

A Celebration of Clay & Glass

While every class held all year at Penland can well be considered a celebration of craft, the *Glass Gathering* and *Clay Overview* classes were specifically planned to bring together numerous craft artists as part of Penland's observance of the Year of American Craft.

Mark Peiser, Richard Ritter, and Paul Stankard were listed as instructors for seventh session glass, but they might well have been called collaborators instead. The class, whose members were selected based on their level of experience, became something of a *happening* as the three glass artists shared ideas and experimented together. *Glass Gathering* was a good name for the class because all the glassblowers and lampworkers within easy distance kept dropping by, and an evening picnic mid-week was a veritable glass reunion.

The *Clay Overview* was a time for maximum exposure to clay artists and their technical and aesthetic approaches. Students included collectors, gallery owners, and clay enthusiasts as well as potters interested in the demonstrations by **Paulus Berensohn, Wayne Ferguson, Mark Hewitt, Vernon Owens, Ken Sedberry, Tom Suomalainen, and Patty Warashina**. There were also slides and discussions with **Jane Kessler** and visits to the studios of **Stan Andersen, Cynthia Bringle, Jane Peiser, Douglass Rankin & Will Ruggles, Norm Schulman, and Julie & Tyrone Larson**. The students even had time for hands-on work and a wood firing.



Tom Suomalainen, Patty Warashina

East Carolina Honors N.C. Craft Heritage

The Year of American Craft is ending on a high note for Penland. The touring show "In Celebration of Craft: A North Carolina Heritage" served as the linchpin for a larger celebration of craft at Eastern Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville. The show, which features Penland, Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild, John C. Campbell Folk School, Sawtooth Center for Visual Art, Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc., and the Production Crafts Program of Haywood Community College has been touring the state throughout the year and is now at ECU's Wellington B. Gray Gallery.

Under the enthusiastic guidance of **Linda Darty**, who is on the faculty of the ECU School of Art, a second concurrent show, The North Carolina Crafts Invitational Exhibit, has brought together the work of eighty North Carolina artists from all parts of the state, many of whom have strong ties to Penland. This exhibit is the tangible evidence of the impact the six craft institutions, along with the North Carolina University art departments, have had on the development and nurturing of craft artists in the state. Both exhibits continue through December 23.

On November 18 and 19, the ECU School of Art and Penland presented "Tradition & Transformation: A Dialogue on North Carolina Craft." Preceding the opening reception for the exhibit, Linda gave a slide lecture on "Penland School and North Carolina Crafts," which highlighted the school's history and, in particular, the contributions of Lucy Morgan, Penland's founder.

Events on Friday included slide presentations by and conversations with **Ken Botnick** (book arts), **John Clark** (wood), **Rob Levin** (glass), **Nick Joerling** (clay), **Ann Matlock** (fibers), and **Sydney Scherr** (metals); a mini-workshop with Paulus Berensohn; panel discussions; and a session on "Keeping the Balance: Making Your Living and Making Your Art." The day ended with a barbecue dinner for the School of Art faculty, visiting artists, and guests.

Penland Trustee **Mignon Dunn** worked with Linda on the development of the ECU/Penland Dialogue, which was supported by Wachovia Bank of North Carolina and individuals and galleries throughout the state.



Richard Ritter, Mark Peiser, Paul Stankard

Neighborhood News

Rick Smith was recently awarded Third Prize Best of Show in the Philadelphia Craft Show. He will be teaching blacksmithing at the winter session of the Rhode Island School of Design. Currently, he is participating in an invitational show at the National Ornamental Metals Museum.

In celebration of the Year of American Craft, the **Hodges Taylor Gallery** mounted an exhibit of work by all of Penland's Residents from September 7 through October 10. **Deby Groover** just finished teaching the fall Concentration. She had work in the *New Art Forms Exhibition* in Chicago and the 29th Ceramic National at the Everson Museum in Syracuse.

Wish List

Louanne DeBella, who has been working on the Penland Library all fall, is looking for new book donations. If you have books to donate, any questions, or would like a book list, call her at 765-1792.

Congratulations to **Pearl Grindstaff** who just completed her 58th year working Penland's kitchen producing pecan pies and that wonderful bread!

The touring retrospective show of work by Penland Residents over the past thirty years, which was mounted by the Asheville Art Museum last year, has been at St. John's Museum of Art in Wilmington this fall. As part of a series of ancillary events planned to highlight Penland and North Carolina crafts: **Ken Botnick** gave a slide lecture in the gallery on October 14; Penland Trustee **Jane Kessler** led a walk-through tour in September; and **Edwina Bringle** gave a lecture on her work in November. Edwina also offered a workshop for teachers.

Although the **Penland Overlook** show will be in storage at the Asheville Art Museum this spring, it has one more stop on the tour at the Center for the Arts in Vero Beach, Florida, next July.