

The *Master Recycler* NEWS

Lane County Public Works
Waste Management Division



Winter 2011 Volume 9 Issue 4

Phone: 541-682-2059

Fax: 541-682-2353

E-mail: kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us

The *Master Recycler News* is a quarterly publication of the Lane County Master Recycler Program, established in 2000.

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Quarterly Master Recycler Potluck

Tue December 6th from 6-9pm

Glenwood Transfer Station Building C

BRING: A main dish, side dish or non-alcoholic beverage to share

ACTIVITY: Holiday Potlatch and Crafts, see page 2 for details

Master Recyclers who have completed field training will receive Completion Certificates during the potluck.

Note: The electronic edition contains links to websites and email addresses. If you are reading the paper copy and would like information contained in a link or wish to receive the newsletter electronically please call (541) 682-2059.

Waste Free for the Holidays!

I have been reimagining the holidays most of my adult life. Gift giving for its own sake had become a hollow exercise driven by advertising, obligation and completely detached from any original intention of the celebration. For a few years I convinced my family to celebrate the gift giving part of the holidays at Thanksgiving in an attempt to unplug from the holiday shopping machine. My sister and I tried to institute name drawing among the adults but my mom always cheated and got gifts for everyone.

One of the web based checklists I reviewed in preparation for the holiday season asks "Did unwelcome influences affect your holiday celebrations last year?" I can report that the answer to this question is now mostly "Nope."

For example, I was excited and inspired to participate in the neighborhood Halloween festivities but I did not want to give out candy. Instead I gathered up old pennies and new nickels, children's books and pencils, foreign money and costume jewelry. Items were wrapped in shiny potato chip bag material reused gift bags and mint tins. All of the treats and wrapping were things I had around the house. I was unsure how these 'alternative' treats would be received but one very large group in particular included 5 parents who were amazed and delighted. The children were receptive too. I can imagine that when the neighbor kids got home and dumped out their stash to sort and trade that the non-candy items were more fun to talk about and bargain with.

Each year at this time Master Recyclers are asked to remind friends and neighbors to *refuse, reduce, reuse or recycle* waste generated at holidays. This year the Waste Free Holidays Education Group is providing a theme per week beginning the week of America Recycles Day through the first week of January. Inside you will find explanations, tips and resources you can use—and suggest to others—to help create a waste free and truly enjoyable season. Go to: www.lanecounty.org/lessisbest and check back often for tips, inspiration and announcements of waste free events hosted by this group and others.

Good things to come: Grand Opening of NextStep's new ReUse store the week of America Recycles Day; Whiteaker Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner November 24; Creation Day Free Gift Making Event at MECCA November 25; MECCA Artful Reuse Gift Wrapping at a shopping destination in December.

November 13-19

November 20-26

Nov 27-Dec 3

December 4-10

December 11-17

December 18-24

December 25-31

January 1-7

Volunteer as a family or group

Make Good Use of Leftover holiday food.

Take Time to Make Memories

Artful ReUse during the Holidays

Skip the packaging-Shop for ReUsed Items

Give the Gift of an Experience

Give the Gift of a Service

Put Unwanted Electronics Back to Work

Waste Free Holidays Education Group: BRING Recycling-Brett Jacobs; Master Recycler Program-Kelly Bell; MECCA-Mija Andrade; NextStep Recycling-Isbel Ingham

Florence Master Recycler Training

We're Back!

DATE Fridays January 13 - March 9

TIME 12:30-3:30pm

PLACE Florence LCC Center

CONTACT Kelly Bell at 541.682.2059 or kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us to receive application materials

GO TO www.lanecounty.org/masterrecyclers to learn more about the program.

The Master Recycler Program wants to reach into every corner of Lane County. Full length training classes in Cottage Grove, Florence, Junction City and Creswell have added more than 60 rural Master Recyclers to our ranks. Now it's time to head back to the coast. If you know someone in the Florence area who would be interested in Master Recycler training please recommend the Winter 2012 class.

Styrofoam Recycling in Florence!

The first Monday of each month from 9 am to noon you can take all types of expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) up to 3 Rivers Casino to be recycled free of charge. The Casino now owns a densifier which it uses to prepare the Styrofoam for shipment to a processor. Master Recycler and Real Food Co-op member Frank Souza helped to establish several collection sites for Styrofoam around town. Locations include: Real Food Co-op, Honeyman Nursery, 101 Pets, Shipping Solutions and Laurel Bay Nursery.

NextStep Grand Opening!

During the week of America Recycles Day, November 15 Check out the big new re-use retail space at 980 McKinley in Eugene

Make Your Own Gifts Event at MECCA

Friday November 25th from 1-5pm

MECCA ReUse Artists will be on hand to guide you through the creation of gifts for the holidays. Instructional support and supplies for Creation Day crafts are free but you are welcome to bring additional supplies or purchase some from MECCA. Activities are suitable for children and adults but children must be accompanied.

Florence Master Recycler Meeting

Join us at the coast Tuesday November 29th for a Florence Master Recycler meeting—3pm at Old Town Coffee Company on Bay Street

Master Recycler Potluck & Potlatch

6 to 9pm Tuesday December 6, 2011

Glenwood Transfer Station Building C

Congratulate Master Recyclers who recently completed field training!

BRING: A main dish, side dish or non-alcoholic beverage to share.

CRAFT: Gift Bow Making activity using old magazines. Make and take home some crafty bows or donate to our local waste-based non-profits

POTLATCH: During the Potlatch you can give away gently used and surplus items and re-use crafts. Master Recyclers can 'shop' for items among those brought by others. Examples include: clothing; cookbooks; home canned goods; garden plants; dishes; tools; small appliances. You are not required to bring items and you are not limited to this list of examples if you do. If you bring items to give away, please bring a small blanket or mat to display your items on. Take home your unclaimed items or they can be donated to BRING, NextStep, MECCA or SVdP.

Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show

January 20-22, 2012 at the Lane Events Center

Master Recyclers & Waste Management staff team up to provide recycling & waste prevention tips to thousands of guests.

VOLUNTEER at <http://tinyurl.com/GoodEarth-12>

Or call Kelly at (541) 682-2059

For more information about the Good Earth Home Show go to:

www.eugenehomeshow.com/GoodEarthHomeShowOverview.html

Thank you to Master Recyclers who have completed Field Training!

Fall 2010 Class

Dani Hendrickson

Dani does a little bit of everything. She has staffed the Master Recycler booth at several events, recycled with the Roller Girls and at the Whiteaker Dinner. Currently Dani is recycling at Occupy Eugene.

Molloy Wilson

Molloy completed field training while volunteering for BRING in several capacities: advice and assistance regarding accounting system; staffed education booth during Earth Day; helped construct the BRING booth at Country Fair and assisted with reusable diaper service.

Nan Bingman-Shulz

Nan volunteered for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk while she was attending Master Recycler training. She liked it so much that she helped coordinate the recycling for the event this year.

Ray Bangs

Station 7, which is a homeless shelter for youth run by Looking Glass asked for help to create a compost system and Ray answered the call! Ray joined the board of MECCA recently and encourages anyone, especially those with board experience to apply as well.

Renee Benton

Renee works for a pharmacy chain. She was very determined to institute recycling of bulk pill bottles. This took several conversations and letters to individuals further and further up the corporate ladder, but she prevailed! Now she is hoping that other stores in the chain will follow the example set by the store where she works.

Spring 2011 Class

Dave Kayfes

Dave has been assisting organizations all over Lane County to start composting or compost more effectively. One place in particular is Sponsors Inc. Sponsors provides re-entry services and transitional housing to people who are released from Oregon prisons. Dave has some very positive interactions with the residents and has encouraged some of them to seek employment or training in the 'green' sector.

Jeff Noakes

Jeff worked all summer processing business donations for NextStep. Prior to his work for NextStep, Jeff assisted with screening homes for the BRING tour and helped out at the Annual Earth Day Event.

Thank you and congratulations!

Certificates will be presented to Dani, Molloy, Nan, Ray, Renee, Dave and Jeff at the Quarterly Master Recycler Potluck on Monday December 5.

2011 Lane County Trashbuster Awards

Individual

Courtney Tiernan

Thurston Elementary 1st Grader

Drink pouch collection brigade diverts 10,000 units and earns \$200 annually for school.

Private Business

Long Tom Custom Sawmill

www.longtomcustomsawmill.com

Resaws salvaged timber and downed trees

Product Manufacturer

Lunchsense

www.lunchsense.com

Durable, reusable, easy-to-clean lunch boxes

Construction/Demolition

Unitarian Universalist Church

www.uueugene.org

80% of building materials removed are being reused or recycled during its renovation

Nonprofit

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

www.mountpisgaharboretum.org

Reduced discards from 6 cubic yards to 1 cubic yard using compostable dishware

Government Agency

City of Eugene Public Works

www.eugene-or.gov

Public Works Day event achieved zero waste

School

Madison Middle School

www.schools.4j.lane.edu/madison

Implemented zero waste measures and recycling education during Family Fun Nights

Restaurant/Food Service

Market of Choice

www.marketofchoice.com/eco-efforts/our-eco-efforts

Diverted 200 tons of food waste in 2010. 80% of waste is now composted or recycled.

Event

Emerald City Roller Girls

www.emeraldcityrollergirls.net

Volunteers collect compostable materials during each bout. Ring announcer promotes the Master Recycler Program

Congratulations & Thank You!

Additional Resources

For Volunteers

There is still time to volunteer for the Whiteaker Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner Recycling Crew. Master Recyclers are needed from 11am-3pm and 3-7pm.

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/WCDinner2011RecycleCrew> to view the schedule and sign up for a shift.

If you would like to volunteer for other aspects of the dinner call 541.485.8179 or go to: www.wcdinner.org

United Way of Lane County maintains a database of volunteer requests. Go to: www.211lane.org

Have food to donate?

Eugene Mission 541.344.3251
Food for Lane County 541.343.2822

Need Extra Dishes for your Party?

Go to: www.lanecounty.org/EventRecyclingbinsanddurables



Make the Thankful Tree



<http://www.simplyvintagegirl.com/blog/index.php/2010/11/27/the-thankful-tree/>

Volunteer as a Family, Team or Work Group

Master Recyclers know how good it feels to volunteer. Share the joy!

Non-volunteers report they are more likely to serve if a trusted friend asks them to. Invite your friends and relatives to volunteer with you!

Include children. People who volunteer as youth are twice as likely to volunteer as adults than those who don't experience the 'glow' as kids.

Time, enthusiasm and skills are valuable gifts. And they're waste-free! Volunteers provide much needed services but receive even more!

Make Good Use of Leftover Holiday Food

Food waste now represents the single largest component of MSW reaching landfills and incinerators, 33 million pounds each year! [EPA](#)

Send extra food home with guests. Have a supply of reused containers on hand or ask guests to bring their own.

Many holiday foods freeze well. Make sure leftovers are sealed up tight so you can enjoy them months later.

Grow more. Purchase and cook less. Compost the rest. Repeat!

Take Time to Make Memories

Winter holiday mornings meant one thing in my house—endless stacks of buttered toast and bottomless cups of cocoa. Mmm.. melted butter in cocoa! A co-worker remembers nature hikes with her siblings and dad. I later discovered that toast and cocoa were served because they were easy and mothers and grandmothers did not want to make a full breakfast for the extended family in addition to all the holiday food. My co-worker learned as she got older that the family hikes were also a strategic way to get kids out from under foot while food was being prepared. Regardless of the initial reason, these two holiday traditions are remembered fondly and have carried over into the next generation.

Some ideas for your family to try: crafting homemade gifts; viewing holiday lights, caroling, preparing* a family recipe together and doing it again next year!

**Holiday food preparation mishaps are remembered fondly, if at all, so don't worry messing up the kitchen or getting everything just right.*

Artful ReUse Ideas for the Holidays

The holidays were made for crafting! As a child I remember using stamps made from potatoes (cut a potato in half and carve a shape on the flat side), paint and paper grocery sacks to make gift wrap as a child. As an adult I have decorated paper sacks to use as gift bags in this way. It would never have occurred to anyone in my family to purchase materials specifically to make crafts. Now we have a multi-billion dollar 'craft' industry. Scrap crafts are far more fun and inventive and they don't require any shopping! We have some beautiful holiday wreaths in the office made using old holiday cards and the pages of a broken book. Our website has instructions for some fun holiday craft patterns, such as gift boxes and snowflakes, using recycled materials. Go to: www.lanecounty.org/lessisbest

Love to Shop? Choose Re-Used

Gently used items make wonderful zero-waste gifts. Buying things that have been used before means that your purchase doesn't require additional natural resources or energy use. You can find a variety of goods at stores that specialize in reuse that are more durable and cost less than similar new items. If you think it's time to help shift the cultural norm that insists new is always better, start now to gently transition your circle of influence. If you are hesitant to give used gifts, for fear of being considered "cheap," just be sure to select gifts with care—you can afford to be choosy at a thrift store. Personalize your gift with an appliqué or other detail. You might even include a message explaining why you value the practice of reuse so highly.

Give the Gift of an Enjoyable Experience

Give a gift that both children and adults will remember long after the snow has melted—the gift of an event, trip or other activity. Tickets to a college or professional ball game, a play, a concert or a movie are completely waste free! The overwhelming majority of folks who receive dining gift certificates report they would welcome that type of gift again. Travel is a great gift. Trips can be half a day, all day or longer. Children will always remember time spent with favorite relatives but rarely remember gifts* they received. Some classes to consider: art classes, cooking classes, a furniture refinishing class or music lessons.

**Exceptions are heirloom gifts passed down through the generations or handmade gifts especially designed with the recipient in mind.*

Give the Gift of a Helpful Service

Are you handy? Can you sew? Write a good résumé? For those of us who aren't or can't, the gift of mending clothes, repairing a leaky faucet, or updating a résumé would be MOST welcomed and appreciated! Some folks would truly love the gift of having their leaves raked (me), lawn mowed, dog walked (me me me), childcare or respite elder care.

Children love a day-off from chores or extended bedtime coupons, or maybe a one-time, super duper room-cleaning by a grown-up. I did this for my son once a year at his birthday. This was a nice gift for me also because I got the day off from prompting him to clean his room! Several free online templates exist for making your own gift coupons or you can free-style it using any number of reused materials. Very fun!

Some examples of services you can purchase and give include: Internet service, vegetarian meals delivered, diaper service, online magazine, newspaper or movie subscription or a service to stop unwanted mail.

Put Unused Electronics Back to Work

Have you looked in *that* drawer or closet lately? Chances are you have many unused personal electronics still sitting around since the latest 'upgrade.' Those items still have life in them but the longer they sit, the more likely they will have to be recycled rather than refurbished. Don't delay. Donate unwanted electronics right away. Better yet, give the gift of electronics removal to friends or relatives. Help folks donate* TVs, CPUs, Laptops and Game Consoles right after the holidays. Put these valuable items back into action serving our local community.

**With full knowledge and permission of the donor, of course.*

Additional Resources

So many reuse stores—must sleep!

Antiques: DT Coburg & Springfield
Art Supplies: MECCA
Building Supplies: BRING; ReStore
ElecTech: NextStep
Fashionista: Buffalo Exchange
Variety: Goodwill; St Vincent de Paul
Just Added: Little Shop of Hoarders

This is just a partial list. Check the phone book or go online to find many, many more.

Local 'Gift of an Experience' Ideas

Emerald City Roller Girls family fun
Eugene Parks and Rec ballet, yoga ++
MECCA art classes and crafty parties
Science Factory 'Edutainment'
Willamalane the home of 'Splash'
Willamette Pass ski & snowboarding

This is just a partial list to get you started.

Coupon Book Templates

[www.buynothingchristmas.org/
images/resources/pdf/Coupons.jpg](http://www.buynothingchristmas.org/images/resources/pdf/Coupons.jpg)

[www.kodak.com/ek/US/en/
Home_Main/Tips_Projects_Exchange/
Create/Holidays/
Gift_Coupon_Book.htm](http://www.kodak.com/ek/US/en/Home_Main/Tips_Projects_Exchange/Create/Holidays/Gift_Coupon_Book.htm)

Make Recycled Paper Flowers No adhesive needed!



[http://
howaboutorange.blogspot.com/2010/10/
how-to-make-recycled-paper-flowers.html](http://howaboutorange.blogspot.com/2010/10/how-to-make-recycled-paper-flowers.html)

Donate Unwanted Electronics
www.nextsteprecycling.org/recycle





Lane County Public Works
Waste Management Division
3100 E 17th Ave. Eugene, OR 97403

Master Recycler Volunteers:

You can help ensure the continued success and generous support of this program. Please report your hours!

Recycling Coordinators:

If you requested and received Master Recycler Volunteers for your event please fax your sign-in sheets to Kelly at 541-682-2353. We wish to acknowledge the efforts of Master Recyclers at our quarterly potluck.

Need a little freshening up?

Lane County Master Recyclers are life-long-learners. Anyone who has completed the training may sit in on a class session or attend a field trip with a future class. You are welcome to re-take the entire training if you like. You will not incur additional payback "debt" because we know you are doing it anyway, otherwise, why would you want to re-take the course, right? Contact **Kelly Bell** for details.

Master Recyclers bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste in homes and workplaces.

Printed on Recycled Paper made with 100% post-consumer waste. Let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter without the paper.

Catering Students Learn About Zero Waste

Annie Lukasik is a substitute teacher, tutor, Master Recycler and now zero-waste mentor. In 2009 and 2010 Annie helped produce the dinners held for home owners and volunteers associated with the BRING Tour of Homes. In June 2011 Annie invited incoming seniors of the North Eugene High School Culinary Arts program to take on the BRING Tour of Homes dinners as a senior project and 3 young women accepted the challenge.

These students were tasked with creating exciting menus that offered vegan, vegetarian, omnivore and gluten free options while generating virtually zero waste. The seniors met with Annie periodically during the summer to receive waste prevention education, suggestions and resources.



Emi Partridge: I never considered how much waste that we have after caterings until I had to start saving it for this project. The results were astounding.

Michelle Fuller: We took what almost any other catering business would have just thrown away and recycled it, composted it or reused it.

Reusable dishware, compostable beer and wine glasses and menu planning that took discards into account insured that very little waste was created. The total estimated value of food for these events was in the \$2000 range. Total discards for the cocktail party (the chocolate covered strawberries were heavenly) and 2 dinners totaled 204 pounds. Of that, less than 10 pounds were disposed as trash, a 95% diversion rate! From a business resource conservation perspective this was a huge success. **Kara Stone:** From this project we learned that it is possible to live a zero-waste lifestyle.

Northside Catering is a student-operated business under the supervision of Miho Hosaka. For more information call 541.790.4565 or email hosaka@4j.lane.edu