

November
2009



Recycle Holiday Cards p. 2

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

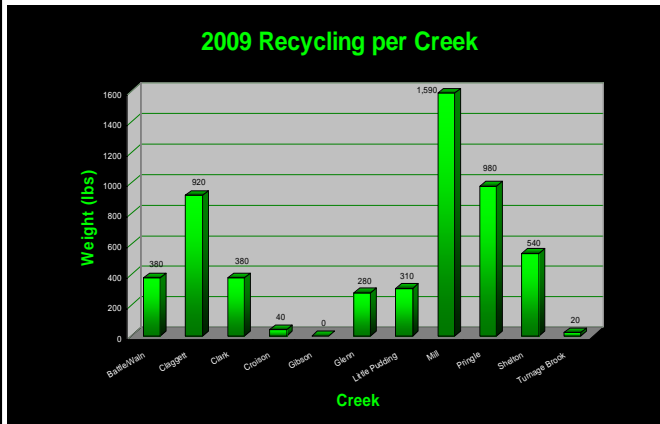
Master Recycler Newsletter

Salem's Stream Cleanup Reaps Recycling Bounty

Members of the City of Salem's annual stream cleaning crew spear-headed an effort this year to divert recyclable material from the foreign debris they removed from area creeks. Their focus paid off in a big way, both for the environment and in the City's savings in garbage fees—the crew diverted nearly 3 tons of recyclable materials!



Initiated in 1998 to alleviate the possibility of future flooding, the Stream Cleaning Program has evolved over the years to also focus on enhancing native riparian habitat.



Each summer the City hires a crew of college students with a background in natural resources to physically walk over 50 miles of Salem's urban waterways. The crew pulls a variety debris out of the creeks every year, and in the past 12 years has removed 542,697 lbs of trash in total.

Recently crew members began noticing that a large amount of material removed was recyclable, and the 2009 crew set out to recycle as much debris as possible. They diverted 5,440 pounds!

It was expected from the beginning of the season that recycling efforts would require significantly more time than previous disposal methods. Due to the amount of trash removed from the creeks, the crew made weekly trips to the

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Reusing holiday cards benefits charity	2
Film: Garbage!	3
Green Garbage Project	3
Tasty Tidbits	4
Events and Opportunities	5
The Back Page	6



"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."
-- Winston Churchill

(Continued from page 1)

Salem-Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station. They were surprised to find that the sorting and transfer of the recyclable material only added a few extra minutes to each visit.

While the transfer station was able to accept many items, there were still a few points of frustration. Independent arrangements had to be made with Agri-Plas for plastic items that were not accepted at the transfer station. In addition dirty material or soiled items were not accepted.

The stream crew received tours of the Salem Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station, Garten Services and the Covanta's Waste to Energy Facility. Each tour provided valuable insight and a sense of ownership for the crew; they were able to understand how waste is transferred within Marion County and how recyclable material is processed. Recycling methods are often extensive and expensive, so this creates limitations as to what and how much can be recycled.

By showing the crew many of these processes up front, the members were able to understand and work with these limitations. Crew members would take a few extra seconds in the field to make sure an item was "clean" ensuring its ability to be efficiently recycled. Overall the crew was amazed at how many items they were able to recycle and walked away with a sense of accomplishment.

See a video of their presentation on CCTV:

11/19 3:00 pm 11/21 2:00 pm

11/20 1:00 pm 11/23 4:00 pm



A few of the items recycled:

- ◆ Plastic bottles
- ◆ Tin cans
- ◆ Mattress springs
- ◆ Scrap metal
- ◆ Irrigation pipe
- ◆ Bicycles
- ◆ Paper and Cardboard
- ◆ Play structures
- ◆ Glass (clear, green, and brown)
- ◆ Plastic containers
- ◆ Electronics (TV's, Computers, VCR's, etc.)
- ◆ Metal car parts
- ◆ Plastic Bags and Tarps
- ◆ Auto Parts
- ◆ Shopping Carts

Organization Reuses Holiday Cards, Helps Children



Over thirty years ago, St. Jude's Ranch for Children decided to thank their donors by having the children make holiday cards from the previous year's cards. The recipients were so delighted with their unique "thank you," they requested the children sell them the special cards. And so, the St. Jude's Ranch Recycled Card Program was born.

Since then, the program expanded to include all occasion greeting cards...just about anything that starts with a used greeting card front. People from all over the world have sent us their used card fronts!

The children participate in making the new cards by removing the front and attaching a new back. The result is a beautiful new card made by the children and volunteers. The benefits are two-fold: customers receive "green" holiday cards for use and the children receive payment for their work and learn the benefits and importance of "going green."

The ongoing support for the Recycled Card Program has been overwhelming! The Program has grown and now St. Jude's Ranch for Children is receiving over one million cards yearly. Donations of cards are accepted from November 15—February 28.

To purchase or donate cards visit www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php



Screening of Garbage!



The Salem Progressive Film Series presents *Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home*, a feature documentary about how the family household has become one of the most ferocious environmental predators of our time.

Concerned for the future of his new baby boy Sebastian, writer director Andrew Nisker takes an average urban family, the McDonalds, and asks them to keep every scrap of garbage that they create for three months. He then takes them on a journey to find out where it all goes and what it's doing to the world.

From organic waste to the stuff they flush down the potty, the plastic bags they use to



the water they drink out of bottles, the air pollution they create when transporting the kids around, to using lights at Christmas, the McDonalds discover that for every action there is a reaction that affects them and the entire planet.

Everyday life under a microscope has never been so revealing. By the end of this trashy odyssey, you are truly inspired to revolutionize your lifestyle for the sake of future generations.

erations.

In *Garbage!*, filmmaker Andrew Nisker, skillfully and succinctly puts all of the information in one place – shifting the movement from melting glaciers and oil slicks to our neighborhoods and into our homes, so that average

people can connect the dots between their actions and the environment and be inspired to change their polluting .

Following the film there will be an opportunity to hear from two speakers: **Bailey Payne**, Waste Reduction Coordinator for Marion County, and **Amy Korst**, who with her husband, is endeavoring to live a year without throwing anything away (see inset). Audience discussion will follow.

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

Thursday, December 10. Doors open at 6:15pm, film at 7:00pm.

**Admission: \$3 Adults,
\$2 Students**



Green Garbage Project

A recent graduate of Marion County's Master Recycler program and her husband are in the middle of an ambitious project to send little or no garbage to the landfill for a year.

Dallas residents Amy Korst, a writer and English teacher, and her husband Adam, a photo editor and art director, started their endeavor in early July of this year.

Korst started the project to utilize her free time in the summers and to give herself and her husband a lesson in what barriers and challenges are presented to a modern family who tries to live waste-free.

The basic ground rule of their project is that they avoid sending waste to their local landfill - recycling, composting and other waste diversion techniques are ok, although they have had to make some exceptions in the interest of health and safety. The key to their strategy, they've discovered, is avoiding the purchase of products or packaging that are not durable or recyclable.

Their project has attracted world-wide media attention, and they are using the spotlight to educate others on the environmental and social benefits of being aware of every bit of waste that passes through their hands.

You can follow Amy's writing on the project at:

www.greengarbageproject.com





TASTY TIDBITS



Idle Time

Many people know that it is better to turn off your car than to let it idle if you are going to be waiting a little while, but did you know that the "little while" is as short as **10 seconds?**

Turning off your car whenever it is safe to do so not only saves gas (that's why hybrids do it automatically at every stop) but cuts down on harmful emissions.

It is also a myth that you need to "warm up" a car on cold mornings- it actually causes extra wear; it is better for the engine to warm it up as you drive.



Green Street

One new street in Keizer is a little "greener" than the rest. A Habitat for Humanity development was faced with prohibitively expensive piping because there were no nearby stormwater systems, so Evolutions Paving Resources, with the okay from the City, installed pervious concrete - a paving material that allows water to drain through instead of being collected. The pavement is made with light colored concrete and recycled fly ash so it is lighter colored and cooler in summer than asphalt. It is the first such city-maintained street in the area.



Waste-less Move?

A California greenie and entrepreneur has launched a business to make moving a zero waste event. Rent-a-Green Box provides their clients with durable boxes made of 100% post-consumer plastic.

The company drops off the boxes at the old location and picks them up post-move at the new location. They also sell packing materials, all made with 100 % recycled content.

The caveat is that they are currently only operating in Southern California, but are soliciting interest in franchises for other areas of the country.

www.rentagreenbox.com



Going Solar

Oregonians who want to invest in solar electricity but don't have the start-up money have a new option. A San-Francisco company, Solar City,



will install equipment on approved homes for no up

front cost, and clients pay them monthly for the electricity generated. The payment is determined by how much your electric utility bill goes down, but it is locked in at that rate for a fixed term, saving you money when regular electric rates go up. Solar City retains ownership of the equipment.

Healthy Home Help

Are green cleaners truly good for my



Oregon Environmental Council
It's Your Oregon

family? How do I safely rid my home of sugar ants? Anti-bacterial soap: yes or no? Answers to these questions and more are on their way to email in-boxes as part of Oregon Environmental Council's [Eco-Healthy Home Tips series](#). Quick and easy tips will tune you in to ways to reduce toxic substances in your home environment. You'll have an opportunity to share your tips and stay up to date on emerging environmental health science and policies.

www.oeconline.org/get-involved/newsletter-signup

Council Positions

Marion County's Solid Waste Management Advisory Council has an opening for a representative from public health to serve on the 16-member council. Members are appointed for four-year terms. The council discusses and recommends on solid waste matters and recycling education and opportunities. The council also contributes to the county's solid waste management master plan.

The Weed Advisory Committee is looking for an individual representing some facet of natural resources to occupy this position. They may be a member of a natural resource-oriented organization, or be employed by an agency or organization whose focus is natural resources. It is a four-year appointed position, and the occupant may serve 2 terms.

Applications available online
www.co.marion.or.us/BS/VOL/forms.htm



**Sunday, November 22,
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Sustainable Holiday Market

Cone Field House at Sparks Field, Willamette University
(Corner of 12th and Bellevue Streets)
Shop for recycled, chemical-free, locally made, fair trade, and energy- and water-saving gifts to give to your friends and family this holiday season. Also, learn about tips to make your holiday celebrations more earth-friendly, have the kids make gifts for family members at the "Earth-Friendly Elves" station, and enjoy live music! Buy raffle tickets to win sustainable gifts donated by the vendors; all proceeds benefit FSELc's environmental education programs. No admission fee.

Saturday, December 5

10:00 a.m.

Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex tree planting

Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge,
Meet at Rail Trail Parking Area along Wintel Road
Please dress for variable weather conditions. Rubber boots, rain gear, and warm gloves are recommended. Please bring shovels, post-hole diggers, hoes, and spades. Chili luncheon to follow. For more information, call or e-mail the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge

- Notice -
2010 GREEN Awards
NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE ORGANIZATION!

CATEGORIES

- **Recycler of the Year – Individual, Educator, Business**
- **Sustainable Organization of the Year – Small Business, Large Business, Non-Profit**
- **Green Building of the Year**

DEADLINE for nominations is Jan. 31, 2010. For more information and a nomination application visit: www.fselc.org or call 503-391-4145

NOMINATE YOUR "FAVE"

Sponsored by the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center, Marion County Public Works, and Garten Services.

Complex to sign up at 541-760-3700 or Josh_Gentry@fws.gov.

Salem Green Drinks

WHEN: 6pm - ? on the 3rd Tuesday of every month

WHERE: Thompson Brewery & Public House, 3575 Liberty Rd. S., Salem, OR 97302

MEET: the side porch / patio (if nice weather)

GETTING HERE: drive, there is plenty of parking, walk, bike, or take the #8 Liberty Rd. bus to the stop past Liberty and Madrona.

WHO: Anyone working or studying environmental or sustainability issues, or has a passion for the environment and sustainability.

WHY: Why not? A relaxed setting, really good beer, good folk, networking opportunities, and intriguing conversations.

NEW?: Just find the large group in the bar and jump right into conversation and introduce yourself. We are all interested in hearing what everyone has to say.

EMAIL LIST: Want updates and reminders about upcoming meetings? Send an e-mail to greendrinks.salem@gmail.com

~ A brand new Green Drinks chapter that hopes to grow over the next few months and continue on for years.



Master Recycler Jim Green (MR class of 2009) gives the Wheel of Waste a spin during the 2009 Home and Remodeling Show that was held at the State Fairgrounds in October. The display focused on household hazardous wastes and attendees were able to win prizes for answering the wheel questions correctly. Jim, like almost a dozen other MRs, earned community pay-back hours for staffing the booth while having a fun time engaging the crowds.

