

Introductory Glass Blowing Workshop Information – 2016

The introductory sessions focus on basic techniques of gathering, forming, and breaking off sculpted pieces, as well as forming a bubble, expanding bubbles, and transferring to a punty for blown projects. Clear glass will be used for all projects on the first day. Limited use of color will be possible day 2. Grinding and polishing will be done by Joan and Al.

The workshop will be two days long using approximately 8 hours per day. Come prepared to have fun and work hard. We will start at 0900 Saturday morning with general safety and orientation information. The majority of the days will be hands-on in the hot shop. You will work in pairs (Al says it's not always best to pick your wife as a partner), taking turns as primary blower (gaffer) and as assistant. All supplies and equipment are provided. If you have your own special didymium or hot shop glasses, bring them. Todd Lyons, BFA, a graduate of Sheridan College's glassblowing program, has agreed to be the instructor.

Remember that the furnace and glory holes are very hot and although we can have all the doors open, it's really indoors. This means you will be very hot too. Dress in 100% cotton (blue jeans are great) and plan on layering so that you can take things off. Closed in shoes will prevent burns to the feet. Leave your jewelry and good clothes at home, as you are coming to a very busy workshop.

Fluids are very important and you will drink all day long. Bring a water bottle and we will have lots of cold water on hand.

Most people bring a lunch for a break during the day. Coffee pot is always on.

From the Dundurn intersection, the hot shop is located 1 mile (1.6 km) east, 1 mile (1.6 km) north and 3 miles (5 km.) east, kitty-corner to the entrance to the **Shields** Townsite. We don't have a sign. Look for two white steel buildings with blue trim, a cottage, and a gray garage. An old wooden blue round grain bin marks the entrance.

At the present price of natural gas and electricity the cost of the workshop is \$350.00 and includes all supplies and use of tools and equipment. It also includes the grinding and polishing of the finished pieces of art. In the past, participants have completed an average of seven or eight projects in the two day workshop.

Additional questions can be directed to Joan & Al at 492-4665 (If a machine answers, leave a message); fax: 306-492-4925; cell 306-230-6523 (Al); 306-230-6519 (Joan - when she can find it). e-mail: alhiebert@gmail.com or joanhiebert@gmail.com

If you would like to be added to our contact list for classes, send us an e-mail.