

February  
2011

# EarthWISE Hits 100!



Dare to go zero! P. 4

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## Master Recycler Newsletter

Pringle Creek Community is an innovative residential development built on part of the old Fairview Training Center in Salem. This award-winning green experiment has just become the 100<sup>th</sup> EarthWISE-certified business in Marion County.

"We are honored to join the growing list of smart, pioneering businesses enrolled in the EarthWISE program," said Development Team Member, James Santana. "It's a comprehensive and respected certification, and to be the exact 100<sup>th</sup> business makes it even more special," Santana said.

Pringle Creek Community, winner of the 2010 Mid-Valley Green Award for Most Sustainable Small Business, has proven itself as a cutting-edge leader in sustainable development. For example, all the streets are made of pervious concrete or asphalt that allows



rainwater to percolate into the ground, thus eliminating the need for curbs and storm drains. This system increases groundwater while significantly reducing water pollution in nearby streams.



Pringle Creek's extensive list of environmental innovations and initiatives — from greenroofs to greenstreets to ground-source geothermal — have earned the project multiple awards, including the National Association of Home Builders "Green Land Development of the Year" and a spot on Natural Home Magazine's list of "America's Top 10 Green-Built Neighborhoods."

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"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"  
-- Martin Luther King, Jr.



**No, you didn't miss it!** MRN took an unscheduled vacation for the month of January, but is now back on track. Thanks to all who inquired!

Santana is also proud of the quality of life that the development offers. Besides having comfortable homes that exceed Earth Advantage and Energy Star standards, Pringle Creek Community provides large areas of green space for play and socializing. The restored Painter’s Hall, built in the 1930s, has been converted into a community center and café for sharing cups of coffee, parties, or meetings. Painter’s Hall is certified LEED Platinum, the highest rating in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, and is the first net-zero energy commercial building in Oregon. “Being part of the EarthWISE ‘family’ was a natural fit for Pringle Creek,” said Alan Pennington, who leads the EarthWISE program for Marion County. “They excel in every category we measure. That includes recycling, waste reduction, green purchasing, and water and energy conservation,” he added.

EarthWISE is a free environmental assistance program offered to all businesses and non-profits in Marion County. Those that participate in the assessment and meet certain criteria are eligible to become EarthWISE-certified. For more information about the EarthWISE program, call 503-365-3188 or visit the web at [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net).



## Who Are They?

### Construction

Advantage Precast, Inc.  
 Barnwood Naturals, LLC  
 Carlson Veit Architects, P.C.  
 CB | Two Architects  
 Cherry City Heating  
 Cherry City Remodeling  
 dalke construction  
 Jet Industries  
 LCG Pence Construction

### Financial

Bank of the Cascades - Hawthorne Branch  
 Oregon Community Credit Union  
 Wilshire Credit Corporation

### Food

Bentley’s Grill  
 BrucePac - Silverton & Woodburn Plants  
 Cascade Baking  
 Jonathan’s  
 Kerr Concentrates, Inc.  
 Kettle Foods  
 LifeSource Natural Foods  
 NORPAC Foods - Stayton, Brooks, Salem  
 Sabroso Company  
 Spring Valley Dairy  
 Truitt Brothers, Inc.  
 Willamette Valley Fruit Company

### Government

Champoeg State Heritage Area  
 Marion County Dog Shelter  
 Marion Co. Public Works—Silverton Campus  
 Oregon Department of Energy

Oregon Dept. of Admin. Services-20 Buildings  
 Oregon Exposition Center  
 Oregon Lottery  
 Oregon State Capitol  
 Oregon—Salem Motor Pool  
 Salem Fire Department  
 Salem Housing Authority  
 Salem—Information Technology  
 Salem—Public Works Willow Lake WPCF  
 Salem - Urban Development’s Airport Division  
 Salem - Urban Dev. Director’s Office  
 Salem - Urban Dev. Parking Services  
 Salem Public Library  
 Woodburn School District

### Landscaping

DeSantis Landscapes, Inc.  
 The Garden Angels  
 Green Acres Landscape, Inc.

### Medical

Holly Chamberlain D.D.S., L.L.C.  
 Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.  
 Willamette E.N.T. & Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP

### Not For Profit

Garten Services, Inc.  
 Marion-Polk Food Share  
 SAIF Corporation  
 Saint Edward Catholic Church  
 United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley  
 Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community

### Professional/Services

AAA Cleaning Service - Metro, Inc.  
 AJ’s Auto Repair, Inc.  
 Cascade Employer’s Association  
 Compex Two Computers  
 Kristin LaMont, Attorney at Law P.C.  
 Lancaster Mall Operations  
 T-Mobile

### Real Estate & Commercial Properties

Pringle Creek Community  
 Sperry Van Ness Commercial Advisors  
 The Epping Group/Creekside Corporate Ctr.

### Recycling/Solid Waste

Agri-Plas, Inc.  
 D & O Garbage Service Inc.  
 Marion Recycling Center  
 Pacific Sanitation

### Retail/Wholesale

Capital Sewing & Vacuum Center  
 Hillyer’s Mid-City Ford  
 Power Equipment Systems

### Tourism

Grand Hotel in Salem  
 Salem Conference Center  
 Travel Oregon  
 Travel Salem

# 2011 MID-VALLEY GREEN AWARDS

Nominate your favorite organization!

2<sup>ND</sup>  
ANNUAL

## CATEGORIES:

- Recycler of the Year – individual/family, business
- Green Apple Award – educator/outreach
- Sustainable Business/Organization of the Year – small, large
- EarthWISE Business of the Year
- Green Building of the Year

*Deadline for nominations is midnight, February 15, 2011.  
For more information and a nomination application go to [www.fselc.org](http://www.fselc.org) or call 391-4145.*

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## LAST YEAR'S WINNERS:

**RECYCLER OF THE YEAR:**  
STEVE DEPINA  
**RECYCLING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:**  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY RESTORE  
**EDUCATION/OUTREACH:**  
LINDA HISOKA  
**GREEN BUILDING OF THE YEAR-NEW:**  
BILYEU CONSTRUCTION OF SALEM RESIDENCE AT 14TH & NEBRASKA  
**GREEN BUILDING OF THE YEAR-RETROFIT:**  
TRAVEL SALEM  
**SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (SMALL):**  
PRINGLE CREEK COMMUNITY  
**SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (LARGE):**  
LIFE-SOURCE NATURAL FOODS  
**EARTHWISE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (2 CHOSEN):**  
SAIF CORPORATION AND DESANTS LANDSCAPING

## Introducing...

Were you wondering who wrote that wonderful piece about household hazardous waste in December's newsletter? The whiz behind the story is none other than **Keare Blaylock**, Environmental Services' multitasking Water Quality intern. We recently caught up with her when she wasn't busy (which is not easy!), and asked her to tell us a bit about herself:

I grew up in the rural outskirts of a small town near Ft. Worth, TX. I moved to Salem, OR in 1999 with my husband and our two kids and after only a short time of exploring the great outdoors, I became a fan of the Oregon lifestyle and adopted Salem-Keizer as my home. I soon realized how little I knew about Oregon and the Pacific Northwest landscape so I enrolled at Chemeketa Community College to learn more. I later transferred to Oregon State University where I earned my BS Environmental Science and discovered my passion for water science. Indeed, it's my passion for water that brought me to work here at Marion County Public Works. As the water quality outreach specialist I get to share what I've learned about water with others while getting to know the people in my community. It's a real win-win! And since the job is only part-time, I'm able to continue my education by working on my graduate certificate in Geographic Information Science.

While this doesn't leave much free time...what little time I do get, I spend with my family hiking, swimming, playing disc golf and watching movies.

If I could teach the world one thing about water it would be: Never forget how important water is...without it, all other problems dissolve!



## TIDBIT:

According to a survey from the American Forest & Paper Association, 87 percent of the U.S. population — equal to 273 million people — has access to curbside and/or drop-off paper and paperboard recycling programs.

# Would you Dare to Go Zero?

We've heard of Amy Korst, our own Master Recycler who took a "no waste to disposal" challenge upon herself and largely succeeded except for a shoebox full of small miscellaneous plastics. And *Sunset* magazine recently featured a family in Northern California who is living a zero-waste lifestyle. But now the City of Austin has decided to turn the challenge up a notch by getting families competing for the chance to be the biggest



waste-reducer! Here is the lowdown on the program from the City's website:

Dare to Go Zero is a new reality-show style competition hosted by the City of Austin Solid Waste Services Department. Tasked with going Zero Waste, four Austin families will learn how to

reduce the amount of waste they generate while being filmed and participating in challenges throughout a five-week period. Episodes will air on the City's Channel 6 and YouTube channels, as well as on [austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com).

In January 2009, the Austin City Council approved the Zero Waste Strategic Plan, which is Austin's call to action to drastically reduce 90 percent of the waste going to landfills by 2040. Dare to Go Zero will allow people to see how to put Zero Waste ideas into practice and reduce their waste streams. Going beyond reducing, reusing and recycling, Dare to Go Zero will teach Austinites to *rethink*.

The families' waste will be weighed each week to see if they have reduced their waste compared to the initial weigh-in and the previous weeks. The winning family will be the family with the largest percentage of "waste loss" and will receive a grand prize. The winning family will be announced around April 22, 2011, Earth Day.

The show will air in March and April 2011. The exact dates and times will be announced in early 2011.



The pantry from the Mill City, CA home featured in *Sunset*. Visit [zerowastehome.blogspot.com](http://zerowastehome.blogspot.com) for the whole scoop.

## Calling all Brilliant Artists!

Please consider creating one (or more) items for the silent auction at this year's *Brilliant Rubbish* event, a fundraiser held in April for Mid-Valley Mentors.

To do this, please be as creative as you wish! Use wonderful found items from your garage, drawers, office, friends, yard or just about anywhere! Use feathers, cloth, sticks, stones, old jewelry, auto parts, toys, games—just about any old stuff at all! Use lots of glue, paint, varnish and nails to polish off your finished product! Questions? Please call Suzanne 503-584-4827



### DETAILS:

- All art is due **March 25th** at Sue Thompson's studio 4930 State St.
- Please call ahead to schedule a drop-off time: 503-363-6070.
- PLEASE remember to sign your creation.
- Once submitted, art work becomes the property of Mid Valley Mentors who will sell it at auction on April 8th. The proceeds will benefit Mid Valley Mentors' community-driven mentoring programs.
- If you would like assistance or inspiration, our artists are ready to help. We have scheduled three studio weekends.
- Open Studio Weekends:

Sat/Sun February 5-6 10am—5pm

Sat/Sun March 5-6 10am—5pm



## TASTY TIDBITS



### In a GO Box Please...

A local Portland woman is hoping to reduce waste in downtown Portland "Food Cart" lots. Noticing the incredible amount of waste from disposable containers, she came up with a system for using durable ones she calls "GO Boxes".



The basic idea of the GO Box is this: customers pay a one-time fee of \$8.50 and get a token. They hand in their token at participating carts, and their meal is served in a hard plastic, reusable container. When they're done eating, at their leisure, they put the container in a drop box, which gives them their next token.

The boxes are then professionally cleaned and returned sanitized to participating food carts.

Visit [goboxpdx.com](http://goboxpdx.com) for more info.

### Recycle those Seats!

Legacy Health Systems in Portland offers one of the nation's only carseat recycling programs.

For safety reasons, many carseats have expiration dates and are not designed to be used past 5-6 years, leaving parents who go through successive models of infant, toddler and booster seats with a lot of plastic to dispose of.



Legacy provides take-back services at their seat safety-check events, as well as partnering with other locations where they can be dropped off.

Parents in parts of the country where programs do not exist are hoping for product stewardship legislation.

Visit [legacyhealth.org](http://legacyhealth.org) and click on "Our Legacy".



### And for the leftovers...

Most of us know that the best way to take your leftovers home from a restaurant is in your own durable container, but it is not always easy to remember it, or carry it discreetly.

After a little poking around on the internet we've discovered a little product that seems to solve both problems: a collapsible storage bowl and lid from Progressive International. They come in 1.5, 3 & 5 cup sizes. Visit [progressiveintl.com](http://progressiveintl.com).



### A Bill for the Birds

During the 2011 legislative session, bird lovers will have a chance to support the the Wild Bird Conservation Act, a bill which places a five cents per pound fee on birdseed to fund the state's most important bird-related priorities.



Through this Act, bird lovers would generate nearly \$2 million per year for wild bird education, habitat restoration and management.

Recent reports show as many as 25% of Oregon's species are experiencing serious long-term declines.

To endorse the Wild Bird conservation Act, contact Bob at [bsallinger@audubonportland.org](mailto:bsallinger@audubonportland.org)

### Kids and Climate

NASA has launched a new Climate Kids website. Targeting grades 4-6, this kid-friendly guide de-mystifies one of the most important science issues of our time.

The site answers the "big questions" about global climate change using simple illustrations, humor, interactivity, and age-appropriate language. It also includes resources for educators.

Don't forget to check out the "what can we do to help" section, which includes tips for kids to reduce waste.

For more info, visit the Climate Kids website at [climate.nasa.gov/kids](http://climate.nasa.gov/kids)



### Oh, the Foam!



For people who aren't fortunate enough to have local options for styrofoam

recycling, a processor in Florida is offering the "Pack it Back" program. When participants receive items that are packed in the white crumbly stuff (officially known as "EPS", or expanded polystyrene) they can just leave the foam inside the box after removing other plastic and tape, seal it, apply a label printed from the Pack it Back web-site and send it directly to the recycler.

It is not free however; participants pay the shipping cost.

For more info visit [recycle techno.com](http://recycle techno.com)

# Call to Serve



**Thursday March 3**

**North Salem Neighborhoods Health & Safety Fair**

**Salem Alliance Church (555 Gaines St. NE, Salem)**

Two Master Recyclers needed to staff a table at this popular north Salem community event. The booth will feature information about recycling options in the Salem - Keizer area. Shifts: 5:15pm - 8:15pm. Contact Alan Pennington at 503-365-3188 or [apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us)

**Thursday April 7 or Tuesday April 12**

**Earth Walk & Recycling Station Tour**

**Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station**

A Master Recycler is needed to lead a tour of the Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station and the Earth Walk. There will be approximately 20 first grade students and their parents. They would like to do the tour on either date at 10:30am or 1:30pm. If you would like to lead this tour, please contact Karen Sinn ([lotitoke@yahoo.com](mailto:lotitoke@yahoo.com) or 503-910-2598). Once you have confirmed the tour date, please let Bailey ([bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us)) know so that he can notify the transfer station and give you tips on how to lead the tour

**Wed - Fri June 1, 2nd & 3rd**

**Papermaking Workshop**

**Camp Cascades, Lyons**

Master Recycler needed to teach 4th graders how to make paper at Outdoor School at Camp Cascade in Lyons. To sign up or for more information, contact Elizabeth ([freeborn\\_elizabeth@salkeiz.or.us](mailto:freeborn_elizabeth@salkeiz.or.us)).

## MIXED RECYCLING IS COMING TO RURAL MARION COUNTY!

All residents of rural and sparse areas of the County will be able to recycle curbside starting **July 1, 2011**.

Visit [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net) or call your hauler to find out how you may be able to offset the rate increase\* for this service by using the blue recycling roll cart that will be provided, and to find out which items go in the cart.

\*Service increase was requested & approved by Marion County to provide convenience to rural customers and divert more recyclable material from the waste stream.



Public Works Environmental Services

503.588.5169 *Se habla español*

[mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net)

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# Events & Occasions



**Saturday, February 5, 1:00 - 3:30 pm**

**Gardening Workshop: *Pruning fruit trees—the good, the bad, and the ugly***  
**Zena Farm**

Jim Andersen, Grounds Manager at Willamette U., will lead the workshop. Most of the time will be spent in the field learning basic pruning techniques, then applying these them through hands-on experience . We will also see some of the work that has begun on rehabilitating older fruit trees at the farm and discuss strategies for turning a long-untended tree into a good fruit producer. To register contact Jennifer Johns - [jjohns@willamette.edu](mailto:jjohns@willamette.edu)

**Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**

**Science Pub: David Altman - Nanotechnology**  
**Brown's Town Lounge, 189 Liberty St. NE, Salem**

Science Pub will feature Willamette University physics professor David Altman discussing "Nanotech and the physics of the nano-realm." Altman's passion for learning and teaching is a perfect fit for Science Pub, a partnership between the OMSI and WU. Instead of a speaker behind a distant podium, expect an informal presentation over food and drinks with plenty of time for a lively discussion. Brown's Towne Lounge is open to **adults 21 and over**. It's free, so arrive early to ensure you get a seat. **For more information visit [www.oms.edu/sciencepubsalem](http://www.oms.edu/sciencepubsalem).**

**Wednesday, Feb 9, 5:30PM**

**Kath Williams Lecture: "Opportunities in eco-communities: People, Planet, and Profits"**  
**Turnbull Open Space, White Stag Building, 70 NW Couch St., Portland**

Globally the title "Eco-city" is used as a descriptor for every municipal project that is even the lightest shade of "green." From lessons learned while working around the world, Ms. Williams proposes all measurement tools should be framed in terms of values and opportunities for people, profit, and the planet if the goal of sustainability is ever to be achieved.

**Thursday, February 10th, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Amateur Naturalist: Mushrooms**  
**Straub Environmental Learning Center**

Jake Hurlbert, member of the Oregon Mycological Society, will talk about the common mushrooms in the area, with a focus on truffles. The Amateur Naturalist series is open to the public, and no previous knowledge of the topic is required! Classes are \$5 per person, registration is required. Call or email Alexandra at 503-391-4145 or [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org) to register.

**Thursday, February 10th, 7:00-9:00 pm**

**Salem Progressive Film Series: *Dirt! The Movie***  
**Grand Theatre, 191 High St, Salem**

Why DIRT? Dirt feeds us and gives us shelter. Dirt holds and cleans our water. Dirt heals us and makes us beautiful. Dirt regulates the earth's climate. Dirt is the ultimate natural resource for all life on earth. Yet most humans ignore, abuse, and destroy our most precious living natural resource. The film offers a vision of a sustainable relationship between Humans and Dirt through profiles of the global visionaries who are determined to repair the damage we've done before it's too late.

## Events & Occasions (cont.)

**Wednesday, February 23, 8:30am - 11:00am**

**Panel Discussion on using giant cane (*Arundo donax*) as a potential biofuel**  
**ODFW Commission Meeting Room, 3406 Cherry Ave NE , Salem**

If you are interested in learning more about this species, asking questions, and engaging in a dialogue with experts, the Oregon Invasive Species Council would like to invite you to guide the questions that will be asked of the panel members. Then there will be a Question and Answer session with audience to follow the panel discussion. For more information contact Lisa DeBruyckere at [lisad@createstrat.com](mailto:lisad@createstrat.com)



**Thursday, February 24, 7:00 pm**

**Straub Environmental Lecture: Dr. David Montgomery & *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations***  
**Salem Library Loucks Auditorium**

Once bare of the protective vegetation and exposed to wind and rain through agriculture, cultivated soils erode bit by bit, faster than they can be naturally replenished. This lecture traces the role of soil use and abuse in the history of societies, from Mesopotamia to European colonialism and the American push westward. It explores how soil has shaped us and we have shaped the soil.

**First Tuesday of every month, (next one March 2), 9:30am**

**Consumption and the Environment Webinar Series**  
**From the comfort of your own computer**

This series will cover a variety of topics relating to consumption and its interaction with the environment. It is designed to provide you with the information and resources you need to reduce GHG emissions and create more sustainable patterns of consumption in your community. Nationally renowned speakers will cover impacts, solutions, and tools. **Highly recommended by your MC Waste Reduction Staff!**

**Winter and Spring 2011**

**Center for Earth Leadership *Agent of Change* 6-Class Series**

**Location TBA**

This six-session class (with multiple start dates) covers the theory, practice, and tools of a “change agent” working within a chosen circle of influence such as a church, school, workplace or neighborhood. It is intended for motivated individuals who wish to help create a sustainable future and who are ready to prepare and implement a project to reduce human impact on the earth. Contact Emily Klavins at 503-227-2315 or [info@earthleaders.org](mailto:info@earthleaders.org) for information.

**What's In YOUR Bin?**

CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT STUFF!

**[mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net)**

Public Works Environmental Services  
503.588.5169 *Se habla español*  
[mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net)

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# The Back Page



## What are you paying for?

This image says a lot even without reading the fuzzy details on the right! Making wise choices in the store is the key to most waste reduction.

It comes from an article in the UK's Daily Mail about a grocery store chain that was is being taken to court for its practice of overpackaging meats, the first store to be charged since a law was passed against overpackaging in 1999 (four individual manufacturers have been prosecuted).



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

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