



# Member Message board...

Newsflash: Members of the Nebraska Green Build Council met in February with the NE State Fair organizing board. Three weeks later the State Fair unanimously agreed to invite the Nebraska Green Build Council to educate fair goers with an interactive display during one day of the fair. Please contact — If you are interested in taking part in this educational endeavor.

*The first 'Think Green, It's Thursday' Happy Hour was held March 17th. Greg Shinaut Executive Officer of the NE Green Build Council gave a presentation entitled, Green in the Building Industry'.*

*Green on Parade... Check them out!*  
**Builders with Certified Green Homes in the HBAL Spring Parade of Homes are –**  
 Rezac Construction - 3111 W. Covered Bridge Drive  
 Goings Homes - 6278 S 85<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Skyline Homes - 901 Garfield Street  
 \* The Parade will be May 8-15.

An up close view of Millard Lumbers Floor panels being installed.. >>>

**Mark Your Calendar >>>**

Nebraska Green Builders Quarterly Meeting April 12, Quarry Oaks

Future General Membership Meetings:  
 June 14, Sept. 13th, Dec. 13  
 Time and Location TBA

**THINK GREEN' Seminars:**  
 Every Thursday 5:00pm to 6:00pm  
 Eco Products & Services Center  
 conference room - 530 West P Street, Lincoln, NE  
 April 14 :: Recycling & Reuse in Home Building by: Greg Shinaut  
*Learn how to reduce and divert construction waste away from the landfill while on site.*

For a list of more THINK GREEN seminar topics an future dates or to reserve a spot, please email: christine.hunt@ecostoresne.org



**Nebraska Green Build**

The Nebraska Green Build Council is a marketing and professional development initiative of the Nebraska State Home Builders Association.

The program is intended to foster the development of green building practices in the residential construction industry and market the benefits of owning a "Nebraska Certified Green Built Home" to the home-buying public.

**in this issue >>>**

*On Location with Congressman Lee Terry*

*Builder Highlight - Jeff Brau*

*An Awesome Associate - Millard Lumber*

*Marketing - Getting your Green Build web page up and running!*

*Important dates - Get your calendars Out!*

*And More!*

[www.nebraskagreenbuilders.com](http://www.nebraskagreenbuilders.com)

## Insight into the Nebraska Green Build Council

*on location*



### Congressman Lee Terry Weighing in on Green Build Initiatives in Nebraska

*America's security, environment and economy hinge on the development of an energy policy that explores every avenue. To be truly comprehensive, any diverse energy portfolio must include a focus on the construction industry.*

According to a report from National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), buildings use about one-third of the world's energy. In the United States today, the building sector Accounts for 40% of our nation's primary energy use, compared to 32% for the industrial sector and 28% for the transportation sector. I believe that to significantly alter how buildings use energy we must evaluate how they are designed,

The House Committee on Science and Technology—which I have the honor to be a member of—has held field hearings on renewable energy integration into buildings. As a member of Congress, I have encouraged the development and deployment of new energy producing, micro-generation technologies such as advanced fuel cells, micro-turbines and solar photovoltaic cells. I have already worked

**"I commend the efforts by the Nebraska Green Build Association, and look forward to working with you in the future."**

*NE Congressman Lee Terry*

built, operated, renovated and even demolished. Efforts to meet this challenge will require the development of new, cost-effective building technologies, practices, standards and the revision and revalidation of building requirements.

Energy efficiency improvements using currently available technologies combined with responsible practices and integrated, whole-building design approaches can—on average reduce consumption by 43 percent.

with local educational institutions such as Creighton University and the Omaha and Lincoln campuses of the University of NE, which have developed curriculum and hands on programs for integrating not only energy efficiencies but also energy generation into home construction. I believe energy efficiency and direct us renewable energy technologies have tremendous potential to make a positive impact—not only to the industry but our future generations. - Lee Terry



P.O. Box 83008  
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### Green Build Council Meeting Review>>>

- \* The 2011 Election for Board of Directors was held in January with the following members winning a seat on the board: John Adcock, Mike Benker, Delrae Hirshman, Ken Inness, Mike Kinning, Dan Klein Sr., Mike Rezac, Jeff Taake. The current officers continue their term: Scott Tafoya, Matt Kleinschmit, Bob Ruskamp, Rod Jeck & Greg Shinaut.
- \* Participation at the 2011 Nebraska Stat Fair was discussed
- \* Finalized the 'Going Green' marketing piece.



# Jeff Brau Brau Builders



Brau Builders currently led by Jeff Brau is a three generation custom builder in the Omaha Community., that's almost 63 consecutive years! Brau Builders also holds a special 2011 Best of Omaha Distinction. Because of Jeff's commitment to building only the highest quality home, he has earned this issues 'spotlight'. Here's what Jeff has to say:

Q: Why did you decide to become a member of the Nebraska Green Build Council?

R: I wanted to try an stay in the forefront of the Green building and energy efficiency industry, so this was the organization to be part of!

Q: What would you say is the highpoint for your business as it relates to Green Build?

R: We are excited to be currently working on a model home with the Energy Smart Co. in Omaha that will be certified 'green' through NAHS.

Whether you think you can  
or think you can't...  
you're right!  
- Jeff Brau



We can't say enough good things about the Brau Builder's Team. From the day our family walked into their model home, up to 5 years after we built, they have been a class act. Bob and his son Jeff, represent what good people are. The quality home they build represents their personalities. We would recommend Brau Builders to anyone who is considering building a custom built home because they are reliable and honest about their work. We will always have a special connection with them.

Chris & Lisa Gutschow

Q: What would you say is the biggest change you have seen in the industry?

R: Well, there seems to be a real effort to build better and more comfortable homes, that's a good change. However a change I am not excited about is the sheer amount of regulation that seems focused on the industry right now

S: Tell us a little bit about you.

R: I've been married to my wife Jessica for nine years and we have a sone Brady (6) and a daughter Zoey (3). My Dad, Bob and my brother Scott work with the company so it really is a large family affair! On a personal note, I enjoy golf, slow pitch softball, and camping.

Q: What was your first wood working project you felt really proud of? How old were you?

R: I had to ask my Dad! I apparently build a wood tool box with my Grandpa when I was about 6 years old that I was really proud of. He said there were a bunch of bent over nails on it.... But I refuse to believe that!

# Jeffrey Taake Millard Lumber

## According to Jeff!

### Describe briefly your business

Millard Lumber, Inc. is one of the largest independently owned facilities in the Midwest offering a complete line of quality products and services for building projects. Millard Lumber can also recommend quality general contractors or architects to help builders with their project needs.

### What is the biggest change you have seen in your industry ?

The construction industry over the last 10 years has become more technical and complicated and is in constant motion. The challenge for our industry is to stay on top of code requirements, installation requirements and safety practices.

### Why did you decide to become a member of the Nebraska Green Build Association?

As a leader in our industry, I believe it is important to continuously seek knowledge of important industry practices, products and how they can come together to create systems. It is also important to help transfer this knowledge to others in our industry. As far as the Nebraska Green Build Association, I saw the passion and commitment of the leadership and wanted to be involved. This group has done a great job in communicating and training builders who are interested in growing their "green building" knowledge and how to certify a home.



I have found Jeff to be knowledgeable, and actively involved, in residential construction! He has a quick turnaround on answering questions. Jeff is in regular attendance of our local HBA's Associate meetings. I like and appreciate the fact that he is reliable!  
- Jim Christo  
Christo Design Build

## << 'Awesome Associate' Corner

A couple of things you may not know about Jeff!

Personal Interests & Hobbies: Biking, Golfing, hiking and traveling.

Favorite Television Show Growing up: MacGyver, Dukes of Hazard

Tell us about your family: I have been married to my lovely wife Jeanie for 11 years. Our beautiful daughter Sydney is 8 years old and is very creative and adventurous! As a family we enjoy getting out and experiencing local attractions as well as traveling the world!

Words you try to live your life by: 'Strive for perfection in everything. Take the best that exist and make it better. If it doesn't exist, create it. Accept nothing nearly right or good enough'

## Marketing Advice >>>

# What's New?

On of the most important advantages of membership in the Nebraska Green Build Council is the ability to utilize it's many marketing opportunities. Outside builders, suppliers and associates may profess knowledge in Green Build, but those with membership have a level of credibility and resources available to set them apart from the competition.

**Website** - Each month the Nebraska Green Build Council's website is visited well over a hundred times! Members have the opportunity to have their business featured on this website with contact information, photos and the opportunity to link back to their own business website. If you are a member, it's time to roll up your sleeves and spend a couple of minutes either updating your page on the Green Build Website or getting your page designed and up and running. This is how you do it:

1. Contact Staci Worthing at: staci@pridehomeslincoln.com to confirm or receive your login and password.
2. Go to the Green Build Website Home Page: www.nebraskagreenbuilders.com
3. Scroll Down to the bottom of the page and click on 'Member Login'

4. Login in
5. Once it says that you are logged in you should scroll down again to the bottom of the page and click on member login. This should take you to a screen that indicates what profile you can work on ... your business name should be your only choice.
6. This next screen will allow you to fill in contact information, load your logo, photos and write a brief description about your company
7. At the bottom of the page it will ask if you want this published to the web. Go ahead and click 'yes'
8. You will now be up on the website!

If you have any questions about getting your company on the website or in utilizing any of the Green Building marking tools please contact; staci@pridehomeslincoln.com Or jhircsc@2884@aol.com

Information Provided by Millard Lumber: Next Phase Site Solutions

## >>> Using Panelized Components instead of Stick Framing

Q: As it relates to Green Build, is there a project that Millard Lumber feels especially proud of?

A: In 2006 we worked with the PATH organization on a Concept Home in Omaha, NE. This Concept Home featured our Panelized Floor System, Wall Panels and Roof Trusses along with our rough carpentry labor. Our Panelized Floor System was also featured in Fine Homebuilding magazine.

Q: Although panelized framed houses are built faster, what's the quality like?

A: Sometimes you don't discover problems with the framing until you do later things, like laying a tile floor in a small bathroom. If everything isn't square and plumb, you see the grout joints meandering off of square relative to the walls. Well, none of that was the case with the panelized house.

Q: How about material waste? How do the two types compare?

A: With all the green-building talk at the National Association of Home Builders and in the popular press, it's increasingly important to focus on reducing waste.

A: With the iLevel approach they are actually using computers to try to optimize the amount of lumber that goes into these things. There's really been a quantum leap forward in being more efficient with how you frame a house.

## Newsflash

ENERGY STAR for New Homes helps homebuyers easily identify homes that are significantly more energy efficient than standard construction in the marketplace. As code requirements have become more rigorous and builder practices have become more efficient, EPA has periodically modified the guidelines to ensure that qualified homes represent a meaningful improvement over non-labeled homes. To maintain this value EPA has announced new, more rigorous guidelines for new homes looking to earn the ENERGY STAR. Compared to the prior ENERGY STAR guidelines, the new requirements increase the energy efficiency of qualified homes by more than 10%, making them more than **20% more efficient** than homes built to the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). **These guidelines will begin to go into effect in with homes permitted after April 1, 2011.** Bob Ruskamp will review these updates at the next General Membership Meeting.