

DISPATCH

Pittsboro Potter wins National Award

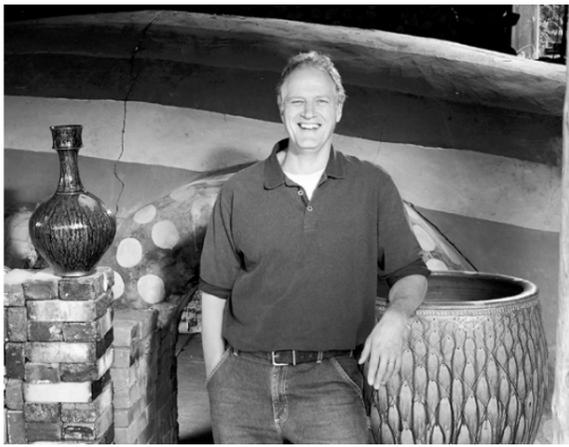
Pittsboro potter Mark Hewitt, one of North Carolina's leading ceramic artists, has been named a 2015 United States Artist Fellow, an award that recognizes him as one of America's most accomplished and innovative artists.

Hewitt, who emigrated from Great Britain to the US in 1978, and set up his pottery studio in Pittsboro on 1983, has built a reputation for making extraordinary wood-fired ceramic ware from elegant mugs to life-size sculptural pieces.

With this award he joins a cadre of 37 new USA Fellows for 2015. Each artist will receive an award of \$50,000 to support their practice and professional development, opening up exciting creative possibilities through the transformative power of unrestricted financial support.

The 37 recipients of this year's awards were selected from over 400 nominated artists living in the United States and US Territories and were chosen by panels of expert peers in each artistic discipline. "USA Fellowships are awarded to innovative artists of all ages and at all stages of their careers, who are nominated for their commitment to excellence and the enduring potential of their work," said United States Artists CEO Carolina Garcia Jayaram.

"It is a tremendous acknowledgment to have been awarded such a prestigious Fellowship," says Hewitt. "I am deeply gratified by this honor. I've been potting in North Carolina for 33



years, and couldn't have found a more supportive community in which to practice my craft. Pottery is, after all the 'Art of the State,' and it's exciting to represent our state on a national stage. I still love being in my workshop every day, making useful and affordable pots for people to enjoy in their daily lives."

Asked how he will use the award, he says, "It gives me the opportunity to experiment more rigorously with native clays and glaze materials, which is at the core of my practice, and which takes considerable time. In addition I want to explore

conceptual ideas about how we all look at ceramics – ideas that have been fermenting for several years, as well as to put a much-needed new roof on the barn that is our showroom!"

He continues, "I also want to start a revolving low interest loan fund for my current and future apprentices to help them buy materials and equipment when they are getting established in their own businesses. They have helped me tremendously over the years, and I'd like to return the favor."

USA honors innovative, accomplished artists at all stages of their careers, who are nominated by their peers and field experts for the quality, imagination, and enduring potential of their work in the following disciplines: Architecture & Design, Crafts, Dance, Literature, Media, Music, Theater & Performance, Traditional Arts, and Visual Arts. Awards are entirely unrestricted and may be used by Fellows in any way they choose. Over \$20 Million Dollars has been awarded through the USA Fellows program since its inception.

He joins the ranks of previous USA Fellows artists such as Meredith Monk, Jack DeJohnette, Bill Frisell, Bill T. Jones, Annie Proulx, Theaster Gates, Sapphire, Eiko & Koma, Meshell Ndegeocello, Michael Doucet, and many more.

Visit his pottery near Pittsboro at his upcoming Holiday Kiln Opening, December 5 & 6, and 12 & 13. More details at www.hewittpottery.com.

MORE BRIEFS, MORE CONTENT: WWW.CHATHAMCOUNTYLINE.ORG

The Cigar

BY LOU LIPITZ

— for R. Dean, at 70 —

It was long ago,
but not that long,
when they took you for the first haircut.

You sat high in the special chair
and saw the men spit,
heard them talking South Dakota farm talk:
alfalfa, hogs, rain, drought,
with sudden bursts of laughter
you didn't understand.

At home, your grandfather
had the favorite cigars he'd save for Sundays
and try to make one last
all afternoon,
savoring each puff until finally,
with only a nub left,
he stuck in a toothpick and
smoked it down to ashes.

— nothing more!
Now here we are
the nub of life in our hands —
that dark, sweet, tangled flavor
saved and smoked down for these
moments.

Stick your knife edge into the years.
Glad and slow be the dregs

Opportunity to Honor a Veteran

Gregory C. Flood, Quartermaster/Adjutant of our local VFW post, writes: "During this period when we honor our veterans and give thanks for our blessings, you may have noticed some activity around our Post building at 219 West Street (across from Angelina's Kitchen). It has been our desire and goal to build a Veterans' Memorial at our current location. The Memorial is planned for the front of the building. Three flags will be displayed with lighting: USA Flag, POW/MIA Flag, and VFW Flag. The flags and poles have been donated. There will be three granite park benches, two of which have been donated. The plans also include a Memorial Walkway.

"This project has been in the planning stage for over three years. With several annual fundraisers and the assistance of donated funds, time and labor, we have been able to design the space, build a retaining wall, install the Walkway and begin grading and landscaping, all while maintaining post expenses and completing projects for our veterans in need.

"In return for donations to support these projects, the Post is offering engraved pavers to honor the veterans of our community who have so patriotically served our country. The funds raised will be used to complete the Memorial itself, as well as to renovate and expand our Post building to provide a proper Veterans Meeting Center.

"Going to <http://vfwpost7313memorial.donationbricks.com> will take you to a donation submission form to order the pavers, specifying the text to honor the donor's chosen veteran.

"More information about the Post itself is available at <http://myvfw.org/nc/post7313> and on Facebook at "Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 7313 Joe Wagner Post-Pittsboro, NC."

"We greatly appreciate your support of our efforts on behalf of the veterans in our Chatham County community."

Local coffin maker learns about home funerals

A Bear Creek coffin builder went all the way to California to learn about home funerals, that is.

Piedmont Pine Coffins owner Don Byrne and his family spent an October weekend in San Jose at a conference of the National Home Funeral Alliance, an educational group that empowers families to take an active role in caring for their own dead.

"Home funerals are not a new thing," says Byrne. "It's all families used to do. Country folk, farm families – the wake and service were always in the home parlor. And to this day, it's perfectly legal."

In the late 1800s, as embalming became popular in the wake of the Civil War, the concept of the "home funeral" was flipped into today's "funeral home" – where commercial experts in contemporary death-care handle the preparation and disposition of a body.

Families should know, however, that they do have the option to care for loved ones themselves in their own homes. Families who return to this age-old practice report a deep sense of connection and a healthful beginning to the process of grieving.

"Piedmont Pine Coffins made a coffin recently for a Chatham County family that handled the whole thing themselves in their home, including legal paperwork and burying the body on family land. It's not difficult," says Byrne.

Other families opt to have a home funeral with the assistance of a funeral director. "Ask around – funeral directors are there to help you," says Byrne.

For more information about home funerals, a great resource is the website of the National Home Funeral Alliance, homefuneralalliance.org For information about Piedmont Home Coffins visit PiedmontPineCoffins.com.



CHATHAM
County Line
"where all voices are heard"

ESTABLISHED IN 1999

PO Box 1357, Carrboro, NC 27510

phone: 919.740.5231

editor@chathamcountyline.org

Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — comprehensively and in-depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published ten times a year.

Editor and Publisher: Julian Sereno

Page Layout/Design & Ad Design
Hart Palmer Design, hpalmer@mebtel.net

Website Design: UniqueOrn.com

Social Media Editor: Chris Bouton

Chatham County Line is wholly owned by Avanti Media Consultants, LLC.

© 2015 Chatham County Line

www.chathamcountyline.org

WAKE UP WEDNESDAYS

LOOKING FOR NEW BUSINESS OR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS?

Come network with a variety of local businesses and organizations. Wake-up Wednesday meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 8 am – 9:30 am at the **Carolina Brewery, Pittsboro.** Admission: \$5; includes breakfast!

Call (919) 542-1808 for more information.

CHAPEL HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Whether you've NEVER been, USED to go, or SEEK a church **WE WANT YOU!**

Worship begins 10:30 a.m.
108 Bim Street, Carrboro
www.ChapelHillChristianChurch.org
919.929.2558

SILK HOPE
BENEFIT BINGO

Food • Drinks • Desserts
NEXT BINGO: Dec. 17; Jan 7, 21
(1st, 3rd, & 5th Thursdays each month)
Silk Hope Community Center

DOORS OPEN: 5:30 PM
EARLY GAME: 6:30 PM
REGULAR GAME: 7:15 PM

Total Prize Money Over \$1,100!

4221 Silk Hope Road, Siler City
www.silkhopenc.org • 919.663.0331

The Silk Hope Ruritan Club will donate funds from BENEFIT BINGO to local schools, scholarships, teacher supplies, and aiding and improving the community.