

Community News

GALLERY

The Penland Gallery is having a fine, busy summer, welcoming thousands of visitors, answering questions, and presenting the work of Penland artists. Five special exhibitions were planned for 1998; three of them are still to come.

The first show of the year featured work by Penland Residents. The second show, which has just come down, was timed to coincide with the Asheville conference of the Artist Blacksmiths of North America. The focus was blacksmith's tools, both made and collected by Penland iron artists.

We have three shows scheduled for the rest of the year.

July 21–September 13 *Furniture for Uncommon Rooms*
Work by fifteen craftspeople in wood and metal.

September 22–October 25 *Eating Well*
Work in all media related to food.

November 3–December 6 *Three Artists*
Junichiro Baba, Paige Davis, Tom Spleth

We had originally scheduled an exhibition of work by former Core students, but this show has been postponed until next year so we can continue locating our alumni.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM; Sunday hours are 12:00–4:30 PM. For information call 828-765-6211.

Robin Dreyer



Plumb bobs in the iron tools show at the gallery.

STAFF CHANGES

Lisa Grindstaff moved across the hall this winter to take up her new role as registrar. Jim Hardin is on night-time security.

Nils Winkler just couldn't stay away from Penland any longer, so he's joined the grounds crew. Melissa Deen is assistant services coordinator, Hugh Patrick is steward, and Shannon Hilemon is working in housekeeping.

Micah Pulleyn is helping out in the gallery, and Susie Ganch is working in the coffee house. Leigh

Holden is our summer coordinator for the printmaking, and book and paper studios; C.J. Julien is coordinator for photography and drawing. Incoming Core students are Lauren Dyer, Susan Feagin, John Hagy, Kara Ikenberry, Liz Sparks, and Andi Steele.

Chris Winterstein, who was our head chef, has left the kitchen for a job at the National Ornamental Metals Museum, where he will pursue his other passion—iron. He has been replaced by Allison Barrows, who has cooked in the Arctic and the Antarctic. Former Core student Geoff Calabrese has joined Allison's staff.

MORE STAFF CHANGES

Sarah McKinney, our ace administrative assistant, has left Penland to spend more time with family and pursue a home business. Careful readers may have noticed that this publication doesn't include Eileen Wallace in the credits. In addition to her duties as studio coordinator, Eileen has been integral to our publications since 1995. She's not sure about her next move, but her array of skills will surely attract interesting opportunities. Her sharp eye and good nature will be missed.

RESIDENTS

Good wishes go to three artists who have finished their residencies. Meg Peterson and John Snyder are living in nearby Bandana; Meg continues as outreach educator. Terry Gess is spending the summer in Michigan, but plans to return to the area this fall.

Dana Moore



Chris Winterstein in the forge.

The Barns welcomes ceramic artists Michael Kline and Louise Radochonski. Michael comes from Worthington, MA where he worked with Mark Shapiro and Sam Taylor. He will continue to produce functional work and hopes to explore other media while he is at Penland. Louise recently retired as studio coordinator and will use the residency to focus on sculpture. Her work

was included in *Feats of Clay* and the *Orton Conebox Show*.

Sondra Dorn is teaching at Arrowmont. She was profiled in a recent issue of *Fiberarts*, and she's getting ready for an invitational show at the Atlanta Financial Center. Shawn Ireland had a successful Smithsonian Craft Fair this spring. He has now fired the Barns wood kiln thirteen times.

Hoss Haley has been in recent shows at W.D.O. (Charlotte), the Denver Center for the Visual Arts, and Blue Spiral (Asheville); he just finished teaching here and at Haystack. Junichiro Baba returned to Japan briefly for the G.A.S conference. He has now equipped his studio and he's making work for upcoming shows, including a three-person exhibition at the Penland Gallery. Cynthia Stone has been busy with the *Nancy Sachs Valentine Show*, the *Piedmont Craftsmen New Members Show*, the *Winter Park Arts Festival*, and the *Fifth Annual Artworks Festival* (where she won an award of excellence).

Remembering Phillip Fike

In August, 1990, instructor Phillip Fike was interviewed by photographer Ann Hawthorne. He had first visited Penland in 1971, had taught a session in 1980, and was back again in 1990. "I've made a pact with myself," he told Ann, "that I am going to come back here, if I am able, in the year 2000 and spend the whole summer." But it was not to be; this extraordinary Renaissance man passed away in December. Phil was a Professor of Art at Wayne State University in Detroit, an active exhibiting metalsmith for over fifty years, and a Fellow of the American Craft Council. Among his many accomplishments, he made a lifelong study of the fibula (safety pin) form beginning with the ancient Etruscan inverted coil spring, and incorporated it into his work.

When Ann asked him about his identity as an artist, Phil commented that he was not known as a painter, draftsman, or printmaker, although he did all of those things. He was not known as a glassblower, although it was glassblowing that gave him the greatest joy. He was also a maestro of the jaw harp, a professional folksinger, and for several years he was the president of the Michigan Classical Guitar Society. Despite all these talents, Phil concluded that his identity was as an ornament maker.

His admiration for Penland was summed up in his assertion that "everyone who is an American craftsman simply has to come here." He backed that up by encouraging generations of students to attend a Penland session and with a generous bequest in his will. We will miss having Phil with us during the summer of 2000. —Donna Jean Dreyer

Remembering Betty Morgan

We were saddened to learn that Betty Morgan, a native of the Penland community and a former Penland instructor, died on Saturday, May 3, 1998. Betty was born November 7, 1920 and grew up in a home near the Toe River, not far from Penland School.

She went to grade school, with her sister, Jessie McKinney, at the Appalachian School. Her older sister, Georgia, was Miss Lucy Morgan's first assistant in 1924. Betty began working for the school in 1936, making plates and bowls of copper and pewter. They were formed in molds with a leather-covered wooden hammer and had designs cut into them with acid.

She quickly became a consummate craftsperson, making copper candle sconces, pewter spoons, and plates and bowls of etched copper and pewter. Her work was sold in the early years through the Penland Weavers and Potters, and later through the Penland School gift shop. She was also a member of the Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild.

Betty taught enameling and metalcrafts at Penland and she worked in the metals studio, assisting instructors and students for forty-four years. She won a purchase award from the Mint Museum for one of her pewter bowls. She also won an award from the United States government for running a lookout station for enemy planes. She did this at Morgan Hall during World War II.

In 1980, Betty retired and lived in her home near the school. Throughout her life, Betty was known for her love of gardening, flowers, and animals, which inspired the vivid enamels and etchings she created throughout her life. She will be greatly missed by her family, neighbors, and friends. —Bill Ford



IMPORTANT EVENTS

Penland Postmistress Becky Davis received an award for thirty years of service. Neighbor Billie Ruth Sudduth was named a North Carolina Living Treasure by Wilmington's Museum of World Cultures. Samuel Joseph Gardner, son of Glen and Chris Gardner was born with a hammer in his hand on January 29. The 1998 Penland School Art Scholarship went to Mitchell High School senior Renee Miller who will apply it to studies in drafting and architecture. Trustee Clarence Morgan received a 1998 Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship.

SAD NEWS

We were shocked and saddened by two unexpected deaths this summer. Sarah Wells was a wonderful movement instructor and a good friend. Textile instructor and program advisor Kerris Wolsky (who was scheduled to teach this summer) was the president of Harlem Textile Works, Inc.