



The Earth WISE Bulletin

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County

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Important dates:

- Mar. 20 Vernal Equinox
- Mar. 24-28 Spring Break
- April 19 Earth Day Fair at the Oregon Garden
- April 20 Salem-Keizer Transfer Station closed
- April 22 Earth Day (Nationally)
- May 11 Mother's Day
- May 26 Memorial Day
- June 12/13 Salem Keizer Schools out
- June 15 Father's Day
- June 21 Summer Solstice

Mid-Valley Green Award winners announced

By Beth Casper

March 1—The Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center,

Marion County Public Works Environmental Services and Capitol Subaru presented the winners of the fifth annual Mid-Willamette Valley Green Awards.

The 2014 Green Award winners were chosen from a pool of businesses, individuals and organizations nominated for outstanding sustainability efforts. All of the nominees are making great strides in practices that ensure cleaner air, water, habitat and livability. However, the winners represent all-around best efforts, and their work proves that the Mid-Willamette Valley is fertile ground for green efforts. The following is a list of the winners from each category:

Recycler of the Year: Ben McGowan

Deputy **Ben McGowan** of the Marion County Jail is a Master Recycler who led efforts to save tons of trash from entering the waste stream each month. At the jail, inmates sort the daily trash to find recyclable materials, such as cleaning rags, socks, shirts, pants, towels, pop cans, bottles, all types of cardboard, tons of paper, and batteries. McGowan created fun, informational videos about recycling for the jail staff, helped apply for a grant to build a trash-sorting station, trained an inmate crew to sort trash and organized a program to recycle soap thrown away by inmates.



Co-host Beth Myers-Shenai presents award to Deputy McGowan



Chad Naugle accepts award for Department of Corrections

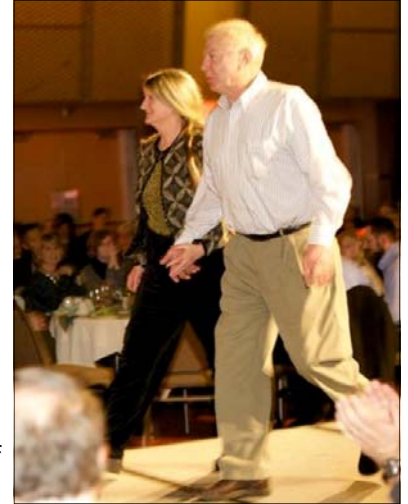
Business Recycler of the Year: Oregon Department of Corrections

The **Oregon Department of Corrections** recycles a wide array of materials including unusual items such as ballistic vests, 5-gallon plastic buckets, fabric/textiles, shoes, foam, lead, electronic waste, and chip bags. To reduce waste, institutions now use adults in custody state-wide to sort through trash to remove recyclables. The sorted items are taken to the their Recycle Center in Salem and processed through a sorter line to ensure better quality control. Since October 2013, the

department has diverted 54,000 pounds of fabric from going to the trash. Chip and Ramen bags are donated to Terra-Cycle snack bag brigades, and proceeds are donated to local charities. **Oregon Department of Corrections'** extensive recycling efforts are coupled with a re-use center in which broken furniture and equipment is fixed and made available to all corrections facilities.

Sustainable Small Business of the Year: Santiam Valley Ranch

Santiam Valley Ranch is a 150-acre farm with fish, wildlife and waterfowl, sheep for meat and wool, and leased land for sweet corn and beans. The owners recycle everything and shun garbage service in favor of three visits to the transfer station a year. The farm has a 20-kilowatt wind turbine and a 20.4 kilowatt solar system. Ninety-nine acres of the property are being converted into wetland prairie, eight acres have been converted into wetland woodlands, and 18 acres are in the process of being certified organic. In raising warm-water fish for pond stocking, the owners recycle 95 percent of the water, and future plans include geothermal resources for heating the water.



Kathy Bridges and Ken Dunder approach the stage to receive award for Santiam Valley Ranch

Sustainable Business of the Year: Salem-Keizer Transit



Jerry Thompson and Alan Pollock accept for Salem-Keizer Transit

Salem-Keizer Transit, which provided 3.8 million passenger trips in 2012, examines all of its practices for sustainability. The organization has reduced the use of oil because of in-depth oil analyses, retreaded tires instead of purchasing new tires and used a vacuum extraction cleaning system to eliminate the need for disposal and handling of used solvent. It also purchased buses with the greatest long-term economic benefits to the community rather than the lowest cost and lowered the pressure when fueling vehicles with compressed natural gas, which saves energy. In its newly built Keizer Transit Center, there are a host of sustainable design features: a ground source heat pump, solar panels as bus shelter roofing systems and awnings, a green roof, rain gardens, and five electric-vehicle charging stations.

Product or Service of the Year: Minto Island Growers

Minto Island Growers offers certified organic, locally produced diversified fruits and vegetables, plant starts and native plants. The farmers offer a CSA to more than 250 community members, a farm stand that provides community access to u-pick and education opportunities via tours, and a food cart that showcases farm grown produce and other local producers. By selling directly to the community, Minto Island Growers provides educational opportunities on the importance of local food systems, and the farm can showcase some environmentally friendly practices. For example, the farm is experimenting with re-usable plastic berry hallock to cut down on the use of one-time paper hallocks, and several years ago began using earthpots, a certified organic soil plug with a biodegradable paper membrane that replaces a traditional 6-pack plastic container.



Minto Island Grower's Elizabeth Miller receives award from co-host Jim Green

Green Apple Award: Laurie Aguirre

Laurie Aguirre, a teacher at Forest Ridge Elementary School, is a master at connecting the community with her classroom and her school. The results are authentic experiences that engage students in the world around them. Her numerous partnerships and work include: coordinating annual SOLVE service learning project, developing naturalist curriculum and the naturescape at her school, establishing the National Wildlife Federation certified schoolyard habitat, teaching nature classes through Nature Kids, and coordinating Roots and Shoots at her school. Through her partnerships—and as a master recycler and climate master—she has the expertise to offer her students valuable opportunities to explore and better understand the environment and their role as stewards.



Green Apple winner
Laurie Aguirre

EarthWISE Business of the Year: Cascade Baking Company



Cascade Baking's Jamie
Taggart with EarthWISE Business of the Year award

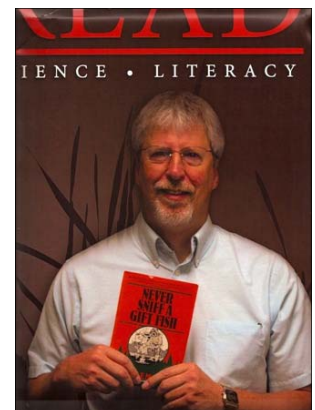
Cascade Baking Company prides itself in its sustainability practices—recycling everything from flour sacks to supply boxes, using a radiant heat brick oven that saves 50 percent of the energy used by traditional ovens, installing energy efficient lighting, replacing an aged cooling system with an efficient evaporative one that cut energy use by 10 percent, and sorting trash at the end of the day to pull out anything recyclable or compostable. The company purchases ingredients from local farmers and producers, and the flour comes from Shepherd's Grain, a coalition of farmers that practice sustainable farming practices in the Northwest. Old bread and baked goods are donated to the Marion Polk County Food Share, the Union Gospel Mission or local pig or chicken farmers for their feed. In addition, Cascade Baking Company uses soap nuts instead of commercial detergent for washing aprons and cleaning rags, saving a significant amount of money and leaving no residues, fragrance or environmental hazards in the drained wash water.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Jon Yoder

Jon Yoder, has been a biology teacher, a soccer coach, a writer, an education coordinator, and a former member of Salem's Environmental Commission, but what he's most remembered for is his passion for all things involving outdoor environmental education. Because of his enthusiasm and expertise, he's been selected for a Christa McAuliffe Fellowship, an Audubon Society Green Award, as a Tandy Technology Scholars Outstanding Teacher, a SOLVE educator of the year, an Oregon Innovators in Education Award of Excellence, and by the National Association of Biology Teachers as Oregon's Teacher of the Year. Jon has also devoted decades to studying and preserving Salem's Mill Creek and founded the Straub Environmental Learning Center in 2004. He organized the Straub Environmental Center non-profit in order to develop a long term organization to provide environmental education to children and adults within the greater Salem area.



Jon Yoder with Lemur



Time to recertify already?
 These EarthWISE businesses just did



Agri-Plas, Inc.
 2007-2014



United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
 2008-2014



**Mid-Willamette Valley Habitat
 for Humanity ReStore**
 2011-2014



Pringle Creek Community
 2010-2014



Jet Industries
 2010-2014

More recertifications



**DAS Fleet—Salem Motor Pool
2009-2014**



**Cascade Baking Company
2008-2014**



**The Grand Hotel in Salem
2008-2014**



**Earth Day Fair
2014**

Saturday, April 19th
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

at the
OREGON GARDEN


FREE ADMISSION
\$5 On Site Parking
FREE
Oil Site Parking & Shuttle


Protecting & Preserving Our Planet



www.oregongarden.org

Did ya know?



If the **2013** World Series teams had been based on Major League Baseball's Green Glove Award, the BoSox would NOT have been the champs. That would have gone to the NL San Francisco Giants, who just edged out the AL Seattle Mariners with a higher waste diversion rate of just over 86%. 

Ask Mister Sustainability

Question: We are a small, three-person operation and I'm not sure if my business can even become EarthWISE certified. I was at the Green Awards last year and I just don't see how my company can compete with the stuff some of those companies do.

Let's assume that your small, three-person company has switched to almost exclusively using electronic records and communications instead of paper—and when you do have to print something, it's double sided. Let's also posit that you weren't ready to invest in solar panels, but you did swap your indoor lighting to LED lamps and replaced the outdoor floodlights to Par 38's with photo sensors. Also, let's say your business has a small kitchen stocked with cutlery, plates, and cups.

Hmm....You've avoided printing paper waste or tossing disposable lunchware, are conserving energy, and I'll bet those infrequent sheets of paper get recycled.

I'd say you are doing pretty good. Just imagine how much each of these savings would translate into if your company had 3000 or 300... or even 30 employees!

However, are they any less valuable when done by a three-person shop? As Teddy Roosevelt said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." Boy, he had that right. Ya'll should be celebrating!



T. Roosevelt

Could your company do more? Of course. What company, or person, can't. But even small efforts are meaningful.

The folks over at **Collier Law** were tired of seeing their lunch time "take out" containers from a favorite eatery becoming garbage, so they reached an agreement with them to swap out containers that could be washed and reused. Just up the street, **FPS, Inc.**, decided that their grassy lawn provided no tangible social benefits so they replaced most of it with apple trees. On the other side of downtown, **Dr. Holly Chamberlain** and her staff are phasing out disposable dental chair covers with homemade washable versions that they make themselves.

Earth shaking events? Probably not. They are, however, actions that reduce waste and save water and energy. And among their many clients and staff, these actions just might lead to Earth changing attitudes and behaviors.

As old Ralph Waldo Emerson put it, success is:



R.W. Emerson

**TO LEAVE THE WORLD A BIT BETTER,
WHETHER BY A HEALTHY CHILD,
A GARDEN PATCH OR A REDEEMED SOCIAL CONDITION.**

Hard to argue much with that definition.

Factoid Department

Latest word in sales of fuel efficient vehicles is that 2013 was a record year. Average vehicle fuel efficiency hit 24.8 mpg. That's 4 mpg higher than it was back in 2007.

It was also a banner year for fluorescent light collecting in Marion County. A little over 31,000 lights were turned in. Sources tell me that, if placed end to end, it would make a line 35 miles long. And that wouldn't even count the compact, U-shaped, or HID lamps.

Speaking of lamps...a respected source informs that 77% of American adults turn the light off when they leave the room.

The other 23%? I suppose they'd rather curse the electric bill than light a candle, as the old saying kinda goes.

The latest national figures (2012) regarding U.S. recycling rates tell us that the municipal recycling rate was 34.5%, a drop of 0.2% from 2011. During that time, Oregon had a recycling rate of 53.4% and Marion County was good for 60.1%.

The good news: like the children of Lake Wobegone—we're above average.

The bad news: More than half of what goes into our trash could be recycled or composted. Nearly 20% of the total is food scraps.

Leftovers tonight?

EarthWISE Member Directory

* Denotes new EarthWISE business

Automotive

AJ's Auto Repair, Inc.
Brooks Automotive
Capitol Auto Group*
Hillyer's Mid-City Ford
Sanford Automotive

Construction

Advantage Precast, Inc.
Arbuckle Costic Architects, Inc.
Barnwood Naturals, LLC
Carlson Veit Architects, P.C.
CB | Two Architects
Cherry City Heating
Cherry City Remodeling
dalke Construction
Day Heating & Cooling
Fluent Engineering, Inc.
Jet Industries
LCG Pence Construction, LLC
Modern Building Systems, Inc.
Pence Northwest Construction, LLC
Studio 3 Architecture, Inc.

Education

Chemeketa Community College
Chemeketa Center for Business & Industry
Straub Environmental Center*

Financial

FPS, Inc.
SELCO Community Credit Union

Food

Bentley's Grill
BrucePac - Silverton & Woodburn Plants
Cascade Baking
Jonathan's
Kerr Concentrates, Inc.
LifeSource Natural Foods
NORPAC Foods - Stayton, Brooks, & Salem Plants
Spring Valley Dairy
Truitt Brothers, Inc.
Willamette Valley Fruit Company

Government

Champoeg State Heritage Area
Marion County Dog Shelter
Marion County Public Works—Silverton Road Campus
OR Department of Administrative Services- 20 Buildings
OR Dept. of Corrections (DOC) CDC/Warehouse
OR DOC Gath Road Range
OR DOC Mill Creek Correctional Facility
OR State Corrections Institution
OR DOC State Penitentiary
OR Department of Energy
OR Exposition Center
OR Dept. of Public Safety Standards & Training
OR Lottery
OR DAS - Salem Motor Pool
OR State Capitol
Salem Center 50+ *
Salem Civic Center
Salem Fire Department
Salem Housing Authority
Salem - Information Technology
Salem Keizer Transit
Salem - Public Works Willow Lake WPCF
Salem Shops
Salem - Urban Development's Airport Division
Salem - Urban Development's Director's Office
Salem Public Library

Landscaping

DeSantis Landscapes, Inc.
The Garden Angels
Green Acres Landscape, Inc.

Medical

Holly Chamberlain D.D.S., L.L.C.
Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.
Rural Metro Ambulance
Willamette E.N.T. & Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP

Not For Profit

Assistance League of Salem - Daue House
Assistance League of Salem - Encore Furniture
Family Building Blocks
Garten Services, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Marion-Polk Food Share

Not For Profit (Continued)

SAIF Corporation
Temple Beth Sholom
United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Willamette Lutheran Retirement Home

Personal Services

Designer Cut
Phiz Spa

Professional/Services

AAA Cleaning Service - Metro, Inc.
ABC Window Cleaners & Building Maintenance
Allied Video Productions
Cascade Employer's Association
Collier Law
Compex Two Computers
Lancaster Mall Operations
Law Office of Eden Rose Brown
VanNatta Public Relations/Spire Management

Real Estate & Commercial Properties

The Epping Group/Creekside Corporate Center
First American Title Insurance Company
Pringle Creek Community
Sperry Van Ness Commercial Advisors
Wildwood | Mahonia

Recycling/Solid Waste

Agri-Plas, Inc.
Covanta Energy, Marion Facility
D & O Garbage Service Inc.
Loren's Sanitation & Recycling Services
Marion Recycling Center
North Marion Recycling & Disposal
Pacific Sanitation

Retail/Wholesale

Cooke Stationery Co.
Habitat for Humanity ReStore
One Fair World

Tourism

Grand Hotel in Salem
Salem Convention Center
Travel Salem

**Green Awards trashion show
demonstrates fashionable ways
to reuse and recycle**



VHS tape records a new life as a stunning dress



Coke?



Or Pepsi?

For more info and photos go to: www.diystudio.net



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