

March 2008



MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Don't Just Wear Green, Be Green!

By Maryjean Rose

St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner. Traditionally, it is a day to celebrate your Irish heritage by wearing green or drinking green beer. But whether you are Irish or not, it's a day to have some good "green" fun! Try these five suggestions and be green this St. Patrick's Day.

1) If you are a beer drinker, try organic beer. Oregon has more organic breweries than any other state, and Portland has more organic breweries than any other city in the country. Deschutes Brewery is an Oregon based company that makes certified organic beer. It can be found at your local grocery store. There are also various other organic beers available from around the country. Ask your grocery store to stock local organically brewed beers.

2) Buy organic coffee. Not only is organic coffee better for you because it is produced without harmful chemicals, it also helps prevent deforestation of rainforests and promotes fair trade in economically challenged regions of the world. According to the Organic Trade Association,

organic coffee has a lower impact on the environment, reduces the use of toxic chemicals and pesticides, and helps with sustainability by replenishing and maintaining soil nutrients. There are many good reasons to go green with your coffee. Encourage your friends and family to try it as well, and remember your reusable mug.

3) Wear green (organic) clothing. Did you know that conventionally grown cotton, the non-organic kind, uses more chemicals per unit area than any other crop in the country and accounts for 16% of the world's pesticide use? The chemicals used in the processing of cotton pollutes our air and surface waters. Residual chemicals can cause skin irritation. On the positive side, organic cotton producers use crop rotation instead of chemicals and artificial fertilizers, and biological pest control instead of pesticides.

4) Plant something green. What a great way to celebrate your Irish heritage or just do something good for yourself! March is a great time of year to begin planting your garden. You

can prepare your beds by adding compost, raking them, watering, and then let them settle for a week before planting. March is also a great time to plant fruit trees, deciduous shrubs, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

5) Eat Green. Did you know that over 3,000 "high risk" toxins have been found in the US food supply, which by law are excluded from organic food? These include 73 pesticides classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as potential carcinogens. A study conducted by the University of Washington found that children fed a diet of organic foods were 6 to 9 times less likely to be exposed to toxic pesticides than children fed a conventional diet. For these reasons and more, it's more important to get your family involved in eating green by purchasing organic products whenever possible.

There are many reason to "be green", and these five ideas are a great way to start. With a little research and imagination you can have fun being green this St. Patrick's Day!

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Quote of the Month:

"Man must feel the earth to know himself and recognize his values. Life [is] simple. It is man who complicates it."

-Charles A. Lindbergh, 1972

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Oregon Green Schools Summit Thursday, March 13, 2008 Oregon State Fairgrounds

Six volunteers are still needed to assist with registration, lunch, and summit sessions at the Oregon Green Schools Summit. Lunch will be provided and you will receive a t-shirt gift which must be worn the day of the summit to distinguish volunteers. Volunteer duties are as follows: Assist with registration from 8:00 a.m.– 9:30 a.m.; Assist with lunch (herding and pouring) 10:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m., Assist with sessions (be available to help kids with activities or assist presenters). Sessions run from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Yard, Garden, and Patio Show Friday, March 14, 2008– Sunday, March 16, 2008 Oregon State Fairgrounds

Nine volunteers are still needed to staff a booth at the upcoming Yard, Garden, and Patio Show. Available shifts are:

Friday, March 14
11:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. (2 people needed)
3:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. (1 person needed)

Saturday, March 15
noon– 3:00 p.m. (2 people needed)
3:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. (2 people needed)

Sunday, March 16
10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. (2 people needed)
1:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m. (1 person needed)



Cub Scout Recycling Presentation Wednesday, March 20, 2008 Monmouth Elementary School 7:00 p.m.

March is recycling month for the Cub Scouts and the Monmouth chapter is seeking a Master Recycler to give a twenty minute presentation to a group of 1st through 5th grade cub scouts. Someone with specific knowledge of recycling in the Monmouth/Dallas area is preferred. Marion County can provide you with stickers, pencils and other kid-friendly handouts. Check out the recycling display or create a presentation of your own.

Earth Day Celebration Saturday, April 19, 2008 Oregon Garden

Three volunteers are needed to staff a booth at the Earth Day Celebration at the Oregon Garden. One volunteer is needed for the 10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. shift and two volunteers are needed for the 1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. shift. Two volunteers are also needed to assist with the kids crafts workshops. One person each is needed for the 10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. shift and the 1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. shift. This is a very popular event and volunteer shifts are filled on a first come first served basis!

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event April 26, 2008 Silverton Fire Station 819 Rail Way NE, Silverton 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Four volunteers are needed (two per shift) to help with the household hazardous waste collection event taking place at the Silverton Fire Station this April. The first shift runs from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The second shift runs from noon until 3:00 p.m.

Community Composting Demonstration at Historic Deepwood Estate

Deepwood Historic Estate is looking for a Master Recycler or two to organize and conduct a backyard composting demonstration and training that would be open to the public. Master Recycler volunteers would be responsible for creating and organizing the workshop. Marion County Public Works– Environmental Services and Deepwood Historic Estate will advertise the event. Dates and times are flexible. If you are interested in tackling this exciting payback opportunity contact Kim for more details. Share your experience with the community!

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities please contact Kim at 503-588-5169 ext. 5920 -or- kdinan@co.marion.or.us



March Announcements

U-Haul Take a Box, Leave a Box

Did you know that U-Haul now offers a drop location in all company stores where customers can drop-off their reusable moving boxes for other customers to take? Local stores are participating. Learn more about the program here: <http://www.uhaul.com/sustainability/boxes/>. Likewise, U-Haul has also started a Box Exchange that you can use to buy, sell, or trade boxes and moving supplies.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newest group of Master Recyclers who completed

their eight-week course on February 28, 2008. Please welcome and guide these new volunteers when you see them at shows and events. The next Master Recycler class will begin March 6, 2008. Please see the last page of this newsletter for the class schedule.

Friends of Straub Events

The Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center is offering a number of lectures and workshops in the upcoming month including Amateur Naturalists classes on insects, mushroom identification, and wildflower identification. For more

information about upcoming events visit their website at www.fselc.org.

Report your hours!

Don't forget to report your Master Recycler volunteer hours by visiting the Master Recycler website: www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es and clicking on the "Report your Volunteer Hours Here" link. Too complicated? Email your volunteer hours to Kim at kdinan@co.marion.or.us or give her a call at 503-588-5169 ext. 5920.



Native Plant Sale Coming in March

The sixth annual Native Plant, Shrub, and Tree Sale will be taking place on Friday, March 14 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The sale will be held at The Marion Garden located at 3160 Center Street NE in Salem, behind OSU's extension office.

Deciduous and Evergreen trees and scrubs as well as plants and grasses will all be available at the sale. All proceeds from the sale benefit college scholarships to local students going into the natural resource field.

"Native plant sale will be taking place on Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15."

Contact the Marion SWCD office at 503-391-9927 or at <http://marionswcd.net> for more information and plant availability.

Participate in Earth Hour on March 29, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

Created to take a stand against the greatest threat our planet has ever faced, Earth Hour uses the simple action of turning off the lights for one hour to deliver a powerful message about the need for action on global warming.

In 2007, Earth Hour was a Sydney, Australia event. In 2008, Earth

Hour has become a global movement. On March 29, 2008 at 8:00 p.m., millions of people in some of the world's major capitol cities including Copenhagen, Toronto, Chicago, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Tel Aviv will unite and switch off the lights for Earth Hour. To learn more about Earth Hour, or to sign

up and participate, visit the website at www.earthhour.org.



Sign up to participate in Earth Hour 2008



Marion County
OREGON

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You can make a difference!



We're on the web!

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

March 2008—May 2008 Master Recycler Class Schedule

Did you recently miss a class or field trip? Would you like to make it up? Need a refresher on a specific subject? Review the upcoming Master Recycler class agenda and let Kim know if you would like to attend a class or field trip.

3/6/08— Solid Waste Overview with Jeff Bickford, Greg Dittman, and Cathie Davidson

3/8/08— Field trip to Covanta Waste-to-Energy Facility, North Marion Ash Monofill, Agri-Plas, and Garten Services

3/13/08— Reduce and Reuse with James Santana and Jeanette Hardison

3/20/08— Recycling and Waste Reduction with David Allaway

4/3/08— Green Building with Mike O'Brien

4/5/08— Field trip to Marion Resource Recovery, SP Newsprint, and Far West Fibers Hillsboro



4/10/08— Composting and Vermicomposting with Justin Fleming and Sally White

4/17/08— Household Hazardous Waste with Eric Coombs and Tanya Beard

4/19/08— Field trip to Compost Oregon, Salem-Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station, and Deepwood Compost site

4/24/08— Outreach Techniques with Petrina Eger, Kelley Cooley and Richard Clarkson

5/1/08— Volunteering in Marion County with Glenis Chapman