

April, 2025

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



Message from the President, Kerry Boll



Dear Members:

April is always my favorite month of the year. OK If you really must know – it's my birthday month and believe me when I say – I celebrate for a month! LOL! But you know what rocks my world the most? The cactus blooms soon to show their paper faces

across Green Valley.

It's also a time to fare thee well to some of our snowbirds. But this year I'm a little sadder. We are saying goodbye to snowbirds but also to some of our Canadian friends who are leaving us permanently. Snowbirds please make sure

to remove all your belongings from the studio. Remember when anyone is away from the studio for two months, we release our cubby. Please clean your cubby and wipe it down for the future owner. Thank you!

****APRONS – say goodbye to our apron dust collector in the hallway outside the holding room. Please remove your apron (deadline March 31st) and either “wash it”, put it in your cubby or maybe store it in your car.

We are creating a new high fire glaze board where we currently hang the aprons to alleviate traffic jams by the checkout counter. Thanks in advance to Dennis Weir; Larry Carter, and Joe Picard for creating and consolidating the Celadons and Runners and for creating a NEW and Improved High Fire Glaze Board.

Our Glaze Table where we store all the glazes galore...this space is for dipping, pouring into glaze cups and for possibly drying our clay pieces. This space is not designed for standing or sitting and glazing your pieces. Please respect all of us who want to get a slotted drying rack or accessing the 5-gallon dipping buckets.

Oh – and Chris Shepardson – THANK YOU for making glazes your life for the past year. We look forward to our new future-coming Celadons – Charcoal, Lagoon,

Sandalwood, Iron, Jade, Poppy, Weeping Plum and Saguaro.

WELCOME KATHY SZETO and KIM BOSWELL as the new co-chairs for the Monitors. Ellen Wicai and Dee Dee Guizlo – thank you so much for your service and for helping the studio run smoothly.

And speaking of monitors – let me remind you that when there is a monitor on duty –they are the boss! Please respect them and make sure to follow their leads and reminders. We have studio hours -- make sure you are prepared to leave at the time they are closing. We will not tolerate anyone who does not follow or listen to our monitors.

A BIG thanks to all the instructors and workshop leaders for giving back to the studio with their knowledge and best practices.

IF YOU SIGN UP FOR A WORKSHOP –SHOW UP!
There are limited spaces, and our instructors work hard to continue to educate us all.

Have a wonderful month-long Spring Celebration. Enjoy friendly reminders of the season - allergies, dust, new life, friends, family and especially all the joys of traveling and

experiencing new adventures. Make the best of this weather!

Kerry Scott Boll

Your Friendly Neighborhood Prez!

Past President Julie Jacques writes: Thank you!



Thanks to all members who have donated pottery to the Desert Meadows Nursery. We plant arrangements in pots

and sell non plantable items as art. It's always fun to hear our shoppers become excited about items from Clay



Studio Members. Donations help the Garden Club maintain our beautiful Dessert Meadows Park. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. GV Garden Club & Clay Studio Members: Sally Hennesey Julie Jacques, Kathleen Richter, and Marilyn Montgomery

"Becoming a Clay Studio Class Instructor, Helper, or Workshop/Demonstration Leader has Its Benefits."

Do you have an urge to share your skills and talents with others? Do you have an idea for a project that you'd like to teach others? Why not sign up to be an instructor to teach a GVR Class or present a free workshop? GVR Class Instructors receive payment from GVR for their time teaching. If you have a skill such as pot throwing, sculpture, hand building, molds or other ideas, now is the time to become an instructor and offer a GVR class, a free Workshop or Demonstration.

If you prefer to not instruct, helpers are always welcome to help instruct classes and you may learn that you too can become an instructor.

Along with the pay received from GVR for teaching, there are benefits and incentives for teaching a class, helping or presenting a free workshop or Demonstration. Instructors receive credit In Lieu of Service requirements. Helpers, workshop or Demonstration leaders are also entitled to Incentives In Lieu of Service Requirements. Here are the Incentives

received for instructing a class, helping, or presenting a Free Workshop or Demonstration.

Incentives for Clay Studio GVR Class Instructors, Workshop Leaders, and Helpers In Lieu of Service Requirements

- **GVR Classes –**

- **Instructors** – receive pay from GVR, and Service credit for month in which class is in session. **

If an instructor teaches more than one class in a month, the instructor will receive an additional month of Service credit for each class taught.

- **Helpers** – Service for month in which class is in session.

- **Intro to Clay Instructors** – receive pay from GVR, 3 months Service credit

- **Helpers** – 2 months Service credit for Intro class (3 class days) that is assisted.

- **Workshops –**

- **Leaders** – Service for month in which workshop is in session.

Helpers – Service for month in which workshop is in session.

- **Demonstrations – In studio**

- Planned demonstrations with 5 or more attendees that have been approved by the Education Committee, the

Leader receives Service credit for month when demonstration occurs.

** (If a class or workshop overlaps from one month to another, such as if the workshop starts in February and ends in March, instructors, workshop leaders and helpers will receive Service credit for both months)

GVR classes and instructors require approval by the Education Committee and the Clay Studio Board of Directors. Free Workshops and Demonstrations only require approval from the Education Committee.

"So think about becoming a GVR class instructor, helper, Workshop or Demonstration Leader--There are Benefits and Incentives for giving of your talents to the Studio!"

**If you have any further questions and ideas, contact Al Koss, Education Committee Chair,
at pioinfoal@gmail.com or 406 407-4593.**

Raku Season



Doug Davis fires up the little Raku kiln after firing the large kiln in the background. We're in the height of Raku season with around 30 pieces fired on Wednesday.

Raku firing is much quicker than normal firing, taking around 1-2 hours in comparison to regular firing which can take up to 24 hours.



The pieces are fired to 1850 and then placed in to metal roasting pans filled with combustible materials.

Raku firing is an ancient Japanese ceramics technique that has been used for many centuries to create a very unique finish to wares. The Raku technique dates back to the 16th century,

The Raku crew consists of Doug Davis, Susan Anderson, Bruce Bowen, Melanie Fearon, Charlie Radebaugh and Steve Jansen.



Doug Davis places the hot pots into the paper and they burst into flames and voila, as the paper burns, the piece is smoked black. Steve Jansen prepares to smother the flames with a lid. This technique is used to starve the piece of oxygen, which creates a myriad of colors within the glaze.



When the containers cool down to the point where they can be moved, it's time for the big reveal. Successful or not, it is an experience worth taking.

Melanie Fearon uses a propane torch to reveal more color flashing. Raku is purely decorative and should not be used for dinnerware.





Past President, Susan Anderson checks on her pieces after they have cooled down. Doug checks the pieces to see if the colors fired properly

One week later

It's Time for Horse Hair Firing

Bisque pottery is fired to 800 degrees and pulled from the kiln for immediate surface decoration. The artist has about one minute to apply the horse hair to the object. It is important to remember: Don't touch

the pot.

Melanie Fearon watches over the process to offer assistance. Star Talasek (Foreground), Becca Dunn, and Bruce Bowman.





Several different natural materials can be used as well. Here a tiny feather is placed on the pot leaving a soft smoked impression.



Becca Dunn holds the horse hair close to the hot surface without touching the pot.

News from the Glaze Committee
By Christine Shepardson

We reviewed our data for 2024 and have decided to stop purchasing the following glazes, Galaxy, Light Sepia and Frosted Melon.

We are bringing back Chun Plum by Amaco.

Running Hot Chowder will be available for members use in May. It is an extreme runner. We encourage you to only use it inside and on flat pieces while you learn more about it. You will find a round stencil brush helpful in its application, it is very watery. There will be free workshops on May 1 and May 8, look for sign ups

Cuerda Seca workshop filled up quickly, we will be scheduling another.

Iron red glaze has been moved to 1 gallon container. He hope to have Turquoise Lake ready for the 5 gallon dipping container soon.

Glaze testing will resume soon, we are looking at River Birch, a couple of crackle glazes and Coral, the base of the ever popular Amyarillis.



Majolica glaze results continue to be positive. Julie Schmit's beautiful asparagus dish and Lori Jandro's lemon plate.

Meet Tom Krahe.

He says he was bitten by the clay bug in college, then after a 20 year hiatus took a ceramics course at Onondaga College in Syracuse, NY. He still calls Syracuse as home visiting us during the winter. Tom's career started with a business degree with an emphasis in interior design. Art runs in his family.

His father was a low relief sculptor. In New York, he belongs to IPA, Independent Potter's Association where they donate works as a group to raise money for charity. He says "it's the comradery" he enjoys.



As for our studio, Tom says,: “I love throwing and trimming. I enjoy the fellowship.”

Thank you Kitty
Bottemiller for covering
my newsletter duties
during my month off.
Hope you enjoyed the
newsletter this month

Send your pics and articles
to me Denise LeCount-
OBrien at
rurt2dede@gmail.com or
text me 309-830-0177.

