



Dana Moore

Drive down Penland Road and look for this sign—then you'll know you're almost here. Our beautiful, new, bulletproof sign was designed by Hoss Haley and Kristi Pfeffer and built by Hoss Haley. It stands just back from the corner of Penland Road and Conley Ridge Road.

#### PENLAND LINE

Editor: Robin Dreyer

Layout: Leslie Noell

Photographs: Robin Dreyer, Dana Moore, Ann Hawthorne

Contributors: Barbara Benisch, Robin Dreyer, Leslie Noell, Jean McLaughlin, Sarah Warner

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Penland School of Crafts is a national center for craft education located in western North Carolina. The school offers workshops, artists' residencies, a community education program, and a craft gallery. The Penland Line is published twice a year to communicate thoughts about the programs, people, and philosophy of Penland. We invite you to share your news, opinions, and/or photographs with us. E-mail: [publications@penland.org](mailto:publications@penland.org)

#### Penland School of Crafts

P. O. Box 37

Penland, NC 28765-0037

828-765-2359

fax: 828-765-7389

e-mail: [office@penland.org](mailto:office@penland.org)

website: [www.penland.org](http://www.penland.org)

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## Letter From the Director

Every year students, instructors, and visitors return to the school, bringing with them memories of times past and an eagerness to experience Penland anew. This seventy-fifth anniversary year has been especially so. There are many examples. In February, I picked Audrey Handler up at the airport for the instructor retreat and learned that she was returning to Penland for the first time since she taught under Bill Brown. And just last week Adela Akers returned to teach weaving after being a resident many years ago. Frequently I'll catch up with former board members like Bill Watson or students like Bill Lee who are walking from the coffee house to the studios on a visit to campus.

Special anniversary events have enabled us to reach out to people linked to the school's history. We connected with the family of Aunt Susan Phillips, the weaver who Lucy Morgan walked miles to meet when she first arrived at Penland. The Phillips family loaned us two of Aunt Susan's coverlets for the *Penland Retrospect* exhibition. Publicity and recognition for the school this year has led to the acquisition of valued new materials for the Penland archives. We were particularly pleased when Nancy Vallient Jones donated to the school two beautiful Penland smocks woven by the Penland Weavers and Potters. Mrs. Jones, now in her 90s, was a weaving student at Penland in the 1930s and maintained a life-long friendship with Lucy Morgan.

As we reflect back on our seventy-five years we also look forward to what the future may bring. We will be conducting a survey in the next few months as part of a strategic planning process. We'll be looking at what craft education means for us now and imagine how to meet its future needs. We'll describe the communities we now serve and discuss how best to respond to their interests in the future. We'll study our facilities and think through how best to use them. And we'll consider our human and financial resources and determine how to move forward with Penland's interests at heart. We'll survey a sample group from our database for feedback. If you would like to participate, please give me a call or send me an email.

Land development in the Penland neighborhood is one specific change that we want to be prepared to

address. How will this kind of growth affect us and how should we respond? For a recent board meeting, our archivist, Michelle Francis, put together a photographic look at the prominent role played by Bailey's Peak in Penland materials. (Bailey's Peak is the nearest mountain beyond the knoll.) It is one of the critical elements of our retreat environment and your Penland experience. Several years ago, developers purchased 1400 acres in the Penland area, including much of Bailey's Peak, and we have been talking with them about how to protect Penland School's viewshed and to create neighborhoods that will be an asset to the school. They are envisioning homes and studios that will be of interest to students and friends who support the school and make up the Penland community across the country. Their current development plans are focused on creating a village with a market, café, lodge, and restaurant. Diamond Lake is being rebuilt and will be stocked with trout. Greenways and walking paths are planned. The completed community will include about 275 residences.

To date, the developers have gifted 130 acres at the top of Bailey's Peak to the Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust, and more gifts of land are being considered. If you want more information on this development, please contact Joyce Fitzpatrick at [Grafitz@aol.com](mailto:Grafitz@aol.com). The developers are eager to hear from artists interested in live/work spaces and in operating studios open to the public.

You may have noticed our Penland Line hiatus during the past year. Our event filled seventy-fifth anniversary year diverted energy from our normal biannual publication schedule. We believe the Penland Line is a valuable way to stay in touch with you, and we intend to get back into our former routine in this coming year with the next issue scheduled for March, 2005.

As you can see from this issue, we are in the midst of an exciting and challenging year, maintaining our regular programs, celebrating our anniversary, and moving forward with improvements to the school we all love so much.

Jean W. McLaughlin  
Director



Robin Dreyer

Metals studio coordinator Suzanne Pugh with one of the old bullet-riddled Penland signs. The new sign went up the same day as the spring scholarship auction, so we put one of the old signs in the archive and auctioned this one off. Someone went home with a true piece of memorabilia. (It's not that people don't like us; it just made a good target.)