



March 18, 2010

## Green Building Institute Newsletter

Join Our Mailing List!

Join GBI

Joining is easy - [just visit our website](#). A yearly membership is only \$50 for an individual or \$75 for a family of two - an outstanding value! Members not only receive discounts on all classes but also gain access to a network of leading thinkers and practitioners working to make the built environment enhance the natural environment.

### UPCOMING CLASSES

**Sunday March 21st, 1-3pm**

Environmental Landscaping  
Carroll Community College  
For more information and [to register click here](#)

**March 24th 7-9pm**

Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens  
Montgomery College  
Germantown,  
For more information and [to register click here](#)

### Cohousing - Growing Smart Communities

Our very own board president, Stan Sersen is one of the speakers at this Saturday's Cohousing: [Growing Smart Communities conference](#), which is being presented by the Mid-Atlantic Cohousing and the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. We asked Stan a few questions about co-housing.

*Can you explain what co-housing is and how it is different from multifamily housing?*

Cohousing is a type of collaborative housing in which residents actively participate in the design and operation of their own Neighborhoods.

*Why do you think there is a growing interest in co-housing?*

Because the future Owners and participants in the coHousing concept are committed from the beginning to work in a collaborative way for the betterment of the community and not just with their own needs and interests as the center of attention.

*What should people be aware of, if they are considering co-housing?*

That it is a very collaborative effort by all and that you are expected to be part of the community group when it comes to

**March 27th 9am**  
Green Home Series  
#1 - Project Overview

This series of classes is being held in a green home under construction in Arlington VA. For more information and [to register click here](#)

**March 31st 7-9pm**  
Home Energy Audits  
Montgomery College  
Germantown,  
For more information and [to register click here](#)

The Green Building Institute, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, educates the public, building and design professionals about sustainable building practices and technologies.



making the decisions and in implementing what the group decides to do. It is the democratic process on steroids. There is more importance on the whole and how it is to succeed versus focus on any one individual. ***Go to [www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org) for more information.***

Walk in registrations are available on Saturday.

## Class Spotlight

Environmental Landscaping  
Sunday March 21st, 1-3pm

Carroll Community College  
1601 Washington Road,  
Westminster MD  
Business Training Center Rm T317

Now is a good time to consider the landscaping around your home. Despite its beauty, not all landscaping lives in complete harmony with its environment. This class will explore the elements of landscape design that create both site enhancement and sustainability. Learn how to plan a design that works effectively with natural site layout and, at the same time, assists with the heating and cooling needs of the structure. Find out how to choose native plants that will be resistant to drought and disease. Get tips from experts in sustainable landscape on how to get started on your projects.

[To register click here](#)

## April GBN Meeting



Our April 6th meeting is sponsored by Baldwin Homes and will be held in a brand new green home in Gambrills, Maryland. Come and join us in the new "green" neighborhood.

Location Address:

Holladay Park Road  
(take Rt. 175 to Holladay Street  
and turn right onto Holladay Park

Road)  
Gambrills MD 21054

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