

December, 2025

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



Message from the President, Kerry Boll



Dear Members:

Happy December!

I'm wishing the best to all during this Holiday Season! December 18th is our Holiday Party in the Anza Room. There is a signup sheet by the front desk. John Turner's band will be playing for us all. Thanks John!

SAVE January 8th for our Annual Meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Anza Room. The studio will be closed that day until 12:00 p.m.

We have a new clay storage area in the classroom. You do need to have a bin which can be purchased from the studio. We are asking if there is a class that you enter

from the side of the handbuilding room. Please be very quiet and exit as soon as you have your clay.

Thanks Sally for leading the incredible food bank initiative. We have contributed 1900 pounds to date. Thank you to all who have contributed!

Enjoy and be merry!
Kerry

Sally's Food Bank Corner Contribution

I feel so compassionate about *Feeding our Community* -- especially in this time. I am so thankful to all at the studio who continue to contribute to the food bank. October we took 695 pounds and November 614 pounds plus \$150 in cash from Amy & Kathy's Advanced Molds Class. Everyone in the class donated \$10 - sweet! Some of our members in the studio also took turkeys over to the food bank before Thanksgiving. Thanks to all for continuing to make this a successful studio contribution to our community.



A Message from the Glaze Committee: by Christine Shephardson.

Having trouble finding just the right color glaze? Did you know we carry 4 products that can be mixed to create just the right color?

Amaco Celadons, Mayco Stroke and Coats, Underglazes and Amaco Satin Mattes can be combined to give you different colors and tints.

If you go to Youtube and do a search for videos on these glaze brands, you will find a wealth of information. Amaco even offers a wonderful video on basic glazing that had helped many members get better results.

Just. Remember you need to mix Celadons with Celadons, Stroke and Coats with Stroke and Coats, underglaze with underglaze and Satin Mattes with Satin Mates (SM)

If you have a Facebook account, consider joining the groups that all the major glaze companies have, it is fun to see others work and gives you great ideas. There are also Facebook groups for underglaze users, Sgraffito artistry, sculpture and hand builders. You may be surprised to see some posts from Green Valley on these!

Obsidian is now available as a dipping glaze in the 5 gallon bucket; Dave asks that you start with small pieces as we perfect its use.

We have approved a new glaze, Yellow Gloss from Mayco. It is brighter than Sunflower and very shiny. We hope you will like it.

As we enter our busy season, it would really be appreciated if all members would make an effort to clean the rims of the glaze pints and please do not pour from the gallon containers. The Glaze Committee takes pride in keeping our area clean, tidy and user friendly. Keep in mind we want your feedback. Please put your ideas in the suggestion box.

A WALK AROUND THE STUDIO







Classes abound, thanks to our teacher
volunteers.

Mold workshop, sculpture busts, low fire flower
creations, wheel work, and intro to clay studio-lots of
offerings for our enthusiastic potters.



Please let the instructors know if you are signed up and not going to make it to the free workshop. There are people on the waiting list, who would love to take your place.



(Left) Intro Class participants: Shawn Butler, Linda Hull, Nick Heskin, and Susan McArtor.



Sculpture Instructor, Nancy Schultz enjoys a challenge.



Sheraldine Gardner will be teaching her popular class: Flower making.



Welcome back Jackie Herning (Left) who helped with an Intro class. And thanks Anita Rae-Davis (Right) for your enthusiastic teaching.

VIP safety in the Studio. Watch out for water on the floor. If you spill water, drip water across the floor using sponges, rags, or emptying water buckets WIPE IT UP. It is easy to slip on the concert floors. If you do fall, let the monitor know and write up an accident report.

Please do not use the glaze preparation area table to stand and glaze your pieces. It is only for getting your glazes ready to take to your table.





HOLIDAY PARTY

Another reminder for our Holiday party on December 18th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Anza Room). Donate a door prize and bring along a gift for the gift exchange. We assign you a number and then draw for your gift. Thank you, Sheraldine Gardner for coordinating our event and potluck this year.

This year again; we are collecting for the Member Assistance Program through the GVR Foundation. Drop your coins or \$\$\$ in by the monitor's station. This benefits those who cannot afford to pay their homeowner fees.



BOWLS NEEDED FOR FUNDRAISER.

VALLEY ASSISTANCE IS IN NEED.

DUE TO THE SHUTDOWN, FUNDS ARE GONE.

As a studio, we have been very supportive. In January, we will be donating handmade bowls. Try creating a soup size bowl, glazing it with a food safe glaze and then putting it in the donation box in the main room by our library.



**Raku and Horsehair firing sessions have returned.
Info on dates, special Raku glazes, and holding shelves
are located by the front door.**

Brenda Eddy has a unique approach to anything clay. Here are her November Raku pieces.



There are some general guidelines to consider when creating a Raku piece. Many of us use WSO or Solidate high fire clay bodies for our projects. Some master potters work in other clay bodies like porcelain.



Our Raku Crew for November: Back left: Larry Carter. Front left: Charlie Radebaugh. Back right: Doug Davis. Front right: Susan Anderson

Pieces must be able to be picked up by long handled thongs when they are red hot out of the kiln. Pieces should weigh under 5 pounds. Small delicate appendages are easily broken. Raku is a process which requires the piece to be taken out of the kiln and exposed to thermal shock: cracks sometimes happen. Pieces should be well constructed with walls that have uniform

thickness with strong joints. Unglazed areas will turn black, so consider this when planning your design. Each person is limited to two pieces a month. Also show up 20-30 minutes before firing and go out on the patio to prepare up your pieces as per instruction. No one will prepare your piece for you.



Raku pieces should be kept out of direct sunlight and are not water proof or food safe. But they are gorgeous.



On the morning of firings, the back porch area door is closed from the inside. If you want to watch, enter the back porch area from the side gate.

If you have any questions, ask Doug Davis.



New Clay Body coming soon.

B Mix without grog with Speckles.

Tests have been run and the new clay body offers a unique look, (somewhat like Speckled Buff but without the coarseness. The examples below: Marilyn Serra and Sue Peetom, have used celadons, mixing clear and iron luster.

The larger dark piece is example of speckled buff and you can see that the clay body is darker in color than the new B Mix without grog with Speckles.



The ones in the center are glazed with celadons. Iron yellow was used on the waterfall flower bowl. Mixing clear was used on the trays. Clay is on order so look for it around December 1st. Thanks ladies, nice job.

**And on a final note: Marti DeLong
wins the cuteness kudos with her
Winter Tree Gnomes**



**So much for this month. See you at
the Holiday Party. I love potlucks.
Your newsletter person, Denise
LeCount-O'Brien, rurt2dede@gmail.com**