

MEET KEN IN HIS OWN WORDS


Through making books I have found an expression of materials, form, and content that has continually challenged me. Books, as opposed to other craft objects, differ because they have words in them. Fitting form—page and book—to text is fuel for my engine.

Another sort of fuel for me has been creative collaboration. My partnership with Steve Miller at Red Ozier Press began as a friendship and continues today as we plot new projects for the future. Our work with the authors we published was conducted in the spirit of collaboration too, as were the projects with visual artists, papermakers, type foundries, and bookbinders. It's not always easy, and can be downright difficult, but the rewards of working together to make something of lasting value are immense. I remain committed to it as a working process.

An important part of my working life has been teaching. My teacher at Conway, Walt Chudnofsky, told us "always teach and take classes." It was good advice, as I have found teaching to be the best way to remember to *keep it simple*.

During the course of the search process I have learned that Penland is a *community*, and, like any community, to remain vibrant it must be accessible to a wide variety of people. I will explore avenues to make the program available to deserving students who lack the resources to come. And I am working with planning committees to improve the studio facilities, as these are the heart and soul of the school.

I haven't followed a path that you could point to as a logical progression to this position at Penland. I never would have imagined this even a year ago. The thorough and sincere way in which the search process was conducted forced me to answer profound questions about my personal and professional goals. It also revealed to me the level of commitment to the school that exists among the larger Penland community. I have a great deal to learn, but feel secure in being able to call upon any number of the many people who have offered their support. And I'm not afraid to ask.

— Ken Botnick 

PENLAND IN THE HEADLINES


Penland has been much in the news lately with lavishly illustrated feature articles appearing in a number of national and regional publications, including the *Craft Report*, *NC Home*, *Back Home*, *Country Times* and *Mid-Atlantic Country*. Greensboro writer Susan Ladd spent an enjoyable two days at Penland this spring which translated into an impressive article on the school and the area for a special travel section published by the *Greensboro News & Record*. Charlotte-based Associated Press Reporter Paul Nowell wrote a feature on Penland that went out over the AP wire and was picked up throughout the country.

The Penland Iron Program figures prominently in a glowing article for the May issue of *Smithsonian*, written by Tom Alexander, a student in Phil Baldwin's '91 Toolmaking class. You might see some familiar faces in the photographs illustrating that article.

Michael and Ruth Joslin, residents of Buladean, NC, devoted a chapter to the school in their new book, "More Mountain People, Mountain Ways."

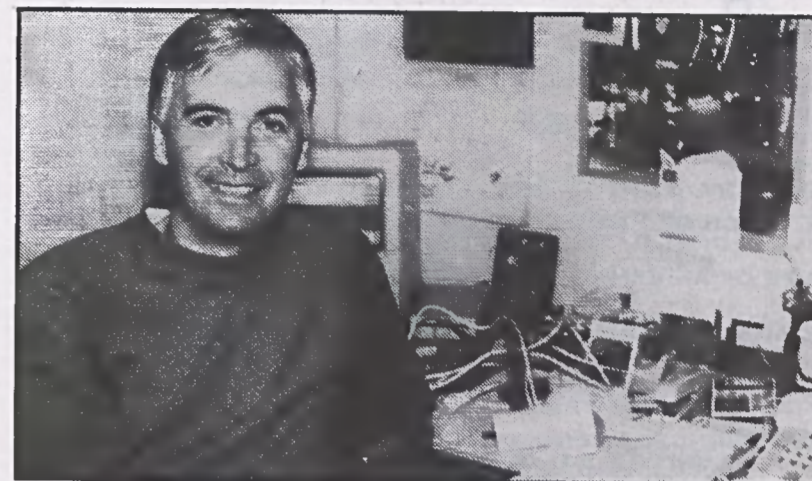
Feature articles on the Asheville Art Museum's traveling exhibit Penland Overlook have appeared in the Asheville

Citizen-Times, *Fayetteville Times*, *Virginian-Pilot* and the *Ledger-Star*. The next stop on the tour for that exhibit is Dallas, NC at the Gaston County Museum of Art & History, July 2 through August 29.

"In Celebration of Craft: A North Carolina Heritage" opened at the Hickory Museum of Art in March and is now at the First Union Bank in Charlotte until June 17. It will be at the Theatre Art Galleries in High Point from June 24 through August 8. This "Year of American Craft" exhibition, features Penland, Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild, John C. Campbell Folk School, Sawtooth Center for Visual Art, Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc. and Haywood Community College's Production Crafts Program. The NC Arts Council provided the funds for the exhibition, while the NC Humanities Council assisted with the production of a brochure. 

Penland School is supported by a Major Organization Grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency.

Neighborhood News



AT YOUR SERVICE

KENT MCLAUGHLIN IS A FAMILIAR FACE AT PENLAND. HE FIRST CAME IN 1986, RETURNED FOR THREE WEEKS AND THE AUCTION IN 1988, ATTENDED CONCENTRATION IN 1991, AND IN 1992 HE RETURNED FOR THREE SUMMER SESSIONS, THE AUCTION AND THE FALL CONCENTRATION. WE GOT SO USED TO SEEING HIM AROUND THAT IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT HE IS NOW THE SERVICES COORDINATOR, REPLACING **TIM VENESS**, WHO WILL BE RETURNING TO HIS HOME IN PETALUMA, CA IN SEPTEMBER. (MEANWHILE, TIM WILL STILL BE AT PENLAND WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEVERAL SPECIFIC PROJECTS.)

FIRST INTRODUCED TO CLAY AT BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN FLORIDA, KENT WAS APPRENTICED TO A POTTER FOR THREE YEARS. WHEN HE TOOK ON THE APPRENTICESHIP, RECALLS KENT, HE THOUGHT HE KNEW ALL THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT CLAY. INSTEAD HE WAS TOTALLY OVERWHELMED WITH HOW MUCH THERE IS TO LEARN. HE OPENED HIS OWN STUDIO IN 1985, BUT HAS CONTINUED LEARNING EVER SINCE. "FROM THE MOMENT I STEPPED ON THE PENLAND CAMPUS," SAID KENT, "I KNEW THIS WAS WHERE I WANTED TO BE."

AS SERVICES COORDINATOR, KENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CORE STUDENT PROGRAM AND ALL THE SERVICES WHICH PENLAND PROVIDES TO STUDENTS: KITCHEN, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, RECREATION, SLIDE SHOWS, EVENTS, ETC. IN THE TRADITION OF OTHERS IN THE POSITION BEFORE HIM, HE HAS A WISH LIST: FIRST, HE WOULD LIKE A SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE COFFEE HOUSE. HE WOULD WELCOME ANY OLD OR NEW SYSTEM OR COMPONENTS THAT COULD BE PUT TOGETHER TO PROVIDE A MUSICAL BACKGROUND TO GOOD COFFEE AND TASTY MORSELS. SECOND, HE WOULD LIKE A MICROWAVE OVEN FOR THE KITCHEN TO SAVE SOME TIME IN THAWING AND RE-HEATING SAUCES. IF YOU CAN MAKE KENT'S WISHES COME TRUE, PLEASE CALL HIM AT 704-765-7942.