

Columbia River Gorge Master Recyclers

JANUARY 2012 EDITION

TRI-COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

Upcoming Events:

- **Sense of Place Lecture** at Springhouse Cellars **Wednesday, Jan. 4th, 6:00-7:30pm** Steve Hawley with "The Future of What Used to Be: Historical Abundance and the Hope of Restoring Ecosystems"
- **Trash 2 Art Show** at the **Columbia Center for the Arts** in Hood River, **Friday, Jan. 6th** Artists' Reception from **6pm-8pm** (Master Recycler, Peggy Dills Kelter is one of the featured artists!) Make a free Up-Cycled Journal with Master Recycler, Cynthia Caudill from **6pm-7:30pm** **The Trash 2 Art show** goes all month: Jan. 6-29th, Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm and is sponsored by Hood River Garbage
- **Waste Land** --an award winning film, presented by The Columbia Center for the Arts, **Wednesday, Jan. 25th at 7:30pm**, \$5.00 tickets
- **Recycled Art Workshop** **Saturday, Jan. 28th**, Master Recycler, Cynthia Caudill **9am-Noon** at Columbia Center for the Arts in Hood River
- CHECK OUT ALL THE ORANGE LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND LEARN MORE: HOVER OVER THE ORANGE TERM, PRESS "CONTROL" AND CLICK!

Local HHW Program collects close to 200,00 pounds of hazardous waste in 2011

The Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program noted a 10% increase in the amount of hazardous waste collected in 2011. We collected a whopping 193,240 pounds of hazardous waste in 2011.

Our monthly events in Hood River brought in 99,275 pounds in 2011 (just shy of 100,000 pounds). In The Dalles, our monthly collection events brought in 61,805 pounds. And another 18,290 came from nine rural collections throughout our three-county service area.

We expect that our program will surpass one million pounds of hazardous waste collected (lifetime total) within another fifteen months. That's a lot of dangerous, carcinogenic, poisonous, persistent, toxic stuff that will not be ex-

posed to our families, our communities, our immediate environment or waterways.

There was a 4% increase in participants while there was a 10% increase in hazardous waste collected (by weight). But only a ½% increase in cost, (which is negligible!)

With a 10% increase in hazardous waste collected, why did our overall recycling/disposal cost NOT go up?

Answer: The statewide Paint Care program (which shifts responsibility away from local governments and onto manufacturers and consumers) diverted to recycling 78,400 pounds of paint at no cost to our program (a \$27,440 savings!).

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Thank you for all you do to help change minds and lifestyles in our community! You are reaching out to businesses, individuals, schools, 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!

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!

What are your dreams and schemes for the new year? How might you continue to apply your Master Recycler training in 2012? **How might we help you achieve your goals?**



Hazardous Waste Collection Program takes hazardous waste out of our communities

1,702 vehicles attended our events this year, including several ‘walk-ins’, a few bicycles, and a damsel driving a tractor in Dufur!

The Favorable Trend We See: From the outset ten years ago, our community partners determined that a very important pillar of this program needed to be **convenient and affordable collection for orchardists and agricultural folks**. Their pesticides and herbicides tend to account for the bulk of the 25% of our program volumes that need to be incinerated (especially the ‘legacy’ pesticides like DDT). **We experienced a 45% increase in participation by farmers this year.** 45 farmers took advantage of our five annual (free) collection events in Hood

River, The Dalles and Moro (versus 31, last year). Likewise 13,870 pounds of agricultural chemicals were collected, compared to 9,459 pounds last year. That is GREAT!

Where does our hazardous waste go? The remaining 75% of hazardous waste (that we don’t incinerate or landfill) is recycled in one way or another. For example, the **alkaline batteries** we now collect get pitched into a metal foundry near Seattle where they contribute to making rebar for construction. All the **rechargeable batteries** are handled by a national battery recycling program (RBRC) whereby precious metals recovered are used to create new batteries and stainless steel products.



TriCounty HWR contracts with PSC, which sends a crew to handle and recycle our hazardous waste

Latex paint is re-processed back into Metro-brand latex paint, while any **oil-based paints or stains** are blended with other ‘flammables’ and then utilized as a low-grade domestically derived fuel at a concrete kiln plant near Seattle.

Liquid propane is extracted from “LP” cans for reuse, and the **metal propane containers** are recycled. **Mercury, glass and metal** are all separated when recycling **fluorescent bulbs**.

Since our program facilities don’t have regular hours, we are not currently offering a ‘reuse’ component at our collections. But when perfectly good (reusable) product comes into our events, we do try to steer it to a reuse store, like Gorge Rebuild-it Center, or the Habitat ReStore.

How about that? We are heading in the right direction and scheming on how we are going to celebrate when we tip 1 million pounds of recovered hazardous waste!!!



The Dalles Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

Thoughts from David: Master Recycler Cynthia Caudill's New Year's Resolution

You may know Cynthia Caudill as one of our esteemed Master Recyclers. You may also know that Cynthia has transformed her passion for reducing waste into a cottage business called Re-Think Crafts. Cynthia (with the assistance of her trusty sewing machine) has been very creative in re-purposing many discarded items of value. We are reporting that Cynthia has committed to seeking solutions for 'difficult to recycle items'.

"My goal is to find a different waste product each month (for a year) and present the challenge to myself and others to come up with a new use for it. I have been talking with the Columbia Art Center about having these repurposed projects on display each month. This could be a great way for the community to think about our waste and how to find an alternative to throwing things away that could be used in a new creative way", says Cynthia.

Good timing. We have been getting numerous calls from Kate Winsor, who is operations assistant at the Hood River Library and a very zealous recycler. Kate wanted to know if there is any recycling option for outdated audio cassettes and their packaging. Of course, Cynthia responded favorably: "I would love to use the cassettes as a repurposing project."

So we encourage our Master Recyclers to tag along on Cynthia's quest this year, by offering challenging recycling problems and/or re-purposing solutions for products that she has identified. We will provide a monthly update about Cynthia's progress in this newsletter. Likewise, you can monitor her happenings at rethinkcrafts.blogspot.com Check it out!



Mixing it Up

The [Central Oregon Environmental Center](#) has several links that you might find interesting.

1. Do you know where your power comes from? The Oregon Dept. of Energy's [Power Mix](#) tool will show you the light!
2. Baby, it's cold out there! Here are [8 facts and myths about idling your car](#) in these wintery times.
3. Food for thought: Read about Oregon pears in school lunches and other gastronomy-related news in [The Salt](#), NPR's food blog.

Thank you to the "[Living the Green](#)", the center's newsletter for these informative links.

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

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Cynthia and other local handcrafters held a "last-chance" holiday bazaar, complete with gift wrapping services using recycled materials, the weekend before Christmas in downtown Hood River. Here Cynthia visits with a customer, Mr. CJ Rench.