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# The Mortar Board

*Creating the MHA Bond*

Fall/Winter 2006

## Here's What's Happening in MHA!

*Jerry Frisch, President*

### Dear Fellow Members/Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is amazing one more year has come and gone. It seems like only 3 months, oh well! A lot has happened in MHA this year. The bad news is we lost Bev Marois due to personal and family issues ( plus several of our own issues). It is a hard loss for MHA. The good news is we were able to sign a contract with Mr. Richard Smith (Dick), who has a lot of experience in education and business, along with serving on various boards of associations. So we will be in good hands as Dick comes up to speed in our world. Looking forward to meeting him at Wildacres and working with him. Bev has agreed to stay involved as Executive Director to help Dick in the transaction and agreed to continue the Book Store.

This year at Wildacres there will be a vote on by-law amendments and changes. Ken Matesz is working out the details. This year is also election year. I have decided to step aside as your President to let in some new blood, I have been President for 6 years, that is enough for anyone to serve. I believe we should set term limits on our officers. I have asked Glenn Overk, Ken Matesz and Bev to nominate a slate of officers for next years 07-08 election. If you want to volunteer, contact Bev, Glenn or Ken, for consideration. It's not just an office or title, it is a commitment, involvement and time consuming as well as expensive. You need to answer inquiries, make decisions for the good of the whole membership. As well as join and attend the ASTM meetings and the HPBA meetings. To me it has been worth it, as I have meet some great people and have learned a lot about how the system works, which has let me participate (get in my two cents worth) in some of the air quality and EPA requirements. As well as being an influence (maybe) in new EPA endorsement for Masonry Heaters. It does look promising at this point. And I hope we can all benefit from MHA's commitment to testing and improving our products as a group. The key word being group, not my system or your system, but all systems, be they cookie cutter or calculated. They all should be allowed and promoted in the market place, on an equal basis.

### “Wildacres”

Should be as good or better (I hope) than all the past meetings. Sign up early as Dick does not know you and will not give you the slack that Bev has in the past, to a few members with good intentions but no check. So my advice is money talks, send in your fee in full. It is first come, first served. If you don't we will miss you, sorry but that is the way it will be this year and beyond.

(Jerry continued)

## MHA CALENDAR

**January 1, 2007**

**MHA 2007 Membership due - Form Enclosed**

**March 14th - 17, 2006**

**HPBA EXPO in Salt Lake City, Utah**

**MHA Meetings at HPBA EXPO**

Board of Advisors meeting

HPBA Masonry Caucus

ASTM E-6 meeting

**April 13th - 19th, 2006**

**MHA Annual Meeting at Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC**

***Taking paid reservations now!***

## Officers 2005 - 2007

President Jerry Frisch  
Vice President Timothy Seaton  
Secretary Gary Hart  
Treasurer Rod Zander

Administrator Richard Smith  
Webmaster Norbert Senf

[www.mha-net.org](http://www.mha-net.org)

## MHA Board of Advisors

Charles (Chip) Clark  
John Crouch  
Rick Curkeet  
Ashley Eldridge  
Ben Myren  
William Reynolds  
Paul Tiegs  
Robert Zimmerman

## “Wild Acres Car Pools”

Without Bev we shall do our own car pool. Dick will send out a car pool email, looking for riders to share with anyone going to Wildacres. Each person should workout who you will share with and the cost. The other option is everyone's on his or her own from the airport to Wildacres. Boy, Bev sure has spoiled a lot of us!!! No more free MHA van rides sorry!!! I hope to see you all there.

## “Auction Workshop reports”

As you may recall at Wild Acres 06, 4 days of my time and a cowboy hat were auctioned off. Two people bid up to \$2,650.00, then someone said Jerry why not do both. Okay, why not, so I did.

The first one was at Kristy Lamus's newly restored home in Kansas City, MO. We did a custom heater with a black-white oven and heated bench. Kristy was able to acquire some old street cobblestones, which made a very nice looking heater. As Albie would say MARVELOUS!! I want to thank Kristy for the hospitality. It was the greatest and more than was expected. Her friend has a carriage house where I stayed. Kristy's son and a local mason helped as well as Gene Padgitt and Marvin Lehmen (both full time). Gene and Marge Padgitt took Marvin and myself

to the 27th Annual American Royal BBQ contest in KC. The biggest and best BBQ party I ever went to. David Moore also stopped by on his way home from Seattle, where he picked up the two TempCast units I donated to MHA.

The second workshop was at Marvin Lehmen's, again a restored classic home in Deadwood, SD. Again the hospitality was above and beyond what I had expected. My wife Lou and I stayed in some historic classic hotels. We also enjoyed a little R&R on this trip. We both had a good time and plan to go back when we can visit the monuments. We left as the snow was flying (just in time). Marvin had a couple of his employees helping as well as Gene and Marge Padgitt drove up from Kansas City. Saturday evening was a costume party, for the locals, and we went grazing as Marvin called it (raiding the happy hour hors d'oeuvres) at different casinos. The local's were letting their hair down. No doubt, a once in a lifetime experience for a bunch of heater builders. All had a good time. Back to the heater, it was a custom look through with a black - white oven option and heated hearth on one side. We got it roughed in, the base stone set and the 600+ pound hearth stone set. All reclaimed limestone, the body above the hearth will be reclaimed brick from an old local icehouse. Then topped off with a lime stone crown. Should be a real work of art for Marvin to enjoy for many years. Two down possibly one to go Jan - Feb in Wisconsin, no dates confirmed at this time.

## “2007 Auction Items”

In the summer of 2006 I took a Swedish core to OMNI Labs and installed it with clay mortar for easy, safe removal. MHA paid for the core so that will be on the auction block in 2007. Kristy decided to donate her cowboy hat back to MHA for next years auction so here's your chance for the “cowboy” hat again if you missed it last year.

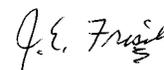
Any and all auction items are welcome from tools to books, posters, and several days of your time. Come on guys, I started a trend, let's see someone match it or beat it. Let's not be dragging our feet..

## “MHA's 2007 Annual Meeting at Wildacres”

As I've mentioned in the past, in my opinion no job is too important to miss Wildacres. It's a great opportunity to attend workshops and seminars, plus meet your fellow masonry heater masons. Don't forget the Pizza Party, Heater Jeopardy, and Auction. Everyone agrees you walk away learning something at Wildacres to save or make more money than it takes to attend.

So, don't wait, beds are limited. Give yourself an early Christmas present and sign up today.

Have a Blessed Christmas Holiday and I hope to see you this Spring at Wildacres.



**MHA website traffic grew by about 10% in 2006.**

Below is a snapshot showing the top 10 pages for the week of October 22, compared with a week in October 2004.

Rank	Page	Visitors per week	Visitors per week	Change
		Oct 2006	Oct 2004	
1	MHA Home Page	1719	1363	+ 26%
2	Surfin' Strawbale	977	839	+ 16%
3	MHA Gallery	782	666	+ 17%
4	MHA Mall	465	408	+ 14%
5	MHA Bookstore	332	150	+ 121%
6	Membership list	321	291	+ 10%
7	Toronto Healthy House wastewater paper	302	183	+ 65%
8	MHA Library	256	190	+ 35%
9	Links Page	225	169	+ 33%
10	MHA News	208	168	+ 24%

Statistics for the week of October 22, 2006:

Total page views: 17,234  
 Average per day: 2,462  
 Visits: 14,959  
 Average visit length: 00:09:25  
 International visits: 12.28%  
 Visits from the U.S.: 74.61  
 Unique visitors: 8,329  
 Visitors who visited once: 6,641  
 Visitors who visited more than once: 1,688

**Little Known Fact:**

There is an unadvertised "members only" section on the MHA website that requires a password. It gives you access to a variety of technical documents, standards and codes relating to masonry heaters. In order to access this page, you need to be a current, paid up voting member. In addition, you have to email me in order to get the password. Simply drop me note at [webmaster@mha-net.org](mailto:webmaster@mha-net.org) with "password request" in the "Subject" line of the email.

**MHA Certified Heater Masons****Qualified MHA Certified Heater Masons:**

**Jerry Frisch**, Everett, WA  
**Rod Zander**, Goshen, CT  
**Steve Bushway**, Cummington, MA  
**Dann Carnes**, Chapel Hill, NC  
**John Fisher**, Sweden  
**Norbert Senf**, Shawville, Quebec, CN  
**Ben Sotero**, Aptos, CA  
**Heinz Flurer**, Salt Lake City, UT  
**Edith Kiesling** of Blockhouse, Nova Scotia, CN  
**Joe Prinzivalli** of Lamy, NM  
**Alex Chernov** of Alton, Ontario, CN  
**Dan Givens** of Ester, AK

**Gary Hart**, High Ridge, MO  
**Frank Sotero**, Reno, NV  
**Pat Manley**, Washington, ME  
**Mark Klein**, Amherst, WI  
**Ken Matesz**, Swanton, OH  
**Timothy Seaton**, Camas, WA  
**William Davenport**, Burlington, VT  
**Martin Pearson**, Plainville, MA  
**David Thomen** of Livingston, TN,  
**Jeff Kuczanski** of Rhineland, WI  
**John Zamkotowicz** of Hillsboro, NJ  
**David Moore** of Hagerstown, MD

To achieve this honor, a mason is required to demonstrate a working knowledge of relevant housing and fuel burning regulations and sufficient knowledge of masonry work by providing professional credentials deemed acceptable to the MHA. He also must provide evidence of working knowledge of masonry heater design and construction consisting of verifiable documentation of three masonry heater construction projects completed within the past five years. To finalize the certification honor, he must achieve a passing score on the MHA certification exam.



## Wildacres 2006

as experienced by  
**Lynn Overk,**  
Solid Timber Construction  
Bloomsbury, NJ

At an elevation of 3300 feet, the Wildacres Retreat near Little Switzerland, NC offers many natural wonders, but what I always notice first is the utter quiet: like a bird having landed in an aerie of clouds and gentle breezes. That is, until the rest of the masonry heaters crowd arrives!

Wildacres 2006 was blessed with wonderful weather and a record 76 participants from near and far. It takes a day or two to adjust to the routine that is mostly governed by the ringing of the food bell three times a day. The schedule for our week is meetings, workshops, hiking to and fro and porch

sitting. One of the most valuable in aspects of Wildacres is the exchange of information that goes on around the dining tables. Many gnarly problems are solved at these round tables as the food is passed family style from one to another.

Each day offered new presentations and workshops: Pat Manley's report on Masons on a Mission in Guatemala was inspirational; Stoel Burrowes, professor of Interior Design at VCU, presented a workshop on perspective drawing; Ernst Kiesling chaired a discussion of general heater issues which was both heated and lively; Ashley Eldrige from the Chimney Safety Institute of America presented on code issues as they relate to masonry heaters; Hikari Fukazawa reviewed the status of the masonry heater project in Japan; Albie Barden gave a historical slide show of a Revolutionary War fort with cannon ball furnace in New York State. Others got into Hot Water with Masonry Heaters led by Norbert Senf and Jerry Frisch and refractory testing with Rod Zander.



MHA members at Wildacres 2006

The building of various masonry heaters is one of the most valuable aspects of the conference. The following heaters were built: a fully operational pizza oven under the tutelage of Peter Moore, a Cinva Ram earth block heater guided by Tom Trout, and a bell/contraflow heater that was tested in both configurations hosted by Alex Chernov of Stovemaster, Alton, Ontario, Canada.

Another important activity that takes place only at Wildacres is certification testing. 8 members took their hands on test as administered by Pat Manley and assisted by Walt Kelly. Written tests were also administered by Bev Marois. David Moore of mTc Construction in Hagerstown, MD completed his certification qualifications and is MHA Certified Heater Mason #24. Dan Givens of Stone Castle Masonry, Ltd. in Ester, AK also completed his qualifications and is MHA Certified Heater Mason #25. Congratulations David & Dan.



Frank Giammaria was our "professional" chef who made 130 pizzas

Highlights of the conference were the Pizza Party, the Auction and Heater Jeopardy! The pizza oven built and fired by Peter Moore of Pawlet Vermont performed the awesome task of cooking 130 pizzas that were put together under the guidance of Frank Giammaria of Montreal and assisted by Hikari Fukazawa and Takuya Wakayama of Japan. Many others were covered with flour as the pizzas flew in and out of the oven. Anchovies were one of the most requested toppings.

The Auction was also held the same evening as the Pizza Party which put many bidders in a great mood. Over \$12,385 was raised with generous support. Jerry auctioned his services for a heater build not just once, but twice. The bidding was lively and contrary to speculation did not result in a divorce for the Overks!

Finally, Heater Jeopardy made its debut. Put together in an awesome CD by the Padgitts, the game featured masonry heater and general trivia for a fun format. With audience participation at an all time high, Glenn Overk nudged Ken Matesz for the win.

Sadly, this year's conference was marked by the resignation of Bev Marois as MHA Administrator. We are all grateful however, that she then accepted the position of Executive Director and agreed to continue the operation of the Book Store on the MHA website

As you can see, Wildacres is a special place where masonry heater builders and novices come together to share and learn. It is an opportunity that should not be missed and it's not too soon to put Wildacres 2007 on your calendar.

# 2007 Masonry Heater Association Annual Meeting

April 13 - 19, 2007

Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, NC

**\$350 for the week** (includes 6 nights lodging & meals)

First come - first served basis this year with payment in advance! (See Membership Form.)

Attendees must be paid Members.

## Outdoor Workshops

- **Glenn Overk of Solid Timber Construction, Bloomsbury, NJ** will present heater and soap stone handling techniques. Glenn is a timber frame expert and soapstone has a lot in common with wood and how you work with it. His Timber Frame experience has helped him excel in the soap stone heater arena. We should learn a lot of new techniques.
- **Norbert Senf of Masonry Stove Builders, Shawville, Quebec, Canada and Jerry Frisch of Lopez Quarries Masonry Heaters, Everett, WA** plan on building an Austrian style heater with a 22" firebox. They plan to demonstrate as many air systems as possible, then test each for "hands on" comparisons. Norbert has a lot of experience in R & D concerning different fueling protocols and firebox sizes. This should be an eye opener!
- **Annual Pizza Party**, once again we will be building an oven in our Outdoor Workshops. Then after curing comes the popular pizza party.

## Indoor workshops, talks, seminars:

- **Rod Zander** will present ASTM and how it works, how we benefit, and how MHA members benefit from ASTM.
- **Doug Hargrave** will host a seminar on marketing Masonry Heaters. His take on marketing for the small business in today's society.
- **Norbert Senf of Masonry Stove Builders, Shawville, Quebec, Canada and Richard Smith, MHA Administrator** will present MHA's web page and what you as a member need to know.
- **"Cracker Barrels"** here's where you hear fellow members talking about issues, projects and things that are important to all. This is an opportunity to ask questions and learn shortcuts.

**Additional workshops** are also in the planning stages in basic masonry techniques, stucco, and soapstone machining.

We are currently working with **Dr. Thomas Schiffert** the director of the **Kachelofenverband** (tiled stove association) of Austria. Hopefully he will be coming and participating in our annual meeting at Wildacres 2007.

This is a wonderful opportunity to find out what the European Heater builders are doing. The **Kachelofenverband** and **Dr. Schiffert** have been actively involved in research, testing, calculation programs and drafting of the unified regulations for the EURO community.

There may be the opportunity to build a traditional **Kachelofen** while at Wildacres

## Annual MHA Auction

Our auction brought in over \$12,500 and has become a major funding event for MHA. We're planning that this year will be bigger and better. A Swedish heater core will be on the block along with Jerry's cowboy hat. Bring along anything you think someone else would bid on. It's a fun time and helps your association.

## Evenings

Will be for personal exhibitions - anyone with slides (digital or cd's) who wants to show off his or her latest projects, here's your chance. We also include informal Questions and Answer Sessions and Troubleshooting session during the evening hours.

There will be time for the hands-on certification testing, as well as the written test for anyone who is ready.

If you have anything that you would like to suggest for the meeting, Please let Dick know!



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR DUES AND WILDACRES ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2007

2180 S. Flying Q Lane, Tucson, Az. 85713  
Phone: 520-883-0191 Fax: 520-883-0191  
Email: rsmith@boreal.org

### TWO MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS (Please Check One)

\_\_\_\_\_ **FULL VOTING MEMBERSHIP:** \$250.00 per year. Dues year is Jan 1st thru Dec. 31st.  
INCLUDES: Builders of heaters, dealers of heaters, distributors of heaters,  
manufacturers of heaters, and manufacturer's representatives of heaters.

\_\_\_\_\_ **NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP: (ASSOCIATE)** \$100 per year. Dues year is Jan. 1st thru Dec.  
31st. INCLUDES: Non-industry people/or new members joining for first time.  
Associate Members are not listed on the MHA Website.

**2006 Associate Members who are working heater masons must join as full voting Members in 2007.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **2007 MHA Annual Meeting at Wildacres** \$350 for 6 nights, including meals.

APPLICANTS INFORMATION: (please print clearly)

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you want your cell phone number listed  
on the MHA website? \_\_\_\_\_

WEB SITE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF BUSINESS YOU OWN: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF HEATERS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN, OR SPECIALIZE IN: \_\_\_\_\_

GEOGRAPHIC REGION YOU COVER: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this sheet and your check, money order(US Funds) or Visa/MasterCard # to the address above.



# MHA 2006 Auction Followup Report

by  
Marge Padgitt

At the April, 2006 MHA annual meeting Jerry Frisch offered his services to be auctioned off. The winner would get Jerry for four days to plan and build a masonry heater. Two attendees at the meeting, Marvin Lehman of Deadwood, South

Dakota and Kristy Lamus of Overland Park, Kansas were bidding against each other for Jerry's services. Finally Jerry said he would do both heaters for the same price for each. Marvin and Kristy took the opportunity and were very happy with the arrangement. Proceeds went to the MHA.



Marvin working the cuts on the porch



Gene Padgitt and Jerry Frisch in the planning stages

Kristy's heater was built in early October. Jerry enlisted the volunteer help of local mason Gene Padgitt of Padgitt Chimney & Fireplace of Independence, Missouri and

Marvin Lehman of Lehman Construction, Inc. of Deadwood, SD. The three men, along with the help of the homeowner who mixed mud for them, built a contraflow heater with stone facing. The heater core was finished and all facing stone in place at the time the men were finished with the project but the chimney still needed to be constructed. To see more about contraflow heaters visit [www.firecrest-fireplaces.com](http://www.firecrest-fireplaces.com) or [www.mha-net.org](http://www.mha-net.org).



Contraflow heater core

Next came Marvin's project in Deadwood, SD. I wanted to accompany Gene in order to see the historic town while the men were working on the heater, so we decided at the last minute to make the 14-hour drive. The drive is not that bad if you like to look at nothing for miles and miles through South Dakota. We sure were very happy when we saw the "Welcome to Deadwood" sign.

Marvin's heater is also a contraflow, and has a heated bench on the living room side, two-sided heater, and of course, bake oven on the kitchen side. Marvin plans to make turkey pizza for Thanksgiving or Christmas if the chimney is completed. He is facing the heater with some beautiful stone at the bottom and a combination of brick and stone for the remaining areas. Marvin had a huge 1,500 pound hearth stone to lay for the heated warming bench, and it was interesting to watch as he and his assistant, Kevin, along with Jerry and Gene, manhandled the stone onto a huge forklift, then rolled it in into the house on steel pipes. Jerry reminded us that this was the method

the Egyptians used to move heavy stones, and it certainly still works today.

I was interesting to watch Jerry work. He wants you to believe that nothing is planned and that he just throws the heater together during the building process, but in reality he is meticulous in his plans and measurements. I watched as he walked back and forth from the planning table to the heater many times, and while he made perfect cardboard templates of parts for Marvin to take to a local sheet metal shop to have fabricated in steel. He says that being off a 1/4" or so on the interior part does not matter as much as the exterior. So while he claims it was not perfect, I think it was pretty close to it. Both Gene and Marvin learned a lot from the master during these two projects and both men are looking forward to building more heaters in the future.



Kristy and her crew

Marvin's expertise is in concrete, brick and stone. I saw that he won an award for a park he built in Deadwood, and it certainly is beautiful. I am sure that the finished heater project is going to be fantastic and we are looking forward to seeing it when we go back to visit him in the summer.

Deadwood is a very interesting town, and I can recommend it as a vacation destination. There are interesting museums in town, the visitor's center to visit, and plays depicting the old Deadwood during the summer months. You can even stay at the historic Bullock hotel, which is reportedly haunted by Sheriff Bullock himself. Also visit Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane's graves and the site where Wild Bill was shot in 1876 at the original site of Saloon #10.



Team effort as construction progresses

Now I am working on planning how I can get a masonry heater. Our house is not suited for it, so I guess I'll start working on Gene to build us a new house out of the city. That will be the 10-year plan, I am sure. Jerry says he'll still be around then (he'll only be 86) so maybe he'll come out to help us.



## SPECIAL THANKS

by Timothy Seaton

Late last week Harbison-Walker Refractories Co. donated \$1800 of castable refractory towards the construction of an Envirotech grundofen for our ASTM testing process underway at OMNI Labs in Beaverton, OR. Final completion of this testing cycle is anticipated to result in at least a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency specific recognition of masonry heaters of traditional designs (Finnish style contraflow fireplaces, Swedish style kakelugns, and German style grundofens and kachelofens; based on the original EPA audited five heater test) as clean burning and suitable for installation in airsheds allowing EPA certified wood stoves.

Please take time to thank your local dealer (Harbison-Walker is the result of the merger of the former A.P. Green, North American Refractories and other regional refractories manufacturers and the source of many of the refractory products we use in building masonry heaters).



## ASTM E6.54.05 Task Group on Masonry Heaters

*Tina Subasic, PE, Technical Advisor for MHA*

# ASTM News

ASTM E6.54.05 task group on masonry heaters met in Atlanta, GA October 22 and 23, 2006. The task group reviewed the latest emissions test results from a Swedish heater built by J. Frisch in OMNI Labs. Initial results with the proposed fuel crib are comparable to the results from testing done on 5 masonry heaters in the early 1990's. The task group plans to continue this testing with another heater that was also part of the earlier 5-heater test.

In addition, the task group met with EPA staff to review the next steps for emission testing for masonry heaters. EPA staff indicated that once tests were complete on 2 heaters, assuming good correlation to historical tests, some form of acknowledgement for masonry heaters would be possible.

After completing task group business, MHA members also reviewed ideas for a member survey and ideas for a webpage for submittal to EPA for inclusion on their site.

The next meeting of the ASTM E6.54.05 masonry heater task group will be on March 17, 2007 at the HPBA Expo in Reno, NV. The next meeting of the ASTM E6.54 subcommittee will be in April 2007 in Norfolk, VA

## **MASONRY HEATER WORKSHOPS FOR 2007**

**Chiapas, Mexico**

**February 2007**

Ben Sotero has plans to go to Mexico sometime in February to build an oven and possible two Envirtech Heaters. Ben suggests going one week early for a sunny vacation. Interested? Contact Ben Sotero at 831-688-0509

## **MASONRY PROJECT OF INTEREST**

**GUATEMALA**

**February 2007**

Pat Manley will lead a group to Guatemala to build ovens - stoves, etc. Anyone interested contact Pat for more information or go to his web site "masons on a mission"

[www.midcoast.com/masononamission.com/](http://www.midcoast.com/masononamission.com/).

He also suggests staying for a sunny vacation.

Pat Manley at 207-845-2440

*2007 Membership  
Application Enclosed*  
[www.mha-net.org](http://www.mha-net.org)



