

Columbia River Gorge Master Recyclers

MAY 2012 EDITION

TRI-COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

Upcoming Events:

- **Green Drinks**—a monthly networking event for professionals, community leaders and residents interested in sustainability issues. **Tuesday, May 22nd, 6-7:30pm** at **Water's Edge, The Dalles** on "Green Building Trends in the Gorge." Listen to the Gorge Technology Alliance and the Gorge Owned Business Network and local experts in green building discuss the green building trends.

SAVE THE DATES BELOW.

HELP IS NEEDED. Sign-Up on our **Master Recyclers' Login Site** and/or e-mail **Karen**.

- **Drug Take-Back Events**
Saturday May 5th, 10 AM-2 PM
with set-up at 9:15am
 - 1) **Cascade Locks** at the Fire Department
 - 2) **Hood River** at the Old County Courthouse off State Street
 - 3) **The Dalles** at the Senior Center on Cherry Heights and 10th Street. Volunteers are needed to help set-up for the event, dump out containers, mark over labels and help with data collection on the event.
- **The Dalles Community Clean-up Day Sat., May 5th, 9 am-3 pm.** Help is needed manning the Re-Use Table outside at The Dalles Armory as part of the Community Clean-up and having a keen eye for things that might be tossed but could be re-used. Jodi TePoel will be heading it up but **more help would be great.** E-mail **Karen**.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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

KEEPING MASTER RECYCLERS INFORMED

Did you know that we have a new recycling brochure? Were you aware that The Dalles Disposal or Hood River Garbage is **NOT taking waxed milk or juice cartons or aseptic containers** (soy milk and some soups/broth containers) for recycling? Did you know you **can** now recycle lids or caps from plastic bottles, jugs or tubs? Just **place those clean lids/caps right back on the clean plastic container.**

Just wanted to keep you up-to-date with those changes. If you need copies of the new brochure or you would like a poster for your workplace, let Heather or you need. E-mail us!!



OVER 2 TONS COLLECTED FOR SHRED

60 vehicles and 1953.8 pounds of documents and paper were collected in Hood River for the Shred Event on Friday, April 20th. Master Recyclers, Peggy Dills Kelter and Cathie Kelter assisted along with 2 friends of the Master Recycler group, Kevin Dickerson and Bob Bauld. This was the first Shred Event held in conjunction with our normally scheduled hazardous waste collection event. This was the second year that we partnered with Gorge Security Shred around Earth Day to offer free collection for secure shredding of confidential papers.



Master Recycler Teresa Hepker, Gorge Security Shred Employees Richard Conner and Terry Goss and TriCounty's Karen Murray enjoy a slower period at The Dalles Shred Event.

63 vehicles and 2403.8 pounds of paper was collected at The Dalles Shred Event. Master Recyclers, Tia Mousseau, Sandy Bisset and Teresa Hepker assisted in traffic direction, paper handling, question-answering and set-up and take down. Thank you to all volunteers!!

Did you know that all hazardous waste collections in HR and TD have a locked, secure cart from Gorge Security Shred that people can "feed" for free?



Master Recycler, Cathie Kelter checks our new recycling brochure at Hood River Shred Event.

May Street's Amazing Waste Audit

The Waste Audit at May Street School on Wednesday, April 25th was amazing to witness.

Class-by-class paraded out to witness student teams of "garbologists" sorting out the waste from their school.

Many questions and comments were voiced from one day's worth of waste. "60 pounds of milk wasted from one day of school?" "Look at all those pencils and pens that were thrown away!"

"Wow, that is a big pile of paper towels used in one day!" "Will it be beneficial and cost-effective to get DirtHugger to pick-up our compost during the week?"

Cynthia remained calm as she explained the project to the students. This was her second waste audit that she had organized from her children's school in about the last 3 years. She wanted students to understand that there were some ways they could help the earth and do a better job recycling and conserving their school's resources. What were their ideas? Where do they go from here? Stay tuned for further details.



Master Recyclers, Lisa Knapp, (left), Michele Dearing, (next to Lisa) and Cynthia Caudill (center in the black sweatshirt) at the Waste Audit for May Street School. Cynthia wanted as many May Street Elementary students and staff to help and witness the Waste Audit.



Student teams of "garbologists" from the fourth and fifth grade classrooms assisted with the Waste Audit.



Master Recycler, Michele Dearing, talks to Theo Parkinson, Parent Volunteer from Westside Elementary, and Master Recycler, Lisa Knapp. Theo is planning and coordinating Westside Elementary's first Waste Audit this May 9th.

Anatomy of a Waste Audit

Waste Audit equipment (tarps, gloves, waste category signs, digital scale, plastic bags and containers for weighing waste) is available to borrow from the Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program.

It is always a good idea to "start" with a Waste Audit so that a school or business or home can see what they have to start with. How can they improve on different waste reduction decisions? What is possible? What is realistic? Getting a Green Team started that can help make some of those important decisions is advisable and can be very rewarding.

Visitors are welcome at the Westside Elementary School Waste Audit on Wednesday May 9th, 9am-Noon.



Paper towel collection from one day at the May Street Elementary.



WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

How about a field trip back to see the expanded **DirtHugger operation**?

What about a “stop over” to see how Corky facilitates and navigates all the **bottles and cans at Home At Last**? Would you like to see how the “ins and outs” of how the non-profit group, **Gorge Security Shred** works? How about another outdoor picnic? How about a behind the scenes tour of the new **Turtle Island Tofurky Plant**?

Then there is the **Sustainability Tour of Full Sail Ale**, does that sound intriguing?

And then you’ve possibly read about the **workshop on making cloth napkins** or “string bags” or both!!

There is so much to do and see and learn about in the Gorge, I would like to plan a few (or all!) of these things before the end of June, if you know what I mean!!! **E-mail me on what you are interested in. [Karen!](#)**

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!

CHERRY FESTIVAL FUN



“Just Recycled!!!” Get it?



Heather and Carissa Alexander, Marilyn Richardson, Fuko Christiansen and Tia Mousseau all helped at the Master Recycler booth, answering questions, asking people to BMOB (Bring My Own Bag) and giving away Chico bags. Not pictured was Jodi TePoel. Thank you to all our volunteers!



Karen Murray and Grace Skakel carry the banner while Carissa walks along in her awesome **“Do Something for the Earth” shirt**. (She helped with holding the banner a bunch!) Jodi graciously donned the Bag Monster costume. Heather and Tia followed in the Prius!

IN THE WORKS: We (Sandy Bisset, Marilyn Richardson, Karen Murray, Heather Alexander and Cynthia Caudill) are scheming a little work party where we make cloth napkins for ourselves from scrap or repurposed material. Be on the look-out for reusable, absorbent cloth **that could work for napkins. Stay tuned.....**

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