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**Calling All Volunteers!!**

Volunteers are the lifeblood of an organization like ours and, as our recent membership survey showed, there are many of you who are willing to help achieve the chapter's mission. In October we will be holding two Volunteer Orientations, followed by networking mixers. Please plan to join us on Thursday, October 1st in Austin and Tuesday, October 6th in San Antonio. The orientation will be from 5:00-6:30 followed by the mixer. Visit our website [www.usgbc-centraltexas.org](http://www.usgbc-centraltexas.org) for further details.

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Green Building Authority Explains How Central Texas Stacks Up Against European Green Building Practices

Earlier this month the Central Texas - Balcones Chapter hosted Jerry Yudelson, one of the country's most published authors on green building and sustainability, for a lecture entitled "Looking to Europe for a greener tomorrow." More than 130 people attended the lecture held at the San Antonio Central Library and followed by a networking reception sponsored by Haworth Office Furniture and Wittigs Office Interiors. Other sponsors included Overland Partners, San Antonio Business Journal, Skanska, H.R. Gray, Alamo Beer Company, San Antonio Express News and Ridgways, in partnership with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the AIA San Antonio. [Read full article](#)

Case Study: Austin Home Achieves Top Ratings in Three Green Building Programs

from EcoHome

Designing and constructing a house to garner top-level certification in four different green building programs might sound like a nightmare of paperwork, red tape, and regulations, but it was all in a day's work for this Austin home's



Join Our Local Chapter.

By becoming a member you will have access to discounts, members-only events, and voting rights.

Upcoming Events

[Emerging Green Builders LEED Green Associate Study Group](#)

Date: Mondays Aug 10- Sept. 21, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[2009 PCI Convention](#)

Date: September 12-15, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[San Antonio's Nuclear Power Investment Decision](#)



verifier. For this contemporary house in the close-in, mixed-use Mueller community, verifier Chip Henderson compiled a simple three-page spreadsheet that included the mandatory requirements of

each program. "We took a look at the four programs and folded them into one to-do list," recalls Henderson, of San Antonio-based Contexts Consultants and Architects. "We realized that if we stuck to this one to-do list, at the end of the day we'd cross the finish line with all four of the programs." Henderson's organizational skills paid off: The 3,266-square-foot home obtained top ratings by the three most widely accepted green building programs in Austin: LEED-Platinum, NAHB Model Green Home Building Gold, and Austin Energy Green Building 5-Star. The house is also Energy Star-qualified. [Read the rest of the article](#)

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[2009 Community Development Summit](#)

Date: September 17, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[Geothermal Symposium](#)

Date: September 19, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[LEED Lunch-N-Learn: Hydronic Cooling and Heating](#)

Date: September 24, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[LEED Core Concepts Workshop](#)

Date: September 25, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

["Brown Bag" Lunch-N-Learn:](#)

[Measuring Building Performance](#)

Date: September 29, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

QUICK LINKS

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[Chapter Calendar](#)

[SCRC Information](#)



EPA Challenges American School Districts to Save Energy and Money with Energy Star

EPA press release

During the back to school season, EPA is challenging school administrators and building managers to improve energy efficiency throughout their facilities. School districts can answer EPA's call-to-action by taking the Energy Star Challenge, a pledge to improve the energy efficiency of our nation's buildings. Schools that accept the challenge will join more than 500 school districts across the country that are helping to fight climate change by committing to reducing their energy use with help from Energy Star.

[Read the full article](#)

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas Receives Global Innovation Award

USGBC press release

AUSTIN, Texas (August 27, 2009) - Last week, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas received the 2009 Innovation Award, which was created at the recent RMHC International Conference. The bi-annual conference, which was held in Chicago, IL, gathers Ronald McDonald House Charities representatives from 30 countries and regions worldwide, to learn about the most compelling issues facing non-profit organizations today as they share best practices with each other about their experiences with their own local RMHC. With nearly 300 RMHC organizations around the world, new ideas are constantly surfacing on how to better care for and serve the children and families that come to us for help each year. Innovations in programs, processes, and stakeholder engagement exist in the RMHC system every day. This year, the Innovation Award was created to recognize an idea that resulted in scalable improvements that make Ronald McDonald House Charities stronger and more advanced in their practices.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article



USGBC Launches Performance Initiative

from Sustainable Industries

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in August 2009 made the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification more stringent when it began requiring ongoing performance data from buildings as a part of continued certification. But the Washington, D.C.-based organization says it understands tracking energy performance is not necessarily easy for developers and building owners not used to doing so. The Building Performance Initiative forces developers to look at how the people use the building day to day, says USGBC. "Plenty of people are content to simply point to these longstanding issues without offering a constructive way to address them," said Scot Horst, USGBC LEED senior vice president, in a statement. [Read full article](#)



Benefits, Risks & Liabilities of Green Roofs

from Consilience: The Blog

There are two basic types of green roofs, (i) an extensive roof, which has a few inches of soil cover and (ii) an intensive roof that has two feet or more of soil for a variety of grass, trees, bushes and shrubs. Green roofs are used in a multitude of buildings, including industrial facilities, commercial offices, retail properties and residences.

[Click here for more](#)

Officers of the 2009 Board

Board Chair: Heather Venhaus; The Wildflower Center
Executive Director: Jane Baxter Lynn
Co-Vice Chair: Effie Brunson; Designated Tree Partners
Co-Vice Chair: Dr. Diana Glawe; Trinity University
Treasurer: Andrew Kelch; Wachovia Securities
Secretary: Liza Meyer; City of San Antonio
SCRC Board Representative: James Andrews; Overland Partners Architects
Past Chair: Heather DeGrella; Lake/Flato Architects
Member: Gary Acuna; TRI Recycling, Inc.
Member: Justin Doak; Austin Refuel
Member: Anita Ledbetter; Metropolitan Partnership for Energy
Member: Sean Van Delist; Cement Council of Texas
Member: John Walewski; Texas A&M University
Member: Erin Zayko; Lockheed Martin Energy Services

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SCRC Representative: Robert Harris; Lake/Flato Architects

South Central Regional Council Representatives

Board Representative; James Andrews; Overland Partners Architects
At-Large Board Representative; Kathy Zarsky; Holos Collaborative

Bernie Madoff will serve out his life sentence in a **LEED-certified** federal prison