

We have a special treat this month: Two Master Recyclers wrote articles about their recent waste reduction related travels! Plus there are loads of April volunteer opportunities.

Before we get to those stories, I would like to congratulate to Class 34 for completing your course work. I'm already receiving exciting reports on the work you all are doing. Also, I'd like to welcome to the members of Class 35, who will start next week. I look forward to meeting you.

Cheers!



J Lauren Norris  
Master Recycler Program Coordinator

## **SPECIAL FEATURE: MASTER RECYCLER TRAVELS**

### **Master Recycler Reflects on Cedar Grove Tour**

By Craig Clark (Class 30)

Of all the ways to spend a Saturday, only Master Recyclers would choose to drive more than 200 miles (each way) to check out garbage. What made this trip worthwhile? The garbage was being turned into compost by Cedar Grove Composting in Everett, Washington.

On a cool, gray Saturday, a group of other Master Recyclers and I went to the facility where, in 2002, Cedar Grove began processing food waste and yard debris from both commercial and residential customers in the Puget Sound area. Since 2004, Cedar Grove has contracted to receive more than 10,000 tons of food waste from the Metro region.

Our tour began with a short video on the use of Advanced Membrane Laminate Technology. This technology uses a Gore-Tex covering. The result is a contained pile that eliminates around 90% of the odors associated with composting. After the video, we donned safety vests for a tour around the 26 acre facility.

When food waste and yard debris arrive at Cedar Grove, the first step is being weighed. Then, the load heads to a large tipping station where the raw waste is unloaded and checked for contaminants. The tipping station includes a large biofilter system that ventilates the air every 15 minutes or so to reduce odor.



*Master Recyclers tour Cedar Grove Composting in Everett, Washington*

After the raw waste is unloaded, it is scooped into a grinder/shredder not unlike a giant food processor. The freshly mixed material is then moved along a conveyor belt to the composting area where it is piled onto outdoor cement slabs. It is here where the magic of composting begins.

In 2002, Cedar Grove Composting began using a Gore Cover In-Vessel System that controls odors and microorganisms. The system creates a consistent process that is unaffected by outside environmental conditions.

The piles, nearly 20 feet high and 150 feet long, are referred to as windrows. A parallel set of ventilated tracks runs underneath the length of the windrows. The tracks have the dual function of aerating the piles and collecting moisture runoff known as leachate. The windrows are aerated from below by small fans which keep oxygen flowing through the pile. The leachate is circulated back into the piles.

After a windrow is constructed, a Gore fabric similar to our beloved Gore-Tex Jackets (breathable, yet waterproof) is pulled over the pile. In addition to holding in beneficial heat and moisture, the covers contain odors while allowing release of excess water vapor and CO<sub>2</sub>.

Stainless steel probes, which are inserted into the windrows, monitor oxygen and temperature. The data are relayed to a computer that controls the aerators to keep windrow conditions at consistent levels. Optimum composting conditions to eliminate weed seeds, pesticide and herbicide residues and plant pathogens require a temperature of 160 degrees. The temperature within the windrows climbs to between 170 and 175 degrees F.

Windrows 'cook' at this temperature for four weeks and are then turned and covered again to cook for another two weeks. Windrows are turned a third time and spend the last two weeks uncovered.

After a total of eight weeks, the windrows are ready for screening. Everything that passes through the 3/8" screen cures for another eight weeks before being bagged and distributed for sale. Anything that didn't break down enough to pass through the screen returns to the beginning of the process.

By touring the Cedar Grove facility on this long but very interesting Saturday, we gained a first-hand experience of how a facility like this operates. When people talk about locating a similar facility in Portland, some residents voice concerns about rodents or odors. As we walked through the facility, we didn't see any rodents and the slight compost smell was contained to the immediate area and was not noticed off the property.

To top the day off, we all received a bag of Cedar Grove Compost to try. Cedar Grove Compost is sold in one cubic foot bags at many Fred Meyer and Home Depot stores in the Portland metropolitan area. You can see more pictures from the tour in the members' section of the website - look in the 'Presentations' section.

## **The Costa Rica Adventure**

By Diane Newell (Class 25)

I recently learned of a trip to Costa Rica sponsored by the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) in the Master Recycler Newsletter. AOR is a non-profit coalition of individuals, governments, organizations and businesses committed to encouraging waste prevention and recycling in Oregon. A former board member, Terri Peterson, recently retired to Costa Rica and has started her own travel company, Pizotes Adventures, to share her love of her new country. Our group was the first official tour group under her new business.

Terri customized the trip to AOR's interests and passions. Along with some fabulous touristy things, we did a number of recycling-related activities. First, we visited a milk carton recycling pilot facility at the local dairy. There, they turn their manufacturing scraps into thin sheets of

rigid material that can be used in construction. Currently, there is no post-consumer collection, but they are working toward that goal. Then we met with a group of recycling advocates and shared resources, ideas, and contacts. It seems that Costa Rica is about at the level that Oregon was 20 years ago in terms of recycling programs. It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm and commitment in spite of the inherent difficulties of advancing recycling efforts in an underdeveloped country.



*Paper, plastic and glass recycling containers in Costa Rica*

Later in the trip, we stayed at an eco lodge called Selva Verde. The lodge also houses the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center (SCLC), a not-for-profit educational organization that began in the early 1990s as a public library for local residents. The SCLC has since expanded its mission, and today provides environmental education in the local community and supports conservation projects. Through this organization, we visited a local recycler who collects materials from the surrounding villages and prevents this material from simply being dumped. While we were there, two young boys arrived on a bike pulling a cart filled with scrap metal (grassroots at its best!). Finally, some members of the group

did a service project that involved re-building the compost bin at the learning center and helping to grout a mosaic.

This was a great opportunity to visit a beautiful country with a “local” like Terri, travel with like-minded individuals, and learn something about recycling efforts by the gracious and friendly Ticos, the name for local Costa Ricans.

If you are involved in recycling, you should check out AOR's website, [www.aor.org](http://www.aor.org) to learn more about their annual conference that is coming up at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond from June 21 – 23. Attending the conference would be a great way to learn more about recycling issues in Oregon and network with people involved in recycling at a professional level.

## MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM NEWS

### Master Recycler Language Pool Makes New Contacts!

Last summer the Master Recycler Program developed a pool of bilingual Master Recyclers. Even though some literature is available in other languages, Master Recyclers know that it is the personal contact that turns knowledge into action. Doing outreach in Spanish and other non-English languages helps spread our messages to more of our community.

Bilingual Master Recyclers in the pool receive notification when an opportunity arises in their language. Since last summer, Master Recyclers have made thousands of new contacts to non-English speaking people. In the latest event, Gabriela Buamscha, Teresa Kubo and Lauren Norris tabled for Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling at the



*Gabriela talks about apartment recycling at Washington County table*

Latino Cultural Fest in Hillsboro. More than 1,200 people attended.

This spring and summer there will be many more opportunities, including Centro Cultural's Children's Day Celebration, Cinco de Mayo and Explorando el slough.

If you would like to be added to the language pool (for any language), please contact J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us).

## **MASTER RECYCLER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Washington County Earth Day Celebration**

155 N First, Hillsboro

Tuesday-Thursday, April 17-19, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. each day

Staff a recycling table with Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling.

Contact: Michelle Pimentel, 503-846-3651, [Michelle\\_Pimentel@co.washington.or.us](mailto:Michelle_Pimentel@co.washington.or.us)

### **VA Hospital's Employee Earth Day Celebration**

3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Rd, Portland

Wednesday, April 18, Shifts: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Join Metro staff to talk about compost or Greener Cleaner and household hazardous waste.

Contact: Judie Miller, 503-797-1503, [millerja@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:millerja@metro.dst.or.us)

### **Clackamas Community College Earth Day**

19600 South Molalla, Clackamas

Friday, April 20, Shifts: 8:30 -11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 21, Shifts: 8:30 -11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Two volunteers needed to staff a recycling table with Clackamas County Solid Waste & Recycling on Friday. Six people needed to help with plastics, computer and other recycling outside on Saturday.

Contact: Sherri Dow, 503-353-4463, [sherridow@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:sherridow@co.clackamas.or.us)

### **City Repair's Woodlawn Park Earth Day Celebration**

NE 13th & Dekum, Portland

Saturday, April 21

Master Recycler Table

One volunteer needed for two shifts: 1:30-5:30. Talk to attendees about residential recycling. Food, music, community sharing will all be part of this fun celebration.

Contact: J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

### **Gresham Earth Day Celebration**

Gresham City Hall, 133 NW Eastman Pkwy, Gresham

Saturday, April 21, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### **Gresham Recycling Table**

Staff a table on residential recycling for Gresham's Solid Waste and Recycling program.

Contact: Leslie Johnson, 503-618-2752, [leslie.johnson@ci.gresham.or.us](mailto:leslie.johnson@ci.gresham.or.us)

Don't forget to log your  
volunteer hours.

Visit [masterrecycler.org](http://masterrecycler.org) and  
click on the Members tab.

Username: MasterRecycler  
Password: master

### **Metro Paint Table**

Staff a table on Metro's recycled paint program.

Contact: Paulette Rossi, 503-797-1827, [rossip@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:rossip@metro.dst.or.us)

### **Piedmont Presbyterian Church**

5760 N Cleveland, Portland

Saturday, April 21, Shift: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Staff a second shift at a table set up by another Master Recycler to talk to North Portland residents about recycling.

Contact: Wanda Cochran, 503-294-5911

### **Zoo Party for the Planet**

Oregon Zoo

Sunday, April 22, Shifts: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Help with Greener Cleaner or residential recycling tables. Two volunteers per table per shift needed.

Contact: J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

### **Lents Resource Fair**

Marshall High School, 3905 SE 91st Ave, Portland

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join Metro staff in talking to outer SE Portland residents about recycling and Greener Cleaners. Two volunteers needed.

Contact: J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

### **Children's Day Celebration**

Centro Cultural, 1110 N Adair St., Cornelius

Saturday, April 28, Shifts: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Spanish-speaking Master Recyclers needed to staff a booth about residential recycling. The booth will feature a fun Wheel of Fortune quiz game and prizes. Over 1,500 families are expected to attend this community event.

Contact: J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

### **West Tualatin Valley ES Carnival**

880 SW Leahy, Portland

Friday, May 4, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Talk to unincorporated Washington County residents about residential recycling and waste prevention at this fun school fundraiser.

Contact: J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

### **Sister City of Guadalajara Cinco de Mayo Celebration**

Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland

Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mariachi, folkloric dance, great food and artisan crafts will all be part of this Mexican celebration of a battle won against French occupation in 1862. Staff a booth (whether you

speak Spanish or not) with Master Recyclers who do speak Spanish.

Contact: J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

### **Roseway Neighborhood Cleanup**

Gregory Heights Middle School, 7334 NE Siskiyou, Portland  
Saturday, May 12, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Assist Roseway neighborhood in recovering wood and plastics (with Agri-plas) during their neighborhood cleanup.

Contact: Jane Rosenstein (Class 14), 503-281-6909, [jnjinmax@earthlink.net](mailto:jnjinmax@earthlink.net)

## **JOBS**

Additional open jobs are listed in the Master Recycler Forum in the Members section of the website. At the site, you can sign up to receive an email notification when a new job is posted.

### **Waste Reduction Specialist, Clackamas County**

Application deadline: March 29

The Community Environment Division of Clackamas County is seeking a self-motivated individual to join its waste reduction team as a Waste Reduction Specialist. Education and/or previous work experience in the field of waste reduction, recycling, and experience working with garbage collectors is desirable. Required skills include written and oral communication, customer service, and experience with spreadsheet, word processing and database software. This individual will focus on waste reduction programs for multifamily communities and businesses.

More information: [www.co.clackamas.or.us/des/employment/main.htm](http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/des/employment/main.htm)

### **Solid Waste & Recycling Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Metro**

Application deadline: March 30

Performs a variety of public affairs activities, including initiating, developing and overseeing promotional, communications, social marketing, advertising and community involvement activities. The position reports to the Public Affairs Manager and supports programs in Metro's Solid Waste and Recycling Department to help achieve the Metro Council's goals and objectives. This position works closely with Solid Waste and Recycling department staff and managers, Metro's Public Affairs and Government Relations Office and the Metro Council.

More information: [www.metro-region.org/jobs](http://www.metro-region.org/jobs)

### **Recycling Education Assistant, Metro**

Application deadline: April 9

Develop and deliver waste reduction activities to youth at established metro-area summer day camps. The ideal candidate will be a creative, energetic, upbeat and outgoing person, available to work 1 day per week for program development, marketing and scheduling April through mid-June and 3-4 days/week for program delivery mid-June through August.

To apply: Send resumé and cover letter in which you describe your experience leading and/or creating environmental education activities for youth and your knowledge of and commitment to waste reduction to:

Freda Sherburne  
Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232  
sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us

## CONSERVATION NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

### How to Be an Agent of Change in Your Circle of Influence

Tuesdays, April 10 - May 1 with a follow-up on May 29, 7:00 to 8:45 pm  
Presenters: Jeanne and/or Dick Roy

This class covers the theory, practice and tools of being an agent of change within a chosen circle of influence: neighborhood, workplace, school, church, interest group, or professional organization. Each participant will select one circle of influence, develop a strategy and plan for change, and take steps of early implementation, in consultation with other members in the class.

This class is intended for motivated individuals who seek to create a sustainable future. There is no charge for this class, but advance registration is required. To reserve your space, contact Meghan at 503-227-2807, [meghan@nwei.org](mailto:meghan@nwei.org).

More information: [www.earthleadershipcenter.org/classes\\_workshops](http://www.earthleadershipcenter.org/classes_workshops)

### The CHAIR AFFAIR

Time: Thursday, April 26, 6:30-9:30  
Place: 1200 NW Everett  
Price: \$50.00

The Chair Affair is Community Warehouse's premier fundraiser. Attendees will be treated to scrumptious nibbles, intoxicating spirits and the jazzy sounds of Gypsy Soirée. 50 chairs (re)created by 50 local artists (prominent & promising) will be auctioned off at this party in The Pearl. The Community Warehouse is the Northwest's only furniture bank that supplies furnishings and household items at no cost to families in need.

### Earth Day Celebration

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th and Salmon, Portland  
Sunday, April 22, 6:30 - 8:00

Master Recyclers are invited to an Earth Day Celebration that includes a multi-media nature slide show, special music, meditative songs, candle lighting, and quiet reflective time. It will include expressions of gratitude, concern, and hope for our remarkable planet.

Bridging  
the gap  
between  
awareness  
and  
action by  
motivating  
people  
to reduce  
waste  
in their  
homes and  
workplaces.

