

Green Building Institute E-Newsletter

Interview with Sean McGuire

Upcoming Classes & Local Events

Q&A with Dan Feng (Solar Decathlon)

Get Involved

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Dear Lynn,

The **Green Building Institute** has several new exciting classes coming up. We hope you can join us for one or several of them.

In the meantime, please enjoy the updates and interviews with local people and organizations who are making things happen in green building. Plus, the e-newsletter is great reading for the metro, the gym or the couch!

Interview with Sean McGuire

MD DNR Environmental Design Program Manager & Green Building Network coordinator

Sean McGuire, a natural resources planner at the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, manages the Environmental Design Program. The program works with local governments, the private sector, and citizens to promote and implement environmentally and economically sound practices. Sean also runs the **Green Building Network** which meets once/month at the Green Building Institute.

Hannah Wood, Executive Director of the **Green Building Institute**, caught up with Sean to find out how he got interested in green building.

Hannah: Sean, you seem to be a celebrity in the green building world in the D.C. / Baltimore region - everybody knows your name. When did you first get involved?

Sean: Celebrity?!? Is that for being famous or infamous? I started in the green building arena about six years ago when I helped write the 2001 Green Building Executive Order. The green building coordinator at the time left, and

I took over and just tried to keep up the momentum.

Hannah: Obviously, there have been a lot of people in the green building & renewable energy fields for years, but it's only now getting "hot". What did some of your mentors do to bring us to this point?

Sean: Belief. Determination. Tenacity. While the principles of environmental design make both ecological and economic sense, changing minds is difficult. Worshippers of the status quo will fight you at every turn. But there have been many Change Agents in both the public and private sectors here in Maryland loooong before I ever showed up. Those individuals -- and you know who they are -- injected environmental principles whenever and however they could. And fortunately the result of all their efforts is that green building is becoming the norm. The quintessential case of the whole being larger than the sum of its parts.

Hannah: How would you compare your homestate of California to this region in terms of incentives and growth for green building and sustainable energy? What kinds of changes do we need to implement here?

Sean: The other day, I heard a colleague say that the east coast is about 2-3 years behind the west coast on many levels: fashion, programs, policies, etc. It's as if there is a cultural migration from west to east. I think to some degree that is correct. A major issue is that there is simply the population: there are about twice as many people in LA as there are in Maryland. This puts enormous pressure on energy, water, transportation and other policies. I feel that we, as humans, usually don't plan ahead that well. We wait until it hits us in the face before we do anything. I suppose it's simply hitting the west coast sooner, but it is coming here. And if we don't plan and institute more environmentally and fiscally sound practices now, we'll be the ones being hit in the face. It's either that or they put something in our granola.

Hannah: Globally, what do you see happening in the green building industry? Who will make it go mainstream? Government? Homeowners? Builders?

Sean: You'll have to come to the Green Building Conference on Friday to find out!

Hannah: Lastly, which green buildings should people in this area check out? No bias of course :)

Sean: Of course, it's the EnviroCenter. Duh!! I know the usual answers are the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Center and Montgomery Park (home of MDE). But there are many

facilities in the area that employ green techniques, it's just that in many cases you can't physically see them. Check out our website on Friday and our Virtual Tour of Green Buildings should be up and running!

Thanks Sean!

To learn more about the Environmental Design program , the Green Building Network & the Regional Green Building Strategies conference, please visit the website link below.

MD DNR Environmental Design

Upcoming Classes & Local Events

Green Building Institute class titles in BOLD.

To register for a Green Building Institute class, please visit www.greenbuildinginstitute.org. Please continue to check website for updates.

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

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

Green Building Network

@ The Enviro-Center

7761 Waterloo Rd. (Rte.175)

Jessup, Maryland

More info: www.dnr.state.md.us/ed/mdgbn

Saturday & Sunday October 7 & 8, 2006

11:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

16th Annual Tour of Solar Homes & Buildings

Get tickets/guide books at The Enviro-Center.

More info & guide book distributors visit:

www.solartour.org

Sunday, October 8, 2006

Clean Energy Open House and Native Plant Garden Tour

More info: www.chesapeakeclimate.org

Saturday & Sunday, October 14 & 15, 2006

Green Festival

D.C. Convention Center

Washington, D.C.

More info: www.greenfestivals.org

Thursday, October 19, 2006

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

INTRO TO GREEN ROOFS

This seminar will answer these & many more Green Roof

questions:

- What benefits does installing a green roof have on a building?
- Do green roofs help the environment?
- What types of plants survive on a green roof?
- How do you maintain green roofs?
- How much does a green roof cost?
- Are there green roofs in the area?

Saturday, October 21, 2006

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

GREEN ROOFS BUS TOUR

See first-hand the green roofs in the D.C. & Baltimore metro regions.

Call (443) 733-1234 for more details.

Saturday, October 28, 2006

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**USING NATURAL LIGHT: DAYLIGHT TUBE
INSTALLATION Workshop**

Interested in saving money on electricity?

Want natural lighting during the winter?

Learn how to install a daylight tube in your own home or business!

Benefits of daylight tubes

- Free natural lighting (non-electric)
- Quality of light helps reduce Seasonal Affective Disorder
- No condensation or leaks and easy to install
- No major structural changes, drywall finishing, or repainting required

Thursday, November 9, 2006

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**INTRO TO DECONSTRUCTION & BUILDING
MATERIAL REUSE**

This seminar will answer these and many more questions:

- What is deconstruction?
- What takes place during the process?
- What is a building material reuse?
- Are there potential tax benefits associated with deconstruction?
- Who typically benefits from reuse centers?
- What are the costs involved?

Saturday, November 11, 2006

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SOLAR DECATHLON WORKSHOP

Join the University of Maryland (UMD) LEAF House team to design and engineer:

- Bio-inspired systems - rainwater collection, Living wall, radiant heating and cooling
- Kitchen and bathroom
- Lighting, Casework & Finishes

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**INTRO TO SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS
(SOLAR ELECTRIC)**

- What are the differences between residential solar power and solar hot water systems?
- How can solar energy reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- How can solar photovoltaic home systems help against rising utility costs? & much more

Please note - Satellite Class Location

The Common Market

Frederick, Maryland

Saturday, November 18, 2006

Greenovation: An Expo for the Home

National Building Museum

Washington, D.C.

More info: www.nbm.org

Saturday, December 2, 2006

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

HOW TO BE GREEN

Introductory seminars on:

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

Register for a Green Building Institute class

Q&A with Dan Feng (Solar Decathlon)

University of Maryland LEAF House Team

The **Solar Decathlon** is a competition in which 20 teams of college and university students compete to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective, and energy-efficient solar-powered house. The Solar Decathlon will take place in the Fall of 2007 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The **Community Forklift** in Edmonston, MD recently hosted a barn-raising event for the University of Maryland team.

After the event, Hannah caught up with Dan Feng, who does fundraising and outreach for the 2007 University of Maryland LEAF House team.

Hannah: How did you get involved with the University of Maryland's Solar Decathlon team?

Dan: In my last semester as an undergraduate in Mechanical Engineering, I wanted to do something just for the fun of it. I joined the Solar Decathlon team, and worked on the fundraising and public outreach aspects primarily while doing anything else that needed to be done on the side for the project.

Hannah: From what departments do the students come?

Dan: We have students from all majors. This is such a multi-faceted project that we need volunteers with all sorts of talent. Students come from: Engineering (Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Bio-resources, Fire Protection), Architecture, Computer Science, English, International Business, Communications, Digital and Art.

Hannah: What is your favorite part on working on the UMD house?

Dan: As corny as this sounds, I like that I can make a difference. This is a very innovative design and education process. We do not have a course like this at school where students from Engineering and Architecture can work and design together alongside with other students from various majors. It is the closest thing I've ever experienced at school that mimics the working world.

Hannah: Over the 2 years (is that right?), how many people work on the house?

Dan: Yes, it is over 2 years. There are approximately 80 students, mentors, professors working on the house at any given time. There are about 60 students involved with the project. They come and go as the semesters begin and end. We have about 10 mentors who are industry professionals and previous Solar Decathlon alumni. There are 3 full time faculty advisors working on the project.

Hannah: How can people most help the UMD team to build the house?

Dan: Before construction begins, the best way for people

to help build this house is to spread the word about us and help us fundraise. They can contact us through our website at www.solarteam.org.

Once construction begins, we will need help with building the house and getting the experts, labor, and materials we need. We expect to start construction in January.

Hannah: Thank you Dan. Good luck to you and the team!

You can also **join Dan and the rest of the University of Maryland Solar Decathlon team** in a Green Building Institute workshop on Saturday, November 11, 2006. Help the LEAF House team design and engineer: Bio-inspired systems, the kitchen and bathroom as well as the lighting, casework and finishes. Keep checking the website to register - details to be posted this week.

Green Building Institute

Get Involved

There are many opportunities to get involved with the Green Building Institute. Please contact us if you are interested in any of the following:

- Interning
- Serving on a committee
- Staffing a class
- Sponsoring a seminar or workshop
- Volunteering

Get Involved

The Green Building Institute, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, fosters sustainable building practices through education and example.

Sincerely,

Hannah C. Wood
Executive Director
Green Building Institute

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

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