

Meet Poncho (Angel Alfonso Quic). This 10-year-old scavenges for firewood in the canopy that rises above the coffee fields near his Tzutujil village in Guatemala. Poncho lives with his mother and 15 other people in a temporary plastic hut. His cinder block home was buried last year by a mud slide during Hurricane Stan.

This November, Poncho participated in an intercultural exchange between poor country and city kids I helped organize. It was a packed week during which kids got to teach each other how they worked and played.

During the week, I got a few chances to talk with them about junk food packaging. I suggested that bananas were a better snack than chips because bananas grow all around them, are healthier and cheaper, and the package composts. I explained that packaging, which is beginning to litter their landscape, contributes to global warming. During the week's wrap-up, it was very satisfying when Poncho said that he learned it is his personal responsibility to keep his little village clean!



Poncho scavenges for firewood near his Tzutujil village in Guatemala.

Satisfying, but also a bit sobering. I wanted the kids to learn their power to improve their world. But the reality is that the increased intensity of hurricanes and deforestation that caused Poncho to lose his home have more to do with my decisions than his. He doesn't have the option to over consume that I have. Poncho's commitment to keep his corner clean of litter made me renew my commitment to reduce my consumption that contributes to global environmental degradation.

Master Recyclers' direct one-on-one teachings about how to reduce, reuse and recycle influence people to make similar commitments. Don't underestimate the far-reaching impacts of your work!

MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM NEWS

Clackamas Post-Holiday Recycling Fair Big Success!

Almost 1,400 people participated in the December 31 recycling fair in Clackamas, organized and sponsored by Master Recycler and E-Waste Solutions Owner Michael Bouchard. Local recyclers collected 50 yards of cardboard and wrapping paper, hundreds of Christmas trees, four trucks of e-waste, two trucks of Styrofoam, one truck of plastic and 150 barrels of shredded paper. KPTV News covered the event, which raised money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteers and to Michael Bouchard and Meredith Gilbert (Class 32) who worked many, many hours to make this event a huge success.

Certified Master Recyclers

Congratulations and thank you to three Master Recyclers who certified in December: Patty Fenton (Class 30), Michael Geller (Class 30) and Bud Imeson (Class 33). Patty volunteered at all of the Master Recycler Plastics Roundups in Hillsboro and staffed a table about waste prevention in Beaverton. Michael took Providence's programs to a new level and is a valued plastics expert. After completing the class in October, Bud Imeson has been a huge help at the e-waste/plastics recycling events in Clackamas. He even canvassed to ensure a good turnout. Thank you to all three of you!

MASTER RECYCLER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Master Recycler Plastics Roundup

Three great locations!

- PCC Rock Creek Campus, 17705 NW Springville Rd, Hillsboro
 - PCC Sylvania, 12000 SW 49th Ave., Portland
 - Floyd Light Middle School, 10800 SE Washington St., Portland
- Saturday, February 3, shifts 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 pm

Help recycle those hard to recycle plastics including flower pots, large toys and holiday packaging. Master Recyclers have sponsored five similar events and recycled over 25 tons of plastic.

Please indicate which location and shift you prefer, keeping in mind we may need you more somewhere else!

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



Craig Clark (Class 30) and Carrie White (Class 31) load plastics at a 2006 Roundup.

Clackamas County Solid Waste Advisory Committee Representative

Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland.

4th Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (8-10 meetings per year)

Metro seeks a Clackamas County ratepayer to join its 25-member Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). SWAC is a policy advisory group to the Metro Council. Clackamas residents interested in solid waste policy and program issues (e.g., waste prevention, recycling, household hazardous waste, sustainability, and government regulation) can apply for the opening by January 18th.

Contact: Rick Winterhalter, (503) 353-4466, rickw@co.clackamas.or.us

Washington County Citizen Participation Organization (CPO) Presentations

Washington County Locations

Evenings, usually 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

CPOs are groups of residents who want to improve their neighborhoods. A Master Recycler Mentor/Mentee team recently presented at the Tualatin CPO. It went so well that other CPOs are interested in having a similar presentation. Sign up to present in your neighborhood or in another interested neighborhood. Kits and literature are available to assist in the presentation.

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

Fix-it Fair, Portland Recycles! and ReBuilding Center Tables

Self Enhancement Inc., 3920 N Kerby, Portland

Saturday, January 6, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Staff a Portland Recycles! or ReBuilding Center table at the Fix-It Fair. Fix-It Fairs are neighborhood events that offer workshops and exhibits on energy efficiency, healthy homes, yard care, green building and more.

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

Cathedral Park Co-op Preschool

7119 N Portsmouth, Portland

Thursday, January 11, 2007 at 6:30pm

Co-op parents' meeting would like a presenter to speak on Greener Cleaner, recycling and/or waste prevention.

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

Fix-it Fair Portland Recycles! and ReBuilding Center Tables

Madison High School, 2735 NE 82nd Ave., Portland
Saturday, January 27, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Staff a Portland Recycles! or ReBuilding Center table at the Fix-It Fair. Fix-It Fairs are neighborhood events that offer workshops and exhibits on energy efficiency, healthy homes, yard care, green building and more.

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

Swap-O-Rama-Rama

100th Monkey Studio 110 SE 16th Ave, Portland
Sunday, February 4, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Swap-O-Rama-Rama is a clothing swap combined with a variety of do-it-yourself mini-workshops in which a community explores creative reuse through the recycling of used clothing. Learn more at www.swaporamarama.org/portland.htm. Volunteer to lead a Transformation workshop or host an alteration station!

Contact: Erika, Irene and Julia sorrpdx@yahoo.com

Don't forget to log your
volunteer hours.

Visit masterrecycler.org and
click on the Members tab.

Username: MasterRecycler
Password: master

Co-presentation for Flower Lane Garden Club

Leach Botanical Gardens, 6704 SE 122nd Ave, Portland
Tuesday, February 20, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Join a Master Recycler Mentor in a presentation to the Flower Lane Garden Club on reduce, reuse and recycle.

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY WASTE REDUCTION NEWS

This is part of an ongoing series that features in-depth information about each of the three counties Master Recyclers serve. Last month we learned about Multnomah County; next month we will learn about Clackamas County

By Michelle Pimentel (our newest Master Recycler Advisory Committee Member!)

Washington County is one of the fastest growing counties in Oregon with 1,000 new residents each month.

The solid waste and recycling program staff provide education to the 500,000 residents and technical assistance to hundreds of businesses in the county and its cities.

The Recycle at Work Program offers businesses free technical assistance and free resources such as desk-side boxes, posters, stickers and junk mail kits. Two full-time program staff, Alexis Allan and Efua Osam-Cue, are dedicated to working with businesses to raise awareness about recycling and its benefits. They help businesses improve existing recycling systems or create new ones. This customized service may include assistance establishing a recycling program, finding solutions for hard-to-recycle items such as hard plastics, polystyrene, and plastic film, and working with collection haulers to provide service to improve recycling, such as additional containers.

Our staff work with leaders in the workplace and develop recycling systems and waste prevention practices that become an integral part of doing business. We also work with institutions such as colleges, non-profits and chambers of commerce. Thanks to an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) grant, the County will be partnering with the Rock Creek Campus of Portland Community College to institute food waste composting in 2007. On January 26, 2007, the County will

co-host a sustainability summit for large businesses to gather and learn about the innovations of their peers and brainstorm priorities for the future.

Learn more about Washington County's solid waste and recycling program here: <http://washtech.co.washington.or.us/recycling/index.htm>

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 whenever a new job is posted.

Contract Position, Natural Gardening Program Education Outreach, Metro

Closes: 3 p.m., January 4, 2007

Metro is requesting proposals for conducting elements of Metro's Natural Gardening program education outreach. The program objectives are to educate the public about alternatives to toxic garden chemicals and environmental costs to using hazardous gardening materials, and to minimize the impact pesticides have on water quality and the environment. Copies of the RFP and further details can be obtained by contacting the Metro Solid Waste and Recycling Department at (503) 797-1650.

For the complete RFP, go to: www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=18928

Business Resource Conservation Manager, City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development

Monthly Salary: \$4,763- \$6,359

Deadline: Monday, January 8, 2007

The City of Portland is seeking a business outreach professional to manage staff and programs related to OSD's resource conservation services. This position supervises eight employees working on three business-oriented programs: Portland BlueWorks, Portland Composts!, and a new centralized small business resource conservation center to be launched in February. This new initiative will offer businesses a comprehensive menu of resource conservation services and financial incentives that are available in a simple, streamlined format. For more information, go to: www.portlandonline.com/jobs

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Volunteer Coordinator

\$45,292.83 - \$60,651.48 annually

Deadline: January 8, 2007

Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department is seeking a leader to coordinate and grow a well-established volunteer program that supports the region's vision of an interconnected system of parks, natural areas, greenways and trails for fish, wildlife and people. For more information go to www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleid=22726

Free Geek Front Desk Job Experience Intern.

\$10.80/hr, part time

Deadline: January 13th

If you enjoy working with people, are detail oriented and thrive in a chaotic environment, go to www.freegeek.org/jobs for information on the job and how to apply.

Our United Villages Community Organizer

Salary negotiable

Open until closed

Our United Villages (OUV) currently seeks a 3/4 position to be part of a team that will support and enhance current community outreach work. OUV is the parent organization to the Rebuilding Center and Deconstruction Project. OUV is independently funded. OUV work and mission is rooted in the belief that everyone can make a positive difference in their community and that creating sustainable social change can be achieved when the community sets the agenda and has 100% ownership of their work and efforts. Further information is available at www.rebuildingcenter.org/ouv/, 503.546.7499, info@ourunitedvillages.org

CONSERVATION NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

Film Screening “Power of the Sun” and Writer Forum

January 9, Bagdad Theater, Portland

January 10, PSU Smith Center Ballroom, Portland

Doors open at 7:30, film starts at 8:00 p.m.

Written by UCSB Physics professor, and founder of the solar energy movement, John Perlin, narrated by John Cleese, “Power of the Sun” is about solar energy science, its history and its current and future applications to the world’s energy needs, as well as for policy-makers and opinion leaders in the field of energy. Movie is 57 minutes. Learn more about the film <http://powerofthesun.ucsb.edu/>

New Center for Earth Leadership courses and workshops

Agent of Change in Your Circle of Influence

Thursday, 7:00-8:30 p.m., February 8, 15, 22, March 1, April 5.

Each of us is a member of multiple circles of influence: neighborhood, workplace, school, church, club, professional or vocational group. Participants identify a circle of influence, develop a strategy and plan for change, and take steps of early implementation with classmates.

Honor the Earth Gathering

2nd Friday of each month, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

West Hills Unitarian Fellowship in SW Portland

Meditative songs, readings, and quiet reflection to express gratitude for the earth, acknowledge concerns and/or find inspiration through a shared community.

The Practice of Hope Workshop

Saturday, February 24, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Topics include the meaning of hope, the practice of hope as an intentional act, and daily practices.

For all courses and workshops, contact: Meghan, (503) 227-2807 or meghan@nwei.org

Oregon Integrated Waste Management & Recycling Forum

Red Lion Inn, 3301 Market Street NE, Salem, OR

Thursday, January 18, 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Come hear speakers from Oregon’s major waste management organizations discuss their challenges and legislative focus in 2007. Hosted by Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Oregon. For more information, visit: www.SWANAoregon.org

Bridging
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between
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and
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motivating
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to reduce
waste
in their
homes and
workplaces.

