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For Immediate Release

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A Civilization is judged by its pottery....

Seagrove, NC – As you drive along NC Highway 705 enjoying your Seagrove Pottery Experience, your trip will not be complete without a stop at the Blue Moon Gallery and Ole Fish House Pottery located at 1387 NC Highway 705 South, in Seagrove. Inside you will find a brilliant collection of potters and crafts people's works from Seagrove, and across the Carolinas. One entire wall consists of fabulous functional ware pieces created by the owners, and potters of the Ole Fish House Pottery, Byron & Georgia Knight. They were both real estate brokers in Morehead City, North Carolina before moving to Seagrove, but they were quite familiar with pottery. While living in Morehead City, Georgia and Byron's sister would come to the Seagrove area to go shopping for pottery. Byron also had an older sister that collected pottery, and also threw pots. After dealing with many stressful years in real estate, Georgia suggested that they take a pottery class together at the local community college to help relieve some of that stress. They both took the pottery classes, and really enjoyed it, although in Georgia's words, "most of what we created looked like lead balloons!" Byron continued on saying, "We bought a wheel, but didn't have a kiln. We were just getting into it. Then one day while looking on the internet, I saw a listing for a business that said 'Absentee Owner'. It didn't say what the business was, or where it was located, except for that it was in Central North Carolina near an art community. We knew that it had to be in Seagrove, and eventually found out that it was the Blue Moon Gallery. Our children were grown, and we both wanted to get out of real estate, so it came down to buying and running a Hardware Store in Morehead City, or running an art gallery in Seagrove", he said with a laugh. "I was rooting for the hardware store, but Georgia didn't want to".

From the time that they first saw it online to the time when they decided to buy the gallery, was almost a year. They bought it and moved to Seagrove in 2002. Their 6th year Anniversary of owning the business was in June of 2008. In the short amount of time that they have been here, and for the short amount of time that they have been throwing pots, they have received many compliments for their pottery from the other potters in the area. They are known for the bright colors of their pots, and for the almost Asian influence that they have in their style. They are considered self-taught potters. They are able to achieve interesting color combinations even though they fire using an electric kiln. "Many people have commented on how we are able to achieve the color combinations that we do without using a gas kiln. They didn't think that they are possible to do. We are in the final stages of building a gas kiln, of course now that gas prices have sky-rocketed we are building a gas kiln!" he added.

They both use a white stoneware clay that is very smooth. There aren't big grains of 'grog' in it. 'Grog' is a term that refers to fired clay that is broken down into smaller bits, to help give structure and strength to clay. As Byron explained, "It is like when stones are added to cement, to make concrete. They are a filler, and also add strength". The stoneware clay is very soft, so it is not easy to make big pots with it. Georgia prefers to 'orb' shaped bowls, and she does additional form building onto them. She adds

carvings and other items to her pieces. Byron likes to make bowls, but prefers to make bowls that extend outward. After he throws the bowl, he lets it dry to just the right stage, and then he does a 'chatter' technique to it. He adds a wire to the bottom of his bowl so that they can be hung on the wall. When asked why should people come to Seagrove? Byron and Georgia explained, "There is so much variety here. You can see the old traditional pottery, to the new modern styles of pottery and it is all in one area. If you like pottery, it is impossible to come to Seagrove and not see something that you like".

For more information about the Blue Moon Gallery and the Ole Fish House Pottery, including their hours and directions, please call (336) 879-3270, or check out their web site at www.blue-moon-gallery.com. For a listing of all of the members and the events presented by the Seagrove Area Potters Association (SAPA), please go to www.discoverseagrove.com. **Explore America's largest community of working potters. Discover Seagrove.**

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