

2019 Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail

Western Massachusetts along Interstate 91/Connecticut River Valley corridor in towns of North-field, Pelham, Amherst, Northampton, Florence, Hadley, Greenfield, Shelburne Falls.

April 27-28, 2019 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day, 24 potters at 9 studios
www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com for participants, map.

Interested in finding a weekend 'staycation' or a getaway that's truly special?

Look no farther than the Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail in western Massachusetts. With 24 potters welcoming the public to 9 studios on the last weekend in April, it's a perfect springtime tour on country roads in pursuit of the art of clay from Northfield to Northampton.

The area for the self-driving tour is centered along the Interstate 91/Connecticut River Valley corridor and is less than 2 hours from Boston, 30 minutes from Springfield, 50 minutes from Hartford, Conn., 90 minutes from Albany, N.Y. and 3 hours from New York City.

The Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail offers a rare opportunity to meet nationally known clay artists in studios that are not always open to the public. Nine host studios and 14 invited guests welcome you to go behind the scenes to see how and where creativity happens. Doubling as an educational tool, the weekend showcases the potters' diverse styles and techniques. Exhibiting at major crafts shows and galleries throughout the year, these artists are represented in museums and private collections around the country. Francine T Ozereko in Pelham counts among her collectors US Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who bought her porcelain cups at the Smithsonian Craft Show.

Studios may be visited in any sequence or combination that suits individual itineraries and interests. Look for bold yellow "Pottery Trail" signs that point the way to the individual studios from the main highways. Brochures with a tour map and list of participants are available at each studio, or download at www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com or at www.apotterytrail.com

The Trail is always free and includes a "Passport" that visitors receive at their first stop. If it's stamped at 7 studios, it's entered in a drawing to win cups made by the 24 potters. New for the Trail's 15th anniversary in 2019: anyone whose passport is stamped at all nine studios will be eligible for a drawing to win a set of 9 dessert plates made by host potters.

Adding to the Trail adventure is the opportunity to explore quintessential New England villages and college towns. Although one can do all nine studios in a day, it's more fun to stay in the area hobnobbing with the locals, eating at local restaurants, and finding craft brews.

As visitors go from studio to studio, they quickly discover that no two potters or studios are alike and each setting — a converted barn, a transformed carriage barn, a former brush factory, a woodland complex among them — is distinctive. Making pottery is never simple, so the artists encourage visitors to ask questions

about setting up a studio, making a living as a potter, and what inspires them. And there are always new bowls, vases, tableware, cookware, tiles, wall art or sculptures to buy and take home.

Visitors come from near and far, with lots of repeat Trail goers. Many shared comments on their 2018 passports:

"The experience was thoroughly enjoyable —the entire tour," said J.S. of Albany, N.Y. Visitors from South Windsor, Conn. wrote, "We love coming to this every year. We have started a nice collection of pieces from the different potters."

"It's familiar, but new, each year," wrote J.H. of Warwick, Mass., who's a repeat visitor.

Many of the potters also have treats for visitors, often seasonal food - asparagus wood-fired pizza if the asparagus is in season; fiddleheads, rhubarb cake. At Tom White's woodland studio in Northfield, visitors will find food, demonstrations, and music by the Fiddlin' Chiselers. Gram-my-winning Steve Katz, a founding member of Blood, Sweat and Tears and husband of potter Alison Palmer will join the Chiselers as a guest performer this year. Visitors looking for a hands-on experience, should plan to stop at Lucy Fagella's in Greenfield. "The pottery demonstrations in the tent outside are always a big hit with visitors," she said. "They can try their hands on the potter's wheel, or just watch one of my students demonstrating."

It's just a small fraction of the good times awaiting on the Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail.

In addition to host potters, the invited guest potters add even more to the impressive mix of styles and techniques on the Trail, something visitors appreciate.

The 2019 guests are from New York State, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Vermont as well as other Massachusetts towns. Some are new to the Trail, such as Meredith and Harry Kunhardt of West Shokan, N.Y. whom Tiffany Hilton invited after meeting them at a workshop.

"I loved their ambition and desire to make good pots," she said. "They are newly married, just finished building their first wood kiln, and are making some beautiful pots!"

It also fulfills her goal of introducing new talent each year whose work is different from hers.

"I want to offer customers the opportunity to discover yet another unique approach to working with clay," she said. "I also consider it an honor to offer an emerging artist the exposure that the Trail can give them."

Mary Barringer of Shelburne Falls always invites both a new guest and a familiar one. For 2019, it's Liz Lurie of Syracuse, N.Y. and Todd Wahlstrom of Wilmington, VT, who brings his converted Airstream trailer as a showroom for his pottery. "It's usually too crowded to plan a demonstration, but I often find myself doing an impromptu one during the weekend", she says.

All of this adds up to a weekend full of experiences — and maybe a few surprises — in a special region of Massachusetts. The 2019 Pottery Trail will take place April 27 and 28, from 10 – 5 each day. Happy travels.

ASPARAGUS VALLEY POTTERY TRAIL

APRIL 27-28, 2019 • 24 POTTERS AT 9 STUDIOS

WWW.ASPARAGUSVALLEYPOTTERYTRAIL.COM

POTTERS ON THE 2019 TOUR:



Mary Barringer, Shelburne Falls
www.marybarringer.com

Mary makes hand built 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.

Guests:

Todd Wahlstrom, Whitingham, VT
Liz Lurie, Chittenango, NY



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, Easthampton, MA
Arthur Halvorsen, Somerville, MA



Stephen Earp, Shelburne Falls
www.stevenearp.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:

David Ernster, Newbury, NH



Lucy Fagella, Greenfield
www.lucyfagella.com

Lucy 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:

Steve Théberge, Florence, MA



James Guggina, Florence
www.coolpots.com

James makes highly decorated porcelain and stoneware dinnerware complemented by carved black and white patterns, and wood-fired pottery with warm shino glazes.

Guests:

Ingrid Bathe, Midcoast, ME
Christy Knox, Cummington, MA
Gabrielle Schaffner, Boston, MA



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:

Meredith & Harry Kunhardt,
West Shokan, NY



Donna McGee, Hadley
www.donnamcgee.com

Donna makes earthenware pottery with lively drawings and paintings on the surfaces, and her East Street studio garden will be in spring bloom.

Guest:

Megan Hart, Conway, MA

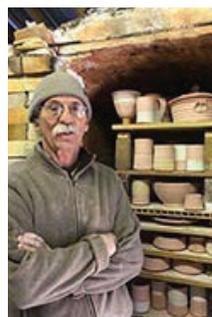


Francine and Frank Ozereko, Pelham
www.ozereko.com

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, Depford, NJ



Tom White, Northfield
www.tomwhitepottery.com

Tom'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.

Guests:

Sam Taylor, Westhampton, MA
Alison Palmer, Kent, CT