

December  
2013



The Best Gift of All.... p.2

# Keeping the “Jolly” in the Holiday



**It can be** a challenge to hold onto a feeling of warmth, friendship and goodwill towards all when being bombarded by advertising cajoling you to “buy, buy, buy.”

The good news is that there are much more meaningful ways to connect with others over the holiday than by buying stuff! Memories will last forever, but over 90% of our manufactured goods will be discarded within 6 months.

So instead of investing a lot of cash, invest a little time in the ones you love!

**Ideas:**

- o Plan a hike with lunch
- o Dog walking services
- o Yardwork/housework
- o Pre-made meals
- o Game night with snacks
- o A roller-skating outing
- o Housework
- o Teach a skill
- o Mending/fix-it services

Be sure to let your family and friends know that you would love gifts that think outside the box. A great way to organize your list is to use [www.sokindregistry.org](http://www.sokindregistry.org). You'll be able to specify if you'd prefer a used gift, a handmade gift, gifts of time, gift certificates, etc.

Or if you feel the need to buy, why not donate some needed items to an organization which helps others? [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org) is a great site to help fulfill teacher wish lists for school supplies, projects and field trips. You get to choose exactly where your money goes!

If it just doesn't feel like the holidays without putting a little bundle under the tree then maybe it's time to get crafty! Head over to [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) for the ideas on this page, visit Salem's [DIY Studio](#), or try browsing [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) for unlimited ideas!



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MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



# Master Recycler Newsletter

"No-one has ever become poor by giving."

~Anne Frank



# Perfect for Everyone...

**Give the gift** that keeps on giving... and giving... and giving! Space is still available in our Winter Master Recycler Class starting January 30th. Sign up a loved one now! Or print out the application and put in under the tree and let them do it themselves!

The lucky recipient will appreciate having their eyes opened by the fascinating presentations, intriguing class projects and riveting field trips to our area recycling and waste management facilities.

Think of the bonding moments to come when you are finally able to converse with someone about the extraordinary experiences and information that came your way when YOU took the class!

And best of all? Your gift will enrich the whole planet as your sponsored Master Recycler goes forth into the community and touts the benefits of creating less waste.

**Don't wait!** Registration ends January 5th.

**Become a Master Recycler**

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**Everyone's Welcome!**  
To register for the class visit our website or give us a call.

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**Learn more about:**

- What happens to your garbage
- Waste prevention, recycling and reuse options
- How to compost and the benefits of composting
- How to build "green"  
- saving energy and resources
- Products made from recycled content
- Waste reduction topics from industry experts

Includes Field Trips! **Next class starts January 30th!**

 Public Works Environmental Services  
503.588.5169 *Se habla español*  
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# New BottleDrop in Salem

**Salem** now boasts its second BottleDrop location!

North Salem area residents can now take their redeemable containers to the site at 1917 Lancaster Dr. NE. for hand or machine counting, or sign up for an account that allows them to drop off containers in bulk to be counted and applied towards their balance within 48 hours. There is a small processing fee for bulk drop-off.

Receipts issued on site or account-holder cards can be scanned at ATM style kiosks that provide a cash refund. Kiosks are located at the BottleDrop centers and at participating retailers.

BottleDrop centers are run by the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative in cooperation with local grocers. Grocers within 1.5 miles of the new redemption center are no longer be required to accept deposit containers. Grocers within 2.75 miles of the facility will accept a maximum of 24 containers per day.





# Nominations Needed!

## Green Awards - Nominations 2014 MID-VALLEY GREEN AWARDS



### Nominations Sought

Do you know a person, business, or organization that acts, thinks and does green? Then you need to nominate them today!

Green Award categories include:

- Recycler of the Year
- Sustainable Business of the Year
- EarthWISE Certified Business of the Year
- Green Apple Education Award
- Green Product/Service of the Year

Nomination forms and category descriptions are available at [www.midvalleygreenawards.org](http://www.midvalleygreenawards.org) or call Straub Environmental Center at (503) 391-4145 to request a mailed copy.



NOTE: Nominations due by midnight  
January 21, 2014 to be eligible.



Friends of Straub  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER



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131208-17c

# Graduate Gallery



## Congrats Margaret!

**Margaret Strong** recently completed her 30 payback hours and is now a fully certified Master Recycler.



“I am so delighted to complete my Master Recycler certification. This has been a great journey! I realized during the program that I have been interested in recycling since the first Earth Day, when I began volunteering at the new recycling center in my hometown. The Master Recycler Program is a remarkable education about what is thrown away. The entire course covers the waste stream in our county, but it is applicable nationwide. The processes and tools I gained through the program are applicable to my values, my home and family and my work environment.

My class began in September 2011, my fellow classmates came from a variety of backgrounds, from commercial real estate, to hospital facility management, to a group from a Hispanic farm housing community and people pursuing their interest in the environment. We learned from each other as we learn from the program and the presenters. The field trips were fascinating from sustainably built communities, to compost centers and the paper

mill. Our visit to a plastic recycling center prompted my own research into a local company turning recycled plastic into oil.

I have enjoyed my volunteer time, giving back to the community. I have volunteered at the county fair, at the annual Earth Machine sale and at a community dog event at a new park in Keizer. Volunteering gave me an opportunity to share information on the county’s resources and inform people wanting to know more, even how to make dog toys from reused materials. I have even encouraged first tattoos for many, using the green recycle rub-on tattoos!

My next goal is to implement the EarthWISE program at my work at a state agency. Waste reduction and reducing the waste stream through the three Rs: Reduce, ReUse and Recycle are becoming a focus for every business, as the benefits are part of any sustainability program and there are significant cost savings. I recommend this program to anyone looking for a learning opportunity that is part of changing the world!

Thanks Bailey and Alan for the great program and support!” ~Margaret Strong

## Updated “Interesting Places” Guide Available

A great resource for discovering waste-reduction related destinations has just been updated! Find it at [www.mcrecycles.net](http://www.mcrecycles.net) under “Hot Topics.”





## Patagonia iFixit

**Outdoor gear** manufacturer Patagonia made a splash a couple of years ago with their "Don't Buy This Jacket" campaign encouraging people to reflect on what they really need before buying something new.



Now, as part of their Common Threads Initiative they are partnering with ifixit.com to provide online manuals to help with needed repairs that result from normal wear and tear of their products.

Ifixit staff also joined Patagonia staff in stores on Black Friday to help repair items that customers brought in.

Get all the info and a link to the repair guides at <http://bit.ly/1kGZkaf>.

## Foiling Food Waste

**Fresh Paper** is a spice-infused compostable paper sheet created to prevent food waste by increasing the life of fresh produce by 2 to 4 times.

It's based on a remedy the inventor's grandmother gave her in India when she accidentally drank tap water, and can be placed in a produce drawer, bowl or box – anywhere produce is stored—and will inhibit the growth of bacteria and fungi.

Foodbanks, farmers and families have all seen benefits from using Fresh Paper and the company and product has garnered numerous awards.

[www.fenugreen.com](http://www.fenugreen.com)



## New Hybrid in Town

**Are you passionate** about pedal power but ready to move up from the traditional two wheel to something a bit more swanky?

Organic Transit's ELF bike/car hybrid may be just the ticket!

It's a three-wheeled pedal-driven vehicle with durable shell, LED headlights, tail lights, mirrors and battery powered assist that can be recharged by solar or traditional outlets.

The Durham, NC company is purportedly looking to expand its facilities to the Portland, OR area.

[www.organictransit.com](http://www.organictransit.com)



## A Trail of Junk

**If you think** untangling your Christmas lights is a chore, what would you do with compressed 2,200-pound bales of them? Author Adam Minter takes a look at what's happening with those bales and plenty of other issues facing the global recycling trade in the new book "Junkyard Planet."

Recently Minter spoke about his book and recycling journeys with Terry Gross on NPR's "Fresh Air" program.

Listen to it here:

<http://n.pr/19OmWVb>

Or read the full Resource Recycling story here:

<http://bit.ly/1bVcmA6>



## A Greener Industry?

**In the last decade** Nike has not only become more socially responsible but has worked hard also to be a leader in sustainable manufacturing.



In fact, the company has developed one of the most sophisticated tools in the industry and is sharing it freely to improve the environmental bottom line of any manufacturer that wants to take them up on it.

Their Materials Sustainability Index quantifies the environmental costs and benefits of thousands of materials and customers can even explore using it on their website.

<http://bit.ly/1cxAJAo>

## Food Swap!

**Did you have** a bountiful harvest of apples this year? Or maybe put up more salsa than you can manage?

Sounds like you need to meet up with the Cherry City Food Swappers, a group of people who love to share and plan events to trade homemade, homegrown, or foraged foods with each other.



No money is exchanged. Swap events usually last about two hours

and includes specific times to sign-in, view the goods, then swap!

A visit to their Facebook page will give you the full scoop:

<http://on.fb.me/1keWWdr>



# Master Recycler Call to Serve



## Friday—Sunday January 17 18,& 19th. Mid-Willamette Valley Home Show Oregon State Fairgrounds

Master Recycler volunteers needed to staff our booth at the Mid-Willamette Valley Home Show as we focus on publicizing ways to cut waste, recycle more, and compost everything one possibly can. Get those volunteer hours done while having a fun and enjoyable experience! Contact Alan Pennington at [apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us) or 503-365-3188 to sign up.

### The following shifts are available:

Friday: noon - 3 pm  
3pm - 6 pm  
Saturday: 9 am - noon,  
noon - 3 pm,  
3 pm - 6pm  
Sunday: 9 am - 1 pm,  
1 pm - 5 pm



### Flexible Date

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Mt. Angel is seeking a Master Recycler volunteer to help educate their customers and the community about how reusing construction and other materials not only helps Habitat for Humanity, but is also a major help to the environment. A specific project has not been decided yet, but some ideas include creating a display and tabling at community events in the Mt. Angel/Silverton area, creating signs to inform customers about the environmental benefits of buying used, presenting to community organizations about how the ReStore helps the environment, or helping them to become our next EarthWISE business. If you are interested in this, please contact LouJean Fobert at [lfobert@NWVHFH.org](mailto:lfobert@NWVHFH.org) or 503-845-2164.

### Flexible Date

#### Wednesday from 3:00 - 4:30pm

A volunteer is needed to lead a paper making activity with an after-school environmental club at Turner Elementary School. We have all the materials and can show you how to lead this fun activity. If you can volunteer, please contact Bailey at [bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us) or 503-365-3191.

### Flexible Date

There are approximately 30 Oregon Green Schools throughout Marion County. Each of these schools conducts periodic waste audits where they save up a representative sample of the waste and then sort through it to analyze what they are throwing away. We have all the materials and can train you how to conduct these fun activities. Each waste audit takes approximately 60-90 minutes and the optional follow-up activity takes another 60 minutes.

We also get lots of requests from schools that want classroom presentations (which we have the materials for). If you can help with either activity, please contact Bailey at [bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us) or 503-365-3191.

### Flexible Date

#### Community Action Head Start

Master Recycler needed to teach 20 young children about recycling. Ideally, they would like someone to come Monday - Thursday sometime before noon. One possible activity is to talk about what composting is and read them a story about worm composting that is geared for their age (Bailey has a book). Another idea is to do a simplified waste sort activity (we have the kit

). If you would like to help out with this, please contact Jennine Osorio at [lunaleo27@yahoo.com](mailto:lunaleo27@yahoo.com) or 503-991-3381 and then let Bailey ([bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us)) know so that he can arrange to give you the materials.

### Flexible Date

#### Shangri-La Recycling Club

Shangri-La, a non-profit human services organization, is looking for a volunteer to join its Recycling Club as leader and captain and teach recycling information to a small group of adults with developmental disabilities. The captain would be responsible for teaching or organizing the weekly session. All activities must be approved by the LEAP Manager. LEAP is open Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Regular staff will provide supports for any personal needs of the individuals served. This volunteer opportunity requires an Shangri-La volunteer application, criminal history check, and required trainings. If you would like to sign up for this, please contact Ashley Erb at 503-581-1732, x328 or [ashley@shangrilacorp.org](mailto:ashley@shangrilacorp.org).



Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

# Events & Occasions

**Saturday, Dec. 21, noon to 6 pm**

## **Reuse Wrapping Event**

**DIY Studio, 155 Liberty St. NE, Salem**

Bring in a “naked” gift and they’ll wrap it up in something earth-friendly and fanciful. We’ll even have a station where you can create your own tags if you wish. Suggested donation of \$2-\$5 per gift. All proceeds go directly to DIY Studio programs and services.

**Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15**

## **Salem Progressive Film Series: *Unacceptable Levels***

**Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE, Salem**

Unacceptable Levels examines the results of the chemical revolution of the 1940s through the eyes of affable filmmaker Ed Brown, a father seeking to understand the world in which he and his wife are raising their children. To create this debut documentary, one man and his camera traveled extensively to find and interview top minds in the fields of science, advocacy, and law. Weaving their testimonies into a compelling narrative, Brown presents us with the story of how the chemical revolution brought us to where we are, and of where, if we’re not vigilant, it may take us. Admission: \$4 adults; \$3 students.

[www.salemprogressivefilms.net](http://www.salemprogressivefilms.net)

**Nature Kids, 4:30 pm -**

**5:30 pm**

**2nd/3rd Graders - 2nd**

**Thursday of each**

**month**

**4th/5th Graders - 3rd**

**Thursday of each month**

## **Straub Environmental Center**

Join Bobbie Snead at Straub Environmental Learning Center to learn about where our food comes from, gray whales, invasive species, recycling and more. Call today to reserve your child's space in this popular program!

Limited space - reserve today at [nichole@fselc.org](mailto:nichole@fselc.org) or call 503-391-3145. \$5/class or \$30/series (7 classes total)

**January 9 & 16 - Invasive Species!**

**Wednesday, January 15, 7:00pm - 8:30pm**

**Lecture Series: *Transformative Social & Economic Change in the 21st Century***

**Salem Library Loucks Auditorium**

Straub Environmental Center presents this lecture by **Dr. Kristen A. Sheeran**. The ability of social, ecological and economic systems to support human well-being and provision for fundamental human needs like food, water, and energy is increasingly uncertain. More than 6 billion people share this planet and every major living system is in decline. It will require extraordinary effort and innovation to meet human development needs in the twenty-first century. The challenges are enormous, but so too are the opportunities to harness the wealth and ingenuity of humanity in the twenty-first century to create a far better world. **Free; donations accepted.**



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**Give a Gift of your time!**

This holiday, make someone's day by offering your help or sharing a special skill.

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

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**RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE!**

- ★ Cut it up and place it in the yard waste cart.
- ★ Place it curbside next to the yard waste cart for an extra fee. **Flocked Trees Ok.**
- ★ Check with local service organizations for collection programs.
- ★ Take it to a Recycle and Transfer Station for \$3 through January 15th.

★ **Remove Decorations**  
**No flocked trees except as noted above**

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

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## The Back Page



You'll never look at a burned-out incandescent bulb the same again (although now they are harder to come by)! This one may even be worth a trip to the thrift store to find an old string to rescue.

1. Paint the glass portion with modge-podge or other tacky glue.
2. Roll in glitter.
3. Spray with clear sealer if desired
4. Hot glue ribbon to make a loop for hanging, then hot glue a ribbon around the base and tie in a bow. (In the photo the ribbon connects two bulbs to make one ornament.
5. Amaze your friends!



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

5155 Silverton Rd. NE

Salem, OR 97305

### Waste Reduction Coordinators:

#### **Beth Myers-Shenai**

503-365-3180

[smyersshenai@co.marion.or.us](mailto:smyersshenai@co.marion.or.us)

#### **Bailey Payne**

503-365-3191

[bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us)

#### **Alan Pennington**

503-365-3188

[apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us)

#### **Griselda Puga**

503-566-4159

[gpuga@co.marion.or.us](mailto:gpuga@co.marion.or.us)