



The Earth WISE Bulletin

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County

Volume 3, Issue 6

Spring 2013

What's inside

Green Award winners	1- 4
Lifetime Achievement Winner	4 - 5
Ask Mr. Sustainability	6
Factoids	6
Earth Day info	7
EW Directory	8-9
Recent Recerts	9

Important dates:

- Mar 20 Vernal Equinox
- Mar 25 Passover
- Mar. 25-29 Spring Break
- March 31 Easter
- April 20 Earth Day at Oregon Garden ★
- April 21 Earth Day (Nationally)
- May 4 Composter Sale
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 27 Memorial Day
- June 11/12 Salem Keizer Schools out
- June 16 Father's Day

Mid-Willamette Valley Green Award winners announced

By Beth Casper

March 2—The Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center, Marion County Public Works Environmental Services and Capitol Subaru presented the winners of the fourth annual Mid-Willamette Valley Green Awards.

The 2013 Green Award winners were chosen from a pool of businesses, individuals and organizations nominated for outstanding sustainability efforts. All of the nominees are making great strides in practices that ensure cleaner air, water, habitat and livability. But the winners represent all-around best efforts, and their work proves that the Mid-Willamette Valley is fertile ground for green efforts. The following is a list of the winners from each category:

Recycler of the Year: Ellen Stevens

A longtime volunteer at the Assistance League of Salem-Keizer, Ellen is the guru of recycling as well as the impetus behind the League's reduce/reuse/recycle efforts. Her efforts include working to create a zero waste Cook's Tour; setting up regular recycling at each of the League's three main shops; finding creative ways to recycle or reuse the hundreds of plastic bags, cardboard boxes, hangers and old clothing taken at the shops; and guiding the renovation of Encore Furniture to include green building practices. She has also instituted a training program to teach the League's reduce/reuse/recycle practices to each year's new member class—quite the challenge in an organization of more than 400 volunteers.



Recycler of the year:
Ellen Stevens

Green Apple Award: Marie Carver

Marie teaches integrated science, conservation biology, gardening, and art in nature at the Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School. She has a very "hands-on" approach to teaching: her students, partnered with local governments or non-profits, conduct research on a number of local environmental issues, including

-Continued on next page -

amphibian decline, stream health, pika survival and recolonization after a forest fire. Carver also offers her students opportunities to work on gardening projects around Salem to teach them the importance of caring for their local environment. Her art class focuses on environmental art by combining students' experiences on field trips with artistic, creative representation.



Co-host Beth Myers-Shenai presents award to Chemeketa President Cheryl Roberts



Green Apple winner Marie Carver

Green Building of the Year: Chemeketa Community College's Health Science Complex

CCC's Health Science Complex, built to LEED silver green building standards, is a 71,000-square-foot, 2-story building that houses the nursing, dental hygiene and pharmacy technology programs, as well as provides room for physical and earth science classes. The building exceeds Oregon's energy code by 50 percent; uses 20 percent less potable water than conventional buildings of the same size; and, during construction, 75 percent of the waste was reused or recycled. But its greatest impact will be with its relationship to the occupants, who can control natural ventilation, fans and lighting, as well as examine the energy performance of the building. The Energy Trust of Oregon included Chemeketa's building in its "Path to Net Zero" pilot project, which offers incentives for performance monitoring and renewable power generation.

Sustainable Small Business of the Year: Compex Two

Compex Two, which provides medical and professional grade technology, has a comprehensive recycling program at its building, green purchasing for its paper and other products and an electric car for travel. But it's in the technology solutions that the company has shown its true green color: for example, it has a unique partnership with local schools to take in old computers from Compex Two's clients for students to dissect and learn how computers work; it has implemented Cloud computing solutions to reduce independent energy consumption; and the company encourages clients to purchase Energy Star-certified monitors. Compex Two offers ongoing environmental trainings to employees and regularly holds green team meetings, as well as spreads the word to the community through events, such as Earth Day at the Oregon Garden. Besides all of their recycling efforts, Compex Two understands that a sustainable business is one whose employees model green behavior. The company issues a pair of running shoes to each employee to encourage walking to appointments and the company bike is available for travel farther away.



Heidi Redford accepts the award for Compex Two

Sustainable Large Business of the Year: SAIF Corporation

SAIF has reduced paper usage by 6 million pages a year by moving to electronic records and double-sided copies, reduced electricity and natural gas use by more than 5 percent, and saved approximately \$25,000 in energy bills. In the last three years, it has reduced its fleet by 20 vehicles, resulting in a 4 percent reduction in miles driven, gallons used, and emissions emitted between 2010 and 2011. The purchase of a refurbished compactor for mixed recycling cut SAIF's waste hauling fees by about \$10,000 a year. SAIF also replaced most of the landscaping with native plants that require little irrigation—eco-turf scheduled to be installed this year should reduce water use in the courtyard by 75 percent. In addition, SAIF has made tremendous efforts in educating its employees—recycling stations take different hard-to-recycle items each month, employees are rewarded for turning all energy-using devices off each night, reusable drink cups are sold in the café, and events throughout the year allow employees to exchange household items such as books.



SAIF's Tracy Meyer accepts award from co-host Jim Green

Sustainable Service of the Year: Salem Harvest

Salem Harvest is the largest community harvesting organization in Oregon—connecting farmers and backyard growers with volunteer pickers to harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. In the three years of its existence, the nonprofit's thousands of volunteers picked over 300,000 pounds of food, half of which was donated to the Marion-Polk Food Share or its affiliated food pantries, helping to combat hunger in this region. The all-volunteer organization has very low overhead costs and can harvest food for less than 5 cents a pound in organizational costs. The nonprofit also serves to teach volunteers about where their food comes from, and brings together a broad cross-section of the community: both individuals interested in sustainable lifestyles as well as those struggling with economic challenges.



Salem Harvest Board member Alicia Bay

Sustainable Product of the Year: Barnwood Naturals LLC



Barnwood Naturals salvages Willamette Valley barns and buildings within a 500-mile radius of Salem, dismantling each structure by hand and documenting the history of the building before using the wood and nails for new projects. All of the embedded energy of the material is saved, which reduces the environmental impacts of logging, potential water and air pollution, and energy for transportation. Last year, owner Bruce Wadleigh deconstructed two barns that produced



Barnwood Naturals founder Bruce Wadleigh

more than 100,000 board feet of reclaimed wood for local projects. All of the earnings from the company stays in the local area, and the reclaimed wood is often used to provide materials for buildings hoping to achieve LEED certification.

EarthWISE Business of the Year: Willamette Valley Fruit Company

Willamette Valley Fruit Company's efforts to go green go far beyond the 400,000 gallons of water applied to farm land each year after all of the company's fruit is washed. The processing plant recycled enough cardboard since 2005 to save the company more than \$58,000; installed energy efficient lights to save more than 45,000 kilowatt hours per year; and replaced old doors with high-speed rollup doors on the cooler to save more than \$12,000 a year in energy costs. Future projects include the purchase of an energy-efficient air compressor system that will save about 70,000 kilowatt-hours per year and \$5,553 annually in energy costs, and another set of high-speed roll-up doors on a new cooler which will save \$7,000 annually in energy costs.



Derek Imig of WFVC receives EarthWISE Business of the Year honors

John Miller Earns Special Lifetime Achievement Award

Early adopter of sustainable efforts noted for his work

John Miller heads a family of companies under the Wildwood Mahonia name. From his offices in the renovated Old Pringle Schoolhouse in Salem, John and his staff are engaged in a diverse range of sustainability activities: urban design and development, agriculture, a community service program, and international ventures.



URBAN DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

In the 1970's, John developed the Woodscape community in SE Salem. Street and structure locations were determined by existing native vegetation, solar orientation and watercourses. The latest phase, aptly named Woodscape Green, was the first subdivision in the mid-valley to require that all homes be built to Energy Star and Earth Advantage standards. John and Sue Miller donated part of the land to become Woodscape Park; Salem's first linear park that combines recreation, storm water detention and filtration and connects two neighborhoods via pedestrian paths.

John was instrumental in putting Salem on the renewable fuels map by attracting Sequential Pacific Biodiesel, Oregon's largest Biodiesel producer, creating jobs and clean fuel while reducing Oregon's dependence on imported petroleum.

John's latest industrial project, The East Pringle Innovation Center, or (EPIC), is a 12 acre development designed to be a future hub for energy efficient



Sequential Pacific Biodiesel plant on Turner Road in SE Salem

food processing and agriculture related businesses. EPIC will house both established and innovative young businesses in a campus like setting. The building is designed to perform 25-30% above current City Code and features solar hot water collectors, a photovoltaic array, and a rent schedule that increases gradually as businesses grow.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Finding adequate native plant material in the 1970's for the Woodscape developments wasn't easy, so John established a native plant nursery, Mahonia Vineyards and Nursery that specializes in native trees and shrubs. The nursery is widely known for its Oregon Oak rescue program that salvages native trees from sites that are about to be cleared, such as development sites and road widening projects.



Native oak salvage operation

The adjacent vineyard produces grapes which are sold to some of the top wine makers in the Willamette Valley. In 2005, John began marketing the wine under the Mahonia Vineyard label. Both the vineyard and nursery are L.I.V.E. Certified, Salmon-Safe, and EarthWISE certified.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In 2000, John, along with a group of educators and interested community members, founded and published **Honoring Our Rivers (HOR)**, a project noted for fostering creativity among students for our state's rivers and watersheds. Over the years, HOR has worked with hundreds of schools and thousands of students, resulting in Oregon's only annual and state-wide student anthology focused on rivers and sustainability.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

John has travelled to Asia with three Oregon Governors and on his own several times over a period of many years. Using his expertise in sustainability, he has helped attract foreign companies to Oregon and helped promote Oregon products abroad, from sustainably-produced Oregon wine, to grass seed for erosion control. In China, John's credentials in business, planning, and his experience in watershed restoration and sustainable community design led to years of work with in both urban and rural sustainable community design.



Solar panels at Mahonia Vineyard

**Ask
Mister
Sustainability**

Question: I just read somewhere that the credit card sales receipt I sign when I use my card contains some nasty chemicals. True, or pants on fire? My company uses a ton of this kind of paper.

Great question...but put the extinguisher back on the wall.

The sales receipts routinely handed out by stores are often on a thermal paper that contains a chemical called bisphenol-A, or BPA. BPA is used as a chemical developer for the printing dye that appears on your thermally-sensitive paper that, when heated, produces color. Beyond cash register and ATM receipts, high levels of BPA are also often present in the thermal paper used to make lottery tickets, shipping labels, tickets (think movie or airline), and just about anything else that looks like it was created on a heated label.

So what's the big deal? BPA is believed to be an endocrine disrupter that mimics many of the body's hormones. Studies on animals have suggested that it can have harmful effects on reproductive and developmental systems, especially in fetuses and young children. Linkage to cancers and neurological systems have been observed as well. And it can enter the body by eating or touching it.

So what can you (and all of us) do? Why switch to something else—like BPS paper—which is often marketed as "BPA Free". Good idea? Not.

BPS contains just as much bad juju as BPA but has a better press agent.

But wait, one cries, we have to have some way to create receipts, or the world as we know it will crash in a fiery ball of non-thermal flames!

There is another way...and it's thermal. Over the last couple of years, various big (and some small) chemical players have been working on developing non-phenol versions of thermal paper that don't contain either of the two bad guys listed above. It's out there, but you're probably gonna have to ask for it. The downside: R & D costs money, so new products like this usually cost a bit more than the old standard. But eventually those prices should drop.

It's worth it though. It's time to get that stuff out of the system.

And what to do with the old BPA or BPS paper? Whatever you do, don't put thermal receipts in the recycling bin. Bis-phenol chemicals have the nasty habit of keeping their potency and can reappear in recycled products like toilet paper, napkins and food packaging. It's best to place those things in the garbage.

Factoid Department

325,963. That's how many pounds of batteries were recycled last year in Marion County.

Is that a lot? It might help to visualize it as equal to 815 sumo wrestlers stacked end on end. Maybe that's not as helpful as it could be.

Why is it important? Batteries contain many metals, some very toxic. Call2Recycle reports that a record busting 10 million pounds of batteries were collected nationwide in 2012.

Speaking of weight, consider this: the US EPA tells us that a reduction of just 100 lbs in your vehicle results in a fuel efficiency increase of 1 - 2 %, a savings of about 4 to 6 cents per gallon. It pays to make your kids walk.

Any guesses as to what's the most common recycled item? For both residential and commercial accounts in Marion County, it's paper: about 80% of what goes in the blue bin is cardboard, grey board and newspaper.

Any guesses as to what's the most important item to recycle? According to the **National Recycling Coalition**, aluminum is. That's because it can basically be recycled forever and uses 95% less energy than when making brand-new aluminum stuff.

EarthWISE Member Directory

* Denotes new EarthWISE business

Construction

Advantage Precast, Inc.
Arbuckle Costic Architects, Inc.
Barnwood Naturals, LLC
Carlson Veit Architects, P.C.
CB | Two Architects
Cherry City Heating
Cherry City Remodeling
dalke construction
Day Heating & Cooling
Fluent Engineering, Inc.*
Jet Industries
Modern Building Systems, Inc.
Pence Northwest Construction, LLC
Studio 3 Architecture, Inc.

Education

Chemeketa Community College
Woodburn School District

Financial

Financial Products and Services, Inc.
SELCO Community Credit Union

Food

Bentley's Grill
BrucePac - Silverton & Woodburn Plants
Cascade Baking
Jonathan's
Kerr Concentrates, Inc.
LifeSource Natural Foods
NORPAC Foods - Stayton, Brooks, & Salem Plants
Spring Valley Dairy
Truitt Brothers, Inc.
Willamette Valley Fruit Company

Government

Champoeg State Heritage Area
Marion County Dog Shelter
Marion County Public Works—Silverton Road Campus

Government continued

Oregon Department of Energy
Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services - 20 Buildings
Oregon Exposition Center
Oregon Lottery
Oregon State Capitol
Oregon State Penitentiary
Oregon Dept. of Public Safety Standards & Training*
Oregon - Salem Motor Pool
Salem Civic Center
Salem Fire Department
Salem Housing Authority
Salem - Information Technology
Salem - Public Works Willow Lake WPCF
Salem - Urban Development's Airport Division
Salem - Urban Development's Director's Office
Salem Public Library

Landscaping

DeSantis Landscapes, Inc.
The Garden Angels
Green Acres Landscape, Inc.

Medical

Holly Chamberlain D.D.S., L.L.C.
Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.
Miller Orthodontics
Willamette E.N.T. & Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP

Not For Profit

Assistance League of Salem - Daue House
Assistance League of Salem - Encore Furniture
Family Building Blocks
Garten Services, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Marion-Polk Food Share
SAIF Corporation
Temple Beth Sholom
United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community

Professional/Services

AAA Cleaning Service - Metro, Inc.
ABC Window Cleaners & Building Maintenance
AJ's Auto Repair, Inc.
Allied Video Productions
Brooks Automotive*
Cascade Employer's Association
Collier Law*
Compex Two Computers
Designer Cut
Kristin LaMont, Attorney at Law P.C.
Lancaster Mall Operations
Law Office of Eden Rose Brown
Phiz Spa
Sanford Automotive
T-Mobile
VanNatta Public Relations/Spire Management

Real Estate & Commercial Properties

First American Title Insurance Company
The Epping Group/Creekside Corporate Center
Facet Real Estate Investments LLC
Pringle Creek Community
Sperry Van Ness Commercial Advisors
Wildwood/Mahonia

Recycling/Solid Waste

Agri-Plas, Inc.
Covanta Energy, Marion Facility
D & O Garbage Service Inc.
Loren's Sanitation & Recycling Services*
Marion Recycling Center
North Marion Recycling & Disposal*
Pacific Sanitation

Retail/Wholesale

Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Hillyer's Mid-City Ford
One Fair World*

Tourism

Grand Hotel in Salem
Salem Conference Center
Travel Oregon
Travel Salem

Time to recertify already?

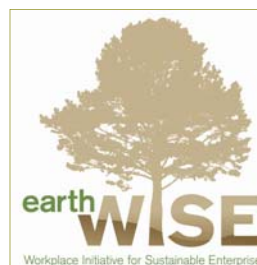
These EarthWISE businesses just did



Temple Beth Sholom



Dalke Construction



Contact?
Earthwise@co.marion.or.us

www.mcEarthwise.net

503-365 3188