



ReSource

Inform. Inspire. Involve.

news from jackson county master recyclers

summer 2010

In this Issue....

Coordinator's Message	1
Garden Resourcefulness	2
SMARTWorks News	3-4
Local News – Green Expo	5
JCRP Meeting Notes	6
Recycle Reactions – AOR	7
Paint Stewardship	8
Volunteer Opportunities	8
Plastic Round-up	9
Recycling Tips	10
Classifieds	11
Humor	11



Hello Friends!

It always amazes me when the weather and the calendar end up on the same page - Once the summer solstice hit, Summer arrived as scheduled! I am sure many of us went straight for the garden only to realize the immense amount of trash that is

generated by even the most heart-felt and dedicated gardeners. Summer is a great time to get your hands in the soil and re-remember our deeply personal connection to the Earth. As many of you know, I am an avid gardener and 'plant nerd' who gets really upset about agricultural plastics... it makes me really frustrated that, for many people, growing food means generating plastic and trash. However, this does not have to be the case!

I also wanted to say 'Thank you' to all of you who have participated in our busy event recycling season! Master Recyclers have helped to reduce waste at **30 community events** from March to the end of July! This is a new record for us, and we could not have done it without your help. There are many more volunteer opportunities to come, so don't worry if you have only started on your hours.

Thanks again for all your time and support, we sure appreciate you.

— Rhianna

Master Recycler Coordinator

Resourcefulness in the Garden



Here are 3 simple suggestions about how to reduce waste in the garden this summer. After all, this is the season to reuse, regenerate, restore, and re-connect with the soil that sustains us!



1. Do not get lured in by the false hope that woven plastic landscape fabric offers; it is actually horrible and makes weeding nearly impossible. Instead, try stopping weeds with newspaper, cardboard, or old cotton sheets underneath your bark mulch.
2. Avoid buying more plastic plant labels when trying to track what plants you just brought home or have germinated. Instead, try using popsicle sticks, pieces of to-go boxes cut into strips, painted stones, pieces of venetian blinds or used plastic knife handles.



3. Resist the urge to buy new colorful plastic pots for planting. Instead, try reusing old tins, painting large coffee cans, buying terracotta or ceramic that can be tossed in the compost if it breaks; or get creative and fill shoes, bathtubs, old sinks, buckets with holes, or anything else laying around with plants!

Free Composting Classes!

Urban Composting with Denny Morelli

August 21, September 18
Water & Van Ness Street, Ashland, OR 97520

Pick one of these dates to learn basic methods or just get re-inspired with composting instructor Denny Morelli. Please park on Water Street (not in the Recycling Center parking lot). Class runs from 10 am – noon. This free class is sponsored by the City of Ashland Conservation Commission.



SMARTWorks News & Notes

Paige Prewett, SMARTWorks Coordinator

Service = Success at Jackson County Fair!

Exemplary voluntary service achieved new heights of resourcefulness at the 2010 Jackson County Fair. From educating vendors and maintaining bins, to decontaminating dumpsters and sorting bottles and cans, Master Recycler support was remarkable before, during and after Fair.

Our results are fantastic: An estimated 55 percent of the volume of waste generated was recovered, up from 44 percent last year. Highlights of this year's achievements include 223 total recovered cubic yards, with 70 yards of cardboard, 68 yards of commingle, 30 yards of manure and shavings, 10 yards of non-commingled plastics, 5 yards of food scraps and 2 yards of glass, plus grease, metal and wood.



Kori takes over sorting where Trash Busters left off.

A mountain of plastic bottles and aluminum cans was diverted at Fair: an estimated 26,500 plastic bottles and aluminum cans, with 18,000 water bottles in the mix!

Over \$3,200 in waste diversion fees were avoided during Fair.

You, Master Recyclers, are making a difference not only in measurements of materials recovered, but also in reaching tens of thousands of people with messages of stewardship. You've helped Jackson County Fairgrounds to become a leader in waste diversion, locally and across the State.

Hats off to all for your positive work in our community!

Adopt-A-Schools Training TBA

Numerous Master Recyclers have expressed interest in helping waste diversion efforts and giving presentations at schools. We will be planning a training event for August to teach volunteers about how they can help make a difference on campuses across the County.

Events Waste Diversion Grant

SMARTWorks is gearing up for grant-related projects to begin later this summer. After the dust settles from County Fair (literally and figuratively), we will get started on the renovation of old sheds for recycling equipment, used trailers for equipment transport, and more. These projects will offer many opportunities for hands-on fun in groups or on your own. Stay tuned for more.

SMARTWorks News & Notes continued...

Bins Galore and More

The “deuces and quads” project, resulting in the production of new weather resistant, durable recycling stations for Jackson County Expo and Central Point Parks, has been a great success thanks to service from numerous Master Recyclers.

What amazing team-work! **Ginger** and **Jeff** both helped to construct 60 wooden lids. **Mark** helped to roundup used 55-gallon drums from around the County (30 were generously donated by White City Metals and Supply), and paired up

with **Bryan** at the Fairgrounds to paint 105 metal drums with airless sprayers. **Lew** prepared the drums for painting, and returned to join **Deborah, Lara, Julie, Marsha** and **Bruce** at a super-productive painting work party of lids and recycling stencils. **Keitley** dropped in several times to help with many aspects of painting and assembly, while **Jesse, Sharon** and **Bruce** also gave time to help attach hardware and assemble bins.



Jeff delivers handcrafted lids in time for a painting party.

If you would like to construct lids, paint, or assemble bins please contact Paige at 541.855.5200 or info@smartworks.org.

Plastic Round-up Outreach—Help Spread the Word

MR09 **Eric Poole** of Full Circle Realty is including a message about the Plastic Round-up in an upcoming advertisement for his business—encouraging folks to save plastic NOW. Great idea! Perhaps your place of work, school, civic group, etc, has a print or electronic publication? For event details and info, please visit www.jcrecycle.org.



Lew and Bruce brave the heat to paint stencils on bins.

If you missed out on the fun, it's not too late to help join a similar project made possible by a grant from Ashland Food Co-op. Later this summer we will be producing more bins for Crater High School—where **Celine** leads a recycling program—complete with their school colors of black, orange and silver!

Free and Green!

Did you know that you can drop off green yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, prunings, brush, etc.) for FREE at the [Rogue Disposal And Recycling Transfer Station & Recycling Center](#), 8001 Table Rock Rd., White City/Phone 541. 779.4161 AND [Hilton Landscape Supply](#), 8087 Blackwell Rd., Central Point/Phone 541.664.3374. NO Blackberries or Plastic Bags!

Master Recyclers at the Oregon Green Expo



Powering Up For The Green Economy! Build Green. Buy Green. Live Green.

Master Recyclers participated in the 2nd annual Oregon Green Expo, held June 18-20 at the Medford Armory. This year's event theme showcased resourceful products; more vendors compared to last year were available to talk with green enthusiasts about how the emerging Green Economy will vitalize and empower business and job growth.

The Master Recyclers booth area was once again set up by 2009 MRs Cat Kizer, Barbara Talbert and Kevin Talbert; this year the upcoming Plastic Round-up, yard composting, and vermicomposting were emphasized. Several MR 2010 graduates from both Jackson and Josephine programs combined efforts to staff the booth and handle the event's recycling. About half of a 30-yard commingle dumpster was filled at the end of the event, plus two large bags of plastic were saved for the Plastic Round-up, and one large bag of compost material went home with one of our volunteers. While the good news is that food vendors are now using more compostable cups, straws, and cup caps (we even had one vendor dump cornstarch packing materials in the compost bin), the challenge to our recycling efforts is to begin searching for a large-scale local partner with a hot composting set-up to handle these discarded materials.

Cat Kizer presented a seminar on composting with worms on Sunday and was interviewed on TV by Channel 10 on Saturday. Barbara Talbert used an interview on KSKQ community radio on Friday to promote the Plastic Round-up. Next year's Oregon Green Expo will move to the Jackson County Fairgrounds and Expo Park. It is scheduled for the last weekend in June.

JCRP Meeting at a Glance – June 29, 2010 Notes

Product Stewardship Update - Garry Penning

- PaintCare – <http://www.paintcare.org> Miller Paint, Medford and Ashland, will take paints beginning 7/1. Oregon is launching 1st State paint stewardship program in U.S. Getting paint out of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events cuts costs by approximately 40%.

Event Updates – Denise Wolgamott, Paige Prewett

- Record year at Rogue Disposal for Hazardous Waste Collection: 769 cars, 7200 lbs of waste, 1/2 of which was paint, 47 businesses, 144 customers with mercury thermometer exchange, 180 gallons of paint given out for re-use.
- Plastic Round-up – Oct. 8 & 9. Costs are down this year – Agri-Plas has agreed to \$1k less for transport and each collection venue will charge \$100 less this year. There are still discussions of having Round-ups twice annually.

Annual Association of Oregon Recyclers Conference (AOR)

- Good conference sessions, tours, food and venue. Great opportunity to see Agri-Plas facilities in Brooks – they are still looking to eventually have a plastic to fuel facility here. No word on where.

Master Recycler Update – Rhianna Simes

- 2010 class – 40+ students; diverse group, culturally and age
- JCMR volunteers have helped at 26 events just since April – success of events is leading to questions on how to manage this service going forward including streamlining, transportation, maintenance and fees.
- Income from worm sales at \$700 for 2009-2010

SMARTWorks – Event Recycling Grant – Paige Prewett

- Moving ahead on the expansion of equipment, transportation and storage for events program.
- New event planning questionnaire and event recycling agreement – moving to a nominal fee-based system based on size of event and amount of service needed.

Recycling 101 – Rhianna Simes, Paige Prewett

- On-line course similar to Master Recycler curriculum with DEQ grant. Still in the planning stages for curriculum, maintenance and program fees. There will be Spanish language version!

Roundtable Updates

- Nanci from SOS is having a terrible problem with curbside commingle contamination. Asking for suggestions.
- Cat Kizer reported on problems with PLA compostable cups at the Oregon Green Expo. Garry said they cannot accept PLA products because it would negate their compost's organic status.

Next meeting date will be in late September, date TBA.

Recycle Reactions

master recycler reflections, insights and realizations...



Filbert shell mulch at Garten Services, Inc.

AOR Conference — Sustainable Oregon

Association of Oregon Recyclers Conference, Salem — June 2010

The AOR annual conference was well worth the trip to Salem. The 32nd annual conference and trade show provided interesting and stimulating sessions paired with great tour opportunities. The central Willamette valley is home to many outstanding recycling facilities and leaders in the recycling community. The central theme this year in outreach and

education is to keep the message positive. There is a movement away from using waste prevention terminology in designing materials for the public. Thoughtful consumption, sustainability and resourcefulness are part of the new language developing to encourage lifestyle level changes. Presenters encourage an open dialogue and creative solutions that address and even channel our consumption habits. Surveys indicate a large percentage of Oregonians think our lives would be better if we consumed less and had more time for family, friends and other non-material things. Attendees were encouraged to find hope and opportunity in this common feeling that the best things in life don't come from a store.

A highlight for us Plastic Round-up enthusiasts was a guided tour of Agri-plas. The quantity of plastic is awe inspiring, frightening and sometimes even beautiful. Their story is fascinating and will be elaborated on in future newsletters. Risa, Denise and I also had a fantastic time touring Garten Services in Salem. Garten is similar to SPARC, and employs people with disabilities. The staff was charming, positive and welcoming. The work they do in striving toward a sustainable community and organization, as well as environment, is uplifting.

— Lara Knackstedt, MR2008

"I do appreciate the opportunity to hear about what other places are doing with various programs and strategies. Often times our challenges from different parts of the state and country have similar threads. I learn a lot from others accomplishments and struggles. I can count on the AOR Conference to get inspiration, direction and hope on the latest and greatest in the waste prevention world.

The networking is an important part and helps me with my job through-out the coming year. I also usually feel pretty good about all that we are able to achieve given our geographic distance from markets and fewer resources."

— Risa Buck, Recology Ashland Sanitary Service



Denise, Risa and a mountain of twine at Agri-plas.

On July 23, 2009, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski signed into law the nation's first program requiring paint manufacturers to safely manage leftover latex and oil-based paint from consumer and contractor painting jobs. The article below was reprinted from *Environmental Leader* online news. This is a great Producer Responsibility Law in action. Website and date?



Oregon Paint Recycling Program a National First

Oregon's new paint recycling program has gone into effect, the first state law in the nation that provides a mechanism for recycling unused architectural paint, according to a press release.

The price of paint will increase slightly as the cost of running the \$4.5 million program is passed down to consumers. One quart to one gallon of paint will cost an additional 75 cents, while volumes over a gallon will cost \$1.60.

A variety of retailers throughout the state will serve as a network of paint collection sites where consumers and contractors can take their unused paint to be transported from the collection sites to processors for recycling, re-use, energy recovery and proper disposal of the collected paint. Thirty eight companies have volunteered to act as collection centers, while 90 collection centers are expected in the state by the end of the year.

The new system will accept interior and exterior paint, oil and latex-based paint, coatings, primers and varnishes. The law applies to volumes of paint sold in quantities less than 5 gallons. The program is being administered under PaintCare, a non-profit group.

The Product Stewardship Institute pushed for the new law after similar efforts at getting a paint recycling system established in Minnesota. The group is still pushing for paint stewardship programs in California, Connecticut and Vermont. According to one report citing the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, paint is the most common hazardous waste produced by households. Oregon's legislature will review the program in October 2011 to determine if it will continue.

Please Note: As you direct people to either Miller Paint—541.773.8295, or Sherwin Williams—514.770.5850, have them call the store first to make sure they have adequate space to accept paint. Miller Paint is currently full. Also, Sherwin Williams has limited each customer to 20 gallons per visit. You can also direct customers to go to www.paintcare.org for more information. There is a zip code search tool to find drop locations. There is also Miller Paint in Ashland—541.482.4002 and Sherwin Williams in Grants Pass—541.474.5985. Businesses are also allowed to drop off latex paint, but only Conditionally Exempt Generators (CEG's) are allowed to drop off oil based paint. The paint stores have forms for them to sign and certify that they meet the waste generation quantities to be a CEG.

– Denise Wolgamott, Rogue Disposal and Recycling

Volunteer Opportunities

August

- Create interactive components for our tabling displays.
- Help Curriculum Committee to develop materials for different age groups.
- More details about other independent projects to-be-announced.
- Join construction projects for Events Recycling Grant
- Adopt-a -Schools Training

September

- Talent Harvest Festival, Sept 11
- OSU Open House, Sept 18
- Multicultural fair, Sept 25
- Jackson County Harvest Fair, Sept 25-26

October

- Bear Creek Festival, Ashland, Oct 2
- Jackson County Plastic Round-up, Oct 8-9

Contact Rhianna Simes, 541.776.7371, Rhianna.Simes@oregonstate.edu for details.

PLEASE NOTE: This list constantly growing and changing, please let Rhianna know if you think something should be added.

Jackson County PLASTIC ROUND-UP 2010



Save the Date and Your Plastic!

October 8 and 9

Once again, Master Recyclers will help organize and host the annual Jackson County Plastic Round-up! This 3rd annual event will make a big dent in our recycling efforts. Start saving all those hard to recycle plastics for this huge collection effort! This event requires many hard working volunteers. Please keep your calendar open.

Tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers!

Locations:

Jackson County Expo, 1 Peninger Road, Central Point

Ashland National Guard Armory, 1420 E. Main Street, Ashland

For more information and a complete list of what is accepted go to www.jcrecycle.org !

local recycling tips...

Summer Green Tips – Linda Holder MR2009

Recycling at the Rogue Valley Growers Market, Medford

Nursery pots (4-inch round or square, half-gallon, and gallons are best)

Flats (plastic and cardboard)

Berry baskets (paper and plastic)

Egg cartons (prefer paper, but a few plastic are okay; 18–24 count cartons also okay)

These are items that can be dropped off at the Timbermanor Nursery booth at both the Ashland and Medford Growers Market. June and Chuck Timberman, owners, started this recycling service about ten years ago and work diligently to redistribute reusable items to the Market vendors and others.

Please place reusable, unbroken items on the table by Chuck's booth 8:00 AM-1:00 PM; he's there May through September. Items Chuck cannot recycle include 4-packs and 6-packs, clam-shells, and pots with labeling or advertising on them (i.e. "Monrovia," etc.).

more tips...

Electronic Recycling Options

Computers and related electronic equipment in good working condition may be eligible for recycling through the National Cristina Foundation which "provides computer technology and solutions to give people with disabilities, students at risk and economically disadvantaged persons the opportunity, through training, to lead more independent and productive lives.

The Foundation encourages corporations and individuals to donate their surplus and used computers, software, peripherals and related business technology wherever this equipment is located. With the help of our online donation process, we can help a pre-screened partner network of charities, schools and public agencies get these important tools to support activities in thousands of training or educational settings." (Source National Cristina Foundation website)

See their website at www.cristina.org for donation requirements, criteria, and process.

Fabric Softener Alternatives

A recent newspaper article suggested using vinegar as a laundry fabric softener. I've used vinegar for years as an air freshener (diluted in a simmering pot of water), but, I was skeptical about softening fabrics. I read that vinegar removes the last of the soap residue from the clothes, leaving the fabrics naturally soft and fragrance-free. So, I tried it and it works like a charm. Use ¼–½ cup of white vinegar in the rinse cycle. No more fabric softeners sold in plastic bottles for me!



Classifieds

Job Opportunity

Renewable energy company seeks PT staff to promote Pacific Power's Blue Sky program at area events and in door to door campaigns. Base pay \$10/ hour plus bonuses. Training is paid.

Applicants should be ecologically minded, have strong communication skills, outgoing personality, reliable transportation and be able to stand/walk for a few hours at a time. Email resume and cover letter to hberg@3degreesinc.com.

GET DOWN & DIRTY FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Clean Forest Project is a local non-profit that brings communities together to clean up illegal dumpsites in forests. Volunteers are needed to help clean up and recycle at these events. Gloves, beverage & food are provided to volunteers. To look for a scheduled event in your area, visit www.cleanforestproject.org.



© Seppo Leinonen, www.seppo.net

Producer's Responsibility

Jackson County Master Recycler Program

Rhianna Simes, Program Coordinator
OSU Extension Service
569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97503
Phone: 541-776-7371

www.jcmasterrecyclers.org

ReSource co-editors:

Marsha Bashford, MR2008
Lara Knackstedt, MR2008

JCRP: www.jcrecycle.org

SMARTWorks: www.jcsmartworks.org



Bridging the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce waste in their homes and workplaces