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DESIGN~BUILD~LIVE

The eNewsletter of Design~Build~Live, formerly Sustainable Building Coalition

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**Sustainable Tip of the Month
Get Composting!**

It's Spring and there is an abundance of fallen leaves, grass clippings and pulled weeds to start or add to a compost pile. It's easy to do and offers rich rewards. Check out the Rodale website for a variety of composting articles, including "Composting 101":

<http://tinyurl.com/2q6639>.

Short on space? Try trench composting: <http://tinyurl.com/3dvspg>.

April 18 Monthly Meeting:

**Windows: Service and Delight
How to Get Desirable Light and Fresh Air in Our Hot Climate**
by Gayle Borst, RA, LEED AP

How wonderful windows are! They allow us to be comfortable observers of Mother Nature's ever-changing temperament, serve as adjustable conduits for inviting in desired freshness and scent, and deliver the sun's natural glow to dance on our walls, floor and faces. And windows come in an infinite array of sizes, shapes, colors, and configurations to fit all needs and desires for delight. They bring life to the interiors of our homes by revealing the dynamic sun, skies and moon. Through their transparency, translucency, and/or moveability, windows provide us with a multiplicity of functions.


This month's presentation will explore how to take advantage of these special qualities of windows, in ways that work with our Central Texas climate. We will start with a discussion of the various operation styles of windows and associated design and function implications. Then we will explore strategies for natural light and ventilation that not only deliver beautiful daylight and fresh air, but do so in delightful ways that make our Texas summers less invasive. Interwoven throughout our discussion will be consideration of how the manner in which we let in light and air through our windows can also bring great delight and connectedness.

Our presenter will be architect, natural builder and DBL Executive Director Gayle Borst. With over 25 years of education and experience in energy efficient and sustainable design and consulting, Gayle works to bring sustainability of the human spirit into the equation.

DBL meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month (except December) at 7:00 p.m. at the Casa de Luz complex, 1701 Toomey Road, upstairs in the Cielo Room. You are welcome to join us before the meeting at 6:00 p.m. for a wonderful family-style macrobiotic meal (approx. \$8-\$12 including drinks and tip) in the Casa de Luz restaurant, www.casadeluz.org.



Resources: Windows, Kitchens, and More

 **Gayle Borst**, who is giving this month's presentation about **windows**, suggests the following excellent resources:


Good House Parts by Dennis Wedlick. Chapter 2, "The Style of the Openings, offers some good design guidance about window size, type, shape and arrangement.

The New Natural House Book by David Pearson. Countless seductive photos from around the world illustrating what can be done with windows and daylight.

Natural Remodeling for the Not-So-Green House by Carol Venolia and Kelly Lerner. An incredible new book! Chapter 3, "The Sun: Light for Life", and Chapter 4, "Air: The Breath of Vitality", are full of wonderful illustrations, descriptions and photos to instruct and inspire about windows, light and air.

Passive Solar Design. The Green Building Program's website on passive solar design gives some region-specific information on shading of windows. <http://tinyurl.com/r45sv>



 Here are some additional web resources suggested by **Leslie Reilly**, who gave our March 2007 presentation on **Kitchens and Gardens**:

On **Gardening**: www.steinercollege.edu/biodynamics.html.

A **Permaculture Credit Union**: www.pcuonline.org

Commercial scale organic and sustainable farming: www.acresusa.com

Gardening Supplies: www.gardners.com

"**Free Information for Life**": www.weblife.org

Local Permaculture: www.austinprogressivecalendar.com/permaculture.htm

Some opinions about **microwave ovens**: www.mercola.com/article/microwave/hazards.htm.



The Green Guide Acquired by National Geographic: Acquisition enhances National Geographic's environmental coverage.

As part of its ongoing mission to inspire people to care about the planet, National Geographic recently acquired *The Green Guide*, a comprehensive website (www.thegreenguide.com) and bi-monthly newsletter that offers practical advice for people on how to lead a more environmentally sensitive life. *The Green Guide* was taken on as National Geographic expands its efforts to provide the public with meaningful content and valuable information related to the environment. From the National Geographic Channel to *National Geographic* magazine to www.Nationalgeographic.com, the Society will speak with one voice around the world on urgent environmental issues, especially climate change and global warming. "We want to offer creative and practical ways to protect the planet," said a National Geographic official. "This is a terrific marriage that joins The Green Guide's actionable editorial with the deep resources of National Geographic. We believe that, together, we can help make a difference."

Overheard on the web (by the newsletter editor):

"Hello. I have started **Austin Living Green Group** at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austin_living_green. Focus is on how we are living green in the Austin Texas Area. This group is for people who are living green or interested in it. Being Environmental Friendly. How are you living green? What are your tips? Where in Austin area can you buy green products? What you recycle and how? What is your favorite green magazines, online magazines, and web pages? I would hope this group will help us be a little more green each day."—Christine



This innovative program will allow you to carpool, take the bus, or bike to work without losing the convenience of having a car on hand when you need it. Carsharing is a membership-based service that gives you access to cars and trucks by the hour and by the mile. To use a vehicle, go online to reserve your car, open the car with your electronic key, and drive off. When you are done, return the car and lock it. No lines, no paperwork. Austin CarShare is bringing these services to Austin starting in the downtown and UT campus areas. Check out Austin CarShare today at www.austincarshare.org or call 448-4477.

A Morning in the Country by Yvonne Hansen and Effie Brunson

On Saturday, March 31, four of us from Design~Build~Live drove to Blackwood Educational Land Institute in Hempstead, Texas. We were among about 75 eager and interested people who attended this significant event to learn more about how our environment is likely to change in the near future, and what we can do to make a difference.

Contact BELI (www.blackwoodland.org) for the next scheduled event and you, too, can take this trip, hear information about the nature and extent of changes in Texas due to human-caused global warming and carbon dioxide, and hear good news about high performance "green" schools told by Bill Hartwell, a NASA engineer—and a father.

The setting for the talks was 14 acres of land developed based on the permaculture principles of ideal siting, food cultivation, and natural building. In this case, the building was a 2-story load-bearing straw bale structure, complete with a rain water harvesting system and deep overhangs for passive cooling.

We heard LaVerne Williams, a Houston-based architect, speak to the issues of global climate change, glacial ice melts, and shifts in animal migration due to changing habitat. By pointing to buildings as one of the main causes of global warming through their emissions and energy use, he also offered a message of hope, and a call to action. The accompanying slide show quantified the information he shared with charts and diagrams and provided visual confirmation. LaVerne pointed out how climate change is already affecting us locally, and how it will affect future generations more severely.

Bill Hartwell took this idea further by specifically pointing out the construction standards, based on the US Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system, that some school districts are adopting. By choosing to build high performance school buildings, these communities are seeing both fiscal and health benefits in decreased student absenteeism, improved tests scores, reduced teacher turnover, and lower utility and maintenance costs.

Bill described high performance schools as those built with adequate ventilation for improved indoor air quality, plenty of natural light, and designed to not only cut energy costs, but to limit acoustical distractions for the occupants. One result of these improvements, which cost on average 1% - 2% more than conventionally-built schools, was a happier and healthier student body, more able to concentrate on

the task of learning. Teacher sick days and turnover were also reduced, saving the school system the cost to replace and train valuable employees. Lower energy bills for the school benefit the entire community through lower taxes and reduced utility rates in general, which makes up for the added up-front costs of building green many times over.

With so much overwhelmingly positive data in support of making the choice to build all new schools green, it is hard to understand why anyone would choose not to. Bill pointed out the importance of knowing one's audience when speaking about these issues to influential decision-makers, as their motives will likely be different depending on their position. For example, politicians and tax payers may want information on costs, while parent groups may be more interested in the health benefits to the student and improved test scores would be a priority to the school board.



What we found of great value was the message that there is hope. We still have time to make a difference if we all pull together and take action. The next decade will be a time of substantial change and innovation, and we all have a chance to play a part, no matter how seemingly small. We also gained insight on what other parts of Texas, Houston in particular, are doing to be a part of this change.

Between the two speaking events, we were treated to a tour of the garden and herb spiral by one of Blackwood's original visionaries, who described some of the lessons learned in transforming the land into the bountiful wonderland it is today.

The Blackwood Land Institute was first envisioned by its creator, Cath Conlon, then a building contractor and therapist, in 1990. Through her tireless efforts to restore the natural integrity of the neglected land, it became the rich inspiration it is today. Cath based the design and function of the Institute on four pillars: environment, social justice, health and well-being, and spirit. This is a trip worth taking to see how a site with poor soil and a dismal future was transformed based on permaculture principles and the ideals of its caretakers.

A last-minute announcement from Yvonne, which really belongs in Local Events, but that page is full!

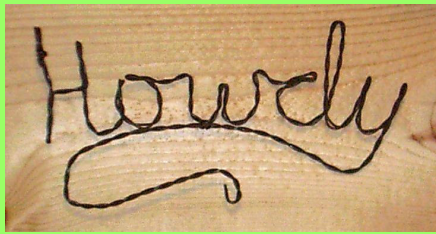
NEW BRAUNFELS Earth Day Festival April 22nd, 1:00-5:00 p.m., Comal County Fairgrounds

A family event, free of charge. Music, games, earth-friendly how-to's, and more! For exhibitors: There is no booth fee. Set up will be from 11:00-1:00, the event will be from 1:00-5:00, and clean up following.

For more information, email ppebsworth@mac.com.

DBL will have a booth at this Festival!

To volunteer, contact The Clipboard Lady, Yvonne, at 693-0293 or yhansen@austin.rr.com



Howdy Y'all!

Ever wonder what to do with some of those best FAVORITES and BOOKMARKS you've collected for years ?

Share 'em! Especially if they deserve a good, quick review we can send out to other "choir members." Welcome to this interactive column presented in our DBL eNewsletter.

—Ken McKenzie-Grant

Reviews: Links and Blogs by Ken McKenzie-Grant



Highest Recommendation!



Very Highly Recommended



Definitely Recommended

I am looking for a few new REVIEWS and LINKS to Green blogs and web sites that YOU have found that might just contribute to the type of lifestyle options we strive to create on our paths to a more sustainable future. If you email me soon, maybe you'll get the jump on our green webmasters Bill and Jeanine Christensen. I'll bet they are going to be contenders for the longest list of "Sustainable" Web Links in our part of the universe.



<http://www.gaiam.com/realgoods/>

I might be stating the obvious again this month with a website that Everyone already knows about, but just in case...it seems like forever that Real Goods and the Solar Living Institute have been The "InterWeb" source for renewable energy products and information. I met founder John Schaefer years ago at one of our local editions of the National Tour of Solar Homes, and I was quickly impressed by his comprehensive and earthy approach to supplying and supporting the ever-growing number of folks seeking (varying degrees of) independence from America's modern-day "grid."

This is definitely a MEGA-Site, so set aside a big chunk—or a series of many little chunks—of Time to shop their online catalog. Incidentally, I searched for the smaller Colorado version of California's Real Goods (Jade Mountain) to also point you that way, but browsers brought me back. I guess they been bought out or absorbed... Can somebody confirm this?



<http://www.austinGreenArt.org/>

If you're looking to get out and have creative fun (especially this Spring) ...boy have I got a busy group for you! Although they've only been around a couple of years, Austin GREEN ART has really made an impact on area residents of All ages. Director Randy Jewart and a growing core of volunteers continue to come up with these amazing Visual creations that inspire and educate us while broadening and deepening our sense of community. Kind of like most natural-building workshops! You don't have to

be an "Artist" or an "Environmentalist" to appreciate their works, either: many are documented for posterity on the website. Projects often take on the limited life-spans one might expect when handmade art is created using natural or found materials. You'll love this stuff.

If you, too, are further inspired and inclined, investigate a major artist's work I was FLOORED to discover when AGA got started: do a web-search for "Andy Goldsworthy," or click directly on <http://tinyurl.com/8nzdd> for an astounding Portfolio of his photographic images. A thousand Thanks to you, Randy!



<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/>

"We do not need to invent sustainable human communities. The processes and patterns by which ecosystems sustain themselves have evolved over billions of years. Designing human communities that are compatible with nature's processes requires basic ecological knowledge, which is one of the key components of ecological literacy."—Center co-Founder Fritjof Capra (author, The Tao of Physics and The Turning Point)

Thanks again to DBL's own Yvonne Hansen for sharing this non-profit organization and their web URL from her Clipboard! If you're concerned about the quality of food children receive in schools (or anywhere, for that matter) there are several useful PDF downloads on the Center's entrance page, alone. Among their primary interests is the depth of perspective provided for children to relate to the natural world in a variety of ways. Excellent resource list here, too! I'd like to think we could regionally develop a Central Texas DBL network here in a manner similar to what these illustrious Bay Area activists have done along the West Coast. We seem to have a green "Austin leg up" on most cities across the nation when it comes to "EcoLiteracy," but I'm sure you agree there's a world of work yet to be done.

Contact Ken McKenzie-Grant at kmckenzie3@austin.rr.com

Local Workshops

Texas A&M University workshops to help private companies, government and nonprofit organizations save money in today's volatile energy markets will be held in April in Austin and Houston.

Workshop dates and locations are: **Wednesday, April 11** from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Commons Conference Center, J. J. Pickle Research Campus of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas and **Wednesday, April 25** from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

Titled "**Cutting Energy Bills in Texas: Developing an Energy Risk Management Strategy**," the workshops are sponsored by the office of Austin Mayor Will Wynn, the Austin electric utility—Austin Energy, and the office of Houston Mayor Bill White. Registration cost is \$95.00. The fee covers the workshop, lunch and workshop materials. Additional details and registration are available online at <http://archone.tamu.edu/conted/>. Related workshop information can be found at <http://cuttingenergybills.com>.

Workshops show attendees **how to address financial risks and rewards associated with energy efficiency and pricing choices using a risk management process called Energy Budgets at Risk (EBaR)[™]**. EBaR evaluates energy cost saving options providing a strategy that recognizes each organization's budget flexibility and risk tolerance.

For further information contact: Jerry Jackson, Ph.D., College of Architecture,
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
979-845-2532
Email: jerryjackson@tamu.edu



R.U.S.T. Radical Urban Sustainability Training **Creating autonomous communities** **with the tools of permaculture and social activism** **An intensive seminar in urban ecological survival skills** **April 14-15, 2007,** **300 Allen St., Austin 78702**

RUST is an intensive weekend workshop focused on skills related to building autonomous communities in today's cities. We will share the cumulative knowledge gained from the past seven years of building the Rhizome Collective, an urban sustainability and community organizing project based in Austin, Texas. The training will have both hands-on and lecture/discussion components. The interrelatedness of sustainability and struggles for social justice will be emphasized. The many innovative sustainability features on display at the Rhizome Collective will be used as teaching tools. (To see pictures of some of these systems, take the virtual tour)

The class will be split between two locations: the Rhizome Collective Warehouse and Grove Brownfield. Morning classes and all meals will be held at the Rhizome Collective Warehouse. Each day after lunch, we will relocate the class to our brownfield property,

where we will spend the afternoon engaged in hands-on activities. For a detailed list of topics and hands-on demonstrations, please visit our web site at <http://www.rhizomecollective.org/rust.html>.

Cost: \$150 to \$350, sliding scale (pay what you can within this range). **The cost includes meals for both days and camping.** Please contact us if you are interested in applying for a scholarship or work trade position. All applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Instructors:

Scott Kellogg is a co-founder of the Rhizome Collective and has served as the director of its sustainability program for the past five years. He has extensive experience designing and building sustainable systems, including constructed wetlands, aquaculture ponds, biogas and biofuel operations, windmills, passive solar devices, micro-livestock systems and many others. He has taught numerous workshops and multi-part permaculture courses in locations as diverse as Philadelphia and East Timor. In addition, Scott has participated in numerous campaigns for social justice over the years.

Stacy Pettigrew is a cofounder of the Rhizome Collective. She has participated in the construction of sustainable systems and organizational infrastructure. Stacy is also a journalist and producer with WINGS: The Women's International News Gathering Service.

For more information and to register for R.U.S.T., visit <http://www.rhizomecollective.org/rust.html>



Local Workshops

Earthen Plaster Workday, Saturday, April 14, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Jennifer Fruth of Lockhart, Texas, is opening up her beautiful "almost finished" cob home for a day of natural building community and mud plastering. We will be applying a cream colored first coat of mud plaster directly onto the brown earthen walls of the kitchen and living areas. This is such satisfying work! Take a break from your tax-prep and join us in the fun. Kindra Welch, www.claysandstraw.com.

RSVP and get directions from Jennifer Fruth at: jennifer_fruth@hotmail.com

Where on Earth are we going? A Symposium on Sustainability Saturday, April 28, 2007; 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost: \$30, including lunch

This symposium will explore the link between three of humanity's most critical concerns: environmental sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfillment. The event, presented by Pachamama Alliance (www.pachamama.org), will be held at the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church at 3315 El Salido Parkway in northwest Austin. To register or for more information, contact Ingrid Martine at 254-932-6745, coachmartine@gmail.com.



Yurt-Building Workshop and Camp-Out Sunday, April 29–Tuesday, May 8, 2007



Learn the essentials of building a quick, strong shelter or dwelling. Join the fun of prefabricating two (2) Yurts in Austin and assembling them in the campground at scenic Rancho Richey Refuge, 60 miles south near Gonzales. Registration includes seminars, camping space, and catered and shared meals. Participants gain free future camping coupons, as well. Designer W. S. Coperthwaite from the Yurt Foundation in Bucks Harbor, Maine, will direct the project. He's built more than 300 Yurts worldwide, including ones in South Austin and at Mo Ranch and St. Stephen's School. The workshop will be held at the **Austin and Rancho Richey Refuge in Belmont, Texas**. The cost of the workshop is \$325.

Call Howie Richey to register (512) 928-8485

Green By Design Workshop Saturday, May 12, 2007 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Commons Center on the J.J. Pickle Research Campus at 10100 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78758

Austinites preparing to build, buy or remodel a home can learn how to improve energy and water efficiency, increase comfort and reduce maintenance. This workshop will give you an overview of the green building process. The Green Building Program's 1-day Green by Design Workshop is held four times per year.

The workshop is offered at the low price of **\$35.00 per person**, which includes:

- a full day of instruction with the Green Building Program staff
- a comprehensive workbook, Green By Design
- free advice from local green building professionals
- continental breakfast, lunch, and break refreshments
- a chance to win cool door prizes from local green businesses

Instructors are staff members of Austin Energy's Green Building Program. They are design, building, engineering, and landscape professionals with many years of experience in homebuilding and remodeling.

To register for the next workshop, print the Registration Form (PDF) posted at <http://tinyurl.com/2h3abt> and fax to (512) 482-5441; or e-mail toye.goodson@austinenergy.com to register.

Register soon because these workshops fill up early. There is no registration at the door.

For additional details visit the workshop page at www.austinenergy.com, <http://tinyurl.com/yq865q>

Lunch and breaks during Green by Design are sponsored by Green Building Program members: Escarpment Construction ♦ Green Zone Home ♦ Meridian Energy Systems ♦ Solluna Builders.

—Excerpted from the Austin Green Building Program eNewsletter

Local Workshops



Austin Energy and the Clean Energy Incubator cordially invite you to participate in the first annual Clean Energy Venture Summit, May 14-16 in Austin, Texas.

The Summit is designed to promote "The Utility of the Future" by connecting thought leaders, clean energy entrepreneurs, investors, industry experts and government officials through keynote addresses, discussion panels and insider looks at emerging technologies in the following areas:

- Green Building: energy efficiency and generation
- Clean Transportation: plugging into the grid
- Smart Grid: energy management infrastructure

Formal programming and scheduled networking sessions will give participants the opportunity to explore exciting new ideas, interact with industry professionals, investigate funding sources and evaluate investment opportunities. Attendees will play a foundational role in the advancement of clean energy technologies and markets that will evolve to build the utility of the future. Register online at www.CleanEnergyVentureSummit.com

Early-stage companies are encouraged to present their clean energy business plans to a distinguished panel of judges including potential investors, the Clean Energy Incubator, Austin Energy and other industry insiders. Entries will be evaluated on innovation, overall market opportunity, stage of development, IP position, in-place resources, capital requirements, environmental impact and potential return on investment (ROI).

Leading innovators will be recognized and could receive a full range of incubation support and consulting services, including office space for one year. All entrants will benefit from invaluable exposure, insider guidance, expert mentoring and networking with renewable energy professionals during the presentation preparation process. Apply online to present at www.CleanEnergyVentureSummit.com

Plan now to join Austin Energy and the Clean Energy Incubator at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Austin, Texas for this blockbuster three-day event. We look forward to your participation!

For more information, please contact: Kurt Faulhaber, Summit Organizer at 512-305-0050 or by email at CleanEnergyVentureSummit@ati.utexas.edu.

Natural Building Colloquium

**October 19-28, 2007
Kerrville, Texas**

Natural building and permaculture are coming to Quiet Valley Ranch, central Texas, home of the long-running, world-famous Kerrville Folk Festival. This ten-day event will offer hands-on natural building seminars, talks from leading natural builders, architects, experts and teachers. Subject matter for presentations and hands-on workshops include: straw-bale, cob, plasters, floors, natural building philosophy, permaculture, owner-builder experience, codes and more!

For more information: <http://www.naturalbuildingtexas.org>. Check back once a month or so as details are added.



*figure 1.
a natural building*

Local Events



Step It Up Central Texas—National Day of Climate Action

April 14, 2007 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.

Texas Capitol, Austin

On April 14, tens of thousands of Americans will gather all across the country at meaningful, iconic places to call for action on climate change. Join the US Green Building Council Central Texas Balcones chapter at the Texas State Capitol from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and help us encourage Congress to Step It Up! We are asking them to enact immediate cuts in carbon emissions, and pledge an 80% reduction by 2050. No half measures, no easy compromises—the time has come to take the real actions that can stabilize our climate. As people gather, pictures of the protests will be linked together electronically via the web—before the weekend is out, we'll have the largest protest the country has ever seen, not in numbers but in extent. From every corner of the nation we'll start to shake things up. Join Us!

For more information: <http://events.stepitup2007.org/events/show/921>

Third Coast Film Night, "Our Daily Bread"

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 7:00 p.m.

"Our Daily Bread" reveals the little-known world of high-tech agriculture. In a series of visually stunning, continuously tracking, wide-screen images that seem right out of a science-fiction movie, we see the places where food is cultivated and processed: surreal landscapes optimized for agricultural machinery, clean rooms in cool industrial buildings designed for maximum efficiency, and elaborate machines that operate on a 'disassembly line' basis. The screening will take place at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Downtown, 4th and Colorado. Tickets cost \$7.00 general / \$5.50 student, senior and are available at the event or online at draffhouse.com.

Austin Food Not Bombs East & West

Food Not Bombs is an all volunteer group with no formal leaders that recovers food that would otherwise be discarded and makes fresh, hot vegan meals that are served to anyone without restriction. We hope you will join us in taking direct action towards creating a better world free from domination, coercion, and violence. Email us at austinfoodnotbombs@yahoo.com or visit us online at www.myspace.com/austinfoodnotbombs

East—**Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.** next to Treasure City Thrift (near 12th & Chicon)

West—**Sundays and Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.** at Woolridge Park (Guadalupe & 9th Street in the white gazebo)

UPCOMING AUSTIN PROGRESSIVE POTLUCKERS EVENT: RESULTS

Friday, April 20, 2007 7:00—9:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church Family Life Center

Northwest corner of Lavaca St. and 13th St., Austin

The Austin RESULTS group invites us to come and learn how they are powering a movement to end hunger in the world and USA. Ordinary citizens can become effective lobbyists, helping to shape the policies of governments and global financial institutions. Whether your passion is to feed the hungry or not, you may be surprised to hear how this small grassroots outfit can actually get Congress to listen.

For information about RESULTS in Texas visit: <http://home.austin.rr.com/resultstexas>.

The national organization website is: www.results.org

PLEASE BRING a dish to share with 6-8 hungry people. There are no food restrictions but please note that there are NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES allowed. Our hosts will have water available to drink, but you're welcome to bring other (non-alcoholic) beverages. PLEASE NOTE that you also need to bring your own plates, cups and eating utensils.

For more information about Austin Progressive Potluckers, and to sign up for email notices of upcoming potlucks, please visit <http://www.austinprogressivecalendar.com/potluck.htm>

Austin Green Art Presents

2nd Annual Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 21, 2007

Republic Square Park (4th and Guadalupe in downtown Austin)

For more information: www.austingreenart.org

Contact: Randy Jewart Email: randy@austingreenart.org Telephone: 512 743 4245



Workshops in Other Places



kleiwerks

We're rolling up our sleeves at the Asheville Institute
Work Days: Tuesdays through Saturdays, during April 2007
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Kleiwerks International's newest project and headquarters-to-be is right here in downtown Asheville, NC and we'd love community involvement in getting the building ready! The Asheville Institute (AVI) is an urban education center and living laboratory for sustainable solutions in action. We'll be demonstrating natural building, permaculture, and organic gardening; offering community meeting space, workshops, presentations and a library; housing for live-in staff and interns; and more.

For the next month or so, work days will include making and applying clay paint and earthen plasters, sanding and finishing floors, starting gardens, and more as we do the eco-remodel of AVI. (There will be no work days Friday, March 30 - Wednesday, April 4)

Looking ahead: Work is underway on the Asheville Building Convergence (ABC) 2008. Stay tuned for more news!

Asheville Institute (AVI) is a project of Kleiwerks International. Kleiwerks International promotes social transformation and ecological regeneration by leading hands-on trainings in natural building and whole-systems solutions that result in community-based sustainability centers.

For more information: <http://www.kleiwerks.org/>



Cob & Straw Bale Homebuilder Workshop May 12-19, 2007 near Shamrock, Oklahoma.

Sustainable Green Country, a nonprofit organization, in conjunction with Vernacular, LLC, is offering a week-long workshop in natural building featuring cob, straw bale, and natural plasters. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to experience and learn about natural building from start to finish including siting, design, foundation, wall construction, windows/doors, roof, plasters, arches, niches and relief sculpture. The workshop is being organized by Keeshi Ingram and Konstantin Popov and conducted by Kindra Welch and Chris Copp of ClaySandStraw (www.claysandstraw.com) and Frank Meyer (www.thangmaker.com) of Austin, Texas. With over 40 years combined experience in natural building, including projects featured in Natural Home and Southern Living magazines, these instructors are sure to educate as well as inspire.

The cost for the 7-day workshop is \$625 (\$575 early registration before March 31, 2007), and includes vegetarian meals, lectures, handouts and camping accommodations. There is a discount for couples. For details about the workshop visit www.SustainableGreenCountry.org/main/?p=29, email Info@SustainableGreenCountry.org, or call Konstantin Popov, in Tulsa, OK at (918) 289-3061.

Sustainable Green Country is a nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to the promotion of sustainability in northeastern Oklahoma. Vernacular, LLC is an Oklahoma-based company specializing in earth friendly building and design.

Contact: Konstantin Popov, 1527 S Trenton, Tulsa, OK 74120, (918) 289-3061, kipopov@gmail.com.



Light straw-clay events presented by Robert Laporte and/or Paula Baker-Laporte in **Santa Fe, NM**.

Contact: info@econest.com or www.econest.com. Robert Laporte conducts straw/clay (leichtlehmbau) and timber framing workshops of various durations. See stunning homes from "tiny" to normal size. No nails. Robert uses Japanese-style joinery and you will learn how to do this, too.

The Last Straw Journal lists diverse natural building workshops. Go to www.thelaststraw.org for complete information.

Barefoot Builder. Cob workshops. This site contains a link to a listing of workshops around the country. www.barefootbuilder.com

Kleiwerks is an international Natural Building nonprofit organization, teaching people how to build appropriately designed earth and straw shelters with affordable and indigenous materials. For more information about Kleiwerks visit www.kleiwerks.org/index.php

DESIGN~BUILD~LIVE

(Formerly Sustainable Building Coalition)

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DESIGN~BUILD~LIVE
a sustainable learning center

"Design~Build~Live 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."

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