



## Newsletter

Vol. II, No. 2, December 2022

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## Artist Chris Gustin Returning for Annual WoodStoke Festival

Chris Gustin



Artist Chris Gustin will once again join us for the firing of the kilns for the WoodStoke Festival.

"We learned so much from Chris last year and are looking forward to his return," said Brenda Stokes, Gulf Coast Kiln Walk.



**Chris Gustin** is a studio artist and an Emeritus Professor at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. He received his BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1975, and his MFA from Alfred University in 1977. Chris' work is published extensively and is represented in numerous public and private collections throughout the world.

Chris was awarded the Masters of the Medium award from the Renwick Alliance in 2017. He is cofounder of the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts in Maine and currently serves as Honorary Trustee on its board.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Highlights:

- Gulf Coast Kiln Walk was founded in 2001
- The first firing was in 2005 with Don Reitz, who helped build the Anagama Kiln.
- The 1940 Historic Ralph Howard Philips Kiln was donated by the family and restored in 2006. The first firing was in 2009 and the Philips family were in attendance. This is the only one of its kind in the state.

# Joining Guest Artist Chris Gustin is Don Ridley and Mark Rigsby

Don Ridley, of Tempe Arizona, began his ceramic studies at Marcos de Niza High School and continued his education at Arizona University. He has spent several years teaching and working with Tom and Elaine Coleman at their studio in Henderson Nevada. Ridley has won numerous awards for his work and continues to sell his pottery at shows and galleries throughout the southwest. He is currently the Department Head of the ceramics program at the Phoenix Center for the Arts.

Mark Rigsby is a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. In graduate school, Rigsby began research in the ancient techniques of wood-fired ceramics and kiln construction. He has worked in clay for over 30 years. His areas of expertise are ceramics, sculpture, art exhibition curation and gallery management. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Auburn and a Masters in Fine Arts from the University of Alabama.

## Wood Firing is Environmental

“Wood firing is one of the most environmentally friendly practices as far as pottery goes and is a beautiful craft.” Ally McManus

The use of clay is a sustainable material choice that can easily be returned to earth without causing pollution.

Gulf Coast Kiln Walk gets its wood from local tree surgeons for reuse. The historical kiln holds over 800 pieces and requires attention 24 hours a day for five days!



## About Gulf Coast Kiln Walk

A unique and historically important resource became a reality in 2001, when the Gulf Coast Kiln Walk Society(GCKWS) was granted its 501c3 nonprofit status. Founded by a group of dedicated Gulf Coast artists, instructors and patrons, the society is devoted to the ancient tradition of wood fired ceramic art in historic kiln designs.

Future plans include construction of a multi-use “Historical Working Center” to provide space for educational workshops and research, and a gallery area to exhibit wood fired ceramic art and historical artifacts.

The Center will bring education, artistic expression and art appreciation together in one location to allow residents and visitors to have a greater experience beyond those now possible. A chance to discover the challenge and joy of creating art from clay in an inspirational environment.

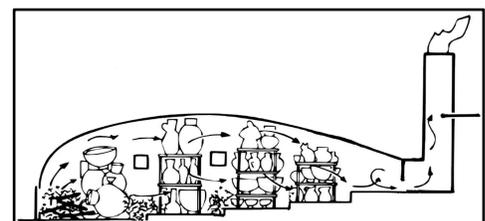
### Current Historical Kilns:

#### Anagama

Anagama Kilns are ancient style wood fueled pottery kilns of Asian design. The Society completed construction of it's 32' anagama in 2004. The kiln holds up to 800 pieces and the firing is manned 24/7 by an experienced team for up to 6 days. Temperatures can reach 2500 degrees. The kiln slowly cools for 12 days before it can be opened.

#### Southern Groundhog

The Ralph Howard Phillips kiln is a modified “Southern Groundhog” kiln originally built in the 1940's by Mr. Phillips in Jay, FL. The Society was permitted to carefully deconstruct and move the historical kiln to its current site in 2006 to preserve the history of pottery in Santa Rosa County. It is the only reconstructed wood fueled kiln of any era in the State of Florida and is fully functional.





## Upcoming GCKW Events

- Jan. 12 – 15 Loading Ralph Howard Phillips Ground Hog Kiln
- Jan. 19 – 22 Firing of the Ground Hog Kiln
- Jan. 26 – 30 Loading the Anagama Kiln
- Feb. 1 – 5 Firing Anagama Kiln
- Feb. 16 Chris Gustin Presentation and Reception at Pensacola State College, 5:00 PM, Anna Switzer Building
- Feb. 18 18<sup>th</sup> Woodstoke Festival, Kilns Opening

## Gulf Coast Kiln Walk Future Begins with Feasibility Study & Capital Campaign

Please Stop by the GCKW tent at the Woodstoke Festival and take a QUICK survey about the GCKW. We are organizing a Feasibility Study and Capital Campaign and you can help! The Feasibility Study will provide answers to what type of support we have as an organization, volunteer information and giving for the upcoming capital fundraising. It will provide answers to:

- How likely each person is to donate to the campaign?
- Do you know anyone who could contribute or become a stakeholder?
- Why are you involved with GCKW, what inspires you?



If you would like more information about GCKW or a copy of its Business Plan, visit [www.gulfcoastkilnwalk.org](http://www.gulfcoastkilnwalk.org); find us on Facebook @KilnWalk or call 850-939-2744. Thanks for all your support of GCKW, and its future. GCKW Site: 7507 Buckeye Drive, Navarre, FL 32566



*Ben Twingley Gulf Coast Kiln Walk member and Kiln Tech*

*Navarre High School clay club student showing off her pottery*



*The late legend Bill "Clover" one of Kiln Walk's Founding Members*

*Wood fired beauty by Chris Gustin. There will be a reception at Pensacola State College on Thursday, February 16th for Chris. He will be conducting a power point presentation that evening at the Anna Switzer Center.*



# Navarre Beach

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