



GREENBUILDING
INSTITUTE

June 1, 2007

Green Building Institute E-Newsletter

The crucial need for water efficiency

Upcoming Classes & Events

"Healthy Lawns, Clean Water" campaign

Featured Members

Green Roof Bus Tour photos



Green Roof Bus Tour group at Sidwell Friends School



Dear Lynn,

The crucial need for water efficiency

Q&A with Russ Horner, Water Management, Inc.

This month **Hannah Wood**, Executive Director of **The Green Building Institute**, spoke with Green Building Institute Business Member **Russ Horner** of Water Management, Inc. (WMI) about water, efficiency and the industry.

Hannah: How did you get into the water industry?

Russ: In the late 70's, we sold a line of high quality flow controls to hospitals and apartments. We guaranteed to our customers that their water and sewer bills would decrease significantly and that the ROI would be less than one year. After tracking usage for all of our customers, we realized that water and sewer consumption for 35-40% of our customers had actually increased.

Instead of returning the customers money, we provided a free water audit of the facilities and were able to determine that the increase in water use was the result of leaking and failing water fixtures. This discovery forced us to get involved in other water savings products and services.

In 1982, WMI began to provide our customers with Performance Contracts. We now specialize in long-term, performance contracting, where our compensation is often based solely on the savings we achieve. Because of this we are driven to be on the cutting edge of water efficiency technologies.

Hannah: What do you see happening in the water

At American Society of Landscape
Architects roof



Group at ASLA



At Casey Trees Roof - 1425 K St NW



Casey Trees

industry in response to the increased need in the upcoming years and decades?

Russ: Water is local. It requires a great deal of energy to move it from one place to the next (ie: moving water from Northern California to Southern California uses 8% of the total energy used by the State of California). Water costs are rising at an average rate of 6 - 8% annually and in many areas they have jumped as much as 100-400% in the last 10 years. Water Authorities are doing a good job developing Water Conservation Master Plans that take into consideration demographics and growth projections for the communities that they serve.

Numerous studies have shown that the lowest cost for finding additional sources of water is to implement conservation programs. Even the most expensive conservation programs cost significantly less than expanding plants, drilling more wells, or desalinating. As the need to save increases we will see an expansion of Performance Contracting and Demand Side Management (DSM) programs from the Water Authorities.

Hannah: What can homeowners and business owners do to curb their water usage?

Russ: To curb high water use it is very important to measure and track consumption on a regular basis (daily, if possible). Establish a water use index for the property. Understand what the normal level of usage should be for the property and if it is high, evaluate all facets of water use both inside and outside. Perform a complete water use analysis on the property. If all else fails, call WMI.

Hannah: What is a water audit? What does it entail?

Russ: The water audit process entails the following:

- Quantify all areas of water consumption. Start by locating and counting water using devices: Domestic fixtures (toilets, faucets etc.), cooling tower, pool, irrigation, laundry, water heaters, process cooling equipment, kitchen, ice and refrigeration units and any other water using equipment
- Create a "water balance"
- Review historical records
- Measure existing consumption (sampling)
- Develop targets for efficient consumption
- Develop cost estimates for installing new water efficiency measures



Walter Reed Community Center
(Arlington)

- Project water and sewer cost savings
- Provide a detailed analysis of measures with information on paybacks

Hannah: What are some appliances, fixtures or techniques that homeowners can use to maximize our water efficiency?

Russ: High efficiency toilets, clothes washers, dishwashers and irrigation controllers that utilize moisture sensors.

Hannah: How can folks learn more about what is going on in the water industry?

Russ: A great place to start would be the latest issue of [Home Energy](http://HomeEnergy.org) (Homeenergy.org) magazine entitled Water/Energy - Linking Efficiency Efforts. Another great location would be the [National Water Efficiency Alliance](http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org) (www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org) or the [California Urban Water Conservation Council](http://www.cuwcc.org) (www.cuwcc.org).

Thanks Russ!



Wetland Studies & Solutions
(Gainesville, VA)

Upcoming Classes & Events

Green Building Institute class titles in CAPS.

Saturday, June 2, 2007

9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[HOW TO BE GREEN](#)

- Efficient and healthy homes
- Solar hot water for your home
- Rainwater collection for garden use
- Solar electric for your home

@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

[More info & registration](#)

Saturday, June 2, 2007

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

[4th Annual Hike & Happy Hour](#)



Green roof plants at Wetland Studies

Join our mailing list!

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment
Explore the invasive plants of Teddy Roosevelt Island with Arlington County's Invasive Program Manager, Jan Ferrigan.
Rosslyn, VA

Sunday, June 3, 2007

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Fifth Annual Watershed Friendly Garden Tour](#)

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment
Tour 20 properties in Northern Virginia showcasing rain gardens, wildlife habitats, native plants, rain barrels and cisterns, swales, and more.
Download the self-guided tour guide on [ACE's website](#).

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[Green Building Network](#)

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LEED New Construction Technical Workshop
[USGBC Baltimore Regional Chapter](#)

Loyola College Graduate Center
Timonium, MD

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

7:00 p.m.

[The Chesapeake Bay: Past, Present & Future](#)

Northern Virginia Parks Authority
Alexandria Lyceum
201 S. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA
Please RSVP: (703) 528-5406

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

4:00 p.m.

Advocacy Committee Meeting
[USGBC Baltimore Regional Chapter](#)

JHU Eastern (Old Eastern High School)
Baltimore, MD
Contact: Nestor Arabejo
narabejo_usgcbalt@prodigy.net

Friday, June 8, 2007

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

[Working Together to Build Better Companies and Stronger Communities](#)

Strategies to accomplish organization and community sustainability goals
George Washington University
Marvin Center
800 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC

Saturday, June 9, 2007

RAINWATER CAR WASH - POSTPONED
Date: To be determined

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

[Second Annual Green Carpet Gathering](#)

DC Greenworks and
The American Society of Landscape Architects
1425 K Street NW
Washington, DC

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

6:00 p.m.-8 p.m.

[Green Roofs and Facades](#)

USGBC National Capitol Region
@ Resources for the Future
1616 P Street NW
Washington, DC

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Green Drinks with [Grist Goes to Washington](#)

2446 18th Street, NW
Washington, DC

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

[INTRO TO HOME ENERGY AUDITS](#)

- What can you do to increase energy efficiency without an audit?
- What do energy auditors do to evaluate your home?
- What are the steps you need to take prior to getting an energy audit? & much more

@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD
[More information & registration](#)

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

[Implementing the 2030 Challenge](#)

The Washington Chapter
American Institute of Architects

Ford House Office Building
2nd and D Street, SW
Washington, DC

Saturday, June 30, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Going Green Expo](#)-

Local Products and Services

Rockville Library

Rockville, MD

July 18-20, 2007

Implementing the 2030 Challenge

[DesignDC](#) presents:

- Elizabeth Floyd, "Beyond Kumbaya: Sustainable Design in Community Building"
- Kara Strong and Sandra Leibowitz Earley, "Greening Your Client: Developing Green Building Goals for Every Project".
- Sandra Leibowitz Earley with Timmons Group's Chris Earley: "Integrating Innovative Stormwater Management into Green Building Design and the LEED Rating System".

Ronald Reagan Building
and International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

[DON'T TREAT YOUR SOIL LIKE DIRT](#)

All about composting for your and your garden's health

- Why should I compost?
- How do I make a compost bin?
- How to make your own backyard compost and use it to feed your garden soil.
- How to brew your own horticultural compost tea. Prevent disease and pests on both outdoor and indoor plants.
- What goes and doesn't go into the compost bin?
- How to build and utilize raised bed gardens. It's not too late to grow your own summer and fall vegetables!

The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

[More information & registration](#)

Monday - Thursday, September 24-27, 2007

[Solar Power 2007](#)

Long Beach, CA

Saturday - Sunday, October 6-7, 2007

[D.C. Green Festival](#)

Washington D.C. Convention Center
801 Mount Vernon Place, NW
Washington, DC

October 12-20, 2007

[2007 Solar Decathlon](#)

National Mall
Washington DC
Check out the University of Maryland
entry [Leaf House](#).

December 10-13, 2007

[Ecobuild America](#)

Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC

April 30 - May 2, 2008

[6th Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable
Communities Conference](#)

Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, MD

Green Building Institute

"Healthy Lawns, Clean Water" campaign
*Lawn care practices and their affect on the
Chesapeake Bay's water quality*

Healthy Lawns

A widely accepted fallacy is that stormwater is treated before entering waterways such as the Chesapeake Bay. However, a new campaign is underway titled, "Healthy Lawns, Clean Water" to educate homeowners on how their lawn care practices affect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The campaign is supported by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Mid-Atlantic Land Grant Universities Water Quality Consortium. The campaign promotes seven lawn care techniques that can help protect the Bay and improve the environment. The seven easy steps are:

1. If applying fertilizer in the spring, do so after

- the grass is actively growing.
2. Apply fertilizer at the spreader setting shown on the bag.
 3. Sweep fertilizer off hard surfaces to prevent it from entering storm sewers.
 4. Keep grass clippings, tree leaves and pet waste off hard surfaces to prevent them from entering the storm sewer.
 5. Mow at the highest lawn mower setting.
 6. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to improve its health and quality.
 7. Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn, for quickly improved vigor and a healthier, greener lawn next spring.

[More info](#)

Featured Members

Founding Member

The logo for ASG consists of the letters 'ASG' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The 'A' and 'S' are connected at the top, and the 'G' is slightly larger and positioned to the right.

Integrative Design
+ Development
Consultants
www.asgidel.com

[ASG®](#) is a group of Architects and Construction consultants who specialize in building analysis, forensic investigations, and Green building and both Residential (Multi-family) and Commercial LEED® projects.

Corporate Gold Member

The logo for Questar Community features a stylized, black, geometric design of three interlocking shapes forming a square-like pattern. Below this graphic, the text 'A QUESTAR COMMUNITY' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with 'A' in a smaller size than 'QUESTAR' and 'COMMUNITY'.

[Questar Properties](#)

With over 75 years of proven performance, Questar Properties is the mid-Atlantic region's leading developer of planned communities. Questar's vertically

integrated organization specializes in site acquisition, development, design, construction and management of institutional quality residential and commercial properties.

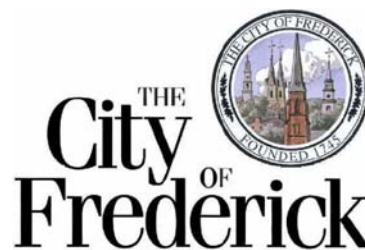
Business Members



[Citizens
National
Bank](#)

CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK

We're banking on you.



A leading national location for the bioscience industry and one of Maryland's largest cities, the [City of Frederick](#) offers history, culture and an excellent quality of life.

Meditch Murphey Architects

www.meditchmurphey.com

[Meditch Murphey Architects](#) Our practice has a passionate commitment to the disciplines of energy-

conscious design and aesthetics. We believe that, when thoughtfully combined, these principles sustain both the planet and the human spirit.



[Skarda and Associates](#)

provide a comprehensive structural consulting service for the evaluation, alteration, design, and construction of all types of

structures. Quality control and cost effectiveness are of particular importance throughout the job.



[Structural Systems, Inc.](#)

provides structural solutions to the residential and light commercial market through innovative products and services including FSC Certified building components, Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs), and much more.



WEST
PROPERTIES

[West Properties'](#) goal is produce the most high performance housing possible in the most ecological friendly way we can.



Since 1986, [Southland Insulators](#), an NAHB Certified Contractor, has become the Region's Largest Independent Insulation Contractor providing residential, commercial and retrofit insulation applications, including The Icyne

Insulation System®.

The Green Building Institute, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, educates the public and building & design professionals about sustainable building practices and technologies.

Sincerely,

Hannah C. Wood
Executive Director
Green Building Institute

email: info@greenbuildinginstitute.org
web: <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org>

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