

# Community News

## SHOWS

Many Penland artists were invited to participate in a show at the Blue Spiral Gallery celebrating the importance of Asheville in the American craft movement. *A Hundred Mile Radius* featured work by dozens of craft artists from this region along with student work from Arrowmont, John C. Campbell Folk School, Haywood Community College, and Penland.

**Mary Ann Scherr** has been busy with shows at the Jaffe Baker Gallery in Boca Raton, FL and the Mobilia Gallery in Cambridge, MA. She shared the spotlight with her daughter **Sidney Jo Scherr** in a two-person show at the Cannon Gallery of NC State University.

The Ebeltoft Glasmuseum loaned twenty-one pieces from its permanent collection to the Danish Museum of Decorative Arts for a show celebrating American art and craft. Included was work by **Stephen Dee Edwards, Richard Jolley, Robert Levin, Marvin Lipofsky, John Littleton and Kate Vogel, Harvey Littleton, Joel Philip Myers, and Mark Peiser.**

The Danish show also included a basket by **Billie Ruth Sudduth.** Her *Fibonacci #5* will be on exhibit at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery for six months as part of a rotating show of work from the permanent collection. Billie Ruth was one of five exhibitors in the 1997 Smithsonian Craft Show to win a special merit award.

In her spare time, Billie Ruth has been exploring new dimensions in craft marketing: she was invited to sell her Carolina Snowflake ornaments on the QVC home shopping channel. She got help filling the large order from **Tamara Kerlin**, a student in the Mayland/Penland Entrepreneurial Craft Program.

## THE PENLAND TRAVEL SECTION

**Suzanne Lipson** just returned from six months in Venezuela where she taught blacksmithing to over eighty people in six different classes. She taught in Caracas at the

Venezuelan Association of Fine Arts, in Merida for the Association of Jewelers, and also at the University of the Andes. Suzanne did all her teaching in Spanish but she's managed to switch back to English now that she's home.

**Billy Bernstein** was invited to the Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy in December where he taught a two-week workshop for the Academy's fledgling glass program. Bezalel is interested in hearing from other American glass artists who would be willing to do some teaching there. Billy had a great time and suggests that interested glassblowers contact Daniel Verberne, Haarava 7, PO Box 3693, Mevaseret, Zion, 90805, Israel.

**Ben Simmons** reports from Japan that former Core student **Peter Lane** just won First Prize in the Tokyo/New York Sister Cities Annual Ceramics Competition. The prize was a trip to Japan with an exhibition and a two-week workshop at the clay studio of Ebinuma Saika outside Tokyo. Peter has been living in New York since leaving Penland and now works at Greenwich House Pottery.

## STAFF UPDATES

**Mary Katherine Williams** left the position of services coordinator at the end of Spring Concentration. She will be replaced by **Robert Chiarito** who will also continue as the night-time security person. Robert will be assisted by **Sara Runkel** who was a work/study student and weekend cook during the spring. **Chris Martell** has finished two years as the staff counselor and facilitator. Her position will be taken by **Lynn Wilkinson.** **Maria Lopez-Ibanez** has left the garden staff, but she is still living nearby. **Stacy Lane** is our new metals coordinator replacing **Lilith**

**Special thanks** to fifteen textiles artists who worked on our looms one weekend in April. Each person cleaned and adjusted one or two looms and then wove a small warp to take home with them. It was a great time for discussing work, comparing notes, showing samples, and catching up.

## THE PENLAND EXPERIENCE

*The mission statement of the Penland School refers to "personal transformation through the practice of craft," and we often talk to people whose experience here reflects that ideal. We would like to invite students who have been particularly influenced by their time at Penland to share their stories with the readers of the Penland Line. Our first story comes from Kelsey Woodard.*

Quite simply, my experience at Penland changed my life.

When I was seven, my artist mother died. My father, a banker, raised me to be a well-educated, suburban wife and mother—not unusual for the '50s. Being dutiful, I did that (for a while). But the part of me that loved and played with color, design, and texture—the part of me I tried to discount—would often burble up to the surface for a quick "Yoo-hoo! I'm here. Pay attention!"

A year ago, Joan Morris, a friend and Penland instructor, urged me to go to Penland. In a leap of faith I registered for three courses, each of which related to designing paper and creating something with it. I so loved my time at Penland and the work I did that I returned for the fall Concentration in books and boxes.

Halfway through my first Penland course I started to pay attention. I had been filled with amazing energy—to bed at midnight, up at dawn, all possible time in the studio. One particular morning I was gathering scraps of metal from behind the forge to cut for my culminating project, a huge "quilt" of handmade, indigo-dyed paper with metal embedded in it. I was cutting large pieces somewhat mindlessly when I sensed an overwhelming presence and emotion within me. Angels and I go back a long way but I knew at that moment that I had connected my essence with my mother's.

Thinking I needed a few more bits of metal, I returned to the scrap pile. Among the random sizes and shapes lay a shiny rectangle with a neatly cut-out keyhole. For the next few minutes, I lay on the grass with the keyhole. Looking through it, I could see limitless possibilities and the sun rising over Penland's wonders.

Oh, by the way, my paying attention resulted in my leaving a full-time job—a giant step for me, but one I haven't regretted for a nanosecond. —Kelsey Woodard

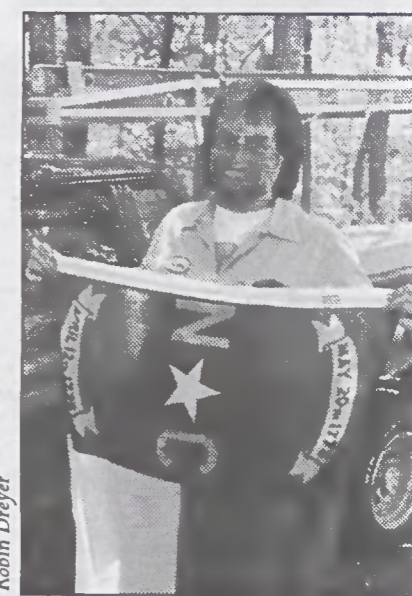
**Eberle.** Congratulations to Lilith who has now has baby boy and an MFA. **Kenny Pieper** replaced **Robert Gardner** as glass studio coordinator. **Holly Jones** is a new face in the office and the school store. **Holly Walker**, who was the director of the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, is working at the Gallery and will be coordinating Outreach programs. Holly's husband, **Geof Finkels**, joined the maintenance staff in May. **Eric Nutter** is leaving maintenance to work for his father. And **Larry Cate**, Penland's electrician for some years, has decided to strike out on his own as an electrical contractor.

As more or less his last official act at Penland, Larry decided that it was time we started flying a North Carolina flag. He couldn't find one, so he called everybody who had one to see where they got theirs. He called the Sheriff, the Highway Patrol, the post office and the court house; nobody knew where to get a state flag. Finally he found one at Burses Plumbing in Spruce Pine. It shouldn't have been a surprise; they have everything else.

Welcome to new Core students **Caverly Morgan, Daniel Price, and Troy Hines.** Caverly works primarily in clay, Daniel in printmaking and books, and Troy in metals but they be will trying out most of the studios while they are here.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Board of Trustees is forming a committee to initiate a search for a new director. The committee will meet soon to establish a timetable and a list of qualifications. Anyone interested in receiving this information should contact the Search Committee through the Penland office.



Robin Dreyer

Larry Cate



Smoking camels are passé, but these very cool llamas seemed right at home in the Penland catalog. They were made last summer by instructor Nico Yektai and his assistant Joël Urrity. Dan Dubovsky took this picture while the llamas were relaxing in front of the Pines. When we were putting the catalog together we couldn't remember who had sent it to us and so it ran with no credit. We want to thank Dan for providing us with a nice touch of whimsy; look for the llamas on a postcard at the Penland store this summer.