

Organic Land Care with



SOUL Member Newsletter Winter 2017

SOUL News

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New Executive Director SOUL would like to welcome Sundaura Alford-Purvis as our new Executive Director. Sundaura is an Accredited Professional and landscape designer in Ottawa. You can read her full profile [here](#).

AGM Recap We had a great turnout for our 2017 AGM, thanks to all who attended. If you missed it, you can read the minutes [here](#).

NOC Application Our application for a national occupation code for organic land care has been submitted. Thanks to everyone who completed the survey and helped support our application.

2017 Edition of the SOUL Standard The last few adjustments to the 2017 SOUL standard are being completed, keep an eye on our website for the upcoming launch of the digital version.

Gaia College Winter Semester Gaia College's winter semester starts January 8. Winter can be a great time to work on your professional development, expand your expertise into new aspects of Organic Land Care and earn valuable Continuing Education Credits (CECs). Visit their winter semester course listings [here](#).

Vermicomposting

Worms are amazing creatures. The "Red Wiggler" composting worm can take care of your left overs that have stayed too long as left overs. Although worms, or microorganisms first, eat organic material, avoid meat/fish, dairy, oils and too much citrus. These can be broken down over time but can attract unwanted pests.

Worms need a place to live (bins) and bedding to live in. Preferably, the bins should have a lid and be a minimum of 30 cms. (12 ins.) deep with side air holes and bottom drainage holes. This drainage liquid can stain, so a catch basin under your bin is helpful. Common bedding materials can be coconut fibre (COIR), peat moss, cardboard, newspaper or paper and must be moist like a dampened cloth.

Worms are eating machines and can ingest ½ their body weight a day if food is small enough.

After they have digested this food, they poop it out, and, voila, you have the "black gold" called vermicompost. Vermicompost is a combination of castings, microorganisms, decomposing "leftovers" and bedding. It is a nutritionally rich organic fertilizer and a great additive to any growing medium. As well, you can make exceptional teas and brews from it.

There is more to say, but you are ready to start vermicomposting so good luck.

-David Greig, MEd, HTR, Cert. Organic Land Care Professional,
Cert. Soil Steward, Master Composter

Has had worms for over 25 years but don't tell his partner.



Photo provided by Sundaura Alford-Purvis
If you have a garden photo you'd like to share, email it to administrator@organiclandcare.org