

# MASTER RECYCLER NEWS

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Special points of interest:

- New Master Recycler Class graduates in the Fall of 2003
- Previous winners of Lane County Trashbuster Award
- Check the website for Christmas Tree recycling



## 2003 TRASHBUSTER AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED

Lane County Waste Management, the Resource Recovery Committee and the County Board of Commissioners honored community members at a ceremony on December 3rd at the Public Services Building. Nominations were made by community members and winners were selected in four Trashbuster categories:

- **Individual:** Lorraine Kerwood (pictured, left with her beautiful grandchildren) for her work with Mac Renewal, a non-profit she created in 2000. Lorraine has renewed a total of 2800 Macintosh computers and donated them to people who otherwise would not have access to computer technology. Mac Renewal refurbishes and average of 19 Mac computer systems each week!
- **Non-profit:** Under the direction of Terry McDonald, (pictured, center) St. Vincent de Paul has turned trash into treasure. They reuse or recycle numerous materials totaling over 700 tons per month! St. Vincent de Paul has established markets for recycling window glass, books, mattresses, appliances and propane tanks. Their latest project transforms bowling balls into "Zen Gazing Ball Fountains".
- **K-12 School program:** Territorial Elementary School, with the help of our own Master Recycler Barbara Coolman (Fall 2002 graduate), has implemented a food composting program in which 3rd and 4th graders collect food scraps and compost the material in worm bins and garden compost bins. In addition, they've created a collection set up for recyclables throughout the school, and each week, students collect the containers and empty the recyclables into a central collection bin. The students also educate their classmates on recycling, reuse and waste prevention. Great work! Though Barbara could not attend the ceremony, County Commissioner Anna Morrison will present the award to Territorial Elementary School on December 19.
- **Special Event:** Oregon County Fair leads the way of event recycling in Lane County by diverting an amazing 86% of event waste from the landfill! The Oregon County Fair has reduced the amount of garbage from 33 tons in 2000 to 13 tons in 2003! Lara Howe, recycling coordinator for the OCF, accepted the award (pictured right). Congratulations to all of the winners!



Trashbusters Lorraine, Terry & Lara

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALL 2003 MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM GRADUATES

This fall's roster of 25 graduates from the Master Recycler Program got off to a great start, with the best classroom attendance rate yet and great commitment to volunteering and community service. From the start, many volunteered for the University of Oregon 2003 Street Faire, America Recycles Day and have formed a consumer's action group to alert citizens of recycling and waste reduction issues. The energy and enthusiasm generated by this bunch is so contagious that if you're afraid of getting involved, you'll need an inoculation! This is one dedicated crowd! Welcome aboard, Master Recyclers. Keep up the great momentum...

## OREGON GREEN SCHOOL AWARDS PROJECT BOOSTS SCHOOL RECYCLING

On Oct. 31, the Oregon Green Schools Awards Project presented fourteen Lane County schools with a financial boost for their recycling and waste reduction efforts. The Eugene Solid Waste and Recycling Program partnered with the Lane County Waste Management Division to organize the event, which granted \$250 to each applicant for a total of \$3500.

The money will fund proposals such as educational materials for worm bin composting, tours to the Glenwood transfer site and the landfill, materials to build compost and recycling containers, and "zero waste lunch kits."

Janet Morrison, one of the winners and a second grade teacher at Corridor Elementary School, plans to use the grant to assemble "zero waste lunch kits." She says that one day while walking around the lunch room, she noticed that only one student had reusable containers, the rest had plastic bags and pre-packaged items. She had recently purchased 100 hand-carved soapstone chess pieces from the Saturday Market, and handed them out to the students as incentives to bring reusable containers for lunch, but she wanted a better way to get them in the habit.

So she came up with the idea for the lunch kits, which will include a cloth napkin and plastic containers for a sandwich, juice and snacks. Most of the children already have a reusable lunch bag. The students will pledge to wash and reuse the containers on a daily basis in exchange for receiving the kit. She estimates this will keep about three plastic bags per child per day out of the trash, and a lot of Capri juice containers.

One of the purposes of instituting the annual awards, says Anne Donohue, city of Eugene compost specialist, is that "It shows me who the champions are, and tells me what they need."

Other purposes of the grants are to encourage schools to join the Oregon Green Schools Program (OGSP), and to provide much needed economic assistance, recognition and validation for its members. This state association supports the students and staff in establishing, implementing and maintaining waste reduction and recycling programs to improve the school environment and the community. Certificates and letters of recognition are awarded for minimizing waste by reducing, reusing and recycling, tracking results, conducting waste evaluations and defining a sustainable plan.

The OGSP coordinators for the city of Eugene and Lane County, respectively, are Donohue and Pete Chism, Lane County Waste Reduction Specialist. They hope to have more than 20 area schools enrolled in the OGSP by the end of the year.

"I would love to find out why intelligent, earth-friendly people see waste reduction as an option," says Morrison. "The kids are the best hope for us. They think about how important the plants and animals are."

To volunteer with the local Oregon Green School Program, contact Anne Donohue at 682-5542 or Pete Chism 682-4339.

Contributed by Pat Sweeney, Master Recycler

## THE EUGENE MISSION WANTS YOUR OLD NEWS



As a result of co-mingling, the Eugene Mission newspaper collections have dropped from approximately 500 to 300 tons per month, says Harold Smith, industrial manager. The mission sells the papers as a source of revenue.

It continues to collect from commercial sites and the Glenwood transfer station, but the papers that you deposit with the co-mingled

waste are trucked to Portland and recycled there.

To support this local institution, deposit your newspapers in one of its red collection boxes. These containers are typically located by super markets, schools, hotels, churches and apartment complexes.

For the location of the drop site nearest to you, call the

mission at 344-3251. If you have a commercial quantity of newspapers to recycle, contact Harold Smith at the same number to have a box installed free.

Contributed by Pat Sweeney, Master Recycler, Spring 2003 graduate.

# CONFESSIONS OF A MASTER RECYCLER

BY JOSHUA WELCH, MASTER RECYCLER

I have a confession to make. I'm addicted to Master Recyclers, but I have a sneaky feeling there are quite a few other addicts out there. You know what I'm talking about: that buzz you got at class when all of that wonderful energy flowed throughout the room. That energy that was created by a group of people committed to reducing waste and making our world a better place. Well, I've got your fix, baby. **It's the Consumer Action Club!** The place where all the heavy hitters in the recycling community come to communicate, socialize, organize and act.

Members include Master Recycler Extraordinaire, Zachary Zakon, Education Coordinator for Bring Recycling, Sarah Grim, Deli Manager for Sundance Natural Foods, Mikalina Wiswall and Lane County Waste Reduction Warriors, Lorraine Boose and Pete Chism. In a short time we have brought together a solid core of members and begun to build a network that has the potential to become a powerful force to be reckoned with. **How** powerful is up to us!

For those out there unsure of how to transform their visions into Master Recycler hours,

the CAC is the perfect tool for the job. The first meeting was on Tuesday, Dec. 2nd. **The next will be on Tuesday, Jan 6th @ 295 31st St. in Eugene from 6 to 9pm.** We plan on having the meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at the same hour. We are already up to eighteen members and growing rapidly. Details on the last meeting have e-mailed to all Master Recyclers and CAC members. If you did not receive the e-mail and would like to have it, contact me and I will make sure you get it. Join us! For more information, contact Joshua at 687-6475.



Recycle your Christmas tree at any number of sites. For more information, check the City of Eugene website:

[www.eugenerecycles.org](http://www.eugenerecycles.org).

For more waste reduction tips check the

Lane County website:

[www.lanecounty.org/PW\\_WMD\\_Recycle/lessisbest.htm](http://www.lanecounty.org/PW_WMD_Recycle/lessisbest.htm)

## HOLIDAY CARD COLLECTION

Last year, Master Recyclers collected over one ton of holiday cards from Lane County residents to donate to St. Jude's Ranch. These cards were reused to make cards which were sold to fund educational programs that help disadvantaged kids.

This year, 11 barrels will be placed around town for collection of cards and calendars. Some of the materials collected will be donated to a local agency that serves children and families. Using our collected cards and calendars, volunteers will create "life story books" for children in foster care who are awaiting placement into adoptive families. Any extra materials will be shipped to St. Jude's Ranch. In January, we'll have a card processing party and send them off to their destination!

Thanks to Rex Fox, Cheri Smith, Anne Donahue, Sharon Mulford, Dwan Rae, Judy Potter, Terry Macklin and Barbara Coolman for "adopting" a barrel. Some of the sites include: U of O Computer Science Department, Northwest Community Credit Union (three branches), Hallmark Store, Territorial Elementary School, Food for Lane County, Lane County Public Services Building, Center for Sacred Sciences, and First Christian Church.

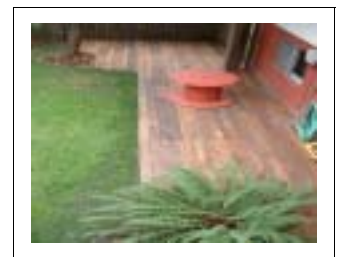
## RECLAIMED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PUT TO GOOD USE

The patio pictured here is one that I built last summer completely from scrap lumber salvaged from construction sites. The patio is 50 feet long and averages about 9 feet wide and would have been rather expensive to build out of either wood or masonry block, so being a cheapo at heart, I decided to see what I could

scavenge from construction sites. It took a couple of months of semi-weekly trips running all around the areas of Eugene where building is taking place, but I collected enough 2x4s, 2x6s and 2x8s to build the whole thing. There is not a piece of lumber in the entire patio that I paid for (as long as you don't count

the cost of gasoline), including the pressure treated cross-pieces underneath, and some of the scavenged boards are as long as 16 or 18 feet! It is truly amazing what people throw away!

Contributed by Ward Ricker, Master Recycler, Fall 2002 graduate.



Reclaimed materials reused to make this deck!

Lane County Waste Management

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## PAST TRASHBUSTER AWARDS

1994

Genesis Juice  
EPUD

1995

U of O Outdoor Program  
Shelton-Turnbull Printers

1996

Oregon Country Fair  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Iris Sayre  
McMenamin's 19th St Café  
Atlas Cylinders

1998

U of O Bookstore  
BRING Recycling

1999

Brookrod  
Ken Marquardt Construction  
Price Chopper Foods

2000

Julie Rogers  
Nancy Young

2001

Guaranty Auto

2002

Kinko's Copies  
U of O Campus Recycling  
BRING Recycling  
Weyerhaeuser  
Ken Sandusky  
U of O Environmental Service  
Learning Program

*The Master Recycler Program Mission Statement: To bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste in homes and workplaces.*

## TIS' THE SEASON

JOSHUA WELCH, MASTER  
RECYCLER

What can you say to your fellow Master Recyclers on the issue of holiday waste? It's certainly not going to shock you when I tell you that America produces an extra five million tons of waste between Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Year's Eve. We already know about many of the creative things we can do to reduce waste.

What you don't know you can find on the BRING website: [www.bringrecycling.org](http://www.bringrecycling.org) in their fantastic holiday section. So, what's left to say? I say this: Tis' the season for Master Recyclers to shine!

During this time of year we are all part of countless parties, dinners and gatherings. These are prime opportunities for us to influence others. Using your durable cups,



plates, utensils and napkins, and using them with pride, sends out ripples of inspiration.

Even though we could make most of our holiday cards with recycled materials, it, it may be more difficult to make all of our gifts. We can support eco-friendly businesses and we can choose gifts that inspire others to recycle and buy recycled. While you're out

shopping with your durable bags, drinking out of your durable cups, and taking home leftovers in durable containers, ask the businesses whom you're supporting what incentives, if any, are given to their customers to use durable products. Ask them what they're doing to reduce the gross amount of unnecessary waste. Questions and suggestions produce results!

Finally, for anybody out there making New Year's resolutions, turn those into waste reducing resolutions. No more potato chips in the non-recyclable bag. Bike more, walk more and drive less. Start composting. You get the idea. Whatever you do, make sure you have a peaceful and compassionate holiday season!