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Craft Connections

May–June Newsletter 2011

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Wooden Vessel by Donald Briere

League of N.H. Craftsmen  signature of excellence

Message from the President

Greetings to all craftsmen during this busy and exciting time for the League! Our Capital Campaign and plans for our new headquarters and education center are now in full swing. We have several volunteers who are contacting fellow craftsmen about the campaign and the headquarters, and we have received many questions. I'd like to address some of those questions here.

Why are we moving now? The economy is not great.

The League was given an amazing opportunity and, after so many years of searching and planning, the Board and Staff decided we couldn't pass it up. We are getting a fantastic space for a very reasonable price, and it includes room to grow. We will be located in the center of a growing arts district.

We're pleased to report that the Capital Campaign is going well, despite the economy. Many wonderful volunteers are working hard to achieve success and I believe we will do just that. You can make a difference by participating.

How will we sustain our new headquarters?

We have made many projections as to what the move will cost, what our new expenses will be, and what our newly reenergized education program will generate. Eventually, we hope the education program will pay for itself and make enough for its expansion. A long-term proforma has been generated to project the possibilities for the next 5-10 years. We have also signed a purchase-and-sale agreement for our current building. Throughout this process, we have kept our eyes and ears open and asked many questions. I believe we have done our very best to plan for our future and remain solvent.

How can I help?

So many of you ARE helping and we thank you!!! Some are volunteering their time to contact fellow craftsmen. Some are making pledges of money over the next five years. Many are making pledges of craft to support the auction (scheduled for November 11, 2011), which will be an annual event, at least for the next five years. A few are



Present Facility



New Facility

making/donating furnishings for our reception area, galleries, and library. Some hearty souls are working hard on our building committee to make sure everything is perfect when we move in.

My dream is to see every craftsman participate in the League's future growth by being a part of this transition. Think about how YOU can help and join us. Contact Susie Lowe-Stockwell at **603-224-3375** or email slowstoc@nhcrafts.org to get involved. *Be a part of the process to guarantee success! This is the future of the League!*

-**Beverly R. Wolf**, *President, Board of Trustees*

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From the Executive Director

We're moving! For the past several months, the League staff has spent Fridays culling through files, cleaning out closets, and organizing to prepare for our move – on top of doing their regular jobs. If you've ever moved you know how unsettling it can be – but have you done it while you're working? During our weekly staff meetings, we address a variety of move-related issues such as: ensuring a central location for ALL juried member files to creating an internal protocol for handling and/or disposing of 79 years of records! Thankfully, we have an amazing archive system in place, which is a great help. During the month of June, we are holding a yard sale throughout the building and the barn that will be open to our juried members. Anything with a yellow sticker – desks, file cabinets, bookcases, chairs, and much more – can go!

Our tentative move date is July 28. This date may change, but that's what we're working toward. Keep in mind that the little event that we produce - the *Annual Craftsmen's Fair* – begins August 6! To prepare for the Fair, our staff will be moving up to Mount Sunapee beginning July 18. We will pack up everything as if we are not returning to 205 North Main Street and set ourselves up at the mountain for the duration of the Fair. During that time, the movers will take all of the other items going to our new facility. Yard sale items will be removed, junk items will go, and we're out! We have a purchase-and-sale agreement with the SEA and are scheduled to close September 1.

Save the date for a grand opening celebration in our new facility on Thursday, October 27. Our new address will be 49 South Main Street, Concord, NH 03301 and we will have the same phone number, 603-224-3375. Please be patient with us as we balance many responsibilities over the next several months. The staff and I are extremely committed to providing our members with the best service possible. *The League is moving forward!!*

-**Susie Lowe-Stockwell**, *Executive Director*

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Report from the 79th Annual Meeting

We are grateful to **Pam Tarbell** for hosting the 79th Annual Meeting at her Mill Brook Gallery and Sculpture Garden on May 18. The rainy day didn't seem to dampen the mood of the crowd who gathered for the meeting and "in-door" barbeque. Juried Members Form (JMF) Chair **Ron Tornow**, who would normally call the meeting to order, was absent as he was at the birth of his grandson, Christopher Esteves Tornow. Executive Director **Susie Lowe-Stockwell** filled in. She announced the newest member of the Board of Trustees, **Deborah Coffin**, along with returning members **Beverly Wolf** and **Adele Sanborn**. **Jack Dokus** will serve as the chair of the Fair Committee, and **Alice Veenstra** will serve as Treasurer, a position recently held by **Maria Del Rio**, who is moving out of state. There were no write-in votes for open seats on the JMF committee, which currently is comprised of **Stephany Marchut Lavallee**, **Deborah Libby**, and **Karen Mitchell**. The changes to the Articles of Agreement were approved. Pam Tarbell, who has just left the board, was thanked for serving five years and for playing a big role in our future new facility. Finance Director **Prudence Gagne** reported on the League's finances; an Annual Report was distributed at the meeting and is being mailed to members. Prudy acknowledged the work of Maria Del Rio, who spoke of her confidence in the management and operations of headquarters.

Susie presented an overview of the past years' programs and acknowledged the work of her staff during this exciting and challenging time of fundraising and preparing for the move. **Lauren Moye**, fundraising consultant with Demont Associates and campaign director, gave an update on the status of the campaign. We are close to selling all of the CDFA tax credits totaling \$1,125,000, which will net the League \$900,000 toward the purchase of the new facility.

There has also been nearly \$800,000 in pledges, cash, and in-kind donations from individuals. The minimum goal is \$2,850,000 to be raised over five years and we hope to raise the maximum of \$3,550,000 to fund additional classroom space, technology, collections, and maintenance. **Bev Wolf**, president of the Board of Trustees, reported on the exciting progress on the facility construction and talked about the education programs being planned by the new Curriculum Committee. She urged everyone to get involved with this process as this is the future of the organization. The meeting adjourned and everyone enjoyed great food, drink and conversation in Pam's lovely gallery.

Juried member Andy Hampton wrote this poem, which reflects his thoughts from attending the Annual Meeting:

Folding Chairs

Thirty eight, different sizes
Donated I suppose
To every meeting carted back and forth
Many craftsmen, board member, staff and volunteer
Rested and listened
Facts, numbers, outlook and status
Introductions
New people, new energy, a new perspective
Applause, congratulations
A moment of silence for giants who have gone on before
Forging the way so we could follow
Setting the foundation stones
Building vision, the chairs have all been there
Like the rings of growth in a tree
A testimony of passing time
Soon they will be replaced by new ones
To fit in a glorious new place
As we open up to the vibrant
New surroundings
Handcrafted by the vision of those
Present and past.



Everyone enjoyed the good news at the Annual Meeting

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Advanced Level Winter Workshops at North Country Studios



Workshop at North Country Studios

North Country Studio Workshops, an educational and professional development program for accomplished artists and craftspeople, will offer fourteen advanced level hands-on studio workshops at Bennington College, VT from January 24 through January 29, 2012. Nationally recognized faculty from all parts of the US will present workshops including: Bamboo with Charissa Brock, Basketry with Elizabeth Whyte Schulze, Book Arts with Sandy Webster, Clay/Handbuilding with Michael Sherrill, Clay/Wheel with James Watkins, Creativity and the Photographer with Sean Kernan, Drawing Intensive with Gerald Auten, Encaustic with Daniella Woolf, Metal Jewelry with Nancy Megan Corwin, Sculptural Knitting with Adrienne Sloanne, Faux Bone and Metal Clay with Robert Dancik, Monotypes with Stuart Shils, Quilting with Sue Benner, and Sculpture Techniques with Arthur Ganson.

North Country Studio Workshops presents master-level workshops every other year in wood, design, drawing, sculpture, clay, book arts, surface design, fiber, metal, basketry, quilting, and printmaking. You will spend five days in the foothills of the Green Mountains, where living, dining and working take place in the intimacy of the campus. You will have the freedom to focus on developing new approaches to a familiar medium or apply your background as an artist or craftsperson to a new area. A faculty exhibit, reception and evening program is open to the public on January 24, 2012. For further information and the opportunity to register visit

www.northcountrystudioworkshops.org or call **603-380-4520**.

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Yard Sale at Headquarters

From June 6 – 30, the League will hold a yard sale of furniture, file cabinets, even craft that had been left on the warehouse shelves, that we are **not** bringing to the new facility. All items tagged with stickers may be purchased or given away, depending on value. You take it away now or take it when we move out, depending on its current use. There will be some great bargains! Some items will have a price tag, others will welcome a donation; some will be free for the taking! All proceeds will help support our moving expenses. Come clean out with us!

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League Warehouse Schedule

The League Warehouse, which is used by craftsmen to drop off and pick up their work from the retail galleries, will be **closed** from June 1 – September 15 due to the clean-out and move to our new facility. The Warehouse system will resume in the new facility on September 16. Watch for information about new procedures beginning in September.

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Member News

A four-page article about the 2010 League of NH Craftsman Fair is now published in the June/July 2011 issue of *The Quilter* magazine. Featured artists are **Ira Frost, Tom Jipson, Marie Wiggins, Cathy Harvey, Natalie Blake, Joseph E. Godek, and Jan Seavey**, as well as the Soo Nipi Quilt Guild.

John Baymore is exhibiting his work at Gallery Wando 5-79 Chiyozuru, Kanayama Goshogawara-shi, Aomori-ken in Japan until June 3, 2011. This is a solo exhibition of John's wood-fired glazed and yachime work made in his studio in Wilton, and will include kabin, hanaire, sara, wan, yunomi, guinomi, chawan, futaoiki, mizusashi, and chaire. Since this exhibition was scheduled far in advance of the earthquake and tsunami, John is donating all proceeds of this exhibition to the relief work being done in the northeastern part of Japan.



*Ceramic Vessel
by John Baymore*

John is also teaching two five-week seminar-type courses at the New Hampshire Institute of Art from July 6 to August 3: *History of Japanese Ceramics Lecture Series* and *Making Handbuilt Chawan (Tea Ceremony Teabowls)*. They can be taken separately, or they can work really well as a pairing with a one-hour dinner break between them. One is a studio class; one is a slideshow presentation. The classes are limited to the first 12 people and some spaces are already taken. Contact the [New Hampshire Institute of Art Continuing Education](#) department if you are interested in enrolling.

The Andrews Art Museum in Andrews, NC invited **Jessie O'Brien** to participate in an exhibit entitled "Twentieth Century Pyrography." The exhibit opens on June 4 and runs for three months. It showcases some of the world's most talented artists that create art with fire.



On Monday, June 27, from 7 pm to 9 pm, **Duane Martin** of Newfields, NH will speak about Intarsia – 3D Art Made from Wood as part of the League of NH Craftsmen Meredith Retail Gallery Signature of Excellence Lecture Series. Intarsia is a woodworking technique that uses varied shapes, sizes, and species of wood fitted together to create a mosaic-like picture with an illusion of depth. Duane will discuss his technique for making beautiful, functional art pieces from wood.

Christopher Morse directs the arts program at Mascoma School District. He had several excellent residencies with League craftsmen including **Richard Fove** and **Joseph**

Wood Piece by
Duane Martin

excellent residences with League craftsmen, including **Richard Toys** and **Joseph DeRobertis**. **Ara Cardew** helped during their ceramics unit in the Fall. Go to www.mascoma.k12.nh.us and click on Mascoma Valley Regional School District at the top, at left sidebar at the bottom, click on pottery with Ara Cardew.

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In Memoriam

Newton Washburn, juried member emeritus in baskets, died at the age of 96 on March 26 in Bethlehem, NH.

Robert Gray, husband of Susie Gray, a past president of the League's board of trustees, passed away April 5.

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Newton Washburn

Retail Gallery News



Meredith Retail Gallery

The League of NH Craftsmen Meredith Retail Gallery is pleased to host three summertime *Signature of Excellence* lectures that will provide the public with an informative and in-depth view of how fine handcraft is made. The series features three juried members of the League of NH Craftsmen – all skilled artisans and entertaining speakers. Lectures are free and will be held June 27 with **Duane Martin**, July 25 with **Michael Kraatz**, and August 15 with **William Schute** at The Chase House in Meredith.

Classes for children and adults in pottery, jewelry making, and glass blowing are offered at the League of NH Craftsmen North Conway Retail Gallery in June and July. Please call **603-356-2441** or visit the [North Conway Retail Gallery website](#) for more details.

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Nominations for the Blackstone Volunteer Recognition Award due July 1

Nomination forms are available to juried members from our web site at nhcrafts.org – click on Juried Members and log in to the Members section of the site. Contact **Sharon Lindstrom**, database and computer manager, at **603-224-3375** or slindstrom@nhcrafts.org to obtain your user name and password.

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Volunteers needed for the Annual Craftsmen's Fair

Contact **Bonnie Nieves** at League headquarters to sign up to volunteer at the Fair **603-224-3375** or bnieves@nhcrafts.org. We need volunteers to work as booth sitters, assist in the children's tent, pass out surveys, etc. Lots of fun and free Fair tickets!

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Reminder to Members: Free Fair Tickets!

Your membership as a juried or supporting member entitles you to a certain number of free tickets to the Fair each year:

- Juried Individual:** 1 two-day pass
- Juried Partners:** 2 two-day passes
- Supporting Senior:** 1 two-day pass
- Supporting Individual:** 1 two-day pass
- Supporting Family:** 2 two-day passes
- Supporting Patron:** 4 two-day passes
- Supporting Collector:** 2 Fair long passes
- Supporting Benefactor:** 4 Fair-long passes



Your free tickets to the Fair are in your name at any entrance gate! Send a self addressed stamped envelope to **Prudence Gagne**, Finance Director by July 15 if you would like to have your tickets mailed to you.

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Contact/League Information

If you would like to contact the League, [click here](#)

To see who is on the League's Board of Trustees, [click here](#)

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CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

Funding for the League of NH Craftsmen was provided in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation



Supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
**American Recovery
and Reinvestment Act**



Positions in our organization are supported by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts & the National Endowment for the Arts through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.