

June 2009



Master Recycler Newsletter

In May the newest graduates of the Master Recycler class finished the eight week class. This year we added a few new sessions, including a panel of EarthWISE business owners that discussed how the program has helped them to inspire their coworkers to get involved in their resource efficiency programs. It offered the class a frank discussion of the challenges and rewards of becoming an EarthWISE business. Another great addition to this

year's class was a tour of the Pringle Creek Community in southeast Salem. In the past we've had green building guru, James Santana, come give a presentation about the exciting environmental attributes of their buildings but seeing it

first-hand was, well, better than a thousand words.

This new group of Master Recyclers has already gotten off to a great start in completing their payback hours. Some individuals are taking what they learned to implement new



programs at their workplace while others have taken the message home, opting to give their apartment complex's recycling program a facelift or helping Melissa to begin rolling out the multifamily recycling program that she has

been working on for nearly a year.

We are now in the process of getting ready to plan the next class. Tentatively, the dates for the next class are September 10th - October 29th. We hope to confirm this in

time for the next newsletter, but if you know someone that would be interested in taking the next class, please have them call us to be added to our notification list. People that have

expressed an interest in taking the class are notified first before we do any advertising. In the past few years the class has been filling up soon after we send out the notification!

Should the Master Recycler Class go Online?

Please share your thoughts by completing this quick 10 question survey! <http://tinyurl.com/OnlineRecyclingClassSurvey>

There are currently about 8 Master Recycler programs being offered throughout Oregon. The program facilitators for these classes are currently considering collaborating with Oregon State University to create an online version of the Master Recycler class &/or a more general "Recycling 101" class.

Continued on page 2

Did you know?

The County's Solid Waste Management Plan is being updated! Find out about the future of recycling and solid waste. For more information, see page 3.

Quote of the Month:

"Service is the rent you pay for room on this earth."

- Shirley Chisholm

Continued from page 1:

The Master Gardeners program has already created an online version of the Master Gardener course:
<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/workforce/master-gardener-online>

The details of how it would be developed are still being discussed, but the class would likely be broken up into 8 modules and would include interactive animations, videos, class reading and other assignments. Students would have the option to take a general "Recycling 101" class or take it as a more in-depth Master Recycler class, depending if the county/city in which they live wants to provide the additional training and payback opportunities. In the Master Recycler version, there would be supplemental information that would provide specifics on local programs and there would be fieldtrips, whereas the "Recycling 101" class would be more general, possibly with fewer modules and possibly offered at a lower rate.

Payback hours would also be an essential part of the Master Recycler class, but they would not be required for the "Recycling 101" class.

If successful, an online class would allow people to take the class at any time of the year, take the sessions at their own pace, allow the class to be offered in Spanish, and make it easier for some people to participate, particularly people that live in rural areas, can not take evening classes due to childcare, lack of transportation, disability, or can not drive at night.

The idea isn't to replace the "in-class" version of the class, rather this would be offered in addition to the existing "in-class" courses, making it available year-round. **Please click on this link (<http://tinyurl.com/OnlineRecyclingClassSurvey>) to take a 10 question online survey.** Feel free to forward this to anybody you think is interested in a Master Recycler Course. This survey will be open until July 1st.



'Tis the Season for Phone Books

Some of the larger phone book directory companies do their main distribution in our area in June & July. Here in Marion County, they can be recycled at the curb. It's best to first tear off the covers before tossing them in the mixed recycling. If you don't have curbside recycling, they are also taken at the recycling centers. Here are two excerpts from emails on this topic:

The phone book industry has created an official national website where consumers can easily find out how to opt out from different phone books: <http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com>. This is the first time the industry - through its two major trade groups, the Yellow Pages Association and the Association of Directory Publishers - has made this information easily available. I think that because the trade groups now stand behind these listings, it gives consumers more assurance that these opt-out methods will actually work (though there may be some glitches, especially at first). In our national efforts to reduce unwanted phone books, we have also requested that the industry provide details on how the opt-out systems work for the major phone books (so we know they really do work), and they have agreed to do that. They are also working on eventually turning this website into more of a "clearinghouse" where the consumer can opt out right on the site, instead of just getting the info and then having to contact the company to opt out. We also want easy opt-out info prominently featured on the phone books themselves.

Still, this new industry website represents progress on this issue. If you're with a local or state government, it's something helpful that you can provide to your residents when they ask how to opt out from receiving unwanted phone books. Thanks again to everyone whose efforts have helped encourage the industry to take opt-outs seriously!

-Tom Watson, King County Solid Waste Division, Seattle, WA, and the National Waste Prevention Coalition



Using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Solid Waste Management and Greenhouse Gases: A Life-Cycle Assessment of Emissions and Sinks" (<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/reports.html>), it appears that under national average landfill, recycling, and manufacturing conditions, not publishing a phone book reduces greenhouse gases by about 3 times as much as recycling (relative to landfilling). We've included this information on our website (<http://www.deq.state.or.us/programs/sustainability/phonebooks.htm>) to help Oregonians understand the benefits of recycling phone books, and the even greater benefits of avoiding unwanted distribution.

-David Allaway, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Upcoming Events



ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Saturday, June 6th - Sunday, June 7th (overnight)

Family Nature Retreat

Spend two days relaxing with your family and enjoying our natural world on the first ever FSELCA Family Nature Retreat. Held at Drift Creek Camp in the old growth forests of the Coast Range, the Family Nature Retreat allows families to enjoy hikes led by naturalists and explore the flora and fauna of the forest. Family Nature Retreat begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2009, and ends at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, June 7. The cost is \$40 for adults and \$20 for children. The cost includes 3 meals and lodging; participants must bring their own bedding. REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

Please call or email Lisa at (503) 391-4145 or lisa@fselc.org

Thursday, June 11th, 7:00 p.m.

Amateur Naturalist Series: Introductory Marine Life

Straub Environmental Learning Center, 1320 A Street NE, Salem

Learn about the plants and animals common to Oregon's tidal zones in a two-part class offered June 11 and June 13, 2009. Ron Crouse, environmental education specialist with the Marion Soil

and Water Conservation District, will identify common species and describe their life history. Details on the June 13 field trip in class. RSVP required, \$5 per person. Call or email 503-391-4145 or lisa@fselc.org.

Saturday, June 13th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Native Plant Society Field Trip: Kingston Prairie Preserve

This 152-acre Nature Conservancy Preserve, southeast of Stayton, is the best example of native prairie remaining in the central Willamette Valley. Both wet and dry prairie habitats harbor native grasses and host several rare wildflowers. The Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society is sponsoring the field trip. Bring water and lunch. For directions, carpooling, or general information, call John Savage at 503-399-8615 after 7 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Summer Camp

The Straub Center offers a week-long nature camp for 4th/5th graders (July) and 6th/7th/8th graders (August). Students learn first-hand about ecology, forest systems, and watersheds through hands-on activities and field trips to Santiam State

Forest. **Application due date is June 15th!**

If you would like to receive our email announcements of upcoming events, send an email to lisa@fselc.org. Emails sent no more than once per week at the most.

Get Involved in the Future of Waste Reduction, Recycling, Composting & Solid Waste Management in Marion County!

Join in on the discussion regarding the future of recycling & solid waste management disposal in Marion County. There will be more public workshops on the Marion County Solid Waste Management Plan. To look at the draft plan ahead of time, go to: www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es.

Public Hearings

These will consist of a presentation on the plan, then open up to give the public the opportunity for input and questions.

Thursday, June 11, 6:30 pm (2 hr)
Stayton Library, 515 N. First St.

Thursday, June 18, 6:30 pm (1.5 hr) - Woodburn
Woodburn City Hall - Council Chambers (270 Montgomery St.)

City Council Meetings/Work Sessions

These will consist of a presentation to the Council/Mayor, followed by questions.

Monday, June 8, 7:00 pm (30 min)
Woodburn City Hall
270 Montgomery St.

Monday, July 6, 6:30 pm (30 min)
Stayton Community Center
400 W. Virginia St., Keizer City

Mon., July 13, 5:45 pm (60 min)
Keizer City Hall
930 Chemawa Rd. NE

Mon., August 3, 7:00 pm (15 min)
Silverton Council Chambers
421 S. Water St.

Upcoming Events for Master Recycler Volunteers

June

Fieldtrip of the Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station's Earth Walk

June 4th, Thursday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

June 4th - 12th (date to be determined)

Volunteer needed to help lead a class of elementary aged students to teach them the how-to's & whys of waste reduction/recycling.

Go Green Night at Volcano Stadium

June 26th, Friday, 6:30 - until game is over.

Two MR volunteers needed

Go Green is a new event that will introduce the 3 R's to the area's only professional baseball stadium. Volunteers are needed to staff a booth which will provide information about the many programs that Marion County Environmental Services has to offer. Come out and help the folks at Volcano Stadium kick off their recycling campaign while you root for the home team!

Contact:

Alan Pennington 503 365 3188

apennington@co.marion.or.us

July

Marion County Fair

July 9 -12, Multiple shifts available from 10 am until 8 pm

Come to the Fair! Marion County Fair is launching its first

ever "Living Green Expo" featuring interactive and educational displays and booths. This year's fair theme is "Green & Growing, Celebrating 150 Years of a Clean & Green Oregon". The Living Green Expo will feature:

Information on alternative energy sources, such as bio-diesel, solar, wind and wave energy.

Hybrid vehicles, electric cars and scooters.

An interactive compost pile complete with live worms that kids can touch and study.

Admission to the Fair will be free to volunteers.

For more information contact:
Alan Pennington 503 365-3188
apennington@co.marion.or.us

Salem Art Fair

July 17 -19, 10 am - 7 pm

Multiple shifts available. Deresa White from the Salem Art Fair will be taking the lead on the recycling and composting collection at this year's Art Fair. Marion County Public Works - Environmental Services will not be organizing the shifts or other logistics, but we will still count any time you spend volunteering for this event towards your Master Recycler payback hours.

Please be sure to report them to us though because otherwise we won't know who volunteered!

Contact: Deresa White dresa1965@yahoo.com

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

Multifamily Recycling Program:

A great opportunity to accumulate a few payback hours and enjoy walking around outside. Our multi-family recycling program can always use a hand delivering educational materials around each complex. And for outreach opportunities, we will have a need for volunteers to staff annual picnics and events we are invited to. If you'd like more information on opportunities as they arise, please contact Melissa (maustin@co.marion.or.us -OR- 503-566-4159).

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 x5991 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.

