

PRESS RELEASE

Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail Fourteenth Annual Studio Tour & Sale

April 28th & 29th, 2018

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www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com.

Springtime Studio Tour Celebrates Pottery and Local Food

On Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, nine western Mass potters will open their studios to the public for the 14th Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail. This free event features the work and workspaces of nationally known host potters and 13 guest potters from around New England and as far away as North Carolina. Visitors will find tableware of all kinds, sculpture for the garden, and architectural tiles in styles ranging from historical to contemporary, made in work spaces that include restored barns, factory buildings, and small-town storefronts. New guest potters and new work make for a tour that changes every year and reflects the vibrancy and diversity of handmade ceramics. All nine studios will have work for sale, and several will offer demonstrations during the weekend. The tour will be open from 10-5 both days, and welcomes families and visitors of all ages.

Easily reached from Boston, Hartford, and the Albany area, the self-guided tour winds along the beautiful back roads and scenic historic towns of the so-called Asparagus Valley, a local name for the upper Connecticut River valley of western Massachusetts. The Pottery Trail celebrates the rich agricultural history and cultural vitality of the area, as well as the longstanding connection between pottery and food. This year's tour has inspired two special features: a barbecue and kiln opening on Saturday night at Snow Farm, a local craft school, and "Pottery Trail Ale," a special beer from local brewery Lefty's. Visitors are encouraged to eat, stay, and shop while they are in the area, and those who have their "pottery passports" stamped at seven of the nine studios will be eligible for a drawing of pottery featured on the tour.

The studios are clustered in three areas: Northampton/Amherst; Greenfield and the northern Valley; and the Mohawk Trail village of Shelburne Falls. They may be visited in any sequence or combination that suits visitors' interests and itineraries. Look for the distinctive yellow Pottery Trail signs when leaving the main highways on the weekend of the event. Maps of the tour are available at each studio, and can be downloaded at www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com or at www.apotterytrail.com

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www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com
www.apotterytrail.com

Potters on the 2018 Tour:



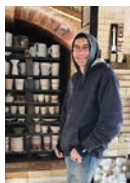
Francine and Frank Ozereko, *Pelham*, www.ozereko.com. The husband-and-wife team will show functional, smartly designed cups, bowls, plates, and vases as well as sculptural teapots and narrative wall pieces. Guest **Alan Willoughby** of New Jersey will show soda-fired pottery.



Donna McGee, *Hadley*, www.donnamcgee.com makes earthenware pottery with lively drawings and paintings on the surfaces, and her East Street studio garden will be in spring bloom. **Sheilagh Flynn** of Conway NH will be her guest.



Tiffany Hilton, *Florence*, www.tiffanyhilton.com In her light-filled studio in the Arts & Industry building Tiffany will be showing tableware that complements food with rich brown and elegant pale glazes. Oval bowls, lidded jars, and dinnerware are a specialty. Guest **Diana Thomas** from western Maine will show sculptural pots inspired by architectural forms.



Jamie Guggina, *Florence*, www.coolpots.com makes porcelain dinnerware with bright colors complemented by carved black and white patterns, and wood-fired pottery with warm shino glazes. Guest **Christy Knox** of Cummington, MA will show handbuilt pots embossed with natural imagery, and **Gabrielle Schaffner** of Boston will offer food-friendly porcelain decorated with bold drawings.



Lucy Fagella, *Greenfield*, www.lucyfagella.com shows her love of food and garden in pottery for the kitchen and table. She also produces a distinctive line of funerary ware, including biodegradable urns incorporating textures from nature. Visitors will be able to watch pottery being made on the potter's wheel. Guest: **Martha Grover** of Bethel, Maine.



Tom White, *Northfield*, www.tomwhitepottery.com 's pots bear traces of atmospheric firing with salt, soda, and wood, from his own and collaborative kiln firings. Demonstrations, a chance for visitors to try the potter's wheel, and live music will offer something to visitors of all ages. **Sam Taylor**, Westhampton, MA and **Gay Smith**, from North Carolina will be Tom's guests.



Molly Cantor, *Shelburne Falls*, www.mollycantor.com Molly's decorated functional pottery features carved designs inspired by plants, animals, and stories, and she also makes one-of-a-kind animal figures. Guests: **Liz Rodriguez** from Rockland, MA and **Tandem Ceramics** from Florence, MA.



Mary Barringer, *Shelburne Falls*, www.marybarringer.com makes handbuilt pottery and sculpture with distinctive textured surfaces reminiscent of stones or ancient implements. She will be showing functional platters, bowls, and cups, as well as sculpture for the wall and garden. Guest **Todd Wahlstrom** Whitingham, VT will once again display his work in a retrofitted Airstream trailer, and **Elisa DiFeo** will show elegant pottery for the table.



Stephen Earp, *Shelburne Falls*, www.stevencarp.com. Steve, a Massachusetts Cultural Council "Keeper of the Tradition," finds inspiration in historical styles such as traditional New England redware and early blue and white delftware. Guest: **Evelyn Snyder** of Kaleidoscope Pottery, Easthampton, MA.