

The Composter Newsletter

The Solana Center for Environmental Innovation

Composting Programs

Since the mid-1990s, volunteer master composters from the Solana Center have been reaching out to folks throughout the San Diego region and teaching them how to turn their food scraps and yard trimmings into nutrient-rich compost for their gardens.

For those new to composting, the process may seem improbable, confusing, even scary. But with a little guidance from a master composter, say, at a workshop or by phone, even the most anxious among us learn that as long as we provide our compost piles with the ingredients they need to do their work -- enough greens and browns and water and air -- the composting process will take care of itself. And in time we'll be offered a feast of chocolate-brown humus ready to be harvested and given back to the soil.

This spring, master composters will continue their valu-



The Solana Composting Team
Elaine Carreno, Joni Gabriel, and Kristy Rygiel

able outreach to the public by teaching composting workshops in San Diego, Encinitas, Carlsbad, and unincorporated areas of San Diego County; installing large worm bins at elementary schools and monitoring those that are already in place; building, maintaining, and harvesting bins at the compost demonstration sites at the San Diego Zoo, Crestridge Ecological

Reserve, Summer's Past Farms, the Wild Animal Park, Quail Botanical Gardens, the Solana Center, the Water Conservation Garden, the City of San Diego's Ridgehaven Building, and the Carlsbad Flower Fields; facilitating two Master Composter Training Courses; staffing informational booths at community events, garden festivals, and the County Fair; and answering inquiries to the "Rotline," the Solana Center's compost information hotline. If you haven't yet signed on to be a part of this incredible effort, get in touch with me today. There are lots of ways to be involved and make a difference.

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Mission Statement:

To create a better environment through innovation, leadership, education, and participation.

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Become a Master Composter

The Master Composter Program is designed to extend composting information to the public through volunteers who have successfully completed a Master Composter Training Course. These free, hands-on courses on the art and science of composting are sponsored by the cities of San Diego, Encinitas, and, for the first time this spring, Carlsbad.

Master Composters agree to give back to the community a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer service, such as teaching composting workshops, staffing booths at community events, and helping maintain compost demonstration sites.



This spring, the Solana Center is offering two **Master Composter Training Courses!**

For Carlsbad residents: Saturdays, February 24 – March 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For San Diego residents: Tuesdays, March 27 – April 24, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Register online at www.solanacenter.org or contact Joni at (760) 436-7986 x216.

Did You Know.....

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There is more food and paper waste in landfills than diapers, styrofoam, and tires combined (source: <http://www.naturemill.com/compostFacts.html>).

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Garbage is a major contributor to Global Warming. Solid waste landfills are the single largest manmade source of methane gas in the United States. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that is 23 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than the most prevalent greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide. Every time you “throw away,” you are contributing to global warming. (source: http://www.californiaprogressreport.com/2007/01/reduction_of_gr.html)

There are more than 3,200 yard trimmings composting facilities nationwide.

Attention Master Composters: Join Us for “A Toast to Compost,” Our 3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

This year’s volunteer appreciation breakfast will be Saturday, January 27, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., San Diego Zoo, in the beautiful Rondavel Room on the Terrace Lagoon.

Get an insider’s look at the Zoo’s conservation program and a tour of the Zoo’s compost demonstration site. Connect with seasoned master composters and meet the new crop. Learn about innovative composting undertakings that are happening in your community. We hope to see you there! RSVP by January 22, (760) 436-7986 x216.



About the Solana Center

The Solana Center for Environmental Innovation Shares Your Passion for the Environment!

The Solana Center, an environmental nonprofit in Encinitas, founded in 1983 as Solana Recyclers. It pioneered the first comprehensive curbside recycling program in San Diego County and one of the first community-based recycling programs in California. Today, the Solana Center provides environmental education services to local governments to help their citizens care for the environment. Through workshops, presentations, and community outreach, the Solana Center proudly partners with a variety of agencies and community-based organiza-

tions in creating and preserving a clean environment. It specializes in storm water and watershed pollution prevention education, composting and healthy gardening programs, school and community recycling education, proper disposal of household hazardous waste education, and used motor oil recycling education.

Here at the Solana Center we share our passion for the environment every time we go into the classroom, host a workshop, participate in a community event, and promote recycled products through our sister affiliate the Recycled Products Cooperative, www.recycledproducts.org.

For more information, please visit us at www.solanacenter.org. To get involved with the Solana Center, as an individual member, as a volunteer, or through a community group partnership, please [contact us at \(760\) 436-7986](tel:(760)436-7986) or by email, info@solanacenter.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Upcoming Spring Events



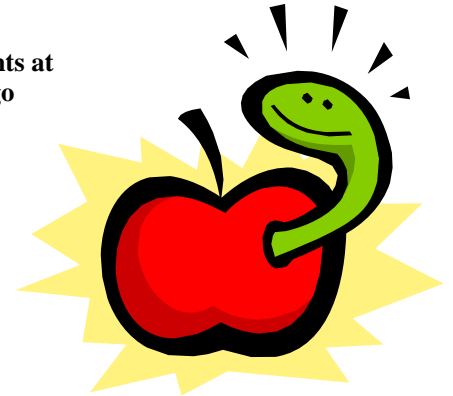
- Spring Garden Festival, Water Conservation Garden, March 17
- 3rd Annual Encinitas Garden Festival, April 21
- EarthFair 2007, Balboa Park, April 22
- Fallbrook Avocado Festival, April 22

Contact us to volunteer for one of these events,
(760) 436-7986 x216 or x217.

School Worm Bins



Elaine Carreno and Kristy Rygiel teach students at Harborside Elementary School in San Diego how to care for their worm bin.



The Solana Center for Environmental Innovation

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How's Your Composting Going?

Please let us know what your composting experience is like by taking our online survey at
<http://www.solanacenter.org/1survey.html>

Thanks -- it'll help us serve you better!

Solana Center



for Environmental Innovation

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