

WPA PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN POTTERY ASSOCIATION

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2001 Show and Sale a Stunning Success

Greetings Wisconsin Pottery Association Members! As the October *WPA Press* prepares for mailing, the final figures for our August 25 Show and Sale at the Alliant Center are still being tallied, but we know that upwards of 900 people, including dealers and guests, passed through the spectacular **Weller exhibit** and visited the 60+ dealers present. No complaints were logged about parking and our visitors and volunteers seemed to enjoy our new location at the Alliant Center. This is very encouraging to WPA members, as our contract puts us back at the Alliant Center for the 2002 Show and Sale! Our date for 2002 is **August 24**—please put it on your calendars and spread the word. Our Alliant Center liaison Elaine Staalnd has recently received an encouraging detail about our 2002 Alliant Center contract—suffice it to say that we are very pleased by the arrangements for next year. We will be able to once again host a very affordable Show and Sale in 2002, providing maximum educational benefit at a minimal price.

I'd like to thank all WPA Members that volunteered their time for our

August 25 event. It was such a smoothly run event and so many of you devoted from 2 hours to the entire day (9AM-4PM)—many the previous day as well, to make it happen. **Thank you so much** for supporting your Wisconsin Pottery Association in this way. In addition to getting the work done, one of the best things about spending more than just 2 hours on a Tuesday evening together, is that work at the Show and Sale allows time to visit and learn more about other club members and find out about their collecting secrets!

Thanks once again to the Exhibit Committee with Chris Swart and Barbara Budig at the helm, to Jim Riordan for lining up the volunteers, to Tim Zinkgraf for providing wonderful, colorful signs, to Glenn Clark for all his efforts as our dealer liaison, to Elaine Staalnd for her efforts with the Alliant Center, All the club members that worked at our ever popular evaluation table, and to Mary Clark for heading our registration table, as she has done for years now! Thanks to All of you for volunteering your time! You are the reason we had such a successful day.

- Kari Kenefick, WPA President

In This Issue of the Press:

- Pauline Log Cabin Update
- The WPA Wants You!
- An Interview with WPA Members Tracey and Scott G.
- The History of Edgerton Potteries Lichtenware
- Mount Pleasant Pottery

WPA Calendar for 2001

October 9—Contemporary Native American Pottery by Ervin Bublitz

November 13—Galena Pottery (or Blue and White Stoneware) by Bill Engel

December 4—WPA Holiday Party (note that this is the first Tuesday in December)

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*All meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except July, August and December) at the Shorewood Community Center.*

## PAULINE LOG CABIN UPDATE

*Ori-Anne Pagel sent a mid-September update on the progress so far this year in restoring the Pauline Log Cabin.*

Ori-Anne writes that as of September 12 ACE has secured a quote from Damian Slaske of Eagle Restorations for work to complete the log cabin. The estimated completion date for all of the cabin work is fall 2002, with the following details: a visible stone foundation border, work on some of the logs, chinking between logs, a cedar or plank roof (as seen in old photos), placement of the six new windows and door, also interior, trim and floor work. Total cost is estimated at \$26,750.

Ori-Anne also reports that the chimney was worked on this spring and summer, but has not been completed. We await word from the Pagels and ACE on possible work days for this fall - otherwise, fundraising is a priority at this time.

Finally, thanks so much to Ori-Anne for arranging our September 11 speaker, Mark Scarborough. Mark gave a spirited, in-depth talk, complete with slides, on the history of pottery in Edgerton. See the accompanying article for more information and watch for Mark's complete article in the January 2002 *WPA Press*.

*- Kari Kenefick, Editor, WPA Press*

## THE WPA WANTS YOU!

Now on to the 2002 Show and Sale—we've already begun the process of selecting an exhibit topic, finding a Show Manager and Exhibit Curator and then on to preparing dealer contracts for our August 24, 2002 event.

At this time we have a preliminary and very exciting exhibit proposal for 2002. Forgive the superstition—I don't want to jinx our luck by telling you about the topic before it is approved by the *Redwing Collectors'* senior board members, so "mum's" the word right now. We should know more in time for our November WPA general meeting—stay tuned!

And while we are on the topic of exhibit ideas, just a word or two on some points that the WPA executive committee has been discussing on the subject of future exhibits. Several exhibit ideas have been suggested in the past several years or so, including (1) a WPA members' select exhibit; (2) a Michigan and Indiana ("Michiana") pottery exhibit and; (3) a Muncie exhibit. These are all excellent suggestions, but along with these ideas we must have two crucial elements for the exhibit—the exhibit needs, first of all, a curator, someone that functions as Chris Swart did this year. The exhibit curator works with a committee to find and contact persons having the desired type of pottery, to handle any paperwork to get the pottery to the exhibit, and organizes the pottery and its placement in the exhibit. We are currently in need of a curator for the 2002 exhibit.

Secondly, the exhibit should be on a subject that will arouse interest and bring people to the Show and

Sale. We always try to select a topic that the most people will relate to and enjoy. In this way our educational efforts supporting the exhibit reach the largest possible number of people.

In addition to 2002 Show and Sale volunteer positions to fill (show manager, exhibit curator), the WPA has several officer positions open—president and vice president—effective in January of 2002. We are seeking nominations for these positions. The president and vice president join the secretary (Tim Zinkgraf) and treasurer (Scott Grant), as well as past-president (Kari Kenefick) in forming the executive committee, which meets on the first Thursday of each month. Previous club officers frequently attend the executive committee meetings, which are open to all club members. Our club officers, whether new or long-time club members have a tremendous support network, which makes the job of president and vice president well-supported and relatively simple. The vice president will become our 2003 president, so a year of preparation is built into that office.

And finally, in the list of club needs, we are looking for members interested in joining the **program committee**. This group is responsible for inviting speakers for WPA monthly presentations. Nicol Knappen, who headed this committee for the past several years, has resigned the position. Note that anyone in the club may suggest speakers and/or topics for our monthly presentations. Please bring your ideas to our October and November meetings—it's time to get speakers and presentations lined up for 2002!

*- Editor, WPA Press*

## GETTING TO KNOW TRACEY AND SCOTT G.

In this issue of the *WPA Press* we've caught up with Scott and Tracey to learn about their collecting *habits*, shall we say? As you know, Tracey is past secretary of the WPA and Scott is our hard-working treasurer! And now, in their own words:

**WPA Press:** How did you get started in the collecting business? Did one of you influence the other or did your marriage bring two collecting careers together?

**Tracey and Scott:** Tracey's father, Bruce Starkweater, had been in the antiques business in Madison for many years before they moved to Arizona in 1983, so she learned a lot in her childhood about the antique business. Tracey and her sister helped their father refinish furniture so she learned about old furniture at an early age. Tracey was the expert sander—ask her what the OG edge is! Scott picked up the collectibles end from traveling to antique malls with Jim Riordan and Barbara Reed in the 80s and 90s.

When we were married in 1992 it was natural for us to both get interested in collecting & selling pottery and antiques in general, which we have enjoyed doing ever since.

**WPA Press:** What do you like to collect? Pottery and ceramics only? Everything but pottery and ceramics? Old furniture? Paper goods?

**T & S:** We collect anything and everything to which our messy house can attest. It seems we need to live with our acquisitions before

we finally decide to part with them. We also repair, refinish and sell antique furniture so the garage is always full!

**WPA Press:** Where do you like to do your collecting—Antique malls? Estate sales? Others?

**T & S:** Mostly garage sales on the east side of Madison—we start early Saturday morning and usually finish by 9. St. Vincent de Paul was also a good source except my job location changed so I no longer am able to go as I once did. Some items come from the curb. You would be surprised what people throw away! Since auctions and estate sales are so competitive and time-consuming we generally stay away. So mostly garage sales.

**WPA Press:** How has your collecting changed over time? Do you still like the things you collected initially or have you moved way up (or down?) the collecting ladder in taste, quality and/or expense?

**T & S:** It has never really changed but yes we have collected some better pottery than the Roseville we both have collected for years. Scott has a modest collection of Roseville Mostique & Tracey has some Roseville Magnolia in blue. This has been our main interest although we have started selling off parts of our collections. We like Weller Coppertone and Rookwood production pieces—nothing too exotic or expensive.

**WPA Press:** What has been your most fun outing (for collecting purposes) to date?

**T & S:** We really enjoyed garage

sales this summer—one on Buena Vista was a particular treat! Being the first ones there we were able to amass a nice assortment of antiques for a very modest sum. That is why getting up early is so important. The early bird does indeed get the worm!

**WPA Press:** Do you wander very far from Madison to collect? Do you collect or antique whenever you get out of town?

**T & S:** We find almost all our items in Madison but do stop at malls when we travel, which is seldom.

**WPA Press:** Do you have a particularly good find that you'd like to tell about?

**T & S:** Yes—I found a Roseville Carnelian vase at a garage sale on the east side of town for \$3.00 in August. About once or maybe twice each season we manage to find a 70–80 year old piece of pottery at a garage sale.

**WPA Press:** What else about your antique collecting or other lives would you like to tell us about?

**T & S:** We both truly enjoy what we are doing in the antique business and look forward to the future. We also meet some really nice people along the way so it is something we are planning to do for many years.

Happy hunting! - Scott and Tracey

*Many Thanks to Scott and Tracey for sharing their ideas on collecting with us!! - kk*



**A history of Weller Pottery.** The Wisconsin Pottery Association's 2001 Show and Sale featured an exhibit of Weller Pottery, carefully laid out by production date. Many of the fabulous Weller lines were represented, some of the pieces made as early as the turn of the last century. (The quality of these photos does not do justice to this beautiful exhibit and beautiful pottery, but hopefully many of you enjoyed the exhibit and recollect how exciting it was to see all these pieces together for one day.)

## A HISTORY OF EDGERTON POTTERIES

Mark Scarborough came to Madison on September 11 to speak on the history of the potteries of Edgerton, WI. Mark had set out for Madison from Wisconsin Rapids early that day, before we knew fully the seriousness of the days' events in New York and Washington, D.C. And because we knew he was on his way to Madison, the only thing to do was meet him and carry on with our meeting.

Mark gave us a wonderful, detailed and *animated* presentation, and while he has promised to send a complete write-up for our January 2002 newsletter, for now here are a few notes from his talk.

Mark noted that Edgerton ceramics history includes Norse and Pauline potteries and Pickard china decorating. Much of the historical information was gleaned from Edgerton's *Wisconsin Tobacco Reporter*, which

kept the local record on who was visiting and who was traveling from Edgerton to other locations. The Reporter provided a peek into the social scene, as well as who was doing what in business.

The Pauline Pottery originated in Chicago, IL. Pauline was first a china painter. Her family name was Bogert. Oscar I. Jacobus, her husband, was a wealthy member of the Chicago Board of Trade. He sent Pauline to study ceramic decorating at a Rookwood class in Cincinnati, OH. In 1882, Pauline Jacobus fired her first Chicago pottery. These early pieces became quite popular and were sold at upscale stores like Marshall Fields. Marks on these pots were several: two Ps back-to-back forming either side of a crown; the crown with the word "Trademark" above it; "Pauline Pottery".

In March of 1888 Oscar Jacobus moved the family to Edgerton, WI; Pauline is reported to have joined

them in May. Stock was offered for the Pauline Pottery at \$50 a share, with Oscar Jacobus being the major shareholder. Mark Scarborough told of a Babcock general store at which Jacobus sought to sell shares in the pottery—his attempts were rather unsuccessful. Oscar is on record as the owner of the pottery, while Pauline was listed as the decorator.

The pottery bought a warehouse on Lawton St. in Edgerton in March of 1888. Kiln builder John Sargeant was hired to build approximately six kilns. These included a variety of kiln types such as slip kilns and bottle kilns.

One of the economic mainstays of the Pauline pottery, ultimately, was a porous battery cup, unmarked. These cups were about 6" tall, made of white clay, some glazed, some unglazed. These battery cups are hard to find now, as they were considered useless after batteries evolved and the cups were no



**The best volunteers in the whole world at our 2001 Show and Sale...** from left: Ed Arnold and Jim Tyne identify a piece of pottery; Betty Knutzen, Rose Lindner and friend working at the evaluation table; and Tom, Tim and Terrance helping with the Weller exhibit. Photos by Kari Kenefick.

longer needed. Mark estimated that many of them were destroyed.

Finally, Pauline Bogert was born somewhere around Utica, NY on December 13, 1840. Oscar Jacobus was born in New York City, also in 1840. Pauline and Oscar were married in 1861.

- *Editor, WPA Press*

### **INTRODUCING LICHTENWARE**

Little is known of the firm (that produced this pottery) except that it operated for a time in Chicago. Judging from the stylization and glazes of the well-modeled pieces, the era of manufacturing was sometime between 1940 and 1970. At this writing, the author is aware of no documentation on this company. Although thought to be largely the product of one woman, collectors speculate that because of the range of products, Lichtenware was more than a backyard, amateur effort.

Dogs seem to be the primary theme, but cats, calves and other animals are sometimes found. Larger pieces are named (e.g., "Amanda", "Lucky", etc.), smaller pieces are not. The pieces were molded, but each one exhibits some degree of hand finishing, so that there is usually some minor variation among pieces. Larger pieces are hand-incised "Lichtenware Ware," sometimes along with

"Chicago," and sometimes with the addition of a symbol that resembles a stylized letter "M." Smaller pieces are generally not marked.

Collectors find examples in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The WPA Clay and Craft exhibit will be a unique opportunity to observe these little-known figurines firsthand. As pottery collectors know, "ground floor" opportunities like this don't come along very often.

- *Nicol Knappen*

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**Mount Pleasant Pottery.** Both molded and hand-thrown pieces exist. Steve Dana is our resident expert on this pottery. Photos by Steve Dana.

**MOUNT PLEASANT POTTERY**

Earlier this summer I received an email inquiry from a woman that had found our website and was looking for help in identifying a piece of pottery. Betty Knutzen, Chris Swart and Steve Dana helped provide this response about Mountainside Art Pottery, as well as several other U.S. potteries with MP in their marks:

From Lehner's Encyclopedia of U.S. Marks, Mountainside Art

Pottery operated in Mountainside, NJ from 1929-1941. Their pottery, made from either red or white clay, was marked with an incised "MP", with the M and P sharing a line between them.

Marblehead Pottery has a ship with MP appearing on either side of the ship. They used red clay. Mount Clemons used a variety of marks. The one mark that used MPC also has a pitcher incorporated into the mark.

*Information Contributed by Betty Knutzen, Chris Swart and Steve Dana, WPA. Thanks to them for the education!!*

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**Pieces at an exhibition.** Weller pottery graced the exhibit shelves at the WPA's 2001 Show and Sale, August 25, 2001 in Madison, WI. Mark your calendars now for the August 24, 2002 Show. Exhibit information to be announced late this fall at [www.wisconsinpottery.org](http://www.wisconsinpottery.org)



**More 2001 Volunteers.** Ellen Tyne and Diane D. Dowd at WPA information, while Terrence, Christine, Barb and John work the exhibit and Lee and Bob Norgren await an evaluation with Ed Arnold. Photos by K. Kenefick.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN POTTERY ASSOCIATION

*Elaine Staal and Nicol Knappen, amongst other charter WPA members, organized a gathering of charter members this past summer. With Barb Huhn doing the secretarial honors, here are some notes regarding early dates and meetings for the WPA. This is not meant as a definitive list, but rather should stimulate conversation on what has transpired during the WPA's history. Please send your comments to the Editor. See your WPA mailing list or the end of this newsletter for address information.*

*Please note that there is conflicting info on the exhibit subject for years 1994-6.*

1992--Dave Auclair, Nicol Knappen and Chris Swart met.

1993--In February people started meeting in people's homes, including the Knutzens' and Terrance's.

1st meeting: Attendance at the first meeting included Dave A., Glenn, Nicol, Dave and Betty, Rose, Jim Petzold. The topic included discussions of what the group would do such as oral histories, historic markers, and creating a charter. The

early meetings involved creating a code of ethics, bylaws, incorporation and a charter.

Three groups of people had information, which was valuable enough that it was necessary to work out the issue of who would profit by the information being brought together. 11 or 12 people signed the agreement. After three years it would be available for publication. It took a year for the details of this agreement to be worked out.

2nd meeting: Same attendance. Doug Kendall was the speaker/guest.

3rd meeting: Held at Terrence's home.

Subsequent meetings were held at the Lutheran church on Old Middleton Road and Whitney Way. There speakers included the Fucile's talking about Frankoma, Dave Auclair on Roseville experimentals, the Knutzens' on Rookwood and Elaine on figural pieces. People were concerned that having the meetings at a church may be off putting to some and the meetings moved to the Shorewood Hills Community Center around February of 1995.

In the summer the meetings moved to the Atwood Community Center.

1995--The first exhibit of Ceramic Art Studio Pottery was held at the Forum in the winter of 1995. Nicol did an article on the exhibit. \$20 was donated by each charter member for supplies.

1996--The 2nd Exhibit and Sale featured Wisconsin Pottery.

### **Officers: President/Vice-president/Secretary/Treasurer/Exhibit**

1993: Dave Auclair, Elaine, Jeff Grayson

1994: Dave Auclair, Betty Knutzen, Rose Lindner

1995: Betty Knutzen, Rose Lindner, Tim Holthaus and Jim Petzold

1996: Rose, Nicol, Tim and Jim; Ceramic Arts Studio

1997: Nicol, Barb Budig, Tim and Jim; Wisconsin Pottery

1998: Barb Budig, Jim Riordan, *Tim, Haeger*

1999: *Jim Riordan, Barbara Huhn, Tim; Roseville Pottery.*

2000: *Barbara Huhn, Kari Kenefick, Tim, Illinois Pottery*

2001: *Kari, Glenn, Tim, Scott Grant; Weller Pottery.*

*{Thanks to Barb Huhn for her excellent notes!} - KK for the WPA Press.*

