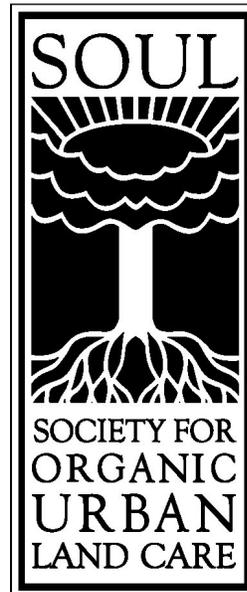


Organic Land Care *with*



Mother of Brown-Ness

Earth-Mother, Mother of all our brown-ness,
Hands clasped with arms stretching round the world,
Cuddle me closer, warm upon your breast,
Slumberous, sweetly, darkness at rest.
Wake me to living and loving;
Scatter my dreams into the ethereal air.
Mother of brown-ness, surround me
Deep in your sweet loving care.
-- Margaret Walker

Organic Land Care with SOUL is published monthly 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

May/June, 2006

Mark your calendars! Organic Events coming up!

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 in Victoria, B.C. *The AGM is held in conjunction with:*

The 2nd Annual Organic Islands Festival
Glendale Gardens & Woodland
505 Quayle Road, Victoria, BC
(Home of the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific)
July 8 and 9, 2006

Discover and celebrate BC's Organic community, The People, Products and Passion, at the 2nd Annual Organic Islands Festival. British Columbia's largest and most successful organic lifestyle fair will once again showcase everything organic, sustainable and local. Come and meet BC's top producing organic companies and local people offering sustainable and healthy lifestyle choices for home, garden, body and spirit.

The festival's charming venue is the Glendale Gardens and Woodland, five acres of inspirational gardens nestled in protected wetlands. Come and sample fair-trade organic coffee, chocolate, wine and cheese - attend a workshop on organic garden design - buy organic fruit and veggies directly from local farmers and wild foods from mushroom pickers and seafood harvesters. Learn tips from organic pioneers on how to garden and farm organically.

For info, call: 250 656-8130 or visit: www.organicislands.ca

Liebig reconsidered...

Justus von Liebig, 19th century agrochemical researcher, holds the questionable honour of having revolutionized agriculture. His work on plant nutrition was the beginning of the modern focus on synthetic N-P-K fertilizers, which to this day is taught to students around the world. However, read how Liebig recanted completely at the end of his life:

"I had sinned against the wisdom of our creator, and received just punishment for it. I wanted to improve his handiwork, and in my blindness, I believed that in this wonderful chain of laws, which ties life to the surface of the earth and always keeps it rejuvenated, there might be a link missing that had to be replaced by me--this weak, powerless nothing.

"The law, to which my research on the top-soil led me, states, 'On the outer crust of the earth, under the influence of the sun, organic life shall develop'. and so, the great master and builder gave the fragments of the earth the ability to attract and hold all these elements necessary to feed plants and further serve animals, like a magnet attracts and holds iron particles, so as no piece be lost. Our master enclosed a second law unto this one, through which the plant bearing earth becomes an enormous cleansing apparatus for the water. Through this particular ability, the earth removes from the water all substances harmful to humans and animals--all products of decay and putrefaction, of perished plant and animal generations.

"What might justify my actions is the circumstance, that a man is the product of his time, and he is only able to escape the commonly accepted views if a violent pressure urges him to muster all his strength to struggle free of these chains of error. The opinion, that plants draw their food from a solution that is formed in the soil through rainwater, was everyone's belief. It was engraved into my mind. This opinion was wrong and the source of my foolish behavior.

"When a chemist makes a mistake in rating agricultural fertilizers, don't be too critical of his errors, because he has had to base his conclusions upon facts which he can't know from his own experience, but rather, has to take from agricultural texts as true and reliable. After I learned the reason why my fertilizers weren't effective in the proper way, I was like a person that received a new life. For along with that, all processes of tillage were now explained as to their natural laws. Now that this principle is known and clear to all eyes, the only thing that remains is the astonishment of why it hadn't been discovered a long time ago. The human spirit, however, is a strange thing. Whatever doesn't fit into the given circle of thinking, doesn't exist."

Quoted in Dr. William Jackson: "Humic, Fulvic and Microbial Balance: Organic Soil Conditioning."

Here is another quote by Liebig:

"Unfortunately the true beauty of agriculture with its intellectual and animating principles is almost unrecognized. The art of agriculture will be lost when ignorant, unscientific and short sighted teachers persuade the farmer to put all his hopes in universal remedies, which don't exist in nature. Following their advice, bedazzled by an ephemeral success, the farmer will forget the soil and lose sight of its inherent values and their influence."

Justus von Liebig: „Die Grundsätze der Agriculturchemie mit Rücksicht auf die in England angestellten Untersuchungen.“ Braunschweig, 1855



Coming up in August...:

The SOUL Visioning Quest.

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 (RSVP)

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.