

FIVE TONS OF PLASTIC

The recent Master Recycler plastic roundups were a great success. Over 500 Metro residents brought 10,000 pounds of plastic to four different sites. Many items were snapped up for reuse including nursery pots, CD holders, and over 100 buckets that will be used to collect recyclables in schools. The rest of the “would-be waste” was picked up by Agri-Plas to be recycled at their facility in Brooks.

MR volunteers processed prodigious plastic piles and promoted waste reduction. Site coordinators Robert Welch, Pat Pullen-Jones, Katy Daily, Billie Shults, and Cynthia Parker made sure everything ran smoothly from start to finish. It was Cynthia who got it started with the first plastic roundup back in January and she was featured in an *Oregonian* story that publicized the recent events.

If you didn't see it, here's a link to the online version (sans picture):
http://www.oregonlive.com/search/index.ssf?/base/portland_news/1121507754164811.xml?oregonian?pdllg&coll=7

Thanks to Sara Walker for answering the public inquiries and compiling the databases; Master Recyclers Dana Jeffries (K103) and Peggy LaPointe (Kink fm 102) for getting the word out; all the MR volunteers who sorted and greeted and sweated in the hot sun; and our friends at Agri-Plas who made it all possible.

The most frequent question we heard from a very appreciative public was “When will you be doing this again?” The participating Master Recyclers will be meeting to decide the next steps. Email addresses were collected from everyone who dropped off plastic and we have a great base to continue our waste diversion and education outreach work. See you next time.

CERTIFIED MASTER RECYCLERS & VOLUNTEER HOURS

Master Recyclers volunteered a total of 875 hours in the past fiscal year (July '04 through June '05). That was a 45 percent increase over the previous year's total. Congratulations to all of you who volunteered and made a difference. At Fix-It and County Fairs, schools and businesses, Farmers' Markets and Plastic Roundups, compost bin sales and many other outreach events and personal projects, Master Recyclers were a significant presence in our community.

A special thank-you and congratulations to the following seven individuals who have volunteered 30 hours of “payback” to the program:

- Class 24—Barbara Kelsey
- Class 26—Anne Bedney and Barbara Borst
- Class 27—Cynthia Parker, Sara Walker and Robert Welch
- Class 28—Nate Lesiuk and Phyllis Barks

FALL CLASS

Online registration for the fall Master Recycler course will be available by the middle of the August on the www.masterrecycler.org website. This year, classes will be held at Catlin Gabel School on Tuesday nights in October and November. Please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Clackamas County Fair

The Clackamas County Fair is a great fair with something for everyone. The County's Recycling Information booth is next to the strawberry shortcake and close to the homemade pie. This year the focus is on what to do with old computers, plastics, why to keep glass separate from other recyclables and they'll also have a worm bin. The fair is at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds at 694 NE 4th in Canby. Fair admission and parking is provided. Volunteers are needed for two shifts:

- Saturday, August 20, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- Sunday, August 21, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Call or email Sherri Dow at 503-353-4463 or sherridow@co.clackamas.or.us.

Nursery Pot Reuse and Recycling at Farmers' Market

Help design a program to encourage vendors at the Oregon City Farmers' Market to take back nursery pots for reuse. This project will include designing signs or handouts to educate the public as to which pots the vendors will accept and to let them know that their broken or otherwise unwanted pots can be recycled at the nearby Fred Meyer store. This could also expand to the Milwaukie, Lake Oswego, and West Linn markets. Contact Susan Ziolk, Clackamas County, 503-353-4455, or susanz@co.clackamas.or.us, if you would like to take on, or partner with someone, to design this great ReUse program.

Housing Authority of Portland Tenant Presentations

As of July 1, Portland's apartment complexes adopted a two-sort recycling system—glass in one cart and all other recyclables in another. The change will standardize the process citywide to make it easier for haulers (whose trucks already are converted to two-sort) and tenants, who will be able to keep just two bags in their apartments. The City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development has partnered with the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) to bring many of the city's low-income residents a customized recycling education. HAP has 20 tenant meetings to be scheduled throughout the months of August and September. They have asked that a Master Recycler be present at each meeting to give an explanation of the new two-sort system and assist at a question and answer period. The presentation will run about 15-25 minutes, depending on the number of tenant questions. You'll receive a packet of preparation materials that will give you all the information you need. Contact Sara Petrocine at 503.823.7581 or spetrocine@ci.portland.or.us if you are interested in this opportunity or have any questions.

Race for the Cure

Metro's Lisa Heigh is the Environmental Chair for the Race for the Cure and is looking for “two really obsessed workaholics” to assist her on the day of the event. Duties include training volunteer recyclers and working with the vendors to help them understand what can be recycled. If you're interested, contact Lisa at 503.797.1611 or heighl@metro.dst.or.us.

Henry Hagg Lake Clean-Up

This cleanup, to be held on September 11, is described as “a day of fun in the park, free lunch and door prizes, and informative presentations including a native plant hike and renewable power, following a 1-hr SOLV-sanctioned debris cleanup.” The organizers are requesting a Master Recycler to make a presentation on recycling (and put in a plug for the upcoming fall class) to the 40-50 volunteers at 3 p.m. For more information on the event, visit <http://www.geocities.com/bagitwiththebeckers/>. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Steve at 503.823.7530 or masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us.

Home Improvement and Remodeling Show

Metro is a sponsor of the Rebuilding Center/Neil Kelly “Reclaimed by Design” booth at the Home Improvement and Remodeling Show, Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 22-25 at the Oregon Convention Center. Five rooms will be constructed and designed by Neil Kelly Designers, using materials from the ReBuilding Center. Volunteers will work with a Metro staff person, providing information and brochures on basic recycling/reuse, natural gardening, etc. Shifts will run three to three-and-a-half hours long during show hours, which are 2-9 p.m. on Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Volunteers will be given a cool Metro “Nature in Neighborhoods” t-shirt. To volunteer, contact Metro's Jan O'Dell by Sept. 7, at odellj@metro.dst.or.us or 503.797.1599.

Oregon Air Show

The Washington County Cooperative Recycling Program would like to have a display at the air show located in Hillsboro and is seeking Master Recycler volunteers to staff it. The air show is held on September 9, 10, and 11. The County's new booth receives considerable foot traffic and attracts folks of all ages (especially families), providing an excellent opportunity for public education and awareness. Persons interested in volunteering should contact Paul Seitz at 503.846.3660.

JOBS

Metro-School Resource Specialist

Metro is hiring an educator who will perform a variety of entry-level, professional public outreach and planning activities including providing technical recycling program assistance to schools (K-12), and developing and implementing waste reduction education activities for children and families. You can find more information at:
<http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleid=15038>.

Salem-Keizer School District—Teacher-Recycling Education

The Salem-Keizer School District has an opening for a teacher to deliver waste reduction/recycling programs to their schools. The successful applicant will recruit and support Oregon Green Schools within the district. The position has the same pay, benefits, and vacations as a teach. Minimum qualifications include a teaching credential.

Position closes on Friday, Aug. 12. Details at: <http://hr.salkeiz.k12.or.us/employment/index.htm>

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

