



Arlington

MASTER COMPOSTERS

Forty-eighth Edition

October 2006

The **MASTER COMPOSTER** Program of Arlington is in partnership with Texas to dramatically decrease yard and household waste going to landfills by inspiring and educating our citizens to reduce, recycle, and reuse.

Welcome 2006 Master Composter Interns!

A little rain and cold weather was no deterrent for Michael Cromarty, James Cuka, Michael Goram, Kirsten Huber, Justin Lerberg, Cary Moore, Valerie Morabito, Walter Morales, Estel Patterson, David Purkiss, Bob Willard, Lynne Willard, Bobby Williams and Ramona Williams who all attended the Master Composter Workshop in February.

As you can see, building com-

post piles in the rain was NO BIG DEAL.

Several of our new interns are

already working their way towards becoming Master Composters.

WELCOME to all of you and con-

gratulations to Estel Patterson who has already submitted 20 volunteer hours and is now an official Master Composter.



Chopped veggies from Whole Foods Market provide an excellent feed stock for compost piles

CALENDAR of Events

October 7

two-hour class and work day
at Veterans Park

October 14

two-hour class and work day
at River Legacy LSC

October 21

Fall Cleanup Day

November 11

Computer Roundup

November 18

Leaf Recycling Drop-off
Sites Open

December 2

Annual Volunteer Appreciation
Luncheon

Jackie, Jane and MC interns composting in the rain.



Whole Foods Market provided an extra special surprise.

Annual Picnic May 13th

Prior to the scorching summer temperatures, the Arlington Master Composters gathered for our annual picnic at the home of James and Helen Hatley. We shared mucho good food and enjoyed the beautiful scenery while relaxing and visiting. Who needs "the tropics" when we have paradise right here in Arlington! Oh, and did I mention the Hatleys do a little composting?



DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT'S NEW

As many of you know, the City of Arlington and U.T.A. recently partnered on a grant application titled ZERO GREEN WASTE CAMPUS. Funding in the amount of \$135,595 was approved for the compost proj-

ect which will be complete next year.

With John Darling's leadership and expertise and with help from Becky Valentich, UTA's recycling coordinator, the project is moving right along.

The site is located just behind the University's Environmental Health and Safety office at 500 Summitt Avenue. Amenities will include new signs, landscaping and fencing as well as a nifty scale for weighing and tracking how much is composted. Grant funds will also be used to purchase an in-vessel compost maker which will be fed with a brand-new Bobcat loader.

Our plan is to invite the Master Composters for a site visit just as soon as our new equipment arrives so be on the look-out for details soon.



The Crotchety Composter

by John Darling

September 2006

What on earth did I send in to the last newsletter? Nothing, as it turns out, so I looked again at Jane Borland's excellent piece on conserving water in the garden in this time of drought. That was in February. Today (September 13) the big Star-Telegram headline is "Will we have enough water?" That Jane, she's just darn timely. The ugly gist of the article is that our local population is expected to double by 2060 and we have about half of the water that experts say we'll need. Or do we?



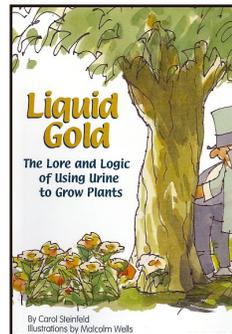
Golf Course Watering

So much of our shortage is self-induced. We're victims of our terrible landscaping habits, and grass is the thirstiest thing we love in our yards. Reminds me of a quote from a Las Vegas Web site about whether grass has a function in a landscape: "...if the only time somebody walks on the grass is to push a mower over it, then that grass is probably not necessary." And we're not the only victims: Building the East Texas reservoirs that the water people want won't just be expensive, it will cause big environmental damage. Farmland, animals and their habitat will pay a huge price.

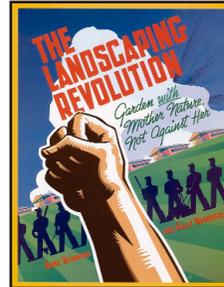
If you ever think about making a big change in your landscape, here's a good book that mixes humor with information about alternatives to traditional planting: it's

The Landscape Revoltion by Andy and Sally Wasowski. Best chapter title: "Your lawn has a drinking problem."

Liquid Gold by Carol Steinfeld is more radical and has even more



whatever else you might expect.



humor—of the bathroom variety. That's because it's all about using urine to grow plants and it contains plenty of solid information along with



Veteran's Park

Ten years ago, falling into the Master Composter program started me off as an environmental busybody. At the time I just made compost and fussed over my St Augustine like a good Arlingtonian. Then I fell in with some native plant gardeners at Veterans Park Wildscape and began to think I could do a little to help this town get back in touch with environmental reality. I'm not so sure about that anymore; it's easier to hunker down and make compost than to think dark thoughts about our future.

Make no mistake though, composting has its glamorous moments. Over at UTA I'm picking up well over 100 pounds of kitchen waste every day for their campus composting program and I get to see aspects of higher education that few are privileged to witness, like the University Center loading dock. We're using Biobags that are made to be composted and they're no worse than post oak leaves so I can't complain.



UTA Produce

A final happy note from the world of off-center composting, and it's not roadkill for a change: A while back a culinary tragedy struck poor old Pecan Street when a box of pizza collided with the asphalt in front of my house. I can't show you the composted results because everything in the pizza pile now looks like compost.



Pizza in the road.

A Message from the Backyard Compost Coordinator

I'm inspired. Following a summer of craziness, I finally had an opportunity to visit our demonstration sites on Saturday, September 2nd.

As always, I was amazed by all of the wonderful folks who were there. The dedication, the camaraderie, the enthusiasm.....for that, I thank



you. For always being there no matter what the weather is like, I thank you. But mostly I want to thank you for making me want to be a better person. The Arlington Master Composters are the best on the planet!

— Lorrie

Volunteers Needed:

On Saturday, November 11 the City will hold it's annual computer roundup. The event is from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon at the UTA parking lot located at the SE corner of Cooper and Mitchell. Master Composter volunteers are needed to help check for proof of residency and direct traffic. Please contact Lorrie Anderle at anderlel@ci.arlington.tx.us or 817-459-6778 if you'd like to sign up. Thanks.



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