



## Master Watershed Steward is Here to Help Educate & Train You!

By Candice Rupprecht

“I started out thinking of America as highways and state lines. As I got to know it better, I began to think of it as rivers.”

-*Charles Kuralt, On the Road with Charles Kuralt, 1967*

I am excited to announce that the Arizona Master Watershed Steward (MWS) Program is coming to the Upper Gila Watershed! Since 2003, the MWS Program has been engaging people across Arizona in understanding local land and water use issues that affect the health of their communities and watersheds. Our mission is to educate and train people across the State of Arizona to serve as volunteers in the protection, restoration, monitoring, and conservation of their water and watersheds.

I love this quote by Charles Kuralt because it depicts the transformation that happens when we educate people about their natural environment. Initially we all draw boundaries and create names that define us as Arizonans or residents of Graham County – these natural watershed boundaries are often forgotten, even though they are actually easier for us to see!

The MWS classes challenge us to look at our state a bit differently, focusing on the geographic boundaries we all share instead of the political boundaries we are used to.

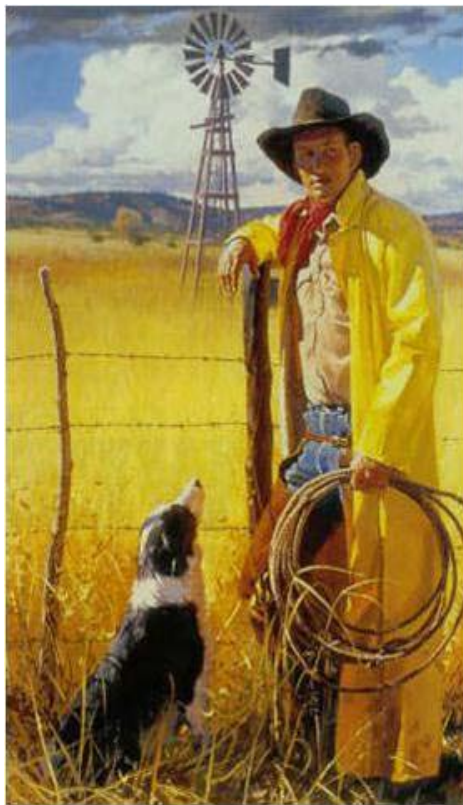
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All inhabitants of a watershed, both human and non-human, share the same natural resources, including water. Because water molecules are a dynamic substance that exist in three different states and have the ability to move great distances, water connects everyone and everything within a watershed. How we use our land and water resources can influence the quality and quantity of water available.

Although there are many subwatersheds within our state, all Arizonans and our water uses are connected, as we are part of the larger Colorado River Basin that extends from Wyoming south to Mexico. The health of our watersheds is especially impacted as our growing population, and thus our demand for natural resources, increases. Learning to look past political boundaries and view our land as divided by natural boundaries helps us better manage our resources as a complete, more sustainable system.

Safford will be the 15<sup>th</sup> city to host a MWS Program course, which is primarily targeted at adult audiences and is a direct partnership of the Gila Watershed Partnership, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and University of Arizona. Hosted by the Graham County Extension Office, MWS participants will attend a minimum of 40 hours of course and field work that will cover a range of topics including hydrology, geology, soils, water quality, ecology, climate change, land use



planning, GIS mapping and project planning.

After completion of the MWS course, our Stewards have a technical knowledge of watershed processes and a local understanding of water management that they can utilize to identify local water issues, develop action plans and implement solutions to promote watershed health. Throughout Arizona, our 400 Stewards work as volunteers with eight state and federal agencies and over 30 non-profit organizations and watershed groups to protect our watersheds. These volunteer activities promote collaboration among citizens, watershed groups and natural resource managers and enhance public knowledge of watershed issues throughout Arizona.

We each much work toward developing personal connections with our watersheds and help other people identify with the natural boundaries in which we live because when we feel connected and informed about our watershed, we will all develop a sense of stewardship to our watersheds and communities. I look forward to helping train this new group of Stewards so that we can work together to help protect and restore the Upper Gila

Watershed. Class in Safford starts January, 14<sup>th</sup> – contact the Graham County Extension Office at (928) 428-2611 if you are interested in becoming a Master Watershed Steward. I look forward to meeting you in the months to come!

**Editor's Note:** There are still a couple of seats open for the Watershed Steward course – so sign up today! – Jan Holder

# The ADEQ Recycling Department Announces 2009 Grant Program

The ADEQ Recycling Department is requesting applications for their 2009 grant program. There are three categories for projects:

## **Waste Reduction Assistance (WRA) Grant**

The objective of the WRA program is to provide funding assistance to projects that divert significant amounts of materials from the solid waste stream, or are a component of a comprehensive program designed to achieve high diversion levels. WRA projects may include new recycling collections, household hazardous waste collections, electronics recycling programs, mulching or composting operations, material processing operations and manufacturing facilities that use recycled material as a feedstock. Capital improvements to expand existing programs or these types may also be proposed.

## **Waste Reduction Initiative Through Education (WRITE) Grant**

The objective of the WRITE program is to provide Arizonans with the information and education needed to increase awareness to properly reduce and dispose of solid waste, and to encourage participation in source reduction, reuse and recycling opportunities. WRITE projects should communicate the importance of conserving natural resources and the benefits of reducing, reusing, recycling, buying recycled products, composting and/or properly disposing of solid waste. Projects may include multi-media campaigns, school curriculum, seminars and workshops, technical assistance, pamphlets and fliers.

## **Recycling Research and Development (RR&D)**

The objective of the RR&D program is to provide funding assistance to projects that develop tools and ideas and create knowledge that will help to

divert significant amounts of materials from the solid waste stream in the near future. RR&D projects shall involve research, including feasibility studies, solid waste audits and/or technology development, such as new equipment or processes with an overall objective to increase the proper disposal of solid waste, source reduction, recycling, buying recycled content products and/or composting.

## **Attend a Workshop!**

You are encouraged to attend one of three grant workshops that will help you understand the parameters of the program, and how to develop your grant application. Locations and dates are:

- **Flagstaff** –; 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 27, 2009, Arizona Department of Transportation - 1901 S. Milton Rd., (928) 779-7562
- **Tucson** –; 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 28, 2009 - ADEQ Southern Regional Office, 400 W. Congress Rd., Room 222, (520) 628-6733
- **Phoenix** –; 1:30 p.m. Thursday, January 29, 2009 - ADEQ Main Office, 1110 W. Washington St. , Room #250, (602) 771-4398

## **The Recycling Grants Manual is available online at:**

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/solid/funding.html>. The manual comes with 4 interactive PDF forms attached for your convenience

**The deadline for applications to be submitted is Thursday, March 12, 2009 by 3:00 p.m. Arizona time.**

## Change Your Oil the Responsible Way

### For the Do-it-Yourselfer

We understand you're probably keeping a close eye on your budget this year. If you're looking to save some cash by doing your own automotive maintenance, like oil changes, we applaud you. However, the earth-conscious DIY-er knows if you are pouring used motor oil on the ground, into a storm drain or throwing it in your trash can (even in a sealed container), your eco-status can drop quickly from green to grey.



used motor oil at auto shops where oil is routinely changed. Call ahead to make sure used oil is accepted before you drop it off. Once it is recycled, used motor oil can be re-refined or reconditioned to be used again as lubrication. If it cannot serve this purpose, it can be reused as fuel. In fact, two gallons of oil provides enough energy to blow-dry your hair 216 times.

### Why it Matters

If motor oil is poured down a drain or allowed to run into public water supplies (like during a rainstorm), it can cause significant damage to your local water supply and natural habitats. One gallon of used oil can create an oil slick 8 acres in size, contaminate 1 million gallons of water and render a four-acre area of soil unusable for planting for decades.

### How to Do it

Typically, you can recycle your

## Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 7 p.m.**

January's meeting will be held at the Graham County General Services Building, 921 Thatcher Blvd., Safford, Arizona

**Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 7 p.m.**

February's meeting will be held at the City of Safford Annex at 405 W. Discovery Park Blvd., Safford, Arizona

## Our partners include:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Arizona Department of Agriculture           | Discovery Park                        |
| Arizona Department of Environmental Quality | Farm Bureau                           |
| Arizona Department of Transportation        | Graham County                         |
| Arizona Department of Water Resources       | Greenlee County                       |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department            | Gila Valley Irrigation District       |
| Arizona Geological Survey                   | Natural Resource Conservation Service |
| Arizona State Land Department               | Phelps Dodge Mining Company           |
| Bureau of Land Management                   | University of Arizona                 |
| City of Safford                             | Cooperative Extension                 |
| Town of Thatcher                            | University of Arizona NEMO Project    |
| Town of Pima                                | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service        |
| Town of Duncan                              | U.S. Forest Service – Apache          |
| The Coronado RC&D                           | Sitgreaves and Coronado Forests       |
| Gila Valley NRCD                            | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation            |
|   | And many community members            |

## Get involved in your watershed

For more information, contact Jan Holder at the Gila Watershed Partnership, 711 S. 14th Avenue, 85546, 520-395-2499, email-watershedholder@yahoo.com