



September 2011
Newsletter

Gabriel Gazette

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Quick Links

[More About Us](#)

[Online Assessment
Order Form](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Archives](#)

Bayou Blast!



Chicago Green Tech U



The City of Chicago and Chicago Center for Green Technology have developed a series of courses as part of a "Green Tech U" offered to Chicago residents and businesses. Unless otherwise noted, classes are free but do require advanced registration. Upcoming classes

Wow! Did we have a blast Down on the Bayou! Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Open House in early September. Despite Hurricane Lee trying to put a damper on the party, our tents, patio heaters, and camaraderie kept everyone warm and dry!

We hope you were able to enjoy a tour of our laboratory and renewable energy systems, as well as check out a soil boring demonstration. As always, if you have any questions about any of these tours/demos, don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

We've posted some pictures up on [our website](#) from the Open House. If you weren't able to join us this year, we hope to see

include "LEED Multi-Family Certification Options" (Oct 6th), "An Introduction to New Green Building Codes" (Oct 18th), and "Understanding Green Power" (Nov 1st). A full course schedule can be found here on the Green Tech U's website.

Green Tech U is also offering certification programs in the following subjects:

Architecture
Building and Construction Management
Engineering
Green Business
Green Home and Garden
Interior Design

More information is on the City of Chicago's Department of Environment webpage

you next September instead!

What is an "Environmental Professional"?

Most people who order Phase I Environmental Site Assessments are familiar with the term "Environmental Professional," (EP) but not everyone knows exactly what defines an EP. When the Environmental Protection Agency codified "All Appropriate Inquiry" a few years ago, they also regulated who could perform this inquiry by defining the term EP.

An EP must have:

- A state or tribal issued certification or license (eg: Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist) and three years of relevant full-time work experience; or
- A Baccalaureate degree or higher in science or engineering and five years of relevant full-time work experience; or
- Ten years of relevant full-time work experience.

ASTM is currently studying changes to its AAI-compliant Phase I Standard (1527-05). Some of the issues they will be clarifying in the new version stem from Phase I's being performed either by non-EPs or by EPs who may technically have the required years or certifications but who do not actually have the relevant experience. ASTM has found that those who perform Phase I's are wildly inconsistent in their interpretation of the regulations, mainly based on the training and experience of the assessor.

Be sure to do your research before hiring an EP or environmental consulting firm to perform your Phase I. Ask about their training and qualifications, as well as their experience performing Phase I assessments. Be especially wary of some of the bargain-priced firms - sometimes you get what you pay for...

All of Gabriel's Phase I's are performed by highly qualified EPs, and each report is reviewed by a senior member of Gabriel's staff who has more than 10 years of performing Phase I's. If you have questions about our qualifications or would like to review our staff's resumes, contact [Steve Sawyer](#) at 773-486-2123.

Recipe Corner!



Polenta & Spinach Soup

- 1 cup, plus 4 tsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 cup finely grated parmesan cheese
- 3 cups coarsely chopped baby spinach (about 2 oz.)
- 1 tsp coarse salt
- Freshly ground pepper, for garnish
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges

1) Heat 1/4 cup oil and the garlic in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat until

Illinois Cracking Down On Out-Of-Service Tanks

The State of Illinois has been increasing its enforcement of out-of-service underground storage tank (UST) regulations which

garlic is fragrant, about 1 minute.

2) Add 6 cups water, bring to a boil. Whisking constantly, add cornmeal in a slow, steady stream. Reduce heat to medium; cook, stirring occasionally, until soup has thickened slightly, about 8 minutes.

3) Add cheese and 1/4 cup oil; cook, stirring, until oil is incorporated, about 1 minute.

4) Stir in spinach and salt; cook, stirring, until spinach is bright green and wilted, about 1 minute more.

5) Divide soup among bowls and drizzle each with 1 tsp of oil. Season soup with pepper and serve with lemon wedges.

*Brigid McHale
Fall Soup Contest*

state that these tanks must be legally removed or abandoned within 5 years.



Tank owners have been receiving notices from the Office of the State

Fire Marshall that they are out of compliance. If they do not respond within a reasonable time by removing or abandoning the UST(s) in question, they are being turned over to the Illinois Attorney General for enforcement action. Fines and penalties in excess of \$10,000 per tank are also being assessed.

If you have questions regarding the status of any USTs on your property or UST regulations, contact Nancy Valenta at 773-486-2123.

Upcoming Gabriel seminars

Thursday, September 29th - Digging Up the Facts

Learn the basics of Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, from asbestos to USTs

Wednesday, October 19th - Tap Into Geothermal

Learn how a geothermal system can make your building more energy efficient and save you money on energy costs

Contact Sara to learn more or RSVP for either seminar - 773-486-2123 or gabriel@gabrielenvironmental.com