

# Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society

## May 2005 Newsletter

### **Top Priority News: Show Business**

There are only **three** more months left before we have our show! September 9 & 10. If you have a shop or teach a class and would like a poster to hang up or fliers to give out, please call (409-316-1711) or email ([Julie@playtimeceramics.com](mailto:Julie@playtimeceramics.com)) and they will be sent to you

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Ads for the 2005 show brochure need to be turned in during or before the meeting on June 6, 2005. If you have not already turned yours in, you may do so by giving it to Julie at the meeting or email it to her at [julie@playtimeceramics.com](mailto:julie@playtimeceramics.com). If you email it, you should follow-up with her to ensure it was received.

**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.

**Editor's Letter:** How do we make our show better? The key word is diversifying. Maybe we should look around at other places of business to see how they do it. If we look at our grocery store, they have added a floral shop, hot food or restaurant, fresh bakery, liquor department, video rental, banking and so much more. Why do home improvement stores now have extensive outdoor garden centers? Who decided that gas stations should sell everything that grocery stores offer? When did the gas stations start sharing their buildings with fast food restaurants? Is it possible to find a store that only specializes in one thing? I think we are in that category – only ceramics and sometimes a few dollars or include other arts and increase potential sales? The ceramic societies could learn a few things from other kinds of stores if we sit back and really look at what is happening. TGCCS might reap the benefit of new clientele by offering a wider range of arts at our show.

### **The Shop of the Month – M & T Ceramics**



M & T Ceramics is owned and operated by Rufus Spigner. The shop is located on Highway 3, Suite – I, Webster, Texas 77598, just past the main entrance to Ellington Air

Force base, on the right going toward Galveston. Hours are Monday to Saturday, 9 am – 6 pm. Mr. Spigner sells wholesale and retail greenware on order, bisque and slip. M & T Ceramics has been in the wholesale and retail business since 1978. Mr. Spigner started running the business in December 2003 and he has continued the wholesale business nationally with 4 stores in Chicago and 1 in Massachusetts. He is open for birthday parties, painting parties and gives 20% off to seniors.

**Special Techniques: by Margie** It is easy and fun to cast your own fascinating creations using our beautifully crafted plaster molds and the slip of your choice! **1. Use a heavy rubber band or strap to hold your mold firmly together and pour the casting slip into the mold in such a way that it runs down the inside edge of the mold and does not strike the side or flat surface directly to avoid "hot spots".** **2. As the plaster**

does its magic and absorbs the water from the clay, add slip to top it up. **3. As the slip** is setting up in the mold, use a cleaning blade or knife to make a cut into the top edge of the cast to test thickness. The set time will vary depending on the dryness of the mold and the condition of the slip. **4. When** the desired thickness is achieved (this varies depending on the size of the cast object, artistic preferences, etc) pour the slip out of the mold gradually so that you do not create a vacuum. Up end the mold and allow the surplus slip to drain. You may need to roll the mold to release trapped slip pockets. **5. After the slip** has stopped dripping return the mold to an upright position and leave it until the clay has a matt finish. **6. Trim off** the surplus clay from the pour hole with a suitable blade. **7. Lift one side** of the mold from the cast. When the cast is leather hard remove the cast from the mold and place it on clean flat surface. Never leave a cast in the mold for too long as the rapid shrinkage may cause cracking. **8. While the cast** is still leather hard, carefully "clean" away the seams using a cleaning tool and a sponge. Try leaving any details along the seam line intact. Make sure that your pieces are dry before you fire them. To bisque fire your creation, you will need to consider the slip manufacturers recommendations and the decorative technique you wish to apply and fire your piece accordingly. Most of the techniques in our catalog presume a cone 06 to cone 04 firing.

**Painting Terms and Abbreviations** **Antique-** A general term meaning to apply a color product to the ceramic piece and then using a quality paper towel or soft cloth, wipe back the product from the piece to desired intensity. Antiquing is done with opaques, metallics and translucents in the techniques that follow. When antiquing with opaques and metallics, be sure to work in small sections and wipe the color back quickly to prevent the color from drying before wiping back. Water can be used to help wipe back water-based and water-soluble color products. Antique Media and Antique Solvent can be used to help wipe back oil-based products. **Apply-** Use a brush of appropriate size and shape (this will vary with color product and area of application) to move color product from pallet to the given ceramic area. **BC-Basecoat-** Use a quality large soft brush to apply 2 thorough smooth coats of given color product to bisque. It is essential that the piece is covered both completely and smoothly. Be sure to work out any brush strokes before the color product has dried. An airbrush can also be used when applying a basecoat To be continued on June's Newsletter.

**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. Show - Free freight 40% off on Kimple molds. Call for details.

**Brennan's Pride**



John Duncan  
Tracy Hughes  
  
Christine  
Kala Brushes  
Paula McCoy

Chestnut Blooms  
Duncan Essentials IV  
Duncan Essentials Make-up  
Carved Gourd  
Poinsettias & Carnations  
Butterflies in Bloom  
Flowers & Berries  
Ditzie Birds

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>  
Fri -Sat, July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Cactus Bend Ceramics**

**Personal**



**Happy Birthday**

May: John Duncan, Jim Jennings, Jeanne Bell  
June: Christine Bertsch



**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

John & Jim looking for the Budgie “sitting on the world” mold.

Who has one?



**“Like It or Spike It” -**

*Gloves in a Bottle* “Put it on and it feels like a glove” -- **excellent!** It helps protect hands from dryness caused by working with earthenware and porcelain and does not contaminate your piece like other hand lotions would.

**Lost in the Dust** *Repidio Liners* are going to be discontinued soon....

*TNT Molds* is closing its doors. Call Brennan’s if you want to place a mold order.

**Margie Adams** -.**Question?** Someone needs to ask Tracey Hughes about what Duncan was doing at the show with shaving gel and crystal glazes?????

**Answer** This is a technique whereby you mix a Cover Coat and Clear Satin together and apply to the outside of a vase for an example. Let dry. Apply a Crystal glaze to the top of the vase and let it run down the vase a ways. Mix White Concepts with Shaving Cream and apply over the Crystal glaze at the top of the vase. This technique is used in their Contemporary Studio Basics Course. Thanks Courtney Frantz

**Local Member Shops**

<b><u>Shop's Name</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>	<b><u>Products</u></b>
Bell's Little Treasures	Pearland	(281) 483-3051	Porcelain – dolls and other porcelain items
Brennan's Pride Enterprizes	Manvel	(281) 585-8888	Greenware – Bisque – Molds – Slip – Classes
Dreamcatchers Ceramics	Alvin	(281) 756-8327	
E & H Ceramics	Houston	(713) 921-2045	Greenware-Bisque-Molds-Slip-Classes-Mayco-Gare-Ceramichrome-Kimple
Garden Road Ceramics	Pearland	(281) 485-1570	Bisque, supplies, paint
Playtime Ceramics	Santa Fe	(409) 316-1711	
The Ceramic & Pottery Center	League City	(281) 428-4490	

**Local Non-member Shops**

<b><u>Local Non-member Shops</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>	<b><u>Products</u></b>
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	Greenware – Bisque - Slip
Monica's House of Ceramics	Houston	(281) 564-4997	

**Welcome to New Members**

John Duncan  
 Becky Jurtschek  
 Tracey Hughes  
 Robin Crosby  
 Penny Davis

**Most Asked Question:** How do we make molds?  
 Fired Arts & Crafts, November 2004 has a very article (Basic Steps To Mold Making, pages 23-25) with lots of picture demonstration.

**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.

☞ Have you thought about running for office for the Texas Gulf Coast Ceramic Society? We need new blood and new ideas! Think about running for office or volunteering for the nominating committee. Appointment of the nominating committee will be done during the second August meeting of the TGCCS. If you are interested in being on the nominating committee, please contact Jeanne Bell at 832-483-3051 or [jbelle52451@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelle52451@yahoo.com).

Our next meeting is June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and the one following that will be on July 11<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. Remember the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday falls on the first Monday of the month; therefore, the meeting is scheduled for the following Monday, which will be July 11.



**Cut out this coupon and bring it to the show to save \$1.00. Write your email address and you shall receive our newsletter. Don't forget to bring lots of your personal address labels to the show – you can stick them on all those prize drawing tickets to save time instead of repeatedly writing the information**



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Houston, Texas 77087