



AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL/ SOUTHEAST

Our thanks to all of you in the community who helped make the ACC/SE Conference at Penland such a success. There were 166 registered which included 19 instructors and panelists, making it one of the largest of these annual conferences. The opportunity to visit studios in the area was considered an important part of the Conference during the planning stage and it certainly proved to be the case.

Saturday evening we had a 60th birthday celebration for Penland. **Hunter Kariher** and **Bill Brown** shared the honors in making the first cut in the delicious birthday cake which **Nita Forde** baked for the occasion. **Vina Schemer**, Director of the ACC/SE Assembly, officiated as the official cake cutter assisted by her board members. The party continued with a dance called by **Dudley Culp** and attended by lots of friends and neighbors along with the conferees.

There were a variety of events and all were well attended. Workshops were available in clay, computers, fibers, glass, iron, metals and wood. **Paulus Berensohn**, **Walter Nottingham** and **Gerry Williams** shared their thoughts on what craftspeople might have to say about caring for our endangered planet; **Joan Byrd** gave a preview of her forthcoming book on *Penland Glass*, **Meade Andrews** offered movement classes before breakfast and at 5:00 each day and there were plenary sessions in the tent each evening.

About fifty participants availed themselves of the opportunity for individual critiques and several dozen brought work for the *Shared Critique* with **Cynthia Bringle**. **Ray Pierotti** from the Hambidge Center set up the *Instructor's Show*.

Since the conference, we have received many letters of appreciation for the weekend and many ended with some variation on the theme, "I can't wait to get back to Penland."

We'd like to share the good news of community folk but we have to hear about it first! Please send anything you want passed along in the Penland Line to Jon Ellenbogen, Penland School, Penland, NC 28765. Thanks.

AUCTION REPORT

The guests, patrons and artists who participated in the activities of the Fourth Annual Benefit Auction weekend almost escaped the rain that kept Penland staff, students and instructors with wet feet for most of the summer.

Friday morning began with a shower, but moved into a glorious afternoon and evening for the open studios and patron party.

Alana Barkley managed the open studios where **Ken Sedberry** (clay), **Rob Levin** (glass), **Sydney Scherr** (metal), **Philip Baldwin** (iron), **Randy Shull** (wood) and **Tim Veness** (fiber) demonstrated their crafts. **Persis Grayson** was to join Tim, but we got her so busy making labels for auction pieces and name tags that we forgot to send her up to the studio!

The patron party was an enormous success. Each patron received a colorful goblet blown by **Judson Guerard**. The fellowship crew and Nita presented attractive and yummy hors d'oeuvres. Contributing artists, local community and Penland friends enjoyed a warm reunion.

Saturday morning began with promise, but the weak sunshine eventually was choked out by those all too familiar gray clouds. Two hundred and sixty-five guests sat down to the delicious and plentiful luncheon prepared by head cooks **Marsha Owen**, **Kathryn Gremley** and their volunteer staff.

As the last table was served dessert, auctioneer **Fred Kessler** took over by announcing the winners of the 34 works in the Silent Auction. Fred managed to raise \$49,177 in just under two hours despite the rumbling thunder which progressed to an impressive storm before the bidding was completed.

During a break in the bidding, **Susan Larson** presented to the *Stanford's* a piece by **George Kokis** which has been commissioned by the Board of Trustees in appreciation of the *Stanford's*' contribution to Penland. Joy accepted the work with **Jonah** standing in for **Verne** who had already gone on to his new position in Hawaii.

As usual we learned a few things that didn't work--like serving the first course instead of sticking to the buffet style throughout, and not closing the Silent Auction in a clear and proper manner. These "bugs" along with the entire auction experience will be evaluated by the board and staff as we plan for next year.

Three major factors continue to make the auction a rewarding experience, both monetarily and spiritually: the generosity of the artists who donate their work; the Board volunteer, **Jane Kessler** this year, who organizes the artist donors; and the overwhelming core of volunteers who help put everything together. It was hard work, it was fun and we made money. **THANK YOU!**

AUCTION PATRONS

Dudley & Lisa Anderson
Sandy Berlin & Leslie Kooyman
Dick Blomberg & Dorothy Riley
Philip Blumenthal
Larry Brady
Colin & Elaine Cigler
Skip Dunn & Mignon Durham Dunn
Peek & Susie Garlington
Persis Grayson
Marie Ham

Garnet Hughes & Donna Moran
Bobby Kadis
Dr. & Mrs. Leeves McCarty
Melissa Peden & Wynne Clark
Clarence & Annmarie Pittman
Harry & Tut Riddick
Luther & Renita Stroup
Joan Thalheimer
Michel Tournadre & Sean Holden
Paul Welder

