



Re-Co-Ver Review

Master Composter/Recycler Newsletter

From the MCR Desk

March 2009



Snow falls from a grey sky outside my window as I write this. A bald eagle huddles on a branch above the fish pond and ducks in bright breeding plumage chase each other in a spring courtship frenzy. A crazy confluence of daffodils and snow flurries signals the tail end of our Pacific Northwest winter.

The class of 2009 Master Composter/Recycler volunteers

are in the midst of a compost making contest. The bins at the Columbia Springs composting demonstration site are filled with their compost cooking experiments. Though it is cold outside, a thermometer inserted into several of the piles reads 120 degrees or so. It's so fun to experience the amazing alchemy of moisture, carbon and nitrogen, mixed with the enthusiasm of the new volunteers participating in the compost hotpile contest! The compost making contest began three weeks ago - with *greens* that included moss raked from our lawn and roof; coffee grounds; vegetable scraps from a local grocer; pond algae; and chicken, llama and horse poop. The *browns* included dried leaves and wood chips scavenged from our landscape. As microbes work their magic, the piles transform - shrinking in volume and breaking down to less recognizable organic matter which will soon enrich the soil. Composting, like education, is both an art and a science. We understand that there are principles that control the overall process, but every batch has its own unique synergistic properties. Sort of like our unique group of volunteers. Here's to some wonderful and unique soil and community enrichments!

My best,

Jo Anne Dolan

Sustainability Programs Director

Master Composter/Recycler Coordinator

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Photos:

(above left) Brigg Franklin and Donna Egan, MCR class of 2009, with a steaming compost pile.

(below) 120 degree compost.



Recycling and Sustainability News

SCRAP Puppet Factory with The Mudeye Puppet Company Offers Creative Re-Use Puppet Workshop!

Saturday, March 28th 1-2:30pm

Free Registration for 2 MCR Veterans! Apply now!

Dragons, monsters, superheroes and more! One part plastic, one part rubber and lots of imagination bring talking, walking and flying puppets to life. Join Portland's masters of reuse puppetry, The Mudeye Puppet Company, in creating creatures of all shapes and sizes. Materials can be brought or acquired at SCRAP during the workshop.

All Ages. Fee: \$20

The Master Composter Recycler Program will provide a scholarship to two volunteers who would like to take the workshop and create a recycled puppet for us to take to community outreach events.

Scholarships will be awarded first come first serve, so call Jo Anne soon to apply!

Check out the Puppet Factory website and puppet photos here:

<http://www.mudeyepuppets.org/photos.html>



Opt out of Monster Paper Munching Phonebooks

Every few months about six pounds of phone books show up on my doorstep. Yellow pages, white pages, Dex - they just seem to keep coming. I swap out my old books and just about need a forklift to get them to the curb for recycling. With the ease of locating phone numbers, especially business information on-line these days, many of us might find it helpful to opt out of having phone books delivered. The phone book industry has created an official national website where consumers can easily find out how to opt out from different phone books. Follow this live link to opt out of phonebooks:

<http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com>



You'll have to enter your zip code and then you will be directed to how to opt out with your phone book provider. This is the first time the industry - through its two major trade groups, the Yellow Pages Association and the Association of Directory Publishers - has made this information easily available. They are also working on eventually turning this website into more of a "clearinghouse" where the consumer can opt out right on the site, instead of just getting the info and then having to contact the company to opt out.

Volunteer Meeting



March Volunteer Meeting, Thursday, March. 19th 6:00- 8:30 p.m.

Clark County Elections Office, Room 226, 1408 Franklin St., Vancouver, WA

Come to our March volunteer meeting and learn about green cleaning and what to do with household waste that may be toxic. Our guest speakers will be Jim Mansfield, Clark County Solid Waste Specialist and Kris Alexander, Master Composter/Recycler (MCR) and Naturally Beautiful Backyards (NBB) volunteer extraordinaire. Kris will share some recipes for non-toxic cleaning products and each person attending will go home with some cleaning product. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the meeting so that we can make sure to have enough materials for everyone. As always, we encourage everyone to bring a reusable mug for coffee or tea and snacks to share.

The March meeting will combine both MCR and NBB volunteers as well as the 2009 volunteer trainees for both programs. Our wonderful MCR volunteers are always welcome at the 2009 training sessions, you may enjoy the refresher. Attached is a training schedule for you to review to see what sessions you might want to get in on. Veteran's help is always appreciated with setting up and breaking down the classroom for training sessions.

Volunteer News

A special shout out of thank you, merci, arigato, gracias, danke, grazie to the volunteers who have been so key to the volunteer training effort over the last few weeks: Kris Alexander, Penny Cox, Bill Drummond, Shirley Hoffman, Anne Holbert, Linda Rectanus, Carlos Rodriquez, Jean Roniger, and Laura Sauermilch.

Thank you so very much!!!



Photos: (top) Carlos Rodriquez, Laura Sauermilch and Anne Holbert at MCR Training. (left) new volunteers Jerry MacQuarrie and Beckley Ablin make a hotpile.

The Master Composter/Recycler Program is a program of Columbia Springs. It is offered in partnership with Clark County Solid Waste Program and is a cooperative effort of, Battle Ground, Camas, Clark County, Columbia Springs, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, and Yacolt.



Upcoming Volunteer Events and Opportunities

The spring outreach season is fast approaching and we have many fun events on the horizon. Please help us spread composting and recycling information throughout the community by volunteering at one of these events. Master Composter/Recyclers will be at several Earth Day events in the community and at the Home and Garden Idea Fair at Clark County Fairgrounds in April. Here is a list of some upcoming MCR outreach opportunities. Please call or send me an email if you want to sign up to help! Opportunities are listed in a chart format with timeslots available on the following pages.

Master Composter/Recycler Program Spring Community Outreach Event Schedule:

March 25 (Thurs): Student Environmental Leadership Forum
April 11 (Sat) Vancouver Farmers Market
April 18 (Sat) Earth Day Celebration at Marshall Center
April 18 (Sat) Family Wormshop
April 18 (Sat) Clark County Public Utilities Earth Day Event
April 24-26 (Fri, Sat, Sun.) Home and Garden Idea Fair
May 9 (Sat) Vancouver Farmers Market
May 9 (Sat) Mother's Day Plant and Garden Fair, Camas
May 16 (Sat) Backyard Composting Workshop
June 4 (Thurs) Backyard Composting Workshop
June 11 (Thurs) Family Wormshop
June 13 (Sat) Vancouver Farmers Market
June 27-28 (Sat-Sun.) Recycled Art Festival, Esther Short Park



Contact me anytime with comments, questions, suggestions, brainstorm, anything at all...mer@columbiasprings.org (360) 882-4567

Or stop on by the Heron House at Columbia Springs, 12602 SE Evergreen HWY, Vancouver, WA 98683