

# THE RECYCLER

Newsletter of Recycle Rutherford, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Fall 2020

## TEC Executive Featured Speaker October 26

**Meeting Location: Virtual**

<https://www.facebook.com/recyclerutherford/live/>

**Monday, October 26, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

Jeffrey Barrie, chief executive officer of the Tennessee Environmental Council, will speak at Recycle Rutherford's Fall meeting on Monday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be a Facebook Live event. We'll begin streaming at 7:00 p.m. at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/recyclerutherford/live/> You don't have to be a Facebook user to view the video. If you are on Facebook, please invite others to the event.

Barrie will **bring us up to date on what's happening across the state and beyond in recycling**—both in collection programs and the markets—including the impact COVID-19 has had on the environment and sustainability efforts as well as some successes highlighting sustainability through recycling. **His presentation is titled "Recycle Tennessee."**

Barrie has been a staunch advocate of sustainability for his entire professional career, which he launched in 1993 after graduating from UCLA with a B.A. in Environmental Studies. Ever since, Barrie has applied his love of filmmaking towards the cause of environmental solutions and derives great pleasure in making a difference in this field. He has produced award-winning feature documentaries on the value of Environmental Education (Generation Earth — 1995), the importance of preserving the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Quest — 1999), and the benefits of energy efficiency, conservation and renewable power (Kilowatt Ours — 2008), in addition to producing ten short documentaries on various topics related to sustainability. He has leveraged the power of effective documentary storytelling combined with grassroots organizing and public strategies to lead to positive changes in the world. Barrie has worked for TEC since 2014 and served as CEO since 2019.

Tennessee Environmental Council was founded in 1970 as an umbrella organization that would tie together many different organizations with diverse, but common priorities into focused

advocacy in the state legislature on behalf of Tennessee's environment. Those groups were the League of Women Voters, the Junior League of Nashville, the Tennessee Lung Association, the Tennessee Conservation League, the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, and the Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center (Cheekwood). The Council staff and volunteers are just as enthusiastic today about taking care of the landscape they call home as they were when the organization was founded.

Join us from the comfort of your home for this informative program!

## Only 2020 HHW Event November 7

Rutherford County will host a **free** Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW) on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Items can be taken to the **Murfreesboro Solid Waste Department, 4765 Florence Road, between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.** This is the **ONLY** location where HHW items will be accepted.

"We usually have two events each year sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conversation," said Rutherford County Solid Waste Director Mac Nolen. "COVID temporarily put a stop to that, but Rutherford County realizes the importance of our residents ridding their homes of household hazardous waste, so we are holding our own event."

**The event is free for County residents only** and Nolen says **it is the last time that latex paint will be collected.** All households are encouraged to participate.

**Acceptable items** are home maintenance or improvement products such as used strippers and thinners, adhesives, driveway sealant, roofing tar, and wallpaper remover. Home lawn and garden products that are accepted include pesticides, fertilizers, and wood preservatives. In addition, acceptable miscellaneous items include pool chemicals, photo processing chemicals, aerosols/compressed gas, mercury thermostats and thermometers, fluorescent tubes (can be taken to Haley Road also), and compact

*(continued on page 4)*

## Businesses Promote Sustainability

Since its founding in 1990, Recycle Rutherford has sought to recognize local businesses that promote sustainable living. An outgrowth of this effort launched the “Spirit of Recycling Award” in 2018. That event was intended to be biennial, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of the 2020 awards and banquet.

To recognize businesses this year, we are doing something different. Board members selected businesses that embody the primary principles of sustainability—reduce, reuse, and recycle—in their daily operations. We are featuring these businesses in our newsletter. Articles on four businesses appeared in the summer *Recycler*. Back issues of *The Recycler* can be seen on our website at [www.recyclerutherford.org](http://www.recyclerutherford.org)

A local used bookstore is featured below and pieces on other businesses will appear in the Winter issue.

Several board members have shopped, consigned, used, and volunteered at the featured businesses and write from first-hand experience.

### The Grumpy Bookpeddler

610 W. College St., Suite 110

Murfreesboro 37130

Phone: 615-900-3264

Hours: T, W, F: 10-6; Th: 10-7; Sat 10-4

Website;

<https://www.thegrumpybookpeddler.com/>

Do you like to read but run out of space for keeping more books? **The Grumpy Bookpeddler** can help—both by keeping you supplied with a variety of reading material at a fraction of the cost for new and by providing an outlet for books you no longer want.

Owner of this impressive treasure is Alan Wollard, aka Grumpy. He says the store goal “is to get the books you no longer want to the next reader.” With some 50,000 books in stock, you can almost always find something that grabs you; the fact that the books are well organized makes it even easier. You’ll find your favorite authors and genres and some unexpected surprises because **Grumpy’s** has a wide-ranging stock. In addition to those on location, there is an online store with more than 4,000 books. See the website address above to access the online offerings.

Wollard opened the store’s first location on Memorial Boulevard in August 2011 and moved to the current location on College Street three years ago. The shop is behind the new roundabout at the end of Lytle, off Broad Street. He is the only employee and seems to know exactly where to find whatever customers are seeking.

If you have books you no longer want, consider taking them to **Grumpy’s**. Wollard says “We are always looking to buy used books and book collections. We specialize in older books that no one else will take, the pre-barcode ones. And we like to look at oddball stuff, you never know what will be valuable. We will pay cash for your unwanted books or issue you a store credit, your choice.”

He goes on to explain, “I think my business helps get unwanted books into the hands of readers who want them. A high percentage of my books come from estates of deceased readers that the heirs don't want. I can help them get further use out of the books and a little cash in their pockets. The best way to reach me is by phone at 615-900-3264. Or you can use email at [thegrumpybookpeddler@gmail.com](mailto:thegrumpybookpeddler@gmail.com).”

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**My store goal is to get the books you no longer want to the next reader.**

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**The Grumpy Bookpeddler** has a Facebook page (access it from the website) where changes in hours are listed (the store closes early for MTSU football games) Also, new or unusual acquisitions are sometimes featured.

Wollard’s operation reduces the waste stream even more because he passes the books he can’t sell on to organizations that can use them. “Any books that come in that I can't use I donate to Linebaugh Library Friends for their book sales or to Goodwill. The only books I throw away are ones that have mold or are just falling apart.” He says he ends up with extraordinarily little trash.

Whether you want to buy more books or sell unwanted ones, this local business should be your next stop. It could brighten your day in many ways. **The Bookpeddler** website states: “The best cure for the ‘grumpies’ is a good book!”

## Ways to Be Greener with Your Pets

Many people have pets they treasure; bringing green-living values to pet ownership may help extend their lives while being kinder to the earth.

**Put your pet on a low carbon diet.** Just like humans, cats and dogs eat food with a significant carbon footprint because it contains beef or lamb. Choose poultry-based foods without animal by-products or artificial preservatives.

**Use re-purposed doggie bags.** Many pet-waste bags are biodegradable, but since the bags are headed for the landfill, that doesn’t mean much. A better option is to reuse a bag that first packaged something else.

**Choose better litter.** Try natural, non-clay litters including litter made from 100 percent US grown corn or wheat. Or try reclaimed pine shavings and guar bean gum or recycled newspaper.

### Try a New Approach to Composting

Did you wish for some richer dirt or compost for your garden or flower bed this past summer and resolve to start composting? You may already have a composting bin or area outside; if so, you're aware that not a great deal happens in composting during the winter.

**Consider composting indoors.** This is especially attractive if your outside space is limited. Also, it may be easier to dispose of wastes inside during wet and cold weather and you can get a jump on the process and have that rich soil sooner. Most of the following instructions and suggestions were taken from an article Colleen Vanderlinden wrote for the July 30, 2020, issue of *The Spruce*.

Vanderlinden says that the easiest way to compost indoors is to use a worm bin, but she acknowledges that not everyone wants to keep a few hundred worms in the house. It's also very possible to set up an indoor composting system without worms, but it takes some monitoring and attention to do so successfully. When you do, you will feel good knowing that you are saving items from the landfill and making compost for your garden instead.

If you are going to set up a compost station indoors, the first thing to do is select a container. Options include

- **Plastic storage bins:** This is a good choice because they are fairly inexpensive and easy to obtain. You can get them in a variety of sizes depending on how much space you have and how much composting you expect to do. Ten gallons can be a good size, but 18 gallons (which is a standard size) would be even better. You can also stack these bins to save space. Simply drill a few aeration holes in the lid, add your contents, and start composting.
- **Five-gallon buckets:** These buckets are inexpensive and stackable. You can get them with matching lids at just about any home center. You will want to drill aeration holes near the top of the bucket.

- **Old wooden dresser drawers, wine crates, or other boxes:** If you can find an old dresser or wine crate, you can turn it into an indoor composter. Simply cover the top with either a hinged piece of wood cut to size or a piece of heavy fabric such as painters' canvas.

The next consideration is what to put in your container. **You can put most items that would go in an outdoor bin**, including food and veggie scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, shredded paper, and trimmings from houseplants.

**Never put meat, dairy, or fats into your indoor (or outdoor) compost bins.** Many composters put dryer lint and hair from hairbrushes in their bins, but these items may not break down inside. It's a good idea to avoid composting very smelly items (such as a lot of onion peelings) because you may smell it in the rest of your home. Watery items, such as melons or squashes, should also be kept at a minimum to avoid making the contents of your bin too soggy. After a while, you will get a feel for what to add and whether your bin is healthy or not. *The Spruce* article concluded with some tips for success:

- **Have a stash of shredded paper or dry leaves on hand:** Add a handful or two every time you add food scraps or coffee grounds to your bin. This will keep it from getting too soggy, as well as provide carbon to your bin.
- **Turn the contents of your bin often:** This helps the bin warm up a bit and increases microbial action. Mixing the contents is a good way to avoiding soggy and dry pockets in the bin. You can use a shovel or hand trowel to move the contents of the bin around, or, if you are using a bucket, just roll it back and forth a few times to mix it.
- **Smaller items break down quicker:** Chop food fairly small for the quickest results; shred your paper or tear it into thin strips.

Good luck with this different approach!

### Recycle Rutherford Membership Form

I enclose my annual dues to support Recycle Rutherford and receive the newsletter.

- \$25.00 supporter                       \$15.00 student                       \$100.00 patron
- I am contributing \$\_\_\_\_\_ in addition to dues.
- I prefer the newsletter to be emailed and am providing my email address.

**PLEASE PRINT:**

name \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

telephone: day \_\_\_\_\_; evening \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_; volunteer interest \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable and mail to Recycle Rutherford, P.O. Box 1804, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1804**

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### Only 2020 HHW Event November 7

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fluorescent bulbs. Medicines and drugs will also be accepted but must be emptied into a zip-lock plastic bag before bringing. Needles and sharps in puncture proof containers with sealed lids are now accepted. For a complete list:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/environment/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-program/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-acceptable-unacceptable-items.html>

**Items that are not accepted** include infectious wastes, automotive gas tanks, explosives, ammunition, gun powder and fireworks. Radioactive wastes such as smoke detectors and radium paint will not be accepted.

**Electronic waste will NOT be accepted** at this event. It is collected each Monday through Thursday, and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 1140 Haley Road, Murfreesboro. For more information please go to: <http://solidwaste.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/electronic-waste.html>.

To learn more about this event, please visit: <http://solidwaste.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/> or contact the Solid Waste Office at 615-898-7874.

### Feedback on Using Detergent Strips

I decided to give detergent strips a try after writing about them in our summer newsletter. I ordered a month's supply of Tru Earth Eco Strips from <https://wellearthgoods.com/>. They shipped free in a 6 x 10" mailer made from 100% recycled paper. They clean the clothes quite well and can be torn in half for small loads. If the load includes heavily soiled items, spots need to be pre-treated. I plan to order more strips.

*--Suma Clark*

### Join Us:

**Virtual meeting on Facebook Live, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.**

<https://www.facebook.com/recyclerutherford/live/>



P.O. Box 1804  
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1804

### 2020-22 Officers and Board

*Recycle Rutherford holds elections each April at the annual meeting; in general, officers and part of the board are elected in even years for two-year terms, and approximately half the board is elected in uneven years, providing for staggered terms.*

*The officers are listed below with the board members, who are elected each April and serve staggered terms. The date indicates when the term of each ends. The board meets monthly on first Mondays at 6:15 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. Spring Street.*

Rachel Cornett, president  
Bonnie Black, vice president  
Suma Clark, secretary  
Rick Racker, treasurer  
Glenn Himebaugh, past president

### Board Members:

Linda Hardyman, 2022  
Diane Parker 2022  
Beth Spivey, 2022

**Reminder: To renew your membership, please see the form on page 3. Dues are only \$25 per year. We don't want to lose you!**

**For more information, go to [www.recyclerutherford.org](http://www.recyclerutherford.org)**

**Like us on Facebook!**

*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*