

## **Wildacres 2008 Review & Evaluation**

*We had 26 responses to the questionnaire, this year. In 2007 we had 19 responses.*

**What did you like about this years annual meeting?** *The most common response (10) was the 'good people' and camaraderie of the meetings. Other popular answers were the hands-on workshops, the format of the week, Igor's presentation, the food, the 'pizza class', Pat's oven, the facility and the level of preparedness of the presenters.*

**What could be done to improve the meeting?** *The list, in no particular order.*

*A Wildacres map for newcomers*

*Start the auction earlier*

*Have a shorter auction*

*Get rid of Robert's Rules - find another way to run the meetings*

*Offset the oven building and the heater building so people could do both*

*More use of a microphone so people could hear the presenters*

*More 'handouts' for the workshops - more background*

*More on castables*

*Fewer concurrent classes*

*Resolve personality clashes outside meetings*

*Better weather*

*More beer*

*10 people said no improvement is needed.*

**Which presentations and seminars were of interest to you?**

*The votes followed by the what the votes were for:*

*12 All the presentations*

*4 Frank's presentation*

*1 ASTM presentation*

*7 Igor's heater*

*2 Pat's bakeoven*

*One vote each for refractory info, masonry skills, Austrian stove, bread-making and 'too many choices'.*

**What is your masonry skill level?**    *8 Beginner    6 Average    10 Skilled*

**What workshops and seminars do you wish to see at future Wildacres meetings?**

- 20 *hand-built heaters*
- 13 *core-kit heaters*
- 20 *low cost heaters*
- 16 *hand-built masonry ovens*
- 8 *core-kit ovens*
- 13 *large ovens*
- 11 *small ovens*
- 13 *oven use information*
- 7 *masonry skills for beginners*
- 12 *advanced masonry*
- 19 *refractory materials and other technical information*
- 12 *heaters, ovens and regulatory issues*

*'Other' responses written in were: more sharing of information, soapstone ovens, rockets stoves, bell heaters, the design of ovens in masonry heaters, marketing strategies, ethics & people skills, tile making for heaters, cob ovens, BTU loads & analysis, masonry boilers.*

**Are you interested in serving on a MHA committee?** *There were 5 responders interested: Tom Trout, Steve Bushway (education), John McDougall (education), Steve Paisley, Jeff Kuczmariski*

**Suggestions and comments you have for future Wildacres meetings or the MHA.**

*All the answers in no particular order:*

*Methods for dealing with disputes - conflict resolution procedure.*

*Dissatisfaction with Robert's Rules - cumbersome.*

*There should be better facilities and materials at Wildacres.*

*More display/sale tables.*

*Lastly, there were many passionate pleas for more organization, higher ethics and more positive discussion*