

Southern Stars Retreat 2024

"Fantasy Forest gathers at the River"

Recap by Dru Woodward

Our 33rd Annual Laughlin Retreat "Fantasy Forest gathers at the River" on August 10th & 11th was sooo much FUN! We had the most attendees since Covid, 31 registered! Our teachers were Helen Castaneda, Jan Dietman, Deborah Shaphran, and myself. Many pictures besides the ones in this article have already been posted to our IADCCT Facebook Groups..so be sure to check them out!



Teachers: Helen



Jan



Deborah



Dru



Once again we had some newbies including Tim McPherson and his friend Kim Hahn who came all the way from Illinois! They told us what we always want to hear...we'll be back! We, Southern Stars, are always striving for; teaching others-encouraging newbies-keeping ceramics alive and giving the most education possible for the lowest price possible. Always our goal is to just break even moneywise and we have continued to do that yearly with the help of our silent auction proceeds and generous donations. However, this year we had 3 unexpected cancellations which put us \$20.00 in the red. We did bring back the buffet lunches and hope to continue those next year too. We know everyone really appreciates the buffets, The food at the Riverside is very good and along with the camaraderie it was a fantastic weekend.

The projects taught were FUN, took just the amount of time we had planned and I'm fairly certain that most of us finished them in class. You can see by the pictures that they all represented our theme beautifully! Thanks to all our teachers for volunteering. Deborah and Vicki (her partner) even donated the 8" square tile and wire/charms to hang it with. ALSO a BIG THANKS to MAYCO, their entire staff, Colleen Cary-President and CEO, and their new Education Director Michael Harbridge for supplying ALL the color and the Gnome bisque. They also were very generous with new literature AND every one got to take home a pint of Stroke & Coat as well as a jar of Clear Brushing Glaze and Speckta-Clear Celebration too.

This year our social evening included wearing Gnome hats and canvas painting a Fantasy Mushroom mostly utilizing OS Acrylic paints. It was a challenge to keep that paint off our hands but we had a great time trying.



We give special Thanks to Jan, Deborah, Renee, Helen and Vicki for making table centerpieces. Jan gave us all a themed neck towel too.



Mark your calendars now for next year.....our 2025 Laughlin Retreat will be held August 9th & 10th.