

March
2010



Little people power!! p. 3

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Marion County & DEQ Partner to Clean High School Chemistry Labs

In partnership with the Department of Environmental Quality, Marion County Public Works - Environmental Services is helping to make schools safer by removing dangerous chemicals found in school science labs and training chemistry and biology teachers about how to safely store the chemicals that they need for experiments. The program's long-term objectives include improving schools' chemical storage practices, reducing their hazardous waste generation rates and helping them incorporate practices and lesson plans that will reduce their chemical liabilities.



The DEQ hired hazardous waste management expert, Dave Waddell, to conduct a teacher training and to visit schools to separate out chemicals that should be removed for safety reasons. Dave Waddell Dave's training covered these primary topics:



Many middle schools and high schools contain stockpiles of unused and improperly-stored chemicals that were once helpful in teaching students the basics of chemistry but now may pose a threat to teachers and students. They also may pose a threat to air and water quality, if stored or disposed of improperly.

- Learning to identify, safely store, and understand the hazards of science chemicals
- Use of the On-line School Chemical Hazard Database for help in assessing which chemicals to keep and which should go, and where to store the ones you have
- Proper waste disposal
- Spill response materials and procedures development
- Green chemistry introduction and concepts.

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"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." -- Sally Koch



The cupboard of sin:

This picture shows biology chemicals; caffeine, adrenaline and nicotine. All would be considered theft risks, because they are chemicals kids have heard of and might be interesting to abuse. Note that only 10 grams of Nicotine alkaloid, which is in the small plastic bagged glass bottle is lethal if ingested by a child. This bottle contains close to 5,000 lethal doses!

The Salem-Keizer School District’s Environmental Safety Specialist, Vonnie Good, said, “Dave’s training was fabulous! It was interesting, very informative and, almost most importantly, entertaining and engaging. We’d had a previous science lab safety training that was so bad, I’m still trying to live it down 10 years later. This was a great start at overcoming that.” Marion County covered the cost of substitute teachers as well as the disposal costs of the hazardous chemicals.

The second phase of the Rehab the Lab program is science chemical storage room walk-throughs. In this phase, Dave visits the schools and goes

through their chemical storage rooms. He looks for proper storage and appropriate materials needed for science experiments. Dave rearranges the chemicals, as

“I wholeheartedly endorse and support this program. I am SO happy that we were able to participate. It saved us tons of disposal costs and, possibly more importantly, educated our science teachers on chemical safety.”

-Vonnie Good, Salem-Keizer School District’s Environmental

necessary, to ensure proper and safe storage of the chemicals. He also makes recommendations for disposal of unsafe or unused chemicals and of containers that are in poor shape. He then reviews all of this with

the science staff, explaining his recommendations and getting their buy-in. “It was amazing how much our teachers learned and how easily Dave was able to get their approval for his recommendations.” reported Vonnie Good.



Incompatible chemicals like ammonium nitrate and butyl alcohol will react if mixed, causing the alcohol to immediately burn vigorously with little in the way of an outside ignition source. When enclosed and mixed, they form a chemical explosive mixture.



The clutter in this photo is not chemical hazards-related, though there are chemicals present. It’s a physical hazard. How can you safely carry chemicals out of this stockroom without risking tripping and falling while carrying them?

Phase three is the actual packing and disposing of the chemicals. Clean Harbors, the company that manages the Marion County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, then went to each school to remove the chemicals.

The pictures featured in this article were all taken in Salem schools. Dave Waddell said of the photographs, “I think they’re representative of the issues I see every time I visit schools in the United States.” He went on to say, “The local bomb squad

was activated several times in Portland and Lane County to manage shock-sensitive explosive chemicals found in science labs.”

“We are pleased to report that 2,350 pounds of dangerous chemicals have been removed from Salem’s schools, making them a safer place to work and learn.” said Jeff Bickford, Marion County’s Environmental Services Division Manager. The program will next target high schools in Marion and Polk counties that are not part of the Salem-Keizer School District.

Residents and businesses can bring hazardous waste materials to the Marion County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility any Thursday and the first and third Saturday of the month (excluding holidays) from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Businesses must pre-register by calling 800-444-4244. They will be charged a fee.



Inadequate storage cabinets and excess volume can lead to stacking glass bottles filled with chemicals and leaking containers that obscure labels. This creates a risk of incompatible chemicals mixing and leaking chemicals coming in contact with science teachers reaching into the cabinet.



Toxic inhalation hazards like chlorine gas and hydrogen sulfide gas are lethal at relatively low concentrations. As gases, they are difficult to control once they escape their containers.

Calling all Cycling Families!!!



Kidical Mass is a monthly family-friendly bicycle ride event in Salem especially aimed at younger riders. The rides are short, not more than five miles, and frequently involve stops at parks and other destinations for kids. The rides are intended to help kids (and their parents) become more comfortable riding in our low-traffic city streets, meet other active cycling families in the community, spread awareness to drivers of our presence as road users, and have fun while doing it. The rides are law-abiding events (helmets required!) and are free for all participants.

You are invited to the inaugural ride on **Sunday, February 28th, 2010** @ 1:00 pm at Bush Pasture City Park, near the Bush House Museum and Bush Barn Art Center.

If you'd like more information and for event updates, you can connect this way:

The official Blog: <http://KidicalMassSalem.blogspot.com>

Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/search/?q=kidical+mass+salem&init=quick>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KMSalem>

Email: kidicalmasssalem@gmail.com





TASTY TIDBITS



PET Goes Big Time



National soccer teams, including those from the United States, Brazil, Portugal and the Netherlands, will begin wearing jerseys made from recycled plastic bottles.

Nike unveiled the new jerseys in London made from up to eight recycled bottles each.

Suppliers to Nike used discarded plastic bottles from Japanese and Taiwanese landfill sites that were melted to produce new yarn that was then converted into fabric for the jerseys.

Olympic Medals are Winners

Have you been watching the XXI Winter Games in Vancouver, BC?

All of the medals being awarded in Vancouver include gold, silver and copper, (they're not really bronze) reclaimed from computer motherboards.



It's the first time Olympic and Paralympic medals have contained e-waste. You can watch a short film on how the medals were

created and the thought process behind them at:

www.motherboard.tv/2010/2/3/medal-gear-turning-electronics-into-olympic-gold--2

A Groovy Move

A company has made a business of "rescuing" truckloads of quality used boxes from large companies that might otherwise recycle them or simply throw them away, providing moving packages to consumers who want to make their move a little greener at a lower cost than newer boxes. For more info visit

www.usedcardboardboxes.com



USPS Recycles



The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced that its Post Office Box Lobby Recycling program will be expanded to incorporate 2,435 additional post offices, including numerous offices located in U.S. national parks. The program, now available at more than 8,050 USPS locations, recycled approximately 200,000 tons in 2009.

Under the program, postal customers are encouraged to open their mail, take whatever action is necessary and place the unwanted mail in a secure recycling bins equipped with a slim opening — about the width of a magazine — which ensures that a customer's privacy is kept.

A complete list of participating Post Office Box Lobby Recycling program locations can be found at www.usps.com/green.

Tax Credits

April will be creeping up on us in no time, but if you've been investing in energy-saving devices, you may have some good news coming.

There are many tax credits available for energy efficient cars, appliance and lighting. Talk to your accountant or use these two resources to help you get started :

www.energytaxincentives.org/general/faqs.php

www.energystar.gov



Luffa-ing all the way



How's this for green living? Contrary to many people's understanding that that the home spa superstar, the luffa or "loofa", is some sort of sea sponge, it is actually a fruit in the cucumber family that you can grow in your own backyard!

It has a fairly long growing season, so if you are interested in growing a vine, and have some indoor space or a greenhouse, now is the time to get started!

Seeds are easy find by doing an internet search, and cyberspace also has information a-plenty on how to prepare them for use as a scrubber.

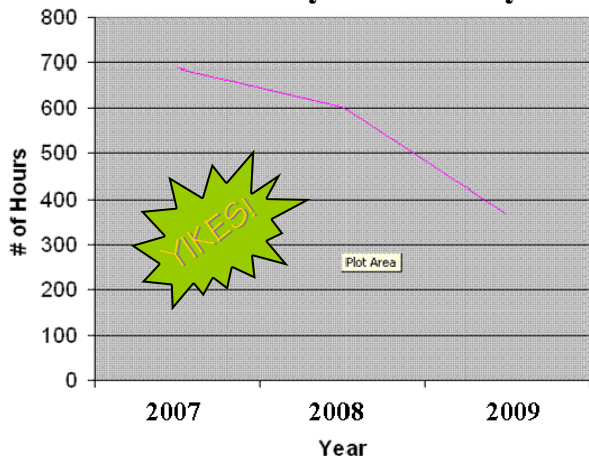
Call to Serve



Marion County's Master Recyclers are amazing! We now have over 550 people that have gone through the program since it first began in 1992! We are now almost finished with our 21st class.

According to our records, you have contributed 9,659 hours over the years! That's the equivalent of over four and a half people working full-time for a year. Using the national volunteer rate of \$20.25/hour, that's the same as \$195,594.75! Of course, the value of your time can't be adequately quantified in dollars because the one-on-one conversations that you have when volunteering and the meaningful

Hours Volunteered by Master Recyclers



work that you do on behalf of our environment and community are things that money can't buy!

In the last couple of years, we've seen a decline in the overall number of hours volunteered and at the same time, we've doubled the number of Master Recyclers graduating from class. In 2009, for example, we graduated over 40 people and technically should have had a minimum of 1,320 hours completed by 2009 graduates and we only had 327 hours reported.

We are sure that this number is low because there are many of you that are doing great things, but just haven't reported them to us. It is important that our numbers are as accurate as possible. This helps us to document

how successful the program is and why it's important to continue. Also, remember that you are not officially a Master Recycler until you've completed the 30 hours of payback.

So, if you have completed some hours that you haven't reported, please let us know by emailing them to Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us). If you haven't had a chance to complete them yet and are looking for some projects, please see below and keep checking the monthly newsletter. If you have completed your hours, thank you so much for your time and commitment to support waste reduction, recycling and composting! Please don't bother sending in hours that you have already reported as we have already logged them. Again, thank you for your time. We certainly wouldn't be leading Oregon in recycling if not for the dedication of the Master Recycler community!

Thursday, March 3

North Salem Neighborhoods Health & Safety Fair

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

One or two Master Recyclers needed to staff a table at this popular north Salem community event. The booth will feature information about alternatives to hazardous waste and safe disposal of household hazardous waste.

Shifts: 5:15pm - 8:15pm. Contact Alan Pennington at 503-365-3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us

Earth Day Fair “A Hundred Acts of Green”

Oregon Garden

Saturday April 17th

10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Master Recyclers are needed to staff our information booth and help with a recycling craft project. Come be a part of this fun event! Shifts are available 10 am—1pm and 1pm—4pm.

Alan Pennington 503-365-3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us

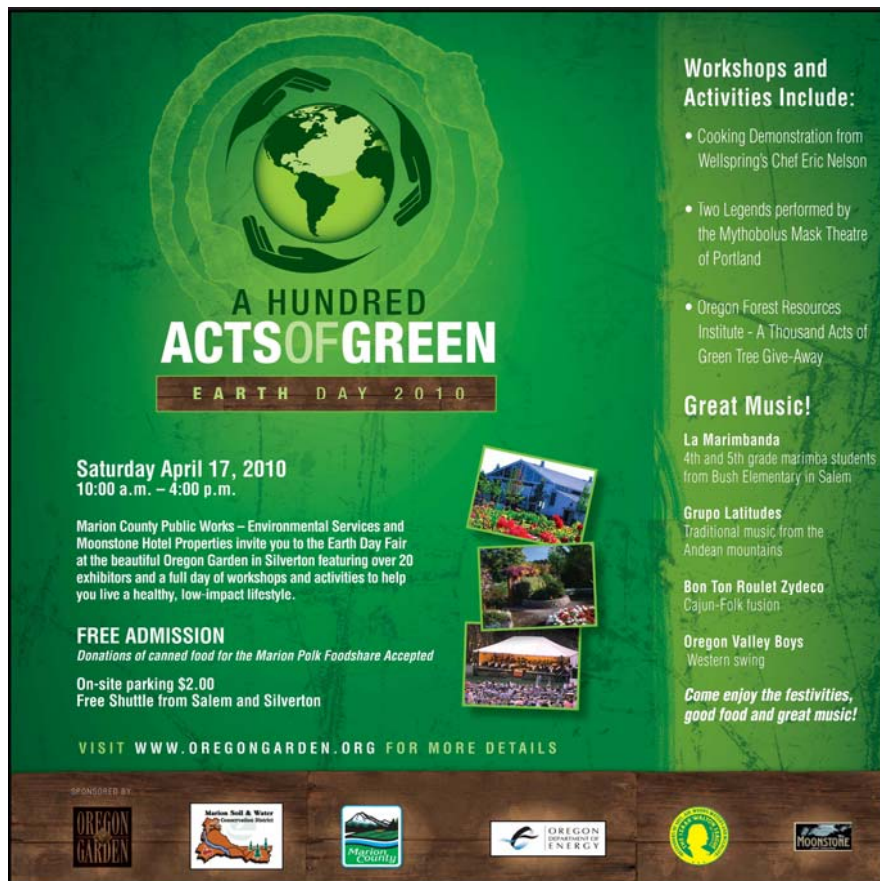
Tour leader needed

Salem-Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station

Thursday April 15th or Thursday April 22nd (preferred)

9:30 or 10:00 am

One Master Recycler is needed to provide a tour of the Earthwalk and Recycling Center (if approved) to a group of eleven 4-5 year old students from Secret Garden Preschool. Please call Val Castro at 503-874-9862 to make arrangements for the time, then check with Kat Franken at 503-566-4159 for help with making the site arrangements and getting tour ideas. Don't forget to report your hours to Bailey Payne at 503-588-5169 x5920 or bpayne@co.marion.or.us.



The poster features a central graphic of a globe with hands holding it, surrounded by a circular pattern of leaves. Below this is the title "A HUNDRED ACTS OF GREEN" in large, bold letters, with "EARTH DAY 2010" underneath. The event details are listed on the left, and a list of workshops and activities is on the right. At the bottom, there are logos for sponsors including Oregon Garden, Marion Soil & Water Conservation District, Marion County, Oregon Department of Energy, and Moonstone.

A HUNDRED ACTS OF GREEN
EARTH DAY 2010

Saturday April 17, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services and Moonstone Hotel Properties invite you to the Earth Day Fair at the beautiful Oregon Garden in Silverton featuring over 20 exhibitors and a full day of workshops and activities to help you live a healthy, low-impact lifestyle.

FREE ADMISSION
Donations of canned food for the Marion Park Foodshare Accepted

On-site parking \$2.00
Free Shuttle from Salem and Silverton

VISIT WWW.OREGONGARDEN.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

Workshops and Activities Include:

- Cooking Demonstration from Wellspring's Chef Eric Nelson
- Two Legends performed by the Mythobolus Mask Theatre of Portland
- Oregon Forest Resources Institute - A Thousand Acts of Green Tree Give-Away

Great Music!

La Marimbanda
4th and 5th grade marimba students from Bush Elementary in Salem

Grupo Latitudes
Traditional music from the Andean mountains

Bon Ton Roulet Zydeco
Cajun-Folk fusion

Oregon Valley Boys
Western swing

Come enjoy the festivities, good food and great music!

SPONSORED BY:

- OREGON GARDEN
- Marion Soil & Water Conservation District
- Marion County
- OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
- MOONSTONE

Events & Occasions....



The Spring 2010 Climate Masters session is now open for registration!

The Spring session will run every Monday from March 15 until May 17. This year's class will be held from 6:15 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. at the Pringle Creek Community Painter's Hall. Applications must be received by **Friday, March 5**. To download an application, visit www.fselc.org. For further information, contact Lisa at lisa@fselc.org or 503-391-4145.



Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Vote with Your Fork! -A lunchtime presentation about becoming an informed, empowered eater.

General Services Building, 1225 Ferry St, SE in Salem – Basement, Mt Mazama Conf Rm.

12:00-1:00 p.m.

"What should we have for dinner, honey?" is a surprisingly meaningful question. What we choose to eat affects our health, our environment, our local economy, and our connection to home. Oregon's livability is shaped by our food choices. When you "Vote with Your Fork" and choose locally and sustainably grown foods, you help create a strong, healthy local food system.

Come to a presentation and discussion with the Oregon Environmental Council to learn more about this issue.

March 10, 2010

Film Showing: "Addicted to Plastics"—Doors open at 6:30, film at 7:00

South Salem High School-1910 Church St. SE, Salem

South Salem's Environmental Club is hosting this showing of *Addicted to Plastics*. There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted to help fund the Club's "No Idling" campaign to educate parents who wait at school to pick up their youth on the environmental benefits of turning off the car while waiting.

March 11, 2010

*Salem Progressive Film Series: **Manufactured Landscapes***

Doors open 6:15 p.m., film begins at 7:00 p.m.

Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE

Adults \$3, Students \$2

Internationally acclaimed for his large-scale photographs of "manufactured landscapes"—quarries, recycling yards, factories, mines and dams—Edward Burtynsky creates stunningly beautiful art from civilization's materials and debris that powerfully shifts our consciousness about the world and the way we live in it, without simplistic judgments or reductive resolutions. For more information: www.salemprogressivefilms.net or 503-588-8713 or 503-779-5288

March 13, 2010

2010 Mid-Willamette Valley Green Awards Dinner and Auction

Willamette University—Putnam University Center

The 2010 Mid-Willamette Green Awards dinner and auction is open to the public! Call or email 503-391-4145 or fselc@fselc.org to learn more about purchasing tickets to our dinner and auction on the Willamette University campus in Putnam University Center. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center's environmental education programs.

March 16, 2010

Audubon Society, Salem Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m

Wind Energy Development and Birds Is It a Case of Friendly Fire?

Anderson Room, Salem Public Library

Jim Maloney will discuss how large scale wind energy developments not only produce relatively carbon-free electricity they may also pose significant threats to populations of birds and bats if improperly sited, constructed, and operated. For more information, call 503-588-7340.

March 20, 2010

Turtle Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation Center's Wildlife "Baby Shower" 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mission Mill Dye Room

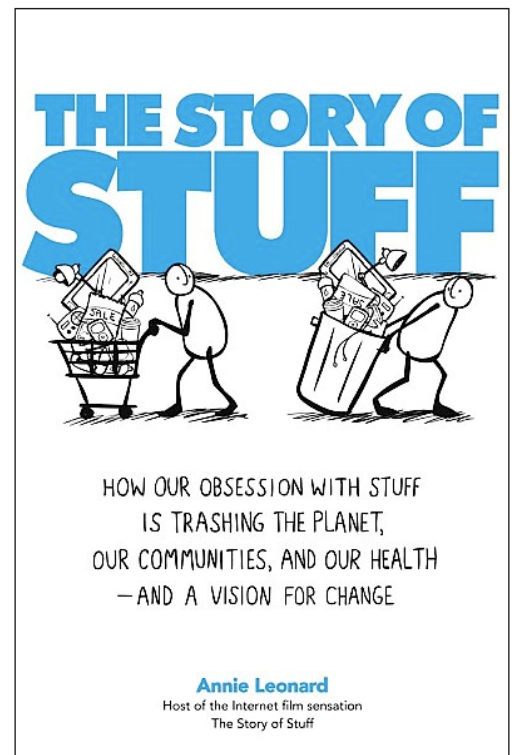
Join Turtle Ridge to help gather donated items from their wish list to help the over 500 orphaned fawns, raccoons, birds, ducks, geese and squirrels they expect this year. Meet our volunteers and learn about Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center, the wildlife in and surrounding our community – what happens to them, and how you can help. Additional events include children's activities and the chance to meet Tskili, the Great Horned Owl.

March 22, 2010

Presentation by Annie Leonard on her new Story of Stuff book. 7:30 pm

POWELL'S BOOKS—1005 W Burnside, Portland, OR 97209

Annie Leonard the creator of the internet video phenom "The Story of Stuff" will be speaking about her soon-to-be published new book (March 9th) of the same title. She will also be appearing on the TV show "AM Northwest" at 8:30 am the same day.





Man Rescues Glass Bottle!



Master Recycler student Alan Gunderson finds an excellent specimen in a pile of glass collected for recycling while touring a facility as part of his Master Recycler training.



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

5155 Silverton Rd. NE

Salem, OR 97305