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## Tool School classes will teach wide variety of skills

**Greening by learning**  
 By **Cindy Sutter** Camera Staff Writer  
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With warm weather comes the urge for home projects -- whether it's planting a garden, putting in a patio, building a fence -- the list is endless.

For those who'd like to do those things, but don't know how, the Center for ReSource Conservation's Tool Library can help in



Jim Knoll, a volunteer at the Tool Library at ReSource in Boulder, repairs a wheelbarrow. (CLIFF GRASSMICK)

the form of classes to help you develop skills from the use of power tools to specific projects such as building a coldframe or constructing a garden shed.

The idea for the 50-plus classes that will be offered beginning April 16 came about as Adam Jackaway, Tool Library program manager and CRC Executive Director Keith Frausto cast about for ways to leverage what the ReSource Yard at 6400 Arapahoe Ave. has to offer.

"It brings customers to the Tool Library. ... They get to see what kind of tools are available for projects, they get to learn some skills," Jackaway says. "They're also coming to the yard for classes, so they get to see the quality of the reclaimed building materials there."

### The right tool

The CRC's tool library has about 3,000 tools that can be borrowed at an average cost of \$1.50 a day after the purchase of a \$25 yearly membership. Hand tools are \$1 a day, and power tools are \$2 to \$5. A network of volunteers, many former contractors, comes in daily to maintain the tools.

Jackaway says users run the skill gamut from the least skilled -- people who have never used a hammer -- to contractors who need a tool such as an air compressor or odd-sized clamps that they don't want to buy for a single use.

A large percentage of members are women, and some of the classes are being taught in partnership with the Colorado Girl Scouts to teach classes for girls in basic power tools, tiling and masonry, among other things.

Several classes are offered for kids, including making a robot and a clock from reclaimed materials. In addition, a parents and kids woodworking class is available.

### Meeting customer

#### needs

Many of the classes are designed around specific projects.

"As an educator, I've found time and time again that students learn best when learning is necessary to accomplish something," Jackaway says.

To that end, classes include building a coldframe, adirondack chair or earthen pizza oven for your backyard. Among other projects: making concrete countertops and using a thermal imaging camera -- a recent donation to the library.



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Several classes also deal with basic skills such as using power tools.

"I want to help people to learn the skills they need to be able to build for themselves basically," says David Barstow, a local carpenter and green builder who teaches some of the classes. "The garden shed (class) is going to really take people through the steps of building a structure. If they get some hands-on experience with that, they will have the confidence to try it themselves."

Some classes, such as the first on drip irrigation, are free. Others range in cost from \$10 for many of the kids' classes to \$60.

**A greener world**

The classes and library are designed not only to help people reclaim materials, but also to share tools and build things to keep products from being manufactured in the first place.

"We're starting to look upstream. Why are we creating such mess to begin with?" Jackaway says. "The tool library is the embodiment of the latter mindset. You don't need (to own) every tool that you might use once in a blue moon."

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