

December  
2011



Class #25! p. 4

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Master Recycler Newsletter

## A Gift to Marion County Residents!

### The nature trail at the Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station gets a major renovation

The nature trail at the Salem-Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station has given approximately 1,000 children a year the opportunity to learn about recycling and experience a short hike through the woods. The trail, known as the "Earth Walk," was originally constructed by Capitol Garbage & Recycling employees in the mid-1990's .



Over the years, this well-used trail has had little in the way of maintenance. The old black & white signs were deteriorating and have been replaced. In recent years, the vegetation began to overrun the trail, including several areas of thick poison oak. Invasive Scotch broom had overtaken areas along the trail and this has been cut back. Numerous stretches have had Marion County's Browns Island compost added and native species planted. Additionally, several new informational kiosks and signs have been added.

"Kids love the whimsical feel of the trail and we tried to maintain that in the new design." said Bailey Payne, a waste reduction coordinator for Marion County. Along the trail students will see various creatures made from scrap metal, including a few that haven't been visible for years because they've been covered with bushes.

Some highlights include:

#### Safety upgrades

Previously, groups as large as 75 children toured the recycling depot during regular operating hours. Although it was a great learning experience, it was a

*(Continued on page 2)*

### In This Issue:

Graduate Gallery	4
New Employee	5
Tasty Tidbits	6
Call to Serve & Events & Announcements	7
The Back Page	8

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."



-John Fitzgerald Kennedy

# Earthwalk ...

challenge keeping rambunctious kids together in an area with vehicles, large containers and collected materials. Keeping everyone safe is now much more manageable with the new recycling area overlook (see the next paragraph), new crosswalks, and new pedestrian crossing and speed limit signs.

## New Trail Segment

On the hill above the recycling area a trail now winds up the side and follows a path to a 140 square foot pad overlooking the recycling area, the scale house, and the garbage pit. Color stepping-stones made from recycled glass decorate this stretch of the trail. Signs teach visitors about the history of the transfer station and why recycling is important. A new display discusses the problems of contamination in the mixed recycling and includes a sample of the garbage that comes from the paper making process due to materials like plastic bags getting added and items that the Material Recovery Facilities missed. With this short addition, the trail is now 1/3 of a mile long.



## Recycled Materials

Several new features have been added to show students that recyclables can be turned into new products.

The trail begins with five large bales of plastic beverage bottles, computer plastics, buckets, recycling roll-carts, and dog food bags which were donated by Agri-Plas, Inc. and Garten Services. These help teach students how recyclables are prepared for shipment to manufacturers that recycle them into new products.



- ◆ The trail has a new path made of ground asphalt from the old Aumsville Highway before it was resurfaced around 2005. A careful observer can even see the old yellow and white paint.
- ◆ The crosswalks and newly painted “RECYCLE” sign on the hill above the recycling depot contain recycled glass to make them more reflective.
- ◆ All of the newly painted kiosks and dinosaur statue are painted with

recycled paint.

- ◆ The informational kiosk on glass has 120 gallons of tumbled recycled glass embedded into the trail and visitors are allowed to take home one piece of the colorful “beach glass” as a souvenir.
- ◆ The new picnic area features 10 six foot long benches containing over 1,000 pounds of colorful recycled glass. They were made in Corvallis.
- ◆ The bridge over the seasonal waterfall, benches throughout the trail, and table in the newly constructed picnic area all made from recycled plastic bags.
- ◆ The newly constructed trail above the recycling depot features a look-out that allows students to see the operations of the transfer station on one side and the depot on the other. The look-out area has rubber mats made from recycled tires in McMinnville. The transfer station was not visible from the previous trail, so this area provides students with a more complete understanding of how a transfer station works and it allows them to see all of the things in the garbage that could have been recycled.



# Earthwalk ...



◆ The Marion County Juvenile Department's Alternative Programs works with children that have been in trouble with the law. The youth learn new skills, including woodworking, welding, sales, and gardening. The proceeds of their efforts pay restitution to the community. Using wood from old barns and telephone poles, the crews made 36 new bird houses, 16 mason bee houses and two bat houses that decorate the trail. The local Audubon Society provided information to ensure that the birdhouses were constructed specifically for the needs of a variety of species native to the area and that they were

located in appropriate spots along the trail.

## New Kiosks

The existing trail had 7 kiosks featuring information on cardboard, paper, compost, plastic, metal, glass, and scrap metal. Over 10 new signs and kiosks have been added to teach students about native and invasive species, wildlife, recycling processing, contamination of recyclables, how transfer stations work, where curbside recycling goes, household hazardous waste, things that are hard to recycle, how waste-to-energy facilities and landfills work and more.

## Picnic Area

A new picnic area with 10 benches and a picnic table have been added so groups of up to 50 will now have a spot to stop for lunch. This new area overlooks the household hazardous waste collection facility and is next to a seasonal waterfall.

The improvements cost approximately \$25,000 and have taken several months to plan and carry out. A prison crew of nine men, led by Marion County Deputy Dennis Estrada, worked for five weeks on the trail. Deputy Estrada and our department's environmental engineer, Don



Alexander, were the key individuals that made this possible. They both have a lot of experience doing this type of work and their vision of how to improve the trail was the key to this whole project.

If you haven't been out to visit the trail in a while, please come any day of the week between 8:00am – 5:00pm. A 24 page guide has been created to help give group leaders more background information. This guide is available in the recycling information booth in the recycling center and will also be on our website: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES/disposal/skrts.htm>. Groups of 15 or more may be able to get a guided tour with a month or more advanced notice.

The trail renovations were made possible thanks to donations from Allied Waste of Salem, Agri-Plas, Inc., and Garten Services, Inc.

Master Recyclers are needed to help lead group tours from time to time. This is an excellent way to pay back some hours. If you are interested in being added to our notification list about upcoming tour opportunities, please email Bailey at [bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us). There will be a training for Master Recyclers where we'll give you tips and model how to lead the tours. This training will happen sometime in January and we'll plan to do it on a day/time that works best for all that plan on attending. You will be able to count this training towards your pay-back hours.



# Graduate Gallery



Congratulations to Kristi Reed, Griselda Puga and Dane Buse for recently completing their payback hours!



Kristi Reed



Griselda Puga



Dane Buse



Class #25 (Fall 2011)



Tina Morilon & Joel Boone

**Over the summer** Master Recyclers Joel Boone, Assistant Scoutmaster of Salem Boyscout troop 20, and Tina Morilon were invited by the Antique Powerland Museum to be in charge of garbage duty for their annual Great Oregon Steamup. Joel and Tina came up with the idea of adding recycling for cans and bottles; this would prevent garbage plus provide a little monetary incentive for the Scouts. Tina contacted Garten Services, a company they visited on a field trip during their master recycle class, to help with the containers for the event. The day of the event the temperature reached the high 80's and there were many workers and Boyscouts working hard and drinking lots of bottled water. The Vendors at the event were so pleased to see recycle containers around the facility for the first time that they were coming up to Joel and Tina and requesting more to be set out. The second week of the event twice as many containers were set out. Joel and Tina worked over 50 hours organizing and working this event. The amount of cans and bottles collected was enough to eliminate one 30 yard dumpster—all saved from the burner! Additional good news: the Scouts were invited back again next year! *-By Tina Morilon*

## Home & Remodeling Show update

**Marion County Master Recyclers** staffed the 2011 fall home show in October and had a very visible impact on attendees and vendors alike: almost every person in the Jackman Long building walked out with a free kitchen compost pail! 1000 of the little green buckets found a new home when patrons visited the Marion County booth. Another 200 or so signed up for a chance to win a composter.

A big “thank-you” to all the volunteers!



Jamie Sturn



Theresa Shelley



Patty Tipton

Anne Furr  
Art Bennett  
Millie Estrin  
Shelly Campbell



# Introducing....

Marion County Environmental Services had the great fortune to have **Griselda Puga** volunteer this past summer to convert much of our educational material to Spanish (look for a Spanish version of our website to go online next Spring!). If you look closely at the previous page you will see Griselda's smiling face in the Fall Master Recycler class and again holding her Master Recycler certificate thank to the over 90 hours she put in working on this long overdue task! In the meantime we decided that we just couldn't manage without her and hired her on in a temporary position to help us expand our Spanish outreach further (watch for her in some Univision news segments).



We asked Griselda to write up a few words about her experience this summer:

"Volunteering at Marion County Environmental Services was a wonderful experience. My volunteer work mainly focused on translating various types of informational materials from English to Spanish. I

was very pleased to find out that Marion County Environmental Services staff is working hard in the development of their first Spanish web page. I also had the opportunity to write a case study for the grant (FHDC) received in 2006 from Marion County Environmental Services to develop a recycling program at each of their four housing projects. One of the most memorable volunteering activities took place at the county fair; there I had the chance to work in the information booth which focused on recycling. Overall this experience was amazing! The people I worked with were both encouraging and appreciative of my work."

We're lucky to have you Griselda!

**Give a gift of experience!**

Make meaningful memories this holiday by giving tickets to a game, concert, museum or other special event.

For other ideas to simplify, save money and reduce waste this holiday season, visit us at [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net).

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

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# TASTY TIDBITS



## Holiday Lights

If you've been upgrading to LED lights, or just have unwanted/unusable strings of incandescent lights to get rid of, you can take them to either of the Marion County Recycling and Transfer Stations and drop them off with scrap metal.

If you'd like to get a credit toward a purchase of new LEDs you can mail them to:

**HolidayLEDs.com**  
**Attn: Recycling Program**  
**118 Rosehill Dr. Suite 1**  
**Jackson, MI 49202**

Visit their website for all the details:

[holidayleds.com/holidayledscom\\_christmas\\_light\\_recycling\\_program](http://holidayleds.com/holidayledscom_christmas_light_recycling_program)



## Composter Winner

*Carolyn Ford* of Salem poses with the new composter she won at the Fall Home & Remodel show.



## Fun with Videos

**Watched** a good movie lately?

We've recently been able to include our entire inventory of educational videos and TV commercials on a new YouTube channel called *mcenviroservices*. In turn, we've been able to embed all the videos back on our website—[mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net)— so they can be played directly from the program web pages. Look for them scattered about our site touting the advantages of food waste composting or introducing an EarthWISE business.

A master list of videos can be found on [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net) by following the "Education & Other Info" link to the "Watch a video on recycling" link as well as on the YouTube channel.

# Wassail?

**Resale!**  
Shop resale this year for your holiday dishes, decorations and more!



**Out with the old? Donate!**

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



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503.588.5169 *Se habla español*  
[mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net)

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# Call to Serve



Master Recyclers are needed to help lead group tours of Earthwalk at the Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station from time to time. This is an excellent way to pay back some hours. If you are interested in being added to our notification list about upcoming tour opportunities, please email Bailey at [bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us). There will be a training for Master Recyclers where we'll give you tips and model how to lead the tours. This training will happen sometime in January and we'll plan to do it on a day/time that works best for all that plan on attending. You will be able to count this training towards your pay-back hours.

## Events & Announcements

The Sustainable Cities Initiative is pleased to announce the opportunity for Oregon cities to partner with our initiative to become the next Sustainable City Year Program community for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Application information for the 2012-13 Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP), along with additional information about SCYP and about the Sustainable Cities Initiative, is available on the web, at: [sci.uoregon.edu/SCY-Application](http://sci.uoregon.edu/SCY-Application).

Applications for next year's Sustainable City Year Program will be accepted until January 31, 2012. The 2012-2013 academic year will be the fourth year of SCYP.

During 2010-2011, SCI partnered with the City of Salem on fifteen projects, including redevelopment plans for the North Downtown area, Civic Center police facility and interior architecture designs, sustainable improvements to several public housing sites, plans for a large natural area adjacent to downtown, transportation analysis, and a more robust civic engagement strategy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chris Jones, SCI Project Manager, at 541-346-6395 or [jonesey@uoregon.edu](mailto:jonesey@uoregon.edu).



## 2012 MID-VALLEY GREEN AWARDS

### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center, Marion County Public Works - Environmental Services, and Garten Services, Inc. are seeking nominations for the 3rd annual Mid-Valley Green Awards. Nominations are being sought for individuals, businesses, and organizations located in Marion County and the greater Salem area. Winners will be announced at a Green Awards event to be held March 3rd, 2012, at the Salem Conference Center.



#### CATEGORIES:

- **Recycler of the Year:**  
*with separate awards for an individual/family and a business*
- **Sustainable Organization of the Year:**  
*small and large business categories*
- **EarthWISE Certified Business of the Year:**  
*must have EarthWISE certification by 1/1/2012*
- **Green Building of the Year:**  
*new or retrofitted*
- **Green Apple Award:**  
*an educator who leads in teaching environmental/sustainable curricula*

*Nomination forms and category descriptions are available online at [midvalleygreenawards.org](http://midvalleygreenawards.org) or you may call Friends of Straub at (503) 391-4145 to request a copy be mailed to you.*

NOTE: NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT JANUARY 17, 2012 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.



## The Back Page



A Happy Holidays  
to you all!

~ Sarah, Bailey, Alan &  
Beth



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### Waste Reduction Coordinators:

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