



Re-Co-Ver Review

Master Composter/Recycler Newsletter

From the MCR Desk

August 2010

It was great to see so many smiling faces at our summer volunteer picnic. We were so lucky that the mosquitoes did not crash our party. In the week before the picnic I checked every store I could think of for citronella candles, and each store I contacted was completely sold out. It was like trying to buy an air conditioner in a heat wave! Needless to say, I was relieved that the skeets died down and did not feast on us. Instead we feasted on the many delicious dishes that people brought to share.

It was a really nice evening with good food and company. Extra special thanks are due to a couple of folks who made things extra special. A medal of valor to Mariah Acton, Columbia Springs' Volunteer Coordinator who braved the barbecue grill and kept those hormone free NW ranch beef patties and other grillables coming. A round of applause for MCR volunteer Christophe Bourdoiseau and his musical partner for bringing the entertaining duo, *The Bluo*. Their wonderful jazzy bluesy notes lent nice ambience to our party and was enjoyed by all.

This morning, ten children attending Nature Nuts Summer Camp harvested the worm bins at our Columbia Springs' Composting Demonstration Site (photo right). The kids enjoyed finding worms and compost critters and re-bedding the worm bin. We now have lots of fresh vermicompost— if you would like some for your garden, or to share, come on by.

Speaking of worms, I also hope you will come by the County Fair and visit us in the Clark County River Ramble building. You can't miss us— we will have the giant worm family backdrop!

My best,

Jo Anne Dolan

Master Composter/Recycler Coordinator

Sustainability Programs Director, Columbia Springs

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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

There will be no official volunteer meeting in August, as we will be busy bees with staffing the Clark County Fair for 10 days.

As an alternative to an official August meeting here are a couple of ideas for fun, and social things to do:



Attend Columbia Springs' fundraising event—Hooked. Thursday, August 19th from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy an evening of live music and entertainment, delicious local food and wine, and a full carnival of fun games at Columbia Springs. Tickets are \$50 per person, or you can attend for free by volunteering to help with the event. If you would like to volunteer to help with any aspect of Hooked, please contact Mariah at volunteer@columbiasprings.org.

Proceeds from the event support environmental education programs at Columbia Springs.



Attend the Vancouver Green Drinks meeting Tuesday, August 31st at 6 p.m. at Habitat for Humanity ReStore/ Empower UP (formerly known as CREAM). 5000 E. 4th Plain Blvd.

This event will feature a **community clothing swap**. Get ready for this recycling/reducing/re-using event - clean out your closets and garages. Bring your clean clothes, (all sizes, men and women) electronics, smaller household items, and videos to the Restore that night. For an extensive list of other items these the ReStore and Empower up accept, see their websites: www.pdxrestore.org or www.upgradeyourcommunity.org/

Volunteers In Action

Congratulations to the following volunteers who completed their 2010 payback hours in July:

Brigg Franklin (2009) when he is not teaching sailing or wrassling grandkids, Brigg helps to maintain the worm bin and make compost at the Composting Demo Site at CASEE. He also staffed the Home and Garden Idea Fair, sharing his enthusiasm for worm composting.

Elizabeth Gibson (2009) can often be found volunteering with her father Tom. Together they have staffed many of our community outreach events. Elizabeth is especially skilled at setting up and staffing the welcome table at workshops.

Carol Hsu (2009) is a talented teacher and photographer. She teaches Backyard Composting Workshops and acts as the official photographer for our program.

Barb Rider's (2010) skills in engineering and home improvement come in handy— Barb fixed our wobbly wheelbarrow, built a brochure box for the Composting Demo Site at CASEE, helped chip materials to make compost at CASEE, and is taking on the huge project of helping to manage the CASEE Demo Site to make compost in partnership with the Wildlife Botanical Gardens folks.

Volunteers In Action (Continued)



Photo: (clockwise) Elizabeth Gibson, Erskine Wood and Ian Harwood at the Volunteer Picnic; The Bluo -fronted by Christophe Bourdoiseau, (on right) plays at the picnic; Lynne Lincoln helps prepare materials for workshops at the MCR office, Kellie Strutz (in white t-shirt) explores worms with children, Ian Alexander and Chris Bourdoiseau spread compost information at the Recycled Arts Festival.



Help us recognize your contributions—please track and report your volunteer hours!

Volunteer Opportunities

There are several upcoming opportunities to do good things and complete your payback hours. While new volunteers have a year to complete their 30 hours, you will get a special treat if you finish them by December, and are encouraged to take advantage of upcoming events to get some hours in.

We need everyone's help at our big event in August...

The Clark County Fair.

Dates: August 6-15

Volunteers get **free parking and free admission to the fair.** A list of shift openings is attached to the end of this newsletter.



Vancouver Farmer's Market.

Dates: August 14, September 11, October 9

Get your veggie on! We need someone to help take down our booth at 3 p.m. and return it to Columbia Springs on August 14 and October 9.

“Hooked” at Columbia Springs: Food Waste Composting Station Green Team

Date: August 19 *Hooked* is a fun fundraiser that supports Columbia Springs' efforts to connect children with nature. The event features dinner, games and wine-tasting. We plan to set up one or two recycling/food waste composting stations and need some volunteers to staff them and show people how to compost their food waste. Volunteers get free dinner and entry to *Hooked*.



Sturgeon Festival

Dates: September 18, Water Resources Education Center, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Help staff our outreach booth with interactive activities for families. We need people to set up/staff the booth in the morning from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. and for an afternoon /take down shift from 1-4 p.m.

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.



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