

The Homeschool Herald

The Newsletter Created By and For Homeschoolers

The place to share your creative creations!

Summer 2010

The Green Building Adventure, Phase I

This is a special issue of the *Homeschool Herald*. We have been very busy this Summer building Phase I of the Green Building Adventure, so I wanted to tell you all about it!

Homeschool Excursions is a program sponsored by Educational Excursions, a non-profit organization. Educational Excursions has been operating out of my home for the past five years, and it has taken over! So the time has come for the organization to find a home of its own....that's how the Green Building Adventure began.

All that is really needed is a small storage space, but we decided to make our new structure an example of sustainable building.... functional, recycled, and beautiful!

We had four primary goals when designing the Green Building Adventure:

- Use mostly reclaimed and recycled materials
- Remain off the grid and city water
- Have enough storage space for Educational Excursions and the materials we've secured for the Green Building Adventure, Phase II (more on that later...)
- Incorporate a roof-top garden

Phase I of the Green Building Adventure is

well underway, but there's still much to be done. Pictured here, you can see the progress we've made! And there are lots more photos inside this issue of the *Herald*.

Let us know if you'd like to help with the Green Building Adventure. We will be adding siding, a rainwater reclamation system, a deck, and more. Come help and learn!



Inside this issue of the *Homeschool Herald*, you will learn more about the Green Building Adventure, you'll get to read submissions from other homeschooled students, and you'll have fun with puzzles, games, and experiments. We hope you enjoy it!

If you have something to share with us for the Fall issue of the *Homeschool Herald*, you can send it via e-mail or snail mail. Please contact us with any questions, ideas, or suggestions. We look forward to publishing YOUR creative creations!

Enjoy this issue of the *Homeschool Herald*!

I look forward to seeing you and your family soon!!

~Vered Kleinberger
Director, Educational Excursions

Can You Lift an Ice Cube?

Can you lift an ice cube from a glass of water using a string?

Materials you will need:

- Ice Cubes
- Glass
- Water
- String
- Salt Shaker



Steps:

1. Fill the glass with water.
2. Put an ice cube into the glass.
3. Place the string over the ice cube.
4. Sprinkle salt on the portion of the ice cube where the string makes contact with it.
5. Lift the string after a minute or two.

Note: Place the string on the ice cube in such a manner that the mid portion of it makes contact with the ice cube; leave both ends of the string on either side of the glass for an easy grasp.

The explanation:

When ice and water come in contact, they are said to be in dynamic equilibrium with each other. During this phase, two processes take place simultaneously – the molecules on the surface of the ice escape into the water by the process of melting and the water molecules are captured on the surface of the ice by way of the process of freezing.

The ice surrounding the string starts to melt and as it extracts heat from the surrounding water, which in turn refreezes around the string. Subsequently the cube adheres tightly to the string and it can easily be lifted using this string.

<http://www.sciencefairadventure.com/ProjectDetail.aspx?ProjectID=70>

Green Building Word Search!

M L P R B O O L T E R F K L S
 B N M W I N D O W S U Y R U R
 E A K R O S L T A Y O K W M E
 H I R E C Y C L I N G L J B C
 N L M N R S W O K U R S A E L
 R S B H W T Y O J L E O M R A
 S A N Y P O R N T B E Y O T I
 T K F O I T O Y W S N H K F M
 U P Y T N R A D O O R S O U E
 D K O I E S K T Y H M C B M D
 S T A O H R A I N W A T E R P
 Y E G T W N S H E A T H I N G
 L P K G A R D E N K S M O O N
 S T A I R S Y F L O O R I N G
 B Y V K N U G U N I Q U E J A

Look for these words hidden in the letters above:

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| lumber | recycling | green | nails |
| studs | rafters | stairs | reclaimed |
| pine | oak | barnwood | sheathing |
| windows | doors | roof | garden |
| rainwater | solar | unique | flooring |

Upcoming Homeschool Excursions Programs

We hope to see you at some of our upcoming adventures!

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Visionary Garden Project | Ongoing |
| Green Building Adventure | Ongoing |

We are currently building our Fall and Winter Calendar of Events.... check our website soon for new programs.

Please share your ideas and suggestions for future activities. Thanks!

Sudoku

6		9	8		7	4		5
		1			6			8
3			7	6			9	
	9						2	
	8			2	9			6
8			2			7		
2		7	6		8	1		9

The numbers 1-9 must be in every column, row, & box

So... You Think You Know Everything?

- Ants stretch when they wake up in the morning.
- Thomas Edison (invented the light bulb) was afraid of the dark.
- During your lifetime, you'll eat about 60,000 pounds of food. That's the weight of about 6 elephants.
- Dolphins sleep with one eye open.
- A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100 mph.
- Slugs have 4 noses.

<http://funny2.com/facts.htm>

What is Phase I of the Green Building Adventure?

The Green Building Adventure is an exciting program Educational Excursions has been developing for the past few years. It's designed as an intensive course where a group of kids will research various building options and will then compile their findings to design a structure for the organization. Additionally, each student will help with the construction process.

We have the site for the Green Building Adventure but still need to secure the necessary funding and sponsorships. So in the mean time, we have begun Phase I of the Green Building Adventure. The larger project has become Phase II and will hopefully begin as soon as Phase I has been completed.

That's the general history of the project... now to give you the details.... Educational and Homeschool Excursions has accumulated lots of stuff during the past 5 years of operation, so we need to put it somewhere. Phase II will result in a structure that will store everything as well as provide meeting space for future programs.

However, it will be a really huge project, so we decided to start smaller. Thus began Phase I of the Green Building Adventure.

Phase I has truly been a community effort. More than 30 people have helped with the project. Activities have included:

- Pulling nails from reclaimed lumber
- Planing old, weathered wood
- Deconstructing a barn to reuse the materials
- Framing the structure
- Sheathing the walls
- And a variety of other important tasks

Thank you to everyone who has helped!

The Green Building Adventure focuses on using as much reclaimed material as possible. We estimate that when Phase I is completed, more than 90% of the materials will be reused or recycled. Some of the items, such as the metal for our roof, are scraps from a local contractor who installs industrial metal buildings. So while the materials are unused, they are still recycled because they are pieces that the contractor couldn't use. And now we have a beautiful, patch-work roof that is strong

[Continued to page 5](#)

Weeds?

What Weeds?

Compiled By Vered Kleinberger



Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), both edible and medicinal, has been used for centuries as an alternative medicine by indigenous peoples on many continents. Cleavers has a long history of use as an alternative medicine and is still

used widely by modern herbalists. It is used both internally and externally in the treatment of a wide range of ailments.

Here are a few of this amazing plant's many uses:

- It is edible raw though said to be unpalatable, mainly used as a pot-herb or as an addition to soups.
- Using the plant as a vegetable has a slimming effect on the body.
- Cleavers seed is one of the best coffee substitutes; it merely needs to be dried and lightly roasted and has much the same flavor as coffee.
- The dried or fresh herb is alterative, anti-inflammatory, antiphlogistic, aperient, astringent, depurative, diaphoretic, diuretic, febrifuge, tonic and vulnerary.
- A valuable diuretic, it is often taken to treat skin problems such as seborrhoea, eczema and psoriasis, and as a general detoxifying agent in serious illnesses such as cancer.
- The plant contains organic acids, flavonoids, tannins, fatty acids, glycoside

asperuloside, gallotannic acid and citric acid.

- It has a mild laxative effect and stimulates the lymphatic system and has shown benefit in skin related problems.
- The fresh plant or juice is used as a medicinal poultice for wounds, ulcers and many other skin problems.
- An infusion of the herb has shown of benefit in the treatment of glandular fever, tonsillitis, hepatitis and cystitis. The infusion is also used to treat liver, bladder and urinary problems.
- Cleavers makes an excellent facial wash as it tightens the skin.
- Cleavers has cooling properties, reducing fevers and resolving eruptive infections such as measles and chickenpox.
- Much more scientific research is being done on the plant; it is of great interest to the pharmaceutical industry.

Don't kill the Cleavers! Now that you know how useful they are, grow them, don't pull them! Enjoy!

Think twice before pulling that weed! You may be throwing away something delicious and nutritious! *Please consult your physician before making any medical or dietary decisions.*

<http://www.altnature.com/gallery/cleavers.htm>

http://www.herbs2000.com/herbs/herbs_cleavers.htm



enough to support our garden!

However, most of our items are reused. We have materials from throughout northern Georgia: 100 year-old pine from Atlanta, 100 year-old oak from Cave Springs, cedar from Gainesville, windows from Woodstock, doors and windows from Jasper, and all the materials from a barn we deconstructed in Pickens County.

Lots of work accompanies using reclaimed materials. There is a seemingly infinite number of nails to be pulled, planing to bring the wood back to its former glory, and flexibility in designing your structure to use what you have rather than buying what you want from the store. It's definitely an adventure!

Why are we going through all this extra work? The Green Building Adventure is much more than a simple storage building for our stuff. It's an example of building in a more sustainable manner while optimizing our property to take advantage of its assets. As an example, our building sits in one of the sunniest spots on our property so we decided to add garden space to the roof to take advantage of the sun.

The materials we are using are far superior to much of the lumber you can buy in the store today. It is so dense that we have had to pre-drill some of our nail holes! It takes some work, but in the end, our building materials are more beautiful and stronger than new wood. And an added bonus is that our building definitely has 'character!'

Here is a list of what will be included in Phase I of the Green Building Adventure once completed:

- Constructed from mostly reclaimed and recycled materials
- Garden space on the roof
- Off the grid and county water system

- Storage downstairs for tools and building materials for Phase II of the Green Building Adventure
- Storage and office space upstairs for Educational and Homeschool Excursions
- Rainwater reclamation system
- Outdoor storage and workshop space for programs

In addition to the building adventure, we will also incorporate other sustainable projects into future Green Building programs. Our property is fairly small (less than 1 acre) and is very sloped. We will begin terracing the hillside for additional garden space, taking solar orientation and water availability into consideration. Many more programs will be developed as the project progresses.

So that's a summary of Phase I of the Green Building Adventure. There is still lots to be done, so we hope you'll come lend a hand.

Living completely sustainably is a difficult task. The goal in sustainable living is to avoid the depletion of natural resources. This would mean taking less than we use, or putting more back than we're taking. When considering energy consumption, food and water needs, and material possessions, we can quickly realize that we take a lot from our planet. However, there are things we can do to ease our burden our environment. Reusing, reducing, and recycling are good places to start. And home-grown food is usually healthier and tastier than store-bought produce.

The Green Building Adventure is one example of how to use resources responsibly. Plus it has been so much fun! Everyone who has helped has learned lots and made new friends.

Come lend a hand! See you at the Green Building Adventure!

A Photo History of the Green Building Adventure



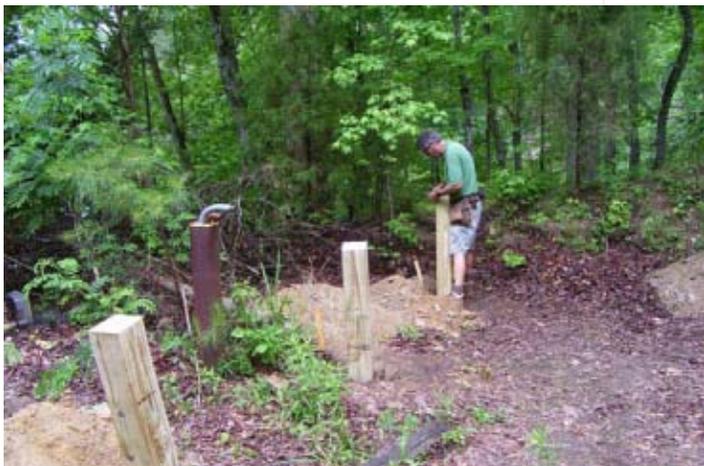
Here is some of the reclaimed lumber used in the Green Building Adventure.
100 year-old heart pine from Atlanta (left) & oak barn wood from Cave Springs (right)



The site for the structure.....
the post holes have been dug.



One of the holes for the posts.



Setting the posts for the first floor.



Making sure the posts are square and lined up.



Mixing cement for the post holes.



Cement has been poured and the posts are set!



And we have posts!



Marking the posts to be notched for the floor girders.



David makes sure the notch marks are square.



Gail helps fill the post holes with dirt on top of the cured cement.



David notches the posts for the girders.



The girders and the end joists have been squared.



Matthew begins nailing the rest of the floor joists.



David and Matthew add more joists.



David and Matthew attach the end caps to the joists.



Matthew nails the bridging between the floor joists.



Matthew and David lay the flooring.



Much of the wood we gathered was weathered.



Dad and I ran the wood through a planer.



And the weathered wood became beautiful again!



Matthew nails the window header.



We begin framing the walls for the first floor.



We have a wall on the first floor!



We begin framing the second wall for the first floor.



Matthew nails the bottom plate of the first wall.



Matthew and Cindy hold up the second wall.



Matthew and David install the window & door headers.



The first floor of the Green Building Adventure is framed!



Here's the first floor of the Green Building Adventure. You can also see our lumber piles & boat garden.



We got a beam from Ecological Creations' shop. Seth cuts it to length for us.



Here's the beam Seth cut. It's holding up one side of the second floor.



Here are the floor joists for the second floor. The dark boards are reclaimed heart pine.



We have stairs! They're made from old oak barn wood and boards from Ecological Creations' shop.



Sara and Jill begin sheathing the walls. The wood is from a barn we deconstructed.



Here is the sheathing on the front wall.



The sheathing will stay exposed on the inside.
Here's what the walls look like.



Dave squares the first wall for the second floor.



Oren and Dave hold the wall level
while David secures it.



Russell and Dave secure the
second wall on the second floor.



Here's another view of the Green Building Adventure.
It's almost ready for the roof!



Mom de-nails some boards to be used as sheathing.



Mom holds the tape as we measure for the next sheathing board.



We have rafters and purlins!



Here's another view of our beautiful rafters and purlins.



The roof will have a very slight slope so we can have a garden up there.



Each rafter is notched to fit perfectly.



Another wall is sheathed!



Oren cuts more sheathing boards.



David, Larry, and Dave begin installing the roof.



David and Dave hand the roofing up to Larry.



We have a roof!
Here's the view from inside.



The Green Building Adventure.... two more walls,
windows & doors, siding, a deck, roof-top garden,
shelving, rainwater collection....and we're done!

2010-2011 Homeschool Excursions Survey

Please complete the following questions so we can continue to provide the homeschool community with the programs and services you need. Each survey will be entered to win a free Forest level membership. Thank you for your thoughts and comments!

How many kids do you have? _____ How many years have you been homeschooling? _____

What county do you live in? _____ What city? _____

Have you participated in a Homeschool Excursions program? If so, which activities have you attended? _____

If you've attended an event, what did you enjoy and what do you think could be improved? _____

What programs would you like to see added? _____

If you have not attended a program, please explain why? (ie distance, cost, interest, etc) _____

What services are lacking in the homeschool community? How do you think Homeschool Excursions can help?

We would appreciate if you can share some information about your family.
This will help us to know the age groups and interests of the homeschool community. Thank you!

What are the ages of your kids? _____ Why did you choose to homeschool? _____

What are your kids' interests? (sports, music, talents, etc) _____

What days are your 'busy days?' _____

What are your 'free days?' _____

Are you interested in programs during the weekend? _____ During the Summer? _____

Do your kids attend a hybrid school, co-op classes, etc? If so, what? _____

Any other questions or comments? _____

How did you hear about Homeschool Excursions? _____

If you would like to be entered to win a free Forest level membership, please complete the information below:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Your feedback is important to us.
Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.
We look forward to seeing you and your family soon!



Please return this form to:
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PO Box 1283 Jasper, Georgia 30143

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If you decide within 2 months of joining at the Sprout Level that you would like to become a member at the Tree level, your \$50.00 dues can be applied towards your upgrade.

Please visit the membership page on the Homeschool Excursions website for member benefits and additional information.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of homeschoolers in your household: _____

**Thank you for your support!
We're looking forward to a fantastic year!**

Mail form to:
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PO Box 1283 Jasper, GA 30143

What's Inside??

Summer 2010

This issue of *The Homeschool Herald* focuses on Phase I of the Green Building Adventure. This is an exciting project we have been working on all Summer so we want to tell you all about it.

Enjoy the photos, descriptions, and exciting developments with the Green Building Adventure. There is still lots to be done, so we hope you'll come help! This is a unique, hands-on opportunity to learn about the construction process.... you'll never look at another building the same way!

The Green Building Adventure is an example of how to incorporate sustainable living elements when building on a small land lot. We hope it will inspire you to consider some of the many options for future projects.



**PO Box 1283
Jasper, GA 30143**

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Stamp
Here