

January 2008

# Natural Matters

Exploring Naturally Beautiful Backyards

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Junk to Funk Leader

I am pleased to introduce Darla Smith, 2007 NBB graduate and fearless leader of the Junk to Funk project. We are looking for willing participants to help design and create fashion out of trash to submit for the 2008 Junk to Funk trashion show in October. We will need all sorts of help, designing, sewing, collecting materials, etc. Yes, this counts as payback hours and more importantly we get to hang out together! We have a work location with tables AND a sewing machine thanks to Kris Alexander. If you are interested in being any part of the Junk to Funk crew please contact Darla Smith at: [happywildcat@gmail.com](mailto:happywildcat@gmail.com).

AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, the one and only, DARLA SMITH!



If there is one thing that I know, it's JUNK!

That's why I got so excited when Kendra asked me to participate in this year's Junk to Funk show. I'm a girl that craves a project and since collecting "crap" and turning it into something pretty is how I spend a great deal of my time anyway, this seems like a natural fit!

The best part of this deal is that I will get to spend time with such creative, wonderful people. I am looking forward to it. (Except you Wayne!)

## Taking the Time

**"Nature has undoubtedly mastered the art of winter gardening and even the most experienced gardener can learn from the unrestrained beauty around them."**

- Vincent A. Simeone



### Inside this issue:

<i>'08 Volunteer Training</i>	2
<i>Volunteer Meetings</i>	2
<i>The World According to Kris Alexander</i>	3
<i>The Things You Say</i>	3
<i>From the Coordinator</i>	4
<i>Contact Information</i>	4
<i>Volunteer Hours Sheet</i>	5

### January Volunteer Meeting Has changed!

We will be meeting **6:00pm** at the Clark County Building, 1300 Franklin Street, 4th floor, room 433 for the meeting portion of the night and then attending the "Sustaining Change on the American Farm: An Artist/Farmer Exchange" art exhibit opening reception at the Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main Street. We have been invited as a group so please join us so we can attend together. We will have the tool sharpening meeting in early spring!

## Volunteer Training

## Volunteer Meetings

Following are the 2008 Training dates and topics. The training will be held once again at the Clark County 78th Street Operations Center, 4700 NE 78th Street. Please, know that you are invited to all the training sessions. We would love to see you!

**January 24** — NBB Program Overview, Intros  
Project Groups, and Housekeeping  
Speaker: NBB Staff and Americorps Member

**January 31** — Composting, Soil Biology 101, Geology  
Speaker: Carlos Rodriguez-Vega, MC/R Volunteer  
Speaker: Dr. Charlene Montierth, Clark College/WSU

**February 7** — Native Plants and Invasives  
Speaker: Lynn Cornelius, Ridgefield Wildlife  
Refuge Speaker: Weed Management

**February 14** — Urban Wildlife  
Speaker: Diane Adkin, Wildlife Sanctuary Specialist  
Speaker: Debbie Kapral, owner BYBS



**February 21** — Beneficial Insects and IPM  
Speaker: Sally Fisher, Clark County  
Speaker: Sherian Wright, Bee Wrangler  
Speaker: NBB Staff

**February 28** — Water Sys., Rainbarrels & Gardens  
Speaker: Bev Walker, Water Resource Ed. Center  
Speaker: Clark County/WSU Watershed Stewards

**March 6** — Household Hazardous Waste, Recycling,  
and Green Cleaning  
Speaker: Jim Mansfield, Clark County  
Speaker: Sarah Wilkinson, Waste Connections  
Speaker: Clark County/WSU Watershed Stewards

**March 13** — Ecolawns/Lawn Alternatives, Smart  
Watering, and Grasscycling  
Speaker: Glenn Lebsack  
Speaker: Roy Lebsack  
Speaker: NBB Staff

**March 20** — Organic Vegetable Gardening, Lasagna  
Gardening, Volunteerism  
Speaker: NBB Staff and Americorps Member  
Speaker: Ann Lawrence, Storytree Farm

**March 27** — Presentations and Graduation Party

**Thursday, January 17, 6 to 8pm**

**CHANGE OF PLANS!**

**We will be attending this!**



**Thursday, February 21, 6 to 9pm**

Join the 2008 trainees at Clark County 78th Street Operation Center, 4700 NE 78th Street for Beneficial Insects, Mason Bees, and Integrated Pest Management. I hope to see you all during this meeting as we will be discussing information that has not been provided at previous trainings. Please, bring a snack to share.

**Thursday, March 20, 6 to 9pm**

Join the 2008 trainees at Clark County 78th Street Operations Center, 4700 NE 78th Street for Organic Vegetable Gardening, Lasagna Gardening, and Volunteerism. This will be a great class and I hope to see everyone there. Please, bring a snack to share.

# From One Vision to Another

*The World According to Kris Alexander, Americorps Member*

January is a time of worn out clichés about endings and beginnings, new hope, dreams, plans and resolutions. So what can I say about January that is new and exciting? How can I educate and entertain and enlighten you?

January is named for the Roman god Janus, who is usually pictured with two faces, one looking forward and the other backwards. He is the guardian of gateways and beginnings, symbolizing change and progression from past to future or from one vision to another. For gardeners, January is a marvelous time to review and evaluate the vision of our yards, both philosophically and realistically.

A garden journal is one of the tools used to accomplish this review. Keeping a garden journal provides both a creative outlet for the expression of thoughts and feelings regarding the natural world in general and the backyard garden in particular and a practical record of what happened, when and how. (How about a journal making activity at an upcoming meeting?) Documenting experiments, successes and failures reveals the lessons learned in the garden, the knowledge and insights gained. With this tangible record in hand, the past year is within reach, making future planning an easy next step.

In planning for the future of the garden, observe what is happening in it right now. What do you see? What do you like, what's so-so, what do you dislike? Dream big dreams (oops, drifting into clichés here). Planning keeps the momentum going, giving a reminder of the next right step to accomplish. Goals and dreams written on paper show the progress as the vision moves from past planning to future fulfillment.

January is an excellent time to do the last bit of garden clean up. Start a compost pile and compost the remaining plant remnants. Maintain your pile, if you already have one, and claim any finished compost at the bottom of the pile; use it to mulch bare soil. Covered soil is happy soil, protected from erosion and compaction, rested and rejuvenated in preparation for new plants in the Spring. Mulch walkways and paths with straw, leaves, pine needles, cones, or wood chips to reduce mud and keep them weed free.

Finally, tool maintenance is another activity that links the past with the future. Sanding and oiling wooden handles brings to mind the hours spent digging, hoeing, raking and the anticipation of accomplishing those tasks with smooth, splinter free tools. Sharpening the heads of shovels and hoes prepares them to work more efficiently even while filing away the remnants of last year's tasks. As the New Year begins, the progression from one vision to another continues, moving the Naturally Beautiful Backyards Program into a great 2008.

## Tidbits and Such

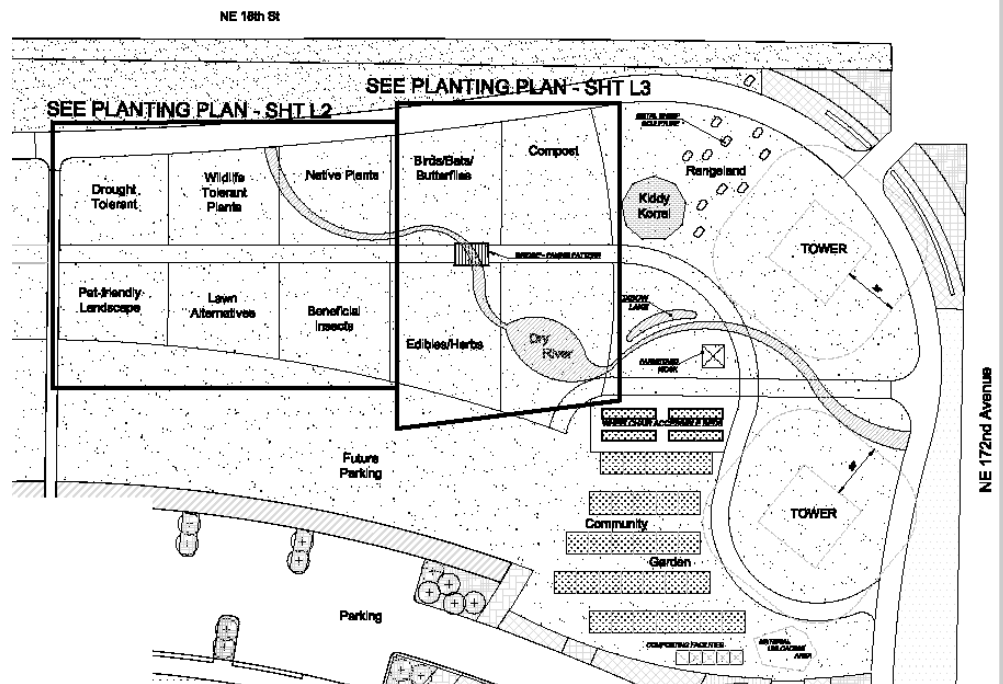
2008 Trainee Zack Morrison has sent me this great link to a water barrel downspout diverter. He says it works well and is easy to install. Check it out!

[http://www.gardeners.com/Downspout-Diverter/default/StandardCatalog.Watering\\_Accessories.33-991.cpd](http://www.gardeners.com/Downspout-Diverter/default/StandardCatalog.Watering_Accessories.33-991.cpd)



## From the Coordinator . . .

January is upon us and with it the 2008 NBB Volunteer Training. It will be another fantastic year for the new recruits and veterans with new training topics as well as volunteer outreach opportunities. The 2.2 acre Pacific Park project is beginning to take shape and we will begin grading in the early spring. It is a wonderful plan and will lend itself well to teaching and learning opportunities for the public, schools, and area programs. It is one of the many large projects that are on the schedule for NBB in 2008. I am excited to share all the opportunities with you in the upcoming year. Please, know that you are invited to all the training nights; you know that I love to get veterans involved with the new trainees as soon as possible! Included is a list of upcoming volunteer opportunities for the spring. I encourage EVERYONE to participate in the Earth-friendly Garden Tour taking place on July 13. We are looking for garden teams as well as volunteers for the day of the event. If you would be interested in acting as a Garden Tour captain give me a call!



Comments, questions, insights, brainstorms,  
anything at all . . .

Kendra Pearce, Coordinator

Kris Alexander, Americorps Member

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The Naturally  
Beautiful Backyards  
Program is a  
partnership of:

Clark County  
Public Works/ Solid Waste

Columbia Springs  
Environmental Education Center

Clark County  
Master Composter/Recyclers

WSU Extension Master Gardeners

Clark County  
Endangered Species Act Program



For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office.  
V (360) 397-2025; TTY (360) 397-2445; E-mail [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov)



# Volunteer Opportunities

## January through July 2008

**January 31, 9:30am to 2:30pm**

**“Focus the Nation” event at Clark Community College**

*Two volunteers needed to table this event that can speak about natural gardening with a focus on decreasing “your carbon footprint.” Information will be supplied. Time includes set up and breakdown.*

**Thursdays, January 24 through March 2, 6:00 to 9:00pm**

**Volunteer Training @ 78<sup>th</sup> Street Operations Center**

*One volunteer needed to help with set-up and break-down at each of the training nights. Counts as payback and you get to see new speakers and learn more about the topics!*

**Saturday, April 12 or 19, Urban Chickens Lecture, 10am to Noon**

**Orchards Feed Mill**

*I would appreciate **two** volunteers to help with sign-ins, garden tour registration, set-up and break-down. This is a popular class that always has a big turnout.*

**Saturday, April 12 or 19, Clark County Living Local Fair, 9:00am to 3:00pm**

**Clark Community College**

*There will be several volunteer opportunities for this event as NBB is one of the primary organizers. Keep your eyes open for volunteer openings.*

**Saturday, April 12/19, “Growing the Food You Want in the Space You Have” Lecture at Clark County Living Local Fair, time TBD**

*I would appreciate **one** volunteer to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**Saturday, April 12/19, “Recycled Garden Art for Kids” Lecture at Clark County Living Local Fair, time TBD**

*I would appreciate **one** volunteer to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**Saturday, April 12/19, “Green Cleaning for Kids” Lecture at Clark County Living Local Fair, time TBD**

*I would appreciate **one** volunteer to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**Thursday April 17, HP Earth Day Event, 10:00am to 2:30pm**

**Hewlett Packard**

*This is a fantastic event for NBB! Fun, with lots of interested people. I would appreciate **two volunteers** to attend this event. Time includes set up and breakdown.*

**Tuesday, April 22, Nautilus Earth Day Event, 10:00am to 2:30pm**

**Nautilus**

*This is a fantastic event for NBB! Fun, with lots of interested people. I would appreciate **two volunteers** to attend this event. Time includes set up and breakdown.*

**April 25, 26, and 27, Home and Garden Idea Fair Clark County Fairgrounds**

I would appreciate at least **two** Volunteers for each shift:

Friday: 9am to 1pm; 1pm to 4pm; 4pm to 8pm

Saturday: 9am to 1pm; 1pm to 4pm; 4pm to 8pm

Sunday: 10am to 1pm; 1pm to 5pm

**Saturday, April 26, “Gardening with Native Plants” Lecture, time TBD**

**Home and Garden Idea Fair Clark County Fairgrounds**

*I would appreciate **one** volunteer to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**Saturday, April 26, “Edible Landscaping for Kids”, time TBD**

**Home and Garden Idea Fair Clark County Fairgrounds**

*I would appreciate **one** volunteer to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**Saturday, May 10, Camas Mother’s Day Plant Sale, Camas, 9am to 4pm**

I would appreciate **two** Volunteers for each shift:

8am to Noon (Includes set-up)

Noon to 4.30pm (Includes Tear-down)

**June 28 and 29, Recycled Arts Festival at Esther Short Park**

*I would appreciate **two** Volunteers for each shift:*

Saturday: 10am to 1pm; 1pm to 4pm

Sunday: 10am to 1pm; 1pm to 4.30pm (includes break-down)

**Sunday, July 13, Earth-friendly Garden Tour, 10am to 4pm**

This is THE EVENT of the NBB season. I would appreciate if **everyone** would volunteer for at least one shift at a host garden. We will be forming garden teams to help host gardeners prepare for the tour. You are more than welcome to work on a garden team!

**Tuesday, July 22, “Rain Barrels and Raingardens” Workshop, 6:00 to 8:00pm, location TBD**

*I would appreciate **two** volunteers to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**Thursday, July 24, “Smart Watering” Lecture, 6:00 to 8:00pm, location TBD**

*I would appreciate **two** volunteers to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**Tuesday, July 29, “Backyard Composting” Workshop, 6:00 to 8:00pm, location TBD**

*I would appreciate **two** volunteers to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**Thursday, July 31, “Attracting Beneficial Insects” Lecture, 6:00 to 8:00pm, location TBD**

*I would appreciate **two** volunteers to help with sign-ins, set-up and break-down.*

**There will be opportunities to create and set-up displays for the library cases throughout Clark County; opportunities will be posted.**