

Columbia River Gorge Master Recyclers

MARCH 2012 EDITION

TRI-COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

Upcoming Events:

- **Sense of Place Lecture** Springhouse Cellars **Wednesday, March 7, 6:00-7:30pm**
Dr. Michael Beug will present an "Introduction to Mushrooms and their Ecosystem Roles with Examples from the Pacific NW."
- **Green Drinks** is a monthly networking event for business professionals, community leaders and residents interested in sustainability issues where experts share. Come network with people from 6pm-7pm at Springhouse Cellars, on **Tuesday, March 13th** and see the film, "I AM" at 7pm. "I AM" is engaging and entertaining and poses 2 questions: What is wrong with the world and what can we do about it? If you can, plan on attending this and we will reschedule our meeting.
- **Master Recycler Gathering** in March in Mosier is being rescheduled for **Thursday, March 22nd at 6pm** at the Mosier Grange. Cynthia Caudill will present a hands-on presentation of her Repurposing Project and we will be involved in some helpful brainstorming for possible products for the rest of the year.
- **SAVE THE DATES BELOW-HELP NEEDED Sign-Up on MasterRecyclers' Login Site**
- **Document Shred Events with Master Recycler Tabling** around Earth Day: Hood River Garbage - **Friday, April 20th**
The Dalles Disposal - **Saturday, April 21st**
Master Recyclers needed!!
- **The Dalles Cherry Festival Events Saturday, April 28th** Master Recyclers needed throughout the day from **8:30am-4:30pm**. (Shifts are available)
Scheduled activities:
1) Tabling at the Master Recycler Booth near the Civic Auditorium,
2) Parading walking with Master Recyclers, and
3) Supervising the recycling/composting of food in the Concessions Area
- **Drug Take-Back Events Saturday May 5th from 10am-2pm Cascade Locks, Hood River Courthouse and The Dalles Senior Center**
Master Recyclers needed at all 3 sites!!
- The Dalles Community Clean-up Day **Saturday, May 5th, 10am-2pm**
Master Recyclers have historically helped with the Re-Use Area



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program is part of the North Central Public Health District.

OH, DEAR, WE DOUBLE-SCHEDULED!

Our next Master Recycler meeting was mistakenly scheduled for the same night as, what looks to be, a fantastic Green Drinks program at Springhouse Cellars in Hood River, entitled, "I AM." (Link to [Green Drinks](#) or [click on the black screen below](#) to see the "inviting" trailer to the



Click on the black box above to see a **Sneak Peak of the film, "I AM."**

film.) Sooooooooooooo... We have **re-scheduled our gathering to Thursday, March 22nd at 6pm at the Mosier Grange**, so that the folks that want to network and/or see the film, "I AM," can do so. Think about their 2 focus questions in the black box. *How can the answers to these questions relate to our mission of "bridging the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce waste in their homes and workplaces?"* How many connections are there? Come join in on the discussion at 6pm, March 13th at Springhouse Cellars. The film starts at 7pm and goes about 75 minutes.

Join us for the rescheduled Master Recycler Gathering on March 22nd

Thursday, March 22
6:00 PM
Mosier Grange

Our Master Recycler Gathering will feature GOOD FOOD and Cynthia Caudill, reviewing and previewing her Repurposing Project for 2012. She will bring samples of some of the finished products as well as some sample material for future months' focus.

E-mail [Karen](#) ASAP to let her know what you can bring. We will eat, share information around the table and then get grounded in "repurposing"!! (Hey, that rhymes!!) Think about bringing **soup** or **salad** and we will need a few folks to bring **bread** or **dessert**.



David Skakel is pointing out the magnets on one of the machines at the MRF to Grace Skakel and Rilan TePoel. Read about our amazing Master Recycler Field Trip on the next 2 pages through the eyes of author, advocate and Master Recycler, Sandy Bisset.

Field Trip to Vancouver and Portland: Impressions from a Master Recycler

by Sandy Bisset

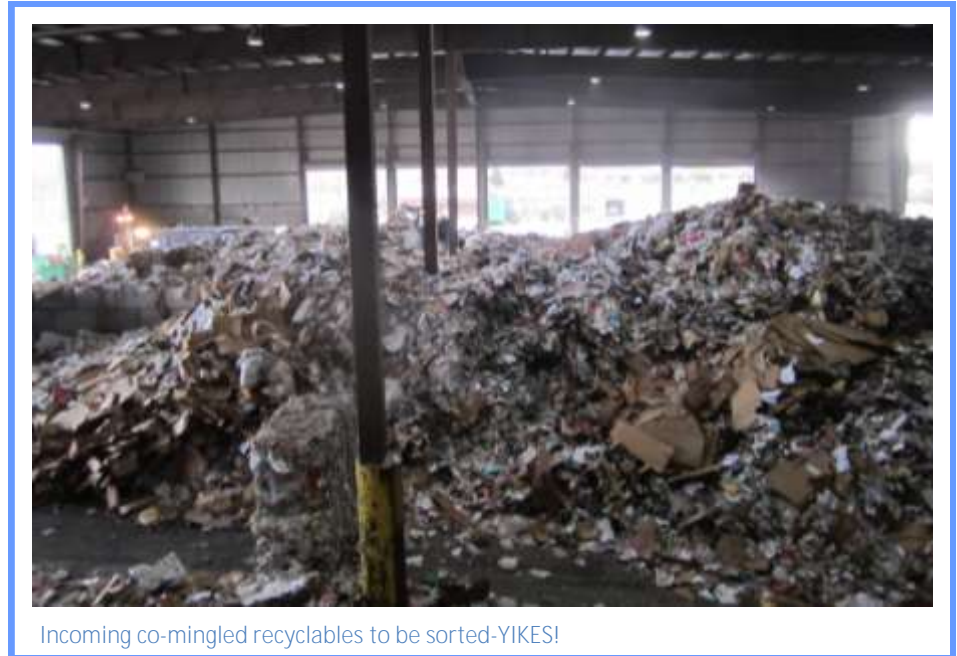
I participated in a most amazing field trip today – in the rain, and mostly outdoors. As part of the Tri-County Master Recycler Group I had the opportunity to visit several recycling facilities in the Portland/Vancouver area. Jim Winterbottom, Waste Connections Site Manager for Hood River Garbage and The Dalles Disposal facilitated the adventure, along with Tri-County’s Karen Murray. Bus driver, Larry Triebelhorn, of Sherman County Community Transit, kept us on schedule and got us home safely.

We started with the Wood Village Bottle Drop Redemption Center, a very clean and efficient bottle and can recycling center which allows you to self-sort, just like our local grocery store centers, with an additional option to have your bag of bottles and cans bar-coded, automatically sorted, with the money added to your account, which you can usually access within 24 hours. The process is quick and the facility is nose friendly.

From there we went to the CRC (Columbia Resource Company) West Vancouver Materials Recovery Center, where what seemed like miles of conveyor belts winding over and under each other in a relatively small space sorted cardboard, paper, bottles, and cans in various configurations of automated and manual processes. Everywhere we



Recyclables that have been sorted at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF)



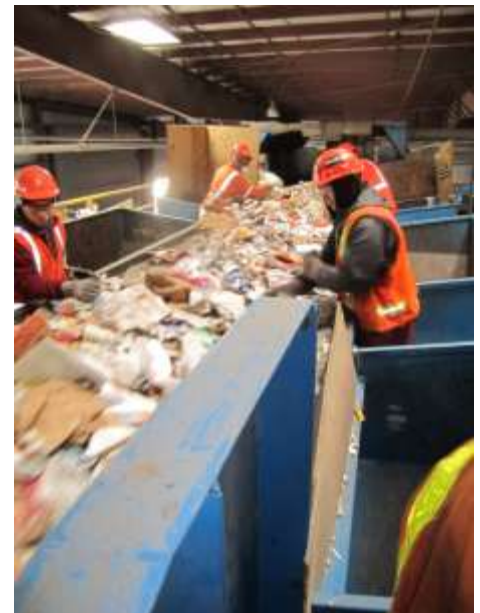
Incoming co-mingled recyclables to be sorted-YIKES!

looked we saw the ubiquitous plastic bag, floating through the air, clogging up machines, sticking out of bales of other materials, and just lying around. In spite of this pollution of materials, bale after bale of individual recyclables were processed for both the domestic and foreign markets. The non-recyclable components are also baled and either barged to Arlington, or trucked to The Dalles destined for the landfills, along

Continued on page 3



Some of our Field Trip participants at the Wood Village Bottle Drop Redemption Center



One of many “SORT LINES” in the MRF.

These automated conveyer lines move FAST! It takes a trained eye and quick hands to catch items that made it through the screen **don’t belong on that line.**



David Skakel, our coordinator, posing in front of a pile of metal at Rivergate

Dalles destined for the landfills, along with non-recyclable “bedding” which is used to cover the layers at the landfills. The highlight was being able to see first-hand how glass bottles and jars are crushed and processed into a small, tumbled aggregate type material used in construction.

We then re-crossed the Columbia and visited RB Rubber in North Portland, where we witnessed what appeared to be a similar process, only this time with tires. To use their words, the tires are ground up, pulverized, munched, and turned into crumbs. An associated process removes the steel belting which is processed into forty pound bales and recycled. The resultant “pure” tire material goes to an in-state processing plant, where an array of re-purposed products is made, including horse stall and playground mats. After the road rocks are removed the resultant debris also goes to the landfills as a benign cover, eliminating the need for dirt.

Our final stop was Rivergate Scrap Metal where we watched giant cranes, some with refuse grapples and some with giant magnets, manipulating the scrap metal into a long conveyer belt. The process was difficult to see; however, the end products were growing stacks of ferrous and non-ferrous metals which were ready to be baled and shipped, with a percentage of non-metal debris to be disposed of at the landfill.

I am sharing this first because I found it fascinating, and secondly because I discovered that each of these facilities and facilities like them will take small amounts of recyclable material from individuals for a small fee. Before you



Our field trip group watching the action at Rivergate Scrap Metals

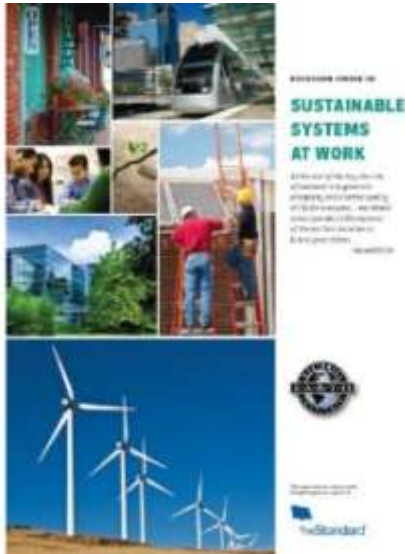
balk at the fee, remember that although recycling is a noble effort, those in the recycling businesses have to watch their bottom line. If they don’t make a profit, they will close. Most of us support the effort with curbside recycling but there is much more to the “reduce, reuse, recycle” ethic. Find out more by contact-

ing Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling, and ask them to connect you to a Master Recycler. Better yet, become a Master Recycler yourself. You too can go to Portland in the rain and find out why you should recycle your plastic bags at the grocery store – not in your recycle bin.



This conveyor belt carries scrap metal to the “jaws” to be shredded. Clad with 6 steel teeth that are changed daily, the tumbler can shred a full sized automobile. You can just see the top of a crushed sedan in the bottom left of this photo.

Sustainable Systems at Work in the Gorge



“At the end of the day, the role of business is to generate prosperity and a better quality of life for everyone...we should never operate at the expense of the earth or societies or future generations.”

—Ray Anderson

A SPECIAL THANK YOU goes out to the many people that helped in some way with the stories and happenings in this newsletter: **Jodi TePoel** for picture contributions and inspiration, **Sandy Bisset** for her advocacy letter about the Master Recycler Field Trip, **Jeff McCall** from Wasco County for coming to our rescue at the last minute for us with hard hats, safety vests and safety glasses for our field trip, **Steven Horzynek** from the Northern Wasco Public Utility District and **Cindy Keever** from the City of The Dalles for the loan of hard hats for our field trip, **Jim Winterbottom**, Site Manager for The Dalles Disposal and Hood River Garbage of Waste Connections that helped organize and run our field trip, **Chris Thomas**, Regional Recycling Manager for CrC of Waste Connections that hosted us on the field trip and of course, **Heather Alexander** for her editing and graphic magic, and **David Skakel** for his gentle guidance and perseverance.

Exciting times are ahead for the Gorge with an inspiring class, Sustainable Systems at Work, underway. This class series has been tailored specifically to meet the needs of restaurants and food-service companies. David Skakel, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program Coordinator, on behalf of [Gorge Owned Business Network \(GO!\)](#) is shepherding this discussion group that meets weekly for 5 sessions.

The course, designed by the Northwest Earth Institute, is aimed at helping businesses learn ways to increase their commitment to environmental and social responsibility. **The course addresses the greatest challenge any organization has when implementing corporate initiatives: engaging employees.** Sustainable Systems at Work inspires innovation and creates alignment between employees’ actions and organizational

objectives.

There are no “right” or “wrong” answers with the course. The discussion format is “open” and will hopefully lead to the sharing of ideas, challenges and best practices.

David is very encouraged by the class and its’ progress. He feels the class is going well. “This work group includes locally-owned and franchised restaurants, food service directors from a local school district and a hospital, and Mt Hood Meadows too. I am excited that their discussion will culminate in a final work session, where we will pull together other stakeholders in the local food service supply chain in hopes of reducing wastefulness of food procurement from farm to restaurant to compost.”



Attendees include representatives from Mid-Columbia Medical Center, Hood River County School District, Doppio Coffee and Lounge, 6th Street Bistro, Celilo Restaurant, Taco Del Mar and Mt. Hood Meadows.

Master Recyclers!!! Please try to attend our next Gathering on Thursday, March 22nd at 6pm at the Mosier Grange. *Your participation makes a HUGE difference!!*

Logging Your PayBack Hours

Keepp logging those hours on our Volunteer Login. If you are frustrated with the squished format on our website and the Master Recycler Login Drop Down Menu, go to MyVolunteerPage.com and there will be a full page view. Soon we will be linking you to this with **our** new website. Perhaps in a couple of months? If you need help on logging in or catching up with recording hours, give Karen a call and she can make a visit. She can also drop by some new directions on navigating the site. She has been practicing more on Volunteer2, so e-mail her for help!!!!

E-mail [Karen](#) if you would like her to stop by and help you login your hours and acquaint you with the new features. It is important to our program to see the hours so we don't mind helping. Seriously!!



Sandy Bisset, Cynthia Caudill, Heather Alexander, Marilyn Richardson and Karen are scheming a Repurposed Cloth Napkin Workshop for Master Recyclers. **Wouldn't it be great to have more cloth napkins in your home? Stay tuned.....**

Have you read your TriCounty Newsletter?

Twice a year, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling sends out a newsletter. Our first one for this year should have hit the mailbox of all residents in the 3 county area about a week ago. Did you notice yours?



Part of Heather Alexander's job is to be sure these twice-a-year newsletters get out to the public. Be sure to read it over and we will have some extras at our Master Recycler Gathering on March 22nd (see page 1) to share with you. **Good job, Heather!!!!**

Did you notice the "clip and save" Hazardous Waste Event Schedule?

KUDOS TO YOU

Thank you for all you do to help change minds and lifestyles in our community! You are reaching out to businesses, individuals, schools, friends, neighbors, and organizations to help them "walk more softly" on the earth. Keep up the good work and keep us posted on how we might help!

How to get in touch with us:

Karen Murray:
Office= 541-506-2608
Cell= 541-980-6267
karenm@co.wasco.or.us

David Skakel :
Office= 541-506-2632
Cell=541-806-4387
davids@co.wasco.or.us

Heather Alexander:
Office=541-506-2636
Cell=541-993-1552
heathera@co.wasco.or.us

Do you have ideas for our next Master Recycler Newsletter? We need your input and your creativity. Please contact Karen Murray.