

March 2009



MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Norcal comes to Marion County Aumsville Compost Operation Now Part of Norcal Family

While many Marion County residents may be familiar with their green yard debris bin, most don't know where that debris ends up and who takes care of it.

Until recently, that service was provided by Aumsville's Wood Waste LLC, also known as "Compost Oregon". Compost Oregon has been in operation for over five years and specializes in the production of soil amendments, compost, and wood waste recycling for residents and businesses of Aumsville and Marion County.

In December, a subsidiary of Norcal Waste Systems, Inc. purchased Compost Oregon and has continued providing the same composting services for the County. Norcal, based in San Francisco, has been in the collection and recycling business for many years.

"We are excited to be a part of the Aumsville community and are committed to implementing programs that will preserve our environment and create long-term sustainability," said General Manager Phil Graham.

Neither Compost Oregon nor Norcal contemplates any changes in the local management and staffing of the Aumsville operation, which has a workforce of eight employees.

Expertise could lead to local food waste composting

For over 11 years, Norcal has developed and refined the processing method used to convert yard debris and food waste into nutrient-rich compost while taking preventative measures to control odors.

"In San Francisco, food scraps that used to go to the landfill are now collected from thousands of residential, commercial, and multifamily customers and taken to one of our composting operations in Vacaville, California for processing and custom blending," says Graham.

Norcal hopes to bring its expertise in recycling and composting to enhance the Compost Oregon facility and its product offerings. With the introduction of new processing technologies, the company plans to reduce open compost piles within the first year.

But is food waste composting in the cards for Marion County any time soon?

"The sooner the better," quipped Jeff Bickford, Senior Environmental Engineer for Marion County's Public Works. "Food accounts for about 20% of our waste stream, which amounts to about 50,000 tons a year. Wouldn't it be great to turn that back into a soil product?"

Norcal has had a lot of success finding takers for its soil amendments and compost in the past. In San Francisco, agricultural and horticultural interests are joined by armies of residents who use their food waste compost as a planting mix in their gardens.

"Many Napa Valley vineyards use our compost as an organic soil amendment," said Graham. "As it improves the soil naturally it increases soil quality, improves vine health, and helps produce better grape harvests."

If and when NorCal enters the food waste composting business in Marion County, they're sure to find plenty of product.

For more information about Norcal go to:
www.norcalwaste.com

Quote of the Month:

"The first rule of tinkering is to save all the parts."

- attributed to Thomas Alva Edison

Upcoming Events for Master Recycler Volunteers

April

Earth Day 2009 Celebration

4/18, Saturday, Oregon Garden, Silverton.

Two volunteers needed for each shift:

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Come join in on all the fun at THE environmental event of the year at one of Marion County's most beautiful attractions.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

4/25, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. WalMart parking lot, Woodburn. One volunteer needed for each shift:

9:00 a.m. - 12:00

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Help answer questions, direct traffic, and/or enjoy the sun.

May

City of Jefferson Festival of Flowers

5/2, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MRs needed to demonstrate composting and techniques to interested Festival goers.

ODOT CART (Conservation and Alternative

Resources Team) Fair

5/14, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Capitol Mall.

One volunteer needed to staff a display about master recycling.

Office of State Fire Marshal

Environmental Fair

5/16, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m., 4760 Portland Rd. NE, Salem

Vols. needed to staff display, discuss HHW alternatives with the public, and assist as needed.

Do any or all of these sound fun?

If you would like to volunteer for any of these events please contact: Alan Pennington
503-365-3188

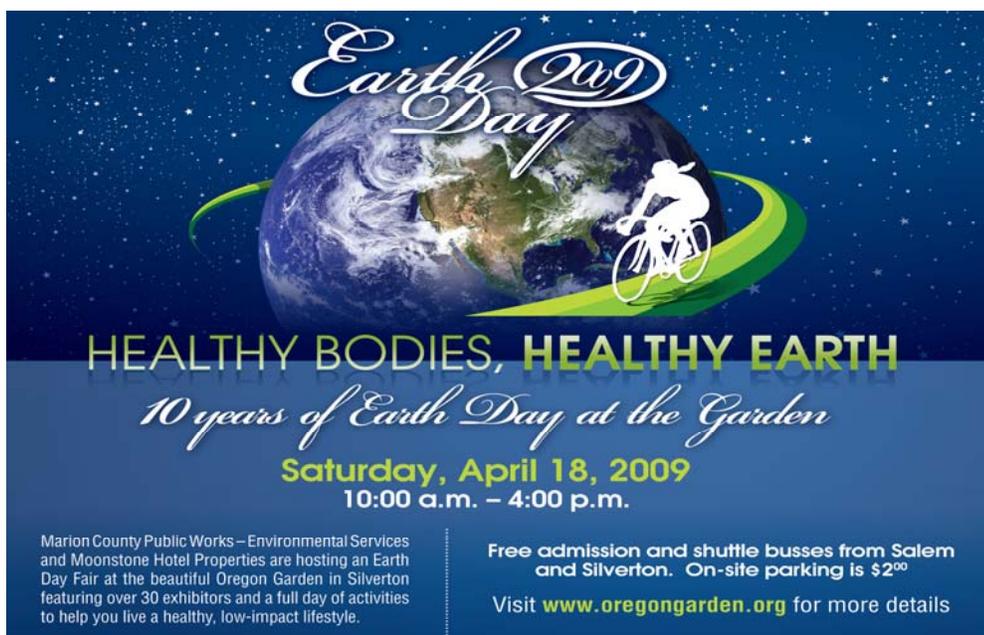
apenninton@co.marion.or.us

Have you sent us your volunteer hours?

Master Recyclers are asked to complete 30 hours of community service as a condition of their acceptance into the MR class. Please keep us updated as to your progress. Send hours to: Bailey Payne 503-588-5169
bpayne@co.marion.or.us

Do you know of other events or projects that need volunteers?

Master Recyclers have a knack for being involved in their local community. If you know of other projects or services that MRs might want to be involved in let us help you spread the word. Also, if there is a special project that you want to do to earn payback hours please check in with Bailey or Alan.



Earth Day 2009

HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY EARTH

10 years of Earth Day at the Garden

Saturday, April 18, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services and Moonstone Hotel Properties are hosting an Earth Day Fair at the beautiful Oregon Garden in Silverton featuring over 30 exhibitors and a full day of activities to help you live a healthy, low-impact lifestyle.

Free admission and shuttle busses from Salem and Silverton. On-site parking is \$2⁰⁰

Visit www.oregongarden.org for more details

FEATURING:

- JUNK TO FUNK "Trashion" Fashion Show
- High-energy Zydeco/Cajun/ Folk music with Bon Ton Roulet
- Bush Elementary's 5th grade La Marimbanda band

PLUS DEMONSTRATIONS INCLUDING:

- Making your own GREEN cleaning products
- Growing food in small spaces
- Seasonal cooking
- Composting



Come enjoy the festivities, good food and great music!