

Welcome to the monthly *National Polymer Clay News* from the **National Polymer Clay Guild**

A newsletter dedicated to spreading the word on all things polymer.

We need **YOU!** Please send us information on any polymer-related event, announcement, or message you'd like shared with the members. To send us your news, contact anyone on the board or e-mail me, Tammy, at execdir@npcg.org.

We will do all we can to post all of the messages we receive but do reserve the right not to list them all.

National Guild Updates

ELECTION NEWS

There are a few wonderful Board members whose terms are ending, which means positions are opening up. There is also a new position being added - International Guild Liaison. We need you and your talent to fill these executive positions!

Please review the article on the NPCG website for complete details. [NPCG 2008 ELECTIONS](#)

If you are interested in learning more about the possibilities of volunteering, a comprehensive summary of job descriptions and expectations, including travel and meeting requirements, can be found for each board position under the [FAQ](#) section of this website.

Voting Timeline

- Aug 29 - Deadline for nominees to submit their candidacy to the [Elections Chair](#)
- Sep 1 - Complete list of applicants will be posted on the website and each will receive the Nominee Questionnaire by email
- Oct 1 – Nominee Questionnaires completed and returned by applicants
- Oct 7 – Excerpts from Nominee Questionnaires posted on the website
- Nov 1-14th – Online Voting
- Nov 21 – Election results posted on website

BEAD & BUTTON

The NPCG was well represented during the Bead & Button show with the help of Beth Ackley, the [Metro Milwaukee Polymer Clay Guild](#) (MMPCG) and other friends.

Staffing a booth outside the marketplace, volunteers displayed artwork, handed out brochures, directed interested people to the polymer booths, and publicized the schedule of polymer classes. In addition to giving hands-on demos herself, Beth Ackley, founder of the MMPCG, was instrumental in organizing additional demos by polymer artists including Gwen Bernecker, Jill Erickson, Christi Freisen, Patti Kimle, Barbara McGuire, Erin Metzger, Lisa Pavelka, Julie Picarello, Lynne Ann Schwarzenberg and Amanda Valley. The demos were a great hit among show attendees. As Beth says "I can't tell you how fabulous the teachers were and how appreciative I am for the demos. I personally learned so many new tips and have made so many new friends!"

For the complete article please visit the [NPCG website](#).

2009 RETREAT

The NPCG is thinking of holding a Retreat in 2009, but we want to hear from you!

[Click here to read about it and take our short survey so we can better serve your needs.](#)

ACREs of Opportunity 2009

The Guild is proud to announce it will continue the ACREs of Opportunity program for 2009, with three winners sharing in a booth space provided by ACRE!

An official announcement will be posted to the NPCG website in July – keep your eye out if you are thinking about pursuing, or expanding your business to include wholesale!

The jurors are in place and are as follows:

- Joyce Fritz – polymer clay artist with 200 wholesale accounts
- Dottie Lownsbury-Dolan – owner of Apostrophe Arts and Design, Washington MO
- David Willard – Executive Director of Arrowmont

PROGRESS & POSSIBILITIES 2008

An International Exhibit

[Progress & Possibilities 2008](#), the fourth NPCG polymer clay design competition, will begin 8/01/08. If you have a piece you'd like to submit, be sure and get it photographed soon!

Here is the timeline:

- **08/01/08** – Online submissions open
- **09/01/08** – Submission deadline
- **11/01/08** – Finalists Announced
- **11/15/08** – Winners Announced

Images will be submitted through “Call for Entry” – NO CD's – registration is free.

Each artist may submit up to 3 different entries. **Entry fee is \$25 ~ for any current member of the NPCG.** Work must be at least 1/2 Polymer Clay and made between 09/01/07 and 09/01/08.

Top 10 finalists in each category will be included in the *Progress and Possibilities '08* catalog. Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be selected from the chosen finalists.

A formal announcement, as well as clear submission guidelines will be posted to www.npcg.org soon.

Approaching Deadlines

National Polymer Clay News – please submit any news, polymer tips or information you'd like to be considered for use in the next NPCN e-mail by July 22, 2008. Submit all information to: execdir@npcg.org.

Step by Step Beads is interested in publishing your work! Contact [Leslie Rogalski](#), Editor, for submission guidelines.

Polymer Clay Productions is hosting classes and they're looking for teachers who are willing to “cast” from their own homes. For teaching, attending classes and the general scoop, visit Craftedonline.com.

Art Clay Society publishes a quarterly newsletter and hosts a contest for “cover artist.” Contact [Katie Baum](#), Director, for more information.

Award/Contest Announcements

Awards

[Bead Dreams contest winners announced](#) during the Bead & Button show.

The POLYMER clay winners are, drum roll please...:

1st Place – Carol Simmons; Korean Embroidery Series

2nd Place – Julie Picarello; Cityscape

3rd Place – Louise Fischer-Cozzi; Symmetry Demise Necklace

2008 Saul Bell award winners announced during the JCK show in May – for a complete listing of winners, visit [Saul Bell Award](#) for a slide show of the 2008 winners.

2009 Niche award application is now available –

- For [professional entries](#) - deadline is August 30, 2008
- For [student entries](#) – deadline is September 30, 2008

[2009 Saul Bell contest application](#) is now available – deadline is September 19, 2008.

Events and Happenings

Events

Polymer Clay Artists...

The Jacksonville Center for the Arts in Floyd, Virginia invites members of the National Polymer Clay Guild to discover our hands-on arts experiences. We are delighted to you a 25% discount on your first class. We offer over sixty summer courses in an array of mediums, including polymer clay and jewelry classes such as...

- The Well Rounded Jeweler with Martha and Ed Biggar
- Polymer Bead Making with Teri Walters
- Intermediate Millefiori Canework with Teri Walters
- Wire-Wrapped Cabachons with Tammy Parks
- Wirewrapping Weekends with Cy Olson
- Jewelry 101 with Linda Osborne and Cy Olson

For complete details and contact information, please read the complete article on the NPCG website: [Jacksonville Center for the Arts](#)

Happenings

[The Creative Place](#) – hosting many clay and clay-related classes – ongoing

Spanish Polymer Group -- July 5-6, Madrid, Spain
Hosting Louise Fischer-Cozzi

Art of Polymer 4 -- July 20-26, Stressa, Lago Maggiore, Italy
Louise Fischer-Cozzi and Victoria Hughes workshop.
Contact Louise for more information at: www.louisefischercozzi.com/pages/stressa.htm

[Clay ConneCTion](#) -- July 25-27, New London, Connecticut

[Euro Clay Carnival](#) – August 1-3, Ilkeston Town FC

Donna Kato, Judy Belcher, Leslie Blackford, Sue Kelsey, Carol Blackburn, Alison Gallant, Natalia Garcia de Leaniz, Kim Cavender, and Cathy Johnston will each be teaching workshops

[Barnsdall Art Center](#) – Mondays 6:30-9:30, July 7 – August 25, 2008, Los Angeles, CA
Seth Savarick will be teaching a workshop “Jewelry Alternative Materials: Felt, Polymer, Resin”
For more details visit the [NPCG website](#) or contact [Seth](#)

[Art Unraveled](#) art retreat -- August 3-10, Phoenix, Arizona

No Hollow Promises – A Survey of Holloware Possibilities, August 17-20, Jeff Dever at [Maureen Carlson's Center for Creative Arts](#)

[Fall Foliage Clay Festival](#) -- September 2-5, Wassau, Wisconsin
POLYinforMER editor Julie Picarello, among many other talented polymer artists will be holding workshops during the festival

[Art & Soul Retreat](#) – October 1-6, Portland, Oregon

[Pittsburgh Guild Retreat](#) – October 17-19, Prospect, PA

[Houston Polymer Clay Guild](#) – October 4-5, 2008

Laura Tabakman is teaching a [2-day texture plate workshop “Making Your Mark”](#)

[Mile High Polymer Clay Guild](#) – October 18-19, 2008

Tory Hughes is teaching a [2-day “Hinged Pendants” workshop](#)

Does your local guild have an upcoming workshop or class – or are you hosting a workshop or class? Log into the [NPCG website](#) to post your information and to be included in the [events calendar](#).

Not sure if there is a local guild near you? Visit the NPCG website to find a [local guild](#) – and to see the [events and classes](#) posted.

Charitable Efforts

You can help to make a difference! Check out the organizations/efforts listed below and consider sharing some of your talent and creativity.

- About [Bead of Courage](#) and [how to help](#)
- About [“Heats for Heroes”](#) and [how to help](#)
- About [“The Butterfly Project”](#) and [how to help](#).

In the world of Clay

This is the space for you! Be sure to drop us a note for consideration in the next NPCN letter; deadline July22, 2008.

Guild News

Congratulations to the new Wisconsin Guild! The [Metro Milwaukee Polymer Clay Guild](#) has been meeting for only a few months with members who are sculptors, caners, beaders and beginners. Please join them if you're in the area.

[Additional Local Guild News](#) updates are available at the NPCG website.

Ongoing Multi-Media Happenings and Blogs

[Craft Cast](#) – podcasts hosted by Alison Lee – download artist interviews for use on your iPod

[Polymer Clay TV.com](#)

[Swoondimples](#) – Heather Wynn's blog

[Daily Art Muse](#) – Susan Lomuto's blog

[Polymer Clay Daily](#) – Cynthia Tinapple's blog