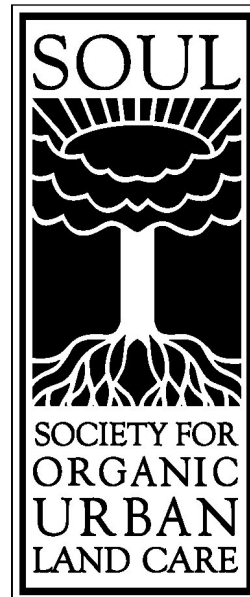


Organic Land Care *with*



"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood
and don't assign them tasks and work,

but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Organic Land Care with SOUL is published ten times per year by the Society for Organic Urban Land Care

Our Mission:

"To support our communities in their transition to organic practices".

This newsletter is distributed free of charge to all SOUL members. Please feel free to share this publication.

SOUL

3533 Salsbury Way
Victoria, BC.
V8P 3K7
Ph: 250-386-7685
info@organiclandcare.org
www.organiclandcare.org

Editor:

Christina Nikolic
info@stewardshipnld.com

To find an organic land care professional in your area, please visit the SOUL website at:
www.organiclandcare.org

July/August, 2006

Summer is here!

As everyone catches their breath after a very busy spring season, SOUL is also arriving at a *modus vivendi* for the newsletter. It seems to make most sense, to the editor and our readers alike, to publish it ten times per year:

*Monthly issues from September through April,
and bi-monthly issues for May/June and July/August.*

To save money and resources, SOUL does not mail printed copies. This newsletter and all back issues can be found on-line at www.organiclandcare.org/newsletters

Join SOUL today!

All SOUL members and interested guests are invited to SOUL's **4th Annual General Meeting on Saturday July 8th**, from 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m., at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific/Glendale Gardens in **Victoria, B.C.**

Coming up in August...: The SOUL Visioning Quest.

Where do we come from? Where are we going?

Join us for a weekend of SOUL searching, reflection on the past, and outlook to the future of SOUL.

Have comments or ideas? Have your say!

Time and Place: **August 12/13 in Cowichan Station, B.C.**

RSVP to: info@organiclandcare.org by August 5, 2006.

Carpool, potluck food, tents by the river under the mighty bigleaf maples!! Input by mail or e-mail is encouraged, if you can not come in person.

GMOs in your back yard?

This is an excerpt of an article published on June 24, 2006, by Deborah Rich in a Special to The San Francisco Chronicle, as a comment on Santa Cruz County outlawing genetically engineered plants. Of course, this seems to be happening far away in California. But what's going on in our own back yards?

"Laws governing commercial produce critical, but backyard crops may still be at risk"

"Monsanto's purchase of Seminis, the world's largest developer of fruit and vegetable seeds, in 2005 is probably part of a push to extend genetic engineering technology into commercially grown fruits and vegetables.

Under such brands as Seminis, Asgrow, Peto-seed and Royal Sluis, Seminis supplies 3,500 seed varieties to 155 countries.

In the 1990s, soon after Monsanto developed the ability to cut bacteria genes and paste them into corn and soybean genomes, the company went on a buying spree, scooping up regional and national corn and soybean seed companies. Monsanto now dominates the biotech industry with its seeds or licensed traits present on 88 percent of the acreage planted with genetically engineered crops worldwide.

Without state regulation, when engineered fruits and vegetables reach the market, consumers who don't want them will have to buy organic.

But even organic and backyard produce may not be safe. DNA from engineered plants has spread over longer distances than previously expected and contaminated regular crops through wind and pollinators such as animals, birds and people.

Under current federal law not even genetically engineered seed has to be labeled. Conceivably, growers could unknowingly buy and plant genetically engineered seed. (Bags of seeds of varieties genetically engineered to produce their own toxins do have to bear a label identifying active and inactive ingredients.)

The inadequacies of federal regulations are becoming increasingly apparent. In December 2005 the Department of Agriculture reported that its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service -- the agency charged with controlling and monitoring genetically engineered test plots -- frequently does not know where genetically engineered tests are planted, if pollen containment protocols are in place or how test material is being disposed of.

And although genetically engineered modifications of fruits and vegetables important to the state's agriculture are poised to enter the field, California has no laws or regulations governing genetically modified organisms."

[...]

Article found at:

Sustainable Agriculture Network Discussion Group

This and much more at:

<http://www.sare.org>



"Remaking authentic communities into packaged forms of themselves, re-creating environments in one place that actually belong somewhere else, creating theme parks and lifestyle-segregated communities, and space travel and colonization -- all are symptomatic of the same modern malaise: a disconnection from a place on Earth that we can call Home. With the natural world -- our true home -- removed from our lives, we have built on top of the pavement a new world, a new Eden, perhaps; a mental world of creative dreams. We then live within these fantasies of our own creation; we live within our own minds. Though we are still on the planet Earth, we are disconnected from it, afloat on pavement, in the same way astronauts float in space."

-- Jerry Mander, In the Absence of the Sacred