

Sustainable Building Coalition

P.O. Box 49381
Austin, TX 78767-9381

Next Meeting:

Wednesday
Jan. 28, 2004
7:00 pm
Casa de Luz
1701 Toomey Road



January 2004

<http://www.greenbuilder.com/sbc>

Volume 11, Issue 1

In This Issue:

- Gayle Borst and the January 28th SBC Meeting
- Bau-Biologie Day Course
- 2004 Permaculture Class
- National News

Announcements:

* Deadline for articles and events for the next newsletter is March 1st. Email to Chris at cdgaines@yahoo.com

* Check out the SBC calendar on the website for upcoming workshops and events!!
www.greenbuilder.com/sbc/events

Upcoming Workshops:

- Bau-Biologie Day Course, February 9, 2004
- 2004 Permaculture Class
- Rain Harvesting Seminar
- HouseAlive 2004 schedule of workshops is available at www.housealive.org

Website Resources:

www.casadeluz.org
www.buildingbiology.net
www.geoswan.com

www.austinprogressivecalendar.com/permaculture.htm

www.ci.austin.tx.us/greengarden/training.htm

January 28th Meeting: Sustainable Ireland Tour

By Gayle Borst

Last September SBC members Gayle Borst and Sue Barnett joined a group of travelers in Ireland to discover what some of the Irish are doing to live lightly on the planet. The tour, sponsored by *Natural Home Magazine*, was the first of what is anticipated to be a series of sustainability-oriented tours of other countries.

In Ireland the tour group cobbled at the Kinsale Permaculture Center and attended a presentation about Sacred Geometry in architectural design from architect Michael Rice. We participated in the "Green Festival" at the Organic Center in North Leitrim, a fabulous new organization offering courses in all aspects of sustainable living and agricultural practices. Rudolph Steiner's philosophy was experienced in practice at a Biodynamic farm, forest, and hydroelectric plant. But the fabulous organic meals including Otto's Permaculture farm and world class restaurant/chef school for organic cooking may have been the highlight.

To keep a historical perspective we visited ancient structures built well before the Celts, the Vikings, the Christians, and the English came to the island (each altered the culture and buildings dramatically). We got more than anticipated in that we experienced the total sustainable living movement in Ireland.

Sue and Gayle will show slides and talk about the various sustainable activities and buildings experienced during the tour of Ireland (plus some images of the beauty and history of this wonderful country). Come and see how the Emerald Isle is green in more ways than one.

Please join Gayle and Sue to learn more about their recent green tour of Ireland. SBC meets the 4th Wednesday of every other month (next meeting will be January 28th) at 7 pm at Casa de Luz (<http://www.casadeluz.org>), 1701 Toomey Road in the Cielo Room. You're also welcome to join us at Casa de Luz for a wonderful holistic meal beginning at 6 pm. *

Bau-Biologie Day Course: Bio-Compatible Materials

By Chris Maxwell-Gaines

The International Institute for Bau-Biologie presents: ***Bio-Compatible Materials***, a one day course on cutting edge low and non-toxic alternatives to conventional building materials for home, office and industry. It will occur on February 10th, 2004 from 9 am to 4:30 pm at Casa de Luz (512-467-6000), 1701 Toomey Road.

Some of the topics covered during this workshop will include:

- Introduction and Purpose of Bau-Biologie
- Overview & current ecological situation as it relates to construction situation
- Health issues with conventional buildings
- The 25 principals of Bau Biologie
- Electromagnetic and Radiation basics
- Bau-Biology guidelines for improving indoor air quality

[Continued on page 2]

Bau-Biologie Day Course: [Continued]

- Overview of North American building materials compared to western Europe
- Economic and energy issues with "subsidized" toxic materials
- Overview of fully integrated Bau-Biologie "breathing" building systems
- Presentation of latest research and samples of alternatives to conventional building materials
- Hands-on demos of mixing and applications of a variety of practical alternatives, including: papercrete, cedarcrete, mgo block, sheet and structural bars, kenaf bundle sip panels, and kenafcrete

The presenters will be: **Larry Gust**, EE, BBEI from the International Institute for Bau-Biologie & Ecology, Inc. in Clearwater, FL (www.buildingbiology.net) and **George Paul Swanson** from Environmental Design / Build in Austin, TX (www.geoswan.com). You can register for the course by calling the Institute for Bau-Biologie at 727-461-4371. The cost of the course will be \$50. *

Local Happenings

2004 Permaculture Classes

Please come to learn about Permaculture, some of the challenges to sustainable living that we can overcome with the concepts of Permaculture, and what you might do to give Mother Nature a hand in making the world a better place for all.

Everyone is welcome - from brand new beginners to seasoned graduates. We always have a great group who come together to meet others who feel that we can and must do a better job of using local/renewable resources, using less imported energy, and reducing our impact on natural systems while maintaining or increasing a joyous, fulfilling lifestyle. More information about the classes and their locations can be found at www.austinprogressivecalendar.com/permaculture.htm

Tuesday, January 6th, 6:30-8:30 pm at Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster Drive

Wednesday, January 21st and February 4th, 6:30-8:30 pm - Location to be decided

Tuesday, February 17th, 6:30-8:30 pm at Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster Drive

Wednesday, March 3rd and March 17th, 6:30-8:30 pm - Location to be decided

Also, the Green Garden network of city departments and programs related to landscaping will hold a homeowner training class on January 31, 2004. Go to: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greengarden/training.htm> *

Rain Harvesting for People Who Use Water Seminar

During the "Rain Harvesting for People Who Use Water" seminar, you will learn why and how to harvest rainwater for use in your home, landscape, or place of work, as a sole, primary or secondary source of water. We'll take a look at historical and international usage of rain harvesting, water quality and quantity issues in Austin, and we'll help you develop a watershed-based approach to managing the water on your property. Next we'll get into the nitty-gritty of putting in a rain harvesting system: how to size and design a system, where to get materials and how much they cost, and more.

After taking this class, you'll be ready to take one of the hands-on installation courses we offer four times a year, we'll add you to our Rainwater Community of people who save the rain, and we'll invite you to join one of our tours of rain harvesting sites. Paul and Jen Radlet of Save the Rain, Inc., a nonprofit organization that makes rain harvesting a practical option for people who use water, will present the seminar on January 31, 2004, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am, at the Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Drive. The cost of this seminar is \$25 per person prepaid, \$30 at the door, payable to Save the Rain.

You have three ways to register: by phone (210-422-0046), e-mail (saverain@gvtc.com) or mail (Save the Rain, P.O. Box 937, Boerne, TX 78006). Please provide name, phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address for each person registering. *

LEED-certifiable Police Headquarters Advances Green Building in Dallas

Dallas' new Jack Evans Police Headquarters was originally designed as a conventional building, but as a result of separate initiatives merging together, it is now the city's first LEED certifiable building. Shortly after the city approved the schematic design by Phillips Swager Associates, city project manager Robert Van Buren attended a seminar on the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system. He realized the project was within striking distance of LEED's base-level certification, largely due to site factors such as reclamation of a brownfield site, proximity to bus and rail transit, and the recycling of the adjacent parking garage. At the same time, the Dallas city manager's office was looking to support a sustainability demonstration building project. The result is a \$55 million, six-story, 360,000-square-foot building that doesn't scream "green," but relies on enhancements to its building materials and systems to qualify for LEED's Silver certification. As a demonstration project, the project is a success: the city has since decreed that all its future buildings larger than 10,000 square feet must attain LEED's Silver certification or better. The LEED certification program itself appears to be a work in progress. One trend is that some owners have introduced a new term -- LEED certifiable, as opposed to LEED certified -- to designate a building that exemplifies the LEED guidelines without actually undergoing the LEED process. Texas Architect, p 37, Nov/Dec 2003, by Duncan Fulton. [More: <http://www.dallascityhall.com/dallas/eng/pdf/ehs/JackEvansPoliceBldg.pdf>] *

Austin Energy's Strategic Plan

In November, Austin City Council passed Austin Energy's Strategic Plan on a vote of 7-0. This huge step forward is the testament to the strong collaboration between city officials and community advocates. For the record, the plan includes:

- Renewable energy goals to have 20% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020
- Conservation goals to reach 15% by 2020, for a combined total of 35% by 2020
- Solar goals of 15 MW installed by 2007, ramping up to 100 MW by 2020
- Solar rebates at \$5/watt, which should begin in the next few months
- Solar demonstration projects at middle schools (with curriculum), libraries, and community centers
- An affordable, zero-energy home subdivision of at least 100 homes, to begin in 2004

These goals put Austin in the running for the leading clean energy city in the United States. Much still remains to be seen, as the details of the programs are worked out, but with such strong goals on the table and such strong community support, there is no reason why Austin cannot realize its vision of being the Clean Energy Capital of the World. *

National News

MOTOR TREND NAMES PRIUS 2004 CAR OF THE YEAR

Excerpted from Clean Edge News, December 1, 2003

Motor Trend magazine, has selected the Toyota Prius as the 2004 Car of the Year. Now in its 55th year, the title of Motor Trend Car of the Year is the most coveted and most recognized award in the automotive industry. "We realize the selection of a hybrid vehicle is going to stir controversy, but we believe the performance, engineering advancements, and overall significance of the Toyota Prius merits the distinction of Motor Trend Car of the Year," said Kevin Smith, editor-in-chief of Motor Trend. "The Prius is a capable, comfortable, fun-to-drive car that just happens to get spectacular fuel economy. It also provides a promising look at a future where extreme fuel-efficiency, ultra-low emissions, and exceptional performance will happily coexist. That makes it meaningful to a wide range of car buyers."

After weeks of testing, Motor Trend editors found the Prius to be a user-friendly gas/ electric hybrid capable of delivering an impressive 60 miles per gallon in city driving. It is the first of such vehicles to move into the automotive mainstream, with performance, style and quality. Spacious enough to be classified as a midsize sedan, the Prius' futuristic bodywork, innovative Hybrid Synergy Drive, pleasing interior and five-door hatchback design, clearly placed it above the competition.

The complete report on the 2004 Car of the Year can be found in the January 2004 issue of Motor Trend, on newsstands December 2, 2003. *

STUDY FINDS GREEN BUILDING SAVINGS FAR OUTWEIGH INITIAL COSTS

Excerpted from Sheila Muto, Capital Real Estate Journal, Oct. 8, 2003

A few years ago, the state of California established the Sustainable Building Task Force, which commissioned a report to assess the costs and financial benefits of constructing green buildings in California. Based on a review of the construction costs of 33 green buildings in the United States, and factoring in the cost of energy, water and waste disposal in California, the recently released report found that it costs nearly 2 percent more on average -- or \$3 to \$5 a square foot -- to construct a green building than one using conventional methods. But that cost premium yields savings of more than 10 times the initial investment -- or \$50 to \$75 a square foot -- during the life of a building, conservatively assumed to be 20 years. The cost of conventional commercial construction in California was estimated at \$150 to \$250 per square foot. Greg Kats, the report's principal author, says that five years ago there was a 5 percent to 15 percent cost premium for green buildings. "Now, materials and design processes have become standardized, and more people know how to do it." The report concludes that constructing green buildings to LEED's gold level -- the third highest designation in the green building rating system -- makes the most financial sense. [To download the report:

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/greenbuilding/Design/CostIssues.htm> - Cost&Benefit] *

Coordinators:

Programs: Katie Jensen (512-663-2927)

Community Outreach:

Brandi Clark (512-477-3311)

Yvonne Hansen (512-693-0293)

Chris Shaw

Organizational Development: Gayle Borst (512-478-9033)

Newsletter Publication & Distribution:

Chris Maxwell-Gaines

Website Development: Bill & Jeanine Christensen

(512-288-5223)

Treasurer & Book Seller: Frieda Rinehart (512-490-8797)

Education: Paul McCutchen

If you would like to contact anyone of us by email, visit the contact form on the Greenbuilder website at:

<http://www.greenbuilder.com/sbc/contact/>

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING COALITION

P.O. Box 49381 Austin, TX 78767-9381