

May 2009



MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Earth Day at the Oregon Garden in Silverton a Success!

Approximately 4,500 celebrants came through the Oregon Garden for Earth Day on Saturday, April 18th. What awaited the crowd was a handful of festivities from live music, a trashion show, and many booths for learning about eco-friendly materials and activities. In addition to these typical Earth Day offerings, there was something new waiting for them in the area of waste disposal. Waste depots were set-up throughout the Garden and offered Earth Day celebrants the opportunity to place their waste in its proper receptacle which included the choices of: mixed recycling; deposit cans and bottles; compostables, and garbage. The Oregon Garden staff put "eco-groovy" standards into place - requiring the food vendors to only offer compostable potato- or corn-ware, compostable

paper products (i.e. napkins, plates), and recyclables (i.e. plastic cups and containers). This was the first time the Oregon Garden included the collection of compostables at their Earth Day event!



Silverton High School's Environmental Club played an integral role in the Earth Day recycling and composting this year!

In order to successfully support this addition to the event, Team Waste Reduction was formed, consisting of nine Silverton High School Environmental Club members and two AmeriCorps members. The throw-away depots were staffed with these volun-

teers during the event to guide and educate celebrants on the proper method of disposal for each particular waste item. At the end of the day, one 60-gallon recycling roll-cart was filled with mixed recyclables, an equivalent amount of containers with refundable deposit were collected, and 60 pounds of compostables. Arrangements had been made with Allied Waste to collect the bags of compostables and recyclables; and the collected refundable containers went to the Silverton High School's Environmental Club to add to their club funds. With the number of celebrants in attendance at the Oregon Garden, most were surprised at the small amount of waste generated. Now we are looking forward to a zero waste event next year!

Bill May Expand Oregon's Bottle Bill



The Oregon legislature is considering a bill in the House of Representatives that would expand the Bottle Bill to include juice, energy drinks, coffee, tea, and power drinks. With some notable exceptions (including milk, wine, liquor, cartons, and drink pouches), HB 2184-A will expand the list of covered beverages to include most single serving beverages in 2013. This would increase the recovery rate for these containers from the current rate of 37% to over 80%. It would also allow for an increase to ten cents per container in 2016 if our rates remain below 80%. The bill would also encourage the establishment of container take-back centers called redemption centers. If you have an opinion about this bill, contact your legislator by visiting: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/>

Did you know?

The County's Solid Waste Management Plan is being updated! Find out about the future of recycling and solid waste. The draft version of the plan is on our website: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es>

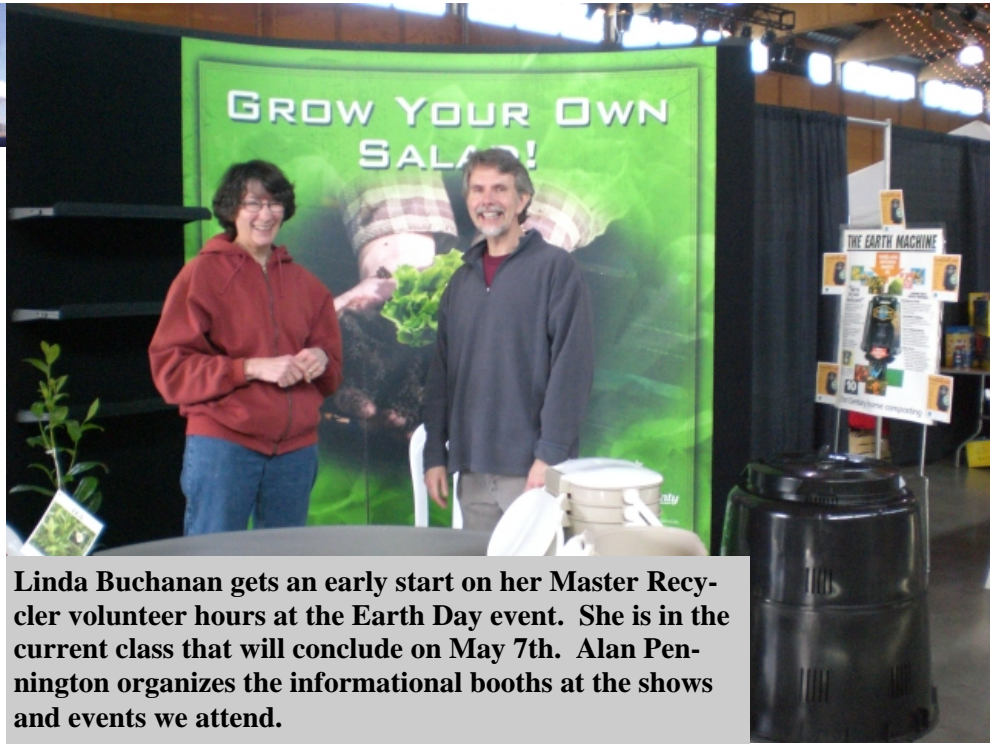
Quote of the Month:

"When the story of these times gets written, we want it to say that we did all we could, and it was more than anyone could have imagined." - Bono

Climate Master at Home Program Seeks Your Input

The University of Oregon's Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI) is an educational, research, and technical assistance consortium aimed at increasing public understanding of the risks and opportunities posed by global warming and enhancing climate protection policy and program development. Using the successful Master Recycler, Gardener, Watershed Steward and other "Master" classes as a model, the CLI has created a Climate Master at Work course which is designed to educate business leaders in resource efficiency and risk management to reduce costs and increase productivity, while also making smart environmental choices.

The CLI also has a Climate Master at Home class which is designed to engage households and individuals in collectively reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. The class has been offered in Eugene, Corvallis, and Salem with plans to expand the program to several other communities in Oregon. The Salem class currently being offered is being facilitated by the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center (www.fselc.org). The CLI would like Marion County Master Recyclers to fill out a survey to help them gather baseline data. If you would like to assist them with this brief survey, visit this website: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=941Z39kWRcxKs0nwlzEnPg_3d_3d



Linda Buchanan gets an early start on her Master Recycler volunteer hours at the Earth Day event. She is in the current class that will conclude on May 7th. Alan Pennington organizes the informational booths at the shows and events we attend.



Models at the "Trashion" Show strut their stuff at the Earth Day celebration at the Oregon Garden. This dress was made from old vinyl records.



Master Recycler, Sally "Wonderwoman" White, presents a high-energy, hands-on worm bin presentation to the current Master Recycler class. This year's class has already volunteered over 20 hours and the class hasn't even concluded yet!



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 6th 6:00 pm.

Bush Park Wildflower Walk

John Savage of the Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society will lead an evening walk to view the later-blooming wildflowers in Bush Park and the Deepwood Estate. Participants should meet at the bottom of the soapbox derby track at Bush Park. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 503-399-8615 after 7 p.m.

Monday, May 11th 7:00 p.m.

Straub Environmental Learning Center Issues Forum:

What will the Willamette Valley look like 50 to 100 years from now?

Paulus Lecture Hall (Room 201) at the Willamette University College of Law

Learn what the issues of the Willamette Basin may be in 50-100 years from now. A panel of experts will share their insights on future models and what changes could occur in our natural and built environments. Ideas for current planning on these future predictions will be discussed and a time for questions provided. David Hulse of the University of Oregon, Sara Vickerman of Defenders of Wildlife, Gail Achterman of the Oregon Department of Transportation and Rick Bas-

tasch from the City of Portland's River Renaissance Initiative, will be on the panel to share their ideas and entertain questions. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, May 14th 7:00 p.m.

Amateur Naturalist Series: Beginning Entomology

Straub Environmental Learning Center, 1320 A Street NE, Salem

Learn about the insects inhabiting your backyard in a two-part class offered May 14 and May 16, 2009. Dr. David McCorkle, Professor Emeritus at Western Oregon University, will provide a basic introduction to entomology – the study of insects. Class members will learn about the biology and classification of insects and learn to identify some of the more common backyard insects. Details on the May 16 field trip in class. RSVP required, \$5 per person. Call or email 503-391-4145 or lisa@fselc.org.

Saturday, May 16th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Native Plant Garden Tour

Straub Environmental Learning Center, 1320 A Street NE, Salem

A tour of native plant gardens at various Salem and Keizer locations will be held on Saturday, May 16. The tour, hosted by the Friends of Straub Environmental

Learning Center and the Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, will start at 9 a.m. at the Straub Environmental Learning Center. Directions to the following gardens and plant lists will be provided. There will be guides at each garden. The tour will highlight five native plant gardens. These include a rain garden, an Oak savannah restoration project, and two elementary school gardens. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, May 28th 7:00 p.m.

Lecture Series: Russ Morgan

Wolf Conservation in Oregon

Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty Street SE, Salem

Russ Morgan, Wolf Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will talk about the return of wolves into Oregon. Morgan will give a history and status of wolves in Oregon and the West and discuss Oregon's new wolf management plan and the challenges of modern wolf management. Free and open to the public.



Friends of Straub
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Upcoming Events for Master Recycler Volunteers

May

Green Expo

May 8th & 9th, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Shift times flexible)

Volunteers needed to staff display and to discuss the how-to's, whys, and virtues of home composting to the general public. All shifts are available.

ODOT CART (Conservation and Alternative Resources Team) Fair

May 14th, 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

May 16th, 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.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

Multifamily Recycling Program:

A great opportunity to accumulate a few payback hours and enjoy walking around outside. Our multifamily 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).

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 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 or Alan.

The annual composter sale shifts are full. Thank you to all that have signed up to volunteered for it!!!

ONE-DAY-ONLY
Composter Sale!

Saturday, May 2nd
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Get this great composter at a great price only at these
CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

- South Salem**
Roth's Vista Market
- East Salem**
Fred Meyers (Lancaster & Market)
- Keizer**
Copper Creek Mercantile
- Stayton**
Wilco Farm Store
- Silverton**
Wilco Farm Store
- Woodburn**
Coastal Farm Stores





PUBLIC WORKS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es
503.588.5169 *Se habla español*

090405-17c