

Sustainable Building Coalition

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

Next Meeting:
Wednesday
October 27, 2004
7:00 pm
Casa de Luz
1701 Toomey Road



September 2004

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

Volume 11, Issue 5

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- Sept. 28 Member Meeting
Postponed until October
- Oct. 27th Member Meeting
- Renewable Energy Roundup
in Fredericksburg
- SBC Membership Drive
- Local & National News

Announcements:

* Deadline for articles and events for the next newsletter is October 15. Email to Chris at cdgaines@yahoo.com

* Check out the calendar on the website for upcoming workshops and events!!

Upcoming Events:

- Tomko Home Volunteer Opportunities
- Renewable Energy Roundup (9/24 – 9/26/04)
- Town & Country 8th Annual Homes Tours (9/18 - 9/19/04)
- Green Building/Hybrid Source Expo & Workshop (10/1 – 10/2/04)

Website Resources:

www.greenbuilder.com/sbc

www.theroundup.org

www.aiasa.org/main-index.htm

www.greenconnexion.com

SBC September Meeting postponed until October

By Katie Jensen

As you may have noticed, the end of September is exceptionally busy with the Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair taking place during the last weekend (September 24-26) of the month! SBC is planning on participating at the Roundup in several capacities. At our booth, visitors will learn more about natural building opportunities, be able to purchase books, and learn about upcoming natural building events and workshops. Also, visit the demonstration area to get your hands dirty (or watch others get theirs dirty) working with natural building materials. Join a chat room discussion led by SBC members to learn from owner/builders who have built their own home.

Since there is so much happening during the last weekend of September, we have decided to post-pone our usual member meeting until the 4th Wednesday in October. We look forward to seeing you at the Roundup and again at the next member meeting on October 27 at 7 pm in the Cielo Room at Casa de Luz. *

October 27th meeting: Wall Systems Roundtable

By Gayle Borst

Much of a building's character, thermal comfort, aesthetics, maintainability and longevity are dictated by its wall system. A building with stud walls with batt insulation and Hardie siding behaves much differently than one constructed with rammed earth. The "best" wall system for a particular project is dictated by many things: climate, site conditions, intended building use and configuration, available local materials, embodied energy and health-related properties of the components, cost and desired aesthetics.

Our SBC roundtable discussion will feature several local experts who will introduce various "green" wall systems and answer questions about the many wall systems for sustainable buildings. We will talk about thermal mass and thermal resistance, cavity walls versus solid walls, maintenance and longevity, environmental and health aspects, builder availability, costs, and aesthetics.

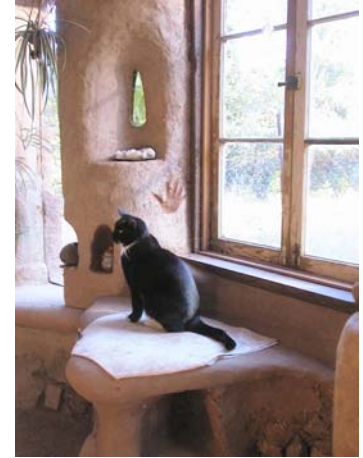
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In Remembrance

In honor of our longtime business member, Mr. Stewart Butler (Woodsmith Builders), passed away last month. He was the pioneer in doing the first 'green remodeling' job here in Austin as part of the Austin Energy Green Building Program. His spirit will be greatly missed in our community, professionally and personally, for the many things he did to better our Mother Earth. Our hearts go out to his wife and two children. There is a memorial fund set up to help with the medical costs that were incurred from his liver transplant. Please call me for details, Frieda @ 490-8797, if you care to contribute. Thank you. *

October 27th meeting: [Continued]

Among the systems that will be discussed are: straw bale, rammed earth, compressed earth blocks (CEB), cob, light clay, Faswall, autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC), structural insulated panels (SIPs), and insulated concrete forms (ICFs). While some wall systems are "greener" and/or "better" than others (and opinions vary!), we hope to provide those in attendance with an understanding of the broad range of selection considerations as well as many specifics about the various systems. *



5th Annual Renewable Energy Roundup



Come out to the 5th Annual Renewable Energy Roundup & Green Living Fair in Fredericksburg happening September 24-26, 2004.

There will be exhibits, talks, and workshops on the following topics:
Solar - Wind - Water Use & Reuse - Energy Conservation - Rainwater Harvesting - Green & Sustainable Building - Organic Growing - Alternative Transportation - Straw Bale Construction

And from Yvonne Hansen, our own ClipBoard Lady:

Booth making and finger-food nibbling

When: September 15, 6:00 pm

Where: At Yvonne Hansen's house @ 2310 West Oak Drive - 2+ blocks South of Barton Skyway, Right turn off S. Lamar, 4th house on right

So, this is what we need to do:

- Complete the shelves to display our books
- Reinforce the "ladder-like supports" that hold the shelving
- Devise way to display our printed materials
- Decide how to display our members' business cards and literature
- Mount recent photos
- Design and paint informational "posters" telling visitors (and the rest of us) what's going on, and where, of interest
- Assemble materials, tools, and supplies for handy access
- Determine who will haul what and at what time we'll arrive
- Develop volunteer schedule at our booth and talk about what to discuss with Roundup attendees

I'll provide edibles and drinkables. Call me @ 693-0293 if you have questions, or whatever. I'll try to have the tasks and materials organized so we can do good work, and have fun, too! *

Join Now! Become a Member! Join Now!

Over the past few years, SBC has been evolving and gaining more speed in the Central Texas natural building arena. Changes, including the rejoining of the Straw Bale Association of Texas, mean that now is a great time to join (or renew your membership with) this growing organization. Membership is available at both an individual and business level.

Individual membership allows individuals these benefits:

- Announcements about upcoming SBC-sponsored events and tours
- Regular newsletter delivered directly to your in-box or mailbox
- Member discount on SBC-sponsored workshops
- Member discount on books and resources sold by SBC
- Advanced notice of SBC-sponsored workshops that will accept a limited number of participants
- Guilt-free meetings

Business membership allows the employees of member companies these benefits:

- All full membership benefits
- Name listed in the Austin Environmental Directory
- Link to your business' web site on the SBC web site
- Your business cards may be available at the SBC booth during trade shows and at meetings

Annual membership fees are:

Individual Member w/ email newsletter	\$15
Individual Member w/ paper newsletter	\$25
Business Membership w/ paper newsletter	\$35

By joining now, we'll throw in three months FREE, meaning your membership will be good through December 2005!

Business members join by September 17 to be able to have business cards at the SBC booth at the Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair in Fredericksburg. Join by October 15 to get your business listed in our advertisement in the next edition of the Austin Environmental Directory. *

Local News

Please check out the SBC website (www.greenbuilder.com/sbc/events) for additional information and a full calendar of events. On the calendar, you will find descriptions for the following workshops, volunteer opportunities, and other events.

September 18 & 19, 2004: Town & Country 8th Annual Homes Tours

This event will showcase 12 private residences designed by AIA member architects. The home tours will kick off on the morning of Saturday, September 18 at 10:00AM at the San Antonio Country Club with a brunch and talk by Russell Versaci. Tickets for this event are \$25.00 per person. For more information visit <http://www.aiasa.org/main-index.htm> or contact AIA San Antonio at 210-226-4979.

October 1 & 2, 2004: Green Building/Hybrid Source Expo & Workshop

Aiming for energy independence at home and on the road is the goal of the Fifth Green Building/Hybrid Source Expo & Workshop in the Gallery Exhibit Hall of the H. B. Gonzales Convention Center, on Alamo and Market Streets, in San Antonio, Texas. The event will feature exhibits and demonstrations of the latest green products, energy systems and hybrid technology with sixteen (16) free AIA-Certified continuing education classes. Products will be equated with energy-saving dollars and corresponding LEED credits. Hours are Friday, October 1, 2pm to 7pm; Saturday, October 2, 10am to 7pm. Admission is \$5; Seniors, \$3. For information: www.greenconnexion.com or call (210) 212.8031. *

New Green Building Materials Store Opening

Central Texas is about to have another store from which they can purchase green building materials. Doors open October 1, 2004, at EnvironmentalDepot, a new green building and home improvement supply center located between Austin and Dripping Springs.

Owners and operators Alyssa and Jon Alvord have been working for many, many months selecting products, training staff, and readying the building where they will sell healthier, environmentally friendly, sustainable, hypoallergenic and less- or non-toxic products. Among the items they will offer starting in October are: paints, caulk, grout, sealers, stains, carpeting & flooring, adhesives, and insulation. FSC-certified lumber and wood products, which should be in stock in 6 months, can be special ordered at this time.

We are pleased to have EnvironmentalDepot as a new SBC business member, joining long-time business member EcoWise (still at 110 West Elizabeth, 326-4474) in the green retailer category. Watch for EnvironmentalDepot's booth (and ours) at the upcoming Renewable Energy Roundup, September 24 through 26 in Fredericksburg. EnvironmentalDepot is located at 9914 Hwy 290 West, 3 miles west of the Y in Oak Hill and can be contacted at 512-288-6161. *

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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