

Columbia River Gorge Master Recyclers

APRIL 2011 EDITION

TRI-COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

Upcoming Events:

- **Saturday, April 9th**
The Dalles Cherry Festival Parade and Open Air Market. 8:00am start including ClearStream set-up
- **Tuesday, April 12th**
Field Trip to the Hillsboro FarWest Fiber MRF & SP Recycling MRF in Clackamas, with possible Redemption Center visit, 2-3 spots left! (See p.3) **Call or e-mail Karen ASAP**
- **Friday, April 22nd**
The Dalles Free Shredding Event, hopefully somewhere in the Cascade Center Parking Lot, 10-2 pm, help needed
- **Saturday, April 23rd**
Hood River's Procession of Species with the MudEye Puppets at 1pm at the "Horse and Hound" parking lot, 403 Oak Street in HR. Activities start at Noon. See [Earth Center link](#)
- **Saturday, April 23rd**
Hood River's Free Shredding Event at the Rosaura's parking lot, 10 until 2pm, help needed
- **Green Drinks** on April 14 in Bingen; See [page 3](#)
- **September 2011**
The next round of Master Recycler Classes. Start "talking up" the classes and the field trips.

MASTER RECYCLERS PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Hopefully, you have been conserving your energy this past winter and you can help us this month. There is a **LOT** going on!

- Join the Bag Monster, (Jodi TePoel) and Walk in The Dalles Cherry Festival Parade as a Master Recycler (free T-shirts for all walkers!) Saturday, April 9th, ClearStream set-up help needed
- Help us with recycling topics at our Open Air Market booth at The Dalles Cherry Festival (free T-shirts!)(3 hour shifts starting at 8:30am and overlapping for 1/2 hour) Saturday, April 9th



- Help us with our Free Shredding Event on Friday, April 22nd in The Dalles, hopefully to be located somewhere in the Cascade Square Parking lot, 10am until 2pm.
- Watch for the Bag Monster, (Kristina Cronkright or Peggy Dills Kelter) in the Procession of Species with the MudEye Puppets in Hood River as part of their Earth Day celebration, Saturday, April 23. See [page 3](#) and [Earth Center website](#) for more info.
- Help Cynthia Caudill & Sarah Fierbaugh with their (our!) Master Recycler Earth Day Booth in front of the HR Bagel Shop(13 Oak St.) in Hood River, Saturday, April 23rd. They are looking for Master Recyclers to "man" or "woman" our booth while presentations to the little kids are happening on reuse, composting and recycling. You could help with those, too! Contact Cynthia at caudill@gorge.net and/or Sarah at faeriefir@gmail.com
- Help us with the Free Shredding Event in Hood River at Rosaura's parking lot, on Saturday, April 23rd, 10am until 2pm



MASTER RECYCLER SPOTLIGHT: A Recycled House(written by Ruth Olin)

I built and live in a recycled house. It takes a whole lot less energy and less of the planet's resources to use something that's already made – and for building materials, this is especially true. As a LEED AP* I know that green building certifications like LEED give points to recycled building materials and materials with recycled content. There are also points for material that is local, saving transportation cost – the energy and fuel needed to move the product. When choosing materials for my house, I not only thought about whether the material was recycled, but whether it recycle-able at the end of its useful life. The concept of recycle-ability becomes very important if we are to achieve a Cradle to Cradle system. Remember, Nature (our best model) recycles everything! Removing the need to cut new trees for lumber has many advantages: trees clean the air and provide oxygen, we are using up wood faster than we can grow it, and we have very little old growth wood left. Reclaimed lumber is often old growth lumber with vertical grain, and therefore stronger than the little stuff we harvest today.



No, that's just the beginning. The lumber needs to be further stripped of remaining drywall, wall paper, etc.; de-nailed, cut to length and graded, in order for it to be used structurally. Then it needs to be milled and surfaced. If you are going to think about recycling building materials, be sure you have a dry storage location and start collecting long before you build. And that one nail you missed? It'll leave its mark on your cutting blades! I'm grateful that everyone I worked with was willing to go the extra mile to use reclaimed lumber. Now that Deconstruction is becoming a more common method of recycling buildings, there are more sophisticated tools available, like magnetic nail detectors. But it is certainly an art - as much so as putting a building together.



I started with the premise that I would use everything that I could that was already on the site. Let's face it, it's a great idea - but not without its' challenges. I hired an experienced deconstruction team of three to deconstruct the house. I removed all the finishes and furnishings in advance, exposing the structure, so that they could concentrate on dismantling. It's hard dirty work but they were pros and did it in a couple days, sorting out all salvageable materials: copper, alum, fixtures, etc. which were donated to our Gorge Rebuild-it Center in Hood River and elsewhere as appropriate. Deconstruction costs about the same as demolition. We kept endless dumpsters out of the landfill and provided the raw material for the new dwelling.

After the house is removed and the wood stacked, do you think the work is done?

I call my house a recycled house because almost all of the lumber is either recycled from the house that used to stand on the site, or purchased from the Gorge Rebuild-it Center. It is actually a straw bale house. Since straw is highly insulating, rapidly renewable (very much so as compared to wood) and considered a waste product, using straw in house construction also saves trees. In addition to lumber, a few of the recycled items used in my house are: kitchen and bath fixtures, cast iron radiators, hardware, tile, cabinets, lighting, and the list goes on.

What do we leave for the future? Our economic system doesn't cause manufacturing to bear the hidden cost of degradation to the environment or harm to people. That's why I think resource use ought to be taxed and incentives offered to those who reuse. And recycle. It just makes sense!

THANK YOU, RUTH!

*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Accredited Professional



Master Recycler Ruth Olin-Spring 2010



INTERESTING LINKS TO FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION IN RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 1) [The Association of Oregon Recyclers' Newsletter](#) and
- 2) [The Resource Recycling Newsletter](#).

Enjoy the links! There are always amazing articles in these newsletters.

OUR MASTER RECYCLER GROUP IS ON THE WEB!! CHECK IT OUT!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tri-County-Master-Recyclers/107724469293841>

FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Sorry for the short notice but I have a date for our first MRF field trip: **Tuesday, April 12th**, leaving Hood River **at 7:30am**, K-Mart parking lot. The plan is to visit the Far West Fibers MRF in Hillsboro, SP Recycling MRF in Clackamas and if time allows, Redemption Center visits on the way back.....back in HR by 5:30pm. Interested & available? Call/e-mail Karen

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

PRESERVEWARE PARTY PACKS ARE READY!

Thanks to Cynthia Caudill and David Skakel, our Party Pack Bucket is ready for you to borrow. Having a get-together and need extra, "dishwashable" plates, silverware and cups? Don't want all that paper and plastic waste after your party? Made in the USA and from recycled #5 plastics,(used yogurt cups!), "Preserve Plastic" saves energy, water and carbon dioxide. They are BPA free. 4 buckets available, with 20 settings each. Call or e-mail Karen at the office to reserve our Preserveaware Party Buckets.



SHORT AND SWEET

- Q. What is the latest on Cindy's position at Tri-County HW&R?
- A. "Things are progressing" and within a couple of weeks, the coordinator's position should be filled. Then, we will open a full-time "solid waste specialist" position.
- Q. Do we have enough Master Recycler help for all our activities in April?
- A. No, not yet, so, see how you can flex your schedule, if possible. Call or e-mail Karen.
- Q. How is Cindy?
- A. Cindy is loving her new job and having fun. We miss her! Her work e-mail is: Cindy.Brown@oregonstate.edu

- Q. What is the Earth Center's role in the EarthDay activities?
- A. The Earth Center is coordinating Sat., April 23rd service projects,(Hands2Work) around the Columbia River Gorge as well as the "Procession of Species" with the MudEye Puppet Company. Pre-activities start at Noon at 403 Oak St., the "Horse and Hound" parking lot with the Procession at 1pm, followed by the MudEye Puppet Show at 1:45pm. It is sure to be fun! Then, the SustainaBALL is at 7-10pm at The Columbia Gorge Hotel which includes at least one of our own "Gorge Sustainability Champions." Try to make it to the awards ceremony! www.cgec.org

- Q. What is the next [Green Drinks](#) topic and where?
- A. The gorge company, "Sustain EcoInteriors" out of Bingen will be hosting on April 14th at their office building from 6pm to 8pm. Learn more about sustainable building products and meet some of the experts in our community. Check out the link above.

Note: Master Gardeners have invited us to join them on Sat., May 7th with a Master Recycler Booth at their plant sale in The Dalles. Please check your calendar!

How to get in touch with us:

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