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For Immediate Release

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### **Cady Clay Works hosting their Wood-fired Kiln Opening Sale November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 5pm**

Seagrove, N.C - Beth Gore and John Mellage are the owners of Cady Clay Works, located on Busbee Road in Seagrove, NC. The name Cady is derived from the farming homestead that was in Beth's family back in Wisconsin where she grew up. Between John and Beth, they have more than 40 years of experience as potters. The truth in that is revealed in the beautiful quality pieces that you will find in their studio. John specializes in turning pieces on the potter's wheel, while Beth creates her pieces using the hand building method, using slabs of clay. They are truly masters at their craft, which is one of the reasons why they have been in business for 21 years. "We are known for our dinnerware, and have a wedding registry. Recently we have had experienced two different groups that are second-generation buyers for weddings!" Beth exclaimed. "It makes me realize how long we have been in business. Our customers are so loyal to us. They have a commitment to keeping hand made crafters in business". They have four electric kilns which they use for all of their bisque firing, and for the dinnerware and casseroles that they make. Once a year they fire their wood kiln, which they use for their one of a kind functional ware and also for the hand built items such as the chickens for which Beth is famous for creating. Recently they fired the wood kiln, and are in preparations for their Wood-Fired Kiln Opening Sale, which will be held at their studio located at 3883 Busbee Road, in Seagrove, on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008, from 9am to 5pm. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to pick up an incredible piece of pottery that is uniquely fired by the effects of the wood flames, and high temperatures reached in the kiln.

It takes John and Beth, along with a crew of fellow potter friends, five days to load the kiln. "It is like a giant jig saw puzzle", explained Beth. "We load the kiln at the back end first, with usually one layer of pottery. Then as we move towards the middle, we place the larger pots so that they will be protected, and surrounded on both sides. In front of the larger pots, we then add several tiers of smaller pieces such as mugs and bowls. Since the fire box is located in the very front of the kiln, the rows of smaller items protect the large pieces in the middle. You don't want a large flame to be in direct contact on a specific surface of a large pot. The one area that the flame touches could increase the temperature there, while the rest of the pot is not at the same temperature, which could result in the pot cracking". The next step, firing the kiln takes another five days. They start the fire using pine and oak for the fuel. The first two days are spent pre-heating everything slowly, which helps to remove any moisture in both the clay pieces, and in the kiln itself. After that they then increase the temperature by 200 degrees the next day, and then 400 degrees the next day, and finally by about 50 degrees an hour, reaching the peak temperature of 2300 degrees.

Their lovely studio is now full to the brim with beautiful pottery that has been glazed by the wood flames and the resulting ashes that blow through the kiln. Each piece is unique and a treasure. Be sure to stop in on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and pick up a piece for a gift, or to add to your own collection. As Beth so perfectly phrased it, "We have an unbroken pottery tradition here since this region was originally settled; pottery made to use for every day life; real life".

For more information about Cady Clay Works, please call Beth Gore or John Melage at (910) 464-5661, or log onto their website at [www.cadyclayworks.com](http://www.cadyclayworks.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](http://www.discoverseagrove.com). Explore America's largest community of working potters. Discover Seagrove.

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