



Composting News



US COMPOSTING COUNCIL

raising the bar

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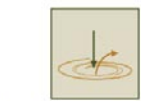
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COMPOST COMMUNICATOR™

The quarterly newsletter of the United States Composting Council – Summer 2004 Edition

Presidents Greeting Get Involved! Get Active!

Kevin Tritz

It's hard to believe that it's July already, and we are half way through a year that has been filled with progress and growth. A primary goal of the Council in 2004 was to expand participation and strengthen the roles of our various committees, in order to assist in the development and implementation of the future goals and actions of the USCC. The Board set forth a process, at our March meeting in Portland, for the USCC Committees to plan their activities and goals for the year. The underlying objective of this action was to encourage and empower members to take a more active role in the development of our future actions and direction, as we strive to grow our industry. Those work plans and priorities are listed in this newsletter. We reviewed the progress of the committees during our June follow up meeting in Philadelphia. I am very pleased with some of the committee's progress, while others still need to "kick it up a notch", to quote a famous chef!

Are you booked for the roundup yet? Deep in the Heart of Texas!

"Raising the Bar for our Industry"

The 13th Annual USCC Conference will be a real 'roundup' of the composting industry's best and brightest. Will you be among them?

**January 23 – 26, 2005
Crowne Plaza Riverwalk,
San Antonio, TX**

The Conference committee is ahead of last year in its process of finalizing arrangements for next year's January conference. I am pleased to note that this committee has even taken the initiative to begin planning for 2006. The International Compost Awareness Week Committee (ICAW) had a very successful campaign this year, and is already working on next year's program with our partners in Canada and the UK. It is my hope, and a very real need for the continued success of our organization, that the members of the other committees will be energized by these results.

The USCC is a volunteer organization, as most professional groups are. We all very busy on a daily basis tending to our respective composting businesses

and/or composting industry related efforts. We must keep in mind, however, that the common goal of - **increasing the role of composting and compost products as mainstream parts of US industry** - is what binds all of us together in the USCC, and **ultimately helps our own businesses grow and become more successful!**

We need more input and active participation from YOU, our membership. Things are moving quickly in our industry and it is important that we, as an organization, continue to play a major role in determining the direction that composting takes. **It is essential that more people get active in the committees, and have their voices heard by the Council,** in order for that to happen. We can

no longer just depend on the small group of perennial committee members to contribute their time and effort, year after year. A diverse, expanded and active committee base is needed to ensure continuity and cohesiveness in our direction and development of the composting industry. This is essential if we are to continue to move ahead with purpose and direction in the future. The USCC is an organization made up of many members with a wide array of expertise and talent. **It is now time for the members to step up and contribute their expertise and talent to our organization, YOUR organization, by participating in the planning and implementation of our future activities.** PLEASE join, get involved and let's keep our organization growing and thriving!

I invite each and every one of you to renew your commitment to our industry by becoming an active member of a USCC committee. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Please contact Stu Buckner or me with any questions regarding committee membership. I look forward to hearing from you. ☺

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Executive Director's Message

USCC Programs and Initiatives

Stu Buckner

Membership Growth

I am pleased to report that 62 new members have joined the USCC through the first half of the year. This has been accomplished through improved member services and the active recruitment of new members. Remember, the USCC is only as strong as its membership, so be sure to recruit your colleagues. All USCC members are again requested to recruit just 1 new member in 2004. Thanks to our many vendor members, such as SEC; Plastics Solutions, CBI, Komptech Farwick, Erin Systems and others, who routinely distribute USCC materials at the trade shows that they attend. Anyone who would like to have membership materials for distribution should contact the USCC office at 631-737-4931 or uscc@compostingcouncil.org.

Peter Klaich, Heritage Bag Co., has recently volunteered to co-chair the membership committee. I hope you will all work with us to increase our ranks. Take a moment to think about the USCC and what you would like to see for our future. Please consider what you are willing to contribute. *Our continued success depends on you.*

Increased membership participation

Kevin stated it clearly above, and I want to reinforce the message that any association is only as strong as its members make it. The USCC is in need of members who are willing to chair or serve on our various committees. Please consider making a commitment to get involved, if the success of the USCC is important to you. The various committees are

listed on the website. Contact a committee chair or the USCC Office at any time if you would like to get more involved in keeping our organization strong, active and growing!

Annual Conference & Trade Show

Las Vegas is now a pleasant memory and, by all accounts, was a very successful meeting. Last year's conference featured the largest Trade Show and Exhibition in USCC history, where nearly 500 attendees met with 75 leading vendors of equipment, products and services targeted for the composting and wood waste recycling industry. Attendees also had the opportunity to view some of the newest equipment on the market and observe demonstrations by several equipment vendors. The Annual Conference, hosted by 26 sponsors, attracted an international audience with representatives from 46 states and 10 countries. This year's conference is shaping up to be even better with more than 60 presentations and 4 pre-conference training courses planned by leading experts. The USCC continues to build on our Annual Conference each year as a service to membership and the composting industry. An outstanding program is planned with a diversity of sessions being offered. The critical issues that will be addressed at the conference affect all those affiliated with our industry. Don't miss this year's conference. Plan to join us in San Antonio in 2005!

NEW FOR 2005 AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

- USCC Compost Training Course taught by the dynamic duo of Dr. Robert Rynk & Matt Cotton
- Worker and Public Health Impacts of Composting Facilities workshop taught by Dr's Eliot Epstein, Fatih Buyuksonmez, & Robert Reimer
- 1st Annual "Tools of the Trade" Workshop, featuring demonstrations

of equipment for evaluating all aspects of the composting process and product quality

- Raffles and giveaways of \$5,000 worth of USCC publications and more...
- CEU's will be offered by SWANA for Attending the USCC Conference and for attending any of the pre-conference workshops
- 1st USCC Golf Outing - see details below

Welcome New Members

- Sheryl Garling, **Energy Laboratories, Inc.**, Casper, NY
 Lin Wisikoski, **Georgetown County Department of Public Service**, Georgetown, SC
 Jen Constable, **Cover-All Building Systems**, Saskatoon, Canada
 Alan Marlof, **Long Island Compost Corp.**, Yaphank, NY
 Mark Jenner, Mount Pleasant, IL
 Tim Nuse, Starbucks **Coffee Company**, Seattle, WA
 Scott Helton, **Wyatt Leasing**, Wenatchee, WA
 Larry Christiansen, **Christiansen Farms**, Peotone, IL
 Patrick Caldwell, **Garden-Ville, LLC**, San Antonio, TX
 Manasseh Philip, **Mulch & Soils of Texas**, Dallas, TX
 Greg Birkenfeld, **Soil Mender Products**, Tullia, TX
 Jeff Beeler, **Beeler Mulch, Inc.**, Hoschton, GA
 Wayne Riviere, **W. Ralston Canada Inc.**, Brampton, Canada
 Ben Wilcox, **Southern California Recycling**, Thousand Palms, CA
 Michael McArdle, **Lake County Transfer, Inc.**, East Chicago, IN
 Richard Rawlings, **Performix Nutrition Systems**, Nampa, ID
 Steve Johnson, **Ceres Environmental**, Brooklyn Park, MN
 Robert Rynk, Emmaus, PA
 Fritz Tegatz **Middle Ranch / Canyon Equipment**, Lake View Terrace, CA
 Rich Becker, **BacTee Systems, Inc.**, Grand Forks, ND
 Mark Collins, **Evergreen Distributors Inc. DBA Evergreen Nursery**, San Diego, CA
 Brock Harrington, **Scotia Machinery**, Indianapolis, IN
 Wes Cook, **Organic Partners LP**, Franklin, TX
 Eric Zaragoza, **City of Bryan Compost Facility**, Bryan, TX
 Stephen Constable, **E.I. DuPont deNemours & Company**, Wilmington, DE
 Al Goehring, **DuraTech Industries International**, Jamestown, ND
 Frank Kalsbeck, **Dairy Cow Compost**, Stephenville, TX

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What's Missing Here? Your Company's Advertisement!

Where else can you find an advertising medium this specific, going to the compost market only, at very competitive pricing?! Contact the USCC office by telephone or e-mail (uscc@compostingcouncil.org) to reserve space for the next edition of the Compost Communicator.



COMPOST COMMUNICATOR
 edited by Stu Buckner and Al Rattie
 Printing compliments of Cortec Corporation

Dr. Eliot Epstein
Eliot is the Chief Environmental Scientist at Tetra Tech, Inc. He has authored hundreds of papers on composting and published a book summarizing his decades of work in the field.

He will be co-presenting the workshop on Worker and Public Health Aspects of Composting Facilities, and will be addressing other important topics during the conference

Dr. Will Brinton



Will holds degrees in agronomy, soil & plant science, and environmental science. He is the founder of Woods End Research Laboratory located in Mt Vernon, Maine, focusing on compost analyses and process management. He is active in numerous agricultural associations and has published more than 30 scientific papers on compost and horticultural topics.

Will will be discussing Evaluation of Microbiological Test Traits of Composts Prepared from Green Waste and Animal Manures and will be addressing other important topics during the conference.

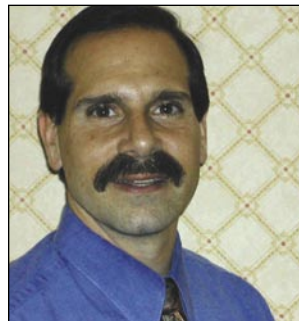
Dr. Luis Diaz



Luis has authored more than 250 publications and has co-authored 11 books in the field of waste management. He has also conducted training courses throughout the world, and is a visiting professor at universities in Europe, North America, and Latin America. He is Editor-in-Chief of Waste Management.

He will be presenting Compost Product Standards in Austria and Australia

Ron Alexander



Ron is an American horticulturist and veteran compost salesman, sales manager and internationally recognized compost marketing expert, with over 19 years of experience in compost marketing and end use.

He will be presenting the Compost Sales and Marketing Workshop and will be addressing other important topics during the conference

Jay Kilbourn



Jay is the Director of Business Development for New England Organics, a subsidiary of Casella Waste Systems, the 5th largest solid waste and recycling company in the U.S. He has also served as Product Marketing Manager, leading efforts to develop compost markets in New England.

Jay will be discussing Development of New Composting Businesses: Challenges, Trends and Opportunities.

Matt Cotton



Matt is the President of Integrated Waste Management and Consulting. He teaches SWANA's Manager of Composting Programs Course and has over 15 years experience in composting.

He will be co-presenting the USCC Compost Training Course, and will be addressing other important topics during the conference. ☞

USCC/STA member wins national SWANA Award!

EKO Compost is pleased to announce that its Maui composting facility has been notified by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) that it has won their Gold 2004 Composting Excellence Award. EKO will be publicly honored at the Excellence Award luncheon at WASTECON 2004, SWANA's 42nd Annual Exposition in Phoenix, Arizona on Thursday, September 23rd.

EKO was nominated for the award by John Harder, Solid Waste Division Chief, County of Maui. Mr. Harder and Maui EKO Systems have worked together from the inception of operations in July 1995. Today, nearly 50 percent of Maui's landfill diversion is the direct result of the efforts by EKO and its sister company, Pacific Biodiesel. Together, they recycle five major waste streams -- biosolids, wood wastes, paper wastes, grease trap waste, and cooking oil. They produce four beneficial products -- compost, mulch, biodiesel, and bunker fuel. These products are used throughout the Islands by gardeners, landscapers, resorts, golf courses, farmers, public parks, highways, land and marine vehicles, and even Maui's power generating plant. ☞

Plus, BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:

- Compost Sales & Marketing training course taught by Ron Alexander
- Compost Tea Workshop taught by Cindy Salter and friends
- 2nd Annual Showcase of compost products from all around the U.S.

1st Annual USCC Golf Outing January 23 at the Pecan Valley Golf Club

USCC President, Kevin Tritz, invites all interested members to join him in a round of 'small ball' at one of the San Antonio area's finer golf courses. Pecan Valley is only about a 10 minute drive from the conference hotel. The cost will be: \$75.00, which includes Green Fees, Cart Fee, Range balls and Event services
Time: 10:00 A.M., Shotgun Start Sunday January 23rd

Elections for Board of Director's Positions

Elections for USCC Board of Directors will take place in September, 2004. Any USCC member is eligible to serve on the Board or to nominate another member. Bob Rynk is chairing the Nominations Committee. Please submit nominations by September 15, 2004 by contacting Bob at jplrrynk@juno.com or 610-966-9978. The Board consists of "Composter" members, representing composting facility operators and compost producers, and "Affiliate" members that represent associated organizations such as; public agencies, professional consultants, suppliers of ser-

vices, products and equipment. We encourage you to nominate one or more of your respected colleagues. The USCC relies on the talented people of the composting industry to further its mission and strengthen the industry. The nomination form can be found on the USCC website www.compostingcouncil.org. New Board Members will be installed at the Annual Conference in January.

Awards Nominations

The USCC is now accepting nominations for the Awards listed below. Please send Award nominations to Ginny Black at black.ginny@att.net or uscc@compostingcouncil.org. Nominations may also be faxed to the USCC at 631-737-4939. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the USCC web site. Awards that will be presented at the annual conference luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 25th include:

Composter of the Year Award

Awarded to a commercial-scale composting facility, public or private, which has displayed excellence in both compost production and marketing/distribution. The nominated facility must be in operation for a minimum of 5 years and in regulatory compliance for the last 3 years.

H. Clark Gregory Award

Awarded to an individual who has displayed outstanding service to the composting industry through various grassroots efforts; including backyard composting, vermi-composting and public or end user education. A nominee must be active in one or more of these

compost related efforts for a minimum of 5 years.

Hi Kellogg Award

Awarded to an individual who has displayed outstanding service to the U. S. composting industry over a period of many years. This award recognizes individuals who have left a lasting positive impact on the U.S. composting industry. A nominee must be active in the composting industry for a minimum of 10 years.

Rufus Chaney Award

Awarded to an individual who has displayed excellence in the area of compost research over a period of many years. This award recognizes those individuals whose breath of research and/or research findings have had a significant impact on the composting industry and/or end users of compost. A nominee must be active in compost/composting research for a minimum of 10 years.

Clean Water Award Sponsored by Filtrex International

Awarded to a person or company in the compost industry or related field who have completed projects that positively impacted water quality via the use of organics or increased awareness of the link between quality soils, compost and water quality. Projects that use organic materials and have created clean water, prevent pollution, improved soil quality leading to improved water quality, conserves water or other practices related to water quality issues are eligible for this award.

U.S. COMPOSTING COUNCIL 2004/2005 Work Plan & Priorities

The Board of Directors has identified the major objectives, priorities and tasks of the various USCC committees. The purpose of this exercise was to assist in the allocation of resources (e.g., funds, volunteer energy and staff time), according to the priority placed on each of the objectives and activities within the annual Work Plan. An outline of those objectives and activities is provided below.

Board Objectives

- Improve individual member's profitability
- Improve overall industry health
- Raise the profile of composting to the general public
- Create a positive business climate for industry

Annual Conference Committee

Stuart Buckner and Kevin Tritz, co-chairs

Goal: Maintain the Annual Conference as the primary USCC educational event for members and the composting industry, with the following components for 2005:

- Continue the educational focus on business-oriented and technical content, with an emphasis on best management practices in composting, marketing, and the production of high quality compost products
- Provide additional training and networking opportunities
- Increase attendance and recruit new members
- Acquire CEU's for conference sessions, workshops and training courses

- Provide added value for exhibitors & continue to increase participation in the trade show
- Increase sponsorship opportunities and benefits

Committee Activities:

- Recruit a conference committee to develop the educational components for the conference
- Develop value added services for exhibitors and sponsors
- Acquire CEU's

Membership Committee

Stuart Buckner and Peter Klaich, co-chairs

Goal: Increase membership in the USCC and provide membership services consistent with the needs of a national organization.

- Increase membership by 25% in 2004
- Improve member benefits
- Improve communications via the newsletter and web site

Committee Activities:

- Develop new member recruitment materials with a clear and concise message on why a firm should join
- Add to newsletter content to improve member communications
- Work with committee chairs to communicate tasks, progress and positions via the newsletter, website and e-mail updates
- Work with Communications Committee to improve website as a means of conveying USCC information
- Provide materials to members for distribution at industry conferences
- Exhibit/Establish a presence at select industry meetings

Communications Committee Ginny Black and Bob Boyle, co-chairs

Goal: Upgrade the web site to serve as a tool for improving member communications and member services

- Develop an STA page with a list of STA participants
- Identify additional features that members would like to have available on the web site
- Develop system for acquiring relevant information from Committee Chairs for placement on the web site
- Summarize USCC publications for web site and add "shopping cart" feature to facilitate publication sales

Committee Activities:

- Recruit additional committee members.
- Acquire information from Committee Chairs to place on the web site
- Add info to the web site on "how to use compost, why use compost, and where to buy compost"
- Recruit volunteer(s) to summarize available USCC publications

Market Development Committee

David Hill and Tom Kelley, co-chairs

Goal: Solidify, increase and broaden the value proposition associated with membership in the US Composting Council in a quantifiable, tangible manner. This will be achieved and reinforced through a unified, directed approach to establish compost as the best-known, most widely used product of choice in the agricultural/horticultural marketplace.

- Promote compost to speci-

fiers by leveraging relationships with ASLA, State DOT's, PGA, PGMS, ANLA, etc.

- Promote compost to end-users
- Become "the" source of quantifiable market information for the industry, the media, global inquiries and US agencies
- Promote compost, composting and compost utilization
- Address AAPFCO issues on behalf of the U.S. composting industry

Committee Activities:

- Survey the US compost market to develop a national database of information on the industry (e.g.; compost pricing, number of workers in the composting industry, total dollars spent in compost production, volume by state of compost produced in the US, compost sales)
- Work with nationally known companies to collaboratively promote compost, composting and compost usage.
- Address AAPFCO SUIP as it pertains to STA
- Work with the Standards and Practices Committee to develop product guidelines/standards

State Affiliations Committee – Wayne King and Teri Sorg-McManamon, co-chairs

Goal: Have state composting and organic recycling associations become members of the USCC.

- Develop a model for chapters and a model for states to affiliate with the USCC. Models will include mechanisms for information exchange, encouraging the support of USCC goals, and identifying benefits of affiliation with USCC

- Expand the ICAW campaign to involve additional stakeholders
- Continue to develop ICAW and an annual All-States meeting as primary vehicles for this exchange of information

Committee Activities:

- Recruit additional committee members
- Develop state association model affiliation and chapter agreements, including criteria for affiliation, policies, fees, structure for exchange of benefits, etc.
- Recruit a minimum of two state associations to implement the model agreement
- Initiate ICAW activities including identification of key contacts for high profile sponsors
- Establish greater USCC presence so that associations that have a composting arm know that they have an opportunity to belong to the USCC

Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee

Jim McNelly and Bob Rynk, co-chairs

Goal: Become more proactive in legislative and environmental affairs. The Committee will engage in actions that promote the development of composting facilities and the use of compost, thus stimulating markets for USCC members, both producers and vendors.

- Establish a position on Bioreactor Landfills
- Encourage the Department of Transportation to utilize compost in highway and new federal building landscaping and erosion control projects, under the "Buy Recycled and

SOME OF THE FEATURED SPEAKERS AT THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

Dr. Harry Hoitink

Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at The Ohio State University.



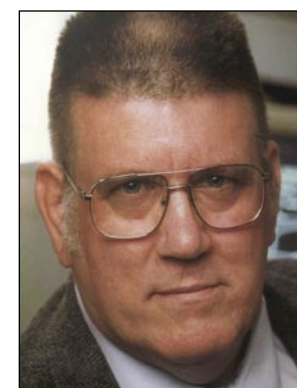
Dr. Hoitink has studied the fate of plant pathogens and of their natural biological control agents during composting. He was awarded two US Patents for this process. More recently, his group identified microorganisms in composts that activate disease resistance genes in plants. Dr. Hoitink is the author of numerous publications and co-authored three books. He will be speaking in the Plenary Session about Quality Requirements for the Value Added Marketing of Compost - Learn how science and marketing mesh from a leading compost use researcher

Kathryn Kellogg Johnson
Kathy has served at the helm of Kellogg Garden Products for 17 years, a family owned compost manufacturing and marketing firm.



Kellogg Johnson Kellogg supplies over 3,500 retail locations, from Canada to Hawaii to Mexico and east, with a variety of quality garden products. They will be celebrating their 80th year of continuous operation in 2005. Kathy has taught the composting and marketing segments of UCLA's Certificate course on Solid Waste. She will be speaking in the Plenary session about The Business of Marketing Compost

Dr. Rufus Chaney

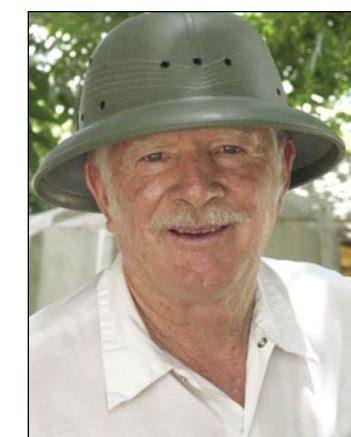


Dr. Chaney works in the Animal Manure and By-Products Laboratory of the USDA-ARS at Beltsville, MD, where he conducts research on the fate, food-chain transfer, and potential effects of soil microele-

ments including: plant uptake of metals; bioavailability of lead and other metals in soils, biosolids, and composts directly ingested by animals; regulatory approaches to protect food safety and soil fertility and a variety of other related projects. Dr Chaney will discuss Making Composts with Lower Water Soluble P and Higher Nutrient Density.

Malcolm Beck

Mr. Beck is the author of The Secret Life of Compost.



He will discuss Soil and Water Conservation: the Benefits of Compost at the awards luncheon. Malcolm owned and ran Garden-Ville for decades, a successful organic farm with its own marketing center. He conducted his own research on organic growing techniques, lecturing widely on his discoveries in managing plants and soils. Malcolm has focused on how to achieve and permanently maintain the finest soil quality. He has taken time to write down for all of us much of what he has learned about composting and organic gardening.

Dr. Robert Rynk

Dr. Rynk is an environmental and agricultural engineer, specializing in composting and waste management. He is the editor of the On-Farm Composting Handbook and formerly technical editor for BioCycle magazine. He will be co-presenting the USCC Compost Training Course, and will be addressing other important topics during the conference

Dr. Werner Bidlingmaier

Dr. Bidlingmaier is the President of Organic Recovery and Biological Treatment (OR-BIT) and President of Bauaus University Weimer, Germany. He will be discussing Compost Product Standards in Western Europe

Dr. Graham Swift

Dr. Swift joined Rohm and Haas in 1968 and stayed for 31 years, progressing to senior fellow and authoring close to 100 patents and 150 publications in polymer chemistry and related fields. Dr Swift has founded his own consulting company since retirement, and continues to publish literature and to file patents chiefly in the area of biodegradable polymers and plastics. He will provide a Critical evaluation of the technical and commercial status of compostable and biodegradable plastics



13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADESHOW

CROWNE PLAZA RIVERWALK | SAN ANTONIO | TX | JAN 23-26 2005

FOR PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP AGENDAS, INSTRUCTORS AND COMPLETE CONFERENCE PROGRAM GO TO WWW.COMPOSTINGCOUNCIL.ORG

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

More than **60 presentations, interactive sessions & workshops** on every aspect of composting; odor control, operations, facility management, marketing and business issues; **4 training courses; over 75 exhibitors**; the **1st annual "Tools of the Trade" workshop**; the 2nd annual Showcase of compost products; raffles and giveaways of thousands of \$'s worth of USCC publications & much more... **Be there, for THE composting event of 2005!**

sunday Jan | 23

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING & WORKSHOPS-

LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS! USCC COMPOST TRAINING COURSE | COMPOST SALES & MARKETING COURSE | COMPOST TEA WORKSHOP | WORKER AND PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS OF COMPOSTING FACILITIES

- **USCC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
- **GOLF OUTING AT THE PECAN VALLEY GOLF CLUB**
- **REGISTRATION & EXHIBITOR SET UP**

monday & tuesday Jan | 24 & 25

■ **PLENARY SESSION-** QUALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR VALUE-ADDED MARKETING OF COMPOST- *Dr. Harry Hoitink, Professor Emeritus, OSU* | THE BUSINESS OF MARKETING COMPOST- *Kathy Kellogg Johnson, Kellogg's Garden Products* | THE STATUS OF COMPOSTING IN THE U.S.

■ **STATE OF THE ART UPDATE ON ODOR CONTROL: A COMPARISON OF ODOR PREVENTION VS. TREATMENT-** MEASURING COMPOSTING ODORS FOR DECISION MAKING | ODOR-QUALITY CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR COMPOST FACILITY EVALUATIONS | OPERATIONAL LESSONS LEARNED ON ODOR CONTROL & PRODUCT QUALITY | BMP'S FOR COMPOST ODOR RESPONSE AND CONTROL

■ **COMPOST PROCESS MANAGEMENT-** IN-VESSEL, AGITATED BAY COMPOSTING SYSTEM CONVERSION FROM POSITIVE TO NEGATIVE AERATION | BMP'S FOR MUSHROOM AND SPENT MUSHROOM COMPOSTING | COMPOST FACILITY MANAGEMENT: MODIFIED BIN COMPOSTING SYSTEM TO GENERATE LOW-COST GROWING MEDIA

■ **COMPOST FACILITY MANAGEMENT-** TEXAS STYLE BMP'S AT THREE DIFFERENT COMPOST FACILITIES | ODOR MODELING AS A TOOL FOR A BIOSOLIDS COMPOSTING FACILITY DESIGN CONFIGURATION ANALYSIS | STORMWATER BMP'S FOR COMPOST FACILITIES | PROFITABILITY THROUGH EQUIPMENT PRESERVATION AND CORROSION PREVENTION | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN PREVENTING FIRES

■ **"TOOLS OF THE TRADE" WORKSHOP-** TWO 1.5 HOUR SESSIONS OF HANDS ON DISCUSSION AND DEMONSTRATION OF FIELD AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR MONITORING THE COMPOSTING PROCESS, ODORS, PRODUCT MATURITY/STABILITY, PRODUCT QUALITY, AND MORE...

■ **BEST PRACTICES IN COLLECTION OF ORGANICS-** CITY OF PLANO'S COMMERCIAL ORGANIC FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING PROGRAM | FOOD RECOVERY AND RECYCLING HIERARCHY IN SARASOTA COUNTY FLORIDA | SOURCE SEPARATION AND COLLECTION FOR COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

■ **WORKSHOP ON THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS OF SUCCESSFUL COMPOSTING-** DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COMPOSTING BUSINESSES: CHALLENGES, TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES | BUSINESS EXPANSION: MANAGING MULTIPLE SITES AND PROCESSING A VARIETY OF FEEDSTOCKS | TRUE COST OF A COUNTY-WIDE YARD WASTE RECYCLING SYSTEM: LESSONS LEARNED AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS | COMPOSTING ON SUBTLE D LANDFILL CELLS - REALIZING BENEFITS IN OPERATIONS, COST, AND REGULATION

■ **MARKETING PRODUCT & MAXIMIZING SALES-** MATCHING COMPOST PRODUCT TYPES WITH OPTIMAL MARKET SEGMENTS | FROM SALES OBSESSION TO MARKETING EFFECTIVENESS | MAXIMIZING COMPOST SALES REVENUES USING "MARQUIS CUSTOMER" STRATEGIES TO ESTABLISH BRAND POSITION AND PRICE POINT LEGITIMACY

■ **BUILDING COMPOST MARKETS-** MARKETING COMPOST TEA: THE BOULDER FARMERS' MARKET PROJECT | MARKETING COMPOST FOR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION | BUILDING REGIONAL COMPOST MARKETS | COMPOST QUALITY AS IT RELATES TO MANAGEMENT, SPECIFICATIONS AND USE

■ **INCREASING COMPOST UTILIZATION BY DOCUMENTING PERFORMANCE-** COMPOST VS. FERTILIZER USE FOR SWEET CORN PRODUCTION | ORGANIC BMP'S FOR EFFECTIVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT - FILTER MEDIA TEST RESULTS FROM PRIVATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM YIELD PREDICTABLE PERFORMANCE | COMPOST AMENDMENTS OF PAVEMENT SUBGRADES TO CONTROL SOIL DESSICATION AND PAVEMENT CRACKING | COMPOST USE BY VEGETABLE GROWERS | REMEDIATION OF FIRE DAMAGED LAND FOR REVEGETATION

■ **MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPOST UTILIZATION-** MARKETING COMPOST AS A WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION SYSTEM | TXDOT UTILIZES COMPOST TO CONTROL EROSION & BECOMES TEXAS' LARGEST MARKET | TEXAS USE OF COMPOST AND MULCH FILTER BERMS FOR STORM WATER BMP'S | COMPOST GETS RESULTS! AN ATHLETIC FIELD PROGRAM | GREENROOFS, GREENSCAPES AND GREENBUILDING - USING "ENGINEERED SOILS" AS A STORMWATER BMP IN SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

■ **COMPOST PRODUCT REGULATIONS - AAPFCO/NUTRIENTS/LABELING/ MARKETING-** POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON COMPOST REGULATIONS: BY THE AAPFCO AND SEAL OF TESTING ASSURANCE PROGRAM | MARKETING COMPOST TO ORGANIC GROWERS | MARKETING THE BIOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF COMPOSTS AND MANURES | POSITION PAPER FROM THE TRI-SOCIETIES WORKSHOP ON FERTILIZER REGULATIONS

■ **COMPOST END USE GUIDELINES & METHODOLOGIES-** THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG FEEDSTOCK CHARACTERISTICS, METHODS OF COMPOST PRODUCTION, & COMPOST PRODUCT QUALITY | COMPOST QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS FOR GREENHOUSE AND CONTAINER CROP PRODUCTION | COMPOST QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS FOR CROP PRODUCTION | COMPOST CHARACTERISTICS, USES, AND TEST METHODS

■ **COMPOST PRODUCT STANDARDS-** COMPOST STANDARDS IN WESTERN EUROPE, ASIA, AND AUSTRALIA | COMPOST STANDARDS IN THE U.S.

■ **DEVELOPING NATIONAL COMPOST PRODUCT STANDARDS IN THE U.S.** FORUM ON STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT & CREATING NATIONAL STANDARDS

■ **BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS AND APPLICATIONS: CASE STUDIES-** "BEYOND THE BAG": HIGH TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS FOR COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS | COMPOSTING BIOLOGICALLY DEGRADABLE POLYMERS IN FULL-SCALE FACILITIES & IN BACKYARD COMPOSTING UNITS | LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS COMPARING BIODEGRADABLE POLYMERS TO PAPER FOR YARD WASTE BAGS

■ **RECENT RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL BENEFITS FOR COMPOSTING-** MAKING COMPOSTS WITH LOWER WATER-SOLUBLE P AND HIGHER NUTRIENT DENSITY | EMISSIONS OF VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS AND AMMONIA DURING COMPOSTING OF YARDWASTE | EVALUATION OF MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST TRAITS OF COMPOSTS PREPARED FROM GREEN WASTE AND ANIMAL MANURES | CALCULATING MASS AND VOLUME LOSS DURING COMPOSTING | COMPOST POTTING MIX AMENDMENTS FOR ORGANIC TOMATO PRODUCTION AND DISEASE SUPPRESSION | PATHOGENS IN COMPOST AND THEIR DISINFECTION | 2004 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

EXHIBITORS RECEPTION (MONDAY EVENING)

■ **USCC AWARDS LUNCHEON (TUESDAY)-** SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY *Malcolm Beck*, AUTHOR OF *The Secret Life of Compost* WILL DISCUSS **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION: THE BENEFITS OF COMPOST**

wednesday Jan | 26

■ **TOUR-** TEXAS ORGANIC PRODUCTS COMPOSTING FACILITY, EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS & A TEXAS BARBECUE LUNCHEON! | USCC/SWANA CERTIFICATION EXAM FOR MANAGER OF COMPOST PROGRAMS

BioProduct" legislation

- Assist the NRC to develop positions on organics recycling and diversion

- Establish the USCC as a clearinghouse for information on composting, education and technology transfer

- Promote Class A composting over Class B digestion at public and private wastewater treatment facilities to reduce communities costs and reduce opposition to beneficial use programs, while also working to support biosolids utilization

- Promote cooperation among USEPA, NRCS, Extension offices, USDA-NOR, USDA-FAS, USDA-AAPFCO, and USDA research regarding definitions of composting and the use of compost

- Establish a position on the diversion of organics from landfills

- Require biofuel, fertilizer and bio-product projects governed under Biomass Utilization Initiatives to use renewable nutrients for their fertilizer needs

Committee Activities:

- Recruit additional committee members

- Complete a position statement on Bioreactor Landfills
- Work with the NRC to assist the organics committee

- Prepare funding proposal and solicit grant for the USCC to serve as a compost education and information clearinghouse

- Draft legislation calling for a ban on leaves, grass, brush and food products from landfills

- Draft a white paper encouraging the Department of Transportation to utilize compost as indicated above

Standards & Practices Committee

Leslie Cooperband and George Savage, co-chairs

Goal: Define industry standards for composting of organic materials and for compost products and uses

- Develop compost product quality guidelines and/or standards in the compost industry
- Define standard protocols for product verification

- Develop principles of methods, practices, and procedures applicable to composting and the use of compost

- Periodically update the TMECC document as new methods become appropriate for testing compost

Committee Activities:

- Prepare funding proposal to develop compost product quality guidelines and identify potential funding sources

- Evaluate the performance of testing methods
- Develop a reference compost sample that will be sent to laboratories that participate in a round robin type study

- Evaluate the change in temperature during shipment of compost to a testing laboratory
- Survey CAP laboratories to find out if they would prefer a One-Tier system or a Two-Tier system in order to qualify for testing compost samples under the STA program

- Draft legislation calling for a ban on leaves, grass, brush and food products from landfills

- Draft a white paper encouraging the Department of Transportation to utilize compost as indicated above

Professional Credentials Sub-Committee

Jeff Gage, Oley Sheremeta, co-chairs

Goal: Develop a training system, including instructor classes, training materials, and system for certification

- Determine what teaching

points are needed to increase the level of professionalism in the US composting industry, so that composters will be more proficient

- Revise USCC training program
- Develop additional training options to satisfy the needs of operators and managers
- Develop USCC certification program

Committee Activities:

- Review current USCC resources for training
- Review existing training manuals from existing programs throughout the U.S.
- Develop a national training and certification program

Seal of Testing Assurance Program

Ron Alexander and Al Rattie, Program Managers

The STA program continues to grow, become more accepted, and remain the most recognizable program that the USCC offers. Company membership and the quantity of compost enrolled in the program continue to expand. The program currently has 78 participating member companies, representing 26 states. The number of products is much higher, since several companies produce more than one product or operate more than one composting facility. There are now 7 certified STA labs in total, with 6 operating across the US and 1 now located in Canada. STA program managers, Ron Alexander and Al Rattie, are working to replicate the success experienced in Texas, where the TX DOT requires that STA compost be used on all projects, by targeting DOTs

and regulatory agencies across the nation. STA compost, and those who produce it, will also once again be on display at the 2004 national ASLA conference in October.

USCC/STA composters and the MOEA team up for success in Minnesota

NRG Processing Solutions (an STA member) formed a partnership with several Minnesota composters (including fellow STA member, the City of Hutchinson/Creekside Soils), the US Composting Council (USCC) and R. Alexander Associates to pursue an 18 month grant from the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA). The objectives of the grant were to promote and increase the use of compost by expanding markets, and to encourage uniform product testing and labeling, based on the USCC's Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program. The team was successful in both acquiring the grant and in achieving the objectives!

The project interacted with both potential and existing markets in Minnesota, and made them aware of the many benefits and uses of compost. Several conferences were attended and many presentations were made during the grant period. Brochures and other educational materials were developed and used in promoting the beneficial attributes of compost over traditional products. An excellent working relationship was formed with professional trade organizations in MN such as the MN ASLA, the MN NLA

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and the MN Turf and Grounds Association. These groups all published articles written by the project's manager (R. Alexander Associates), and the MN ASLA mailed out over 340 USCC compost use specification CDs to their membership.

All of the project participants concurred that the time and money was well spent, and should pay off with increased compost specifications and sales in the future. The USCC was well compensated through this grant for their contribution of time and personnel. **This opportunity, to help YOU spread the good word about composting and the**

benefits of increased compost use, probably exists in your state too. How can we help you, help yourself, to take advantage of this public funding?

Best of the 'on line' discussion board A new monthly feature for your enlightenment!

We will select one or two of the discussion board issues, which generated a lot of 'conversation', and summarize the dialog here, just in case you missed reading them! The responses have been edited for space, clarity and topic focus. Participant names have been removed for the same reasons.

This feature is not intended to provide detailed and thorough answers to the questions raised. They can only be found, in many cases, by examining the volumes of compost science research. This is presented to provide the thoughts and suggestions of those who responded to the query. **This month's topic concerns with the use of 'grey water' in composting.**

Using Grey Water

Q - Our city has treated effluent from the sewage treatment plant that is really pretty clean, except that it contains nitrates and can not be put back into the river, so we use it for watering golf courses, farming, etc. I would like to get the City to use some of that water for

composting. The weather is very dry here and we need to moisten piles to get them to fully compost.

Does anyone have any leads I can use to assure the City that they are not going to have any EPA problems with this practice? They are scared to death that someone is going to try and drink effluent grey water. I think the EPA compost regulations pertain to sludge, not to treated effluent, but I could use some help on that.

Responses

1) I believe you would be all right if it is pathogen free, otherwise you would have to use it early in your process. Once you start your composting compli-

ance period, you could not use water containing pathogens. It will re-contaminate your pile. The other thing you need to consider is the salt content of the water. This could lead to unusually high salts if there are a lot of softeners used in town. **2)** Contact Robert Bastian at the EPA at bastian.robert@epa.gov. Mr Bastian is EPA's lead on water reuse. He is also very knowledgeable on biosolids issues and the Federal standards for biosolids reuse.

3) It sounds like what you are referring to is water re-use or water recycling. Commonly, this is treated wastewater or process water that has been sufficiently treated for discharge back into either surface water or for re-charging the aquifer. This same water needs only very little additional treatment to become municipal or industrial water supply - mostly additional "polishing" through sand filters, reverse osmosis, etc. and chlorination, plus maybe fluoridation. Some excellent web sites on the topic are: www.epa.gov/region9/water/recycling/ and www.watereuse.org/

IN THE NEWS

Items of interest to our composting community

Should You Be Worried About Sudden Oak Death (SOD)?
Linda Chalker-Scott, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. and Extension Horticulturist, WSU

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. **This species of *Phytophthora* can attack several different host**

plants, though its name would suggest otherwise. Recently, infected camellias were shipped nationwide from Southern California, increasing the likelihood of disease spread.

In general, *Phytophthora spp.* causes progressive tip dieback and extensive bleeding cankers on the stems of its major hosts, usually killing them. SOD symptoms vary among host species and other environmental factors including; sunburn, drought, and salinity, may also produce similar symptoms. *Therefore, SOD cannot be visually diagnosed.* It must be plated out and identified via lab testing. You will not be able to identify SOD, but you can screen leaf samples and determine if they should be sent for further testing. Run through this check list when a client brings a suspected SOD sample to your Plant Clinic:

1. Does the plant display foliar disease symptoms? - **If YES, go to question 2...If NO, discard sample**
2. Is the leaf sample a camellia? - **If YES, go to question 5...If NO, go to question 3**
3. Is the leaf sample from a plant near a camellia? - **If YES, go to question 4...If NO, discard sample**
4. Is the plant sample on the host list for *P. ramorum*? (check recent web links) - **If YES, go to 5...If NO, discard**
5. Was the camellia purchased after December 2000?
NO - sample can be discarded
YES - submit sample for testing

If you have reached question 5 (YES), then the sample should be sent to WSU Puyallup for **free SOD testing** (this does

not include postage, however). Follow the approved procedure found at: <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/samples/htss.html>. Sample submission forms can be downloaded directly from: <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/samples/pdf/c1006.pdf>.

Useful Internet Links:

SOD General Information:
California Oak Mortality Task Force: <http://www.suddenoak-death.org>.
Extension Disaster Education Network: http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/Issues_View.aspx?IssueID=6f50dd52-cca0-4434-8173-b6b44c18a65c.
University of Florida: http://spdn.ifas.ufl.edu/FL_SOD_Conference.htm.
WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center: <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/sod/index.html>

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***Editor's Note:** Frank Gouin, Professor Emeritus from the University of Maryland, conducted greenhouse research using compost in soil mixes, many years ago. It was his finding that the use of compost significantly

reduced, or even eliminated, *Phytophthora*, and other fungal diseases. Additional research has since been done, at other universities, which confirm this finding.

Clopyralid Update

Much has been written over the past two years about the herbicide Clopyralid. Several composters filed suit against DowAgrosciences in August 2002. That story and the USCC 'letter of testimony', prepared for the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture's proposed rules on limiting Clopyralid use, was published in the Summer 2003 Compost Communicator. Lawsuits of any kind, let alone those of this nature and magnitude, take a long, long time to reach a conclusion. Here's the current status of the pending case:

Several commercial composters, including the cities of Spokane, WA and Lincoln, NE, and Cedar Grove Composting, are asking a court in Madison County, Illinois to certify their case as a class action against Clopyralid manufacturer DowAgroSciences. The composters allege that Clopyralid is a defective product and that its presence in composting (feedstock) residuals causes damages to composters who are forced to test and deal with compost tainted with the chemical. The parties are now engaging in discovery and depositions, at this stage of the litigation. It is anticipated that the Motion for Class Certification will be filed in the late fall. If the class is certified, it could provide benefits to commercial composters in areas of the country where Clopyralid is used. It is expected that this case will continue on for some time. We'll keep you posted of its progress.

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