

# Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society

## January 2005 Newsletter

### Top Priority News

EVERYONE IS A MEMBER OF THE SHOW STAFF. While there are only a few people's names that show up on the show staff list, the reality is that everyone is a member of the show staff. Everyone is encouraged to promote the show. If there is a vendor you would like to see at our show, don't hesitate to call or email them and let them know you want them to come. If they receive enough invitations they just might attend. If we all work on it, we can make our show grow.



On a sadder note, it has come to our attention that several vendors received bad checks at our most recent show. While we do encourage everyone to spend generously at the show, we would not ever want anyone to spend beyond their means. Vendors tend to think twice about exhibiting at shows that have a reputation for passing bad checks. Please help us to encourage vendors to attend our show by spending generously, but please don't spend more than you can afford.

Thanks, The Show Staff

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

Our first meeting started with a bang and it pointed to each one of us to challenge ourselves for the upcoming show. The president's following article suggests how you can begin this challenge.



We had outstanding pieces at the last show. Pictures of some of the more unique and unusual ones are scattered throughout this newsletter. It is amazing how one piece can make people come to the next year's show. For example, it was a challenge to come up with my grape vase. (shown) It gives an appearance of an old antique vase. People were eager to know how I did it and willing to challenge my piece and return to our next show with something better. Gene's grape bowl was another unique challenge piece and it won the **Peggy Award**.

Taking a paragraph out of Michael Harbridge, December 2004, *Fired Arts & Crafts*. Michael says: "Do you ever find yourself doing the same things over and over? I think it's natural for a person to get comfortable with a certain technique or style. It's easy to look through a magazine or seminar pieces at a local studio and instantly be drawn to techniques we recognize and know we can do. Perhaps we should all be looking for the real challenge to test our skills".



He is really telling us to push ourselves to a higher level. Like they say, "try and try and you shall succeed". Let's work together and let's make our show grow.

### The President's Voice

The following article has been re-printed from the website *queendom.com*; (published October 26, 2001)

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### Something on your mind?

Here's a little experiment: pay attention to the way you think for just one day. There's a little running commentary going on in all our brains, one that we quite often tune out or outright ignore. As you do all that daily routine stuff, like making your bed or choosing your clothes for the day, when your mind is free to wonder, what kind of thoughts pop into your head? Are they positive; like "what a great day" or "I wonder what will happen at work/school?". Or do they lean towards the negative; like "Oh God, not another day" or "I don't want to \_\_\_\_ (go to work, clean the house, call my mother, etc)?" They might even be focused on a certain thing, such as an unresolved issue or a goal, or they could be

self-critical (or judgmental of others!). Perhaps they seem harmless, especially since we hardly notice them, but they have much more influence than we realize. They guide us, whether we are conscious of it or not, to behave in certain ways that can easily sway the outcome of our day, even our entire lives.

So if, after your experiment of "tuning in" for day, you discover that your thoughts are negative, or that they lean in a certain direction, what do you do about it? Staying aware is the first step - if you slip back into zombie-mode, you no longer have the power to stop damaging thoughts. You could learn some thought-stopping techniques (like writing your own positive thoughts and replacing the nasty ones as often as possible). Most of all, you should work on the outlook that is giving rise to these thoughts. How can you change self-critical behavior, for example:? Boost your self-esteem!

Your own thoughts are telling you something...the least you could do is listen!

by T.L. Scribe

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:**

"Watch your thoughts; they become words.  
Watch your words; they become actions.  
Watch your actions; they become habits.  
Watch your habits; they become character.  
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. "  
- Frank Outlaw

"You are what you think about all day long."  
- Dr. Robert Schuller



With this New Year and all of it's opportunities we could all apply this to our TGCCS activities and to our preparations for the 2005 TGCCS Show. Let's not allow negative thoughts like "we can't compete with the larger shows" control our destiny. Let's keep a positive attitude and positive thoughts and think of ways we can each do something to make this year's Show even better than last year's Show and to make the TGCCS *the* Society to be a part of. Let's set a goal for the Show and work to achieve it. It might start with a goal to have more vendors than last year or to set a dollar amount goal for the amount of profit to strive for. Goals that would benefit the Society and the Show could also be set individually by each of us. Don't let thoughts like "my ideas aren't important" or "no one will listen to what I have to say" or "I'm just attending meetings in order to take advantage of the benefits", or "I don't have time to get involved" control our actions and our destiny as individuals or as a Society. We should all be in this together for the good of the TGCCS and area ceramicists and for our own personal pride. In order to make the show a real success each of us must put forth extra effort and work together. The Show Committee does a great job of getting the Show together and pulling it off, but I am sure they would not mind some extra support and assistance from the rest of the members of the Society. Don't hesitate to bring up your ideas. Don't hesitate to invite vendors you like to deal with to come set up a booth at the Show. Don't hesitate to invite a customer to the meetings or to invite them to join the Society. Don't hesitate to volunteer. If we all get along, work together and keep the positive thoughts flowing we can make the TGCCS and our Show the best in the area.

**Personal** – "Get Well Wishes" to Joann Buller from all of us at TGCCS

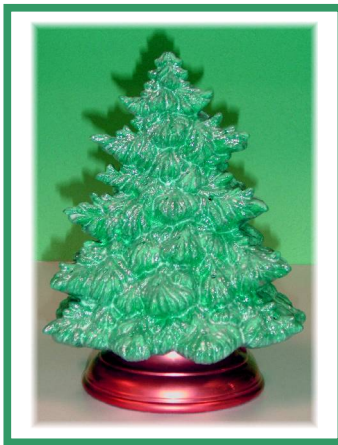
**Sell - Buy - Trade – Want**

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

## “Like It or Spike It”

Great idea using wax resist and mother of Pearl on Christmas Tree. The last two pictures are a comparison using glazes to produce the appearance of marbledizing. First picture has Mayco glazes. The last is the formula given in the November Newsletter. All three pictures are HOT!!! Ideas to try and have fun with....



## Local Member Shops

Shop's Name	City	Phone	Email	Website
Bell's Little Treasures	Pearland	(281) 797-8757	jbell52451@houston.rr.com	
Brennan's Pride EnterpriZes	Alvin	(281) 585-8888	whtrabbit@att.net	www.ceramicsetc.net
Cactus Bend Ceramics	Dickinson	(281) 534-3325	cactuskelly57@aol.com	
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	julie@playtimeceramics.com	
Mary Lou's Ceramics	Pasadena	(281) 998-9987	maryloucer@ev1.net	
Monica's House of Ceramics	Houston	(281) 564-4997	monicabatson@netzero.com	
The Ceramic & Pottery Center	League City	(281)332-4490		

## Local Nonmember Shops

Backyard Ceramics	Baytown	(281) 428-2651	Katy Country Ceramics-	Katy	(281) 391-9555
Ceramics by Tess		(281) 347-6048	A Touch of Love		(713) 774-4790
Wood Ceramics		(713) 643-9645			

**Upcoming Classes** (For more detail info call – shops listed on the Local Member Shop section If you have classes coming up, please send an email and they will be placed in the next newsletter.

<u>E &amp; H Ceramics</u>	January 23rd	Satín Class <i>Harry Hare</i>	Kimple Mold
<u>Brennan's Pride</u>	January 30 -	Susie Peschkie “Valentine Dove”	
	February 6 -	Gene Brennan “Porcelain Lace Drape”	
	February 20 –	Doc Holiday Molds Open House	
		Arlene Deno Will teach w/designer & demensioanl glazes	
	March 19 –	“Duncan Essentials” Tracy Hughes – 1st of 4 Duncan Certification classes	
	March 27 –	Sunflower Design “Tea & Crackers” John Duncan	
		Gene Brennan – airbrush, lace drape, handbuilding, pen & ink, etc.	
		FREE CLASS w/Connie Bailes onVictory Spanish Color paints for porcelain May1st!!!!	
		Colorific porcelain slip and Victory Spanish Colors available...Call Gene for more details	



## 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.

## Upcoming Events

Our next meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005, starting at 7 pm at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on Scarsdale. Please come join us. Bring some of your pieces for show and tell.

As reported by Dan Musha:

In May of 2005, the American Fired Arts Alliance – Wisconsin League will be hosting the American Fired Arts Alliance Educational Event in De Pere, Wisconsin. At last report they had a commitment of five nationally known master artists along with numerous talented artists from Wisconsin to teach various techniques. The emphasis will be on education and booths for vendors will not be present. Wisconsin retailers will be able to promote their shops with the various techniques they feature, but no selling of products will be allowed unless it involves the technique they are teaching. They are requesting support of their efforts by asking for donations to be given out as door prizes. Gift certificates and products in any amount will be gladly accepted and duly noted throughout the event. Jones Publishing has contributed to include a special section of the April 2005 issue of Fired Arts & Crafts to promote the American Fired Arts Alliance Educational Event in De Pere listing the classes offered. This special issue is to go out to all current subscribers, shop newsstands, all attendees of the Dayton Show and every attendee of the May Event. Your business name will be seen by thousands of fired arts artists throughout the United States and wherever Fired Arts & Crafts magazine is sold. Your company will be listed as being a backer according to donation level:

Benefactor - \$500 and up:

Company name/ logo listed in bold print –manufacturer provided

Optional banner at the May Fired Arts Educational Event

Image of Product/ donation in all printed materials

Patron - \$250 to \$499:

Company name/ logo listed in bold print

Optional banner at the May Fired Arts Educational Event

Sponsor - \$100 to \$249:

Company name/ logo listed in bold print

Supporter - \$50 to \$99:

Company name/ logo listed

For more information on this event contact:

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## Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society

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