



MEDIA RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Chris Smith (504) 884-4008
Becky Gillette (228) 872-3457

**REBUILDING? RENOVATING? REHABBING?
CHECK OUT THE GREEN BUILDING EXPO**

OCEAN SPRINGS, MS – Want to build a house that will stand up to the next hurricane? And keep your energy bills low? Tips on those topics and many more will be covered at the “Green Building Expo: Rebuilding the Gulf Coast Stronger, Safer and More Energy Efficient,” a free conference from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Ocean Springs Civic Center, 3730 Bienville Blvd. (Highway 90).

The expo features efficient, affordable and healthy living with modern, environmentally responsible materials. It is designed for homeowners, families, contractors and public officials. Anyone interested in energy efficient, affordable and healthy products and building materials will benefit from the expo.

“Coast residents will want to come out to the expo whether they want to improve the energy efficiency of their existing home, or if they are among the many who are rebuilding,” says Louie Miller, state director of the Mississippi Sierra Club. “A lot of the best ideas out there for rebuilding stronger are also more energy efficient. You can reduce energy bills while knowing you are doing your part to prevent global warming that is leading to stronger, more frequent hurricanes.”

The keynote speaker is eco-pioneer architect Pliny Fisk III, co-director of the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, Austin, Texas. He also is a fellow of Sustainable Urbanism in the College of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University. He will present his ecologically-minded modular GroHome, a dwelling project well-suited to the Gulf Coast relief efforts. The title of his presentation will be “Community Supported Architecture: Producing Affordable, Healthy, Energy-Efficient, Manufactured Homes That Promote Local Economic Development.”

The featured speaker is Michael Berk, the F.L. Crane Endowed Professor of Architecture at Mississippi State University and an expert in ecological design. His presentation will be, “The GreenMobile: Redefining Sustainable, Affordable, Factory-Built House Units.

Judy Phillips, John C. Stennis Institute of Government, will discuss: “Rebuilding Mississippi: Changing History and Leading the Nation in Energy Efficiency and New Building Technologies.” Bruce Crain, Crain Consulting, will give a talk on “Alternative Energy Now! From Biodiesel to Solar, How to Finance Alternative Energy Projects”.

Demonstrations and workshops at the expo include the following:

- How to get tax credits for energy efficient buildings and hybrid vehicles;
- Energy efficient insulated concrete form (ICF) homes;
- Structural insulated panels for strength and super energy efficiency;
- Modular housing vendors;
- Choosing healthy building materials;
- Going up: Elevated residential structures to meet new base flood elevation requirements;
- Building stronger and safer with steel; and
- Question and answer sessions with FEMA and national flood program representatives.

The Green Building Expo is sponsored by: the Sierra Club, Healthy Building Network, the Mississippi Renewal Coalition and Gulf Restoration Network.

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The Sierra Club's 750,000 members work together to protect communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Mississippi chapter of the Sierra Club has more than 2,000 members and has been active in local conservation projects for more than 30 years. For more information, contact the organization's website: www.mississippi.sierraclub.org.