

MASTER RECYCLER NEWS

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Earth Day Celebration 2005 April 23, EWEB Plaza

This year, Earth Day will be celebrated at the **EWEB River's Edge Plaza** from 10 am to 5 pm. There will be an outdoor stage with a Native American opening ceremony, live musical entertainment, educational booths and more. A highlight of the day's events will be the Procession of All Species at 2 p.m., which will be a celebration of the natural world to honor the myriad of life forms on Earth. This procession is open to everyone who wants to put on a costume or mask to represent their favorite animal, vegetable, mineral or ecosystem as they parade through the streets and parks of downtown Eugene. Samba Ja leads the fun with Brazilian music and percussion rhythms. In addition, an "Earth Action Arena" will be created to educate and demonstrate ways to protect our planet. Booths will be set up and staffed by various non-profit, environmental and community groups to showcase local efforts to support sustainability.



site known as Earth Day 2005! Lots of volunteers will be needed to set up tables, chairs, canopies and more.

- Volunteer Opportunities**
1. **Assist with poster**ing before the event. You will be given a route to put up posters (with the permission of shop owners and businesses) in specific areas of town.
 2. **Pre-event set up:** On Friday, April 22nd tents will be raised and the plaza will be transformed into a celebration
 3. **Procession of All Species assistants:** Day of the event, April 23, help make masks, costumes and banners for the Procession. Preparation (set up) and helping the public with masks, art and costuming will begin at 11 and will conclude around 3.
 4. **Staffing of the Information Booth:** Take a two hour shift to staff the table, direct vendors and the public and give out program information, answer questions.
- If you are interested in participating in any one or more of these activities please call **Lorraine Boose at 682-2059** or email: lorraine.boose@co.lane.or.us .

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Saturday Market is open and needs recycling volunteers from noon to four every Saturday. Contact Jarrett Arnold at (541) 686-2294
- Waste Audit at LCC, Tuesday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers needed. Call Mike Sims at 463-5569
- Earth Day, April 23 at EWEB River Edge Plaza, 11 to 5 p.m., volunteers needed, call Lorraine at 682-2059

April 2005 Volunteer Options

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Springfield Spring Clean-up needs volunteers to pass out flyers and educated the public about recycling and HHW. Saturday, May 14, 8 am to 4 pm. Call Shawn Krueger at 726-3626
- University of Oregon Street Fair runs May 4, 5 and 6 and needs volunteers to help sort recyclables at waste stations. Please call Matt at 346-2354
- Willamette Valley Folk Festival, May 20, 21 and 22, needs volunteers to help sort recyclables and assist the public. Located on the U of O campus, please call Matt at 346-2354
- Saturday Market needs recycling volunteers each Saturday, noon to 4 pm. Call Jarrett Arnold: 686-2294

May 2005 Volunteer Options

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |



The Oregon Bottle Bill is Over 30 and Needs Minor Surgery

Part One

by Marilyn Sass, Master Recycler



In 1971, Oregon passed into law the bottle bill that requires all beer and carbonated soft drink containers be returnable and have a minimum refund value. It's been effective in reducing roadside litter, and that was its original intent. Later it became useful in recycling efforts. But like anything we do, over time we become complacent and some of us revert to old habits. A nickel deposit isn't the incentive in today's dollars as it was in the 1970s. Add that to the fact there are many new containers in use including fast food, individual servings of fruit juices and other beverages. Clearly the old bill needs some minor surgery to be effective in today's world. So the first correction would be to increase the deposit amount, and the second would be to include additional containers.

Unredeemed deposits in Oregon have been going up. "The DEQ estimates that 220 to 270 million deposit beverage containers with deposits worth \$11-13.5 million, are discarded in Oregon's landfills each year. This is 17% of the containers sold with deposits in Oregon." No one knows exactly how many containers have gone into curbside recycling. This has contributed to the lack of re-

demption even though the bottles and cans are recycled. Also, anyone who walks regularly in Eugene will tell you roadside litter of redeemable bottles and cans is back.

Stores are required to redeem empty containers of beer and soft drinks and pay the refund value if they have sold the item within the past six months and if the containers are marked with the Oregon five-cent refund value. The containers have to be the same size, kind, and brand as the store sells or sold. Sometimes we are charged the deposit but the container is not marked with the Oregon five-cent refund value. Can we prove where we bought it? Should we have to? There has to be an easier way for consumers to redeem empty containers. Massachusetts and Michigan claim at least some percentage of the unredeemed deposits from distributors. Maine used to but discontinued it in 1995. If the state, not the distributor, kept the deposits, the retailers could accept any redeemable bottle or can, regardless of who sold it in the first place, and the unredeemed deposits could help fund recycling programs as California does.

WEYERHAEUSER AND PLASTICS

According to Lorena Young, Weyerhaeuser Recycling Sourcing Representative, the company is accepting more plastics than ever before. Have you been wondering what to do with broken or unusable CD's, video and audio cassettes and jewel cases?

Effective immediately Weyerhaeuser can take these materials in their Glenwood/EcoSort location. They need to be separated into the following categories:

- video and audio cassettes in cases
- Videos and audio cassettes not in cases

- CD's and DVD's in cases
- CD's and DVD's not in cases,
- Video cases (empty)
- Jewel cases (empty)

These items should be separated into individual gaylords which are housed in their parking area. Weyerhaeuser is developing markets for these materials and will keep us posted on their progress. Our community now has a real opportunity to get more plastics out of waste stream.

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Master Recycler Program
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The Master Recycler Program Mission Statement: To bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste in homes and workplaces.

PLASTIC BAGS NOW ACCEPTED AT EIGHT SITES IN LANE COUNTY

Self-haulers can now take their plastic bags to any of the following Lane County Transfer Station sites:

- Glenwood Central Receiving Station
- Cottage Grove
- Creswell-
- Florence
- Marcola
- Rattlesnake
- Veneta
- Oakridge
- Nursery (plant related) bags
- Bubble wrap
- Six pack soda rings
- Bread bags
- No exceptions!

NOT ACCEPTED: Zip lock bags and Garbage bags

These sites will accept ONLY the following materials for recycling and they must be CLEAN and DRY:

- Retail and grocery bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Shrink wrap and stretch wrap (not Saran wrap)

NOTE: Do not put these materials in commingled bins at home. They will not be accepted by your hauler.