



The

# BROWN LEAF

Arlington Master Composters

June 2008

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## Arlington Launches Green Team:

Hi everyone. My name is Tim Yatko and I am working towards my Master Composting certificate by telling friends, family, and Arlington businesses about the benefits of composting. I work for the City of Arlington in the Environmental Services Department, running the Green Team commercial recycling program. The program is designed to encourage businesses to start recycling programs, or for those businesses that already recycle, the program encourages them to recycle more.

I have the "privilege" of jumping into various dumpsters to see exactly what people are throwing away. On one of my more frequent adventures through the trash I found a banana peel mixed in with a bag of recyclables. While my first question was, "What's this bag of recyclables doing in the trash?" my second question was, "Why would someone throw away a completely useful banana peel?"

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## Dear Master Composters

The time has come to acknowledge Arlington Master Composter volunteers for their many hours of dedication to our program.

Please join us the evening of July 24, for a night of fun, food and recognition. Bring your favorite side dish and the City will provide deli sandwiches and iced tea.

And just in case you have not had the opportunity to submit your volunteer hours, hopefully you will be motivated by this: 20 hours = Master Composter Certificate, Name Badge and a T-shirt; 40 hours = Compost Bin; 60 hours = Gardening Stool; 80 hours = Gardening TOOL and so on and so on.

Remember, there is no special format for submitting hours. I just need to know the date volunteered, what the volunteer activity was, and the number of people reached (if applicable).

Again, our gathering will be Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bob Duncan Center at Vandergriff Park. We will be in the Garden Room and will begin at 6:15 pm. The Bob Duncan Center is located at 2800 S. Center. Please rsvp by contacting me at 817-459-6778 or at [lorrie.anderle@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:lorrie.anderle@arlingtontx.gov).

Sincerely,  
Lorrie Anderle



2007 Volunteers of the Year: Larry Norris & Bonnie Johnson

## Green Team continued



Commercial composting or "organics recycling" as it is sometimes called, does exist but is not widely taken advantage of by businesses in Arlington. I jump at the chance to talk up composting with businesses interested in "going green." I let them know they can always collect their used coffee grounds and filters for someone to take home. I also tell them my story of collecting used tea leaves; whereas I play the game of seeing how many tea leaves I can collect under the kitchen cabinet before Lorrie tells me to take them home to compost them. I try and remind her that a gross bag of decaying tea leaves in a kitchen cabinet is anaerobic decomposition at its best, but that line never seems to work on her.

## 2008 Master Composter Class

Taught by Arlington Master Composter, John Darling, over 30 folks attended our workshop in February. It was the best turnout we've had in years. The class was very enthusiastic and we are happy to have them as interns.

Please welcome: De Lu Arnold, Vikki Barrera, Helen Beale, Kathleen Brose, David Burt, Jill Burt, Kay Cunningham, Don Deblonk, Harry Dehnisch, Seth Eichinger, Sherry Eichinger, Diana Galarza, Morris Jett, Phil Kabakoff, Fred Kuhlman, Marcia Langwith, Rosie Liquori, Kathryn McKee, Beverly McLaughlin, Ken Merett, Robin Miner, Melanie Ostheimer, Leslie Pricer, Earl Sanders, Jason Pohlman, Margaret Santarelli, Susie Schulwitz, Wes Truitt, Virginia Waldrop, Foy Watson, Wilma Watson, Tim Yatko.



## Welcome Master Composter Interns

## Annual WormShop A Slimy Success

John Darling held the attention of sixteen interns at our Annual WormShop in April. The group was anxious to see and touch those little brown-nose wigglers but we managed to hold them off long enough to teach the basics of vermicomposting.

And then, with soggy shreds of newspaper for bedding and a pinch of dirt for gizzards, we made happy habitats for all.

To those who attended.....we look forward to hearing some good *vermistories*.

