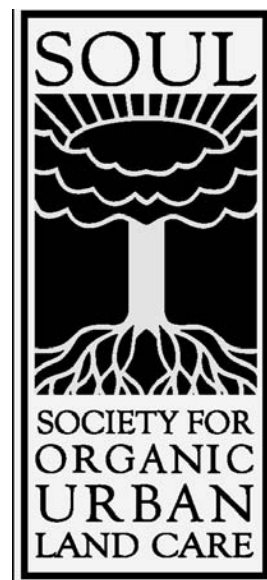


Organic Land Care *with*



"We simply can't go on as we are. Somehow we have to find the courage to reassert the once commonplace belief that human beings have a duty to act as the stewards of creation."

-H.R.H. Charles Prince of Wales, San Francisco, 2005-

"If man cheats the earth, the earth will cheat man."

- Chinese Proverb-

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.

September 2008

In Victoria, BC, the sky is cloudy and there is coolness in the air. Ah, the signs that fall is approaching are now coming to the forefront of our minds. With autumn come the chores that have been left undone but need to be completed. And for the professional members, they are lining up how to get at the cleanup, maintenance, installation and all the rest of the work that is possible but more challenging if the rains come too quickly.

With this year's fall there seems to be more emphasis on issues "Green". Everyday there is some news report on greening your house, vehicle choice, energy consumption, landscape design, food selection or any one of a number of aspects of our daily lives. Added to this is the soon to be determined Canadian election in which the political parties are finding their respective ground on which to plant their green initiatives. This "greening" also took on an imperative as the Green party is to be finally included in the leaders debate. As well, Canadians are being confronted with the knowledge that our food safety cannot be taken for granted. This has issued forth because of the sad and terrible deaths that have occurred because of tainted meat products. Unfortunately, these problems are not isolated and ours alone. Recent information out of China has been acknowledged that milk products tainted with a chemical has made infants and the elderly sick and lead to deaths. It seems that the idea of greening is now more than just choosing a product, material or company that is environmentally sound. Rather, it appears that we may be moving towards a higher consciousness about what we have long taken for granted. This consciousness is that we must become more responsible and vigilant for our individual actions and knowledge and through this we need to know where and what we are using and consuming. This is not new information. It does, though, put a different lens for how we have learned to see the world to this point. We are, therefore, all responsible for what occurs in our lives, our neighbourhoods, Canada and around the world.

In this month's newsletter, Natural Farmer and pemaculturalist Masanobu Fukuoka is remembered. Also, some interesting information about what young people are doing for Gaia's future is mentioned. Because the SOUL newsletter reflects environmental information locally and globally, if you have information that you would like to share and summarized for our readers, then please send it as it may be included in a future newsletter.

Thank you. All of sudden the sun has started to shine through the grayness of a cloudy late September day. Perhaps this is the metaphor for the work we are all engaged in doing.

David Greig

On Saturday, August 16, 2008, Mansanobu Fukoka passed away of old age at this home in Lyo, Ehime Prefecture, Japan. He was 95. Mr. Fukuoka was the founder of "Natural Farming" and practiced this method of living on the land. His was the concept of observing the land and then working with it to develop what was best for the land. In this method of farming, the farmer is a facilitator of the land with nature doing the rest. This "Do Nothing Framing" has a basis in the no-till method of gardening now being talked about in horticulture.

He wrote a number of books, including One Straw Revolution: The Natural Way of Farming and The Natural Way of farming: The Theory and Practice of Green Philosophy both of which have been translated into English. Retrieved September 17, 2008, from <http://permaculture-tokyo.blogspot.com/>

Through the wonders of email and the power of the ether came information about some interesting happenings for youth in the US. The first is called "Green Jobs Now!" which will be launched on September 27, 2008. (<http://www.greenjobsnow.com>). From the "Green Jobs Now" website, they want to mobilize nationally to "demonstrate that the country is ready for the new green economy." Organizers have identified the need to promote this in America and to do more to build their economy and to invest in the planet and its people. Retrieved September 19, 2008, from <http://www.greenjobsnow.com> . This seems very hopeful!

The second website is called the "Power Vote" and is "seeking to elevate the issue of climate change in the 2008 election by mobilizing one million young 'climate voters'". Excitingly, the proponents of this movement want to mobilize young people to make climate issues front and centre of a vision for America's future. Spearheading this effort at mobilization is the "Energy Action Coalition". More information about the work of this organization can be found at <http://www.powervote.org/>. Retrieved on September 20, 2008.



**Keep your eyes on the
website calendar
for upcoming events in the
Vancouver and Victoria
branches!**

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