

ST. HELENA SILVER CLAY JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Monday July 17 through Thursday July 20, 2017

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association is excited to again bring Rosemary E. Gould to St. Helena Island Light Station to conduct a Silver Clay Jewelry workshop. Rosemary is a Certified PMC (Precious Metal Clay) instructor, has her Master of Fine Arts degree from Michigan State University and is an Adjunct Professor at North Central Michigan College.

Rosemary says, "Precious Metal Clay, or PMC, is a pliable, putty-like compound containing pure silver powder which can be molded, textured and layered, using a variety of stamps or stencils. Once the design is complete and the piece has dried, it can then be fired with a small torch or in a kiln, so that the remaining moisture and binder is driven off and the material becomes solid silver."



This year's workshop has been specifically arranged so that it will appeal to both the newcomer to the art of silver clay jewelry making and to the more advanced student. Participants will be split into two groups, with one group being introduced the basics of the craft and the second

group specifically arranged to appeal to those who attended one of Rosemary's workshops and are looking to expand on their skills and for exposure to additional processes and methods.

Participants in this workshop will board the Shepler's ferryboat HOPE in Mackinaw City on Monday July 17 at 2:00 PM for a ride to St. Helena Island, located seven miles west of the Mackinac Bridge. Upon arrival to the fully restored, 1873 light station, jewelry makers will settle into their rooms in the light house and then enjoy a grand tour of the station grounds. The lighthouse has four bedrooms. The two small bedrooms each have a double bed. The two large bedrooms have one double bed and two twin beds each. The GLLKA will provide pillows and blankets and the participants will bring their own pillowcase and sheets or sleeping bag. A packing list will be pro-



vided for each participant so they will know what to bring for a pleasurable stay.

During the time on St. Helena, participants will be transported back in time to 1912 when everyone helped with the daily light keeping chores - pumping fresh water from the certified well, sweeping the floors and sidewalks, food preparation, and dish washing, just to name a few. Two very clean outdoor latrines can be found in a lovely grove of cedar trees a short walk from the lighthouse dwelling. On-demand propane heaters provide warm showers. Solar panels provide electricity to charge cell phones and camera batteries, but not enough power for a hair dryer! Flashlights are used at night to provide light, when needed.

When not working on jewelry designs, participants can enjoy activities like kayaking, walking the cobblestone beach, identifying wild flowers, napping, relaxing in a lawn chair, waving at passing freighters, geocaching, swimming in cool clean Lake Michigan, or reading a good book. Spectacular sunsets can be seen over the lake and after dark, a roaring campfire on the beach will be perfect for telling ghost stories, roasting marshmallows, or just relaxing before bedtime. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are allowed on the property.

Participants will then re-board the Shepler's vessel HOPE and will get to participate in a Westbound Lighthouse Cruise before returning to the Shepler's Mackinaw City dock at around 5 PM.



The cost of the workshop for each participant is \$385.00. Non members will also need to purchase a membership in order to participate. The fee includes sleeping accommodations in the lighthouse, 3 meals a day plus snacks, and jewelry making instruction and materials. The workshop is limited to eight participants who must be physically able to transfer from the Shepler's ferryboat, down a swimming pool

type ladder into an inflatable zodiac boat for a ride to shore. Participants should plan an extra day in case windy or stormy weather makes it impossible for Shepler's Ferry to service the island.

For more information and a registration form, please contact the GLLKA office at 231-436-5580 or e-mail GLLKA at: info@gllka.com. All workshop participants must be members of the GLLKA. A one year individual membership costs \$40.00 and can be purchased at www.gllka.com.

Please note that if you have previously participated in one of Rosemary's workshops, she suggests that you may wish to arrange to purchase additional materials in order to be able to make varied and larger projects while on the island. Please let us know when you call to make your reservations and we will put you in touch with Rosemary so that you can make the necessary arrangements for the supply of additional silver clay material directly with her.

