

Green Building Institute E-Newsletter

Innovations in Green Building: Skate Parks
Upcoming Classes & Events
Plants for Indoor Air Quality, St. Mary's College, Members page & Special thank you
Featured Members

Class Photos



Daylight Tube Installation Workshop

Dear Lynn,

Innovations in Green Building: Skate Parks



The East Coast Round Wall Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to skateboarding, scene-building, environmental concerns, arts,

education and outreach through action sports. It was originally developed by skaters in the Northern Virginia area who began building skate parks in their own backyards because of a lack of quality skateparks in the area. Over the years they expanded and now build on public lands using materials recycled from old skateboard ramps, burned down houses, and dumpsters in construction areas. Their first green project was the Green Skate Laboratory, a recycled skateboard park. Intern Emily Axelbaum spoke with Jon McLaren, an Assistant Director for Outdoor Recreation at the University of Maryland, and more interestingly a lifelong skateboarder and volunteer with the East Coast Round Wall Foundation.

How did the idea for Green Skate Lab come about?

Jon: Terri and Chris Nostrand, the East Coast Round Wall founders, came up with the idea in 2001. Terri is an environmental science teacher and Chris is a skilled craftsman. They thought a DIY (do-it-



Green Building Institute Executive Director, Hannah Wood, helps install a Daylight Tube



Rain Garden Workshop

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yourself) "green" skatepark would be an incredible project to start with.

Where did they learn how to implement green building practices in the construction?

Jon: Green Skate Lab started as a project for one of Terri's environmental education classes. Taking from green building designs used widely around the world, they decided to gather discarded tires from landfills, rivers, and the trash all over the city. About 5,000 tires were gathered and donated. From what we know it is the first skate park in the world built with recycled tires.

Can you explain a bit of the building process?

Jon: The tires were used as the foundation, building up to almost 9ft in some areas. Each tire was packed with donated fill dirt. Over the tires we built the forms for the concrete, tied in all the rebar, added 6 inches of gravel, and then poured 6 inches of concrete. We wrapped the perimeter of the park with old fencing and then shot it with a layer of concrete. It was all volunteer labor and took about 6 months to complete. It opened July of 2005. It is free and open to all during daylight hours.

Do you have any local upcoming projects?

Jon: East Coast Round Wall Foundation has plans to construct a few more green skate parks in the DC area. In addition, we are starting a campaign to raise funds to open a learning center. We are designing a place where we can mentor local kids in science, teach about the environment, and promote healthy lifestyles through skateboarding.

Visit www.ecrwfoundation.org for more information and to view a QuickTime video of the Green Skate Lab building process.

Upcoming Classes & Events

Green Building Institute class titles in CAPS.

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

7:00 p.m.

[Interest Meeting for Howard County Habitat for](#)

[Humanity Summer Builds](#)

Calvary Community Church
Columbia, Maryland

Thursday, May 3, 2007

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

[National Brownfield Associations Maryland Inaugural Reception](#)

The National Aquarium in Baltimore
501 E. Pratt St.
Baltimore, MD

Saturday, May 5, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

[It's Easy Being Green! Spring Flea Market](#)

Annapolis Friends Meeting and Chesapeake Climate
Action Network

Monday - Friday, May 7-11, 2007

[Baltimore Green Week](#)

Schedule:

- Monday- Food
- Tuesday- Green Building
10:00 a.m. Baltimore City Council
12:00 p.m. Lunch provided by Chipotle
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Panel
- Wednesday- Climate Change
- Thursday- Public Health
- Friday- Party

Events located throughout Baltimore, MD

Monday, May 7, 2007

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance
Green Happy Hour
Druid Hill Conservatory
RSVP: (410) 342-1482 or info@csballiance.org

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Baltimore City Council Hearings
The Living Classrooms' Myers-Douglas Museum
1417 Thames Street
Baltimore, MD

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

7:00 p.m.

[UMBC hosts Former Vice President Al Gore](#)

Open to the public - \$35 per ticket
UMBC Retriever Activities Center

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

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

INTRO TO GREEN ROOFS

Topics include:

- What are the benefits of a green roof?
- What types of plants survive on a green roof?
- How do you maintain a green roof?
- Are there green roofs in the area?
- What are intensive and extensive green roofs?

@ The Green Building Institute

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

[Register now](#)

Thursday, May 17, 2007

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[USGBC: Deconstruction, Architectural Salvage, and Everything Else That's Left](#)

Baltimore, MD

Saturday, May 19, 2007

GREEN ROOF BUS TOUR

Roofs:

- Wetlands Studies and Solutions. - Gainesville, VA
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute - Ashburn, VA
- American Society of Landscape Architects - Washington, D.C.
- Walter Reed Community Center - Arlington, VA
- Casey Trees Endowment Fund Headquarters - Washington, D.C.

[Register online](#) or by mail

Saturday, May 26, 2007

10:00 a.m. - Noon

[Potomac Region Solar Energy Association](#)

Tom Whipple, a leading local authority on the subject of Peak Oil, will speak and a tour of the Enviro-Center will follow.

@ The Enviro Center

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

R.S.V.P. meeting@prsea.org

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

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

Saturday, June 9, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

[RAINWATER CAR WASH](#)

@ The Green Building Institute

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Please call (443)733-1234 to volunteer.

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

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

[INTRO TO HOME ENERGY AUDITS](#)

@ The Green Building Institute

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Monday - Thursday, September 24-27, 2007

[Solar Power 2007](#)

Long Beach, CA

December 10-13, 2007

[Ecobuild America](#)

Washington, D.C.

[Find out more....](#)

**Plants for Indoor Air Quality, St. Mary's
College, Members page & Special thank you**

Indoor Air Quality

Indoor air quality can be degraded by various pollutants inside the home, such as those emitted by central heating and cooling systems. It can be further worsened by poor ventilation and extensive

carpeting that can easily trap particles. In fact, air pollutant concentrations can be up to ten times higher indoors than out.

NASA studies have shown that a way to possibly improve air quality is to introduce houseplants into living spaces. Certain plants thrive off of air pollutants, and thus can clean the air and make for a better living environment.

Want to improve your indoor air quality?
Try out these plants in your home or office:

- Ferns
- Daisies
- Spider plant
- Palms
- English Ivy
- Philodendra

For more information about houseplants and their ability to improve air quality, please refer to the following articles:

[Plants Clean Air](#)
[NASA Foliage Plants Removing Indoor Air Pollutants](#)
[Journal of Mississippi Academy of Sciences](#)
[University of Minnesota Yard & Garden Brief](#)

[St. Mary's College of Maryland decides to fully fund 'green electricity'](#)

\$45,000 from student fees will fund the purchase of renewable energy certificates, which help subsidize alternative methods of energy. Of the 1,080 students who participated in the student body election this month, all but 75 voted to pay an extra \$25 a year to fund the program. St. Mary's decision is part of a growing effort among colleges and universities nationwide to be more environmentally friendly.

Hannah Wood, Executive Director of The Green Building Institute, is a 2001 alumna of St. Mary's.

[Green Building Institute Members page](#)

Everyday, The Green Building Institute fields questions about green contractors, builders, architects, suppliers, installers and other services. Please use our recently updated [Members page](#) to find whatever service or product you're looking for. On the Members page, just click on the Members' weblinks for their full descriptions of services.

Thank you to our Interns!

Finally, a grand Green Building Institute farewell to 3 of our fabulous interns who are graduating this month. Our University of Maryland seniors, Natalie Mebane and Emily Axelbaum, are going onto their respective exciting outdoor summer jobs with The Student Conservation Association and Outward Bound. And, Danya French, a Wilde Lake High School senior, who is going on to her first year in college.

Congratulations & thank you for all your dedication and hard work!

Featured Members

Business Member



[EcoMowers](#)

If you're eco-friendly and love a perfectly manicured lawn, you'll also want perfect care for your yard! EcoMowers.com provides distinctive, eco-oriented products to enhance customers' attitude of the natural environment.

Business Member



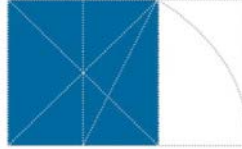
Economic Development Authority

[Howard County Economic Development Authority](#)

is a public-private partnership that promotes growth and stability by supporting existing businesses, targeting new businesses, and attracting corporate/regional headquarters. The Authority supports programs aimed at special needs of small, minority-owned, and agricultural business communities while preserving the distinctive quality of life in Howard County.

Business Member

SOWINSKI SULLIVAN
ARCHITECTS



[Sowinski Sullivan Architects](#)

provides creative architectural services to a broad spectrum of public, commercial, and private clients throughout the Metropolitan area; committed to sustainable design and current technology.

Business Member



[Wilhelm Commercial Builders](#)

specializes in commercial interior renovations and high security environments while utilizing green building practices. Wilhelm performs the majority of its work in-house.

Corporate Bronze Member



[Merritt Properties](#)

Owner / developer of 14 million square feet of commercial real estate in the Baltimore and Northern Virginia area. Merritt designs, builds, leases and manages their properties for the long-term.

Corporate Bronze Member



Chesapeake Wind & Solar LLC

[Chesapeake Wind and Solar, LLC](#)

provides solar energy engineering,

design and installation for residential and commercial clients in the mid-Atlantic region.

Corporate Gold Member



**A QUESTAR
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.

Founding Member

[Architectural Support Group 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.

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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