

MASTER RECYCLER NEWS

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Special points of interest:

- New Master Recycler Class begins March 24
- Check Master Recycler program volunteer options on the United Way Volunteer Solutions web page.
- Poetry inspired by the Master Recycler program



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2004 ON APRIL 17



For the past five years, Eugene has Celebrated Earth Day with music, art, demonstrations and educational booths in the downtown blocks. It is a lively, interactive, family-oriented day of fun, and this year the event will be held on Saturday, April 17th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Earth Day is sponsored by many Eugene and Springfield businesses and organizations, and is a collaboration of many community members in support of environmental health and well-being.

The Earth Day Celebration will honor the Earth with performances and activities that all ages can enjoy and participate in. An outdoor stage will showcase local performers and this year, the Sugar Beets will shake the stage with their special brand of music. Other local musicians will also perform, as well as jugglers, dance groups, drumming circles and street performers. The celebration features an Earth Action Arena showcasing area environmental organizations, local businesses and community programs which provide a venue for the exchange of information.

This year, join MECCA for a reused art exhibit and art activities for all ages. Hybrid gas/electric and bio-diesel cars and trucks will be featured, as well as alternative transportation options. The Master Recycler Program will have a booth in the Earth Action Arena, and will provide program information, offer envelope making and other reuse ideas for the public to enjoy. Come and show your support!

One of the highlights will be the "Procession of All Species" beginning at 2 in the afternoon. The Procession is an artistic celebration of the natural world, created by the community, using art, music and dance to celebrate the myriad forms of life on earth. Adults and children will dress as their favorite species and march harmoniously through the downtown area. Bring your kids and get your face painted, create a costume and revel in the spirit of community to keep our environment clean and safe for all species. Samba Ja will lead the procession, so a good time is guaranteed! Volunteer opportunities are available if you are interested in supporting this Eugene tradition. Contact Lorraine at 682-2059 or email: lorraine.boose@co.lane.or.us for more information.

NEW CLASS TO BEGIN ON MARCH 24

The spring Master Recycler Training will begin on March 24th and continues each Wednesday evening through May 12, from 6 to 8:45 p.m., with two field trips to round out the classroom experience. This class will join the other 125 trained volunteers in community education and waste reduction efforts in Lane County. Join me in welcoming them!

If you feel strongly about the training, the program, opportunities you've received or connections you've made as a result of this program, please express yourself at United Way's Volunteer Solutions web site: www.unitedwaylane.org. Find the Master Recycler listing and click on "add reflections" and let others know the benefits of volunteerism, and particularly what you've gained as a Master Recycler.

EXPRESS YOURSELF! RESALE FASHION SAVES THE CONSCIOUS CONSUMER

It is difficult to love clothes. The desire to express oneself through adornment is as ancient as society, yet current consumer habits expose a detrimental side to fashion. The purchase of new clothes occurs much more out of *desire* than necessity in our culture. Consumers spend an average of \$2400 per household per year on clothing. Apparel is a leading source of environmental damage due to energy intensive production, including the creation of synthetic fibers from petroleum and the toxic substances involved in dyeing and bleaching cloth. Recent headlines have also pointed out the social justice issues involved in the manufacture of many big name brand clothing lines. But it is possible to express our savvy selves through our wardrobes in a way that is more sustainable. The acquisition of gently used clothing through exchange, consignment or purchase allows for minimal environmental impact and maximum fun. Occasionally there will be a need that requires purchasing new, but by thinking through the alternatives first, we can greatly diminish the negative impact apparel has on our pocketbooks and our environment. Here are some questions to ask you inner fashion maven *before* making a new purchase:

- Is this something I already have? Could an existing item be altered or tailored to meet my needs?
- Could I borrow it from a friend? Is it something I could rent?
- Could I purchase it second hand? Could I trade or consign something in exchange?
- If I must make a new purchase, can I find a fair-trade version that is manufactured or sold locally? Am I willing to pay more for one piece of quality clothing over quantities of less expensive clothes whose impact is dubious?

Our area has a wide variety of reused clothing resources. Visit different sources, find the place that best reflects your personal style preferences. Ask about consignment & trade policies and experiment! Here's a partial list of resale clothing stores in Lane County:

Anything but Plain Jane Clothes 3045 W. 11th, Eugene, 684-0585

Babes and Kids Resale 925 River Rd., Eugene, 688-3051

Baby's World Unlimited 4395 Main St., Springfield, 741-1908

Bambini 205 West 5th St., Eugene, 485-1222

Bon Ton Exchange 1389 Pearl, Eugene, 343-8821

Buffalo Exchange 131 E. 5th, Eugene, 687-2805

C's Hidden Closet 2110 Main St. Springfield, 741-7425

The Clothes Horse 720 E. 13th, Eugene, 345-5099

Delux 1331 Willamette, Eugene, 686-0205

High Class Seconds 2108 Main St., Springfield, 726-9170

Junior League of Eugene 2839 Willamette, Eugene, 343-3861

Kidstuff 62 West 13th, Eugene, 484-4488

Label Lovers Resale 360 W. 6th, Junction City, 998-3939

Lil' Junction Resale and Retail 189 W. 6th, Junction City, 998-7619

My Little Children 2747 River Rd, Eugene, 461-0204

Rags to Riches 360 E. 11th Ave, Eugene, 344-7039

Rosebud Consignment Shop 814 Main, Cottage Grove, 942-7174

St. Vincent de Paul (call for locations)

Salvation Army (call for locations)



By Lara Flores, Master Recycler

EASY CONSERVATION FOR BUSY FAMILIES: THE CLOTHESLINE BY LARA FLORES, MASTER RECYCLER



They come in many shapes and sizes and vary in price. A quality clothesline and wooden clothes pins can be purchased for about \$20. And the benefits are substantial. Clothes smell fresher and the sun is the best natural bleach alternative you will ever use. Proper hanging of clothes can eliminate ironing and the savings

on your next utility bill will be substantial. With a clothesline, you use clean, available renewable solar energy to perform a task that for most involves one of the biggest energy hogging appliances in your home~the clothes dryer! All tangible benefits aside, there is something pleasing about seeing those clean clothes swaying in the breeze.

Clotheslines payback the small investment of money and energy they require and are one way busy families can integrate sustainable practices into their lives. These actions not only assist in increasing ecological awareness and responsibility, they are cheap or free to use and save families time and money.

THE MANY FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

BY PAT SWEENEY, MASTER RECYCLER

On a recent tour of St. Vincent DePaul, I was impressed by the extent of its recycling operations. Included in its mission of providing social services to the needy is a focus on diverting raw materials from the waste stream. In fact, in 2002 it diverted 6,204 tons of waste from Lane County landfills.

Their products include fountains fashioned from bowling balls, refurbished mattresses, and dressers, tables and plant stands manufactured from scraps and recycled wood. From miscellaneous mattress materials they make dog and cat beds.

At the Aurora Glass Foundry, clear plate glass from Bring deconstruction projects is cooked in a 1300 to 1450 degree oven. I watched a worker dip a ladleful of the liquid fire, pour it onto a metal slab to form a sun catcher and stamped it with a dragonfly. Another ladleful was shaped into a round plate that would later be heated into a sunken bowl. Other items for sale in the store included colorful glass tiles, earrings, hearts, door pulls, customized awards and coasters.

In the appliance warehouse, rebuilt and repainted refrigerators, washers and stoves waited in rows for their new owners. Refrigerants from the freezers and air conditioners are re-used. Recycled propane from tanks fuels the forklifts in the warehouses.

SVDP sorts and sells books donated or collected from dumps in the U.S. and the U.K. and processes thousands of pounds of clothes per week. Items that it cannot sell are sent to missions or third world countries. Some old or soiled clothing is made into industrial rags.

While 90 year old furniture is antique in this country, it is not old enough in Europe, where 200 year old pieces are available. So Executive Director Terry MacDonald imports furniture from European dumps to sell here.

Recycling is only a part of what St. Vincents does. Money from sales, along with grants and government funds, supports social services, shelters for singles and families, low income housing and, in coordination with Food for Lane County, food donations. It also employs 250 people, some of whom are

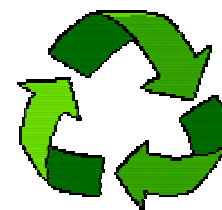
homeless when they first discover this resource.

I asked Rebecca Larson, from St. Vincent's Community Resources, how the master recyclers can best support this business. She suggested shop at the stores, and browse the large selection of books, categorized by subject. Donate a car, running or overgrown with chickens and weeds. You can donate almost anything. St. Vincent's goal is to accept anything at the collection sites, although TVs have proven too expensive to process. And they are continuously seeking new ideas for recycling the waste from unusable donations.

A recent venture is collecting bottles and cans to return for the deposit. This money goes into a fund to buy medications for people who can't afford it. They will accept small quantities of returns at the collection sites. Or, return your the bottles to the grocery store and donate the money or spend it to buy something beautiful, shiny and smooth from the glass foundry. If you have a large collection of bottles to donate, call Rebecca at 687-5820, X 121.

In the Eugene community Oscars recycling category, St. Vincent's gets my vote.

The Aurora Glass Foundry is located at 2345 W. Broadway. Retail stores and collection sites are located at 201 Division Ave., 705 S. Seneca Rd., 1880 W. 11th Ave., 555 High St., 2699 Roosevelt and in Springfield and Florence.



For donation pickup, call 345-0595. For other information, see the web site at svdplanecounty.org.

CITY OF EUGENE SPONSORS WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

The City of Eugene Solid Waste and Recycling Program is sponsoring several worm bin composting workshops. Learn how to let worms eat your garbage while you create your own organic fertilizer. Learn how to make a worm bin, and how to maintain a worm bin most effectively. Learn about worm bin management, food requirements, harvesting and using worm castings, and the latest in plant nutrition-worm casting tea!

Workshop participants will receive: One worm bin made in class *Worms to start their worm bin *Two hours of instruction * Hand-outs and *Follow-up support

- Dates: Saturday, May 1st and May 15th
Saturday, October 2nd and October 16th
- Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon
- Where: Lane County OSU Extension Service Auditorium
950 West 13th Avenue, Eugene.
- Cost: \$20.00 if prepaid and pre-registered;
\$25.00 the day of event, if space is available

Workshops are led by certified OSU Lane County Extension Service Compost Specialists. Call 747-1419 to pre-register!

Lane County Waste Management

Master Recycler Program
3100 E. 17th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97403

Phone: 541-682-2059
Fax: 541-682-5253
Email: lorraine.boose@co.lane.or.us



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.

Poetry by Lara Flores:

There is a beauty in less

removing excess
one may better see
the blossoming curve
of the moon

by learning to live
with what we have
space is cleared
for generosity to root

give away
what you do not use
make due
with what you already
posses
when the earth is warm
set your bare skin to the
surface;
there is no need for
shoes

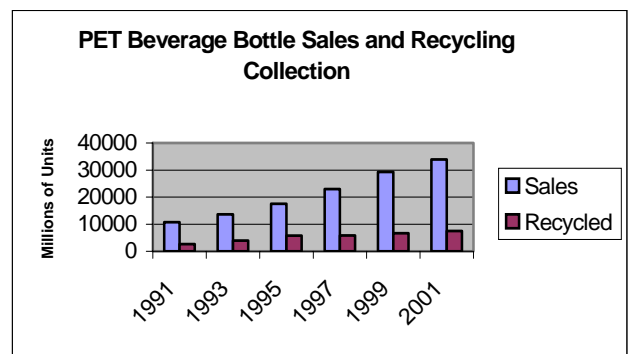
where there is no waste
exists enough

**BOTTLED WATER FACTS: THE BOILED DOWN
VERSION, BY MASTER RECYCLER BOB VOGEL**

Americans consume more than 1.5 million barrels of oil to support the manufacture of water bottles. This same 1.5 million barrels of oil will generate electricity for 250,000 homes for a year or supply fuel for 100,000 cars for a year.

California Department of Conservation estimates more than one billion water bottles end up in the state's trash each year. This volume of bottles would make 74 million square feet of carpet or 16 million sweaters.

Bottled water is the fastest growing segment of the beverage industry, expected to pass both coffee and milk to be-



come the second most consumed beverage by 2004!

Only 5% of plastic waste in America is recycled. Recycled plastic must be fortified with virgin plastic to retain its strength and flexibility.

Nine out of ten water bottles end up in landfill.

Water Bottles are made of the oil derived polyethylene terephthalate (PET). PET generates more than 100 times the toxic emissions (nickel, ethylbenzene, ethylene oxide and benzene) compared to making the equivalent of glass.