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Handbuilding: Tricks of the Trade – Five-Day Workshop Materials and Facilities List for Workshop Host

Materials Provided On-Site by Host

- Buff or white cone-6 or cone-10 clay containing fine sand or grog, 75# per participant and 150# for instructor plus some extra. Don't skimp on the clay, because few things are worse in a workshop than running out of clay.
- One gallon white vinegar.
- Two gallons of joining slurry made in advance from the claybody. Cut a full 25# block of clay into thin slices and dry completely. Break up the bone-dry clay into smaller pieces (not crushed) and immerse in water with several inches of water covering the clay and let sit overnight. The clay will slake down to slurry by itself. Next day, drain off all excess water, mix with drill impeller mixer or hand blender until completely smooth with no lumps, add one cup of vinegar, add water carefully, mixing frequently, until slurry will not pour if you tilt the bucket, but will if you shake it.
- One dozen large sheets of poster board (get the cheap packages at Walmart, Office-Max, or Staples).
- Four standard propane canisters for a standard hand-held propane torch. I will bring several torches.

Facilities and Equipment Provided by Host

- Digital projector and appropriately dark room with a screen or white wall.
- Large sturdy work tables for handbuilding and decorating. Heavy plywood-covered tables are best, but sturdy 3x6' folding tables will work, with no more than four participants per 4x8' table and two per folding table.
- 24" stool for the instructor to use. This is important.
- Slab roller
- Twelve 36" by 24" (or whatever width fits the slab roller) sheets of unprimed 10 oz. canvas duck. "10-ounce" is a trade reference to the weight per yard for canvas sold in art supply stores. If you buy canvas from a fabric, sail or house painting supplier they might not that reference, but just get sturdy uncoated canvas while avoiding stuff that is excessively heavy – it should still be very flexible.
- Heavy-duty rolling pin with 12" by 3" body and bearing-mounted handles (unless I bring my own). If you are buying one, go to amazon and enter "Medium Commercial Rolling Pin by Thorpe" in the search box. This one's a beauty, and it isn't worth it to get a cheaper or smaller one.
- Several sturdy banding wheels (unless I bring my own).
- Several snap-lid plastic storage bins approximately 12x24x12" deep for me to use as damp boxes.
- Wood dowels - one 48" length each of 3/16", 1/4", 5/16", 3/8", 7/16", 1/2", 5/8" and 3/4" - cut each in half so we will have two 24" lengths of each size (If I am driving I'll bring my own).