



The Sustainable Advocate

Dedicated to the long-term health and vitality of our region

Sustainable San Mateo County

September 2005



Green Dollhouse Exhibit

Creating a Doll's-Eye View of a Healthier World

September 24 – December 3

Mark your calendars! September 24, 2005 is the opening day of the Green Dollhouse Exhibit at Coyote Point Museum in San Mateo. The exhibit is a delightful collection that showcases more than a dozen of the best entries from the Green Dollhouse Competition.

Guaranteed to be fun and engaging for the young and the young at heart, this exhibit celebrates the many ways in which we can make our homes healthier and more eco-friendly.

Energy efficiency, water conservation, the use of healthier building materials, and other sustainable practices are gradually making inroads into mainstream home building; but many people still think of green building as a bewildering subject best left to the experts. The Green Dollhouse Project is helping to change that perception by showing kids and adults how we can all take action to make our homes healthier and more environmentally sustainable.

While kids interact and play with beautiful and safe green materials in the Make Your Own Green Dollhouse area, adults can discover

what choices they have and experience the beauty and availability of environmentally friendly building materials.

You won't want to miss these miniature green homes built by professional architects and design students. Workshops, events and activities for all ages will be offered during the run of the exhibit. For more information, visit www.greendollhouse.org or call Coyote Point Museum at (650) 342-7755.

The museum is located at 1651 Coyote Point Drive in San Mateo. It is open Tuesday- Saturday 10-5, and Sundays from 12-5. Visit www.coyoteptmuseum.org for more information.

Opening Day Festivities • September 24

11:00a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Family Workshop: "Build Your Own Green Dollhouse Room"

Kids will learn about green building materials, search for them in the dollhouses, and make a dollhouse room with a shoebox.

12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Family Workshop: "Solar Scientists like Nachos"

Kids will learn about solar power and make a solar oven out of a pizza box.

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Opening Reception Refreshments and entertainment

Workshop space is limited - please arrive early. Workshops will also be offered on Saturday, Oct.15 and Saturday, Nov. 19.



More Green Dollhouse news on page 2

September 2005



Chair Report

Sustainability is certainly becoming a buzzword of late. I see it everywhere. This is an indication that the concept is going mainstream (especially when I see the oil companies paying homage to it). And almost every major construction and architectural firm now has employees who are LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). San Mateo County has committed all of its new public buildings over 5,000 sq. ft. to be LEED certified. The City of San Mateo's new public library will be in this category, and more private developers are building with green features. This thoughtful approach

preserves our resources for generations.

This newsletter features the opening of the Green Dollhouse Exhibit at the Coyote Point Museum. Created with the goal of introducing green building features in a playful way to intrigue and inform children and their families, SSMC has been working on the project with several other great partners for three years. Everyone was amazed and gratified at the response from architects all over the nation (and Japan!). The originality and clever features of the dollhouses are truly surprising and more so when you see them all together. I urge you not to miss this unusual exhibit.

This edition also contains another update on a past SSMC award winner. Jesse Cool has been a leader on the Peninsula with an organic

approach to food in her restaurants and the equitable treatment of her employees. I hope you will take the opportunity to enjoy her cuisine at the Flea Street Café or the JZ Cool Eatery, both in Menlo Park.

September is upon us, and we are looking for nominations for our Sustainable Awards. Nominations are due by November 29 and the event will be held on Thursday, February 16 at the Clarion Hotel.

We need sponsors to help us celebrate the expanded 2006 Tenth Anniversary Edition of the Indicators Report. Please see the flyer included in this newsletter for more information.

What will be your sustainable action in September? One person, one action does make a difference!

Ruth Peterson, Board Chair



Green Dollhouse Exhibit Classes for Kids

Grades K-2

The class will compare and contrast birds and their nests with humans and our homes. Enjoy a visit with a live bird from Coyote Point Museum. Learn about natural, sustainable, and renewable materials that we humans are using to build our homes. Scavenger hunt looking for these materials.

Video: A young boy's mission to re-use found objects on the island of Bali ("Ryan and the 3-R's").

Grades 3-5

This class will explain building materials that are made from recycled and renewable materials. Products that are friendly on our environment and animal habitats will be on-hand for show, tell, and touch. A forest animal whose home is protected by sustainable practices will visit. The class will have a scavenger hunt in the dollhouse exhibit looking for these building materials.

Video: Kids who recycle and the journey from the school recycle bin to new life as plastic decking.

For groups that visit but do not participate in a class:

The Healthy Home Scavenger Hunt: What materials make a home healthy? What makes it green? The dollhouses offer fun and creative uses of green building materials and re-used found objects. A scavenger hunt will provide a chance to explore the dollhouses up close and find hidden secrets.



Get Involved!

SSMC is looking for volunteers.

Awards Committee: Volunteers help to plan and implement the 7th annual recognition event scheduled for February 2006

Indicators Report Committee: The 2006 report is our 10th Anniversary edition. The committee determines the number and kind of indicators and the overall content and look of the report. Volunteers are also needed for the research and writing of the various indicators.

Communications Committee: Help us publicize SSMC's work.

For more information contact Judy Williams—see below.

The Sustainable Advocate is published by Sustainable San Mateo County.

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Send us your email address and let us know you would like to receive *The Sustainable Advocate* via email. contact Judy Williams—see above.

UPDATE: 2003 Award Winner

JZ Cool Eatery and Catering Company

Hungry? Don't forget about JZ Cool Eatery and Catering Company, a SSMC Sustainability 2003 Award winner. Based in Menlo Park, JZ Cool was recognized for using locally, organically grown products; recycling cans, plastic, bottles, cardboard, and paper products (from office use to guest checks); and reusing service ware, trays, plates, flatware and glasses.

What's new? According to Jesse Cool, the owner, "The biggest boost in maintaining our focus on sustainability is my great team of managers. They are the ones who keep it moving forward."

⊙ The company uses about 80% compostable to-go packaging. "As they develop products, regardless of price, we use them."

⊙ The company's cleaning agents are now not only biodegradable, but in general citrus-based and less intrusive to our staff as well as the water system. They are working with their dishwashing company on furthering this endeavor, while still upholding health standards for hygiene and cleanliness.

⊙ With BFI, they now compost 92% of their waste. Their organic compost bin looks like a normal dumpster and their non-recyclable waste container looks like a standard garbage can. "My hat is off to BFI for this great program in San Mateo County."

⊙ They offer health and dental benefits, and have just started a profit-sharing program for management. "This is highly unusual in the food industry and a step in the right direction for a more sustainable way of approaching a healthy business in the notoriously difficult food industry."

Kudos for their commitment to saving energy and maintaining a healthy and safe environment through food, cleaning supplies, and waste management.

Save the Date!

*SSMC Sustainability
Awards Presentation
Dinner*

*February 16, 2006
Clarion Hotel, Millbrae*

News Notes

San Francisco Green Festival

November 5-6, 2005

San Francisco Concourse, 8th & Brannan Streets

Featuring 100 speakers, marketplace of green businesses, how-to workshops and other special features • \$15.00

www.greenfestivals.org

Goddess of Garbage Wins Award

The national organization of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), San Andreas Lake Chapter, presented their Conservation Award to (SSMC Board Member) Carol A. Tanzi, aka The Goddess of Garbage, for her specialized work in recycling. She was honored for her mission to educate, inform, and show the world a new way to approach recycling using recycled products and reuse as a worthwhile unique design style for interiors.



Sustainable San Mateo County

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www.sustainablesanmateo.org

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