



# Re\*Group Re\*Order

Find ReGroup on Facebook and contact us at [regroupkenaipeninsula@gmail.com](mailto:regroupkenaipeninsula@gmail.com).

We would like to thank all the members who have recently renewed their memberships. Without your continuing interest, we would not be able to continue providing information and education to the public.

## Upcoming Events on the Peninsula

Re*Group Meetings	April 17, 2017 & May 15, 2017	Hope Community Center, off of K-Beach Rd. For info and directions contact 252-2773 or <a href="mailto:regroupkenaipeninsula@gmail.com">regroupkenaipeninsula@gmail.com</a>
Caring for Kenai	April 20, 2017	Kenai Central High School, Little Theater, 6:00pm
Electronics Recycle Event	May 6, 2017	Central Peninsula Landfill, 10am to 3pm Sponsored by Cook Inletkeeper
Kenai Aluminum Can Roundup	April 22, 2017	Central Peninsula Landfill 10am to 1pm Contact Connie at 394-7293
Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival	May 4 - 7, 2017	25th Annual, <a href="http://Kachemakshorebird.org">Kachemakshorebird.org</a>
Kenai River Clean-up	May 11 - 12, 2017	<a href="mailto:K.Baxter@ci.soldotna.ak.us">K.Baxter@ci.soldotna.ak.us</a>
Kenai Birding Festival	May 18 - 21, 2017	<a href="http://Kenaibirdfest.com">Kenaibirdfest.com</a>
Kenai River Festival & Salvage Art Exhibit	June 9 - 11, 2017	Soldotna Creek Park, Soldotna, Alaska



### SALVAGE ART KENAI RIVER FESTIVAL JUNE 9-11, 2017

What is Salvage Art? 3D art created from items commonly thrown away!

- LARGE SCULPTURES: larger than 2'
- SMALL SCULPTURE: less than 2'
- DECOR: vases, bowls, bags etc
- WEARABLES: hats, purses, belts etc

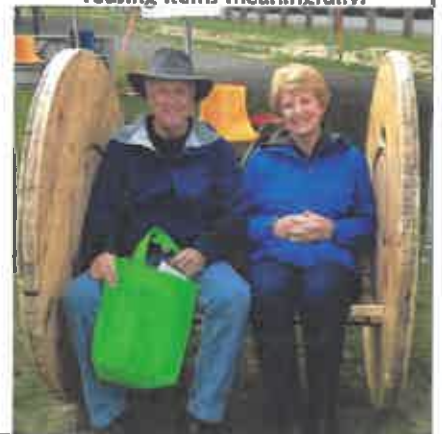
2 age groups: 12-18 and Adult  
Group projects accepted in any category

- Construction Details**
- 90% of creation should be reused materials (attachments and paint not included)
  - structure should be securely assembled
  - sharp edges should be avoided or have protective covering

**Registration**  
Bring entries to Soldotna Creek Park  
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friday June 9, 2017

Co-Sponsored by ReGroup & Kenai Fine Art Center  
For more information call 252-2773 or visit Facebook and search ReGroup or Kenai Fine Art Center  
\*Awards are based on Viewers Choice\*

**Thank you to the Clarion**  
The Peninsula Clarion is the local newspaper that keeps our community informed about the local events & opportunities available. On Sundays they publish "The Recycling Bin" in cooperation with ReGroup. It includes interesting data, inspired thought and notices of upcoming events to remind us that each of us needs to be responsible for protecting our resources by reducing waste, recycling all materials we can and reusing items meaningfully.





## CARING FOR THE KENAI 12 FINALISTS SELECTED IN 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "CARING FOR THE KENAI" COMPETITION...

Kenai, March 13th, 2017— With high schools from Homer to Seward participating in this year's Caring for the Kenai (CFK) environmental and disaster preparedness contest, a panel of eight judges from the professional community selected twelve Kenai Peninsula Borough high school students to compete for over \$28,000 in cash awards in the oral presentation phase of the CFK program sponsored by Tesoro. From the nearly 400 entries electronically submitted in this year's CFK, 120 were advanced to the semi-finalist round of judging. The CFK competition offers over \$8,000 in cash awards to the best twelve proposals addressing the prompt, "What can I do, invent, or create to better care for the environment on the Kenai Peninsula, or to improve the area's preparedness for a natural disaster?" Participating schools this year included Voznesenka, Homer, Kenai, Nikiski, Soldotna High, Cook Inlet Academy, Soldotna Prep, Ninikchik and Seward.

"The District's students greatly appreciate Tesoro's generous sponsorship of this important annual event and all of the volunteers that make this educational partnership possible every year," said Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Superintendent Sean Dusek.

"The opportunity that Caring for the Kenai offers our students to showcase their creativity and ingenuity is excellent," added Dusek. The CFK educational partnership is part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District science curriculum. This year \$20,000 will be awarded to participating schools thanks to a matching grant from, Kenai River Raven Lodge, ConocoPhillips, Peninsula Community Health Services and Hilcorp. The \$20,000 in CFK grants will be divided proportionately to participating schools based on where their students place in the final oral presentation competition to be held Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the KCHS Little Theatre, starting at 6:00pm.

In addition to the recognition and prizes that go to the 12 finalists each year, CFK's Student Recognition award program continues to grow with over 15 local sponsors presenting special recognition awards to entries of the sponsor's selection. Student recognition recipients will be announced in a Peninsula Clarion full page ad. The 12 CFK finalists will remain anonymous until after their oral presentations Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. CFK is being administered as part of the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska's educational programs. Marnie Olcott CEO said, "Challenger is thrilled to be part of such a valuable program, for our students, teachers and communities. Challenger shares the vision of growing the program not only within Alaska, but on a national level; we look forward to a long, successful partnership." This year's CFK competition will be streamed live over the internet by Soldotna High School technology students and has been viewed in the past in countries such as Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Peru, Germany, Greenland and Japan. The live feed, complete history and details of the CFK program are available at [www.caringforthekenai.com](http://www.caringforthekenai.com) or visit <https://www.facebook.com/caringForTheKenai.com>

### New Kenai Peninsula Recycling Options & Waste Reduction Website

Jonathan Crocker teaches fifth through eighth grade students at the Chapman School in Anchor Point. His students have been studying "Zero Waste"—via Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies' presentations, field trips (such as marine debris beach clean-ups) and activities (like making plastic) throughout this school year. Re-Group was thrilled to find out about the project Crocker's eighth grade coding students completed as part of CACS's *Zero Waste Program* at Chapman School.

While thinking about developing a zero waste project, Jon Crocker and his students noted that people—including teachers and staff at the school—knew very little about what happens to the items that are being recycled on the Kenai Peninsula. They located some pretty good information on the Kenai Peninsula Borough website, but it was not easy to find. Crocker wanted to work on creating a good, reliable source of information on Kenai Peninsula recycling options, with easy, as-needed access.

The initial hope was to create a mobile app, but the technical skills involved with that endeavor were a bit too advanced. So the seven-student eighth grade team was assigned a website. They used "straightforward" coding (mostly HTML, with some CSS)—which they learned with the help of a free website. Each student was assigned at least one page of the site to research and complete.

The resulting website is a compendium of resources:

Google Maps for most Kenai Peninsula Borough facilities and sites that accept recyclables

Pages on specific materials officially accepted for recycling at Kenai Peninsula Borough facilities & sites that include:

- List of facilities and sites which accept the material
- Reducing use and re-using suggestions
- Informational videos
- Links to additional recycling resources

Additional pages on #3, #5, and #6 plastics *not* officially recycled through KPB that include:

- Alternative recycling options for #5 plastics
- Google Maps for alternative recycling sites
- Reducing and reusing strategies and informational videos

Check out this great web resource for yourself—created by Andy, Angelica, Aiden, Llana, Angus, Melissa and Samara at <http://pages.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/crocker/Recycling/RecyclingMain.html>.

The eighth grade coding students are eager to share their work with everyone, and plans are afoot to expand and improve—with next year's eighth grade class to continue work on the site. Meanwhile, if you come across resources or information that you think would add value to the site you can email Jon Crocker at [JCrocker@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:JCrocker@kpbsd.k12.ak.us).

# SOLDOTNA ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT



**Accepted Items:**  
All Computers  
All Electronics  
Including TVs and  
Cell Phones

**NOT Accepted:**  
VHS Tapes and CDs  
Exit Signs  
smoke detectors

\$15 suggested donation for monitors and TVs  
All items accepted regardless of ability to pay

To volunteer or schedule an appointment  
for business, school, tribe, nonprofit or  
government agency,

call Krista at 907-252-0327  
email [regroupkenalpeninsula@gmail.com](mailto:regroupkenalpeninsula@gmail.com)



**SATURDAY, MAY 6TH**  
10am to 3pm • Central Peninsula Landfill



## 2016/2017 HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All collection days are on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Please note that collections are not scheduled every month.  
The schedule listed below is subject to change.

### CENTRAL PENINSULA

Central Peninsula Baling Facility  
Mile 00.5 Sterling Highway

January 14, 2017	July 15, 2017
March 11, 2017	August 12, 2017
May 13, 2017	September 18, 2017
June 10, 2017	November 16, 2017

### HOMER

Homer Transfer Facility  
Mile 169.3 Sterling Highway

January 7, 2017	July 8, 2017
May 6, 2017	September 9, 2017

### SEWARD

Seward Transfer Facility  
End of Diamond Ave.

January 21, 2017	July 22, 2017
May 20, 2017	September 23, 2017

To pre-register and ask specific disposal questions call  
NRC Alaska LLC at 1-877-375-5040.

For general questions call the  
KPB Solid Waste Department at 262-8687.

## Kenai Aluminum Can Round-Up

ReGroup would like to thank Alaska Waste for their continued support of the Kenai Aluminum Can Round-Up. Their contribution for the prize money keeps this event running year after year. This year the final collection date is April 22nd from 10am until 1pm at Central Peninsula Landfill.

THANK YOU...



## DO YOU HAVE A LAPTOP YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH?

Carroll Knutson has a school teacher friend who is refurbishing used laptop computers to be delivered to a village school in Mexico. This opportunity will keep them out of our landfill and gives them a new productive life in a school where they will be very appreciated. You can give Carroll a call at (907) 262-4932 and connect with her or contact Susie at [asusansmalley@gmail.com](mailto:asusansmalley@gmail.com).



Feeling crafty???

Put together  
something fun,  
decorative and  
useful for the  
Kenai River Festival  
Salvage Art  
competition.



## **Spotlight on Reducing Waste and Increasing Health via Composting Diamond M Ranch & TNT**

Composting transforms organic matter through the decaying process into a nutrient rich soil amendment. All organic material eventually breaks down and rots, some materials faster than others. The speed of decomposing depends on the carbon to nitrogen ratio, the amount of surface exposed to oxygen, moisture and temperatures inside and outside of the pile.

Two local businesses have been developing compost methods and products that show promise to benefit our community.

### **Diamond M Ranch-(raising funds to develop the non-profit Matt's Farm)**

Ronna and Blair Martin of the Diamond M Ranch in Kenai are committed to reducing waste that would otherwise go to the landfill. They have experimented with mixing food scraps and compostable cups, utensils, bowls and plates gleaned at the 2014, 2015, & 2016 Kenai River Festivals via Re-Group's compost collection bins, and combining the collection with fish and wood waste. They have arrived at a mix and process to make ready-to-use compost in two to three weeks.

The Martins have a power tool that is like a rototiller and snow blower combined. This tool scrapes the bottom and sides of the piles of fish, wood and food scraps, aerating and building long windrows three feet high and three feet wide. "The tool's auger flips and chews, and gives the ingredients a fresh ghost of oxygen which makes the heat loving bacteria go wild," said Blair, when asked for an update on the composting project.

Diamond M Ranch has been offering compost for sale to benefit the development of the agricultural and animal care education program for youth, Matt's Farm, over the past five years. Due to the wet weather this past fall, the 2016 compost project was on hold, with the ingredients standing by. The Martins will continue to compost fish waste, wood waste and food scraps—saving them from going to the landfill, and look forward to going commercial with their product again. We look forward to getting word when the compost is ready and available.

### **TNT**

Fritz Miller began working on developing commercial compost as he was thinking about how to help local horse owners—including himself—to avoid having horse manure piles on their properties running off into adjacent lakes and streams. Saving the health of the watershed, reducing waste at the landfill, and creating healthy soils for growing nutritious and delicious food were his goals.

Miller started his business, TNT, five years ago, and he has been experimenting with compost and soil amendment ingredients, building his compost turners and screens from scrounged materials, and doing extensive research to perfect his methods over time. Fritz experimented with creating a fish hydrolysate—which has powerful organic sulfides. He found that his product created lush green grass, and was also great at killing weeds. But it was "very stinky stuff that did not pan out to be economically feasible" to continue to pursue. TNT compost products are now comprised of horse manure (plus some rabbit, chicken and llama manure), wood shavings, grass, and coffee grounds.

Miller provides local horse owners with collection boxes to gather the manure from daily paddock cleanings. Daily collection is important, so that the horse manure is not mixed with urine—which has high salts. Also, gathering the manure daily from the paddock preempts weed seeds (esp. chickweed) from blowing onto the manure and taking root. The horse manure serves as both potent carbon and nitrogen sources for the compost mixture. Fritz also gathers used coffee grounds from a variety of local businesses. However, for those of you at home he recommends caution with the use of coffee grounds—as coffee can run the compost's pH out of whack.

The TNT composting process from start to finished product takes two years. Freezing temperatures locally slow the process. The culmination of Miller investing the past five years in perfecting his products has led his business to now be breaking even. He has accomplished significant gains as well. TNT is the currently the only OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) organically listed composter in the state of Alaska. Also, results from conducting Brix tests (measuring sugars and nutrients) of samples of local raspberries grown organically in soil with TNT compost and comparing to Brix tests of samples of commercial organically grown raspberries sold in grocery stores suggest that the local raspberries grown with TNT compost have significantly higher nutritional and taste values.

You can purchase TNT products by contacting Fritz Miller directly at 398-8851; or find TNT compost tea—made from TNT's organically approved compost—at Cad-Re Feeds, and Kenai Feed and Supply.