

# Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society

## April 2005 Newsletter



**Top Priority News:** There are only four more months left before we have our show! September 9 & 10.

**Editor's Letter** (Ideas, opinions, and a brief introduction to this month's newsletter)

I am not getting very many contributors to the newsletter. Brennan's Pride is always full of classes and full of information but more information is needed from others, too. Thanks to our

President for volunteering her information on her beautiful work with dolls. She wrote a very interesting article on porcelain. Anybody interested in contributing their story for next month's newsletter on your hobby in the fired arts? If so, contact Bob Trevino at [ceramicshouston@yahoo.com](mailto:ceramicshouston@yahoo.com) or by phone to any of the below named area member shops.

**The Hobbyist of the Month – Jeanne Bell** I never considered myself to be an artistic person. I have always said that I couldn't even draw a crooked line correctly! But after years of admiring the handcrafted porcelain dolls that a doll maker from Alvin, Texas had for sale at the annual "Dickens on the Strand" festival in Galveston, I decided to enroll in a six-week course to make "Sugar Britches", a doll sculpted by Boots Tyner. I almost gave up when it came time to paint on the eyelashes and eyebrows – it was no easy task trying to make the two sides match. But I stuck with it, and it didn't turn out too bad. The last night of the class, when we dressed and named our new babies, I knew I was hooked! I enrolled in another class and made "Katie Did It", a toddler doll sitting on a potty chair with a facial expression that makes it evident she's concentrating on something! During the next two months I completed three more dolls to give to my daughters and a friend for Christmas that year. The more dolls I made the easier those eyelashes and eyebrows became!



Now, for the past fifteen years, I have had fun creating a variety of lifelike dolls, especially baby and toddler dolls. To my husband's dismay, the garage and a good bit of the house is now full of dolls, doll molds, kilns and supplies. He and my two daughters have frequently complained that I love the love them. That is certainly not true.

dolls more than I

However, in the process of creating a lifelike porcelain doll I can get carried away with carving detail on the greenware and painting the bisque to make each doll as lifelike as I possibly can and once I get started, I hate to stop until I have finished it. Another favorite step in the process is designing and sewing clothes for the dolls. My two daughters decided at about age 8 that they couldn't be seen in public wearing homemade dresses, especially ones with lots of lace and ruffles! My dolls, however, have never complained. They also don't get their clothes dirty, throw them on the floor or outgrow them!"

Each doll I make is special to me and a lot of extra time goes into them to make them as lifelike as possible. My doll "Shay" is the fanciest so far and was awarded First Place in the Hobbyist division at the TGCCS Show several years ago. The 33-inch doll sits on a wooden bench made by my husband. The doll's dress, slip and bloomers have a total of 34 yards of lace. Each one of the three ruffles on the skirt is 300 inches long, hemmed on both edges with lace sewn on one edge and all hand gathered and sewn onto the skirt. It took many hours to make the dress but it was worth it. About four years ago I started my own business, Bell's Little Treasures, through which I market dolls and other porcelain products and supplies and occasionally give lessons. For the past three years I have been branching out into Porcelain Lace Drape Dolls, clay molding and decorative painting on porcelain and contemplating an attempt at sculpting a doll. As I still work full-time, I do not get to spend as much time making dolls and painting porcelain and ceramics as I would like to.

My hope is that the dolls and other pieces of porcelain art I create will be passed on by friends and family and enjoyed for generations to come.

**Upcoming Classes** (For more detail info call – shops listed on the Local Member Shop section)

**E & H Ceramics** has a class in January 2005 from Kimple Molds.  
Call for details.

	<b>Brennan's Pride</b>	Connie Bailes	Porcelain Lace Drape Doll	Friday, April 29 <sup>th</sup>
			Mums, Oak & Acorn	Saturday, April 30 <sup>th</sup>
			Valentina w/Victory Spanish Colors	Sunday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>
		Tracy Hughes	Duncan Essentials III	Saturday, May 21 <sup>st</sup>
			Duncan Essentials IV	Saturday, June 18 <sup>th</sup>
			Duncan Essentials Make-up	Sunday, June 19 <sup>th</sup>
	Kala Brushes	Poinsettias & Carnations	Fri -Sat, July 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	
	Paula McCoy	Butterflies in Bloom	Saturday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>	
		Flowers & Berries	Sunday, August 13 <sup>th</sup>	

**Personal**



**Happy Birthday:** none submitted.

“Get Well Wishes” to John Duncan!

**Sell - Buy - Trade – Want**

**Jim Brennan** repairs kilns and sells used kilns including new Paragon Kilns. He is looking for parts from old kilns that are being thrown away. Call (281)585-8888

**Mold, Molds, Who's Got the Mold:** Gene Brennan is still looking for a flying eagle on a stump – Bryon molds

**“Like It or Spike It” -**

**E & H Ceramics** - Jerry's marbleizing with under glazes on slip- two bowl pieces shown below – **excellent!**



**Margie Adams** - We went to the Dallas show and took a couple of make and takes. The Doc Holiday rough-cut bronze technique was one and it should be mentioned in the Like It or Spike It. It's a very simple non fired technique. Apply a coat of the Doc Holliday bronze. Antique it with their translucent black, then wipe back with a soft cloth. Highlight with the rub on metallic to really give it a special look. The metallics come as follows:

FT - 01 through FT - 05 Finger Tip Metallics

A mineral spirit based metallic paste used for highlighting. To apply use either finger tip or a soft cloth. Buff to a sheen after application. As shown on our Rough Cuts

FT01 - Silver : FT-02 - Gold : FT03 - Green Mist : FT04 - Burnished Gold : FT05 - Copper.

Check with one of our local Doc Holliday distributors for more information.

Someone needs to ask Tracey Hughes about what Duncan was doing at the show with shaving gel and crystal glazes?????



**Panama Colors - Print that could be used for a class....**



**Local Member Shops**

<u>Shop's Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bell's Little Treasures	Pearland	(281) 797-8757
Brennan's Pride Enterprizes	Manvel	(281) 585-8888
Dreamcatchers Ceramics	Alvin	(281) 756-8327
E & H Ceramics	Houston	(713) 921-2045
Garden Road Ceramics	Pearland	(281) 485-1570
Playtime Ceramics	Santa Fe	(409) 316-1711
Monica's House of Ceramics	Houston	(281) 564-4997
The Ceramic & Pottery Center,	League City	(281) 428-4490

**Products**  
 Porcelain dolls, etc.  
 Greenware – Bisque – Molds – Slip – Classes  
 Greenware-Bisque-Molds-Slip-Classes-Mayco-Gare-Ceramichrome-Kimple  
 Bisque, supplies, paint



**Local Non-member Shops**

Backyard Ceramics	Baytown	(281) 428-2651
Cactus Bend Ceramics	Dickinson	(281) 534-3325
Mary Lou's Ceramics	Pasadena	(281) 998-9987
Katy Country Ceramics-	Katy	(281) 391-9555
M & T Ceramics	Webster	(281) 280-0175

**Products**  
 Greenware – Bisque - Slip

**Welcome to New Members**

John Duncan  
 Becky Jurtschek  
 Tracey Hughes  
 Robin Crosby  
 Penny Davis

## **Last Minutes Thoughts**

Emails are nice! If you decided and would like to join our society mailing list or be removed, please send email to: [ceramicshouston@yahoo.com](mailto:ceramicshouston@yahoo.com) or call one of our member shops.

Our next meeting is May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 and the one following that will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 7 pm at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on Scarsdale. Please come join us. Bring some of your pieces for show and tell.

## **Show Business**

Show business note from the President: The show is only four months away. I want to encourage everyone to kick into a higher gear and start getting things prepared. As we did last year, we will again have individual booth prizes. Each booth that wishes to participate will donate a prize. A collection can along with the prize will be placed in each participating booth. Tickets will be sold 5 for \$1 at the front entrance. We would like to decorate each can with a picture of the prize. Those of you who can get your piece completed in time should bring it to a meeting to be photographed or email a digital photograph to Gene Thornton-Brennan.

Remind customers and vendors to bring lots of their personalized address labels to the show. These can be placed on the door prize tickets and the booth prize tickets instead of the time consuming process of handwriting their name and address on each ticket. If all goes according to current plans, we will have a Show flyer ready for distribution in time for the June meeting. We encourage all members to help as much as they can to get these flyers distributed to customers and on display in local businesses. The flyers will be available at the meeting or by contacting the Show Chairman. Start working on those Competition Pieces and Challenge Pieces if you have not already done so. Encourage your customers to enter as many pieces as they can into the competition. Encourage vendors you deal with to rent a booth at the show. Let's all work together to make this year's show even bigger and better than last year's show.

Visit our website at [houstonceramis.org](http://houstonceramis.org). You'll find it has expanded and contains a list of all members, a calendar of events, a message board, numerous links and up-to-date information on the 2005 Show including confirmed vendors, booth application, brochure ad application and competition categories and rules.



## **Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society**

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