

THE RECYCLER

Newsletter of Recycle Rutherford, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Spring 2021

The Founder of Recyclops Shares His Story

Monday, April 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
www.recyclerutherford.org

Ryan Smith, who founded Recyclops some six years ago, will be the featured speaker at Recycle Rutherford's annual meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. **The program title is "Recycling for Everyone" since that expresses the philosophy of his company and him personally.** The meeting will be a FaceBook Live event, but it isn't necessary to be a FaceBook user to attend and view. Go to www.recyclerutherford.org and click on the link there.

Recyclops, operated by Smith and several partners, has diverted more than eight million pounds from landfills to date. Smith started the company after he enrolled in college and discovered there were no recycling opportunities at his apartment complex. He discovered that this was a national problem. He began to address this problem locally by taking over a recycling pickup service from the family who had started it but whose kids who had been the labor force and now were leaving home.

Smith and his partners wanted to replicate what is working in many places so that recycling could be brought to the millions of households who do not have recycling opportunities. Although Smith says they are still "super small," they have operations in Utah, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Ohio, Virginia, Kansas, and very recently in Tennessee. Recyclops purchased Stones River Recycling in 2020 and currently serves about 3,000 homes in Rutherford County.

The young CEO was recognized in 2020 by Forbes 30 under 30. Go to <https://www.forbes.com/profile/ryan-smith-1/?sh=48e6d42f45c8>

Smith, who lives in Orem, Utah, graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in business strategy in 2016. He is the father of two little girls who keep life exciting. In his "free" time

he likes to hike, rock climb, and backpack with his dad and brothers.

Please join us for this informative program and invite others who are interested.



Thursday, April 22, 2021

Earth Day is traditionally a fun day filled with environmental and educational booths, children's activities and more. Sponsors are recreating the experience of Murfreesboro's Earth Day Celebration 2021 as much as possible as a virtual event.

This year's theme is Restore Rutherford, and organizations, including Recycle Rutherford, share their interpretation and approach on videos. The Virtual Earth Day Celebration can be viewed on Facebook at 12 noon on Thursday, April 22

Trees and a Restore Rutherford reusable tote giveaway will take place between April 22 and April 30 while supplies last. Included will be 300 Eastern Redbud seedlings and various environmental goodies. Pick up is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following locations:

- Patterson Park Community Center • 521 Mercury Blvd, Murfreesboro
- Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center • 100 Sam Ridley Pkwy East, Smyrna
- Wilderness Station at Barfield Crescent Park • 401 Volunteer Road, Murfreesboro

For more information contact Amy Byers, Middle Tennessee Electric, at 615-494-0407 or email amy.byers@mtmcc.com.

2 The Recycler, Spring 2021

Earth Day Display at Linebaugh Library

Recycle Rutherford has a display case for the month of April in the entry area of the Murfreesboro branch of Linebaugh Public Library, 105 W. Vine St. The theme of the display is to show what is accepted and how to prepare materials for recycling in Rutherford County at the Recycling Centers.

The top shelf shows what is acceptable; the middle shelf has information and examples of reusable bags; the bottom shelf has items that cannot be recycled and therefore are contaminants.



Many thanks to all involved: Library staff for making the space available and working with us on installation; Bonnie Black, Diane Parker, Recyclops designer, Chuck Clark, and Suma Clark.

Remember that items to be recycled should be clean, empty, and dry; never add plastic bags or film, Styrofoam or polystyrene, clothing or other textiles, food or yard waste, greasy food boxes, bagged items, or hazardous materials. Follow the signs at the recycling centers and place items in the correct bins. The only glass items accepted are clear and colored beverage and liquor bottles and food jars and bottles.



What Happens to Discarded CDs

CDs first appeared in the eighties and offered a whole new way of information sharing. Previously, information storage was mainly in magnetic tape of various sizes and vinyl records. CDs were less than half the size of twelve-inch records and could rewind or skip forward at the press of a button, unlike tapes, which required tedious rewinding. When Sony introduced portable CD players in 1984 with better sound quality and larger capacity than records or cassettes, popularity soared.

In the 1990s, AOL sent compact discs to potential internet subscribers. By the mid-nineties, makers of video games began to shift away from cartridges and toward discs. In 2000, more than 900 million music CDs were sold! Then, just a year later, Apple released the first iPod, which allowed users to carry 1,000 CD-quality songs in a six-ounce device in their pockets. Rapidly, CDs shifted from being innovative and useful to clunky. In the last few months, Sony and Microsoft are releasing the latest versions of PlayStation5 and Xbox Series X without disc drives!

The polycarbonate plastic of which CDs are made takes one million years to decompose in a landfill. While many of us still play and value our CDs, millions of the almost indestructible discs have been discarded and that will only continue.

Fortunately for the environment, there are individuals who recognized the problem early on and started seeking a solution. One such person is Bruce Bennett; since 2006, he’s been receiving packages of compact discs at his CD Recycling Center of America in Salem, N.H. There he stores them in a 300-foot blue trailer until he has a full load, about 44,000 pounds. Then the discs are granulated into raw polycarbonate plastic, a

white and clear powdery material that glints and resembles large snowflake crystals, which can eventually be used to mold durable items for cars, home building materials, and eyeglasses.

That’s if anyone buys the raw material.

In the early years, he sold them to China until that country sharply restricted purchases of recyclables in 2018. The price had begun to fall in 2011, but Bennett persisted. He found buyers in India, but because of pandemic lockdowns and restrictions, he still doesn’t break even.

Bennett, a self-professed lifelong environmentalist, started recycling CDs in 1988. He was manufacturing compact discs and had to figure out how to responsibly dispose of defective product. He remains hopeful that CD recycling will catch on. He was quoted as saying, “I realize that I know how to recycle this, but I don’t think the world knows.”

There are organizations, such as GreenDisk, which have drop boxes for CDs and other outdated technology Started by David Beschen in 1992, after marketing Microsoft products. “I saw an opportunity to clean up some of the stuff I had been responsible for selling.” He ships the dropbox contents to the National Industries for the Blind, where materials are sorted and prepared for recycling and eventual manufacture of plastic products.

If you can sell or reuse your unwanted CDs, that’s a good way to handle, but if you can’t, don’t give up on recycling them. Let’s hope the recycling world will catch up with these forward-looking individuals!

Information for this article came from an informative piece, “The Afterlife of Our Discarded CDs” from the *New Your Times*. **Thanks so much to former board member Gib Backlund for sharing this!**

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

4 The Recycler, Spring 2021

Next HH Hazardous Waste Collection

There will **NOT** be a collection of household hazardous wastes this spring. Mac Nolen, Rutherford County Solid Waste director, says that TDEC (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) cancelled all collections in the state for Spring 2021.

The fall collection, sponsored by the state, is scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon at 4765 Florence Road. Nolen did say that surrounding counties will have fall collections that Rutherford countians can attend.

“We paid for our own collection last fall and accepted paint. This fall, absolutely zero paint will be accepted,” Nolen says. He continued, “Latex paint must be dried by the homeowner. Aerosol cans of all types will be collected, even those that have contained paint. Oil based paint is accepted by appointment only, from residents only, by calling 615-898-7739 throughout the year. Electronics and fluorescent bulbs are accepted five days each week at 1140 Haley Road, Murfreesboro.”

More information will be available closer to the date. **Mark your calendars!!**

Dates to Remember

Earth Day Celebration:

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Held Virtually: View on Facebook, 12 noon

See details on page 1

Spring Meeting—Recycle Rutherford:

Monday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

Speaker Ryan Smith, “Recycling for Everyone”

Go to www.recyclerutherford.org for link

Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

Saturday, November 6, 2021, 8 a.m. – 12 noon

Murfreesboro Solid Waste Department

4765 Florence Road, Murfreesboro

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

Like us on Facebook!

Printed on paper with recycled content.



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