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For Immediate Release

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McCanless Pottery

Seagrove, NC – Peder Wilhelm McCanless, also known as Will McCanless, is a potter that like so many others in the Seagrove region, is following in the footsteps of his family tradition as potters. His parents were potters, and were the owners of Dover Pottery, so he grew up watching them and helping them out in making their pottery. Eventually he began taking on more and more responsibilities in making their pottery. “It was something that we, me and my brothers, didn’t really want to do. I went to school for music. I got out of school and was teaching music lessons, but I realized that it wasn’t as much fun as I thought it would be. I was still working in pottery during that time, and I decided that hey, this really isn’t so bad, so I decided to stick with it”.

He decided to go into the pottery business full time in 1993, and began selling his pots from his parents shop, at Dover Pottery. Will opened his current retail location on 634 NC Hwy 705, on October 6, 2006. He contracted the project and also did a lot of the work himself, along with the help of many of his friends.

Will McCanless is known for his crystalline glaze pottery, his Seagrove Red earthenware glaze, and also for the method of painting on a white base glaze of pottery known as Italian Renaissance maiolica. The crystalline glaze comes from a chemical reaction in the kiln between zinc oxide and silica, which occurs at about 2350 degrees Fahrenheit. The two will combine and form a beautiful crystal pattern. Different colors are combined to create different crystals and patterns. The entire process can take 25-27 hours, with the actual firing time taking about ten hours. There are many variables involved in the creation of crystalline glazes.

The designs for his Italian maiolica come from influences from many different cultures, including places that Will has visited across the world. He does all of his painting free-hand, using Chinese calligraphy brushes. The Seagrove Red glaze, for which Will is also well known, gets its brilliant red color from cadmium, which means that it can only be used for decorative purposes. It is a very difficult glaze, and requires very strict application and firing techniques. The name comes from the long standing tradition of red colored glazes from the Seagrove area.

For more information regarding McCanless pottery, and to view samples of his work please log onto the web site www.mccanlesspottery.com, and to find out his hours of operation please call (336) 879-3610.

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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