



Re-Co-Ver Review

Master Composter/Recycler Newsletter

From the MCR Desk - Welcome Class of 2010!

May 2010

"As long as the Earth can make a spring every year, I can. As long as the Earth can flower and produce nurturing fruit, I can, because I'm the Earth. I won't give up until the Earth gives up."

-Alice Walker

In spring, the wonder and beauty of the earth coming to life is impossible to ignore. Flowers bloom a rich palette of colors and forms. Pollinators ramble and buzz. Birds trill their courtship from the greenery. Animals give birth, their bodies grown from the nutrients of the earth.



The earth as a mother, and a living entity, is a theme that runs through many ancient and some contemporary spiritual beliefs throughout the world. In a northern hemisphere springtime it is easy to understand how this thought would come to be, seeing the earth emerge so vibrantly from a long winter dormancy.

In honor of springtime (such as it is this year!) and Mother's Day, I plan to thank and consider the mothers who do so much to nurture, including Mother Nature. Happy Mother's Day!

My best,

Jo Anne Dolan

Master Composter/Recycler Coordinator

Sustainability Programs Director, Columbia Springs

Photo above: Balsamroot blooms above the Columbia River at the Coyote Wall, near Bingen, WA in early May.

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LOVE YOUR MOTHER...



EARTH

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Note: Links in the MCR newsletters are live. This means that when you hold your cursor over a green-colored link and click you should be directed to the website or email referenced.

Volunteer Meeting

May Volunteer Meeting

Thursday, May 20th 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Location and activity to be announced!

Do you have an idea for a fun and enriching activity for us to share at our May meeting?

Please submit your ideas to go on a list of potential activities for this month and others. We will announce the May meeting theme and location in the upcoming week or so.



Volunteer Spotlight

Carol Hsu, class of 2009, believes wholeheartedly that taking an active role in recycling and composting is a key part of building a sustainable community. She helps build a sustainable reality by being a member of Clark County's leadership team, as well as a Master Composter Recycler volunteer. Carol has special skills beyond her warm smile and friendly demeanor. Her professional background is in engineering, project management and team leadership, and she's on the board for MESA, Math, Science and Engineering Achievement.

Carol is innovative in explaining the art and science of composting. Participants in Carol's Backyard Composting Workshops learn her **"Think SMART"** method of composting. Can you guess what compost control factors this acronym represents? **S**ize, of particle and pile. **M**oisture, like a wrung out sponge. **A**eration. **R**atio of greens and browns. **T**urn your pile.

An excellent photographer, she received an honorable mention in the Oregonian's photo contest, and is our official MCR class photographer! Carol built two raised beds in her garden last year and says "I hope to have good luck with great vegetables with my compost this year."

When not working or helping with Clark County's sustainability efforts, Carol enjoys making greeting cards, origami and playing computer games.



Upcoming Volunteer Events and Opportunities



There are many ways to contribute your skills to sustainability education and outreach. Help is needed for the following jobs:

Community Events: Northwest National Park Family day at Fort Vancouver, National Get Outdoors Day at the Water Resources Education Center, the Recycled Arts Festival, etc., need you! Veterans, it would be great to have you sign up for shifts to help mentor and share your knowledge and experience with the recent graduates. Sign up sheet is on next pages.

Classroom Visits: Would you like to learn some fun environmental education techniques? We get many requests to visit pre-schools, elementary schools and children's groups with redwormy fun. You can sign-up to shadow an experienced educator.

CASEE Composting Demonstration Site: We need help to keep our compost demo site going at CASEE? This is an important project that provides on-site composting for the NatureScaping gardens, as well as a teaching tool for the community. We need any time you can donate to help Monty keep the compost cooking!

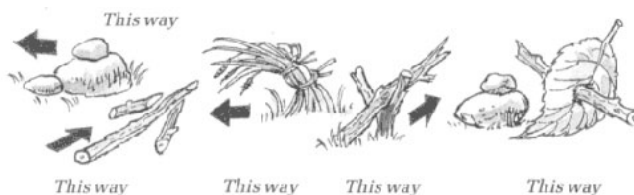
Writing: Write an article for our newsletter. Help develop our website content. Help write some interpretive panels on composting.

Outdoor and handy work: Help with composting demo site maintenance at Columbia Springs. We need assistance to keep it looking good.

Home worm work: Grow redworms for our classes. Bring us shredded paper for our wormshops.

Creative work: Design and build interpretive props and augment our MCR displays!

Block Foam Collection events: These occur monthly on first Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and need your help! Contact Elsie at 360.619.4122 or Elsie.Deatherage@ci.vancouver.wa.us to volunteer for a block foam collection event.



Are You Tracking Your Volunteer Hours? Please keep and submit a tally of your monthly volunteer hours. We must report volunteer hours on a quarterly basis. Thank you!



The Master Composter/Recycler Program is funded
by Clark County Department of Environmental Services
and administered by Columbia Springs.



Comments, questions, suggestions, brainstorm, anything at all...mcr@columbiasprings.org (360) 882-0936 x 224. Or stop on by the Heron House at Columbia Springs, 12602 SE Evergreen HWY, Vancouver, WA 98683