



News From Ephraim



Ephraim
Faience
Pottery

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Introducing Paul McVicker

On May 2nd, we welcomed potter Paul McVicker to the EFP family. Yes, yes, we know what we said—10 people was our limit, but we think you'll understand why we made an exception when you see Paul's work.

Earlier this spring, word reached us that Paul was considering moving back to his home state of California. He had been working in a high-volume production environment and was looking for a change. The artists who were familiar with Paul's work raved about his skills and his work ethic. The rest, as they say, is history, and the *Ephraim Eleven* was born.

Paul has been throwing since he was 13 years old, when his

older brother got a kick-wheel and set it up in the backyard. His brother taught him to throw, and he was hooked. He started ceramics classes as soon as he entered high school and continued through graduation. After a semester at college, Paul was offered a full-time job as a potter. He took it and never looked back. That was 1977.

Paul is an all-around talent with skills in glazing as well as throwing. He eased right into his new role at Ephraim and has been contributing since Day One. Paul alternates his time between glazing and throwing—wherever he's



needed that day. Paul's flexibility and productivity are valuable assets to our studio.

Besides all that, Paul's wife Julie is an excellent baker and has been treating us to her delicious creations on a weekly basis. We'll just blame Julie if we need to take our next staff photo using a wide-angle lens!

Catalog #10 now available

Our new catalog was released on August 1. If you received this newsletter in the mail, you should have already received your catalog. If your catalog hasn't arrived yet, please send an email with your request to info@ephrainpottery.com, or call 888-704-POTS.

Each year our artists outdo themselves designing new pieces, and this year is no exception. Each of our artists has their own unique way of ex-



Catalog #10—our best ever!

pressing the Arts and Crafts style. No matter what your taste, we think you'll find something that you like.

At the time of this writing, our lead time is about 14-18 weeks. We don't charge your credit card until your order is ready to be shipped, so you can plan ahead and budget for all those great new pieces you just can't live without. And of course, it's never too early to start thinking about the holidays...

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Just can't wait?

Many of our retailers will be receiving new pieces this month. In addition to Dovetail Antiques, our company store, several retailers have already received new work. To locate a retailer near you, go to www.ephraimpottery.com, click on the "Buying" button, and then on the link to locate a retailer near you. You can also call us for assistance at 888-704-POTS.

Presenting...(drum roll please)...

The Lotus Vase for CERF!

September is *A Month for CERF*, and Ephraim Faience Pottery and our company store, Dovetail Antiques, are participating in this important fundraiser again this year by offering the **Lotus Vase for CERF** to our collectors. Dovetail and EFP will donate a portion of the proceeds of the sale of this vase to CERF, the Craft Emergency Relief Fund, a non-profit organization that helps craftspeople in danger of losing their livelihoods through illness or tragedy with grants and low-cost loans.

This is the fourth year that EFP has created an original, limited edition vase to benefit CERF. The CERF vases have been developed around the theme of traditional meanings of flowers that relate to CERF's mission (see article below for information on past years' vases). In various religions and cultures around the world, the lotus symbolizes rebirth. Many recipients of CERF's assistance receive a

new lease on life as a result of the assistance they receive from CERF. CERF's grants and loans allow them to rebuild their studios after a fire or a hurricane, or to simply survive as they recover from a serious injury or illness.

EFP will create 100 **Lotus Vases for CERF**. In addition to our 2005 mark and the artist's signature, each piece will bear an additional impressed mark on the foot designating this as a "CERF" vase.

The CERF vase will be sold by mail-in postcard drawing again this year. We feel that this process is the most fair to the most collectors. Please see page 3 for instructions on how to enter the drawing to win the opportunity to purchase this piece.

On behalf of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund, Dovetail Antiques and Ephraim Faience Pottery, thank you for supporting this important

cause through your purchase of the **Lotus Vase for CERF**.



Prototype* of the Lotus Vase for CERF

- Sculpted decoration designed by Laura Klein
- Glaze decoration designed by Angela Taddei
- Dimensions: Approx. 5.50" h x 5.50" w
- Price: \$228
- Shipping and handling \$17 (WI residents add 5.5% sales tax)

* Finished piece may differ slightly from piece pictured

Never heard of CERF?

The Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) is the only organization of its kind in the United States. CERF helps craftspeople sustain crafts-making as a livelihood by providing immediate support to professionals suffering career-threatening emergencies or illnesses. You can read about some of the people that CERF has helped by logging on to www.craftemergencyy.org.

The CERF vases and their meanings



From left: Chamomile Vase for CERF (2002), Lotus Vase for CERF (2005), Apple Blossom Vase for CERF (2004), Lily-of-the-Valley Vase for CERF (2003)

In addition to being pretty, flowers also have symbolic meanings. The flowers on the CERF vases were chosen because they symbolize an aspect of CERF's mission of helping craftspeople in need.

- **Chamomile** = Energy in adversity
- **Lily-of-the-Valley** = Return of happiness
- **Apple Blossom** = Hope for better things to come
- **Lotus** = Rebirth

So you want a Lotus Vase for CERF?

Here's what you need to do

The **Lotus Vase for CERF** is a limited edition of 100 pieces. It will be sold by a mail-in postcard lottery system. One hundred names will be drawn from the entries received, and those people will be able to purchase the **Lotus Vase for CERF**.

Here's how it works:

Mail a standard-sized postcard with your contact information (name, address, and daytime and evening telephone numbers with area code) to **Lotus Vase for CERF, Dovetail Antiques, PO Box 33, Deerfield, WI 53531**. Entries will only be accepted on postcards mailed to Dovetail

Antiques. Phoned-in or emailed entries will not be accepted. **YOUR ENTRY MUST BE POSTMARKED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2005** in order to be eligible for the drawing.

Dovetail Antiques will only accept one entry per couple or household. Duplicate entries and names not on Dovetail's or Ephraim's mailing lists will be discarded. (If you've received this newsletter by mail, you are on one or both of these mailing lists.)

The drawing will be conducted on Sunday, October 9th. John Mathews of Dovetail Antiques

will telephone the winning buyers within one week of the drawing. Payment will be taken at that time. If a message must be left, the winner must return John's call within one week. Unreachable and non-paying buyers will forfeit their entry and another name will be drawn.

If you have any questions, please contact John at Dovetail Antiques (tel. 608-764-1454 or by email at info@dovetailantiques.com). **GOOD LUCK!**

Discontinued

- #228 Large Begonia
- #425 Autumn Oak
- #318 Underwater Crab
- #319 Majestic Dragonfly
- #422 Corbel Candlestick
- #427 Scorpion
- #428 Flying Scarab

What if I want a Lotus Vase for CERF but my name doesn't get drawn?

Since there are generally more than 100 people interested in the CERF vase, what's a good collector to do? As hard as we try to give all of our collectors a fair chance at purchasing a special piece like the CERF vase, demand exceeds supply. We designed this series to be a charity fundraiser, and we donate half of our profits from the sale of this vase to CERF. We feel fortunate to be able to make our living as artists, and this is a way that we give back to the crafts community. This year we're encouraging anyone who decides to resell their piece to consider donating a portion of their profits to CERF as well. If you don't get a vase this year, we hope you will consider making a financial contribution to CERF instead. With all the hurricanes these past couple of years, the need is greater than ever.

THANK YOU!

Upcoming Shows

Wisconsin Pottery Assoc. Show	Pasadena Heritage Craftsman Weekend	Sixth Annual Holiday Pottery Fest
Aug. 27th, 2005 9:00—4:00	Oct. 22-23, 2005 9:00—5:00	Dec. 3rd, 2005 Time to be announced
Alliant Energy Ctr. Madison, WI	Masonic Temple Pasadena, CA	Dovetail Antiques Deerfield, WI

Ephraim Faience Pottery in a museum?!!

EFP was honored to be invited by the Milwaukee Art Museum to participate in a recent trunk show held in conjunction with the exhibit *The Arts & Crafts Movement: Design for the Modern World*. Kevin Hicks and Paul McVicker did throwing demonstrations, and Ken Nekola and Laura Klein demonstrated sculpting. It was inspiring to be creating new pots right outside this historic exhibit, which contained some of the finest examples of Arts and Crafts ceramics from the United States and Europe. The exhibit will be at MAM until September 5th, after which it heads to Cleveland.



Some of the pots that Paul threw during his sculpting demonstration at the Milwaukee Art Museum. The lamp in the background is by Roycroft Renaissance artisan Frank Glapa.



*It's more than pottery.
It's a lifestyle.*

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Down on the farm

by Kristin Zanetti

I was raised in a suburb of Milwaukee. In our neighborhood, people had dogs. Most of our neighbors didn't allow their dogs to run loose. Dogs lived inside houses with their people, not outside in doghouses. No one I knew, not even my friends from school who didn't live in my neighborhood, had a cat.

When I started working at Ephraim, I discovered that many people living in this rural area have a very different attitude toward dogs and cats than me and my old suburban neighbors. It is not unusual for cats and dogs to run loose despite the dangers this poses. Dogs and cats are "just animals" to those folks, and that is

part of life on the farm. I struggle to understand this attitude. Our dogs were always part of our family; I can't imagine living with the worry that some day my best friend might not come home.

Another thing I learned is that the country is a favorite dumping ground for unwanted pets, especially cats. When people no longer want them, they bring their cats out to the country and abandon them, thinking they can survive on their own. In reality, they face hunger, danger and disease. Kevin, who grew up on a farm down the road, said that when he was a kid, a new cat showed up in their barn about once a week. Diseases

periodically swept through the cat colonies, and none of these "barn cats" had long lives.

You may have seen a "Today in the Studio" feature on our web site back in May about a friendly little black and white cat who was hanging around the farm, hungry and lonesome. I had never had a cat before, knew virtually nothing about them, and had been known in the past to refer to them as "freaky little beasts." But love is stronger than either fear or common sense, and so Mittens came home with me. This dyed-in-the-wool Dog Person is now officially a Dog AND CAT Person. And you know what? I wouldn't have it any other way.



Mittens at home
August 2005