

QUARTERLY MTG: OUR SPEAKER IS.....

We'll start with a quiz. Who has:

*Edited and published recycling periodicals for 24 years, including Resource Recycling?

*Been the founding chair of the Association of Oregon Recyclers and served two additional stints as chair?

*Has served three times as chair of the board of the National Recycling Coalition?

*Helped citizen groups lobby for the bottle bill and Oregon's recycling laws?

*Founded and managed a recycling firm in Portland?

*Managed North American conferences on electronics and plastics?

*Been a solid waste consultant for a decade?

Can't guess? O.K., who is outspoken, opinionated, ornery, and a self-described "pain in the neck for governments." Why yes, it's our old friend Jerry Powell, editor and publisher of Resource Recycling magazine. Many of you know Jerry from his appearances (with Lee Barrett and Bruce Walker) at each Master Recycler session's final class.

Jerry Powell is a popular speaker at events all over the country and we're happy that he'll join us at our next Quarterly Master Recycling Meeting on Tuesday evening, **February 22, at 7:00 p.m.** in the EcoTrust Building. Jerry will cover two topics, "Why Recycling?" and "The Global Recycling Economy." If you have any questions on the who, what, why, where, and how of recycling, this is the night to have them answered.

Please RSVP to this event by sending an email to masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us or calling 503.823.7530.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fix-It Fair

One more Fix-It Fair to go and the feedback from Master Recyclers who have volunteered for the first three has been unanimously

positive. Next up is Lane Middle School (7200 SE 60th in Southeast Portland) on March 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The popular fair is in its eighteenth season and offers free information through workshops and exhibits that are designed to help area residents save money, stay healthy, and improve their homes.

Master Recyclers will have three different opportunities to get involved. The Master Recycler booth will focus on curbside recycling or you can staff Metro's "Greener Cleaner" display or help at Metro's composting booth. Volunteer for the entire day or a shift (8-11 or 11-2:30). Contact Steve at 503.823.7530 or e-mail masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us.

You can sign up for a shift and check out the fair and attend some workshops. For the workshop schedule, click on the Fix-It Fair link at: http://www.sustainableportland.org/default.asp?sec=energy&pg=menu_Res

Metro Earth Day Billboard Unveiling and Art Show

It's never too early to start celebrating Earth Day! Metro is looking for a few good Master Recyclers to help staff the Earth Day Billboard Unveiling and Art Show. The art show will consist of student art that was submitted for the annual Earth Day art contest. They'll also be unveiling the four winning designs in a special ceremony. Volunteers are needed to staff fun activities for families: art from used things, composting with worms, alternatives to toxics. It's going to be a fun and busy day!

Details: Saturday April 2, from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Metro. Contact Freda Sherburne to sign up and/or ask questions: 503.797.1522, sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us.

Metro Children's Clean Water Festival

Volunteer for Metro's 12th Annual Children's Clean Water Festival! This year's event is Thursday, April 14, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at PCC-Sylvania and will host 4th and 5th grade students from around the Portland metro area. The students will learn about water science, watershed ecology, and how water relates to our world through presentations, stage shows and exhibits. Metro needs four volunteers to staff the interactive "Toxics can be harmful to people, pets and wildlife" display. Volunteers are vital to a successful festival. It's a great day filled with lots of excitement, learning, and happy kids. And if that's not enough to entice you, how about a free lunch?

To volunteer contact: Freda Sherburne, sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us or 503.797.1522.

Continued on next page...



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



Waste Sort

Ever want to experience what it's like to work a sort line at a materials recovery facility? Metro is researching newspaper, plastic bottles and plant residue and undertaking a few waste sorts from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the week. The sorts will be held at Portland and Hillsboro MRFs in the next two months.

You'll need to commit to at least a 3-hour sorting period (9-12 or 12-3) and wear boots and appropriate clothes. Metro supplies water and the safety gear and can arrange transportation from Metro if needed.

If you're interested, give Steve a call at 503.823.7530 for further information and specific dates.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING MASTER RECYCLER SESSIONS

The next class will be offered at Clackamas' Sunnybrook Service Center during April and May. Registration is now open on the web at www.masterrecycler.org.

EVENTS

SCRAP

It's a busy month at SCRAP and here's what's happening—straight from the SCRAPers.

Saturday, Feb 12th, 1-3 p.m.: Valentine's Day Cards. Nothing says love like reusing! Create a SCRAPPY masterpiece that says how much you love them for Valentine's Day. Create CD "booklets" filled with all the love it can hold! Think of them as much more than a simple card, and much less fattening than a big box of chocolates! All ages. Drop in. Sliding scale fee of \$5-\$10

Thursday, February 17th, 7 p.m.: Third Thursday at SCRAP! There's first Thursday, Last Thursday...why not Third Thursday? This is the debut of the "craftin' cinema" at SCRAP. Each month we'll show a film on a topic like consumer culture, the environment, or whatever else tickles our fancy. Bring your craft projects, a snack or beverage if you feel so

inclined, sit back and craft while you watch. Bring a friend or two. After the film, hang out, create, discuss, mingle, and mobilize. This month's film has yet to be determined. Sliding scale donations accepted.

Saturday, Feb 26th, 1-3 p.m.: Artist Trading Card Party. Artist Trading Cards are miniature works of art created on 2 ½ X 3 ½ inch or 64 X 89 mm card stock. They are originals, small editions and, most importantly, self-produced. Leslie Waygren will give the history of ATCs, show examples and lead participants in creating their own cards using SCRAP materials. This workshop is open to all ages and is limited to 15 participants. Please call SCRAP at 503.294.0769 to reserve your space. Sliding scale fee of \$5-\$10.

Volunteer Orientations

Early Birds - Sat, Feb 5th 9:00 a.m.

Evening Owls - Wed, Feb 23rd 6:30 p.m.

We need volunteers in all areas: admin, shop, donations, workshops, outreach

A Call for Workshop Leaders

We're trying to get our workshop program back on track with two facilitated workshops per month (second and fourth Saturdays). We're looking for folks to design and lead these workshops. All you need to do is write up a "workshop proposal" (we'll provide you with the guidelines), tell us when you are available, and we'll pencil you in. Easy as pie. Ideas for workshops include: quilting, knitting, bookbinding, print making...anything using scrap!

METROPAINT HAS MOVED

MetroPaint has moved from the difficult to navigate Oregon City garbage transfer station to a stand-alone facility at 4825 N. Basin on Swan Island. While the new facility more than doubles the space of the old one, it is not set-up to receive household hazardous waste. Household hazardous waste can still be brought year-round to Metro's permanent household hazardous waste facilities in Oregon City and Northwest Portland.

MetroPaint is available in over a dozen colors, in one-gallon cans and five-gallon pails, and sells for less than half the price of new paint. The 100% post-consumer re-blended latex paint produces a low-sheen finish on wood, masonry, concrete,

vinyl and metal siding. For more information, call Metro recycling information at 503.234.3000 or log onto www.metro-region.org/paint.

NEW MASTER RECYCLERS!

Congratulations to Michelle Walch (Class 23), Candace Clark (Class 26), and Dave Garten (Class 26) have all contributed 30 hours of volunteer work and achieved Master Recycler status. Michelle has volunteered for Fix-It Fairs, Eco-Parties, and various other outreach events. Candace is a dedicated volunteer and fundraiser for SCRAP and you'll be hearing more about that in an upcoming newsletter. And Dave, well read on....

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Over the past year, Dave Garten has been developing a "green program" at The International School after completing the Master Recycler class #25 last spring. I asked him to tell us about what he's been up to. Here's his story:

About the International School:

The International School (TIS) is a pre-K to 5th grade elementary school in downtown Portland. TIS is a language immersion school and each child is in one of three language tracks—Spanish, Chinese or Japanese. I have a vested interest since my two young boys attend the school.

Starting Out with a Plan:

The first task was to construct a realistic plan for a "green program." So, together with a couple of other parents, we visited other schools and talked to people involved in sustainability efforts in the Portland and Beaverton public school systems. We learned what others were doing, and got a sense for the support and obstacles we would face. The most inspiring visit was Glencoe Elementary School on Portland's east side, which had a number of green programs including student recycling, a garden and a bioswale.

Next we wrote a "Green Plan." We reviewed it with the administration and the teachers to ensure that we would have the best possible chance possible for a successful implementation. While the plan outlined many things that were possible,

it focused on what we felt could be realistically delivered for the '04-'05 school year. The plan also highlighted a longer-term vision. The school's principle and staff were supportive from the start.

What we've accomplished so far:

Progress has been steady but modest. Our accomplishments to date include:

—We put together a school supply purchasing program. In prior years, each family would run around town getting school supplies. This year, we consolidated all the class lists, did bulk purchasing, and distributed the supplies to the classroom. We were able to save money, buy more sustainable products (like recycled copier paper), save time and gas, and donate some of the saved money to the school. Over 50% of the families participated in the program.

—The 4th grade classes have started monthly recycling audits with an improved recycling system. The kids are learning about recycling and will help improve waste reduction efforts. To reinforce the efforts, we have purchased some books on waste reduction for the English classes.

—Two 1st grade classes have started indoor worm bins. The kids are feeding fruit and veggie scraps from their lunches to the worms.

—TIS received a \$500 Metro Grant to support the waste reduction efforts in the classroom. The money is being used on the programs mentioned above and some other upcoming activities (below). Also I'd like to mention that Freda Sherburne of Metro has been very helpful (and presenting to the children!).

What we hope to accomplish within the next year:

—We plan to start a school garden this spring. We hope to use recyclable materials and will need donations and volunteer time for the materials, construction and maintenance. Our art teacher is an avid gardener, so she and an active parent are leading the charge!

—The International School is raising money for a new building to accommodate the expanding enrollment. We plan to work with the building committee to optimize for sustainability including the possible use of a green roof and a bioswale.

—We hope to have PSU students do internships at TIS to work on developing curriculum and activities for the TIS Green Plan.

—We plan to have some kind of Earth Day celebration and "green" projects at the science fair.

Trials and tribulations:

The green projects are initiated and accomplished with volunteers. The biggest limitation to expanding the green programs at the school is - you guessed it - the number of volunteers (parents mostly). My biggest challenge is to find the people that have both (a) the green passion; (b) the time and initiative to complete the projects. So I find myself constantly trying to get help. The second issue is money. Although the programs generally don't cost that much, budgets are tight as at any school. Thanks to the Metro grant, and the generosity of some parents, we are able to accomplish the initial projects but always need to keep an eye on costs.

Bottom Line:

At the end of the day, the green programs at TIS are about the kids. Our programs are all targeted at increasing the students' exposure to and involvement with sustainability practices. Toward those goals, the green program is starting to make a difference.

Dave Garten, Master Recycler Class 25
daveoutside@alum.mit.edu