

Sustainable Building Coalition

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

Next Meeting:
Wednesday
March 24, 2004
7:00 pm
Casa de Luz
1701 Toomey Road



In This Issue:

- Kent Browning and Doug Garrett and the March 24th SBC Meeting
- 5th Annual Texas Home & Garden Show
- Volunteer Opportunities

Announcements:

- * Deadline for articles and events for the next newsletter is May 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:

- Fundamentals of Permaculture Class, March 26-April 4

Website Resources:

www.casadeluz.org
www.bldgperformance.com

www.TexasHomeandGarden.com

www.austinprogressivecalendar.com/permaculture.htm

www.keepeaustinbeautiful.org

www.austinparks.org

March 24th Meeting: Moisture Control in Buildings

By Chris Maxwell-Gaines

For the March 24th member meeting, we will be joined by Kent Browning of KWR Services and Doug Garrett of Building Performance & Comfort. Their presentations will cover the important topic of moisture control in buildings.

In commercial buildings it is common to find more moisture induced into a building by ventilation air than is removed from the building by the HVAC equipment. The result is that water is 'stored' in the building unintentionally. Residential buildings typically don't have ventilation air by design but duct leakage creates unintentional ventilation and similar moisture storage problems. Building pressurization is the common method of controlling exchange of air with the outside. But how much pressurization is enough? How much pressurization is too much? And more important, how much air flow is needed to create the desired pressurization? These questions will be answered by our presenters.

Mr. Browning is a registered professional engineer who founded KWR Services, a mechanical engineering firm in Austin. They provides building mechanical system design, analysis, specification, review, and commissioning services for commercial, residential, institutional, and government clients.

Mr. Garrett has many years of experience in the building science arena. He has diagnosed and solved hundreds of building performance problems in homes and commercial buildings. He is the president of Building Performance & Comfort. He holds many certifications in building science, energy conservation, and indoor air quality.

Please join Kent and Doug to learn more about moisture control in buildings. SBC meets the 4th Wednesday of every other month (next meeting will be March 24th) 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. *

Environmentally friendly homes are increasing, as builders - and buyers - 'go green.'

By Marilyn Gardner | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Eco-minded builders and environmental groups in the U.S. are pushing to simplify and popularize the notion of "green building," which encompasses practices and materials that reduce waste and make homes more efficient. Green building -- ranging from landscaping with native plants to using carpet made of recycled soda bottles to recycling cast-off construction materials -- has been on the rise for several years: A total of 18,887 green homes were built in the U.S. between 1990 and 2001, while 13,224 were built in 2002 alone. While the added expense of non-standard materials and specialized builders currently limits the market largely to affluent, dual-income families, it's likely that expanded production will lower costs and make the benefits of lower energy bills, cleaner indoor air, reduced maintenance costs, and a healthy conscience available to the rest of us before too long.

[For the full article: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0303/p11s01-lihc.html>] *

"The coalition exists to facilitate the organization and education of the building and design communities and the general public to foster: healthy and ecologically sound built environments + sustainable resource use + responsible and healthy businesses."

Local Happenings



'Talk dirty, have floor play, and find jungle love' with home and garden experts at the **fifth annual Texas Home and Garden Show** sponsored by the Austin Remodelers Association at the **Austin Convention Center Friday, Saturday, and Sunday March 12-14.**

Show attendees will be inspired by top floral designers from around the state as The Texas Home and Garden Show will feature the Texas State Florists' Association Texas Cup Competition Saturday, from 12-5 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to satisfy their hunger at the gourmet food pavilion as they sample dishes during cooking shows. Participants will cruise the vacation and leisure pavilion for an exotic getaway, and find treats and more for Fido and Fifi at the pet pavilion.

"Come go wild over our fabulous home furnishings, talk dirty with our gardening experts, and enjoy floor play as you plan your home renovations," said Jola Dryden, director of conferences and exhibitions for International Exhibitions, Inc., producer of the Texas Home and Garden Shows. IEI has more than 20 years of experience producing consumer shows throughout the world.

A recent study of major markets in Texas discovered that projects topping people's renovation lists include adding garages or sheds and heating and air conditioning systems, repairing roofs and exterior paint, and remodeling family and bath rooms. Therefore, innovative exhibitors who can facilitate each of these types of projects and more will be on hand to offer advice at the Texas Home and Garden Show, a one-stop shopping experience.

Home and garden theatre seminars and hundreds of exhibitors will entertain, inform, and educate attendees seeking products and services to build, decorate, and remodel their homes and gardens with beneficial features such as greater energy efficiency. Last year, \$3.3 million was spent at the show by visitors who purchased remodeling, decorating, and landscaping products and services.

The Texas Home and Garden Show is being sponsored by the Austin Remodelers Association, a nonprofit organization that provides referrals to remodeling contractors pledged to honesty, integrity, and responsibility. ARA contractors are pledged to a code of fair, professional conduct; the use of functionally, economically sound products which meet or exceed local industry health, safety standards; and accurate advertising, contracts and warranties.

"The ARA is a natural partner for us," said Dryden, "because they, too, give back to the community. They perform community service projects each year, most recently installing wheelchair ramps for mobility-impaired citizens in the St. John's neighborhood who could not before get to their yards to enjoy therapeutic and productive gardening," she continued. ARA members will host a variety of seminars on topics such as how to avoid common remodeling mistakes, how to be your own builder, and how to incorporate water into your landscape.



TIMES:

- Friday, March 12, 2004, 2 – 8 pm
- Saturday, March 13, 2004, 10 am - 8 pm
- Sunday, March 14, 2004, 11 am - 6 pm

PRICES:

- \$7.50 for adults (\$1-off coupons at Randalls and www.TexasHomeandGarden.com) In addition, a \$1-off discount is available to person's bringing canned food to donate to the Capital Area Food Bank.
- \$5.50 for military and college students and personnel (not valid with other discounts)
- \$5.50 for senior citizens on Friday (not valid with other discounts)
- Free for children under 12 *

Keep Austin Beautiful: Register Now for CLEAN SWEEP ACROSS AUSTIN!!

Be a part of "Clean Sweep Across Austin 2004", happening on Saturday, April 3rd. It will be the biggest spring cleaning in the history of the universe! It's the 19th annual Clean Sweep event and this year we're expanding it to include the entire Greater Austin area with a focus on YOUR neighborhood.

Organize a cleanup with an organization that you are involved in, then come downtown for a big outdoor party, lunch, prizes, music and more! Any person or group of people who care about Austin can participate. Hold a cleanup in your neighborhood, choose a park or other public area to clean, or join another group's cleanup listed on our website (go to: <http://www.keeptoaustinbeautiful.org/>)

Register online or by phone with Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB). Indicate where your cleanup will be held. If you haven't selected an area, see our list of other groups conducting cleanups that day and join one of those! Let us know if you'd like us to direct other volunteers to your cleanup site. Pick up supplies from KAB (trash bags, gloves, sun block, ivy block, etc.) at least a week before the event. Do your cleanup Saturday morning April 3rd and finish by 11AM. Come to Festival Beach with your whole group for FREE Lunch, Door Prizes and other Festivities!

To register yourself or your group, or for more information please contact Keep Austin Beautiful at 512-974-2533 or email Jeff Campbell at Jeff.Campbell@ci.austin.tx.us *

It's My Park! Day on April 24, 2004

Join us for the 2nd annual "It's My Park! Day" hosted by the Austin Parks Foundation, in partnership with the City of Austin Park & Recreation Department. It will happen on Saturday, April 24 from 9 am – 1 pm.

It's My Park Day is a half-day service/social project that brings park users together to meet each other, get some work done in the parks and foster ongoing community stewardship of parks. Citizen volunteers, friends, and neighbors will participate in a wide range of activities, from general maintenance help, such as cleaning, weeding, planting, trimming, and hauling, to implementing physical improvement plans, such as installing playscapes, benches, pavilions, and blazing trails. Anyone who loves parks can participate!

This will take place in park facilities all over town: neighborhood parks, downtown parks, destination parks, recreation centers, senior activity centers, aquatics facilities, hike and bike trails, wildlife preserves and museums. Visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/parks.htm> to see the Parks & Recreation Department's many parks and facilities.

To register or find out more go to www.austinparks.org. Go to the It's My Park! Day page and choose to be a General Volunteer or Park Host. Specify the park you'd like to volunteer in, or let the Austin Parks Foundation find one that suits your interests and that needs your help. That's it so get out and volunteer!! *

The Fundamentals of Permaculture: March 26-April 4, 2004

Patricia Allison will be teaching a 9-day Permaculture class in San Marcos at the Stonehaven Ranch from March 26-April 4, 2004. This class is for homeowners, apartment dwellers, farmers, foresters, land developers, city planners, architects, teachers, and many others

You get to learn techniques, tools & design ideas to: mimic nature to design solutions unique to our Central Texas climate, water, soil, vegetation, and gardening; capture and effectively use and re-use water; build an herb spiral; plan a more edible landscape; install ponds; use natural & green building to deal with heat; read a landscape to determine optimum placement of design elements, maximize food output from compact growing areas, design homes and landscapes that serve people, attract wildlife and create restorative habitat; ; and implement landscapes that takes care of themselves

Tuition for this weeklong course which includes delicious organic vegetarian food and camping is \$600. The site is equipped with a pool, jacuzzi and picturesque walking trails. Incentives for multiple registrations and referrals are available. Registration deadline: March 1, 2004. A \$50 late fee will be assessed after that. For free intro classes and more information contact Selwyn Polit at 512-926-7876 or email at selwyn@austintx.com Visit <http://www.austinprogressivecalendar.com> (click on Permaculture) for more information. *

Volunteers Sought for Austin Farmers' Market

The Austin Farmers' Market, a project of the nonprofit Sustainable Food Center (SFC), is seeking volunteers to implement the market's various educational and informational programs. Activities for visitors include chefs' demonstrations, farmer produce tastings, monthly festival events around food, children's activities, and more. Volunteers may look on the market website, www.austinfarmersmarket.org for volunteer descriptions. Interested volunteers should call the Sustainable Food Center at 236-0074 for Suzanne or Madeline. A volunteer orientation will be held March 15, at 6 p.m. at Republic Square Park. The Austin Farmers' Market is held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., from March 20 through December 18, 2004. It is located at 4th and Guadalupe. *

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/>

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