

# Mile High Polymer Clay Newsletter

April, May, June 2006 [www.mhpcg.org](http://www.mhpcg.org)

## *Lions and Tigers and Bears! Oh, my!*

Well, not really, but just as exciting! We have a new, welcoming home - Lochwood Christian Fellowship. The pastor, Alan Moos, is most hospitable. The facility is spacious with a kitchen and lots of storage. I hope you'll join the fun for clay days, 4th Saturdays of the month, and our Spring Retreat, May 12 & 13th, 2006.

The Guild move took place Saturday, March 11th. A special thank you to Debra Wosnick & her husband's truck, Gerrie Wolf and her portable ramps, Sue Mueller, Karen Sexton, and Eileen Loring for her great spirit.

I feel our spirit has been renewed with this move. The ideas are flying in emails. If you've been sitting on the sidelines as a guild member, now is the time to stand up and be counted among the contributors. We're adding a number of new, monthly activities, providing opportunities for everyone to become involved.

The Spring Retreat will be different from last year's. It will not be an overnight activity and will be held at our new home. We'll gather on Friday for a buffet dinner and to set up the activity areas and your own work space, then meet early on Saturday morning to have breakfast and start the clay fun! There will be hands on activity areas, demos, and a mini class especially for beginners. A raffle and door prizes are planned

and, hopefully, goodie bags. Please volunteer to make this event fabulous!

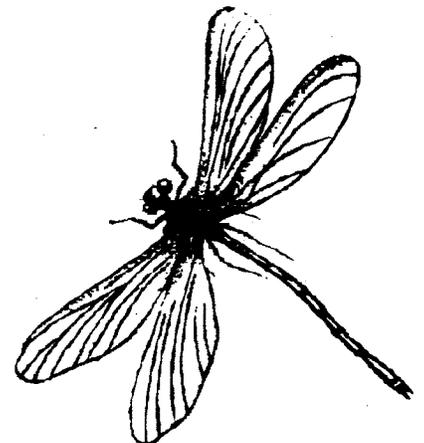
Elections are held in May. The offices are President, VP of Membership, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. Please think about nominations - someone or yourself. The standing chairs - library, refreshments, program, newsletter and webmaster are appointed by the board. If you're interested in working in any of these areas, please let the Board know.

We have a new benefit in the works -- equipment rental. Tina McDonald is in charge. We'll begin with the extruders. The policy and procedure will soon be available on the website, as well as at the meetings.

Last, but certainly not least, dues are due in June. The cost is \$30 per year; \$15 affiliate. This will entitle you to participate in guild meetings, retreats, workshops, library and equipment rentals, and receive the quarterly newsletter. There will no longer be a mid-year dues discount

I hope to see you at the Retreat!

*Diane*



# EXPLORING THE RAINBOW

by Tina Holdman



This month's collection is a set of very soft colors that will get you in the mood to start mixing clay colors for Spring. These colors were very popular for Easter dresses when I was a child. The colors have not been popular for a few years, mostly because collections have been leaning towards brighter, more intense colors. These are lovely, nevertheless, and would be fabulous used for a bracelet or a set of earrings for Spring.

These colors would also make some lovely popular Easter eggs for your Easter basket. They would be good colors to use for contrast with deeper, more intense colors. You could add some additional white or ecru to lighten these colors for an even softer shade. If you feel like experimenting further, try mixing compatible colors, like the yellow and peach or the turquoise and purple for more color combinations.

Premo colors used in this collection are: white, fuchsia, ecru, purple, green, leaf green, turquoise, cadmium yellow, zinc yellow, cobalt blue, and orange.

## Pastel Pink

4 parts Premo White  
1/2 part Premo Fuchsia  
1/8 part Premo Purple

## Pastel Turquoise

4 parts Premo White  
1 part Premo Turquoise  
1/4 part Premo Cobalt Blue

## Pastel Green

2 parts Premo Green  
1 part Premo Ecru  
1/4 part Premo Leaf Green

## Pastel Peach

6 parts Premo White  
1 part Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow  
1/2 part Premo Orange  
1/8 part Premo Fuchsia

## Pastel Yellow

7 parts Premo White  
2 parts Premo Ecru  
1 part Premo Cadmium Yellow  
1 part Premo Zinc Yellow



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**Millie Barton**

9028 W Harvard Place  
Lakewood, CO 80227-6105  
Milb@comcast.net

**Robin Lacey**

5194 Bristol Street  
Arvada, CO 80002  
Mlacey@mho.net

**Peggy Montieth**

P.O. Box 993  
188 Arrowrock Circle  
Florissant, CO 80816-0993

**Tejae Floyde**

4360 Archwood Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
tkfloyde@papdrirect.com

**Mary Ann Loveless**

747 S. Cottonwood Circle  
Bountiful, UT 84010

**Lynne Falick**

7647 W. Williams Street  
Centennial, CO 80122

**Trina Palermo**

1380 E. 64th  
Denver, CO 80229  
miasognare@aol.com

**Lin Chirico**

2246 Eagleview Circle  
Longmont, CO 80504  
ROB\_LIN@MSN.COM

**Adrienne Yauk**

9171 Woodland Rd.  
Longmont, CO 80503  
ayauk@hotmail.com

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

Jan Frame: jan.frame@comcast.net

Karen Sexton: cell phone 303-907-8502

Antje Ryken: antje@comcast.net

Rhonda Caldwell: cjcaldwell@sunsrce.com

## WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

### Artist's Galleries for Inspiration:

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

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

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

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

### Supplies & Resources:

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

(Bracelet blanks, coverables, and tutorials  
for a white daisy cane & transfer covered  
bead)

### Tutorials:

[www.clayobsession.com/tutorial1.html](http://www.clayobsession.com/tutorial1.html)

(Instructions for a gilded, crackle cane)

### Information for New Clayers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BOX MAKING TIPS

Editor's note: These suggestions for box construction were graciously shared by Lindly Haunani, East Coast artist and founder of the National Polymer Clay Guild. Lindly was MHPCG's very first guest artist! She is known for her whimsical, colorful art and her generous artistic spirit. In case you've never built a box from polymer, or if you've had an unsuccessful attempt, Lindly's ideas will be helpful.

1. Bake boxes upside down, so the weight of the box doesn't encourage the legs to splay and slump.
2. When baking, support the bottom of the box with four small pieces of scrap clay (pre-baked and very slightly longer than the legs you are attaching.)
3. Add an armature to the legs. A simple toothpick or bamboo skewer through the middle of the legs works well.
4. Use heavy duty vinyl-covered paper clips to make an embedded corner bracket. These can be cut and/or bent with small wire working tools. The polyvinyl will fuse permanently with the clay during baking and the gauge of the wire is heavy enough to encourage non-movement of the legs during and after baking.
5. Consider three bakings for your boxes: one just for the legs with an armature embedded in the legs, the second to attach the legs to the box bottom along with the armature and a third baking that includes the surface finish. Be sure to support any of these pieces with 'kiln furniture' fashioned from cardboard or found objects.

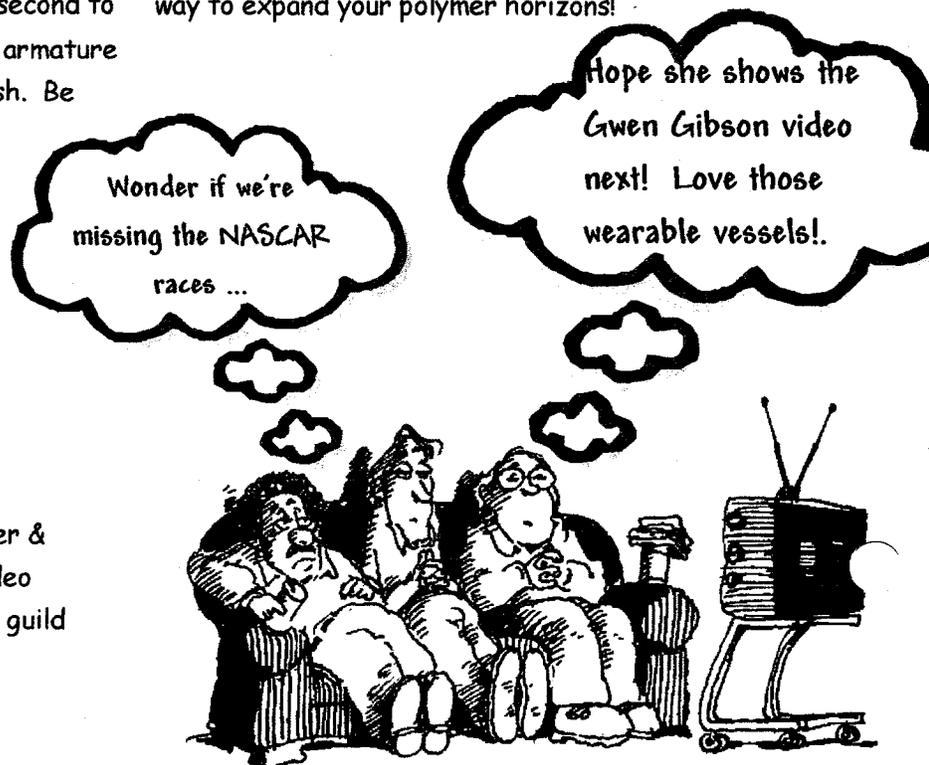
Lindly's inspiring work can be seen on her website, [www.lindlyhaunani.com](http://www.lindlyhaunani.com). Take a private workshop at your leisure by checking out her two informative videos, Roses, Leaves & More or Tantalizing Translucents. She's a great teacher & offers many other helpful hints as part of her video workshops. (Yes, the videos are available from our guild library.)

## LIBRARY NEWS

Tina Guegler, our efficient and dedicated librarian, reports that she's added a new video to the collection: "The Go Wire Sculpting System". Marian Gurnee showed us this technique at the February Clay Day, so this video offers a good opportunity to review the steps and try a wrapped piece.

And speaking of demos: were you aware that Tina has compiled all the demos done during the past several years on videotape, ready for you to borrow and review? You can watch Gerrie Wolf clean a pasta machine (much better than trying to remember how or reading the instructions posted on the web), Maj-Britt Cawthon share ideas from Grant Diffendaffer's workshop, Eileen Loring show her easy bracelet construction and Donna Kato demo the feather cane. But wait! There are more! Demos also feature making star canes, metallic snails, a zig zag cane, clay fabric collage, bead crochet, the brain cane, rose cane, wire work, wrapping, and sanding techniques. Guests like Debbie Jackson, Judy Belcher, Leslie Blackford and Deborah Anderson also show their polymer magic. The list goes on and on.

Thanks to Eileen Loring we also have a collection of Carol Duvall segments featuring polymer techniques by leading artists. Browse through our extensive collection next Clay Day and check out one of the countless videos. It's a great way to expand your polymer horizons!





## SAY CHEESE

On the Polymer  
Clay People  
Yahoo Group,

Polymer Clay Artist Matthew Nix shared these tips for creating creditable photos of jewelry and other small objects. He graciously gave his permission to share them here.

### Items you need:

12 x 12 x 12 box  
14 x 10 piece of Plexiglas or regular glass  
a knife  
background paper (scrapbooking paper  
from the craft store works well)  
60-100 watt light

### How to put it all together:

1. Take the 12 x 12 x 12 box & cut out one side. Keep the bottom of the box intact.
2. On the two remaining sides, measure 9 inches from the bottom and make a slit all the way to the back of the box. Do not cut the back of the box.

3. Slide the glass into the slits.
4. Take the vellum paper and tape it over the light source. The vellum paper is used to diffuse the light.
5. Aim the light towards the opening of your box.
6. Lay the background paper on the bottom of your box.
7. Place the object to be photo'd on the glass.

Your camera should focus on the jewelry or small object. The background will be fuzzy due to the distance of the background from the object.

A photo of the box, a photo taken using the box, and a gallery of Matthew's work can be seen at his website: [www.createapendant.com](http://www.createapendant.com)

For another way to create a light tent, check this source:

[www.extensis.com/story/feature/19002-1.html](http://www.extensis.com/story/feature/19002-1.html)

## ANOTHER MEMBERSHIP PERK

As a benefit of MHPCG membership, you may order from Munro Crafts and receive the maximum discount without providing a tax number. Your order must be at least \$200 before discount. If you're ordering polymer clay, the discount will be 50%. The website ([www.munrocrafts.com](http://www.munrocrafts.com)) has a catalog for informational purposes only. They do not accept online orders. You must call direct to place an order. The phone number is 800-638-0543. They are in the Eastern time zone and hours are Monday & Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The order department is closed on Saturday and after 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Munro's accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discovery only. No checks or C.O.D.

Their snail address is: Munro Wholesale Crafts, 3954 12 Mile Road, Berkley, MI 48072

-- Diane Luftig

## ADVANTAGES OF A WHOLESALE LICENCE FOR CRAFTERS

According to Colorado Law, anyone selling basically any item (including those at garage sales) to a consumer should be collecting Colorado sales tax and reporting it on sales tax forms. Although this seems like a huge hassle, there are a number of benefits to getting a sales tax or 'wholesale' license.

The first is that it saves you the sales tax on items you purchase from Colorado suppliers to be used as components in your sold items. You will have to show your wholesale license the first time at each store, and usually (at least for Michaels and Hobby Lobby) you will have to fill out a wholesale information form. On each purchase, you'll also fill out a six-line register form. Note that there typically aren't additional discounts at these stores, but at least at Michaels you can use multiple coupons for 40% off separate items in a single purchase. Michaels accepts coupons from JoAnn's, Hobby Lobby and Aaron Brothers.

The second advantage is that you get into the wonderful world of wholesale buying. A number of companies will offer steep discounts (up to 50%) on your purchase, providing you've gone over a 'minimum'. Wholesale minimums may be by the piece or by the total dollar purchase or both. The minimum is determined by each individual supplier, usually ranging from \$50 to \$200.

Another word for this discount in the jewelry world is the 'keystone discount' especially when

dealing with gems or pearls. At least one supplier frequently listed in the beading magazines has a local showroom. Blake Brothes, who sell silver components is at the Denver Merchandise Mart.

To gain entrance to any of the Mart showrooms, call the showroom ahead of time and then bring your wholesale license to show at the front desk. After making 3 or 4 purchases of over \$100 in six months you qualify for a showroom pass which entitles you to entry into any of the showrooms. For those companies that are out of state, be sure to ask for their minimums, and ask if you need a password to get into the wholesale section of their website.

The wholesale license will cost \$16 plus a deposit of \$50 which will be returned after you report and send \$50 in sales tax to the Colorado Department of Revenue.

For more information regarding the regulations and a link to the sales tax license request form, go to:

<http://www.revenue.state.co.us/fyi/html/sales09.html>

If you don't want a sales tax license, the form for reporting occasional sales is at:

<http://www.revenue.state.co.us/PDF/dr0100a.pdf>





## NEW PRODUCTS

Jacquard's **Pearl Ex Varnish** is a high gloss water based product that can be used as a medium or as a topcoat with Pearl-Ex powdered pigments on clay, metal, wood or plastic. To use it as a medium, mix a desired amount of Pearl Ex with the varnish. Apply it to the surface with a brush, stamp, squeeze or spray bottle. More information can be found at: [www.iacquardproducts.com](http://www.iacquardproducts.com).



Later this spring, Fimo Soft will debut four new mica-based metallic colors: Pearl, Emerald Green, Ruby Red, and Sapphire Blue. These will be especially exciting for those clayers who enjoy doing mica shifting and invisible caning.



Here are sources for color mixing information. All are available from [www.booksamillion.com](http://www.booksamillion.com).

- Color Mixing for Artists - John Lindzey, Jill Mirza, et al
- Color Harmony 2 with the Palette Picker - Bride M. Whalen (comes with a CD)
- Blue and Yellow Don't Make Green - Wilcox



The 3-in-1 Color Tool, although developed for quilters, offers help to clayers in choosing color combinations. Based on the Ives color wheel and augmented with red and green value finders, this tool simplifies matching and choosing colors. It is portable for carrying in a purse or totebag while shopping. If you make polymer clay buttons, you'll find this tool indispensable for fabric selection. For more information, check out [www.ctpub.com](http://www.ctpub.com).



The inventive owners of Poly Tools have introduced a new bead roller which forms a bicone shaped bead with blunt ends. A smaller version will be available soon. Welcome design innovations include a measuring guide on the side of the roller and a trough through which you can insert metal pins in order to put a hole through each bead. If needed, a larger hole can be drilled after baking.

The Poly Tools people also have a set of new bezel cutters which help make fabulous frames for polymer clay pendants or bracelet tiles. Take a look at their website for these and other intriguing devices that make claying easier. [www.poly-tools.com](http://www.poly-tools.com)

## NEW BOOKS

### Art Stamping Workshop - Gloria Page - North Light Books

This book is ideal for polymer clay enthusiasts, rubber stampers, paper artists, and book makers. It shows readers how to carve their own stamps and create a range of special effects on projects of all kinds.

### Belle Armoire: Jewelry 2006 - Sharon Cipriano, et al

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

Several well-respected artists show how to make jewelry with beads, wire, fibers, found objects, collage papers, fabrics, polymer clay and more. There are a wide variety of projects including beaded eyeglass holders, embroidered brooches, collage pins & polymer clay necklaces. This is a beautiful book & an inspiring resource.



### **MHPCG BOARD**

President: Diane Luftig  
Vice President: Sue Mueller  
Secretary: Maggie Giza  
Treasurer: Gerrie Wolf  
Librarian: Tina Gugeler  
Webmaster: Karen Goulet  
Program Chair: Debbra Woziak  
Newsletter Editor: Karen Sexton

### **Mile High Polymer Clay Guild Newsletter**

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

Karen Sexton, Editor

1209 E. Easter Avenue

Centennial, CO 80122

Laura Schiller  
435 Evergreen Street  
Broomfield, CO 80020

### **CLAY DAYS**

April 22      May 27      June 24

The Board meets at 8:30 & everyone's  
welcome. Demos begin at 10:00.

---

Dues are due in June! Send check to  
Sue Mueller, PO Box 4629  
Breckenridge, Colorado 80424  
\$30 Denver area; \$15 out-of-town

---

Sign up now for the  
**MHPCG Spring Retreat**  
May 12-13, 2006  
Lochwood Community Church  
Union at Florida, Lakewood, CO

