

Developers Envision Community

Hot Spot By Randi Bjornstad of
The Register-Guard

It appears that developer Mel Bankoff's longtime dream of creating what he hopes will be a neighborhood gathering place and commercial magnet in the Friendly Street neighborhood of Eugene is going to come true.

Bankoff and his partners, architect Jan Fillinger and contractor Jason Elmendorf, have applied for a building permit for the first phase of their quarter-block development at the southwest corner of Friendly Street and West 27th Avenue in Eugene.

The trio hope to break ground on the project within the next month, beginning with construction of a commercial building with 5,000 square feet of restaurant and small retail space on the ground floor and second-floor offices above - perhaps including Fillinger's Studio-E Architecture - along with parking spaces to serve the commercially zoned uses.

Once that's under way, the group, operating through a limited liability corporation called Covision, plans to apply for a zone change for the remainder of the property to residential use, to build a planned unit development of 12 units of two-story townhouses along the perimeter of the property.

The entire development will be as "green" as the partners can make it, with photovoltaic cells on the roofs, natural ventilation, high-efficiency insulation and sustainably harvested wood for framing and finishing and permeable pavers for parking lots and driveways, Elmendorf said in an earlier description of the project.

The commercial portion of the development will cost at least \$1.5 million, Bankoff estimates, with the residential phase adding at least another \$2 million to the final cost of the project.

Fillinger acknowledges that the magnitude of the project on a quiet older residential neighborhood of widely spaced single-family homes alarmed some residents, but he said their concerns led to significant design changes for the project.

"We had several meetings with neighbors, and there were some who at first were very vocal in their opposition," Fillinger said. "We tried to be very cards-on-the-table, to show them what we had planned.

"And we did make changes - we went from a three-story development to a two-story development" to answer their concerns. Amy Chinitz, who lives adjacent to the proposed project, favors the plan.

"We feel positive because many of the other options for development wouldn't have been very good for the neighborhood," Chinitz said. "If the whole thing was developed with something like a medical office building, it would generate a lot of traffic but not really offer any real benefit."

The mix of commercial and residential, with townhouses adjacent to existing houses, will help maintain the overall character of the neighborhood, she said. The 12 townhouses will be built in three blocks of four attached units each and will have two, three or four bedrooms. Sizes will range from about 1,400 square feet to 1,850 square feet, Fillinger said. Some of the units will be designed to allow later installation of elevators, to make them accessible for people with mobility limitations, he said.

Prices for the housing units have not been set yet, in part because of fluctuating construction costs, Bankoff said. Nor has he decided whether to lease the restaurant space to someone else or go into the business for himself.

"I seem to be moving in the direction of doing it myself, because of the model I'm trying to create for the restaurant," he said. "I want there to be things to do at night after the regular dinner hours - maybe speakers, music, socializing and activities for kids.

His dream is to create "a hub where people in the neighborhood will want to gather," Bankoff said, "a place people feel comfortable to come to be with each other. There's nothing in the neighborhood like that now."

Jan Fillinger, AIA, LEED
STUDIO-E Architecture
2749 Friendly Street, Studio E
Eugene, OR 97405-2215
541-338-7559, janfillinger@clearwire.net

Collaborate, Innovate, Create a Green Future

Annual Members' Retreat 2007 October 19-21

Mark your **calendars now! Save the Date! This year's Retreat is gonna be Great!** Join us October 19th – 21st at **Pilgrim Firs Conference Center** outside Port Orchard, Washington for a weekend full of fun, learning, and camaraderie!

This year's presentations focus on the need for our Guild to "Collaborate, Innovate and Create a Green Future".

We're putting together another great program that will include:

- **Jason McLennan** as our **Saturday Keynote** speaker. **Jason** is the director of the **US Green Building Council's** Cascadia Chapter.
- **Architect Carol Venolia**, a frequent contributor to *Natural Home Magazine* and co-author of **Natural Remodeling for the Not So Green House**, will be our **Sunday Keynote**.
- **Patti Southard** of King County Metro.
- **Jonathan Campbell** will be talking about Sustainable Business Planning Globally
- **Sandy Bishop** from Lopez Island Community Land Trust.
- **Jonathan Scherch** who teaches Permaculture at Antioch University Seattle.
- **Beyond Fossil Fuels** is a presentation developed by **Charlie Stephens**, energy consultant and former senior energy policy analyst at the Oregon Department of Energy, exploring how declining fossil fuel production and climate change will create profound changes in our economy and communities.

We'll also have presentations on:

- **Green Building Rating Systems** with **Tom Balderston**.
- **Photovoltaics in Developing Countries** with **Brad Burkhartzmeyer**.
- **Dealing with Difficult Clients**, a seminar by the firm of **Linville-Ursich**
- **Beyond Fossil Fuels** with **Charlie Stephens**
- Our Wonderful, Annual Slideshow of Member Projects
- And Much, Much More!

We're looking for examples of projects that highlight the collaboration between Guild Members. Do you have a favorite job you'd like to share? Please send List of Guild Member businesses who worked on the project, a brief description, and photos to:

Sandra Fugate
NWEBG Retreat Coordinator,
203 East 4th Ave Suite 221
Olympia, WA 98501

OR email them to retreat@ecobuilding.org.

Thanks in advance!!!

We'll email you a Registration Form in the very near future. Online Registration has started! Early Registration deadline is August 31st. Regular Registrations are due by October 8th. Late Registration after October 8th will cost you more. Register online here <http://www.ecobuilding.org/retreat/>.

If you were at last year's Retreat, you already know how valuable it was - and how inspiring. If you weren't, ask other Guild members who were there. Or, better yet, come find out for yourself this year!

And...It's not too early to begin thinking about what you want to donate to the Retreat Silent Auction.

News Service Helps Green Builders Connect to FSC Wood Market

Green building professionals have a new resource to stay informed about the quickly evolving market for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood products. **Northwest Certified Wood Source** is a quarterly email news service designed for green building professionals that covers market news, profiles FSC certified companies in the Northwest, and analyzes issues in wood specification and procurement.



The publication is a free service from Northwest Natural Resource Group, a conservation and rural economic development organization that builds the FSC market in the Northwest. Readers can sign up at www.nnrg.org and view content from previous issues in the "News & Events" section. For more information, contact Ian Hanna at 360-379-9421 or ian@nnrg.org.

Remembering Tom St Louis

On July 10, 2007 we lost one of our best – Tom St. Louis. Tom died at his home in Olympia, and is survived by his wife, Liz St. Louis, his mother, and his sister. He was the owner of Green Depot, a popular supplier of sustainable building materials such as Rastra block and the Power Pipe heat exchanger. His knowledge and commitment to sustainability were an inspiration to all of us, and his mentoring benefited many people.

Tom was one of the founders of the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild, as well as the South Sound Chapter. He was on the regional board for 6 years and worked tirelessly to make the Guild what it is today. He also had a strong presence at the Annual Members Retreat, providing support and humor whenever it was needed.

A memorial was held in the garden of Tom's home the evening of July 23, and many Guild members were present. Stories were shared of Tom's generosity, his creativity, and his antics from childhood on. After the ceremony, an eagle glided over the gathering a few times, and tipped a wing just before flying off into the sunset.

The Guild is establishing a Scholarship Fund in honor of all the contributions Tom made to our cause and our organization. The money will be earmarked to bring emerging green builders and designers to the Annual Members Retreat. Please send contributions made out to **TSL Scholarship Fund to: NWEBG Treasurer Ben Kaufman, c/o Greenworks Realty, 7406 Greenwood Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98103.**

Tom will be honored with a special session at the 2007 Annual Retreat in October. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.



The NWMLS Makes Certified Green Homes in WA Easier to Find

House hunters who want green design features in their future home have a new resource for identifying such properties here in Washington. The Northwest Multiple Listing Service has recently enhanced its listing forms and database so properties with certain environmental certifications, energy efficient features and sustainable materials may be readily identified.

Among the new fields are designations for homes that are certified Built Green, ENERGY STAR, LEED and those with third party verification. The NWMLS also added checkboxes for identifying various energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, such as solar, and for renewable floor coverings such as bamboo and cork.

What about all the other green features you ask? Or homes that are green but not certified? As with conventional homes, there are thousands of building materials and finishes out there, and there are many different kinds of green homes. It's still up to the homeowner and their agent to market items that make that home unique.

These changes culminate months of research, discussion and programming modifications, according to Jack Johnson, president and CEO of Northwest MLS. Ben Kaufman, co-owner and managing broker of GreenWorks Realty in Seattle, spearheaded efforts to add the green features.

"Green homes are increasingly sought after in the Northwest, and the addition of environmental categories to the NWMLS listings will significantly help homeowners' ability to find homes with green features," said Kaufman. With the new green checkboxes consumers can easily identify homes that meet specific criteria, Kaufman noted, adding, "This is an excellent example of how real estate agents lead the way to building better communities one house at a time."

The addition of these green fields to the NWMLS database follows close on the heels of Oregon's Regional Multiple Listing Service (RMLS), which turned green just last year. These important first steps help drive real estate, finance, appraisal and inspection professionals towards measuring and valuing energy-efficiency and green features and it has the potential to become a driving force in the consumer sector.

Growing Green Architecture

By Lisa Piliaris

GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty) is a leader in community sustainability. Now, GRuB is embracing sustainability in a new way with plans to build a farmhouse at its Elliott Avenue site, on Olympia's west side. But this will not be your typical farmhouse. You guessed it — it will be as “green” as GRuB's metaphorical thumbs!

Green Begins with “Place”

Currently, the Elliott Avenue property has a 1917 residential building that has no foundation, insulation or central heating system. Due to its small size, the majority of staff members are housed elsewhere. The farm property is central to GRuB's mission of bringing good food to all people. It also supports the Cultivating Youth Program, a successful drop-out prevention, mentoring and nutrition program for low-income youth. After construction of the new farmhouse, the 1917 home will be demolished, salvaging as much material for reuse as possible.

The new 2,928-square-foot farmhouse will provide adequate indoor classroom space for the Cultivating Youth Program, enough office space for the GRuB staff to work under one roof, and have a kitchen designed to effectively host cooking and nutrition workshops. The farm is already on the city bus line, and youth as well as staff predominately ride the bus or bike to the farm, eliminating the need for extensive parking, while encouraging more sustainable transportation choices.

Considering the history of the property and the residential surroundings, the farmhouse is being designed to complement the neighborhood. The historic architecture of the site is Arts and Crafts Bungalow, and the new farmhouse will adopt this style, honoring the legacy of Bonnie Turner who was an avid gardener and supporter of GRuB.

Sustainable Community

The staff at GRuB is a group of dynamic, energetic, compassionate folks. They recognize the opportunity to further enhance awareness of our interconnectedness to each other and the environment through their building-construction choices. With much community involvement (i.e. volunteers, donors and hired hands) in the design and building process, a higher level of intimacy is forged. More than just a building, GRuB will also build a stronger, compassionate community holding the intent of a healthier planet.

GRuB's visions of sustainability extend to the local economy. Kim Gaffi, co-director of GRuB, says, “We want to support the economy growing up around green architecture.” This is why GRuB has sought out local designers, contractors and building materials for this project.

Cultivating Architecture

It all started with an organic process of preparing the soil (they purchased the farmland with their highly successful fundraising); collecting the seeds (a collaborative process of conceptual design involving the youth in the program, staff and some folks at Living Shelter of Issaquah); planting the seeds (more fundraising, grant writing, public outreach and forming the design team: Barrett Burr of Polar Bear Construction, Joseph Becker and Craig Lawrence of ION and myself, Lisa Piliaris of Lucid 9 Design); and watering and mulching (many design meetings).

The next steps will be adding the sunshine (that's where the community volunteers step in); watching the farmhouse take root and grow; and then harvesting the empowerment of individuals in our community and enjoying the bounty of a place the public can visit as a model for sustainability.

The farmhouse GRuB envisions is a structure that will endure much use and many generations; enhance and protect ecosystems and biodiversity; improve air and water quality; reduce solid waste; conserve natural resources; reduce operating costs; enhance asset value; improve employee productivity and satisfaction; reduce energy use; improve air, thermal and acoustic environments; enhance occupant comfort and health; and contribute to overall quality of life.



cont'd on next page...

These are some of the planned features of the residential structure:

- A covered porch will encourage all-weather outdoor use, providing greater opportunities to connect with the outdoor environment.
- The walls and foundation walls will be Faswall, a regionally manufactured insulated concrete form (ICF) product with great R rating and none of the thermal bridging that conventional wood framing has. It is highly fire and pest resistant, uses wood fiber wastes from milling industry, is breathable, extremely durable and non-toxic. It is also labor friendly. (Visit www.faswall.com.)
- A conditioned crawl space to reduce heat loss through the HVAC ductwork, which will be installed below the floor. This also eliminates the need for fiberglass batts to be installed under the floor, as the foundation walls will be so well insulated.
- Advanced framing will be used for the second floor kneewall and attic gable ends to reduce thermal bridging and save on lumber.
- Metal roofing will be used for longevity and potential for rainwater collection. Plenty of room is available for solar panels. Wiring for grid-tied solar will be installed and the panels will depend upon donations (here's your chance to help!) or grant money.
- Roof insulation will be R-38 with rigid foam and cellulose batt, with consideration given for "cradle to cradle" re-use of materials sometime down the road.
- All finish work will be as natural as possible for indoor air quality and ecosystem protection. For example floor coverings will include Marmoleum, paper composite countertops, reclaimed wood for trim details, earthen plaster on the ICF and interior walls, and low- or no-VOC paints.
- Lighting and appliances will be Energy Star or greater in efficiency. On-demand hot water and high-efficiency heating systems will be installed.
- Rainwater from the roof, any overflow from future rainwater catchments and footing drains will flow to rain gardens.

There is a great opportunity for the community to dig in and help nurture GRuB's growth by volunteering time, materials and financial resources. GRuB's Taking Root Capital Campaign has already raised at least \$323,000 and is likely to gain an additional \$281,000 in grant support. GRuB is well on its way to reaching its remaining goal of \$231,850 by the end of 2007.

To help, contact GRuB at 360-753-5522 or visit www.goodgrub.org. As the GRuB folks like to say, "Without yoU, we'd just be grb."

Lisa Piliaris is a residential designer specializing in green-building design. She is the owner of Lucid 9 Design, providing architectural harmony in light and form.

New Green Pages Categories

It's not just builders anymore! Each year we get a number of requests from local businesses wanting to support the Guild. So, although we had to turn down the opportunity to add a category for "Green Funeral Services", we did add "Community Action" and few others.

Under "Community Action", we're proud to introduce **Yellow Bear Journeys - Soul Refreshing Eco Journeys**, based in Olympia Washington.

Yellow Bear Journeys strives to balance the needs of the environment, the needs of the people, and financial reality. We will always seek the most environmentally friendly lodging, food, and transportation choices within a reasonable tour budget.

We try and make our Eco Journeys as non-toxic as possible. We look for lodging choices which use no pesticides or other toxic chemicals. We discourage the use of toxic insect repellants.

At Yellow Bear Journeys, we are committed to making our Eco Journeys as fragrance-free as possible. We believe this is best for the health of all participants. We travel at close quarters and showing consideration for the air we share helps avoid dangerous asthmatic, allergic, and migraine triggers.

We will help you purchase carbon offsets to make your journey carbon neutral. We ask you to pack out what you pack in and recycle when possible. Visit our website at www.yellowbearjourneys.com.

FUEZ! A New Sustainable Product

Fuez, an exciting new sustainable product for countertops, floors, walls, and shower enclosures is being manufactured right here in Portland. Ideal for homeowners, businesses and public agencies interested in using recycled and sustainable materials that are also aesthetically pleasing, Fuez is a natural recycled product that is produced locally in an environmentally friendly facility.

Portland brothers, John and Nathanael Malone grew up in the concrete business and have mastered the old art of terrazzo. Originally created by Venetian construction workers as a low cost flooring material, they used marble chips from upscale jobs to create terrazzo. But instead of pouring concrete on site, the Malone brothers' process involves fusing concrete with recycled glass, shells and/or stones to make slabs and tiles for a multiplicity of applications. Slabs are custom poured up to 64"x128" and 33"x100" by 1 ¼" thick. Standard tile sizes include 2"x4", 3"x6", and 12"x12" by 5/8" thick, and 26"x26" and 4'x4' by ¾" thick. The Fuez collection is offered in 28 standard products, including:

FuezGlass – fusion of concrete and recycled glass in 15 standard colors.

MicroFuez – collaboration of micro-glass and stone in 4 standard colors.

FuezEarth – earth, stone & concrete refined and polished in 7 standard colors.

FuezCrete – collection of color and concrete in 2 standard colors.

Fuez is pre-fabricated to order complete with cuts (for sinks, etc.), finished edges, delivered and installed in 2-3 weeks. Current pricing is \$80-\$110 per square foot, installed. Custom color and material samples are available at an additional cost.

You can see Fuez online at www.fuez.com. Product samples are available at Environmental Building Supply, Portland Marble Works, Fine Line Pacific, and Hawthorne Organics or by contacting Infuez, Inc. directly at 503-289-7000. Fuez owners are members of USGBC (United States Green Building Council) – LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

Fuez products have now been installed in more than 10 local homes and businesses. Fuez earliest customers LeAnn Locher and Adela Rios said, "We recently underwent a major renovation in our 1910 North Portland bungalow.

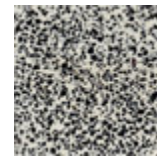
Determined to have a green remodel, we specified most products with environmental responsibility as a requirement. When it came to specifying countertop surfaces, we reviewed lots of options ranging from stone, tile, concrete and environmentally responsible products using recycled paper, ash and other. We just weren't finding counters that were beautiful – we wanted beauty and environmental responsibility and that really came together for us with the Fuez product."

"Our contractor, Kaya Construction, introduced us to it and we loved it right away. The recycled glass and mother of pearl embedded in the cement gives it a beautiful depth and reflective quality and a pattern that isn't too busy or overwhelming in our kitchen and bathroom. The install was clean, which we had been concerned about with concrete, as Fuez is a slab install. We knew it was an environmentally responsible product and the green glass in it is actually made from recycled beer bottles. And the best part...it's made here in Portland!"

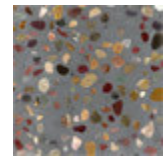
FUEZ | 5802 North Greeley Avenue | Portland, Oregon | 97217 | 503-269-7000 | info@fuez.com



Rogue



Gala



River

WEST COAST GREEN

Residential Building Conference & Expo

On September 20-22, 2007, at San Francisco's renowned Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, West Coast Green is giving the residential green building market the event it's been wanting: a full scale 3-day conference and expo.

While new green events emerge every year, West Coast Green represents the largest milestone yet in the residential green building movement. You'll find over 250 exhibitors showcasing the latest in resource-efficiency among a stunning array of green and healthy building products. Over 100 experts and visionary leaders will be presenting their latest developments, insights, and inspiration at the expanding frontiers of the field. And over 13,000 attendees including the entire chain of professionals and decision-makers rarely reached by other conferences are expected.

Visit us at www.westcoastgreen.com.

The “L” With It! Our Green Home

After looking for almost a year we found an infill lot, in Seattle’s Capital Hill, that wasn’t on the market. An architect friend split his double lot and sold us the unimproved 40’ x 105’ section.



Our “green” design guidelines (and ongoing mantra), included **long life, loose fit, lots of daylight, low energy** and **least environmental impact**. These were applied to the 6S Hierarchy, which includes Site, Structure, Skin, Systems, Stage and Stuff.

The house is 2400 gross square feet excluding basement/garage, but has a footprint of under 1000 gross square feet. It is elongated along the east/west for maximum solar orientation with overhangs of building and roof on the south side.

Storm water infiltration is increased through the use of pervious materials- pavers, gravel, stone and a partial green roof. The landscape is turf free, with the majority of trees “rescued” from Plant Amnesty. The site has a hierarchy of four garden spaces from public street to private backyard.



The house is 22’ at its widest and is basically one large room on the first and third floors. This allows for optimum cross ventilation & three sides of daylight.

Additionally, the stairwell is used for passive stack ventilation of the whole house and is assisted by a mechanical fan.

The skin is primarily EnergyStar rated metal panels, “cool roof coatings” which help cool in the summer. Additionally, Hardipanel and Ipe, rain-screen style siding have been used for aesthetics.

For more information or a personal tour contact **JR Fulton, Flying “F” Design Build**, 206.363.3550 or jrfulton@u.washington.edu.

Luxus Painting Stays Ahead of the Curve

Published in the Northwest Society of Interior Designers’ June Newsletter.

Gilberto R. Avelenda of Luxus Painting, who recently finished a two-year term as a PRA representative on the NWSID board of directors, already knows what he’ll do in his so-called “spare time”--promote leadership and education on sustainable painting practices.

“Green is the way to go,” says Avelenda, who earned a degree in veterinary science in 1978 from the University of Guatemala and founded Luxus Painting in 1997 after many years working as an estimator, project manager, and foreman. “I believe you have to constantly increase your knowledge to serve your customer and the community, to stay ahead of the curve.”

That hasn’t been a problem so far, as Luxus Painting has grown steadily since its inception, more than doubling its annual residential and commercial painting contracts. In recent years, Luxus has increasingly worked with designers, architects and other professionals on color consultation, restoration and new construction, developing a reputation for expert application and knowledge of new technologies and fine finishes for interior custom painting.

“We’ve painted the inside and outside of homes, offices, restaurants, buildings, decks, and patios,” Avelenda says. “The size of my crew depends on the scope of the job, so nothing is too big or too small. We can also take care of related repairs, remodeling and carpentry as needed.”

Avelenda says quality and efficiency set Luxus Painting apart. “We use only the most appropriate paints and finishes available and provide quality workmanship and a well-managed job site,” he explains. “My crews are skilled, thorough and dependable, taking care to do each job right, to keep the work site clean and to be as unobtrusive as possible. We strive to impress customers with both the quality of the work and the way we go about it.”

Gilberto R. Avelenda

Luxus Painting

Artisans of Color and Design

P (206) 365-2252 F (206) 365-0172

Chapter Updates and Calendar

Welcome New Guild Board Members!

Brandon Tauscher

Brandon Tauscher is an educator and "green" home owner-builder. Brandon helps to promote certified green building through his educational non-profit, Project Green Build.

Brian G. Allen

Offers consulting services to individuals and businesses in the use of sustainable, appropriate technologies in everything from renewable energy to green building, food and water systems to local economic development strategies.

Tom Balderston

With over 20 years of experience as a builder, designer, contractor, HVAC designer and installer, Tom provides design and construction field support to project teams.

Jerry M. Fugich

Jerry is currently the Construction Managers Network Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Washington State, and is passionate in his belief that people should live in environmental healthy homes, especially economically disadvantaged families.

Howard M. Thurston

Howard Thurston practices civil and structural engineering in Portland, Oregon. His firm, New Paradigm Engineering, seeks to collaborate with designers and builders who share the vision that radical systemic change is necessary in the design and construction of dwellings and other buildings.

Rachel Jamison

Works with the Washington State Department of Ecology, whose mission is to "promote the wise management of our air, land and water for the benefit of the current and future generations..." and involves supporting sustainable practices.

Thanks for all your hard work & dedication!

**Bruce Millard, Terry Phelan, Ben Kaufman
Danielle Johnson, Fiona Douglas-Hamilton**

Southwest Oregon (Eugene)

Contact: Rudy Berg at rudyberg@rio.com

Western Columbia (Portland)

Contact: Russell Holzinger at 503.724.9414 or IAM@InspirationalStudio.com

South Puget Sound (Olympia)

Contact: Debra Shapiro at debra@greenworksrealty.com

Central Puget Sound (Seattle)

Contact: Justin Fogle at justin@ecobuilding.org

Central Washington and Central BC

Contact: George Bottcher at ecobuilding@eltell.net or 509.929.5050

Inland NW & Southeast BC

Contact: Tom Angell at tom@tomangell.com or 509.747.7647

The Peninsula Chapter

Updates: The chapter is looking to form a new steering committee. If you are interested, please send an email to the Guild President, Bruce Millard at president@ecobuilding.org, or call him at 208.263.3815.

So Again...

Annual Members' Retreat 2007

October 19th-21st

Pilgrim Firs Conference Center

(outside Port Orchard, Washington)

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And...

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Events and Updates

Eco Depot Showroom and Learning Center Calendar-

Eco Depot has expanded the educational experience to the community by offering various lunch and learn presentations to green building and design professionals. In addition, we will be offering classes to the general public on green topics to be held in our Showroom and Learning Center. All classes are to be held at 1326 E. Sprague Ave, Spokane, WA.

August 11, 2007 - Solar PV Class

Hours 9:00 am to 12:00. Learn the basics of Solar PV and what is required to get started with these projects. Class is limited to 20 people, so register as soon as possible. Cost is \$35.00 per person and will include material and handouts. Don't miss the opportunity to become less dependant on your utility provider.

Email Nadine at nadine@ecodepotinc.com or call 509-924-8803.

October 13th, 2007- Solar Hot Water Class

Hours 9:00 am to 12:00. Learn the basics of Solar Hot Water and what is required to get started saving utility dollars. Class is limited to 20 people, so register as soon as possible. Cost is \$35.00 per person and will include material and handouts. Email Nadine at nadine@ecodepotinc.com or call 509-924-8803.

Sand in the City - Ecobuilding Team Competes!

Friday August 24, 9:00 am - 3:00, viewing all weekend. | South Puget Sound Chapter

What do you get when you mix over two hundred competitors, thousands of spectators, great food, live entertainment, over 40 hands-on art and science activities, master sand sculptors, and 240 tons of sand? It's Sand in the City - a free community event to benefit the Hands On Children's Museum! Last year's event drew 10 teams and over 43,000 visitors!

Port Plaza and Corky Street Downtown Olympia, Contact Robin Lee at 360.352.5949 or contact@joyouscreations.com

Ancient Earth School of Natural Building

Whidbey Island, WA

Sept 14-16, **OVEN/BENCH**, 3 days Mt. Baker

This will be a fun and information packed workshop on building a clay oven and baking in it. Come with a sense of wonder at this ancient art of using the materials under our feet to build a wood-fired baking oven. We will cover material selection, earth mixing techniques, foundations, corbelled domes, and finish plaster. We will spend a day and a half building and we'll also include a cob bench construction. Lunch provided Saturday & Sunday. Register Now \$225.

WORK PARTIES

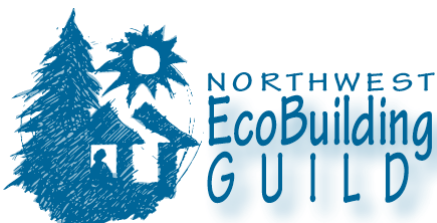
Work parties are typically a time to finish up natural building projects such as cob, earth bag, and plastering. There may be several different projects to choose from. It's also a time to play in the mud and enjoy being outdoors! Come early and leave any time you want, but we hope you'll stay for the cook-out. Camping overnight is an option--just let us know. Start time: 10am-ish. Sunday, August 19th & Sunday, September 9th.

We'll provide lunch and fire up the sauna in the afternoon. Anyone who would like to stay can join us for a cook-out around the fire. Bring something to grill and an instrument, if you'd like.

For photos and periodic changes/updates check our website at www.naturalbuildingschool.org. We invite any questions you might have. Please contact us if you'd like more information about Ancient Earth School of Natural Building! Here's to mud on your feet-have a great summer!

Straw Bale Wall Raising w/ Living Shelter Design

September 29 & 30 in Ellensburg, WA. Hands-on opportunity to raise bale walls, make custom size bales, and prepare walls for finishes. Free camping available onsite, midday meals provided. Contact the owners Julie and John Ufkes for details at jufkes@fairpoint.net or 509-968-3361.



Check the Guild website
www.ecobuilding.org (click on *Calendar*)
 regularly to stay abreast of all events sponsored by
 Guild Chapters and Members!

Rainwater Collection in Washington

By Allison Gray, WSDE

The topic of rainwater collection is a hot one indeed in the state of Washington. In the last few years there have been whisperings and rumors throughout our green building communities that the practice of collecting rainwater off your house is illegal. And like many an urban legend, few know where the truth ends and the falsehoods begin.

With an ever increasing number of people around Washington State considering the use of rainwater to meet some of their water needs, we need to get our facts straight. So here it is in brief – the facts according to the water resources staff at the Department of Ecology.

Rainwater is a water resource of the state

In Washington, state law defines water resources as “all water above, upon, or beneath the surface of the earth, located within the state.” Rainwater is therefore legally considered a water resource of the state. (RCW 43.27A.020)

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is responsible for managing the State’s water and recognizes that rainwater collection has many benefits. Regulating the use of small amounts of rainwater was probably not the intention of the statute when it was drafted. Unfortunately, clarifying legislation on this matter was unsuccessful in the 2006 Legislature as well as the past five legislative sessions.

Rainwater collection systems

The difficulty in defining the permitting requirements for rainwater collection lies in differentiating between the systems that cause little, if any, impact and those that cause impairment to other water right holders or to the environment. The department does not require permits for systems using *de minimus* (negligible) amounts of rainwater (e.g., residential rain barrels or ornamental pond kits storing a few hundred gallons).

If not managed, large systems or a significant number of smaller systems could potentially impact existing water rights or harm the environment either now or in the future. Rainwater collection could potentially cause impairment by taking water that would otherwise flow into freshwater streams or aquifers supplying other water right holders, and fish. The impact of rainwater collection systems can depend on their size, location, and the number of systems in a particular area.

Benefits of rainwater collection

Rainwater collection is valued for its many benefits, such as: reducing polluted runoff, providing an alternative to fresh water supplies for non-potable uses like irrigation and toilet flushing, reducing the impact on over-taxed ground and surface water sources, and managing stormwater.

Until clarifying legislation is enacted, Ecology will continue to balance its support of the benefits of rain collection and use with its responsibility to respond to complaints of potential impairment and to avoid future impairment.

For additional information on rainwater harvesting in Washington, including links to past rainwater harvesting legislation and how rainwater collection is being handled in San Juan County, visit Ecology’s Web site at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/nwro/sjc_rwc.html

Ecology’s Green Building Group is also available to answer questions about building sustainably in your area. Contact the office closest to you.

Group Coordinator: 360.407.6352
Southwest Regional Office: 360.407.6084
Northwest Regional Office: 425.649.7224
Eastern Regional Office: 509.329.3448



3000 gallon cistern - Martha Rose Construction

About Us: The Northwest EcoBuilding Guild is the Pacific Northwest’s leading association of residential builders, architects, designers, consultants, and suppliers concerned with ecological building. The Guild’s mission is to function as an educational forum to facilitate building practices that protect human health, encourage sustainable resource usage and foster long term economic vitality. To learn more about the Guild and its activities, check out our Web site at www.ecobuilding.org. For membership information go to [www.ecobuilding.org](mailto:membership@ecobuilding.org) or membership@ecobuilding.org.