

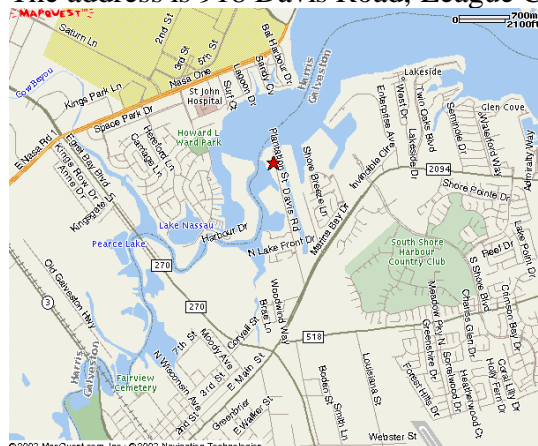
Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society

November 2003 Newsletter

Local Events

The Gulf Coast Ceramics Society Christmas party this year will be held at Jerry's house on December 8, 2003.

Jerry Webb is the owner of E&H Ceramics. The address is 918 Davis Road, League City, Tx.



League City is located between Houston and Galveston. You can get there either by way of I-45 or Hwy 3.

The party should be a lot of fun. Remember the gift exchange. Bring a non-gender specific gift of no more than \$10 value for the exchange. The gift exchange is started by the person who drew number one. That person chooses a gift. The second person can choose a gift from the others or steal number one's gift. And on down the line until everyone has a gift. The gifts are opened only after they have all been distributed. This can turn into a lot of fun. The best dressed, oddest shapes, etc. are usually the one stolen the most. So make your package special.

We've had a very successful year in the society (new members, great show, and general all around fun. We even learned some new techniques and got a chance to show off our craft.)

Classes – upcoming at Brennan's Pride Enterprizes (281 585-8888) for sign up and information

Basic Ceramics Classes Tuesday evenings

Intermediate and Advanced Classes Thursday evenings.

Brush N Up October 26 Sunday with Courtney Elza Reidell – Coming in November

Gene Thornton-Brennan of Brennans Pride Enterprizes is now a distributor for Doc Holliday and Made In Fire

Mold Mold Whose Got the Mold

We have several requests this month :

Cindy Cornick of BackYard Ceramics is still looking for a large plate in the shape of Texas. If you have one, please contact her at 281 428-2651.

Gene Thornton-Brennan is looking for a Byron mold of an Eagle. The mold numbers are B43A, B43B, and B43C. It was featured on the cover of one of the older Byron mold catalogs.



If you can track down these molds for Gene, contact her at the shop (281) 585-8888.

Monica of Monica's House of Ceramic is looking for a set of older Duncan molds (shown below). They are children (angel) wall plaques. Please let Monica know if you have these molds for sale. Monica can be reached at 281 498-6700.



Blanca of Garden Road Ceramics is looking for the large frog that can be made into a toilet paper dispenser. Contact her at the shop (281) 485-1510. Garden Road Ceramics is located in Pearland off of Garden Road.

The following is taken from the Creative Paradise webpage. There seems to be a lot of interest in handbuilding. This is the second mold manufacturer that has introduced new products for hand building. This is one of those things that seem to come back to popularity every few years. Maybe now is the time to investigate having a few classes at our local shops?

“Plaster forms and tools can be successfully used to create imaginative and unique clay pieces. Because of the absorbent nature of plaster, plaster stamps can be depressed and lifted from the clay without sticking. Minute details can successfully be transferred from plaster to clay. The absorbent plaster forms help to assure an even and timely draw of moisture from the clay body, limiting cracks and sticking. Convex plaster forms are known as "hump molds" while concave plaster forms are known as "slump molds". To select between a hump and a slump mold of the same shape, the artist must decide whether access to the inside surface (available with a slump) or the outside surface (available with a hump) is most important. Hump molds give the advantage of adding feet and handles to the outer surface

of the piece. One must be sure to remove drying clay from a hump mold precisely at the leather-hard stage due to potential cracks from shrinkage strain. Slump molds allow the clay piece to dry with a limited risk of cracking because the clay is able to shrink away from the plaster wall.

Young beginning artists and professional clay crafters alike can use clay slabs with plaster forms and plaster tools with fantastic



results”

This plate was build using a slump mold and the ivy leaves were pressed into a sprig mold and attached. The instructions and other examples can be found at www.kimple.com

While at the Creative Paradise home page, I ran across this little fellow.



His name is Croaker. Too Cute. If you are

interested, please contact Jerry at E&H for the mold.

From Boothe Molds. This is a nice idea for craft shows. I know all my relatives and friends are working on some form of the low carb (Atkins) type life style.

“Create A Gift Idea For Those Enjoying The Popular Low Carb Lifestyle

As reported in the news 1 out of 12 Americans are living a Low Carb lifestyle. Here is a great gift idea that will grab the attention of buyers this season.



This new design, incorporates the Very Popular Davinci Sugar Free Syrups, a mug caddy and two tall (12 ounce) mugs.. The Davinci Flavored Syrups are a hot item with low carbers and are available all over the country. They are also used by folks with type 2 diabetes who must restrict their intake of sugar.. Another large segment of the American Consumer..

For sales displays, you need only place a sign up indicating " A Low Carb Gift" and this item will attract attention quick as a wink.

If you think there is no real buying trend this year.. you haven't experienced the sales... of LOW CARB related foods and treats. It's hot and it sells..

This is not a seasonal trend.. according to experts in the food industry LOW CARBERS are not a passing fancy.. The numbers are suppose to double in the first half of next year. And [Davinci](#) will continue to be a major player as their product is sugar free, NO CARBS and made with Splenda, the recommended sweetener of Low Carbers.

We invite you to be on the cutting edge of the gift needs of this segment of the population.

We will be glad to help you..in finding your position in this market.. To share information on sourcing the market in your area... how to buy syrups to sell as finished gifts, or if you just need to purchase a sample bottle of syrup to get your sales sample up and ready for presentation. Contact me @ pattyb@boothemold.com “

New colors from Mayco

The Stroke & Coat bisque glaze product has a wide range of existing colors. Now they are adding 5 new speckled colors.

Speckled Stroke & Coat

Follow the leader and check out our hot new Speckled Stroke & Coat colors. Step on over to the best selling bisque glaze product on the market. It's the Stroke & Coat you know and love, but with tiny speckles added. Speckled Stroke & Coats are color coordinated to go with your favorite Stroke & Coat colors. Use Speckled Stroke & Coat to add interest and variety to flower petals or any kind of design. Stroke & Coat truly is the Wonderglaze for Bisque.



SP-205 Speckled Tiger Tail
SP-270 Speckled Pink-A-Dot
SP-211 Speckled Blue Yonder
SP-260 Speckled Silver Lining
SP-213 Speckled Grapel

Shop News :

Cactus Bend Ceramics helped one of the local church schools in their fund raising project held during the Star Gala at Sapce Center Houston on November 15, 2003.

Each of the classes of the school created a holiday plate. The students in the class helped with the painting and design. Each plate reflected the holiday theme and had each student's initials worked into the design.



Here is one of the finished plates. The plates were auctioned off at a fund raiser for the church school. The auction was a great success.

Here are some more pictures of the other plates.



The plates shown were done by the elementary school classes. Not bad. Maybe we can talk these students into doing a project for the next ceramic show's competition. Toni Drummond is the class project coordinator and Shearin Barber the

art teacher at St Clare of Assisi Catholic School.

Anyone with internet access should check out the new feature on our web page.

NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW

Houston Ceramics.org now has a message board, Please sign up and use it. Ask questions, leave answers, leave tips, who's got that mold. It's all about people helping people.

There is also a calendar there where you can list a class you are hosting/teaching or search for a class you want to attend. Once there you can bookmark it or there is a link at the bottom of this page.

Please take some time to register and post a question, class, comment, etc. Lets get some discussion going to the board.

The newsletter team has been getting the newsletters published for over a year now. We have decided to reward ourselves with a month off. There will not be a newsletter published in December. However we will be back in January with bigger and better.

For Sale

Helen Blythe of Busy Bee Ceramics has molds for sale. She has over 9000 molds. These include a full line of Boothe and BJ molds. There are also lots of Scioto and lots of canister sets. Please contact Helen at 281 328-1559 for more information.

Our next regular meeting will be held at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on Scarsdale on January 5, 2004.

Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society
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