

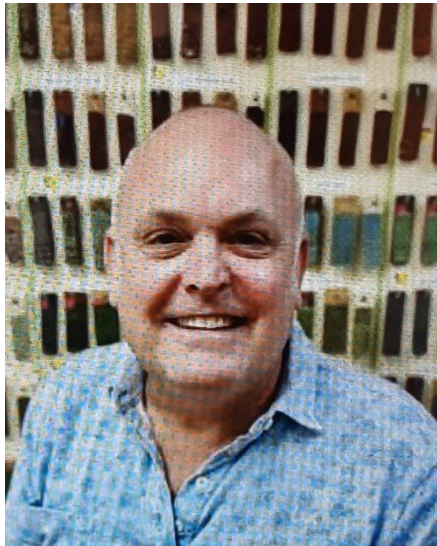
March, 2025

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



Message from the President, Kerry Boll



Dear Members:

For me March reminds me that Spring is around the corner and prompts me to look around the house and purge the things that I never use. Time to give back to the community by donating things that others can use more than myself.

In our studio, the Board has decided to give to our community in Green Valley as well as to our clay studio members. Beginning February 24th, we lowered the bisque, low and high firing fees by 15%. We also are starting a contribution box for the local food banks. Not only can you donate food, but they welcome paper products, toiletries & personal hygiene products.

And the Board is happy to announce that when you have reached that ripe young age of 85 and show Paula Worthley or Jane Ercolani, our service co-chairs your license or passport for proof of age, you will be eligible to opt out from service in the studio. Those people we know are age 85 and above will be getting a special email from me.

And thank you to all the people (too many to list) who recently contributed to following: GVR Club Day, Canoa Artists Reception and Setup, and Santa Rita Springs Open House. THANK YOU – we appreciate your service and contributions!

One more *new and important* item to share with you. Beginning immediately and as per GVR Rules & Regulations, any guest 18 years or older is required to show their guest card and our monitors need to record their name and guest card

information in the New Guest Log Book located where you scan your GVR card. We are still using the 123123 for guest as well.

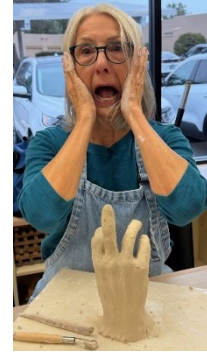
Lastly, we are seeing a lot of work coming into the holding room with no initials or identification. All work must be labeled by the maker.

For our seasonal folks -- make sure you clean out your cubbies before leaving Green Valley. Take your clay and aprons.

Thanks!

Kerry

Sooo much clay, so little time. Things getting out of hand for member Brenda Eddy?



Glaze Committee News from Christine Shephardson, Chairperson

GLAZE PRICES: These continue to climb, but much more gradually. Thanks to all your efforts to decrease waste!

BUCKET DEBRIS in the 5-gallon buckets is becoming a problem. We're starting a schedule to regularly sieve these products. If you dip your pieces, please rinse or wipe clean before dipping.

WANTED! Someone to teach an advanced glazing class, or an interesting glaze technique. If interested, please text Christine at 518-894-2870.

STOCK CAUTION: With the studio so busy, we sometimes have trouble keeping glazes in stock. A B/O sticker by the glaze means we're having trouble procuring it. Keep this in mind, especially if you plan to glaze multiple pieces with the same color.

MISSING: Some bottle tops from the Cuerda Seca Kit. If you mistakenly put them back with your belongings, please return.

UNDESIREED GLAZE RESULTS: If a glaze doesn't perform as expected, let us know, and document with a picture, so we can investigate. Four members recently had an unsatisfactory result from China White UG. I communicated with both Mayco & UG internet forums. Consensus was that it may have been applied too thickly. There was a request that we purchase the Amaco white instead of the Mayco product.

The Glaze Committee discussed and decided to continue with the Mayco product. We'd used 3 pints of China White at this point without other problems, without further concern expressed since. Keep that in mind that a member is always free to buy any product currently approved, or has been approved in the past, & use it in the studio.

FLUX REQUESTS: We've had requests for other Flux products, and tried to obtain a few, but they're currently in short supply.

We continue to test Running Hot Chowder. It's a beauty, but can be rather unpredictable when used w/ non-celadon glazes.

Watch for updates!



Above: Would you believe this mold-built beauty is member Marlinda LaValley's first Clay Studio project? She preferred not to be pictured, but gave thumbs up to member Mark Kraske standing-in. Nice work, Marlinda!



Clay Studio members Sally Richards, left, & Sally McDermott at GVR Club Day Feb. 1.

Looking for Templates? Have Any to Share? From member Alice McKenzie

When longtime Clay Club member Alice McKenzie recently discovered the “Clay Templates” binder in the Studio Library, she was amazed -- and thrilled! “If I hadn’t known of it, maybe others hadn’t either,” she said



The binder is teeming with pattern templates contributed by members over time, providing a wealth of ideas, inspirations and shapes galore for countless clay projects. If you have one to add, that would be appreciated!

Studio Librarian Carol Mossholder offers these tips: Please place your template donation(s) on the shelf above where the template binder resides (on lowest right of shelving unit). And users, if the current binder is getting too stuffed, let her know at cmossholder@cox.net.

Other binders on the templates shelf may also be of interest, Alice notes, such as: Glaze Combos, Mold Inventory, and more. Fun to flip through while waiting for your glaze to dry.

What about clay captivates you? From Newsletter Contributor Kitty Bottemiller

A lot of folks think clay’s merely dirt, for heaven’s sake. But can it be compelling! Just ask a clay studio patron about the wonders of working with the stuff!

- Colorado transplant **Cindy Carter** (right), a club member for just over a year and also a stained glass/mosaic fan, leans toward functional pieces embellished with carving rather than abstracts, and planning ahead. But not so much her imagination won’t stray.

“I like the social aspects (of the studio) and get lost in the chatter,” she said. Many times, her





projects result from advance planning; others are more spur-of-the-moment, to make use of spare clay. Her favorite accomplishment so far is a hand-built oak leaf vase.

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- **Pat Buske**’s passion is Speckle Buff clay, original shaping, stamping, some molds. Pat (at right, crafting a cardinal design) has been a clay studio staple for two-plus years, and learned a lot – maybe forgotten some, she says -- but continues to delve in, delighted that so many fellow artists happily let her pick their brains for pointers.

She’s especially smitten with taking classes, and loves hanging out in the studio. “This is my happy place,” she said. So much so, her spouse is getting curious. “He asks ‘Are you having an affair or something?’ I say yes. With dirt.”



Within earshot, fellow clay-enthusiast Mary Delong chimed in: “That’s so true, she said. “It’ll be a long time before I give it up.”

For others, compulsion to create seems inborn, so strong is the lure to keep crafting.

- Decades ago in his Milwaukee suburb, **Jay Groothousen**’s junior high art department offered a dazzling array of art classes: clay sculpting, hand-built objects and pottery; silversmithing, copper enameling, charcoal drawing; block printing, watercolor and oil painting. One project involved creating a 550-pound ice sculpture, he said.

Mesmerized, Jay began snaring awards bestowed by professional artists who would visit to judge student artwork featured in school display cases.



Prospective livelihood as well as a passion? Post-college, he proceeded to make a living for many years as a goldsmith with his own business

“If it involved turning raw products into finished products, I was all-in,” he said. These also included woodworking, and now painting at home, acrylics having replaced oils.

He vividly recalls from his time served in Korea, spotting clay shards thousands of years old in riverbeds. Jay’s been a clay-studio regular for 16 years, fashioning urns, other decorative pottery pieces, and serving on the Kiln Committee, still with a fervor far from fading. At left: Jay with wares he created in the studio pottery room.

Kitty is subbing for regular newsletter compiler Denise LeCount-O’Brien, who’s out of town & will resume publishing with our April edition. Story ideas & pictures? Yes please! Send to desertcat963@hotmail.com

Demos at Santa Rita Springs Arts Complex Open House Feb. 8



More from Feb. 8 Open House



GVR Clay Studio Showcase Reception

Exhibit Feb. 2 – 28, Canoa Hills Rec Center

