

Gerren Wagner

From: neilryanyoung@hotmail.com
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To: Gerren Wagner
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January 2011 Newsletter:

Hello, fellow GBACPA members! Welcome to the first newsletter of 2011! From this point on, we will be issuing quarterly newsletters chock-full of events and facts about green buildings in our area. We will always invite your comments and suggestions, so please send any to the Communications Committee, c/o Gerren Wagner wagner@sevengroup.com.

And now, a word from the Board President.....

Message from the Board President:

Since its founding in 1997, the GBACPA has evolved and grown as green building has done the same. The mission of this column is to inform the membership of the breadth of projects that are underway and keep the membership apprised of organizational goals and progress toward their achievement.

Perhaps the most notable event before us today is the transition from Affiliate status to Chapter status with the US Green Building Council (USGBC). Though GBACPA has enjoyed a close relationship with the USGBC over the years, the Board of Directors deemed it beneficial to our organization's membership to accept the request from the USGBC to join the numerous other Chapters across the country. This relationship will provide GBACPA enhanced access to the resources available through the national organization. While GBACPA sees its mission as the advancement of green building in our region, we recognize that the preeminent certification for green building is LEED, the tool created by the USGBC. A closer relationship with the USGBC can only increase our ability to provide input in the constant review of this tool. At the same time we will continue to use all available tools to further our mission.

What does this transition mean to our membership structure? As you know, we have already instituted the changes to our membership structure anticipating the change. While Chapters only recognize the individual membership, organizations will continue to occupy a vital position in the Chapter. Organizations will be afforded sponsor status that offers greater exposure for their organization as well as other benefits that recognize their contribution. Whether as part of a Organization Partner or as an individual, members will retain their importance in determining the direction of the GBACPA and its relevance to our community.

Coinciding with the transition to Chapter status is a review and reassessment of our Bylaws and Strategic Goals. These reviews are targeted to be completed in early 2011 to coincide with a formal announcement of the Chapter status. Though review of the Bylaws is related to this transition, it is time to complete this needed update of two important organization instruments.

The Bylaws review includes a tweaking and clarification of several minor structural issues and the addition of language that further addresses the newest additions to our evolving organization – notably the addition of branches (more about that in a later issue).

[Feb 16: In-Construction Tour of Gary Schultz Child Care Center](#)

[Feb 19: Sustainable Product Showcase Social](#)

[Feb 23 & 24: PA Housing Research Center Annual Conference](#)

[Apr 21: 2011 GBACPA Annual Conference and Green Building Award Dinner](#)

[Oct 4-7: Greenbuild 2011](#)

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The updating of our Strategic Goals is an important means to focus and define the direction we are pursuing and the means to accomplish those goals. This document will be used to continue to plan and assess our progress in the development and institution of programs and projects.

The next newsletter will feature many of the projects we are venturing into, i.e. educational programs, speakers bureau, green schools initiative, college programs, product reviews, internships – to name a few.

Volunteers are Needed.

All of the projects listed in this letter and others to follow require volunteers from our membership to make them come to life. Please consider becoming a volunteer by contacting our Executive Director, Dave Sheridan at 717-497-5768. We need your help and we need your ideas to advance this important work.

Steve Coulson, Board Chair, January, 2011.

Call for Nominations for Board Members:

The GBACPA Board of Directors is currently seeking nominations for Directors positions. This April, several current board members will reach their term limits, so NOW is the opportunity for you to serve on the board during a very exciting transitional period as we become an official chapter of the USGBC. If you would like to be considered or know of someone who would be interested, please contact Jack Berger at jberger@eiasoc.com.

Please note: Our election cycle will be changing this year, so directors who are elected this April will serve a shortened term (20 months rather than the full 24 months). Elections have typically been held in April, but the board has recently voted to change the cycle to a typical fiscal year and hold the elections in November with new terms to begin in January.

GBACPA Board Member Builds Green Home

by Andrew Hankermeyer



For many people, the thought of building their own home from the foundation up is quite daunting. It does indeed come with a lot of headaches and hard work, but to long-time GBACPA member, Sean Delaney, and his wife, Liz, the extra work and effort was well worth the result. Several years ago, in the eve of the green movement, the Delaney's were planning, designing and beginning to build their "sustainable" home. They moved into their home in late summer of 2010.

Admittedly, even being an architecture student, the Delaney's schooled me in the ways of "green" design and building. "The benefits go far beyond just the aesthetics. Knowing that I'm living in a home that is healthy for my family and well-constructed with consideration for the

[McClure Company](#)

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environment, makes me happy we made the decision to build our own home," says Liz. "Nor are we paying a premium for our desires and beliefs," says Sean. He continues to explain how the "ingredients" in building their home may be more expensive than materials used in the usual stick-built home, but because their home uses fewer finish materials, the cost is comparable in the end. A good example is the exterior and interior walls of their home. Aside from the stucco, the only other materials are Rastra, a type of ICF (Insulated Concrete Forms). Rastra is 86% recycled polystyrene and acts as the insulation and the structural member of the wall. A stick built wall would require an exterior siding, some sort of insulation, then usually drywall and then paint. Add in the additional labor, and you are at the cost of the ICFs, but the difference is that you end up with a longer-lasting product, with much greater energy efficiency and no VOC's.



The practice of green building is only now catching on in this area. Four years ago, when the Delaney's began researching architectural firms and builders, finding one was more challenging than expected. Doing Internet research resulted in 0 hits. "One architect said they would design our home, but we needed to do all the research for green building," remembers Liz. "We wanted someone with more knowledge than us and innovative ideas that would open our eyes and give us good suggestions," adds Sean. But in time, they did come across a designer/builder named Jeff Dardozzi from Earth Alchemist. Jeff was not only onboard with the Delaney's desire for quality craftsmanship and green innovations, but would even contribute his own expertise and philosophy, primarily derived from architect Christopher Alexander's essay on the "Pattern Language." Designing the Delaney home took close to nine months, and building the structure almost two years.



Perhaps the most striking quality about the home is its timeless design. Even someone that studies architectural styles would have a tough time labeling this one. (Though a novice could quickly point out similarities to Frank Lloyd Wright and Charles Rennie MacIntosh, leader of the Arts and Crafts movement in the late 1800's, for its art nouveau feel and personal touch of craftsmanship.) Another appreciated design element is the concept that the land is a design inspiration as opposed to dropping a structure on the site. A deer trail through the site became the perfect location for the hallway and the home's stairs flow naturally with the gentle grade of the land. Another attribute was Jeff's philosophy of using old technologies while remaining carbon neutral which restricted them from using any materials further than 50 miles. These elements gathered together make the Delaney's home truly one of a kind.

Design details prevail throughout the structure. Walking around inside the house, you see things one would only see if they were on a sailboat, such as a ship's ladder from the dining room into the wine cellar and built-in drain boards in the concrete countertops. Jeff's handmade iron railings in the hallway, balconies, and floating stairs to the boys' playroom add another dimension of texture and detail. Hand cut joints in exposed wooden trusses and joining beams can only be seen in Japanese woodworking textbooks. Their choice of hardware for the doors and windows that Sean made in his own workshop match the rest of the home's robustness. The thick walls, radiant-heated concrete floors, and south-facing windows keep the home warm in the winter. Conversely, the thick walls, large tiled overhanging living green roof, and proximity to the creek, aid in keeping the home cool in the summer, despite the fact there is no air-conditioning or duct work in the home. But the real show-stopper goes to the heart of the home...the kitchen. Embraced by the ample lighting above from the surrounding clerestory windows, one is surrounded by the alluring and explorative views into the rest of the home and outside to the stream below.



This home is much more than a unique design. The Delaney's home is naturally low-maintenance, comfortable and healthy to live in, resource-efficient, environmentally-responsible, supports local economy and designed to budget. Perhaps that is why Jeff has always said that "homes are intended to be far more than just the sum of their parts." The Delaney's home is a perfect testament to green design and a model for others who also want to

live in their own piece of artwork.

To contact Liz and Sean and learn more about their journey in designing and building their custom home, feel free to email them at lizdelaney@mac.com.

FSC Wood

by Jason Shuey, Forest Products Marketing Specialist, TREES Program



Wood products, when harvested sustainably, are amongst the most environmentally-friendly resources available for use in building products, paper products, and many household items that each of us uses everyday. Yet use of wood products, that is any product made from the processing of logs into components, is often associated with negative environmental impacts such as deforestation. This is an incorrect and dangerous misconception, as the future of our forests depends on sustainable forest management.

There are many environmental advantages of using wood products that are harvested from well-managed forests. Wood is a renewable resource whereas many other products such as plastic and steel require petroleum and coal, non-renewable resources. Other common “wood alternatives” call for bamboo or other agriculturally-based products. While these products certainly grow faster than most trees, there is no evidence to show how these raw materials are managed in relation to social, environmental and economic indicators and no evidence to support that these rapidly renewable materials are as green as wood products from “well-managed forests”.

While it is proven that wood products harvested from well-managed forests are some of, if not the most environmentally-friendly products on the planet, how can we identify wood products from well-managed forests? Without actually going to the forest where the wood products were harvested while at the same time having expertise in forestry, consumers can buy in confidence when they purchase wood products that are third-party certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

FSC was started in 1993 and “is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes the responsible management of the world’s working forests through the development of forest management standards, a voluntary certification system, and trademarks that provide recognition and value to products bearing the FSC label in the marketplace.”

A report from Newsome and Hewitt in 2005 examined 129 FSC-certified forestry operations in 21 countries and found that the following social and environmental impacts were made through the certification process:

- 60% improved management of aquatic and riparian zones, sensitive sites, high conservation value forests, and threatened and endangered species
- 70% improved communication and conflict resolution with nearby communities
- 60% improved worker training and safety

In another report, Newsome, Bahn and Cashore (2005, Journal of Forest Policy and Economics) examined 80 FSC-certified forestry operations in the US and found the following impacts that were a direct result of FSC certification:

- 90% made changes to forest management plans
- 70% improved monitoring, inventory, and high conservation value forest management
- 60% improved management of woody debris/snags, aquatic and riparian areas, and threatened and endangered species

You can make a positive environmental impact each time you purchase wood products that are harvested from well-managed forests. Buying FSC-certified products is a reliable way to do your part to make sure the world's forests are managed in an environmentally sound, socially responsible, and economically viable manner. This will ensure that future generations will also be able to rely on these truly environmentally-friendly and renewable resources that we call wood products and the forests from which they come.

To learn more about FSC certification, how to become FSC certified, or where to find FSC-certified products please go to www.fscus.org.



Gettysburg College Center for Athletic Recreation and Fitness

Gettysburg College recognized the need to expand its existing athletic facility to provide more opportunities for the high percentage of students who maintain their fitness and participate in the College's varsity and intramural sports and exercise programs. The project requirements called for a 10,000 square foot renovation to the College's existing sports and recreation facility, as well as a 55,000 square foot addition west of, and adjacent to, Bream Gymnasium, Wright Hall, and Hauser Field House.

This building has been certified as LEED Gold under the New Construction version 2.2 rating system and is the first building on the Gettysburg College Campus to become LEED certified.



Architect: [Cannon Design](#)
CM: [Kinsley Construction](#)

Green Legislation

Our legislators are introducing several bills to encourage Green Building in PA. These are just two of the most recent:

Rep Miller (York Co.) HB 179, a sort of LEED EBOM bill that would require state-owned buildings to undergo an evaluation and energy efficiency improvements. Learn more [here](#).

Rep Harper (Montgomery Co.) HB 193, which is similar to last session's HB 444, would require new and renovated state buildings to meet rating system requirements (Energy Star score of 85, which is a pretty efficient building). Learn more [here](#).

Website Update

Three new pages have been added to the GBACPA [website](#). Check them out when you have a free minute and give us feedback or send us your info to add to them!

[Green Schools](#)

The newest initiative undertaken by the USGBC, Green Schools promotes healthy, productive learning environments for our kids with innumerable benefits to students and teachers including improved teacher retention. Our website lists several resources in the commonwealth as well as case studies of some of the already built Green Schools in PA.

[Case Studies](#)

A list of regional green building projects that can be sorted by Project Name, Building Type, Location, LEED Certification Level, Size, and Cost per SF. If you click on the Project Name itself, you can get more detailed information.

[Speakers Bureau](#)

A list of professionals in our area from diverse backgrounds who are experts in their field and can be contacted for speaking events on particular topics. This list can also be sorted by Speaker's Name, Topic, Title, Business, Location and Phone. By clicking on the Person's Name, you can get more detailed information.

Online Green Education

FREE webinars at www.chps.net (Intro to CHPS Verified, Make Your Existing School a High Performance School)

NEED **CE HOURS** for your LEED-AP Credential Maintenance?

Free webinars and podcasts for MEMBERS at www.usgbc.org

Free webinars for SUBSCRIBERS at www.buildinggreen.com (Environmental Building News)

Volunteer with Us Opportunities

No matter what your talents, we could use you!! Nearly 99% of our organization functions on the sweat and effort of volunteers who are experts in their field

The communications committee currently has four fabulous, invested and hard-working members: Janine Poland-Townsley, Catherine Hoover, Tyler Thumma, Neil Young, and Gerren Wagner (chair). We are most interested in finding likeminded people who are excited about Green Building to join our committee and help out with the newsletter, website, annual meeting, etc.

If your talents lie elsewhere, please contact our Executive Director, Dave Sheridan (info@gbacpa.org), to match your expertise with one of our committees (finance, programming, education, green schools, etc.

Job Listings

Have a green job to post on our website? Send it [here](#).

Caption Contest!



What is it??

Like on This Old House when they come up with snarky suggestions for unusual and unfamiliar tools, you can [submit](#) your ideas for what this thing might be.

The top three cleverest ideas will be published in the next GBACPA newsletter!

Coming Events

[Community and Small Wind Energy Conference](#)

When: Tuesday, Feb 8 7:30am to Wednesday, Feb 9 5:00pm

Where: Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel
Innovation Park at Penn State
215 Innovation Boulevard
State College, PA 16803

Community Wind Across America presents a two-day regional conference on local, state and national policies, and options for financing Community and Small Wind projects. The conference will also include practical information on how to put together a Community Wind project. Concurrently there will be a full Small Wind program focusing on topics such as how to choose a turbine, installation, and rebates and grants.

The Mid Atlantic Region Conference in State College, Pennsylvania will bring together state and local economic development and policy makers with members of the agriculture and wind energy industries to advance opportunities for locally-owned clean energy production. We will share experiences and information to harness the growing momentum for new models, new policies and new projects.

The Community and Small Wind Energy Conference is for farmers, ranchers, rural landowners, economic development professionals, elected officials, business leaders, tribal representatives, investors, bankers, town planners, community leaders and any other interested individuals.

[High Performance Schools seminar on behalf of the Energy Resource Center at SEDA COG](#)

When: Thursday, Feb 10
7:30am to 9:30am

Where: The Country Cupboard Restaurant
Route 15 and Hafer Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Cost: \$25

Speakers: Lorinda Krause, Principal, Selinsgrove Area Elementary School
Mark Barnhardt, AIA, Senior Vice-President, Principal-in-Charge,
EI Associates

High Performance Schools can be constructed, renovated or expanded for approximately the same capital cost as conventional schools, cost significantly less to operate over the building's lifetime, create a healthier environment for students and teachers, and improve student test scores by 20-25%. Key factors in achieving these benefits are the integrated design process and attention to maximizing the learning environment.

School administrators, school board members, facility managers, architects, engineers, contractors and others interested in saving energy and money at school facilities while improving student performance should attend this seminar to learn how high performance schools can benefit our students, teachers, taxpayers and region.

Lorinda Krause, Selinsgrove Elementary School Principal, and EI Associates will describe the integrated design process, high performance features, costs and benefits of Selinsgrove's LEED Gold-certified Elementary School. The school building, originally constructed in 1962, was recently renovated and expanded. In addition to its LEED-Gold certification, the project won the Green Building Association of Central PA's 2010 Green Building Award.

Click [here](#) to register.

Thermal Retrofitting Historic Buildings

When: Tuesday, Feb 15

7:30 to 8:00 am Breakfast and Networking

8:00 to 9:15 am Presentation

Where: Historic Cork Factory Hotel
Downtown Lancaster, PA

The Central Pennsylvania Preservation Society is holding its first monthly meeting with a 1/2 hour networking session to allow preservation professionals and other members of the community to meet. Breakfast and the networking session will be followed by a presentation by Mr. Charles Byers from the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology focusing on thermal retrofitting in historic buildings.

Register online before February 10th [here](#).

In-Construction Tour of the Gary Schultz Child Care Center

When: Wednesday, Feb 16

3:30pm

Where: Corner of Allen Road and Park Avenue
State College, PA

The NCPA-GBA invites you to attend their third green building tour – and first tour in construction - at the new Gary Schultz Child Care Center on Penn State's University Park Campus on February 16th, 2010 starting at 3:30 pm.

The site is located at the corner of [Allen Road and Park Avenue](#) and parking is available at the [Nittany Parking Deck](#) nearby. The tour will begin at the job trailer located off Allen Road near the Music II Building. You can find out more information about the project [here](#).

Hosted by the North Central PA Green Building Association and Penn State's [Office of the Physical Plant](#) (OPP), the tour will include members of the project's architectural and engineering design teams as well as an owner's representative in effort to provide multiple perspectives on green design and construction. The plan is to follow this tour with another once the project is complete.

Attendance is free and registration is not required, but if you have a chance, please email Bryan Smith (bsmith@reeseinc.com), branch management committee chair, to let him know if you plan on attending.

Please note that this is an active construction project, which presents certain hazards customary in building construction. Accessibility may be a problem for visitors with physical limitations. In addition, hard hats, safety eyewear and hard sole shoes are required by Penn State. If you plan to attend, please do your best to provide these accommodations for yourself. If you are having trouble doing so, please let Bryan know as soon as possible. If you have extra to share, please bring them along for others to use.

Sustainable Product Showcase Social

When: Saturday, Feb 19
1:00pm
Where: Otto's Pub and Brewery
2235 North Atherton Street
State College, PA 16803

The North Central PA branch will hold its next sustainable product showcase social to help introduce attendees to sustainable technology and products in a casual environment. GBACPA will provide finger foods and participants can sample the extensive offerings of Otto's Pub and Brewery at their cash bar.

Long in the works, we are thrilled that Otto's is now able to accommodate our group at their wonderful new location. Step one foot in their new digs and you'll notice the tribute to Pennsylvania's brewing past hanging overhead. This inherently sustainable celebration of community doesn't end with the beer. You'll find on their recently-updated website more information regarding their commitment to local foods and causes such as the [ClearWater Conservancy](#). For more information on [Otto's Pub and Brewery, including directions, click here](#).

We are currently arranging a few exhibitors/sponsors for the event and will follow-up shortly with updated info on what you can expect to see and learn about.

We are also always looking for exhibitors to showcase products and help sponsor events. If interested, please contact branch chair Bryan Smith at bsmith@reeseinc.com.

Registration is not required, but if you have a chance, please also email Bryan to let him know you will attend.

PA Housing Research Center Annual Conference

When: Feb 23 & 24
Where: Holiday Inn York Conference Center
2000 Loucks Road
York, PA 17408

The Pennsylvania Housing Research Center will hold its annual conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in York, on February 23 and 24.

The first day will be devoted to housing and construction issues; the second day to land development issues.

This year, sessions will deal with Act 129 energy conservation measures, energy code compliance, thermal envelope - energy use interactions, and advanced framing.

On Day 2, half-day training will be offered in energy efficiency incentives and advanced framing, and full-day training will be offered in solar electric system installation and inspection.

For more information about the conference and registration, download the attached brochure.

If you have any questions about the conference, please [contact PHRC](#).

2011 GBACPA Annual Conference and Green Building Award Dinner

The 2011 Green Building Awards program will consist of as many as nine awards.

2011 Green Building Awards will be considered in the following areas:

- Sustainable Sites
- Water Efficiency
- Energy and Atmosphere
- Materials and Resources
- Indoor Environmental Quality

- Innovation and Design Process

Applicants must indicate which of these areas pertain to their submissions.

In addition, an overall award will be considered for two project sizes:

- Project value less than \$5 million.
- Project value greater than \$5 million.

All projects will be considered for the appropriate overall award.

Projects must have been completed and occupied by December 31, 2010. Projects do not have to be LEED® certified to qualify for the awards listed above. Projects may be entire buildings or portions of buildings.

Finally, an award will be considered for projects certified under the LEED Existing Buildings: Operation & Maintenance (LEED EBOM) rating system. Projects submitted for this award must have achieved LEED EBOM certification before December 31, 2010.

Projects may be submitted in multiple areas. If a project is submitted in multiple areas, the applicant should provide requested information in each of the areas.

Submission Guidelines:

1. To qualify for consideration, built Projects must have been constructed within the last five years and completed prior to January 2010. Projects must be located within the United States. Projects do not have to be LEED-certified (with the exception of the LEED EBOM category).
2. Entries must be made by an organization (building owner, builder, design firm, etc.) The Green Building Awards application fee is \$100 for GBACPA Organization Partners and \$200 for an applicant that is not a GBACPA Organization Partner.
3. To register for the 2011 Green Building Awards, please use the form [here](#). Entry instructions will be provided following registration.
4. Entries must be submitted by **midnight on February 8, 2011**.

[Greenbuild 2011](#)

October 4-7, 2011
Toronto, Canada

Did you miss Greenbuild 2010 in Chicago? Check out the USGBC podcasts at <http://www.greenbuildexpo.org/speakers/greenbuild-2010-video.aspx>

Thank you to all who have provided the information and articles needed to put this newsletter together. If you have an article or ideas for future newsletters, please contact the Green Building Association info@gbacpa.org

For more information about the Central PA Green Building Association please send an email to info@gbacpa.org