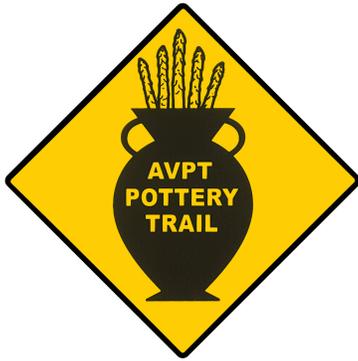


PRESS RELEASE



**ASPARAGUS VALLEY POTTERY TRAIL
17th ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR & SALE
June 11 Virtual opening, June 12 & 13, In-person**

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www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com

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

WESTERN MA – The Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail is hosting our 17th annual tour both as a virtual online sale and an in-person, outdoor event. In an abundance of caution concerning the pandemic, we have postponed our springtime event to June 12 & 13 and will comply with CDC, state and local guidelines for outdoor events at that time. For our pottery fans near and far that prefer to shop from home we will launch an online opening Friday, June 11th at Noon ET via our website: www.apotterytrail.com.

The Trail, named for a fertile stretch of the Connecticut River valley and its world-famous crop, usually welcomes visitors from throughout the region and across the country in late April to explore the creative spaces and processes of ten members of the area's tightly-knit community of potters. This year will include 20 ceramic artists at 9 studio locations with guest artists joining us from Maine to North Carolina. Visit our website for more information about artists and locations.

"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 customer, "The Pottery Trail offers up these and other goodies in spades."

The tour will offer a rich and varied range of wheel-thrown and hand-built ceramic goods and artwork for tabletop, home, and garden; as well as the opportunity for visitors to talk one on one with the artists about their work and inspiration. For 2021 there are a few changes in order to host the event outdoors which include two new locations for hosts Molly Cantor of Shelburne Falls and Tiffany Hilton of Florence. Visit <http://asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com/map/> for details.

Easily accessible from Boston, Hartford, and the Albany are, the self-guided Pottery Trail winds along scenic byways and through college towns and historic villages of Western Massachusetts. Look for 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.

Pick up a Pottery Trail Passport at your first location. Those who have their Trail Passport stamped at 7 of the 9 studios will be entered to win a mug/cup, and those who succeed in collecting all 9 stamps will also be entered to win a set of 9 small plates.

The 2021 Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail is sponsored in part by Northeast Solar, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, and The People's Pint. Look for Pottery Trail Pale Ale from The People's Pint in cans and on tap in June!

Potters on the 2021 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.

Donna McGee, Hadley www.donnamcgee.com Donna continues to make pots and tiles and savors each item, moving forward with new materials, surface treatment, and themes. Her drawings of fields, flowers and faces are a signature of her work. **Ben Eberle** of Conway, MA will be Donna's guest. <http://www.beneberleceramic.com>

Tiffany Hilton, Florence www.tiffanyhilton.com Tiffany will be hosting with friends outdoors at Steve Théberge's home studio in Florence, MA. Tiffany will be showing her dinnerware, serving pieces, planters, vases, bowls and mugs. She specializes in custom dinnerware and wedding gift registries, keeping to durable glazes and minimal surface decoration. Tiffany will be joined by **Bill Jones**, Greensboro, NC. www.billjonespottery.com and **Steve Théberge** of Florence, MA. www.stevetheberge.com.

James Guggina, Florence www.coolpots.com James makes porcelain and stoneware dinnerware complimented with carved patterns, and wood-fired pottery with rich glazes. Jamie's guests include **Gabrielle Schaffner** of Boston, MA www.gabrielleschaffnerceramics.com, and **Liz Rodriguez** of Easthampton, MA <http://www.lizrodriguezceramics.com>

Lucy Fagella, Greenfield <https://lucyfagella.com> Lucy shows her love of food and gardening in her pottery for the kitchen and table. She also produces a distinctive line of funerary ware, including biodegradable urns. A recent exploration into new glaze techniques has resulted in new surfaces and patterns that she is excited to share with you.

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. **Sam Taylor** of Westhampton, MA will be Tom's guest. <http://www.dogbarpottery.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. Her guest will be **Rebecca Verrill** of Portland, ME <http://www.Rebeccamayverrill.com>

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. Mary's guests will be **Julie Wiggins** of Charlotte NC www.juliewigginspottery.com and Todd Wahlstrom and Aysha Peltz of Halifax, VT www.toddwahlstrom.com www.ayshapeltz.com

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.

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