

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