



Straub Quarterly

Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center

"In partnership with the community, we create awareness and understanding of our relationship to the environment."

2012 Mid Valley Green Awards

The Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center will host the Mid-Valley Green Awards on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at the Salem Conference Center. This signature gala acknowledges Mid-Willamette Valley individuals, businesses, and organizations for their outstanding efforts towards sustainability while also being the primary fundraising event for FSELC to provide quality environmental education programs to our community for children and adults at low to no cost.

Be sure not to miss this fun-filled evening that includes our social hour with appetizers, no-host bar, music, and silent auction; entrée selected dinner; Key Note speaker John Savage; oral auction; and the Oscar-style announcements of Green Award winners. We will have The Wall of Wine and a limited number of Raffle Tickets for an electric bicycle valued at \$1395. Tickets go on sale and the auction items brochure will be online beginning January 23, 2012 at www.midvalleygreenawards.org.

Rain Garden at the SELC

By Jon Yoder

A rain garden is a shallow depression that is planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses. It receives runoff from hard surfaces such as a roof. Rain gardens slow down the rush of water from these hard surfaces, holding the water for a short period of time, and allowing the water to naturally infiltrate into the ground.

On November 5, 2011 volunteers partnered with the Friends of the Straub Environmental Learning Center (FSELC) and North Salem High School to build a rain garden next to the SELC.

This entailed disconnecting a downspout that drained rainwater from part of the Center's roof and diverting the water into an adjacent depression where rocks, gravel, and native plants were placed.



Volunteers planting the rain garden located at the SELC.

See Rain Garden, page 3.

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Quarterly Calendar

January

- 12 **Amateur Naturalist: Winter Trees and Shrubs** by Michael Taylor and Rachel Walker. 7:00 pm at Straub Environmental Learning Center (SELC)
- 12 **Nature Kids: Urban Wildlife** for 2nd and 3rd grades. 4:30 pm at SELC
- 19 **Nature Kids: Urban Wildlife** for 4th and 5th grades 4:30 pm at SELC
- 26 **Lecture: Harriet Fassenfest, Home Economics and Householding in the Modern World.** 7:00 pm at Salem Main Library

February

- 9 **Amateur Naturalist: Willamette Valley Natural History** by Brad Withrow-Robinson. 7:00 pm at SELC
- 9 **Nature Kids: Worms** for 2nd and 3rd grades. 4:30 pm at SELC
- 16 **Nature Kids: Worms** for 4th and 5th grades. 4:30 pm at SELC
- 23 **Lecture: Sharon Levy, Once and Future Giants.** 7:00 pm at Salem Main Library

March

- 3 **Green Awards.** Salem Conference Center 5:00 pm
- 8 **Amateur Naturalist: The Crow Family and Their Behaviors** by David Craig. 7:00 pm at SELC
- 8 **Nature Kids: Owls** for 2nd and 3rd grades. 4:30 pm at SELC
- 15 **Nature Kids: Owls** for 4th and 5th grades. 4:30 pm at SELC
- 15 **Lecture: James Roddey, Earthquakes in Oregon: What can Native American myths and new scientific discoveries tell us about "The Big One?"** 7:00 pm at Salem Main Library

Thank you to all our generous sponsors who make these community events possible!

Speaker Spotlight

By Cliff Boyer

Harriet Fassenfest began a journey of self-discovery about ten years ago that took her from being “a vogue girl who dreamed of shopping in Paris” and Main Street business owner to being an author and advocate for a home-based economy that she calls “householding.”

Fassenfest’s transition began with her growing discontent over the displacement of local communities brought about by increased competition from large chain stores and restaurants, and the transformation of affordable housing into “fancy, high-design living quarters at fancy, high-design prices.” She started reading authors such as Wendell Berry and Vandana Shiva who articulated a new relationship to the land and a different way of doing business.

Her transformation culminated with a backyard epiphany that she calls her “Newton moment.” While an apple didn’t literally fall on her head, she looked at the huge, old pear tree in her yard and instead of seeing that tree as a nuisance that left rotting pears and attracted fruit flies, she saw it as a resource or “original asset.” Fassenfest says her revelations offered “an entirely new lens through which to look at my world.”

See Householding, page 3.



Harriet Fassenfest: January 26 speaker



Rain Garden Cont'd

The rain garden project involved designing by North Salem students in Rich Swartzentruber's Field Biology class last spring. Representatives of FSEL then made selections of key components from the student plans to develop a single design. This past fall students from North Salem along with students from Dan Hoynacki's after school programs dug out and prepared the site for planting. Funding for the rain garden materials came from a City of Salem Watershed Protection and Preservation Grant.

A rain garden can be thought of as a personal water quality system because it filters the runoff from your roof and lawn and recharges the groundwater. A rain garden also conserves municipal water resources by reducing the need for irrigation. Rain gardens are a beautiful and colorful way for homeowners, businesses, and municipalities to help ease **stormwater** problems. There is a growing trend to incorporate natural processes to help relieve flooding and pollution.

Benefits of Rain Gardens include...

- * Filtering runoff pollution and improving water quality
- * Recharging local groundwater
- * Conserving water
- * Protecting rivers and streams
- * Creating habitat for birds and butterflies
- * Reducing garden maintenance
- * Enhancing sidewalk appeal
- * Increasing garden enjoyment

Environmental Vocabulary

Stormwater: precipitation that runs off surfaces, such as roofs, lawns, and, streets. As water runs off these surfaces, it picks up pollutants, such as herbicides, pet waste, and oil, causing water quality problems in local bodies of water including streams and rivers.

Householding

Householding is an ancient concept and according to Fasenfest, it "promotes the revival of a personal system of resource management, founded on principles of equity, thrift and stewardship." She has written one book called "A Householder's Guide to the Universe" and is busy working on a second book. The first book is a personal narrative about her journey and offers some practical tips on implementing the practices of householding, the second will be more of a "how to" guide and will also examine what a curriculum of householding economics would look like. Fasenfest wants to see a revival of home economics for modern times in the schools.

To learn more about this fascinating topic, join us on January 26 at Loukes Auditorium in the Salem Main Library for Fasenfest's lecture and after-lecture social at Orupa.

Green Awards Nominations

Green Awards - Nominations 2012 MID-VALLEY GREEN AWARDS



Nominations Sought

Do you know a person, business, or organization that acts, thinks and does green? Then you need to nominate them today!

Green Award categories include:

- Recycler of the Year
- Sustainable Organization of the Year
- EarthWISE Certified Business of the Year
- Green Building of the Year
- Green Apple Education Award

Nomination forms and category descriptions are available at www.midvalleygreenawards.org or you may call Friends of Straub at (503) 391-4145 to request a mailed copy.

Nominations due by midnight January 17, 2012 to be eligible



Public Works Environmental Services
503.588.5169 *Se habla español*
mcrecycles.net





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Thank you for caring about our environment.

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