



Re-Co-Ver Review

Master Composter/Recycler Newsletter

From the MCR Desk

January 2012

*“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on,
with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.”
- Hal Borland*

Happy New Year! 2012 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Master Composter/Recycler Program - Master Composter/Recyclers have been making a difference since 1992! In its early days the program focused primarily on composting. Over the years our program has grown to encompass additional elements of sustainability—such as recycling, creative re-use, and resources for green building and green living. Each year we gain new knowledge and share what we’ve learned with our community.

I hope you will share this opportunity to join the 2012 cadre with your friends and community. You are also invited to help us gear up for the class of 2012. Join a work party assembling volunteer training manuals and getting ready for the spring event season at our third Thursday in January volunteer meeting. Or sign up to help us host one of our training evenings - a fun way to pay it forward while greeting our newest members!

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer advertising the upcoming training for the class of 2012 Master Composter/Recyclers. You can help by printing the flyer and posting it at your community center, church, grocery store or neighborhood coffee shop.

You can also help by taking a volunteer survey and sharing your ideas and feedback about the program. This survey will take about 5 minutes to complete. Click here or copy and paste this link into your browser to take the survey. <http://tinyurl.com/88u9wp8>

Thanks for all your great work.

My best,

Jo Anne Dolan

Master Composter/Recycler Coordinator

Sustainability Programs Director, Columbia Springs

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Photo below: Master Composter/Recycler class of 2011 graduate Matt Hodges helps students explore decomposition at the Student Watershed Festival at Lewisville Park.



Master Composter/Recyclers in Action



We closed out 2011 with *Volunteers Make it Better Together*, a volunteer appreciation gathering filled with good company and cheer. Master Composter/Recyclers came together to celebrate our accomplishments and community at Hamilton Hall at Fort Vancouver Historic Reserve. While munching light appetizers and dessert, Master Composter/Recyclers and their families/special friends enjoyed visiting and listening to the harmonious music of Levi Warren.

Volunteers from the class of 2011 who completed their payback hours were rewarded with a lovely fleece vest thanks to Columbia Sportswear (photo above). All who attended went home with a special goodie/gift bag courtesy of Clark County Environmental Services— a nice insulated shopping bag and reusable water bottle. Thanks so much to all who came, and special thanks to our youngest MCR, Elizabeth Gibson for decorating the tables. Gratitude to all you exceptional volunteers. We could not do what we do without you!

A few highlights of some of our special recognition:

Master Composter Recycler Golden Pitchfork Award: Brigg Franklin (photo right).

Golden Wingdigger Award: Mary Hinojosa (photo below left).

10 years service: Shirley Hoffman.

Professor of Rot Award – workshop/training teachers: Phaedra Baldwin, Andrea Collier, Bill Drummond, Gregg Hayward, Shirley Hoffman, Carol Hsu, Patty Page, Kris Potter, Barb Rider, Carlo Rodriguez, Lou Solly, Vicki Snow, Joan Veach.

Most shifts at County Fair: Werner Baumgarten. Special mention: Bill Drummond, Jim Potter and Terry Jones.

Busy Bee award - Most events staffed: Kim Harless and Tom Racioppo

Serious Microbial Action Award (>50 hours of volunteer service in 2011): Phaedra Baldwin, Werner Baumgarten, Brigg Franklin, Kim Harless, Kitty Hibbs, Sharyl MacKay, Kris Potter, Barb Rider (photo below).



Volunteer Meeting - Thursday, January 19, 6:30 - 8 p. m.



Kingfisher House at Columbia Springs

12602 SE Evergreen Hwy., Vancouver, WA 98683



This month's meeting on Thursday, January 19, 6:30 - 8 p.m. will be a work party at the Kingfisher House at Columbia Springs. We'll be preparing materials and assembling the training manuals for our 2012 Master Composter/Recycler Program Training, and getting materials ready for our spring workshops and outreach events. Please RSVP so we can have enough pizza for everyone! The Kingfisher house is the small white house at the bottom of the MCR office's driveway.

We will also do a Share Fair. Bring items to share or swop that you no longer use or need. Maybe you have a lovely Christmas fruitcake, or plant starts or cuttings that you want to send to a new home. Please note that if no one takes your item(s), the item must go home with you!

Recycling and Sustainability News

With the presents unwrapped and holidays passed, Clark County residents can recycle leftover block foam and used electronic items from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, at the Fisher's Landing Transit Center, 3510 S.E. 164th Ave.

Empower Up will accept computers and other electronic equipment. Refurbished computers are given to students, families in need and nonprofit organizations. Working electronic equipment no more than five years old is preferred, but nonfunctioning and obsolete equipment will be accepted. Do not bring televisions, computer monitors or microwave ovens. For a list of free e-waste disposal sites that accept old TVs, go to RecyclingA-Z.com.

Block foam packaging, or Styrofoam®, can be any color, but it must be clean and bagged or boxed. No plastic-wrapped yellow urethane foam, spongy polypropylene foam, hot tub covers, meat trays, packing peanuts or foam with cardboard, tape or metal attached will be accepted.

Total Reclaim, a Portland recycling business, grinds and melts the Styrofoam® into ingots. The ingots are shipped to other processors and turned into pellets. The pellets have the same quality as new plastic and are used to manufacture picture frames, office products and other items.

Only residents of Clark County and its cities may participate in the free Jan. 7 collection. Participants must remain on site until staff has examined and accepted the material.



**The Master Composter/Recycler Program
at Columbia Springs
is sponsored
by Clark County Environmental Services**

