

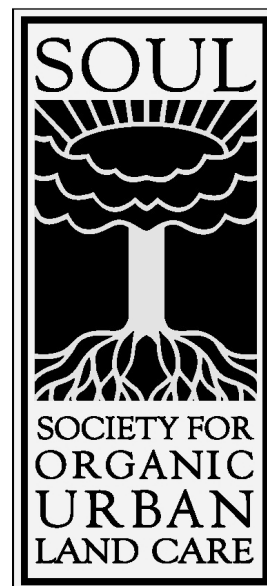
Organic Land Care *with*

"Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed."

-Francis Bacon-

**Knowledge is like a garden:
if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.**

- Proverb from Guinea-



June 2008

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

New Address:

P.O. Box 8548
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1L4
info@organiclandcare.org
www.organiclandcare.org

Editor:

David Greig

greig@camosun.bc.ca

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

On southern Vancouver Island, the weather seems to be getting warmer. Finally we are experiencing sunny days and some heat that will allow our tomatoes to grow in abundance. It is also interesting times as not a day passes without some news report that talks about the implications of our abuse of mother earth, the greening of government, business, concepts or ideas, the opportunities that lie in being "ecological", or what the individual needs to do in order to take responsibility for their part in global climatic changes. This bombardment of information seems to create a myriad of feelings. The range of emotions might be of dire pessimism and dissonance, disbelief that anything is wrong with the environment or that we really can change the course of what we are doing to "terra firma." It is the latter where I want to focus.

Although the articles I will summarize are about the consequences of pesticide use, I want to mention that SOUL is working diligently to provide a public forum and education about how individuals can make a difference in their environmental impact. Because of the work of SOUL, we have been very successful in bringing forth the organic land care agenda into the mainstream. Because of our success and the "opportunities and challenges" that lay ahead of our organization, on June 21, 2008, in Burnaby, BC, SOUL will engage in a visioning session about "what you (and we) want SOUL to be." Therefore, members of SOUL are invited to participate in this important step in creating a sustainable organization. For more information, please look for your email invitation to the visioning session and the AGM or use the following contacts at info@organiclandcare.org or contact Phil Nauta at philnauta@hotmail.com.

I hope that this email finds you well and hope that you find the content interesting. Until next month, let the earth be your guide.
David Greig

In the June 14, 2008, Saturday edition of the Victoria, BC, Times Colonist Newspaper, there was an article entitled "Without smell, salmon are dead fish swimming, scientist says."

Apparently, new research by scientists from Simon Fraser University, Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are suggesting that the declining salmon fish stocks in BC can be linked to pesticides in BC's rivers. It seems that pesticides in the BC waterways may be affecting how well salmon can smell. In a sampling of water taken from the Nicomekl River in south Surrey, the researchers identified a number of pesticides residing in these waters. They then replicated this "pesticide" mixture in the lab and found that the salmon's smell was reduced by 20%. As salmon use smell "for everything from sensing predators in the water to being able to identify the proper stream to return to for spawning" (p. A2), the impact of this reduced sense could have dramatic effects on the survival of these fish. The study was just published in the journal of Environmental Science & Technology.

In the second article dated Friday, May 23, 2008, Alison Benjamin reported in the Guardian.uk.org, an online news information source, that Germany has banned chemicals linked to honeybee deaths. When two thirds of the honeybees in the Baden-Württemberg region died after applications of seed treatment products, a German government agency suspended the registration for eight of these pesticide products.

This seed treatment product sold under the trade name "Poncho" is used with sweetcorn. Apparently, an application error occurred when the seed company, Bayer Crop Science, "failed to use the glue-like substance that sticks the pesticide to the seed" so the chemical got into the air and not on the seed.

The seed treatment pesticide, clothianidin, "is a systemic chemical that works its way through a plant and attacks the nervous system of any insect it comes into contact with." Clothianidin, like the other neonicotinoid pesticides, are highly toxic to honeybees and have also led to huge colony deaths in France and the United States. Representatives from Bayer, which is one of the world's largest pesticide producers with sales of \$5.8bn (£4.6bn) in 2007, maintain that their chemicals are safe if applied correctly. Apparently, this is not the view of French and German authorities as "last year, Germany's Green MEP, Hiltrud Breyer, tabled an emergency motion calling for this family of pesticides to be banned across Europe." Beekeeping associations and environment groups from across Europe also called for a ban on these chemicals in the aftermath of the honeybee deaths.

This story is far from over and once again points to the dangers of pesticide use and the affects on our environments. For the complete article, please refer to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/may/23/wildlife.endangered-species>



**Society for Organic Urban Land Care
Visioning Meeting and AGM
on Saturday, June 21, 2008
at the Canada Way Education Center
5310 Woodsworth St., Burnaby, BC
(including a catered lunch)
RSVP by email to philnauta@hotmail.com**