

GOING GREEN

The Valley guide to an eco-friendly lifestyle

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FREE

Making inroads

Valley women lead the way in sustainable construction

Page 16



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GREEN CONSTRUCTION



Photo/Gregory Thorp

Mary Quigley of Ashfield, left, consults with crew member Robert Zingler on a residential project. Quigley has been building and renovating homes in Massachusetts since 1982.

Women making inroads in sustainable building

Pioneers from the '80s blaze trails for current generation of women builders

By NANCY BAIR
Special to Going Green

Valley women are making a big impact in the field of sustainable building. One only needs to talk to Mary Quigley, Anne Perkins, Nancy Hazard, Anna Novey Cook or Jane Goodale to be convinced that women are often leading the way.

Quigley, Perkins and Hazard all began as carpenters, turning away from their professional backgrounds in the 1980s when the first oil embargo turned us temporarily toward energy efficiency and renewable energy. Many were inspired at that time by new values in gender and racial equality, economic equity and environmental health. These pioneers embraced what had previously not been thought possible and made changes that were based in personal freedom and common sense in practical applications. They persisted in their nontraditional occupations

even when President Reagan took the solar panels off the White House.

From Tour de Sol to Greening Greenfield

Hazard has perhaps had the highest public profile of the five, having managed the Tour de Sol sponsored by NESEA, the NorthEast Sustainable Energy Association. The Tour de Sol challenged students and manufacturers to build cars that significantly reduced carbon emissions. This international competition gave rise to many new inventions and significant progress toward using less fossil fuels in cars. Transportation is responsible for one-third of all greenhouse gases heating up our atmosphere, so this event was an important pioneering effort.

Before signing on the Tour de Sol, Hazard learned carpentry while helping neighbors in Franklin County build their own homes in the '80s, and then started her own carpentry business called Hazard

Continued on next page



HAZARD

Construction: Women paving the way

Continued from previous page

and Sun. Eventually, she was asked to train and run crews of women carpenters for an alternative high school at Woolman Hill and at Cornerstones, an owner-builder school in Maine. Since then, she helped start Greening Greenfield, a group of citizens working with residents, businesses and town government to make Greenfield, Mass., a more sustainable and vibrant place to live. www.greeninggreenfield.org/

Solar Village champion

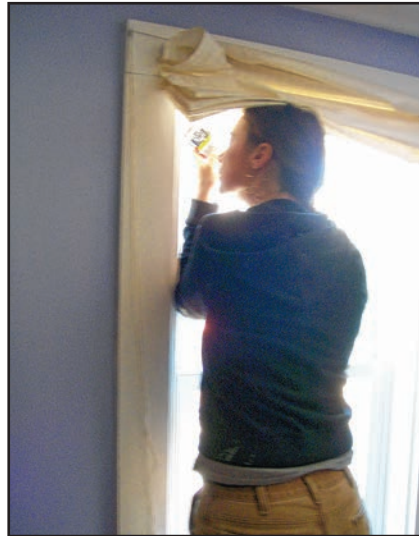
After moving back to the land in Eastern Franklin County with her child, Perkins learned carpentry on her own, then began her own construction business. Anne later worked as a self-help supervisor and eventually headed up the Homeownership Program at Rural Development, Inc., in Franklin County, where her goals were 1) to help low income people own their own homes, and 2) build energy efficient homes powered by renewable energy. Partnering with 14 organizations including WMECO and the Mass Technology Collaborative, she won grants to build The Wisdom Way Solar Village in Greenfield, an award-winning near-net-zero energy housing community for low to moderate income people. Annual gas and electric bills for the 22 homes average around \$350, making the Solar Village a model for energy efficiency in affordable housing. See the link below for more information.

<http://www.ruraldevelopmentinc.org/index.php/development-projects/wisdom-way-solar-village>

From nursing to construction

Quigley trained a crew of local carpenters and tradespeople in sustainable energy construction practices and contributed to Franklin County being recognized as the seat of experts and leaders in the renewable energy and energy efficiency movement in Massachusetts and in the nation.

Quigley left her career as a Registered Nurse and nursing administrator in the Boston area to teach herself carpentry. She worked with a local contractor and then put out her own shingle, advertising for jobs with Sojourner, a feminist monthly published in Boston in the 1980s. Quigley attended classes and conferences and participated in interest groups sponsored by NESEA, where she has now been a longtime member. Working with other building science leaders to



Submitted photo

Jane Goodale lays a bead of caulk around a window frame.

advance the field led to Quigley Builders being recognized for quality building, professional operation, energy efficiency and the reduction and reuse of materials — values not all contractors embrace.

<http://www.quigleybuilders.com>.

The younger generation

Anna Novey Cook and Jane Goodale are the younger women in this review of women carpenters. Like the veterans in the field, both changed careers from professional orientations to hands-on operations in the construction field. Cook attended Hampshire College then finished at UMASS in the well-respected Building Construction Technology department. She got an internship with Integrity Development and Construction Co. 12 years ago and quickly proved she had the skills to be a successful Project Manager. She and Designer Heidi Flanders are now co-owners of the company. In terms of sustainable practices, Integrity went to using cellulose insulation rather than fiberglass years ago, regularly exceeds the new “stretch codes” on their building projects, and are nearing completion now on a net-zero home in South Amherst. Integrity has always been conscious of energy issues and incorporating those aspects, whether small or large, into all of their projects.



COOK

<http://integbuild.com>

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Going Green Notebook

New kitchen compost pails available

The Franklin County Solid Waste District recently purchased a large number of "Sure-Close" kitchen compost pails. These 1.9-gallon pails are meant to collect food waste in the kitchen and then emptied into backyard or municipal compost bins. The lid latches securely and can be made to stay open for easy of use. The vented lid has pinholes that act as a filter (but with no expensive or hard-to-find filter); moisture can pass through the lid, which reduces odors.

Fifteen district towns have received varying amounts of pails: Bernardston, Colrain, Conway, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Orange, Montague, New Salem, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Wendell and Whately. The kitchen pails are also offered for sale to District residents for \$5 at the District Office, 50 Miles St., Greenfield.

Municipal compost programs are available free to permit holders at the transfer stations in Leverett,



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New Salem, Northfield, Orange and Whately.

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For more information about the Sure-close pail, including retail and wholesale orders, visit www.sure-close.com.

Women builders: Mind over brawn

Continued from previous page

Jane Goodale is from the new generation of do-it-yourself and take-control-of-your-own-life practitioners. She's drawn to using her mind and body in her work and life. She earned a degree in English and managed several small food businesses after graduating from college, but was drawn to improving her technical hands-on skills through working as an apprentice carpenter. Her interest in building came from her father, who is a builder, and who set a standard for precision, craft and up-to-date knowledge of sustainable building practices. She recently had the opportunity to work with one of her father's colleagues, who is an expert in Weatherization and teaches Weatherization through Greenfield Community College's Workforce Development Office. Goodale has taken Weatherization and Green Building through GCC's Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency program and is now completing an internship with a local construction firm. She plans on building her own small passive solar house eventually.

She appreciates the direction in which GCC is moving, providing opportunities for students to learn hands-on skills in the renewable energy field. She thinks the

resources are there for young men and women to learn how to build and maintain their homes, but wishes those resources could be more visible and accessible. The Valley is a center for sustainable

■ Too many people think the trades require upper body strength when it's really about using your mind.

agriculture, offering many opportunities for employment and training. Jane would like to see that happen more with sustainable building, another field equally essential for meeting basic human needs in

a sustainable way.

It's about solving problems

Quigley says she sees young women in high school carpentry departments, but then does not see them in the field. Too many people think the trades require upper body strength when it's really about using your mind, solving problems and relating well to all types of people. Young women and men are too often urged into highly specialized and academic careers when there is demand for smart, committed, progressive people to work in hands-on occupations.

Women builders agree: Let's not send our young people away to cities in search of interesting well-paying occupations. Let's create pathways for a wide range of jobs and keep them here at home in the "Happy Valley."