

Organic Land Care *with*



Gardening Rule:

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it.

If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

-Joan-

God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done.

- Author Unknown-

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

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www.organiclandcare.org.

July/August 2008

Good Summer to everyone, wherever you are. It finally appears that summer has arrived. For us in Victoria, and elsewhere I believe, the warm weather and sun came just in time. The gardens seemed to be a little behind so hopefully we will catch up during the rest of July and into August.

It has been a busy time since the last issue as we had our annual AGM for SOUL in June, which was a resounding success. We have a full board ready and excited to lead us onto new garden paths. I wish to welcome Lisa Atkins, from Vancouver, as the president of SOUL. She has tremendous experience in the area of organic land care and brings a wealth of wisdom to head the governing body of SOUL. I also wish to say farewell to Dayle Cosway and Michael Cowan. Both have served as president and have contributed their time and energy for many years. To these dedicated and committed people, and on behalf of everyone in SOUL, a tremendous thanks is given for your efforts.

At the beginning of July, SOUL Victoria was represented by a group of wonderful volunteers at the Organic Islands Garden Festival. This festival was a resounding success. There were even reports that SOUL members from the mainland made it over to attend the festival. As well, the first ever Organic Garden Tour was held by SOUL Victoria to highlight how people are working toward creating organic gardens. So as can be seen, there have been many things going on thus far.

This newsletter will be a change from previous issues, as I wanted to provide you with lighter information and ideas about organic gardening. This will be the last newsletter until September. I hope that the summer brings good fortune to all. It has been a pleasure to bring you news of organic happenings. I look forward to speaking to you again in September. Please take care of yourself and others and may your gardens always be abundant!

David Greig

One. I was introduced to this interesting website (<http://www.learningtoloveyoumore.com>) by my daughter who incorporated a number of these ideas into a city scavenger activity she created. Although the website is not specifically related to organic gardening, a couple of the ideas could be incorporated into organic life practices. Two of these were as follows:

Make a Field Guide of Your Yard – “Take photographs of every single different growing thing that you see. Notice grasses, weeds, flowers, trees, insects, birds, cats, dogs. You don't have to identify what anything is, just take a photograph, as if you are a scientist on an island that no human has ever set foot on before.”

and

Grow a Garden in an Unexpected Spot - Organic garden practice is not just for ourselves but is needed for everyone!

Two. Summer time in Canada is when we can grow things outside without concern for some of the elements such as cold, snow, frost, etc. OK, I will not be smug and extol the virtues of our “Westcoast” winter weather although I imagine that people understand my meaning. So, I will talk about The Lighter Side of Food Security by John Hershey. In his article, he talks about how self-reliance is what motivates all gardeners, and that we want to feel secure in our production of food.

Although this may not be free food or provide total self-sufficiency, it will create an opportunity for pride and knowledge that we are doing something for our community, our world and being responsible for our actions. Because gardening results are not immediate, like buying something from the store, we cannot expect tomato sauce immediately after planting tomatoes. Rather, it is a labour of love that can be shared and gives personal power back to us. He provides interesting ideas to counter balance insecurity of our food these days.

(http://www.kitchengardeners.org/2007/03/the_lighter_side_of_food_security.html#more)

Three. To conclude the summer edition of the SOUL newsletter, here is information about a gardening contest that may be of interest to some of the readers. A 1st ever contest by Greenstar Plant Products, Inc. is being offered for people to show how their gardens are pesticide free, how they rely on natural and organic fertilizers, and how they use environmentally conscious growing practices. If this fits for someone, then she or he can enter one of six categories to talk about her or his success with organic gardening practice. There are nice prizes to be won, and the entrance requirements do not seem complicated. All entries must be postmarked before August 31, 2008. Good luck to all who enter, and hopefully you can be mentioned in a future SOUL newsletter as one of the winners.

(<http://www.getgreenstar.com/garden/news/contests.aspx>)



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website calendar
for upcoming events in the
Vancouver and Victoria
branches!**

<http://organiclandcare.org/home/calendar.php>