

# Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter

October-December 2004

[www.mhpcg.org](http://www.mhpcg.org)

Volume 9 Number 2

Please note the change in November Clay Day. Due to the Thanksgiving weekend, we've rescheduled to Saturday, November 20th. There will be no December meeting.

All Clay Days are held at the Phillips United Methodist Church, 1450 S. Pierce St., Lakewood, Colorado.

The Board meets at 8:30 & welcomes members to attend. Clay Day begins at 9:30 a.m.

The PMC Study Group meets twice a month. Contact Tina Guegler for details. 1-720-890-0552.

## A PENNY SAVED ...

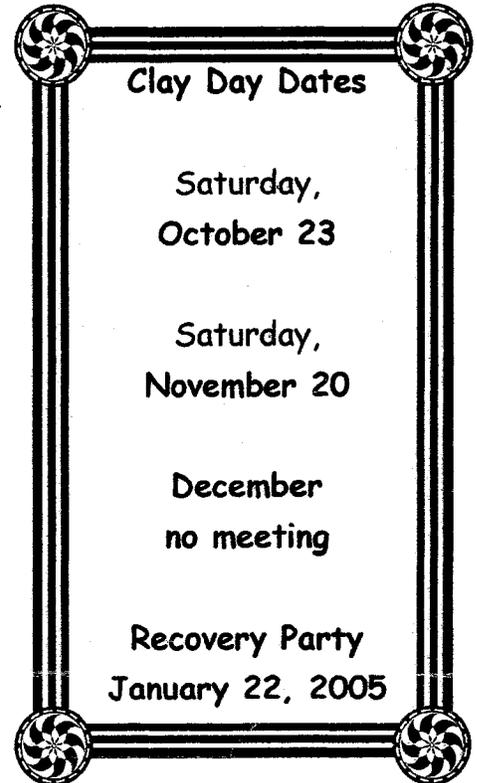
Diane Luftig has sent our membership list to Munro's Crafts. This entitles each of us to a 50% discount if we order \$100 worth of clay or craft items. This is essentially wholesale price without having to get a tax license. Munros has polymer clay and other crafting supplies. Their catalog is in our library & you can also see their merchandise on <http://get.to/munros>.

## MAKE YOUR OWN BEAD ROLLER

Nationally admired polymer clay artist Katherine Dewey shared this method for making a polymer clay bead roller on the Polymer Clay Interest newsgroup.

Here's how:

Roll out a rectangle of clay at least twice as thick as the diameter of the rod (bead) and six times as long. Place the clay sheet on a ceramic tile. For rods you can use knitting



needles, aluminum or brass tubing. Dust the rod with a mold release (corn starch, talc, Armoral or spritzed water) and press the rod halfway into the flat clay. Carefully remove the rod, leaving a half round trough. Bake. After the clay cools, replace the rod and dust again with a mold release. Use another clay sheet affixed to a ceramic tile to create an impression of both the rod and the original molded clay trough. Carefully lift the tile with the clay sheet still affixed but now molded. Trim the ends perpendicular to the trough and bake.

Katherine explains, "It's a bit like making a two piece mold. If the second mold half fits over the sides parallel to the trough, that's fine. The roller is easier to use.

Katherine's exquisite sculptures can be seen on her website: [www.elvenwork.com](http://www.elvenwork.com)



# THE PREZ SAYS ...

BY TINA HOLDMAN

The crisp winds of autumn are starting to blow, leading polymer artists to retreat in a huddle to their workrooms everywhere. So here, for your tasting pleasure, so to speak, are some more delicious color recipes to keep your pasta machine rolling.

We will be touring the lovely countryside of Tuscany for our color collection this quarter. These rich, earthy colors are a great selection for your Fall projects. The mixing colors are those little-used shades that are probably collecting dust on the back of your clay table. So stir up a cup of hot buttered rum, batten down the shutters and get your clay rolling!

## Darkest Merlot

This is a deep, dark, reddish-brown which works great as an accent color.

4 parts Premo Burnt Umber  
2 parts Premo Alizarin  
Crimson

## Estate Burbundy

This rich, full-bodied red, would look more at home in a wine glass than on your crowded clay table. However, there's no reason you can't have both.

3 parts Premo Alizarin Crimson  
2 parts Premo Brilliant Red  
1/2 part Raw Sienna

## Terra Cotta

...a nice orangy brown that goes well with pumpkin pie.

4 parts Premo Orange  
3 parts Premo Ecru  
3 parts Premo Raw Sienna  
1 part Premo Beige

## Dijon Mustard

... a spicy, smooth medium golden brown which you can slap between slices of other colors in this collection.

5 parts Premo Cadmium  
Yellow  
1 parts Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Raw Sienna

## Olive Green

...the full, lovely color of ripe olives sans pimento.

4 parts Premo Green  
2 parts Premo Raw Sienna  
1 part Premo Ecru  
3 parts Premo White

## Warm Butter Rum

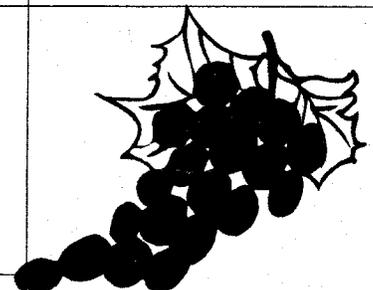
...a warm light yellow that could almost double as an ice cream topping.

2 parts Premo Cad  
Yellow  
2 parts Premo Beige  
1 part Premo White  
1 part Premo Ecru

## Loamy Brown

Aaahhh, you can almost smell the crisp scent of leaves falling from the trees in this color. A warm, medium brown.

4 parts Premo Raw Sienna  
4 parts Premo Cadmium Yellow  
1 part Premo Alizarin Crimson



## NEWS AND REVIEWS

### Polymer Clay Jewelry

Debbie Jackson

Publisher: North Light Books

With fifteen step-by-step projects, Debbie teaches readers how to create sophisticated and unique polymer clay jewelry pieces. Four sections include jewelry projects using additives and embellishments, textures, liquid polymer clay, and canes. At the end of each chapter Debbie has included a gallery with stunning examples of the techniques.

### Polymer Clay Mosaics

Krista Wells

Publisher: Sterling

In this attractive book, readers learn how to make polymer clay tiles suitable for attaching to a variety of beautiful objects. Simple instructions and colored photos present all the basics. The projects include jewelry, mirror decorations, house signs, coasters, tabletops, garden items and more.

## NEW MEMBERS

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## LIBRARY NEWS

### Videos:

Intricate Caning: Sarah Shriver

PMC Adv. I & II: L. Bernstein

Sculpting Polymer Clay Fairies  
Sculpting Polymer Clay Mermaids

Patricia Rose



## A PRACTICAL PROJECT: MAKING TEXTURE SHEETS

Although the number and variety of commercial texture sheets is growing, making your own can be a creative, practical project. Grant Diffendaffer inspired students in his recent MHPCG-sponsored class to explore many possibilities for these sheets. Using a #1 well-conditioned sheet of scrap clay, students impressed found objects and twine into the sheet, baked it, and then carved additional designs. The result was an intriguing and complex surface which was the key to creating textured beads using Grant's unique method.

Several years ago, Elizabeth Campbell demonstrated texturing scrap clay sheets with burlap and adding impressions of small charms such as butterflies or dragonflies. The sheets are fairly small (2" x 3") and are especially useful in making pin or pendant backgrounds.

Iowa artist Patti Kimle shared an easy way to capture nature in permanent texture plates made of Sculpey Super Flex polymer clay (available at Michael's and JoAnn's.) and fresh leaves. Here's how she does it:

In addition to your standard clay tools, you'll need fresh leaves, Sculpey Super Flex Clay, and corn starch.

Roll the well-conditioned clay into a #4 sheet, larger than leaf.

Powder the clay surface with corn starch.

Lay the leaf on the clay & cover with an index card.

Roll both clay & index card through the pasta machine together.

Lift the paper and then carefully lift the leaf off the clay.

Trim the sheet if desired.

Bake according to package directions. Cool.

Patti uses these leaf print texture plates to create pendants and pins antiqued with acrylic paint after baking. This project is shared in the current Bead & Button magazine as well as on the [www.Sculpey.com](http://www.Sculpey.com) website.

Paper punches are also useful in creating small texture sheets. I used a favorite dragonfly punch, but the frog, leaf or oriental symbol would also work well. Each sheet is approximately 2 x 3". Here's how:

Bake a well-conditioned clay sheet (#4 or 5) between cardstock and two tiles. To ensure clay strength that resists cracking, bake at least 45 minutes and let the clay cool in the oven.

Insert the piece of cured clay into the punch, allowing ample space around the edges. Gather all your strength and PUNCH!

Glue the outline clay (not the piece you've punched out), to an unbaked clay sheet using liquid clay. Trim. Bake both sheets together between cardstock and tiles. This will give you an 'inny' sheet so that the dragonfly (or other object) will stand out away from the surface.

These texture sheet/molds are handy for adding interest to buttons, flat beads larger earrings or even pins and pendants. Try making a torn-edge embellishment, highlight with Pearl-Ex and apply it to a book or box cover.

A polymer clayer on the Yahoo Polymer Clay Interest group recently shared an idea for texture sheets which she'd seen demonstrated on the C. Duvall Show. This method involved extruding hot glue in small dots to the end of a wooden dowel. (Carol's guest used this tool to texture lightweight metal sheets.) The polymer clay artist's adaptation was to guide the glue over a larger flat wooden surface, making free-form designs.

Other Yahoo correspondents reported making texture plates by gluing all sorts of items onto flat wooden bases: rice grains, lentils, pasta, cooked spaghetti (for swirls) and, of course, alphabet pasta. (Don't forget to reverse the letters so they read properly when stamped!)

Similarly, Gwen Gibson uses orzo arranged in patterns and pressed into a sheet of raw scrap clay. After baking, the pasta is removed. The result is a deeply impressed pattern used to texture large tube beads. Rubbing the beads with metallic acrylic paint brings out the design dramatically.

Other varieties of uncooked pasta can be used to create texture sheets with either random or repeat designs. The alphabet pasta could be arranged in words scattered across a textured clay surface. Making a sheet using verbs such as "dream", "create", "explore", "imagine" would add interest to book covers, box tops or even picture frames.

In her book "Polymer, the Chameleon Clay", Tory Hughes described yet another effective method for making texture plates using toothpicks and pieces of wire formed into a variety of designs. The baked plates are pressed into a sheet of raw clay. After baking, the impressed clay is antiqued with silver

acrylic paint to imitate the look of metal. An easy adaptation would be to arrange the wire and or cut toothpicks in a repeat pattern for making border designs on inro, boxes or books.

Jody Bishel, Queen of TLS, shares this idea: Cut a 3x5" piece from an aluminum foil disposable cookie sheet. Place the foil on a sheet of dense craft foam and draw a design with a ball stylus. Pour a layer of liquid clay on it, bake 20 minutes. Peel the texture sheet off after it cools. Jody says, "It's great for running through the pasta machine with a sheet of clay and because it's TLS it won't degrade from the plasticiser. Because the sheets are flexible, I can texture a 3D sheet too. The sheets can also be mounted on wooden blocks using E6000.

If, after reading all these ideas, you'd still just rather buy texture plates ready-to-use, check out the [www.saxarts.com](http://www.saxarts.com) website for their new set of six plates for \$14.95 + \$5 shipping or ask Tina G. where she bought her impressive collection of rubber stamp sheets.

KS



**HOLIDAY RECOVERY PARTY:  
JAN. 22, 2005**

**Watch your e-mail for important information about this special event. Begin cleaning out your closets for items to bring to our world-famous Silent Auction. Browse through your favorite recipes for a treat to add to the potluck luncheon! Finish a special polymer creation for the exciting & surprising gift exchange!**



## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Lark Books, leading publisher of craft books, is accepting entries for 500 Bracelets, a jewelry design book featuring a juried collection of contemporary bracelets from around the globe. They are looking for high-quality transparencies, slides or digital images to consider for inclusion. Traditional and experimental forms are desired; all materials & processes are welcome.

The postmark deadline for submitting entries is October 15, 2004. For guidelines, send a SASE to:

500 Bracelets, Lark Books  
67 Broadway  
Asheville, NC 28801

Forms are also available at:  
[www.larkbooks.com/submissions](http://www.larkbooks.com/submissions)



Thanks to Diane Luftig for planning our August meeting and to everyone who pitched in to make it a success. Special thanks to Donna Kato, Judy Belcher, Debbie Jackson and Leslie Blackford for sharing their latest polymer techniques & projects.

## WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

<http://info.med.yale.edu/library/historical/fuchs/>

Marty Woosley, our MHPCG member in Texas, posted this website along with a comment: "If you haven't been to this site, go. Amazing material for transfer, collage, scrapbooking, etc. I was amazed at the quality of work."

[www.rosetwig.com](http://www.rosetwig.com)

This site belongs to MHPCG member Nan Rosen. On it she shares her polymer clay art and writing.

[www.bonniemeltzer.com/Amphora.html](http://www.bonniemeltzer.com/Amphora.html)

Maureen Maker shares this site and reports the artist's jewelry is as interesting as her amphora series.

[www.stamphistory.net/allpics/#color](http://www.stamphistory.net/allpics/#color)

Eileen Loring says this site has an excellent clip art series and is worth doing even though the site owner requires a donation of at least \$5 to access her collections. "It's worth it!"

[www.sallyevansart.com](http://www.sallyevansart.com)

MHPCG member Sally Evans just completed this website, which displays her handmade jewelry and art.

Visit her Boutique Nov. 8th, 5-8 p.m. & see her work in person!  
Call Sally for more details: 303-792-5651

**SPECIAL THANKS TO** Katherine Dewey, Patti Kimle and Jodi Bishel for giving us permission to share their techniques and ideas in this newsletter.

## RINGS & THINGS IS COMING TO TOWN!

The Rings and Things Bead Traveling Sale will be in Denver Thursday, November 11th at the Holiday Inn Denver West Village, 14707 W. Colfax, Golden, CO. The hours are noon - 4 p.m. Take I-70 west, exit 262. Even things not in the show can be ordered from the catalogue & shipping is free for orders over \$100.



## CAPTURING DREAMS, MEMORIES, IDEAS, IMPRESSIONS, THOUGHTS AND PLANS ...

For many of us, keeping a journal has been an on-again, off-again project. I've done best with a large blank book into which I've pasted clippings of color combinations, designs and projects discovered in catalogues and magazines. Along the margins I've often penned quotes found in books and Somerset Magazine's inspiring calligraphy art pieces.

While braving the August heat and swarming tourists in Santa Fe, I discovered a small, beautifully arranged shop intriguingly called "The Guided Page". It was chock full of beautiful papers, rubber stamps, blank books and pens -- all artfully displayed. When I complimented the clerk on the shops treasures she confessed that it was her shop and that they had just opened the day before.

By the cash register she had a stack of handouts entitled "How to Start Journaling".

I asked if I could share her suggestions in our newsletter and she quickly agreed, seeming pleased. Just a few of her ideas are shared here.

Travel journals offer a good opportunity for a short-term project. Write while waiting for a plane or at the end of the day. Bring along an envelope to collect ticket stubs, pamphlets, programs, postcards, etc.

Start a journal of favorite quotes or use a journal to record your dreams. Keep it by your bed and write down your dreams as soon as you awaken. You'll be surprised at how much you remember.

And then there are art journals! The format is open for your own artistic exploration using any media you choose. Imagine selecting pens, markers, paints, stickers and rubber stamps and then choosing an elegant blank book in which to sketch and paint your ideas, capture memories or impressions, or write out plans for creative projects.

Visit the Now What? e-zine, Volume 8, for a delightful dip into art journaling, including ideas for making a portable "perfect palette" to tuck in your journal or sketchbook, examples of modular stamps that allow you to create whatever type page you need, and reviews of unusual books about journaling. ([www.dotcalmvillage.net](http://www.dotcalmvillage.net))

KS

"Life's a journal ... write it down."



*Journaling Ideas if you get stuck on a blank page*

Start with a quote that provokes thought ... Write about what you saw: artwork, a photograph, an interesting person ... Write about your feelings on a certain event, idea or person ... Include newspaper clippings, photos, colorful magazine art that appeals to you ... rubber stamp a border ... Write about a change in your life and how you dealt with it ... List five ways an experience affected you positively ... Make a list of your favorite things ... Write the lyrics to a song you like ... Describe your favorite place ... Make a list of things you'd like to accomplish.



**Rocky Mountain Weavers' Guild**

**Annual Fiber Arts Sale**

October 21-23, 2004

Englewood Civic Center,  
2nd Floor Community Room

Hours:

Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information:

303-763-7107

[www.rmweaversguild.org](http://www.rmweaversguild.org)



*"I don't know the secret to success,  
but the key to failure is trying to  
please everybody." Bill Cosby*

**MHPCG Board**

President: Tina Holdman

Vice President: Susan Mueller

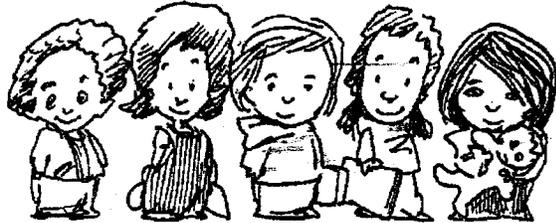
Treasurer: Gerrie Wolf

Secretary: Maggie Giza

Librarian: Tina Gugeler

Webmaster: Karen Goulet

Newsletter Editor: Karen Sexton



*Friendship makes prosperity more brilliant and  
lightens adversity by dividing it and sharing it.*

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