



2010 ANNUAL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Below is a summary of the workshops that will be presented at the MHA annual meeting to be held April 16-22nd at Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC.

Building for Bread – presented by Richard Miscovich. Richard is on the Board of The Bread Bakers Guild of America and teaches artisan baking at Johnson & Wales in Providence, Rhode Island.

Artisan baker Richard Miscovich will introduce the fundamentals of the bread baking process in a slideshow designed for the layperson using a wood-fired oven. Topics will include how to control fermentation, dough handling techniques, production efficiency, maximum heat window utilization and how to create ideal baking conditions inside a wood-fired oven.

Wood Combustion in Masonry Heaters – presented by Norbert Senf. Norbert has been a mason for 43 years and was also educated as an engineer. He built his first heater in 1979 and developed the first North American prefabricated heater core. He is a past president of MHA and currently the chairman of the Technical Committee.

This seminar deals with combustion within the Masonry Heater. The seminar will provide the basic theory of how wood burns. Four areas will be covered in this presentation: combustion chemistry, basic combustion theory, the different types of emissions and how to distinguish them, and techniques for clean combustion.

24"x24" Simple Bell Heater – presented by Alex Chernov. Alex is on the Technical Committee of MHA. He learned the bell theory of masonry heater construction and design from Igor Kuznetsov, a great Russian heater designer and builder. Alex has led several workshops, both in North America and abroad, and has designed dozens of heaters for self-builders around the world.

This workshop is a hands-on course, where participants will construct a very small (24"x24" finished dimension) single bell heater. Participants will build a very simple small masonry heater using standard firebrick. The heater will be faced using firebrick. Firebrick will then be laid as shiners for higher heat output. This course has been approved by the NSI and CSIA for 13 Technical continued education credits.

5-Run Precut Heater with white oven – presented by Norbert Senf. Norbert is a past - president of the MHA and current chairman of the Technical Committee. He has been a mason for 43 years and was also educated as an engineer. He is also the present webmaster for the MHA website.

This workshop demonstrates the concept of designing a heater on a CAD system, developing a firebrick cut list from the 3-D model, and having the real thing go together 100% accurately on the first try. The CAD model generates course by course numbered assembly drawings that allow it to be put together extremely fast. The 5-run is a practical and innovative design using soapstone, is top vented and features a white oven. This course has been approved by the NSI and CSIA for 17 technical continued education credits.

Experimental Stove Design: Combining elements of the Contraflow & Rocket Mass Heater – presented by Max Edleson. Max has spent time in Argentina doing tile and mosaic installations before branching out into masonry heater construction. Max is working on sustainable solutions which are both beautiful and technically sound. He is working with Master Mason Jerry Frisch to combine the contraflow system and rocket mass heater into one.

This workshop is a hands-on experience and provides exposure to alternative methods and techniques in masonry heater construction. This heater is designed to address the niche of affordable masonry stoves for small , cottage-like houses.

Custom Small Grundofen with White Oven using the OSA Easy Fire J-Loop Channel System – presented by Eric Moshier, a 3rd generation mason. Eric is a MHA certified Heater Builder and presently serves on the Public Relations Committee. Eric learned the masonry heater trade from the late Gene Hedin, a longtime member of MHA.

The workshop will build a 2' deep x 3' wide x 5.5' high Grundofen with a combination J-loop and horizontal Grundofen channels. It will also have a white oven in it. The Grundofen will be built with firebrick and firebrick slabs. It features a new air system built into the beautiful doors from OSA Vertriebs-GmbH from Germany.

Construction of a Masonry Cookstove – presented by Marty Pearson. Marty is a certified heater builder, serves on the education committee, and presides over our annual auction with skill and flair. Marty has been a mason for over 33 years and lives with and uses a masonry cook stove.

This workshop will construct a cook stove core with 12'x12'x2' firebrick, pre-cut for easy assembly. It will be faced with brick, use a cast iron top, doors, and include cleanouts.

Semi Pre-Cast One Day Brick Oven – presented by Alex Chernov. Alex is on the MHA Technical Committee. He learned the theory of masonry heater construction and design from Igor Kuznetsov, a great Russian heater designer and builder. Alex has led several workshops, both in North America and abroad, and has designed dozens of heaters for self-builders around the world.

This is a hands-on course on construction of a semi pre-cast brick oven. The brick oven has a unique design that allows building the complete core by two experienced heater masons in one day.

Masonry Heater Smoker aka "Bombay Bypass Smoker" – presented by Chris Prior, Scott Helms and Dan Givens, three highly recognized heater builders, long time members of MHA and a board member.

Chris Prior worked with Walt Kelly about 12 years ago on this type of smoker. Their concept was to use the principle of a masonry heater in the design. A clean burn and use of a long convoluted maze of passage ways for smoke to travel through to scrub heat. Time and effort paid off with sweet rewards and as Chris states, "Science is tasty." This is a hands-on project.

Bricklaying 101 – presented by Jerry Frisch, David Moore, David Thomen, John McDougall, Steve Bushway and Marty Pearson, all of whom are either certified heater masons or licensed masons. They bring to this workshop more than 150 years of experience. In addition to these skills, they are a past-president, board members and committee members of the MHA.

The workshop will involve hands-on facing of the main building projects at Wildacres. It will start with a description of brick types, laying out one of the cores to be veneered and showing considerations for bonding patterns, slush thickness, etc. Then the use of safety equipment and the safe use of power and hand tools, common hazards, brick terminology (shiners, soldiers, etc.) and trowel skills. Participants will be shown the different types of trowels, hammers, a brick set, line blocks, brick tape and levels. Then mortar types and some masonry material techniques will also be discussed. This is a great course for the person learning masonry skills and a refresher for the professional.

Simple Efficient Stoves —presented by Lars Helbro. Lars has been a professional Masonry Heater builder for over 21years. He has been an advisor for the Danish governmental administration in energy and environmental issues with a specialty in efficient combustion of biomass. He presently is the administrator of Xylopyological Institut which helps in the development and education of masonry heaters in the DK.

Lars will address the attendees on the most simple and efficient stove (Gymse). Discussing how it works and why it cannot be built in the USA. Discussion will follow about why some techniques are fully approved in Europe but not in North America and what we can do to help each other get things approved.

Low Emission Masonry Heater Firebox – presented by Heikki Hyytiäinen. Heikki is an architect who studied under Alvar Aalto, and is former head of the Finnish Association of Designers. He was instrumental in the revival of masonry heater culture in Finland, and introduced the Finnish contraflow heater system to North America in 1981. He is about to publish his fourth book on masonry heaters.

Heikki will demonstrate a firebox cassette he has been working on for more than 10 years and explain a new firebox air system.

NOTICE

Workshop participants

All workshop participants are expected to provide their own trowels, levels, measuring tape, pencil, jointers, a brick hammer, rubber mallet and basic safety equipment (ear and eye protection, gloves and respirator). **No open-toed shoes or bare feet will be allowed at any workshop.**