

Instructor Survey 2012: 8 Key Findings

Sent to 140 instructors (132 via email, 8 via postal mail)

52 responses; as of January 3, 2013

37% participation rate

General Information

- 1) Many of our instructors are new to North House*
 - 41.2% have been teaching here for less than 5 years
 - 31.4% have been teaching here for 5-10 years
 - 27.4% have been teaching here for more than 10 years

*Note, these are percentages of respondents. A rough estimate of all instructors yields similar results, 36% less than 5 years, 37% 5-10 years, 26% more than 10 years.

- 2) Most instructors teach 2-3 courses per year here.
 - 23% teach 1 course per year
 - 45% teach 2-3 courses per year
 - 25% teach 4-6 courses per year
 - 6% teach 7+ courses per year
- 3) 60% of instructors teach at other locations as well as at North House; 40% do not.
- 4) There is no shortage of ideas for what North House could achieve over the next 5 years: see the full report for 100+ suggestions!
- 5) The funds made available by the “Sharpen the Saw” initiative will be eagerly welcomed. Tools most highly sought after include a variety of power tools (additional lathes, bandsaw, planer, and sanders), hand tools for woodworking (axes, spokeshaves, drawknives and corresponding sharpening equipment), improved tables, chairs and workbenches, and a number of suggestions specific to certain courses.

Instructor Retreat

- 6) The Instructor Retreat & Annual Instructor Gathering at Wooden Boat Show are well-received, with 95% of respondents indicating that they are very or somewhat interested in the Retreat, and 88% indicating that they are very or somewhat interested in the Annual Instructor Gathering. 28 respondents indicated that they will definitely or likely attend the Retreat this year. 23 responded no or unlikely.
- 7) The five goals for the Instructor Retreat we listed were all prioritized about evenly: building camaraderie, sharing craft skills, building collaboration within specific craft themes, offering instructors an opportunity to be students, and sharing the history and tradition of North House.
- 8) The top 5 proposed components of the retreat respondents felt were most important to include were (in order of priority):
 1. teaching techniques discussion
 2. pre-retreat single day mix and mingle coursework
 3. round table presentation: history of NH and folk school traditions
 4. wood-fired pizza potluck
 5. “department” meetings by theme