

Dear Friend of Fredericksburg SHINES,

I'm putting out a special e-newsletter today with sole emphasis on our upcoming Home Tour.

By the way, when updating my Outlook files I lost all my email distribution lists so if I added you by mistake or you are receiving duplicate emails, please let me know and I'll take care of it. .

2cd Annual Sustainability Green Home Tour

In a letter to the editor, October 2, 2013, Carol Wichman said this about last year's Home Tour,

"The Fredericksburg SHINES Sustainability Home Tour on Sept 14 was wonderful. Lots of ideas for improving one's home and providing long-term benefits to our community and earth. The gardens were especially interesting with xeriscaping plantings and plants of all varieties, even olive trees. Thank you to all who allowed us to visit your homes and gardens."

What might you see on this year's Tour? Below is a partial description of the Hutcherson home:

Highlights:

- Rainwater Collection system
- Home construction-Rammed Earth
- Reuse and repurpose of building materials throughout the home
- 30 kW Solar installation. 30 Panels that have micro-inverters on each panel. If one panel fails the others keep going. You can watch how much you are generating on line.

Age of Home: 17 years

Completed 1997

Date Installed:

Rainwater installed Jan. 2010

Solar installed 2013

Benefit to homeowner: Plumbing remains clear of alkaline deposits meaning longer life for pipes and hot water heater. Dishes come out of the dishwasher absolutely sparkling without any extra cleaning supplies. The water tastes fantastic. Solar benefits: net zero cost

What led to the installation: We always wanted to be eco-friendly in our footprint on the earth. My original idea was to build a tire house, ala Dennis Weaver, but John just could not go that far! So we found a builder that lived in Mason who built Rammed Earth homes. We loved the concept and took the plunge. We have never regretted our decision. Our utility bills are nominal!!

We had a well dug before we bought the property so we stayed with that for 13 years always wanting to build a rainwater collection system. We have really enjoyed the system since we had it installed. If we had known it was possible we would have done it when we built the house. It was more expensive to install than the well but so much better than well water to drink. The well is now just used to water the lawn and as a backup system. 30,000 gallons should last us 6 months if we got no rain in that amount of time. So far, that has not happened.

Put September 20th on your calendar and come visit the Hutcherson home, 8 other intriguing residences, and one Tesla Electric Vehicle at Fredericksburg's own Electric Vehicle charging station. Tickets for the event are only \$25 a person and include a map and a program booklet description of what is available for viewing at each home. We rely on events like this to help meet our budget each year; donations cover only a portion of our expenses. If everyone who receives this email were able to purchase a ticket, we would meet our goal of 200 ticket sales. Your ticket purchases also help Fredericksburg SHINES to position Fredericksburg as the sustainability capital of Texas.

Unavailable to attend on September 20th? Consider buying tickets for others to enjoy this "up close and personal" educational experience in sustainability. Also, consider buying tickets as a gift that will be well appreciated.

Please purchase your tickets now online at <http://www.fbgshines.org/sustainability-home-tour> or at Judy's Liquor, Memorial Presbyterian Church, the Peach Basket, SolarPower Systems and Rainwater Systems, Inc. in Ingram (3152 Junction Highway), and from our Board members. Fredericksburg SHINES continues to accept corporate and individual sponsorships. Look for our Main Street banner on 290E beginning September 8th, courtesy of our sponsors.

Upcoming Events and "Save the Dates"

Sep 20 [Sustainability Green Home Tour, 9-3](#)

Oct 8 [National Walk to School Day](#)

Nov 6 Water Conservation Education Forum with City of Fredericksburg, Hill Country University

Mar 14-15, 2015 [Hill Country Home and Garden Show](#). Fbg SHINES is even sponsoring a rally and panel discussion for Tesla Electric vehicles (EVs)

"Spread the Word"!

Please forward this email to others interested in seeing Fredericksburg lead the state in sustainability.

If at any point, you prefer to "opt out" and not receive these periodic emails, please reply via email and we will accommodate your wishes.

Don't forget.....

Ready to Take the Plunge and help Fredericksburg become the most sustainable community in Texas?

1. **Volunteer.** Take a minute and click on to sign up at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3PG6HVR>. Then email us to let us know you filled out the survey.
2. **Donate.** Please send your donations to our Office via mail or through your bank. You may also donate online at www.fbgshines.org. We have 501©3 non-profit status so that all donations made to Fredericksburg SHINES are tax-deductible.
3. **Sponsor.** See www.fbgshines.org/sponsorship and sponsor a specific event or our general programs for the year.