

# Sustainable Building Coalition

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

**Next Meeting:**  
**Wednesday**  
**Nov. 26, 2003**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Casa de Luz**  
**1701 Toomey Road**



September 2003

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

Volume 10, Issue 5

## **In This Issue:**

- Lars Stanley and the September 24<sup>th</sup> SBC Meeting
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> SBC Meeting
- 2003 Renewable Energy Roundup
- National News

## **Announcements:**

\* Deadline for articles and events for the next newsletter is November 1. Email to Chris at [cdgaines@yahoo.com](mailto:cdgaines@yahoo.com)

\* Check out the SBC calendar on the website for upcoming workshops and events!!  
[www.greenbuilder.com/sbc/events](http://www.greenbuilder.com/sbc/events)

## **Upcoming Workshops:**

- 2003 Energy Roundup in Fredericksburg, September 26-28, 2003
- Austin Green Festival, October 11-12, 2003
- First Annual Festival de las Plantas, October 8, 2003

## **Website Resources:**

[www.theroundup.org](http://www.theroundup.org)  
[www.cempo.com](http://www.cempo.com)  
[www.greenfestivals.com](http://www.greenfestivals.com)  
[www.chelseagreen.com](http://www.chelseagreen.com)  
[www.casadeluz.org](http://www.casadeluz.org)  
[www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org)

## **September 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Lars Stanley**

By Chris Maxwell-Gaines

Lars Stanley will be joining SBC for our bimonthly meeting. Lars Stanley, an architect and artist, and his wife, a landscape architect, bought a condemned home near Oltorf and Lamar and renovated it. It is now their home and where they both have individual offices.

On their property, they have installed several photovoltaic systems as learning projects in order to understand how they work and how to properly design them on the homes of their clients. The large system was designed with the help of Andrew McCalla with Meridian Energy Systems and supplies approximately one-half of his office needs. It is an 8-panel system. The small system, 6-panels, is used primarily to pump water through the irrigation system.

Rainwater is also harvested on the site. They have capacity for 4,000 total gallons, though they are not utilizing it all at this time. The collected rainwater is used for irrigation.

They also incorporated some Earth-friendly materials in the design and construction of the home. One material, in particular, is Agriboard, a Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) that has a straw inner core enclosed by Oriented Strand Board (OSB). Lars will be speaking about these various systems along with the other green building materials he used in the renovation.

He will be leading a tour of his home and the offices of him and his wife (all on the same property) on Saturday, October. 4. More details about this tour will be announced at the meeting.

***Please join Lars and learn more about Earth-friendly home design and materials for home construction. SBC meets the 4th Wednesday of every other month (next meeting will be November 26th) 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. \****

## **July 23<sup>rd</sup> SBC Meeting: Keith Miller**

By Chris Maxwell-Gaines

SBC was joined by Keith Miller, owner of Bowerbird Construction, for the July 23<sup>rd</sup> member meeting. He started his construction company in 1991 after participating in a residual straw bale project and seeing the excitement of people getting together to build affordable housing. Ever since 1991, his company has built both turn-key and owner/builder projects including 50 straw bale homes in Central Texas and has recently been working with an Insulated Concrete Form product called Cempo. Keith and his firm are experienced in several natural and alternative building techniques including earthen floors, straw bale, ICF, building for chemical sensitivity, and more.

Throughout his presentation, Keith answered questions from the audience about the building methods that he has used, particularly Cempo. Cempo is a material made of Portland Cement and recycled polystyrene.

[Continued on page 2]

## July 23<sup>rd</sup> SBC Meeting: [Continued]

Keith believes Cempo to be a little cheaper than strawbale, at about \$7.50 per sq. ft. Keith also sited many other advantages of using Cempo. The material is very durable and the resultant structures are tornado-proof. Each Cempo building saves about 3 acres of trees over conventional construction. Keith suggested getting someone to help you in the planning process if you want to build with Cempo to help with concrete construction. More information may be found at [www.cempo.com](http://www.cempo.com). \*



## Local Happenings

### 2003 Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair in Fredericksburg

Mark your calendars for this year's Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair in downtown Fredericksburg. The Roundup will take place on September 26-28, 2003. The Roundup includes workshops on the grounds, on-going demonstrations, hourly tent talks exhibitors, musical entertainment, ride & drive alternative transportation, storyteller, new exhibitors, new speakers, many informative presentations and workshops, and great food in an entertaining and fun format. Whether your interest is solar PV, rainwater harvesting, organic gardening or alternative transportation, come to the Roundup. You won't be disappointed. Come out and visit the SBC and SBAT booths. For more information, go to "<http://www.theroundup.org/>". \*

### First Annual Festival de Las Plantas

The Austin Parks Foundation encourages you to join us for the First Annual Festival de Las Plantas held at Guerrero Colorado Park on Saturday, October 18, 2003. This event is presented in partnership by the Austin Parks Foundation, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, People in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER), the City of Austin, and other Austin wildlife and environmental organizations. It will take place from 9am to 5pm and will feature a myriad of activities, demonstrations, entertainment, and attractions. The purpose of Festival de Las Plantas is to heighten people's awareness of the natural beauty and value of Guerrero Colorado River Park and celebrate the cultural heritage found in plant-human relationships. Information will be available at [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org). \*

### Austin Green Festival, October 11 & 12

Mark your calendars for the Austin Green Festival! Oct. 11 & 12 at the Austin Convention Center! Be a part of this two-day not-for-profit event that brings together: 200 Socially and Environmentally Responsible Enterprises \* Community Groups \* Over 50 Leading Speakers \* Organic Food Court \* Movement and Dance Workshops \* Local Music \* A Networking Center \* and 1000s of attendees who want better consumer alternatives, opportunities to learn, be inspired, get active, & have fun!

The Green Festival a project of Global Exchange and Co-op America

working in collaboration with a host of committed Austinites. Admission is only \$10. For more information, log onto [www.greenfestivals.com](http://www.greenfestivals.com) To volunteer and get in free, visit <http://www.greenfestivals.com/volunteers.html> Questions? Contact Brandi Clark [brandi\\_clark@yahoo.com](mailto:brandi_clark@yahoo.com) \*

see *real* conservatives at . . .

**greenfestival**<sup>TM</sup>

october 11 & 12  
austin convention center

See them conserve energy, water, time, money, even the constitution. Learn how to perform these astounding feats yourself.

Now *that's* conservative!

[www.greenfestivals.com](http://www.greenfestivals.com)

## National News

### STUDY: RECYCLED-CONTENT BUILDING MATERIALS STACK UP JUST FINE

Excerpted from GreenBiz.com, July 14, 2003

Recycled-content building materials perform about the same as standard products, according to a new study funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Both alternative and standard products have the potential to emit chemicals of concern. However, the study shows that low-emitting building materials are readily available.

Prior to the study, little was known regarding emissions from recycled-content products. As a result, these products were subject to greater scrutiny than their virgin-content counterparts. Although there were a number of studies that reported emissions from a variety building materials, these studies did not compare commonly used products with those containing high amounts of recycled content.

CIWMB adopted the indoor air quality testing protocols to measure emissions of products common to California classrooms and construction projects in comparison to alternative products. For the purpose of this study alternative products not only contained recycled content, but also included low-to-no volatile organic compounds and rapidly renewable materials.

The study also emphasizes the importance of proper ventilation in contributing to good indoor air quality. Included in the study is a list of low-emitting products that not only contain recycled content but also contribute to good indoor air quality.

As local and state governments, private entities, and school districts continue to demand low-emitting products, California state indoor air-quality testing protocols have emerged as one of the most comprehensive methods to ensure building materials contribute to healthy indoor environments. Recognizing this demand, many manufacturers are now taking the initiative to have their products tested by independent laboratories according to California's standards. \*

### EARTHCRAFT HOUSE PROGRAM EXPANDS TO COMMUNITY PLANNING LEVEL

Excerpted from Jonathan Lerner of Metropolis Magazine, Aug-Sept 2003

Atlanta is commonly associated with things like environmental degradation and sprawl, but the city has also generated one of the country's most successful green building programs, the EarthCraft House. And it's now providing a laboratory for the planning of whole neighborhoods that will embody sensitivity to conservation and healthy design. "We don't want smart growth with dumb buildings," says Jim Hackler, who directs the EarthCraft House program for the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association and Southface Energy Institute. Prompted by developers, the institute is now devising a template for sustainable communities. The program will merge principles from New Urbanism -- like mixing uses and building types, and promoting walkability -- with environmental concerns such as preserving biodiversity, minimizing erosion, and educating people. Four current developments -- ranging from a city-center brownfield project to a new rural "hamlet" -- are prototypes. In the latter project, called Serenbe, all 220 dwelling units will be EarthCraft Houses, and commercial structures will meet LEED standards. Developed areas will be clustered and fit to the topography, preserving 75 percent of the site and requiring minimal grading or other disturbances during construction. A non-chemical, low-energy-consuming sewage treatment plant will be located on the site, as will be community gardens and a sorting center for recyclables. [About EarthCraft House: [http://www.southface.org/home/ech/earthcraft\\_home.htm](http://www.southface.org/home/ech/earthcraft_home.htm)] \*

## **The Back Page: DUES!!**

Please remember to pay your dues! In order to continue offering workshops, meetings, newsletters, and the other services that the coordinators of SBC provide for you, we have started collecting dues again. We appreciate your continued support! Checks made out to Sustainable Building Coalition may be mailed to P.O. Box 49381, Austin, Texas, 78767-9381 (please write "dues" in the subject line). We will also be collecting them at the member meeting on Wednesday, March 26.

If you would like to further support the organization, please feel free to do so through direct donation to the organization. When we obtain the non-profit status we are seeking from the IRS, these donations will be tax-deductible. We will let you know as more information becomes available on this topic.

- \$15 Regular membership (includes email newsletter)
- \$25 Regular membership (includes paper / mailed newsletter)
- \$35 Business membership (advertising, recognition, networking, and more)

### **Coordinators:**

Programs: Katie Jensen (512-663-2927)

Community Outreach:  
Brandi Clark (512-477-3311)

Yvonne Hansen

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