



ReSource

Inform. Inspire. Involve.

news from jackson county master recyclers

spring 2011

In this issue:

Welcome	1
SMARTWorks	2
Volunteer Opportunities	3
Cowhorn Vineyard	4
SOMRA	5
Waste Diversion Update	5
Hosting Zero Waste	6
JCMR on Facebook	6
Save the Date	7
Ashland Recycle Center	8
Recycling Tips	9
Humor	10

Welcome Master Recycler Class of 2011!



GOOD READ:

Metro MR Newsletter: Consumption and Behavior Change:

*How Master Recyclers Can
Bridge the Gap*

PDF Link:

<http://bit.ly/hPvMoS>

This is terrific article on keeping your message positive and targeted to your audience. Definitely worth taking a few minutes to read!

We have 30 eager Master Recyclers in training this year and are having a great time getting to know each other. So far we have toured the Transfer Station and Landfill, met the Josephine County Master Recycler class and even made some non-toxic all-purpose cleaners to take home. As we dive into our spring event season, it will be important for our seasoned master recyclers to mentor our new class as they hit the ground running.

HANDBOOK UPDATES: There have been quite a few updates to the Master Recycler Handbook for the 2011 class. If you would like to download the latest version, go to the website at www.jcmasterrecyclers.org and at the bottom of the left column click the MR Login link. Username: jcmasterrecycler Password: master . Click the link to the Handbook and save it to your computer for future reference.

CALENDAR UPDATES: Again, in the MR Login section has the calendar that will list many volunteer opportunities. It is updated regularly, so check back often!

HOURS REPORTING: Be sure to keep track and report any service hours. The best way to report them is via the website. Again, login to the members section and click on the "Report Your Volunteer Hours" link. Just fill out the form and click "Submit Hours" button. That's it! Questions? Email me at info@jcmasterrecyclers.org

—Denise Wollgamott, Master Recycler Coordinator

SMARTWorks News & Notes

Zero Waste Sheds Ribbon Cutting

At last, we now have a user-friendly place to store our gear, including bins, bags, tabling materials, vests and more. Over 175 hours of incredible Master Recycler energy made it possible. Jeff Yockers single-handedly completed the carpentry work, and Dave Marland led the painting. Dede, Jesse, Megan, Bryan, Keitley and Deborah also contributed to a job superbly done.

Any Master Recycler who has wrestled with ClearStream frames in the past will especially appreciate new racks which neatly stow the frames and lids, making them easily accessible. A lean-to houses the roll carts and buckets, a mini-shed stores the new shredder, and cubbies give MRs a place to stash their stuff while they work.



WoW! is Rolling Right Along



In addition to the newly renovated sheds, the DEQ Solid Waste Grant is also funding the design and creation of mobile water fountain and glass filling stations. We're calling them "Water on Wheels" or "WoW!" We expect that's what lots of people will say when they see them at events across Jackson County.

In an exciting turn of events, Rogue Community College metal fabrication students fabricated the metal box for WoW! This arrangement was not written into the

original grant, but RCC eagerly embraced the opportunity, and have done an impressive job. We're also pleased with how it has expanded community partnerships and saved lots of money.

This Spring, WoW! will debut as a unique and educational way to teach people about reusable vs. disposable water bottles. Master Recyclers will play an essential role in this waste prevention campaign by staffing the water fountains at events.



Submit your MR Skills & Interests Surveys

SMARTWorks and JCRP rely on Master Recyclers for a wide variety of projects and programs, and we are always hopeful that volunteers are able to apply their strengths as opportunities arise. We want to make sure that we are aware of the vast amount of talents, certifications, experience and expertise you all bring to the program.

Each of you has something unique and helpful to offer, so please be sure to complete the survey sent to all Master Recyclers via email from Denise. We'll compile the information into a database to better match Master Recyclers with service opportunities.

2011 Event Season is Underway – Seeking Event Captains

We've kicked off another fun and productive season of event waste diversion, starting with the Oregon Cheese Festival in March. This year, we are returning to many of the events we have worked in the past, building upon our experience to expand our success. From Pear Blossom Fest to Harvest Fair, Battle of the Bones to Bear Creek Fest, we will be making an impact County-wide.

We are looking for Master Recyclers to fill leadership roles, and “adopt” their favorite events year to year. Graduates can become event captains, serving as liaisons with event coordinators, teaching new MRs about event recycling procedures, and tracking diversion results. At events with MR display tables, grads can also train novices on setting up and staffing our exhibits.

Look for email updates, and check the online calendar at www.jcmasterrecyclers.org (MR login) for details on upcoming events.

—Paige Prewett, Jackson County SMARTWorks Director

Volunteer Opportunities

NEW ONLINE CALENDAR!

An online calendar of volunteer events has been created to facilitate scheduling and keep you up-to-date on opportunities to get involved. Several opportunities from curriculum development to equipment upkeep are available.

Event Season 2011: Keep an eye on your Inbox for email updates from Paige on event sign-ups and more. We are off to a great start!

Required Volunteer Experience for Class of 2011:

Rogue Valley Earth Day 2011

SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2011

11am-4pm

ScienceWorks Museum Grounds

Cowhorn Vineyard

Beyond Organic and Beyond the Curb



Cowhorn Vineyard is proving sustainable practices can produce excellent wine. As a biodynamic winery, Cowhorn aims to create a closed loop farm. Cowhorn owners, Bill and Barbara Steele, look for ways to prevent waste and have launched innovative recycling projects that extend well beyond making sure their own items get recycled.

Corks

Bill Steele is a firm believer in using cork. Cork is grown by farmers, natural and recyclable. They have partnered with the Ashland Food Co-op and Ray's (Jacksonville) to collect corks from shoppers. Cowhorn also accepts drop-offs on site in the Applegate. Other vineyards, restaurants and wine drinkers are encouraged to participate. The corks are shipped to Corvallis, where Western Pulp recycles them into wine packing materials. Cowhorn doesn't get paid for the cork. Steele feels it's the right thing to do and that "somebody needs to do it." Last year they recycled at least 1,000 lbs of cork. That's over 100,000 corks!

RINSE

Cowhorn is piloting a new regional bottle reuse program called RINSE. Once fully implemented, wine bottles will be reused rather than down cycled. Currently they are shipping bottles in crates provided by Agri-Plas to Wine Bottle Renew in California. [Wine Bottle Renew](#) has developed a method of getting the bottles 100% sterile, which is critical to wineries being able to participate in the program. Agri-Plas has partnered with Wine Bottle Renew and the RINSE program to manage the sourcing of wine bottles in Oregon. Agri-Plas has shipped over 80,000 lbs of bottles and expects the program to grow next year. Steele is enthusiastic about the *significantly* lower carbon footprint provided by washing and reusing. Bottle collection is offered at the vineyard. Please make sure your bottles are in good condition. Chipped bottles are not reusable in the RINSE program. Both businesses and individuals are welcome.

Up-cycled Glass

Wine bottles from Cowhorn have also been up-cycled into elegant drinking glasses and goblets with the help of the Green Bottle Company.

Learn more online:

Web site: <http://www.cowhornwine.com> Videos: <http://pacificwinereview.squarespace.com/cowhorn/>

JCMR Recycling and Wine Tour of Cowhorn Vineyard

All current students and MR Grads are invited to attend an extra-curricular field trip to Cowhorn Vineyard this summer. See the biodynamic farm, recycling program and sample the wine. Wine tasting after the tour is available for \$5.

Sunday, June 12 from 2pm-4pm (*Shuttle Service and Departure Time TBA*)

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 45 PARTICIPANTS. Please RSVP to laraknack@charter.net by May 15.

SOMRA Membership Meeting Summary

Guest speaker: Risa Buck from Ashland Recology, spoke with much passion about her experiences with compostable plastics, which she titled, *The Rise and Fall of PLA* (polylactic acid). More than four years ago, after doing considerable research for Standing Stone and Earth Day vendors, Risa became excited about and recommended various PLA products for to-go containers. She has since concluded that PLA products are not appropriate, since they are compostable only if shredded, require a very high composting temperature which isn't available locally, and they add no value to the composting process.

Review of SOMRA Working Group process: The SOMRA name is "growing on" members of the Working Group. They also recommend SOMRA continue working as if it were a nonprofit, but will not formalize its nonprofit status. SOMRA will still be able to accept donations, but will not be able to provide tax-exempt receipts.

Potential projects: Currently there isn't liability insurance to cover volunteers working on SOMRA-sponsored projects. Therefore, SOMRA plans to align with organizations with coverage, such as SOLV, watershed councils, and JCRP. Projects also need to be low cost, since SOMRA currently has no financial resources. The following options were discussed:

- **Oregon Adopt-A-River:** The organization SOLV, which has sponsored trash pick-ups on Oregon beaches, is now seeking groups to adopt portions of Oregon rivers.
- **Plastics Seminar in July:** Denise Wolgamott explained that the Working Group had discussed holding a seminar for the public in July, which would explain how to separate household plastics in preparation for the Jackson County Plastic Round-up event to be held in early October. She recommended that this seminar not be held as a separate event, but be done instead as a breakout session at The Oregon Green Expo, which is scheduled for June 24-26 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds.
- **The Oregon Green Expo (TOGE):** Attendees agreed that Jackson and Josephine Master Recycler students and alumni should once again participate at the 3rd annual Oregon Green Expo. Denise confirmed that this event will be supported by JCRP and will serve as the contact with TOGE.
- **PLA Research Project**

Waste Diversion Update

Mobile Water Stations: The SMARTWorks-DEQ Events Waste Diversion Grant portable water fountains are being designed and fabricated. WOW! (Water on Wheels) is scheduled to debut at Rogue Valley Earth Day on April 23!

Composting: JCRP has a new Electric Shredder!

We've added a new 1.5 horsepower chipper-shredder to our zero waste arsenal. Come see its first performance at Rogue Valley Earth Day, where it will be used to shred biodegradable dishware in Zero Waste Land, staffed by Master Recyclers. In the future, the shredder will be available for other events, and for composting projects.

Durables: Silverware purchased from thrift stores and donated by supporters will be used at the RVED food concessions. Standing Stone has offered support for washing the silverware during the event. Durable glassware is going to be rented for the event!



Hosting a Zero Waste Beer Event

The word sustainability is thrown around almost recklessly these days. What does it mean? It means being a good steward to the planet, which is precisely why the beer community is an ideal group of already engaged, passionate people to help further effect positive change. One way to effect this change for everyone's betterment is to learn how to produce zero waste at events and gatherings—the words garbage and trash can be used here too. It's easy and simple and requires only a pattern change that everyone can handle.

Get-togethers of friends or even large-scale beer festivals are perfect examples where doing it all from scratch is a huge opportunity to be thoughtful to our planet. You can apply these same principles to just about any event you host, organize, or are involved with.

Having grown up in a family that hosted a lot of dinner parties and weekend guests at the lake cabin, I can tell you that we didn't do nearly as much then as we do now. That's OK—don't be hard on yourself for what is past. Simply recognize the opportunity and the necessity and then make the effort to change the future.



5 Things to Consider

Here are five facets to successfully swimming upstream for a zero waste event, be it a beer tasting, a potluck (with beer), a holiday party (with beer), a festival, or any other occasion. Being able to enjoy our lovely craft necessitates that we take responsibility for our actions, and it's pretty easy to do by simply thinking ahead... [continued on-line.](#)

—Ginger Johnson, JCMR 2010, www.womenenjoyingbeer.com

Read Ginger's full article on the Home Brewers Association web site:

<http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/zymurgy/online-extras/hosting-a-zero-waste-beer-event>

JCMR on Facebook



The Jackson County Master Recyclers are back on Facebook, and we need you to like us! Stay current on events, recycling updates, photos and our growing community of Master Recyclers.

Please join us!

Link: [Jackson County Master Recyclers on Facebook](#)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jackson-County-Master-Recyclers/146952578703028>

Save the Date

Rogue Valley Earth Day 2011



The date is set for the 10th Annual Rogue Valley Earth Day! **SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2011 from 11am – 4pm** @ the grounds of Science Works Museum in Ashland. We look forward to seeing you for this special celebration. Join us! www.roguevalleyearthday.net

Follow RVED to get event updates and inspiration on making every day Earth Day!



[Become a fan of Rogue Valley Earth Day!](#)



Follow us on Twitter!

SOMRA Meetings

Next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 at 6:00pm at the Gold Hill Library.

Next General Membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 at 6:00pm at OSU Extension.

Announcement: In celebration of Earth Day, Katarina Kober invited everyone to attend Rogue Community College's **Sustainapalooza** event on Wednesday, April 20 11am-4pm at RCC's Grants Pass campus. This is being sponsored by RCC's Student Sustainability Club.

Household Hazardous Waste Event

May 6 and 7, 8am – 4pm at the [Rogue Transfer & Recycling](#), 8001 Table Rock Rd., White City.

\$5 per car. **NO PAINTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** (CEG) *Small Businesses by appointment only on May 6th.*

Central Point's Annual Recycling Day

May 7 is Central Point's annual Recycling Day 10am – 2pm at Expo. Numerous vendors will collect a wide variety of materials for recycling including plastic, batteries, furniture, eyeglasses, shoes, clothing, etc. Alkaline batteries are collected by Interstate Batteries at no charge—their gift to the community for this one day. Plastic is collected by Allied Environmental and sent to Agri-Plas. The event is only accepting soft plastic.

Check www.centralpointoregon.gov later in the spring for more up-to-date details.

The Ashland Recycle Center

Zero Waste

Recology Ashland Sanitary Service is committed to the highest and best use of all materials. This means to first REDUCE, then reuse, then recycle.



One shining example of this is our newly-refurbished [Ashland Recycle Center](#). Owned by the city, but operated by Recology Ashland Sanitary Service, this facility does more than recycling the basics—paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastics. We also accept shrink wrap & plastic bags, ink jet cartridges, toners, cell phones, compact fluorescents and fluorescent tubes.

The Ashland Recycle Center is a special community place with unique offerings. There is a compost demonstration area with examples of different ways to divert green debris and leftover food waste. Each summer, with the Ashland Conservation Commission, we co-sponsor four Urban Composting Classes.

The immensely popular “FreeBox” provides an exchange for those who want to donate or receive free clothes and shoes.

Friends of the Animal Shelter provides adoptable dogs. Tim Church, our long time attendant has assisted in finding homes for over 200 dogs. We also maintain a drop container for food items for the Ashland Emergency Food Bank.

—*Risa Buck, Recology Ashland Sanitary Service*

2011 “Urban Composting” Classes

June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24

Saturdays from 10am – noon at the Recycle Center on Water Street: Rhianna Simes (OSU Extension Instructor) will instruct participants on how to divert food scraps & organic yard debris from the landfill. In time, this material can become valuable soil for your garden & yard. You will learn how to set up a compost system in an urban setting with recommendations for keeping critters out of your pile. Dress warmly and park on Water Street (not in Recycle Center parking area).

This class is free and sponsored by the City of Ashland Conservation Commission and Recology Ashland Sanitary Service.



Recycling Tips

Think Reduce and Reuse First

One of my big annoyances is all the plastic bottles generated by toiletries and personal care products – everyday products like soap and shampoo. Just think how much more cost-effective it would be and how much plastic would be diverted away from single-use containers if we could buy re-fills in our own containers. To that end, I have thus far found two suppliers.

Many of you know that Ashland Food Co-op sells many sundries and toiletries by the pint or pound, and you provide your own container. Such sundries include shampoo, conditioners, essential oils, liquid soap, shower gel, and other skin care products, all of which are all-natural products. Ashland Food Co-op estimates that the saving of providing your own container is roughly one-half.

Ashland Food Co-op: 237 N. 1st Street, Ashland; Phone is 541.482.2237; hours are 7am -9pm seven days a week.

Yankee Clipper at 2540 W. Main St., Medford, phone 541.779.8685, also carries dozens of salon/professional-grade shampoos, conditioners, and hairsprays to fill your own container or by the gallon. I recently saved 41 percent on my favorite hairspray by refilling my own container. The owners, Helen and Ray Forsyth, estimate a savings of \$2-5 on each purchase of a consumer-sized refill as opposed to the purchase of a new product. Their hours are 7:30am-5:30pm, Tues-Fri.

—Linda Holder, JCMR2009

PaintCare Update:

There is now another location to take your unwanted paint: Drake's Paint & Supply, 541.773.3335, 2929 N Pacific Hwy, Medford, OR 97501.

Visit PaintCare.org for a full collection center list and program details.

Please remember to call ahead to make sure the drop off location has room to accept your paint. Also, you must bring paint in a **labeled** paint can. The store collection centers do not take mystery paint.



PLA vs. Planted-based PET



Pepsi plans to roll out a new [plant-based PET bottle](#). The bottle differs from PLA which is chemically different from PET and considered contamination in plastic recycling streams. Plant-based PET is chemically identical to regular PET, and is supposed to be recyclable within the current system. Pepsi claims the bottles have a lower carbon foot print than traditional petroleum based bottles. Most sustainability experts still recommend avoiding single use containers all together!



TOO MANY PHONE BOOKS?

Opt-out! Phone books are recyclable, but many of us receive more copies than we need. To cut back on waste, phone book publishers have joined forces to create a national opt-out registry. Go to their website to choose which publications you want to receive.

www.yellowpagesoptout.com

Classifieds

HAVE A PROJECT, CAUSE, TIP, COOL EVENT OR SUPPLY NEED TO SHARE IN ReSource?

Please email laraknack@charter.net to get into the ReSource Newsletter.

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.



Funny Pages go Green for Earth Day

Comics from Tree Hugger.

For more visit: <http://bit.ly/hpL171>

JCRP: www.jcrecycle.org

SMARTWorks: www.jcsmartworks.org

Facebook: [Join JCMR on Facebook](#)

ReSource co-editors:

Marsha Bashford, JCMR2008

Lara Knackstedt, JCMR2008



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