

February 2024

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Julie Jacques

The Canoa Show set up is February 1 at 8 am. Hopefully many of you will be putting a piece or two in the exhibit. This will be our first show in the newly redecorated space so it will be interesting to see how the committee has arranged it. The Reception is Friday, February 2 from 4 to 6. The Desert Ukes will be playing so stop in and join the fun.

We now have a designated phone number if you need to contact a monitor chair. You may call or text and you will get a monitor chair to help you. The number is listed in a blue box~ MONITOR HELPLINE ~520-260-8822~on our webpage. Please do not call their personal phone numbers.

Please remember to tag your work. With such a busy studio we cannot have items on the shelves for more than 30 days. Pearl Lentz is our “tagger” and she checks to see that items with no name or date receive a red tag. If they remain on the shelf with no name or date they are

determined to be abandoned and placed on the patio. If you have items on a shelf and have become ill and cannot get back in, please let me know. We will try and find them and make a note on them for you. Thanks Pearl for keeping our shelves from becoming a storage unit.

A long time member, Katy Danhof, has donated much of her pottery equipment to the studio. She donated several GR Pottery molds, a kiln bead rack, small extruder and several other articles that we have added to the Studio. Katy was a kiln tech for many years. Thanks Katy!

We decided that shelves were needed so we could keep all the GR Pottery forms together. We found a board and Bill Wachtendonk is cutting and installing them to create a special space for the forms. Thanks, Bill.

We needed more wareboards so Sam Sweetman donated some boards that she had and Gary Rennick is cutting them for us. Thanks to Sam and Gary.

We are currently in need of someone with accounting experience to do our yearly financial review. They typically look at the records and books from one month and then give us feedback on how we could improve. Please drop me an email if this is something you could help us

with. email~~juliej47@gmail.com

March 16th from 10 to 1 is our Studio Open House. The other clubs at The Springs will also be open. There will be a concert by the Elderly Brothers in the Anza Room at 1 to benefit the Food Bank. Please come and see what the other clubs here have to offer and enjoy the concert.

Til next month,

Julie

News from the Glaze Committee

By Chris Shepardson

We have been busy and are having a blast looking at and testing new products. Here are some highlights.

We approved 2 new glazes: Turquoise Lake and *Honey Flux*. They are both lovely and versatile. Please treat *HF* as an extreme runner.

We are now selling test tiles for \$ 2.00, which includes firing. We **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO A TEST TILE WHEN LAYERING 2 GLAZES**. You never know which ones might run like crazy.

Our Inspiration Wall is located by the velvets and S and C. We are adding to it as we get a nice combo. Teresa Turcoy will be teaching the “peacock” method of glazing bowl interiors. Watch for the results in a week or two.

We are accumulating a good amount of glaze chips; remember NO VELVETS as they do not melt. We will have an upcoming workshop on their use.

We have some upcoming workshops on “What is Velvet?” And also on how to safely layer glazes. Watch the bulletin board.

If you know a special glaze technique and would be willing to share, please let us know.

We value your input; so please put suggestions in the black box. These are your glazes; we are just taking care of them!

News about Molds in the Hand building area.

Mary Clark and Amy Helman just organized the molds. Everything is labeled and has a home. Please put them back where you got them.

Plus, we have nine new molds to use: three pumpkins and six gourds.



Annual GVR Clay Studio Artists' Exhibit and Reception



Canoa Hills Recreation Center

February 2nd through February 29th 2024

There will be an artists' reception on Friday, February 2nd from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Canoa Hills Recreation Center at 3660 S. Camino del Sol.

Set up is February 1st

This is the Clay Studio's annual opportunity to show the community the wonderful artistic pieces that the members have created. We usually have over 100 clay works on display for the entire month. There will be music and snacks! Invite your friends to join you at the reception on Friday, February 2nd.

Questions: Call Sheryal Atkins at 207-314-6608

MEET OUR HARD WORKING KILN TECHS

Our team of kiln techs includes both fulltime members and a few winter visitors. When you see Jay Groothousen, John Turner, Barb Jepkena, Rex Bybee, Jan Kockendorfer, Katy Cassie, Doug Davis, Layne Cook Johnson, Susan Anderson, Paul Wolford , Phil Hoy, Steve Jensen, Melanie Fearon, Charlie Radebaugh, Rob Alstaetter, and Keith Henley let them know how much you appreciate all they do to keep the kilns firing. We have a new trainee so welcome Corey Robinson. Also joining the Outdoor Firing Crew is Susann Ecklund. After serving the club many years, Katy Casie is retiring from firing. Thank you, Katy.

Our studio has nine kilns and one large kiln apply nicknamed Big Bertha for bisque firing. Each kiln costs between \$3,000.00 to \$6,000.00. Replacement kiln shelves run \$100.00 each and are easily chipped and broken. Kiln shelves are heavy and cumbersome to move and amazingly fragile.



To keep these kiln shelves in good shape, every glazed piece is placed on a shard when placed in the kiln. If the glaze on the piece is attached to the shard it will ruin the shard and the piece. Make sure there is plenty of clearance between the glazed pot and the shelf.

Some glazes are runners. When the glaze runs too much it is because too much glaze was applied or the glaze was applied too closely to the base.

When glaze drips down on the shard, Jay or Phil will use a grinder to clean it off. And then kiln wash is applied to the shelf to add a layer of protection to the shelf surface. This is a dirty job, best avoided.





Loading the kiln requires measuring the height of pieces so the space inside the kiln is well planned so as to not waste any room. The small pieces on the right are short kiln shelf supports. They come in all heights to accommodate flat, short pieces and tall, large ones.

The firing process requires 48 hours to complete. And even if your work is in the holding room on Tuesday, for example; this does not mean it will be fired on Wednesday. During the summer and especially during the winter, there can be a back log for firing.

Some pieces require an entire shelf to themselves and the large sculpture pieces are often fired together so that they can be fired more slowly to avoid cracking.





Meet John Turner. (Left) He has wintering in AZ for 14 years and lives in Montana. John has an Art Degree in Ceramics from San Jose State University in California. His specialty is wheel throwing.

Paul Wolford (Right) helps in the winter months. From Vancouver Island, he and his wife share hobbies. His wife is a hand builder and he can be found in the wheel Room. Paul has been a kiln tech for two years.



Rex Bybee (Left) has been a member for almost a decade. His favorite area was hand building and sculpture.



2010. After the Intro class, she took a wheel class and has been throwing ever since then.

Katy Casey (Right) has been a studio member since



Jay Grootousen has been a member of the Clay Studio for 14 years. We know Jay for his hard work in the Kiln firing room. His pottery will be on the Artist's Open Studio Tour in March. As Chair of the Kiln Committee, Jay is in charge of making sure all of our pieces get fired.



Past President, Susan Anderson helps in the Kiln room and Outdoor firing. She specializes in wheel thrown Raku, horsehair and Saggar firing. Her work will be on the Artist's Open Studio Tour.

Barb Jepkena has been a member of the Clay Studio since 2014. She enjoys hand building and molds. She started helping with firing a year ago and liked it. She is a member of the GVR Hiking Club and is quite involved with them, as an assistant leader and currently club secretary. She likes doing the kilns because she gets to see the unique and beautiful things people make. "We have a lot of talent in the Club."





Keith Henley (Left) works year round in the kiln room, when he's not loading or unloading, you can find him throwing pots.

Phil Hoy is helping out in the kiln room this winter. He takes a break from the cold Canadian weather in Prince Edward Island.



Layne has been a longtime member of the studio. She's an oil painter and enjoys the glazing process, as well as, hand building things to glaze.



Rob Altstaetter has been a member since 2008, including serving on the Board. You can find him here on Wednesdays firing the outdoor kilns. He doesn't find a lot of time to come and make pottery now a days. But worked on the wheel and was a hand builder. He loves to show his grandkids how to work with clay when they visit.



Members of the Knights of Raku:
Rob Altstaetter and Doug Davis.

REQUESTS FROM THE KILN TECHS

*If you have glaze on any waxed areas, use a clean damp sponge to remove it off of the waxed areas. The wax burns off and the glaze particles flake off onto the kiln shelf. Then, guess what? Jay has to grind it off. 😞

*Many members use tape to achieve a clean line while glazing. Great idea, but remember to take it off!

*Make sure you're building stable pieces that do not wobble. If your piece has to be cradled to keep from rolling or tipping over, please work with another experienced potter to build a support.

Unstable pieces in a glaze firing are a sad scenario. When a piece falls, it could attach itself to the kiln shelf or worse yet, attach itself to the piece next to it. And then Jay has to grind the glaze off again. 😞

*In the holding room, shelves and areas are designated by colors as Bisque, Low Fire, and High Fire. Do not place a low fire piece in a high fire area and bisque piece in any other area than bisque. Each kiln layout has to be precisely planned out. And if all of the shelves are full, wait for the next firing.

*Sign your work and make sure all areas are filled out on the firing slips. If you forget while building the piece, you can use a small brush and place your ID on the bottom of the piece, prior to going in for the bisque process. Use either an underglaze pencil or a light coat of Black Velvet velvet underglaze.



*At this time of the year, the holding room fills quickly with items that have come out of the kiln. Please remove your items ASAP!!



Totem accomplished.

Carol Zychowski and her tabletop Space totem that she made in Teresa's class.

I received this one photo of a member's work last month. Please send photos to make our newsletter the Best It Can Be.

So much for this month. The studio is buzzing with activity as the Winter Visitors are beating the cold by hanging out in the clay studio.

Please send me images, names and captions to Denise at rurt2dede@gmail.com

When you get a THIS PIECE IS AWESOME CARD, PASS IT ON. Walk around the studio and find a work and place that card on it. Share the kudos. I am especially seeking out members who have not had their work in the newsletter yet.



As some of you know, I had knee replacement in December so my studio visits are few and far between until after the Artist's Open Studio Tour in March. Between PT and getting ready for the Studio Tour, I need your help. Please send me pictures of the great work you see around the studio and a caption. I will take photos of the Canoa Clay Studio Show.