

The Benefits of Composting

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May 2008



MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Yard work season is upon us and that means this is the perfect time of year to start, or reinvigorate, your home compost pile.

Composting has many environmental and economic benefits. In Marion County, it diverts organic materials from the waste-to-energy facility. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), composting prevents pollution by removing solids, oils, grease, and heavy metals coming from storm water runoff, as well as preventing erosion.

Composting is a controlled process of decomposition that allows us to convert organic materials into humus. Humus, the finished product, is a dark, crumbly, nutrient-rich soil amendment.

Compost is made from decomposing organic material. Examples include yard waste, grass clippings, leaves, fruit and vegetable scraps, wood chips, sawdust, seaweed, and coffee

grounds to name a few. One should not include plants infected with disease or a severe insect attack, invasive plants like ivy, cat, dog or bird manures, meat or fish leftovers, oily food, dairy or other animal products, or waxy leaves. These later materials may create problems and should be kept out of home compost systems.

Have you ever wondered how to start composting at home? There are two ways to begin a composting system. One is to select a location in your yard, or purchase a compost bin. Bins are not technically needed, but help keep piles neat and keep pests away. Another option is to have your yard debris, fruit and vegetable scraps, and other compostable materials composted using the yard debris rollcart provided by your garbage and recycling hauler.

The key to good compost is to have equal amounts of carbon to nitrogen. Carbon prod-

ucts are leaves, wood-chips, and paper. Nitrogen items would include food, grass clippings and coffee grounds. Begin by alternating layers of carbon rich materials with layers of nitrogen rich materials. Dampen, turn and mix your pile every 4 to 7 days.



Buy an Earth Machine at the Truckload Composter Sale on May 3rd

Marion County will be hosting a one-day sale of backyard compost bins on Saturday, May 3rd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at various locations in Salem, Keizer, Stayton, and Woodburn. For more information on composting contact Marion County Public Works - Environmental Services at 503-588-5169.

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Quote of the Month

"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under whose shade they will never sit."

- Greek Proverb

May Volunteer Opportunities

Composter Truckload Sale Saturday, May 3, 2008

One volunteer is still needed to assist with the composter truckload sale at the Stayton Wilco Farm Store from noon until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2008.

Life Source Natural Foods Fair Saturday, May 10, 2008 11:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Life Source Natural Foods still needs two Master Recycler volunteers to help with recycling efforts at the upcoming food fair on May 10, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will be asked to staff the recycling stations which will consist of a mixed bin, trash, and compost. Volunteers will need to help keep the bins sorted, answer questions, and possibly change the bins when they become full.

Keizer Iris Festival May 16-18, 2008

The Keizer Iris Festival is still seeking recycling volunteers for the festival grounds. Volunteers will attend recycle stations throughout the festival site to make sure recyclables

get tossed into the recycling bins and not into the garbage and visa-versa. In addition, volunteers will move contents from the recycling receptacles to the main mixed recycling container and hand out recycling education flyers to festival-goers. Gloves and hats will be provided. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts:

Friday, May 16, 2008:
2:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 17, 2008:
10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18, 2008:
12:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.

City of Keizer Open House Monday, May 19, 2008 6:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.

The City of Keizer Public Works Department will hold their Annual Public Outreach Open House on May 19th at the Public Works Shop located at 641 Chemawa Rd. NE from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A Master Recycler is needed to set up a tabletop display board and talk to the public about composting and

hand out literature. Please email Bailey at bpayne@co.marion.or.us or call 503-588-5169 x5991 if you are available to assist.

REPORTING YOUR HOURS

Some of you have noticed that the form to report your volunteer hours has been removed from the Marion County Environmental Services website due to spam. To report your hours, please send your name, the name of the event you volunteered for, number of hours volunteered, and a brief description of the volunteer payback to Kim at kdnan@co.marion.or.us or 503-588-5169 ext. 5920.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these events please contact Kim at 503-588-5169 ext. 5920 or kdnan@co.marion.or.us. Please contact Bailey if you would like to volunteer for the Keizer Open House.

Join the Master Recycler Listserv

Stay connected to your Master Recycler friends by joining the Master Recycler listserv. It's a little known fact that a Master Recycler listserv exists so that Master Recycler alumni can share articles, ideas, requests and information with the Master Recycler community. The listserv is a great place to receive announcements about (or announce your own) community events. Need some red wigglers to start a

worm bin? Chances are a fellow Master Recycler has some and you can connect through the listserv. To join the Master Recycler listserv send an email to: listserv@co.marion.or.us and type the word "subscribe" in the body of your message. To post to the listserv send an email to mcmr@listserv.co.marion.or.us.

Don't worry, this listserv is moderated so you won't receive any junk email.



*Feeling disconnected? Join the
Master Recycler listserv!*

May Events & Announcements

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kim Aeby who completed her 30 hours of volunteer payback in April and has earned her Master Recycler certification. Congratulations and thank you, Kim!

Recycle your Old Tennis Shoes

Did you know that Gallagher Fitness on Commercial Street in Salem and the Nike Outlet in Woodburn will recycle your old tennis shoes through the Nike Reuse-a-Shoe program? All brands of athletic shoes are accepted. Shoes cannot be wet or muddy and must be free of all metal parts such as cleats or eyelets. The shoes are used as raw material for track and field sport surfaces.

Looking for a Job?

We can help! If you are looking for a job in the environmental field email Bailey at: bpayne@co.marion.or.us and ask to be included on the environmental job announcements list. When en-

vironmental jobs open in our region, we'll send the job announcement to the list.

Styrofoam

If you would like to be notified about upcoming Styrofoam recycling events email Kim (kdinan@co.marion.or.us) or Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us) and asked to be added to the Styrofoam announcement list.

Solid Waste Management Plan

Marion County Public Works– Environmental Services is currently in the process of having the County's solid waste management plan updated. The last Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) prepared for Marion County was completed in 2002. Since completion of the 2002 SWMP, many of the recommendations have been implemented, and other programs and facilities have been opened and/or closed. A solid waste plan is a document that is

utilized by the County in targeting where to focus their resources in order to reduce solid waste and accomplish safe and environmentally responsible waste disposal. Residents are encouraged to both keep informed on the development of the plan, as well as provide input into the process. Discussion and feedback on the sections of the plan as it is developed is possible at the meetings of the County's Solid Waste Management Advisory Council, held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., typically in the Senator Hearing Room of Courthouse Square at 555 Court St NE in Salem (for May only, this meeting will be held at the Marion County Public Works building at 5155 Silverton Road NE). Copies of draft plan documents as well as the presentations made by the consultant at the planning meeting are available for view and download at the Department's website at www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es.

Friend of Straub Environmental Learning Center

Saturday May 17, 2008

"SOLV: Down By the Riverside Day- Urban Riparian and Oak Savannah Restoration Day"

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at the Straub Environmental Learning Center.

Come help us restore our urban habitat! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Call 503-391-4145 or email fselc@fselc.org for more information or visit <http://solv.org> or www.fselc.org

May 20, 21, & 24, 2008

"Amateur Naturalist Class: Nature Photography" with Joel Zak

6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., at the Straub Environmental Learning Center.

Award winning professional photographer Joel Zak will teach how to create photographic images that "capture, command, and compel." The class will illustrate the principles of "the art of seeing" and cover composition, lighting, timing and other elements. Registration is required. May 24 Fieldtrip limited to 15 participants. Call 503-391-4145 to register or email fselc@fselc.org Cost: \$5

Thursday, May 29, 2008

"Seeing the Forest from the Trees: The Northwest in the 21st Century" with William Dietrich

7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Louck's Auditorium, Salem Public Library.

Pulitzer Prize winning reporter William Dietrich will explore the decline in our forest ecosystems and sketch out a plausible future for our woods and wider landscape. Dietrich is a journalist, author, and university professor. He shared a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Dietrich has written nine books.



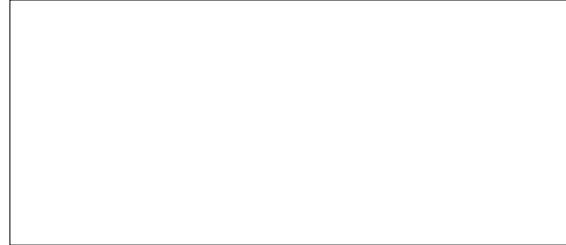
Marion County
OREGON

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You can make a difference!



We're on the web!

www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es

Association of Oregon Recyclers Annual Conference Coming in June

AOR is a not-for-profit coalition of individuals, governments, not-for-profit organizations and businesses committed to encouraging waste prevention and recycling in Oregon. Membership is open to all who support the mission. AOR began in 1977. After more than 30 years the AOR conference is still the place to come to get the latest recycling and solid waste industry information and to discuss the most innovative ideas.

Don't miss the Association of Oregon Recycler's (AOR) 30th Annual Conference and Trade Show June 5-7, 2008 at the Seaside Convention Center in

Seaside, Oregon. This three-day event presents one day of outreach and education focus followed by

two days of planning and policy sessions. The full three-day event costs \$360 for AOR members

through May 22, 2008. This registration fee includes sessions, meals, social events and the trade show. A reception on the beach with bonfires and s'mores, junk fashion creation and the SOLV beach cleanup are all included. Sustainability, climate-change, market trends, legislative opportunities, and many other topics critical to the industry will be presented at this event. For details about the sessions and speakers, or to join AOR, visit their website at: www.aorr.org.



Catch the wave! Don't miss out on the 2008 AOR Conference!