

## Klamath Greenways Foundation

Some of the folks who were on the steering committee of Save Open Spaces ad hoc group have worked to create the Klamath Greenways Foundation (KGF). On July 31, papers were received from the state acknowledging its approval of the non profit corporation application. KGF is now a legal entity.

Documents have been filed with the IRS to obtain a tax exempt status. KGF board members are working to fulfill the Fed's requirements. It is expected that donations will be tax deductible soon. There are significant tax advantages in donating land to a tax exempt corporation of the kind KGF has developed.

Recently, board members spent two evenings "visioning" future directions and activities of the corporation. Five main areas for action were identified.

A preliminary list of action items follows:

- I. Land ownership;  
Look for opportunities to acquire and manage appropriate open space areas. Pacific Power is planning to divest its Link Canyon holdings when their power plants there are decommissioned - perhaps a significant opportunity.
  - II. Recreation easements;  
Access easement(s) to Hogback Mountain.  
Access easement to Sprague River for a kayak trail east of Beatty.  
Easements on the log haul rail/road right-of way between KF & Keno.
  - III. Partnerships;  
With city on their greenway trail easement on the N. shore of Lake Ewauna.  
With rails to trails on easements on the KF to Keno log haul right-of way.  
Create partnerships with land holders to create connecting greenways.
  - IV. Education;  
Recreational opportunities in Klamath Basin and beyond.  
The need to preserve open space in Klamath County and how to do so.
  - V. Administration;  
Includes all the usual stuff – organization literature, web site, develop membership, newsletter, increase participation, develop projects, funding needs and sources, obtaining grants – managing same and all of the other management details necessary for the organization.
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## Becoming a More Sustainable Community

People of the world in general, and the US in particular, have practices which are

detrimental to the future wellbeing of all the earth's critters. Sustainability advocates want our government agencies and businesses to adopt policies and programs which move us toward sustainability.

The recent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection is a clear demonstration that Klamath residents are taking the time and making an effort to be responsible. It was a tremendous success. Many people waited in line for two hours or more to discard all sorts of toxic materials. The overwhelming participation in this one time event sends a clear message. Our HHW disposal needs are not being met! Disposal options need to be available on a regular basis. This was the first Klamath Falls collection in many years but there was one in Bonanza about four years ago which also had overwhelming participation.

Nearly 126 tons of hazardous waste was collected at the September event with a disposal cost of \$116,935. Klamath County contributed nearly \$6,000, paying for advertising and hiring site workers. The rest of the funds came from DEQ which will not pay for another collection for 3 to 5 years. Do you want to hold hazardous waste until 2010 or longer?

Several years ago the county received a grant from DEQ to develop a HHW management plan. A study was done detailing options which might be developed. The study is on a shelf somewhere collecting dust. It is past time to adopt and implement a program for collecting HHW. Once the county has adopted a plan they will qualify to apply for a \$100,000 grant from DEQ to acquire a building and equipment necessary for collection to take place throughout the year.

Waste reduction education is another basic ingredient in moving toward sustainability. Last year the City of Klamath Falls and DEQ combined financial resources to fund a waste reduction education program. It was a great success. There were many activities including a Master Recycler Program that graduated 10 people who made a commitment to provide 30 hours of waste reduction education to our community.

Recently the City voted to fund the education program for another year and asked Klamath County for a funding match. The County is unable to participate because the waste department is operating in the red, a situation which likely will require a rate increase.

Waste reduction education for households, businesses and institutions needs to continue and be expanded. Waste audits for businesses are not available here, but where available, usually result in significant savings by reducing consumption and waste disposal expenses. Audits are available in many communities across the US.

Up to 20% of the waste stream is so called "green waste", which is in reality, a resource which is being squandered. Woody materials are now being collected at the landfill and hauled away to produce electricity. Leafy materials are made into compost. Few people know the county is undertaking these diversion activities. Curbside collection of yard debris would save this valuable material from going into a hole in the ground or worse, open air burning which pollutes the air we all breathe. Let's collect yard debris and utilize it as the valuable resource it is.

Great ideas, but from where will the money come to pay for these programs? The answer is simple – user fees. It will take a bit of political fortitude on the part of our elected leaders but it's a simple administrative procedure to adopt fees to finance these programs.

Most communities which, have developed full service waste reduction programs, use a combination of three fees; a fee on garbage bills, a tipping fee at transfer stations and landfills and, a small fee on disposal of hazardous and Ewaste.

It is past time for the City and County to work together to fund and develop the programs mentioned above. Taking responsibility is something we all must do. Please write or call your City and County representatives. Ask them to work together to develop a full service waste reduction program in Klamath County.

Think of future generations!

To the credit of the County are all of the positive activities and changes that have taken place. In 2007 the County sponsored five free-to-the- public collections of trash, two for the collection of yard debris as well as the Ewaste and household hazardous waste collections. Additionally, Ewaste is now being accepted at the landfill and transfer stations – for a small fee. These collections are a large part of the reason the waste department is operating in the red. Perhaps the City should contribute to some of these activities which are available to their residents.

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## New Evidence Establishes Dangers of Roundup

New studies from both sides of the Atlantic reveal that Roundup, the most widely used weedkiller in the world, poses serious human health threats. More than 75 percent of genetically modified (GM) crops are engineered to tolerate the absorption of Roundup—it eliminates all plants that are not GM. Monsanto Inc., the major engineer of GM crops, is also the producer of Roundup. Thus, while Roundup was formulated as a weapon against weeds, it has become a prevalent ingredient in most of our food crops.

Three recent studies show that Roundup, which is used by farmers and home gardeners, is not the safe product we have been led to trust. A group of scientists led by biochemist Professor Gilles-Eric Seralini from the University of Caen in France found that human placental cells are very sensitive to Roundup at concentrations lower than those currently used in agricultural application.

An epidemiological study of Ontario farming populations showed that exposure to glyphosate, the key ingredient in Roundup, nearly doubled the risk of late miscarriages. Seralini and his team decided to research the effects of the herbicide on human placenta cells. Their study confirmed the toxicity of glyphosate, as after eighteen hours of exposure at low concentrations, large proportions of human placenta began to die. Seralini suggests that this may explain the high levels of premature births and miscarriages observed among female farmers using glyphosate.

Seralini's team further compared the toxic effects of the Roundup formula (the most common commercial formulation of glyphosate and chemical additives) to the isolated active ingredient, glyphosate. They found that the toxic effect increases in the presence of Roundup "adjuvants" or additives. These additives thus have a facilitating role, rendering Roundup twice as toxic as its isolated active ingredient, glyphosate.

Another study, released in April 2005 by the University of Pittsburgh, suggests that Roundup is a danger to other life-forms and non-target organisms. Biologist Rick Relyea found that Roundup is extremely lethal to amphibians. In what is considered one of the most extensive studies on the effects of pesticides on nontarget organisms in a natural setting, Relyea found that Roundup caused a 70 percent decline in amphibian biodiversity and an 86 percent decline in the total mass of tadpoles. Leopard frog tadpoles and gray tree frog tadpoles were nearly eliminated.

In 2002, a scientific team led by Robert Belle of the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) biological station in Roscoff, France showed that Roundup activates one of the key stages of cellular division that can potentially lead to cancer. Belle and his team have been studying the impact of glyphosate formulations on sea urchin cells for several years. The team has recently demonstrated in *Toxicological Science* (December 2004) that a “control point” for DNA damage was affected by Roundup, while glyphosate alone had no effect. “We have shown that it’s a definite risk factor, but we have not evaluated the number of cancers potentially induced, nor the time frame within which they would declare themselves,” Belle acknowledges.

There is, indeed, direct evidence that glyphosate inhibits an important process called RNA transcription in animals, at a concentration well below the level that is recommended for commercial spray application.

There is also new research that shows that brief exposure to commercial glyphosate causes liver damage in rats, as indicated by the leakage of intracellular liver enzymes. The research indicates that glyphosate and its surfactant in Roundup were found to act in synergy to increase damage to the liver.

Update By Chee Yoke Heing

Roundup Ready weedkiller is one of the most widely used weedkillers in the world for crops and backyard gardens. Roundup, with its active ingredient glyphosate, has long been promoted as safe for humans and the environment while effective in killing weeds. It is therefore significant when recent studies show that Roundup is not as safe as its promoters claim.

This has major consequences as the bulk of commercially planted genetically modified crops are designed to tolerate glyphosate (and especially Roundup), and independent field data already shows a trend of increasing use of the herbicide. This goes against industry claims that herbicide use will drop and that these plants will thus be more “environment-friendly”. Now it has been found that there are serious health effects, too. My story therefore aimed to highlight these new findings and their implications to health and the environment.

Not surprisingly, Monsanto came out refuting some of the findings of the studies mentioned in the article. What ensued was an open exchange between Dr. Rick Relyea and Monsanto, whereby the former stood his grounds. Otherwise, to my knowledge, no studies have since emerged on Roundup.

Sources:

Third World Resurgence, No. 176, April 2005

Title: “New Evidence of Dangers of Roundup Weedkiller”

Author: Chee Yoke Heong

Faculty Evaluator: Jennifer While

Student Researchers: Peter McArthur and Lani Ready

For more information look to the following sources:

Professor Gilles-Eric, [criigen@ibfa.unicaen.fr](mailto:criigen@ibfa.unicaen.fr)

Biosafety Information Center, <http://www.biosafety-info.net>

Institute of Science in Society, <http://www.i-sis.org.uk>

## KSC is on the Air

Klamath Sustainable Communities is on KFLS at least once each week giving Tips for Living Sustainably. We created these tips to help you make the world a better place for our children and children's children. Tips are played at random times. All 15 of the tips use the following format and were recorded by Leslie Lowe. Before you buy, ask yourself:

- "Is this really something I must have?
- Can I borrow it or rent it rather than buy it?
- Do I already own something that could serve the same purpose?
- What will it cost to maintain it?
- Does it come with a lot of un-recyclable packaging?"
- Remember to think before you buy.

Your actions make a difference to all of us.

Thanks to Ryan Brown, News Director/Talk Show Host at KFLS 1450 AM, When you hear one of these “Tips”, please let Ryan know that his idea to offer them makes a difference to Klamath County. You can reach him at: 882-4656 x206, Cell: 591-3352 or [ryan@klamathradio.com](mailto:ryan@klamathradio.com)

He is always looking for interesting ideas to present on his talk show.

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## Choose Trees not Catalogs

Each year, giant paper companies liquidate enormous tracts of North America's endangered forests to produce more than 19 billion paper catalogs. But now, thanks to Catalog Choice, you can help curb this destruction by barring any unwanted catalogs from your mailbox. Go to [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org) to stop catalog mailings.

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## Recycling Rates At 34%

The recycling rate in Klamath County was 34% in 2006 up from 15% a few years ago. The greatest factor in this increase is likely due to the roller carts for recycled materials which were distributed to urban residents a few years ago. They make it easy to recycle.

If funding for diversion activities is increased, positive changes in waste reduction rates are in our future. Recycling rates of 50% are possible if the powers that be decide to lead Klamath County in a sustainable direction. Many communities have diversion goals of 60% or more. With forward looking leadership we can realize a 50% reduction with ease.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KBCLF Meeting</b> <b>Monday, January 28 – 6:15 PM</b></p>
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## Green Pages Coming to Klamath

We are re-activating our Green Pages project because of a new partnership with Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA) and the help of its director, Trey Senn. Trey and his team are developing a "green" website. The website will house Sustainable Communities "green directory". The directory will list local businesses, agencies & groups having sustainable behaviors, products & practices.

Your help is needed to make the database as user friendly and complete as possible. We need to make a list of all the businesses, agencies, groups, etc with sustainable behaviors, products, practices, etc. and then gather data on each one and put it in the computer. These are jobs that you can do in one hour each month or many hours, depending on what you are willing to invest to help us put this "green directory" together.

We are excited about being able to offer this directory on a special website that KCEDA is funding and Jerry Haugen and Sam at Brockway Road Company are putting together. Being available online makes the directory updatable and very current, unlike paper directories, although we are hoping at some point to print the directory once each year and put it into a "Welcome Basket" of Klamath County "green" products that will go to home buyers in the Basin. If you are willing to help us, please contact Leslie at 882-6509 or inharmony46@charter.net. This project will help us reach one of our long term objectives, namely, "develop economic opportunities for businesses and individuals that promote sustainable living".

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## Receive KSC Newsletters via Email

Starting with the Spring issue, this newsletter will be available electronically. To receive it paper free, send an email to Dwight at oh\_otter@charter.net and we will send it to you via the internet.

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