



May 13, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Claire Matthew info@matthewmarketing.com

DirtWorks Pottery- from Kannapolis to Seagrove to Blowing Rock

Seagrove, NC - Dan Triece, potter, and owner of DirtWorks Pottery located on Hwy 705 in the Whynot area near Seagrove, is a member of North Carolina 'royalty'. He grew up in Kannapolis, and is a second cousin to the late Dale Earnhardt, of NASCAR fame. Dan's grandmother and Dale Earnhardt's grandmother were sisters.

Dan's parents were pottery collectors so he was familiar with the local potters. "At the time, in the early 1970's there were only about 8 potters. I would bring my friends from Kannapolis with me to wander around the Seagrove area", he explained. "In 1985 I decided to take my hobby and pursue being a potter. I wasn't very good at it", he said with a laugh. He then happened to stop in at his grandfather's house, where a friend of his gave him a brochure about a pottery program at the Montgomery County Community College. Within a couple of hours he had signed up for the class, and 3 weeks later he started taking the classes. It was a two year program, and after being in it for 1 ½ years, Dan was offered a job teaching at some of the night classes. During the day, Dan worked for David Garner at Turn and Burn Pottery. He was traveling back and forth between his home in Kannapolis, and his school and job in Seagrove.

Dan moved to Seagrove in 1991 before the 220 bypass was completed, and at the time there weren't any shops available to rent. One day, David Garner called him and said that "Holly Hill Pottery is moving out of a 2400 square foot showroom, and there is a place to live with it". Within 10 days, Dan had put a deposit on it, and moved in. He still maintained his space in Kannapolis even though he now lived in Seagrove. After five years in Seagrove, he noticed that there was a sign that said there was a home for sale on Hwy 705. He bought the house, and started clearing the land around it in order to build a shop. He moved into this new location, and has now been there for 11 years. He has created on average 18,000 pots per year during that time. He affectionately calls his 35 foot wood kiln, his 'Mercedes', because "I was going to buy myself a new Mercedes, but I spent all of it building my kiln!". Twice a year, he fires it up, and it burns for four days. He can do 1200 pots in it. Every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day, a combination of hardwoods and pine wood have to be added to it to keep the fire at the required temperature.

He is known for his wood fire salt glaze, and his favorite shapes are what he calls his 'Zen pots'. According to Dan, "They have a quiet grace about them". He is also known for his colorful pots, but the

interesting thing to note about that is that Dan is color blind! He can see red, but not greens and blues. He creates 27 different glazes from scratch, including his copper luster Raku. "I tell folks that Seagrove is the largest enclave of potters in North America; where pottery as a functional art form has grown in the last 100 years. It is what makes American pottery different from pottery from Poland, the Netherlands, and England".

Dan Triage, DirtWorks Pottery is available in his showroom on Hwy 705, and in approximately 20 plus galleries from Oregon to Maine to Florida. As of the beginning of May, Dan has opened up another showroom, located at 915 N. Main Street in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. For more information, please call (336) 873-8979, or visit his showroom in Seagrove at 1226 Hwy 705, Seagrove, North Carolina.

For a listing of all the members and the events presented by the Seagrove Area Potters Association (SAPA), including the celebration of National Tourism Week, May 10th through May 18th, 2008, please go to www.discoverseagrove.com. Explore America's Largest Community of Working Potters. Discover Seagrove.

#####