

In The Grove, Seagrove, NC

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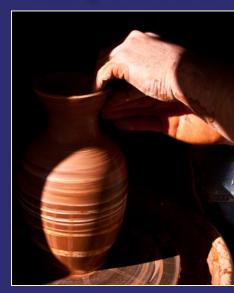
Rhonda McCanless is editor and publisher of *In the Grove*, a monthly newsletter about Seagrove, NC, that focuses on pottery news. Click the link to see the latest issue. Rhonda works full-time for Central Park NC in Star, NC, and can sometimes be found at her husband's pottery shop, Eck McCanless Pottery, located at 6077 Old U.S. Highway 220 in Seagrove, NC. She can be reached by calling 336/879-6950 336/879-6950 or e-mail to (professional page@rtmc.net).

North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove, NC, Features Works by Neolia Cole Womack

The North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove, NC, will present *Neolia, Keeper of the Cole Tradition: A Retrospective*, curated by Dr. Terry Zug, on view in Gallery I & II, from May 10 through July 26, 2014.



Eck McCanless Pottery



Demonstrations available anytime!

Eck is a second-generation Seagrove potter who has spent nearly 20 years perfecting his craft. He specializes in Agateware, Crystalline and Stoneware.

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A reception will be held on May 10, from noon-2pm.

This exhibition will explore the extraordinary range of forms and richly colored glazes produced by the Sanford Coles over the last 80 years. The focus will be on Neolia Cole Womack, who was only seven when her father, Arthur Ray Cole, moved to Sanford in 1934 to take advantage of the customers travelling on Route 1, then the main north-south road through the state.

Like so many Coles, Neolia was born into the clay. "Daddy had a pottery shop," she recalls, "and I just grew up in it. When I was a kid and everything, I stayed in the shop more than I did in the house, because I enjoyed that better than I did housework. I hate housework!" She was selling her pottery by the time she was 11 or 12, and then went to work fulltime right after she graduated from high school in 1944. She worked alongside her father and her brother Foister, and after her father's death in 1974 ran the shop with her sister Celia and grandson Kenneth George.

Neolia has faithfully followed the advice on pricing she received from her father.

"Daddy always used to say, you make a piece of pottery and you put a high price on it, it's sitting there six months later. If you put it down at a lower price, you can sell seven of them. It'd be a whole lot better to have that quick, fast nickel coming in than it would that slow dime." Moreover, Neolia has no interest in making art pottery. "I'd rather make things that people can put out and use and cook with and bake with. And use for flower vases."

Sadly, the years have caught up with Neolia, and the old shop is now closed. But Neolia deserves recognition for an extraordinary career and for maintaining the Cole pottery tradition in often difficult times. In fact she has already won the prestigious North Carolina Heritage Award, which recognizes the great traditional artists of our state. Now she can take her place in history *continued on Page 26*

Discover the Seagrove Potteries

Seagrove is a Community of Working Potters & home to the North Carolina Pottery Center

You're invited....

to visit the Seagrove potters at their workshops & studios nestled in the countryside.

Experience a diversity of pottery from contemporary, one-of-a-kind art pottery, to traditional utiltarian forms, & folk art **It's an Adventure....**

Pick up a free colored map at any of the pottery shops

Seagrove is located in the Center of North Carolina 40 miles south of Greensboro on Hwy. 220 (future I-73, I-74) **WWW.DISCOVERSEAGROVE.COM**