



Rocky Mountain Chapter Retreat in Albuquerque, June 6-7, 2015

A ceramic retreat, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Chapter, was held at New Mexico Clay the first weekend in June. Some pre-retreat festivities were held on Friday. The owner of New Mexico Clay, Brant Palley, conducted a tour of the facilities, and explained the general operations of the business. After the tour, the group headed over to Mariscos Altamar, a Mexican restaurant that specializes in a number of unique seafood dishes.



Twenty six eager retreat participants arrived at New Mexico Clay on Saturday at 9 o'clock, ready to create. The first class was taught by Musette Young. She taught a clay construction class, using a New Mexico clay called Mica Clay.

Ginny Hawley, using mica clay as well, showed how to create clay sprigs from sprig molds, many of which were from Skyline Molds, based in Albuquerque.



Continuing the theme of mica clay, Darcy Etaugh demonstrated how to create using cookie cutters and a holing tool. She then handed out bisqued mica clay ornaments to each participant, and they were able to add color by applying



Christmas ornaments Concepts.

Wow, Saturday lunchtime. The group split up, and wandered to various eateries and breweries that were close by to the venue. It was fun to experience the variety of food and brew that Albuquerque has to offer.



After lunch, Cathy Housley, a Duncan Ambassador, taught a Duncan university class. Missy Kam taught making baby chicks using a dauber brush. Joy Morse treated the group to a video of her chapter in Ohio creating firecracker pots. Everyone got a blast out of her presentation. ☺



Denny Wilson passed out samples of a raku glaze, along with the recipe, and discussed how to make the glaze. Clair Morse demonstrated Mayco screen printing.



What a busy Saturday! Most of the gang met for celebratory brewskis at the brewery across from the venue, La Cumbre, then split up to recover for Sunday.



Sunday arrived much too early. Dixie Peterson started off the day with a stoneware glazing class, featuring Shino glazes from an Albuquerque based company, Coyote Clay, along with using Concepts to decorate the Zia symbol that graced the side of the teacups

Dixie used for her class. The Coyote theme continued, with Bill Young introducing the group to a glaze combination that Coyote dubs "Texas Two Step." The glaze combo, once fired, creates the look of oil spot glazes. June Tucker taught a decal make and take, and then shared a decal border technique sent via email from Leta Smith.



Pat Lackey had the group glazing beads and centerpieces for Ben's Bells, and then had everyone put together a Ben's Bell to take away and hang.



Whew, a busy Sunday morning! Everyone worked up an appetite for lunch, provided by Mimie's Deli, a favorite local haunt.

The day wrapped up with several more people sharing techniques: Heather Etaugh showed off her Clay Whistle from the 2015 Convention, and shared how she created it; Jodi Wilson showed a decorative technique creating mandala-like designs; Kathy Garney showed how she created a fur look on a piece by adding sand to the glaze; Janet Christopherson explained how to embellish an already finished ceramic piece; Donna Nilles discussed using decals in a cold finish method; Judy LeBlanc passed around and discussed several pieces on which she incorporated glass frit.

There was a tremendous amount of information shared over the weekend, along with time for catching up with old friends, and getting to know new ones. But wait there's more.....

Monday morning, there was a tour of Coyote Clay, the company which produces some of the glazes featured at the Retreat. The tour started off in the company's gallery, where there are many samples of Coyote glazes, by themselves, and in different layering techniques. The owner Martin Butt, along with his son, Alex, showed off their glaze production center, plus the packing/shipping area. There is also a glaze testing area, to experiment with new glazes, and maintain good consistency with already proven glazes.



Big thanks go out to Brant Palley, for providing the retreat venue, and Donna Nilles, for taking care of all who wanted to buy items at the venue. And, another big thanks goes out to the Rocky Mountain chapter for putting together such a fun, highly educational event. It's all about ceramics.