

NelsonCountyLife.com

NELSONTM COUNTY LIFE

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PRICELESS!

(FREE)

judd's kiln



APPLE BUTTER MAKES IT BETTER
PG. 26

• AFM'S NEW DIGS
PG. 28

• RVCC'S BIG ONE-OH
PG. 35



After five years, this man is
fired up.

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THE LIFE ENRICHMENT GROUP



For several years after moving to Virginia, Brooke Conover told friends and colleagues that her husband was a potter while Judd Jarvis, the supposed potter, stood by, sadly shaking his head.

Despite his Master of Fine Arts from Nebraska at Lincoln, the artist felt that since he wasn't actively pursuing his craft, he couldn't legitimately call himself an artist.

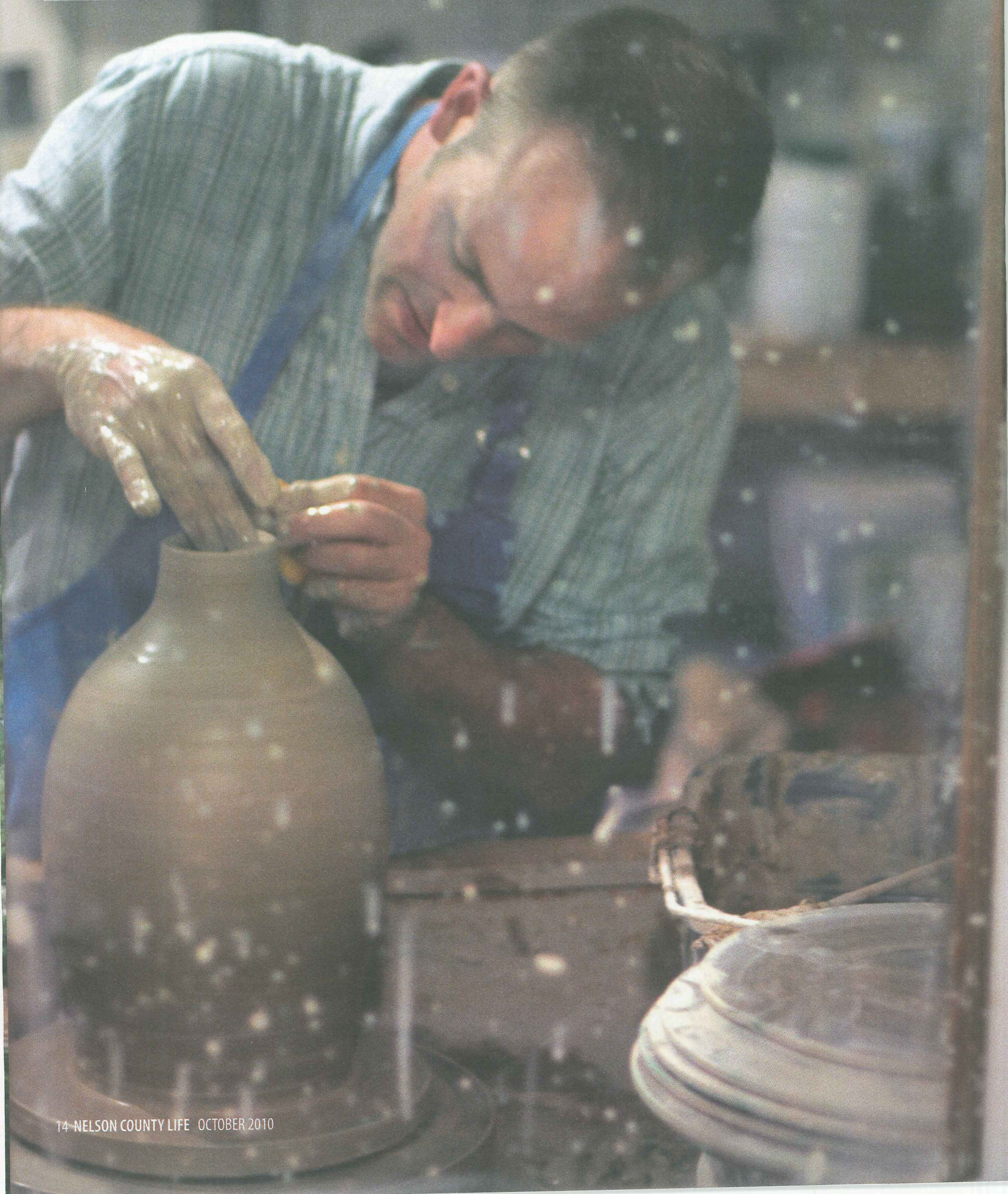
And just as Brooke began to say to herself,



“We’ve got to get this kiln going,”

the couple found the opportunity to buy a house in Afton, build a workshop for Judd and finally get his kiln up and running.

The 16th annual **Artisans Studio Tour** will take place Nov. 13 and 14. Judd and several other Nelson County artisans will be participating, as well as a variety of people from the Charlottesville area. Guests are invited to tour artists' personal studios to see some of Virginia's finest crafts including pottery, furniture, weaving, fabric design, jewelry, stained glass, clothing, baskets, wood turning and more in addition to artisan demonstrations and some hands-on experience. For more information, visit www.artisanstudiotour.com.





“And I could see the psychological difference, a difference in attitude or just feeling or self-image or self-esteem once he was able to get his hands back in clay,” said Brooke who has an MBA from Nebraska, works in human resources for Albemarle County and jokingly refers to herself as Judd’s enabler. “It was sort of like a fish who’d been out of water for too long.”

Judd is what is called a functional potter and spends most of his time creating things that can be used in the home like mugs, vases, plates and pots.

“I got excited about making something I could use in daily life and interact with,” said Judd. “I like to make things that are of service.”

But that doesn’t mean they’re all function and no form. No, in fact, it took a while to get the ball

rolling on Judd’s studio partly due to the specialized nature of his work.

Instead of using a traditional glaze for his pots and pitchers, Judd uses a type of firing called salt firing.

“I get my pots up to about 2300°F and I introduced salt into the kiln and it combines with the silicone that’s present in the kiln body and basically forms its own glaze,” the artist explained.

But because of the salt, the kiln must be made of special bricks – bricks that are too heavy to ship. Which is why Judd, a self-proclaimed Jack of all trades, had to build the kiln himself. And by that time – what with trying to follow building codes and still bring in some kind of income – Judd hadn’t touched clay in about five years.

“It seemed like it was slow to get there and now

it seems like it’s going 60 miles an hour,” said Judd, who now has to post about six months of calendar up in his studio, a former one-car garage.

“It’s starting.”

Judd has already applied to and been accepted into the Artisan Center of Virginia. He’ll be taking part in the Artisan’s Studio Tour Nov. 13 and 15. And he attributes much of what he’s been able to accomplish to the area.

“Nelson’s a great county,” he said. “I’m in a really nice spot.”

“It’s been a very welcoming community,” agreed his wife. “When [Judd] first came down here and went over to their studios, they were very encouraging and still are. It’s sort of like if you need a cup of sugar you can ask your neighbor. It’s a very sharing, welcoming environment.” **NCL**

