dark Brown** have heavy (large) grog, giving a rough textured finish after the 2nd firing. It's also rough on the hands when doing wheel work.

Long Beach is less grainy (smaller particles) but still rough texture and rough on hands.

Stony White has smaller sand particles, so it's less grainy and has a smoother finish.

B-Mix has fine sand particles but smooth finish.

WSO is grainy like Long Beach. It is specifically formulated for less shrinkage and shock resistant for **RAKU** firing.

Porcelain is smooth with no particles, but is difficult to work with. It dries fast and cracks easily due to less clay in recipe. Most natural clays have some mineral color, so they are darker than desired for white porcelain. So these clays are added sparingly in porcelain recipes, making it less elastic (workability) and more difficult to work with.



In the Window BY *Debb Denbow***April—Asian Art Pieces**

The focus is **Asian art pieces**. Club members will share pieces of beauty and function that depict the Asian culture. Please stop by and check out the display window.

May—Sandy Davis

Sandy Davis will share her work in the May display window. She first discovered the studio while on tour of the Village. Sculpture classes taught by Jay Sampson hooked her in the fall of 2009. The rest is history.

Sandy moved to Southern California in 1976 with Alex, her husband, and children, Lon and Amanda. The children live locally.

She moved to Laguna Woods Village in 2009 by herself. As a realtor's assistant for many years, being familiar with the MLS system really helped her find a home.

Sandy began her journey here originally from Philadelphia. She got her BFA and MFA at Temple University's Tyler School of Art, majoring in weaving and jewelry. She taught art at the middle school level for seven years.

Sandy's current interests, besides sculpting, are jazz music, dance, and the beach.

June—Tea Pots and Tea Service

Teapots and tea service will be highlighted in the June window. A wide variety of styles, sizes and functions will be displayed by our members.

Don't forget to sign up on the marker board by the classroom after the first of May to participate in this fun window.

Special thank you to each of the January, February and March Window participants!!

Photographs from Recent Events!

Jay's Demo on Blending Clays:



Spring Exhibition:



Taking Shape Editorial Staff
Mary Doyle and Rosemary Schalek, Co-Editors
Lynda Borges, Debb Denbow, Bev Elwell, Lola Lambly, John Doyle, Photographer