

BLUE RIDGE POTTERS GUILD INFORMATION SHEET
(Revised June 2005).

Organized in 1996 as a group of individuals interested in ceramics, the Blue Ridge Potters Guild was incorporated in 2003 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation of some forty-plus members. Some members have been making pottery for twenty years, and some for five or fewer. Some retired members follow ceramics as a full-time hobby. Others have full-time jobs and fit in production on weekends. Many guild members have wheels and/or kilns at home, and some regularly take classes at the Roanoke Parks and Recreation Facility. Most members are located in the Roanoke Valley, New River Valley, or Lynchburg area. But one member lives as far away as North Carolina.

A board of directors, including four elected officers and five appointed committee chairs, oversee the regular activities of the guild. One activity of the year is the annual show/sale in October, in which over half the members participated last fall. It is an opportunity for ceramics-lovers to present their work to the public, to attract new members, to support educational groups in the area, and to interact with each other. A percentage of the proceeds from sales also provide funds for other guild activities. The guild also sponsors other workshops during the year, some by well-known professional potters--three years ago Ramon Camarillo held a weekend raku workshop, two years ago Sylvie Granatelli held a throwing/decorating full-day workshop. Last year Arthur and Mary Park demonstrated Korean pottery techniques for a weekend in September. In addition, the guild also sponsors get-togethers and smaller workshops, often taught by guild members, in glazing and throwing and even marketing techniques. The guild supports and encourages other non-profit ceramics groups, such as school pottery programs: for instance, for the past two years members donated works to the Cave Spring High School silent auction fund raiser.

The guild holds at least one full-member meeting a year January/February to elect officers. In addition sometimes a final show/sale-planning meeting occurs in August/September. The various committees meet more frequently as needed. Newsletters, updating members, are sent out quarterly. Yearly membership dues are \$20.

We would be delighted to have you apply for membership. There are no requirements except an interest in ceramics, and membership is usually automatic with application. I am attaching the electronic part of the application form. If you are interested in applying, print out and fill in this form and send it, along with a dues check for \$20 made out to The Blue Ridge Potters Guild, to guild treasurer Gwynne Myers, at 3314 Chestnut Mtn. Circle, Vinton, Virginia, 24179.

Thank you for your interest. I hope what you have learned about the guild encourages you to join. We look forward to meeting you and learning more about your interest in ceramics.