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## 2014 MHA Annual Business Meeting Attendee Information

1 message

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March 16, 2014

### 2014 Annual Meeting Attendees

For those of you who have attended the annual business meeting at Wildacres Retreat, some of the following information will be common knowledge. For those of you who will be attending for the first time, please read this newsletter entirely to assure a great experience.



2012 Annual Meeting Attendees

**Registration starts** at 3 PM, Monday, April 14th in the North Lodge. Pickup your handbook and room assignment at that time. Dinner is at 6:30 PM. If you arrive late, your handbook, name tag etc will be in the North Lodge.

**Diet Restrictions.** If you are a vegetarian, diabetic or have special dietary needs, please let the MHA know ASAP so that Wildacres can order the proper food.

**Parking Tag is required** if you drive and park at Wildacres. You must tag your vehicle. Tags are available when you register and should be placed on dash of vehicle.

**Emergency Contact Information** for your family can be found on this link:  
[Wildacres Retreat Information](#)

**Instructors** need to have their attendee handbook inclusions and material lists submitted to the MHA office. Do it now.

### Who's Going and Transportation

Here is a link of people who have signed up for the annual general meeting (AGM). Please check to make sure you're on the list and that the contact information is correct. **If not**, please contact the MHA office immediately with the correct information:



[2014 Annual Meeting Attendees](#)

MHA does not provide transportation from airports, train stations, bus stations or anywhere else you may end up on your journey to Wildacres. You are responsible for your own transportation to and from the event. However, with that being said:

For those of you driving who would like to carpool please consult the link above and contact the attendees who live close to you or on the way to Wildacres. See if they are driving and may want to carpool. Here is the link to [Wildacres Retreat](#) for driving directions.

For those of you who are flying into Asheville (AVL) airport, a number of MHA members will be spending the night before the event (April 13th) at the Comfort Inn in Fletcher, NC. It is about a mile from the Asheville airport. The reverse is true, on the way home, a number of members will be spending the night of April 19th again at the Comfort Inn in order to catch early flights on Sunday, April 20th. If you are interested in joining some of us at the Comfort Inn, we will setup carpooling to Wildacres. Here is a link to the Comfort Inn if interested in reservations.

[Comfort Inn, Fletcher, NC.](#)

For those of you who are flying into Charlotte, NC. there are members joining you. If you let the office know your flight itinerary, I will have the information if someone contacts the office and would like to carpool for Charlotte.

Travel time driving between Charlotte, NC and Wildacres is approximately 2 .5 hours and from Asheville to Wildacres is about 1.5 hours. If at all possible, try to arrive during daylight hours. It is really dark on the mountain and signage is poor. Some GPS devices are not accurate.

If you notify the office of your flight information I will add it to the attendee list so that other attendees know where you'll be flying into.

A suggestion for those who would like to carpool, go to the **MHA Chat** room and state that you are going to the annual meeting and are willing to carpool. State whether driving or flying, and where you'd like to carpool to/from. This will reach many of the members who will be going to the annual meeting. If you have not registered to be on the chat list, this is a great opportunity for you to do so. Here is a link to join the chat room:

[MHA Member Chat Room](#)

## Beer & Wine Policy

Through the years the cost of providing beer/wine has been continually rising. In addition, the board of directors have chosen to purchase insurance for the annual meeting which includes alcohol. In the past we have had a free will collection which took care of paying for the refreshment. However, this year in order for you to enjoy the micro-brew beer or wine, you will need to purchase a MHA beer mug for \$35. This will allow you to drink the beer and wine MHA has provided.

Soda/Pop is available in the canteen vending machine or you may bring your own. Ice is provided.



2014 Mug Same as 2013 mug but with new date.

You will be able to purchase the mug upon registration and during different times during the event.

## Auction Becomes Extremely Important in 2014

The auction has always been an important part of MHA income. However, this year it becomes even more important due to the increased costs of the annual meeting's guest speakers, insurance and now expenses on the horizon for NSPS.

What it really boils down to is that membership dues pays for the day to day operation of MHA. In the past, the annual meeting came close to paying for itself, and sometimes we even made a small profit. It was the auction that allowed us to be progressive with programs, committee meetings and saving for future testing.

Therefore, the auction is important for us to continue to move forward as we have the past few years. This means we need members to donate items that we can auction off Thursday evening of the annual meeting at Wildacres.

Please consider making a donation to the 2014 auction. The only request we have is that it has a value of at least \$20. Bring it to the annual meeting along with the donor form needed with the item. We need each donated item to have an auction donor form. Please present it with your donated item. Here is a link to that form:

[2014 Auction Donor Form](#)

People have asked what they can donate. In the past members have donated art work from family members, pottery, tools, food or items that reflect something from the area they live in. (This is really true for those international members.) Of course, a money donation is always appreciated as well.

Auction night is a night full of fun and laughter. We have an exceptional auctioneer, loved by all, Marty Pearson. You've never been to an auction like this and probably won't again unless you come back next year.



### MHA Masonry Design Contest

The design contest will once again take place at the annual meeting. Members have the opportunity to enter project(s) in the following categories:

- Masonry Heaters
- Bake Ovens
- Masonry Projects (barbecues, chimneys, fireplaces, etc.)



The winners not only get recognized as an award winning mason by the MHA but walk away with a trophy.

Cost is \$30 per entry.

For more information and entry forms, open the link below:

[2014 MHA Design Contest Information](#)

### Odds and Ends

- **Safety Gear** is required to participate in the workshops. Bring along your own safety glasses, gloves, ear plugs etc. No sandals or bare feet allowed in the workshop area.
- **Clothing** come prepared for hot clear sunny days and cold snowy days. Layering is the best.
- **Shoes** bring two pairs of shoes. One for indoors and one for the workshop area.
- **Snacks** there is a snack bar in the canteen, but many attendees will bring along snacks/pop for the evenings.
- **Shampoo** is not provided but towels and linens are.
- **No smoking** in or around buildings.
- **Cell Phone and Internet Service** is available in certain areas on the property. Do not expect to receive incoming phone calls and limited internet service.
- **Pens/Pencils:** you will receive an attendee handbook when you arrive, pens/pencils are not provided. If you care to take notes during the meetings please bring your own writing utensils.
- **Cameras:** take all the pictures and videos you want.
- **Music:** If you play an instrument, bring it and join jam sessions.

Any questions for concerns you may have please phone or email the MHA office, do not contact Wildacres.

**Richard Smith**  
Executive Director  
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