

Annual Springtime Pottery Tour: An Opportunity to Connect to the Handmade

NORTHAMPTON, MA – The Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail, one of the nation's longest running events of its kind, will hold its 16th annual tour and sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, 2020 from 10am–5pm each day. The Trail, named for a fertile stretch of the Connecticut River valley and its world-famous crop, welcomes visitors each year from throughout the region and across the country. They come – and often come back again and again – to get a behind-the-scenes peek into the creative spaces and processes of nine members of the area's tightly-knit community of potters; to participate in the more personal economy of the handmade; and to be inspired by the sights, sounds, and tastes of this culturally vibrant swath of Western Massachusetts.

"At a time when so much of what we consume is temporary and disposable, there is a real craving for beautiful, functional, and lasting objects, and for a connection to those who make them," wrote one returning visitor last year, "The Pottery Trail offers up these and other goodies in spades."

As in years past, each studio will play host to guest potters and their work this year, thus expanding the tour experience as well as the pottery for sale – always a rich and varied range of wheel-thrown and hand-built ceramic goods and artwork for tabletop, home, and garden. Most stops on the tour will offer tasty treats of the region or season (including that famous asparagus), some will feature pottery demonstrations or mini-tutorials, and all will provide the opportunity for visitors to talk one on one with the artists about their work and inspiration.

"I do a lot of traveling to show my work and give workshops, and I love the flipside of having people here in my workspace, and in the town and landscape that form the backdrop for what I make," notes Shelburne Falls potter Mary Barringer, "Each year the visitors seem to bring a little more energy to the weekend, and I think we feed on that."

Easily accessible from Boston, Hartford, and the Albany area, the self-guided Pottery Trail winds along the scenic byways and through the bustling college towns and historic village centers of Western Massachusetts, with distinctive yellow Trail signs guiding visitors to studios clustered in three areas: Northampton/Amherst; Greenfield and the northern Valley; and the Mohawk Trail village of Shelburne Falls.

Maps of the tour and Trail Passports are available at each studio, and can be accessed at www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com or at www.apotterytrail.com as the Trail date nears. Visitors are encouraged to eat, stay, and shop while they are in the area. Those who have their Passports stamped at up to 7 of the 9 studios will be entered to win a mug/cup, and those who succeed in collecting all 9 stamps will be entered to win a set of 9 small plates.

The 2020 Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail is sponsored in part by AAA Pioneer Valley and Northeast Solar.

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www.apotterytrail.com

ASPARAGUS VALLEY POTTERY TRAIL

APRIL 25-26, 2020 • 27 POTTERS AT 9 STUDIOS

WWW.ASPARAGUSVALLEYPOTTERYTRAIL.COM

POTTERS ON THE 2020 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. Mary's guests are:

Julie Wiggins of Charlotte NC
www.juliewigginspottery.com

Todd Wahlstrom of Whitingham VT
www.toddwahlstrom.com



Molly Cantor, Shelburne Falls
www.mollycantor.com

Molly's functional pottery features block-print-like carved designs inspired by an ever-evolving array of regional plants, animals, and stories. As committed to her community as to her craft, Molly recently opened The Handle Factory community clay center, which will be the new location for her stop on the trail. Guests include:

Arthur Halvorsen of Chelsea, MA
www.arthurhalvorsenceramics.com

Rebecca Verrill of Portland, ME
www.rebeccamayverrill.com

Jenifer Morier of Guilford VT
www.lightenupstudio.org



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. Stephen's guest will be:

Brenda Hornsby Heindl of Liberty, NC
www.libertystoneware.com



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. Lucy's guest this year will be:

Julie Crosby of Trumansburg, NY
www.juliecrosbypottery.com



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 include:

Doug Peltzman of Shokan, NY
www.dougpeltzman.com

Liz Rodriguez of Easthampton, MA
www.lizrodriguezceramics.com

Gabrielle Schaffner of Boston, MA
www.gabrielleschaffnerceramics.com



Tiffany Hilton, Florence
www.tiffanyhilton.com

In her light-filled studio in the Arts & Industry building Tiffany will be showing her dinnerware, serving pieces, planters, vases, jars and mugs. She specializes in custom dinnerware and wedding gift registries, keeping to durable glazes and minimal surface decoration. Tiffany will be joined by guests:

Tilla Rodemann, Somerville, MA
www.tillarodemann.com

Steve Théberge of Florence, MA
www.stevetheberge.com



Donna McGee, Hadley
www.donnamcgee.com

Donna is in a transitional phase of pottery and life, moving between red earthenware (decorated with her signature fields, fauna and flora), and soda and salt fired stoneware, where form is paramount and surface treatment minimally textural. A renewed passion for her first love of stoneware has been exciting, and rewarding to share. Donna's guest will be:

Ben Eberle of Conway, MA
bqeberle@gmail.com



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. The Ozerekos will be joined by guest:

Cara Taylor of Easthampton MA
www.taylorceramics.com



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:

Michael Kline of Burnsville, NC
www.klinepottery.com

Sam Taylor of Westhampton, MA

Kristen Kieffer of Baldwinville, MA
www.kiefferceramics.com