



I had the opportunity recently to observe an out of state tourist asking a local motel proprietor where to throw his garbage. He had a copy of the Oregonian, 2 glass beverage containers and a soda can. A trash can was pointed to and used. After the fact I asked why the gentlemen hadn't been directed to the recycling bins which were across from the garbage? The business person responded that she just assumed the gentlemen would understand to look for the recycling bins, even though they were not clearly marked. It never dawned on her that he would truly throw the material into the garbage. I think this antidote defines the nonchalant attitude many of us have adopted toward recycling. We either assume everyone understands recycling, don't think it is necessary anymore or just don't want to be bothered.

During World War II recycling came into the popular culture. Manufacturers occupied their machinery with the production of war products. Households helped the war effort by recycling newsprint and tin. During the 50's & early 60's only ecologists and those tight with a dollar remained in the recycling arena. Then in the early 70's after Rachel Carson's book "A Silent Spring" became a mainstream best seller and issues such as the depletion of the Ozone Layer and natural gas losses came to the forefront, the populace responded by introducing the concepts of "recycling". The 1980's saw shrinking forest lands, toxic waste storage and sated landfills with no room for expansion. This brought about more organized and active recycling. Governmental bodies began mandating stronger regulations. Recycling facilities became mainstream and it was trendy to be into recycling.

Cannon Beach entered into recycling earlier than most communities in the mid 70's and it has never waned from the responsibility of recycling as many materials as possible for a small community. Locals organized areas to store recyclables and transported them to the depot. Residents volunteered to organize and operate the program. Citizens were educated about the importance of diverting materials from the waste stream. It became as common as putting out your garbage can.

In 1997 we have many new residents and business owners who have not evolved along the recycling trail. Some of us "old timers" have become complacent. Most of us are still recycling, just not doing as good a job. It seems that for many people the ethics of recycling are not as important as the potential savings to their pocketbooks. We are most likely to recycle if it saves money on garbage bills and isn't too laborious.

In 1995 in Clatsop County the DEQ reports that 29,271.8 tons of materials went to the landfill. 1 ton equals 2000 pounds. 28,671 tons in 1996. This was a per capita decrease of 2.9%. Materials diverted from the landfill by recycling equaled 19.37%. This is less than the 25% goal suggested by the State of Oregon. By the year 2000 the State of Oregon has suggested a recycling recovery rate of 50%. We are a long way from achieving this goal in Clatsop Co. In Cannon Beach we collected 338 tons of materials in 1995 and increased that in 1996 by collecting 371 tons. This 9% increase was due to a 16% increase in grayboard collected and adding plastic bottles which accounted for 4 tons. However, due to high levels of contamination some recyclables are ending up in the garbage.

After spending the last 6 months auditing the materials that are collected at the Recycling Depot I will highlight the areas we need to improve on. Remember that contaminated materials brought down to the depot are thrown into the trash. The City does not have the personnel or the facilities to clean dirty cans and glass, dry wet paper or hand sort through the paper bins to pull out the contaminated products.

1. GLASS; coffee carafes, plates & dishware, drinking & wine glasses, ashtrays, light bulbs and window panes are not recyclable.
2. TIN & ALUMINUM; must be clean. The depot is receiving a lot of dirty/unwashed cans. Please remember to flatten cans.
3. PAPER; it is crucial to sort newsprint & magazines from mixed paper. This includes grocery & hardware store flyers. You should also open envelopes. If they are unopened the employee or volunteer has to stop and open each of them to ensure there is no plastic, metal, newsprint or other contaminant inside. If this is not done the whole bale could be rejected or downgraded.
4. UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS:
  - Scrap Metal
  - Engine Oil (accepted at Seaside Depot)
  - Plastic bags, tubs, molded packaging
  - Appliances & Furniture
  - Tires

The City needs volunteers to help at the Recycling Depot to help with sorting and contamination problems. Please call the Recycling Center at 436-0282 and leave a message if you have questions regarding acceptable materials, need curbside buckets or would like to volunteer. If you would like assistance in your business organizing recycling, creating signage, or educating your staff call Kim Bosse at 436-0230.

The only interesting answers are those which destroy the questions.  
-Susan Sontag



### Book Review by Diana

*Arctic Daughter* by Jean Aspen

Per your request, a book review comes your way. Glad you asked.

I strongly recommend a short novel titled *Arctic Daughter*, written by Jean Aspen. It depicts a wilderness journey taken by a young woman who was raised by an arctic expeditionist of a mother. She travels into the wilds of the Yukon River as close to the Continental Divide as few humans have come, living off the land and the few supplies her canoe carried.

With a fierce fire for survival, she shares the beauties of the land and the details of human existence with the readers. If you long for the wilds of the woods, and you have a lot of respect for it already, pick up this good read and enjoy.



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Jupiter's Rare & Used Books is delighted to announce that in July we began integrating the bulk of the Batchelder Collection onto our shelves, several thousand volumes of interest not just to the collector but to the reader especially, because of the depth (an author's complete works, in some cases) and attention to content, as well as form (paperbacks to signed first editions). This is a twenty five year collection of two educators, who loved books for all the reasons in all the forms. We must thank Nancy Lee & Alan for their patience as we got to know the books, and James, Betsy and Vivi for their work to get the collection on the shelves. Please come browse. We have priced these volumes to be placed in good homes before the winter storms arrive. We will miss them.

Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads.  
-Erica Jong

### Writing Workshop for Women

Whether you keep a journal, dabble in poetry or believe you have a book in you, Gail Balden's one-day Creative Writing Workshop for Women will help you tap into your creative self. The workshop is August 2 in Cannon Beach and costs \$35. Register at the bookstore at 130 North Hemlock in Cannon Beach, or contact Gail Balden (503)368-7807



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