

Fun in the Sun III

Desert Spice Coyotes Retreat Report February 2015

Courtesy of Karen Willes and Arlene Smith

Our retreat began on Friday Night, with a starting event that would force the participants to break into teams. Intentionally thinking that this would be a great way for our participants to get to know one another. Our very own, Arlene Smith planned and hosted this event. She seemed thrilled when she came into the room - the folks were sitting in groups of 6 at each table with a plain bird house as a centerpiece. To their surprise, Arlene told them "it's great to see you all in your groups ready to paint, but I have news", and then the real fun began! She asked everyone to pull a ticket...and then divulged that this ticket indicated which team you were on. Yes, there was some whining!

Each of the teams had a theme - Valentine's, Mother's Day, Back to School, etc. The objective was to design and paint their bird house to represent their theme. Arlene had Concepts, Envisions, Crystals, and Court Yard glazes to use, and a table that had contact paper, cord, tape, shaving cream, and much much more.

First, the team had to pick a spokesperson. Then, they had 30 minutes to design their birdhouse, and 60 minutes to decorate it. Arlene made sure that all members of the team participated, everyone did some painting on the piece. She also kept an eye on the teams too, as some were trying to use *Google* to help them with design! Another team or maybe two, wanted to have the person who was the best painter do most of the painting. However Arlene quickly put a stop to those shenanigans.

Then when the time was up Arlene had each team come to the front of the room. The team spokesperson walked us through their design process. Arlene, Jan Dietman, and Rene Lewis judged the pieces on Sunday afternoon. They divulged that It was a hard to decide on a winner and they really had to knit pick.



The winner was Father's Day, the team did a great job of best representing the theme Themes were Saint Patty's Day, Christmas, Valentines, Thanksgiving, Easter, 4th of July, Back to School, Mother's Day and of course Halloween. Every did a great job.

After the Retreat these birdhouse's will be donated to Sunny Shine Acres Children's Home in Mesa, Az. For more information on this wonderful home, check out their web site at www.sunshineacres.org.

On Saturday, the projects included: Shimmers with an alcohol technique on ornaments taught by Pert Fuller; Multi-layer Duncan Concepts carved on a wall hanging by Jean Kidwell; Daisies on a small bread platter using EZ Strokes by Karen Willes; and, a figurine with Duncan Pearls and soft pastels by Connie Hemmett.

Sunday's project was taught by Duncan Ambassador Janet Dietman. She did a polished undercoat with a southwest decoration on a wall planter.

Each day we had a breakfast, a delicious lunch and tons of fun. It was all made possible with the generosity of bisque and color donated by Duncan and Marjon's Ceramics in Phoenix.

See more pictures of the birdhouses on the next page

All the Birdhouses



Saint Patty's
Christmas



Valentine
Easter
Thanksgiving



Halloween
4th of July
Back to School
Mother's Day