



August 2008

# Natural Matters

## Re-Co-Ver Review



Master Composter Recycler and Naturally Beautiful Backyards Newsletter

### Comings and Goings

The Master Composter/Recycler and Naturally Beautiful Backyards programs were enriched over the past eleven months by the outstanding efforts of AmeriCorps volunteer **Kris Alexander**.

Kris has wrapped up her stint with AmeriCorps, and is stepping into a new adventure working with *Clark County Homegrown Gardens Program*. Kris will carry on with her passion for education and gardening by working with this health department sponsored program which mentors families in growing food gardens.

But don't think you've seen the last of her. Fortunately for us, Kris will remain active in the Master Composter Recycler and Naturally Beautiful Backyards programs, as she was a program volunteer before she joined the AmeriCorps program. As a matter of fact, Kris is part of the only three generation MCR volunteer family with both a parent and a son being MCR volunteers as well!

Thank you Kris for all you have given to the programs and the volunteers. We are happy that you will still be with us.

### Welcome to the New Naturally Beautiful Backyards Staff...

**Kenneth O'Brien** has been hired for the Sustainability Educator position here at Columbia Springs. Kenneth will take the lead in coordinating the Naturally Beautiful Backyards Program and begins work on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Kenneth has a wide breadth of experience working in the field of natural resources, sustainability and environmental education. He has a Master of Science in Natural Resources with a focus on Environmental Education from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Kenneth has had the opportunity to work in private industry, for non profits and public agencies. He has experience teaching organic and natural gardening techniques and habitat restoration using native plants. Kenneth brings a passion for education, working with community volunteers, and for sustainability. Please join me in welcoming him at our volunteer meeting Thursday, August 21.

#### Inside this issue:

<i>Comings and Goings</i>	1
<i>From the MCR and NBB Desk</i>	2
<i>Volunteer News and Meetings</i>	3
<i>Volunteer Opportunities</i>	4



Above: Kris Alexander at the Ice Cream Social

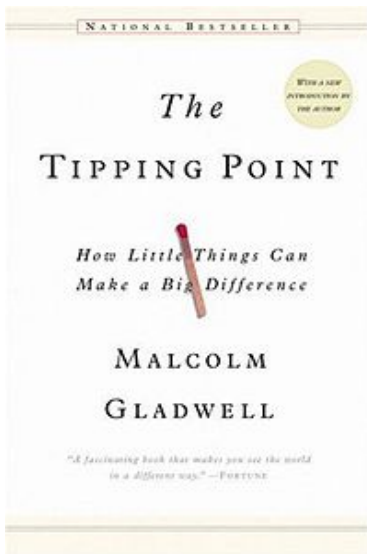


Above: NBB's New Fearless Leader, Kenneth O'Brien

## Greetings from the MCR and NBB Desks

Lately I've been pondering how we can best encourage positive behavior changes in our community. After all, this is what we do as Master Composter Recyclers and Naturally Beautiful Backyarders.

There is an interesting concept called "the tipping point." The tipping point is a threshold where a previously somewhat uncommon social behavior becomes so widespread that it becomes the



mainstream "norm." You could think of it as a behavior that goes viral. This April, after Oprah hosted Julia Roberts talking about composting, the MCR phone rang for days with people interested in our workshops. When talk shows start demonstrating worm composting you know we are making progress!

You can explore some ideas of how social behaviors spread in a book by Malcolm Gladwell called "*The Tipping Point, How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference.*" I have the book if any of you want to borrow it.

Gladwell talks about how for a behavior to spread dramatically there needs to be special types of people: "connectors" - people who network especially well; "mavens" - folks who are information specialists who accumulate knowledge and know how to share it with others; and "salesmen" - charismatic people who know how to charm you into buying something. For some reason this

sounds a bit like the lot of our group!

There are many of interesting theories about how ideas spread, and how to engineer social change. Another concept worth thinking about is "stickiness."

Stickiness is the mysterious element that makes a message memorable and have impact. Are there "sticky" ways we can communicate about composting, recycling and earth friendly home and yard care practices? What have you seen that works well in our programs? What have you noticed that we might want to tweak? What are your creative thoughts...please come to a meeting and share your ideas.

As more and more of us embrace and share choices that make our planet and community healthier and more sustainable I am hopeful that we will eventually reach "*the tipping point.*" "

My best,

Jo Anne

"Summer's lease hath all too short a date."

- William Shakespeare



[mcr@columbiasprings.org](mailto:mcr@columbiasprings.org)  
[nbb@columbiasprings.org](mailto:nbb@columbiasprings.org)

The Naturally Beautiful Backyards Program and the Master Composter/Recycler Program are programs of Columbia Springs. They are offered in partnership with Clark County Solid Waste Program and are a cooperative effort of, Battle Ground, Camas, Clark County, Columbia Springs, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, and Yacolt.

Contact me anytime with comments, questions, suggestions, brainstorm, anything at all.

Jo Anne Dolan  
Columbia Springs  
12602 SE Evergreen HWY,  
Vancouver, WA 98683  
(360) 882-4567

# Volunteer News and Meetings

## Volunteer Meetings

Thursday, August 21  
6:00 to 8:00 pm

**Location Fort Vancouver. Meet at the picnic tables on the north side of the road across from Pearson Air Museum Headquarters. 115 E. 5th, Vancouver, WA.**

We'll have a joint MCR and NBB meeting with a twist. Hearing from those of you who are both NBB and MCR volunteers that you would prefer not to have to choose which "breakout" at the joint meeting to attend, we'll try staggering the meeting a bit next Thursday evening.

### NBB Volunteer Meeting

**NBB volunteers please come at 6 p.m.** to meet your new leader and debrief the garden tour. Garden Hosts, you are invited too!

### MCR Aug. Volunteer Meeting

**MCR Volunteers, please come at 6:30 p.m.** We'll discuss fall events. Fall is an important season for MCR, with the leaves falling we'll host several composting workshops and staff some great outreach events including the Fall Garden Sale at the CASEE Center and America Recycles Day at the Clark County Fix-it Fair.



### Joint MCR and NBB Enrichment

After the MCR and NBB breakouts, both groups of volunteers will join to explore the gardens at historic Fort Vancouver. We'll take an interpretive walk across the Vancouver Land Bridge, a Confluence Project site. This is a beautiful earth-covered pedestrian bridge designed by Maya Lin that arcs over State Hwy 14 to Old Apple Tree Park and Marine Drive.

The interpretive walk will start at the gardens at Fort Vancouver and travel south across the land bridge towards Old Apple Tree Park, taking in the view and the native plantings along the way.

**We will meet at the park rain or shine so please dress appropriately.**

Everyone is also invited to bring treats to share as usual.

## Enrichment Opportunity-

### Registration Is Open for Fall 2008 Living on the Land Class Series

Do you live rural and have pasture and animals? Would you like to learn how to reduce mud and weeds, improve pasture and soil quality, keep your animals healthy, and reduce chore time?

Sign up for the twelve week *Living on the Land – Stewardship for Small Acreages* series of workshops sponsored by WSU Clark County Extension and the Clark County Clean Water Program. The series provides a basic, holistic understanding of soil, water, plant and animal interactions on small acreage properties.

**“Living on the Land - Stewardship for Small Acreages”** Wednesdays, September 3 to November 19, 2008 - 6:30 to 9:30 PM

**Registration is free but class size is limited to the first 40 farms or properties.** Please call Erin Harwood at 360-397-6060 ext. 7720 or e-mail her at [erin.harwood@clark.wa.gov](mailto:erin.harwood@clark.wa.gov) to register, get directions, or for more information about the Small Acreage Program.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

-Winston Churchill

# MCR Volunteer Opportunities

August through November 2008



## Saturday August 23, Farmer's Market Esther Short Park

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

<i>8:30 to Noon includes set up</i>	<i>Noon to 3:30 includes take down</i>

## Saturday September 27, Farmer's Market Esther Short Park

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

<i>8:30 to Noon includes set up</i>	<i>Noon to 3:30 includes take down</i>

## Saturday October 25, Farmer's Market Esther Short Park

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

<i>8:30 to Noon includes set up</i>	<i>Noon to 3:30 includes take down</i>



## Wednesday, September 24, Wormshop

**6 p.m. to 8 pm.**

### Columbia Springs

*I would appreciate 4 volunteers to help with sign-ins, classroom presentation, bin assembly set-up and break-down. This is a very popular class that always has a big turnout.*

<i>Classroom:</i>	<i>Bins:</i>

## Tuesday, October 7, Wormshop

**6 p.m. to 8 pm.**

### Columbia Springs

*I would appreciate 4 volunteers to help with sign-ins, classroom presentation, bin assembly set-up and break-down. This is a very popular class that always has a big turnout.*

<i>Classroom:</i>	<i>Bins:</i>

**Sat. November 1, Wormshop**

**10 a.m. - noon**

**Columbia Springs**

*I would appreciate 4 volunteers to help with sign-ins, classroom presentation, bin assembly set-up and break-down. This is a very popular class that always has a big turnout.*

<i>Classroom:</i>	<i>Bins:</i>



**Tuesday, September 30 Backyard Composting Workshop**

**6 to 8 p.m.**

**Columbia Springs**

*This is a key fall workshop. I would appreciate 4 volunteers to assist with this workshop.*

<i>Classroom Help:</i>	<i>Bins and Systems:</i>

**Thurs. October 16, Backyard Composting Workshop**

**6 – 8 p.m.**

**Columbia Springs**

*This is a key fall workshop. I would appreciate 4 volunteers to assist with this workshop.*

<i>Classroom Help:</i>	<i>Bins and Systems:</i>

**Sat. November 8, Backyard Composting Workshop**

**10:00 a.m. to noon**

**Columbia Springs**

*This is a key fall workshop. I would appreciate 4 volunteers to assist with this workshop.*



<i>Classroom Help:</i>	<i>Bins and Systems:</i>



**September 13-14, Clark County Fall Garden Show**

**10 a.m - 4 p.m.**

**CASEE Center, Brush Prairie**

This will be a fun event, with garden tours, a plant sale and gardening clinics.

I would appreciate at least **2** Volunteers for each shift:

*Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1p.m.; 1p.m. to 4p.m.*

10-1		
1-4		

*Sunday: 10 a.m. to 1p.m.; 1p.m. to 4p.m.*

10-1		
1-4		

Also need 1 volunteer for each ½ hour drop in composting demonstration/lectures.

11-11:30	
1-1:30	



**November 15, America Recycles Day – Clark County Fix-it Fair**

**10 a.m - 3 p.m.**

**Location TBD**

I would appreciate at least **2** Volunteers for each shift:

*Saturday: set up at 9:30 a.m. to noon.; noon. to 3 p.m. and take down*

10-1		
1-4		

*Sunday: 10 a.m. to 1p.m.; 1p.m. to 3p.m.*

10-1		
1-4		

Also need 1 volunteer for a ½ hour composting lecture.

Time TBD	
----------	--

**Fall Event Calendar**

Sat. Aug. 23, Farmer’s Market

Sat. Sept. 13-14, Clark County Fall Garden Show

Wed. Sept. 24, Wormshop

Sat. Sept. 27, Farmer’s Market

Tues. Sept. 30, Backyard Composting Workshop

Tues. Oct. 7, Wormshop

Thurs. Oct. 16, Backyard Composting Workshop

Sat. Oct. 25, Farmer’s Market

Sat. Nov. 1, Wormshop

Sat. Nov. 8, Backyard Composting Workshop

Sat. Nov. 15, America Recycles Day – Clark County Fix-it Fair



# NBB Volunteer Opportunities

August through December 2008



## Saturday September 13, Farmer's Market Esther Short Park

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

<i>8:30 to Noon includes set up</i>	<i>Noon to 3:30 includes take down</i>
Amy Carpenter	Kristi Schragel
Gayle Collentine	Melanie Schauble

## Saturday October 11, Farmer's Market Esther Short Park

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

<i>8:30 to Noon includes set up</i>	<i>Noon to 3:30 includes take down</i>
Linda Rectanus	Kristen McHenry
Joy Lasseter	Sandy Wood

## Saturday October 25, Farmer's Market Esther Short Park

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

<i>8:30 to Noon includes set up</i>	<i>Noon to 3:30 includes take down</i>



## September 13-14, Clark County Fall Garden Show 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### CASEE Center, Brush Prairie

This will be a fun event, with garden tours, a plant sale and gardening clinics.

I would appreciate at least **2** Volunteers for each shift:

*Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1p.m.; 1p.m. to 4p.m.*

10-1		
1-4		

*Sunday: 10 a.m. to 1p.m.; 1p.m. to 4p.m.*

10-1		
1-4		

Also need 1 volunteer for a ½ hour demonstration/lecture on earth friendly gardening.

12-12:30	
----------	--



**November 15, America Recycles Day – Clark County Fix-it Fair**

**10 a.m - 3 p.m.**

**Location TBD**

I would appreciate at least **2** Volunteers for each shift:

*Saturday: set up at 9:30 a.m. to noon.; noon. to 3 p.m. and take down*

10-1		
1-4		

*Sunday: 10 a.m. to 1p.m.; 1p.m. to 3p.m.*

10-1		
1-4		

Also need 1 volunteer for a ½ hour NBB lecture.

Time TBD	
----------	--

**Fall Event Calendar**

Sat. Sept. 13, Farmer’s Market

Sat. Sept. 13-14, Clark County Fall Garden Show

Saturday October 11, Farmer’s Market

Saturday October 25, Farmer’s Market

Sat. Nov. 15, America Recycles Day – Clark County Fix-it Fair