

Outreach Is Reaching In and Reaching Back

With the trend in government funding for cultural initiatives in full negative swing, those places which remain dedicated to promoting and teaching the arts are being challenged to participate in the creative lives of their community in new and innovative ways. For Penland this means a return to Miss Lucy's concept of craft as the medium for reengaging a part of community life that was in danger of being lost forever. We are reminded again of the genius of Lucy Morgan's original vision for Penland and the capacity of that vision to address important issues of our day, almost seventy years later.

The first incarnation of Penland School was of and for its immediate community, the people of Penland. The school grew and that community changed as students and instructors from around the country and the world came to participate in this unusual program, many of them staying and putting down roots here.

For several decades Penland has been a leader in craft education, a supportive environment for working craftspeople, and an important voice in the national dialogue on craft. We have built a strong foundation to address the educational and cultural challenges which test our national craft community, and that of Mitchell County and North Carolina. Our school is in a unique position in its ability to enrich the immediate community by attracting a diverse and talented group of educators and makers from around the world.

In the last two years we have embarked on a number of projects to better serve the local schools and their undersupported art programs. We are also offering teacher training classes that focus on the everyday classroom teacher and their desire to promote creative thinking and problem solving. These are fundamental attributes of craft education and we need to explore new ways of sharing what we have.

• • • •

Anyone who has been to Penland understands the spell the landscape casts on the imagination; it is a place that nourishes the soul. The power of this place is enduring because of this landscape and its partner: the vision of the school as crafted by Miss Lucy Morgan and Bill Brown.

—Ken Botnick, Director



Dana Moore

Poetry must almost successfully resist intelligence.

—Wallace Stevens

PENLAND LINE

Editor/Writer: Robin Dreyer

Production: Robin Dreyer, Dana Moore, Eileen Wallace

Photographs: Edwina Bringle, Robin Dreyer, Dana Moore

Contributors: Ken Botnick, Ralph Burns, Donna Jean Dreyer,

Kathryn Gremley, Priscilla Johnson, Erika Sanger

The Penland Line is published twice a year to communicate thoughts about the programs, people, and philosophy of Penland and to keep in touch with several groups of people at once: craftspeople and friends living nearby, instructors, donors, and Penland Friends. We invite you to share your news, opinions, and/or photographs with us. And please let us know what you think of the Penland Line.

Penland School of Crafts

Penland, NC 28765-0037

phone: 704-765-2359

fax: 704-765-7389

e-mail: pnlnschl@aol.com

web page: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/penland/>



Dana Moore

Patently waiting for the end of the food line, Fourth of July, 1996. See page 6 for story.

Editor's Note: *I was fortunate enough this summer to take a Penland class from the brilliant photographer Keith Carter. One day at lunch I told him that everything he was teaching about photography could be directly applied to writing. He leaned across the table as though divulging a great secret and said, "This class isn't really about photography; it's about nurturing a creative life." I thought of this again when looking through the stories for this Penland Line. From new programs which use crafts to enhance education to the thought and care that goes into our gallery and gardens, to the wonderful frivolity of Easter and Fourth of July, so much of what goes on at Penland is not really about crafts, but about doing things well and nurturing the spirit. ✨* —Robin Dreyer