

WEST SIOUX CERAMICS/DAKOTA POTTERS SUPPLY

Tom and Wanda Clarke
West Sioux Ceramics / Dakota Potters Supply

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Instructor History

Tom and Wanda Clarke of West Sioux Ceramics/Dakota Potters Supply have been in the ceramic industry for over 30 years. Throughout the years we have developed a special understanding of the needs of ceramists, potters, and teachers. We enjoy working with our clients. Tom is an excellent potter and will gladly do a wheel demonstration during the workshop. WSC/DPS is now producing custom built Raku Kilns.

Our *Fire Top Raku Kilns* are available in standard sizes or built to your specifications. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. At which time we will fire your kiln and give you complete operational instructions. We also carry all the raku supplies you may need. Check out our new catalog or visit us online at www.dakotapotters.com please give us a call to set up your Raku Workshop.

Host preparation checklist

Must have 3 areas for the workshop; a glazing area, kiln and fire pit area, and a washing area. Glazing area should be complete with tables and chairs. Tables should be covered with plastic or newsprint.

Kiln and fire pit area should be an adequately level spot of concrete or gravel, grass can be used but only when other areas are not available. Also you should have a large enclosed shed or garage in case of inclement weather.

Washing area should be set up with at least one five gallon bucket for rinsing and scrubbing residue off of finished pieces should be relatively near the fire pits since some pieces will be scrubbed warm.

Burning permit if required

Supply of paper towels or hand towels

We Require one hour before the workshop starts to set up. Spray booth if desired, please let us in advance so we can prepare for spray applications

Any assistance in unloading, setup and reloading and during firing is important. Two or three strong individuals is adequate.

Workshop Information and Guidelines

- The workshop includes raku firing demonstration and instructions
- Glazing application techniques and suggestions of glaze combination are taught. We provide the necessary glazes and brushes, although you may use any glaze you may have, but we can not be assured of the results you may get with other products. Please let us know in advance if you have a spray booth and would like to apply glazes that way. Elaborate design work should be done prior to WSC/DPS workshop. Contact us for details on this topic.
- We supply all the firing materials, *Fire Top Raku Kilns*, propane, fire pits, cover cans, and combustibles.
- SAFETY— As we are playing with fire and smoke, we recommend that parents of minors be informed of the workshop. Our equipment meets the South Dakota Fire regulations and we have rope to cordon off the firing area when needed. We will remove the pieces from the kilns. Participants will be invited to help in the covering process. No Nylon or Synthetic clothing will be allowed around kilns.
- Participants must wear appropriate attire to assist in the covering process. Cotton or other sturdy material free of holes and frays, arms and legs must be covered, and must have closed toe shoes.
- The raku firing produces a lot of smoke and you will most likely smell like a campfire before the day is done, you may also want to notify your local fire department of the workshop and determine if a burning permit is needed.
- All bisque pieces must be out of Raku clay or low fire cast ceramics (thin-cast) fired to cone 08 or 1770° F. Pieces that are too thick or bisque fired to other temperatures may increase the likelihood that it will crack or break in the firing process. Good construction on hand built pieces is important for successful firing. If the pieces are too cracked it may break and ruin the other pieces in the kiln.

Size of Pieces: Please limit the flat pieces to 20" or less. The maximum size for the workshop is 20" at the base and 29" in height. Please take into consideration that oversized pieces will take up a lot of space and will reduce the number of pieces fired for that

Tom and Wanda Clarke of WSC/DPS are now offering exciting on site Raku Workshops. We currently offer two types of workshops; 1: Standard workshops, you supply the bisque pieces, or 2: Make and Take, we supply the bisque pieces. During each workshop, bisque pieces are glazed, fired, smoked, cooled and are ready to take with you in a matter of 2-3 hours.

We utilize two *Fire Top Raku Kilns* so we can fire up to 90 medium sized pieces (5" to 6" base, 6" to 12" height) during each 8 hour workshop. For any additional pieces, a firing fee may apply. Workshops are available any day of the week and can even go into the evening hours. We offer workshops from April 15th – October 31st. (weather permitting)

Workshop Pricing

1st Day...\$400.00

Additional days...\$350.00 each

Mileage...\$.40 per mile

\$30.00 minimum

Miles based on round trip

Lodging expenses are extra and can be discussed as needed

Meals are not required

30 minute meal breaks will be taken; approximately at 12 PM and 6 PM