

July, 2025

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



Message from the President, Kerry Boll



Dear Members:

on vacation

Meet Tom Healy.

This is a man who has worn many hats around here; Vice President, Facilities manager, and kiln crew.



He and his wife, Judy, who was a member at one time, joined the studio in 2018. He has a colorful life with hobbies involving crafts, woodworking, and oil painting.

Nowadays, Judy is busy with four different groups and oversees two clubs. Ask him about her passion: Duplicate. This is a serious Bridge game that is all business and no talking.

They lived in England when Tom worked for the Department of Defense. His interests are varied including a background in architecture.

Upon joining, he pursued constructing ceramic buildings. However, after a while, he decided to take a break from the studio for a year to pursue a pet project: The History of the Healy Family.

Tom busily researched his family history and ended up with two hard bound volumes, totally 650 pages! He was able to trace back to his Great Grandfather's line back to Ireland in the 1850's. His Great Grandfather settled in Fargo, South Dakota, where he worked for the railroad. Ultimately the family ended up in Tacoma, Washington.



*The History of
the Healy
Family.*

Tom is working in porcelain these days, hand building dishes and platters, mostly for his wife to use when entertaining. His porcelain



plates are so thin and lightweight because rolling his slabs to 1/8th inch.

He is using multiple layers of glaze to achieve unique color combination. He has tried the Frozen Pond technique using Agua Celadon, Running Hot Chowder, and Seaweed. For his flower platter, he used 3 coats of plum then topped it with Iron Luster. He also likes Blue Rutile covered with Iron Luster.

Tom and Dave Karakatsoulis check out the set with the Frozen Pond technique.

A Glaze committee Message

From Christine Shephardson

Just a few things

Discontinued Amaco velvets and other D/C glazes are now located on the far left as you walk towards the patio.

These glazes are perfect to use, just not chosen for current use. The base coat of amaryllis , Coral is there along with a nice re/pink called Cedar Shino. They have tiles so you can see the actual product.

Lynn Morgan is currently creating new uniform test tiles for all the high fire glazes. Make sure you turn the tile over to read her notes on how to use the glaze.

You will soon see a list of easy to apply and reliable glazes. We are hoping this will be a help for new members. We encourage you to use single glazes and get comfortable with them before entering the world of layering.

Dave K is still working on Turquoise Lake to make it a successful dipping glaze, in the meantime please use the pints for brushing.

We just approved a product called Jujube White. It is a Georgie's sculptural glaze that is applied over other glazes to create breaking and crawling beads. It is not food safe. It should be available in the next month and we will have samples and Instructions for you.

Many of us love the Amaco Satin Mattes. Keep in mind that you can mix them to create other colors, including the use of White SM and Clear SM to create other colors.

Food Safe Verses Dinnerware Safe



In pottery, food-safe glazes are non-toxic and safe for direct contact with food, while dinnerware-safe glazes are also non-toxic and safe for food contact, but also durable enough for daily use and cleaning. Essentially, dinnerware-safe implies food-safe, but with added durability and ease of cleaning.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **Food-safe:**

A glaze that doesn't leach harmful substances like lead or cadmium into food. It means the glaze is non-toxic and safe for food contact when used according to manufacturer's instructions.

- **Dinnerware-safe:**

A glaze that is both food-safe and durable enough to withstand daily use, including washing, exposure to acidic foods, and potential contact with silverware. It also implies a smooth surface that is easy to clean and doesn't harbor bacteria.

- **Key Differences:**

Dinnerware-safe glazes go beyond just being non-toxic; they're designed for the rigors of everyday use on items like plates and cups, while food-safe glazes may be better suited for decorative pieces or serving dishes that don't require frequent washing.

A Walk around the Studio



Mixed media projects abound. June Rennick has created a series of sculptural lamps. Jay Groothousen threw a lamp base. Ron Powell created a stand for his stained glass creation.





Vicky Weir,
totem agave



There are some great tile designs showing up as a result of a recent class. Here is a great example by Cindy Bradley.

Kathy Szeto is creating a beautiful blooming cactus.

Lynn Morgan has been creating new uniform test tiles for all the high fire glazes. Make sure you turn the tile over to read her notes on how to use the glaze.



Lynn suggests using the above clear glaze over your underglazes, SWOO1 Stoneware clear.



The results of the Cuerda Seca class.



An example of the pots created in The Waterfall Roses class. Such delicate beauties.

So much for this month. I could fill a volume with all of the good things going on in the studio: classes, sculpture, new glazing techniques, tiles, black clay pots, lamps and flowers. Amazing!

Remember, forgive me when I mess up your name and such, send pics and info to Denise LeCount-O'Brien at rurt2dede@gmail.com