

Soil Foodweb Insights

January 2010!

Happy New Year!

It's about time to wish a Happy New Year to all our friends who record the passage of years using various approximations of the ISO 8601 international standard calendar, which is also called the Gregorian calendar. And to everybody else out there, we hope you are enjoying your annual free trip around the sun, however you may count the days in it.

We are definitely using the standard calendar when we remind you that 15-19 February 2010 are the

dates to remember for the next set of workshops here in Corvallis, Oregon. Registration forms are now available at :

<http://www.soilfoodweb.com/calendar.html> - or call David at Sustainable Studies Institute: 541-257-2614.

Out of respect for those of you busily planning wild New Year parties, we'll try to keep our newsletter short this time around.

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I. Soil Foodweb Oregon News

A. U.S. holiday schedule

The offices and laboratory at Soil Foodweb Oregon will be open during regular business hours for all of January, except New Year's Day. The United States Postal Service will not make deliveries on:

New Year's Day - Friday 1 January 2010

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Monday 18 January 2010 ■

II. Sustainable Studies Institute News

A. Upcoming workshops

Oregon: February 15 - 19

Dr. Elaine Ingham will teach Intro to the Soil Foodweb on 15-16 February. Matt Slaughter, director of Soil Foodweb Oregon, will teach Compost Technology on 17 February and Compost Tea Technology on 17-18 February.

Light Microscope Methods class will start in the afternoon on 18 February. The full day of 19 February is a guided hands-on practice session. All students will need their own microscopes.

Classes will be at Corvallis, Oregon. Location and other details will be included in confirmation letters. Register online at <http://www.soilfoodweb.com/calendar.html> - by calling David Kuester at 541-257-2614 - or by email: info@sustainablestudies.org

B. Soil Science News

A new paper in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* details recent research into the ongoing rise in resistance to antibiotics. Many people are aware that this trend has already been widely documented in hospitals and other medical contexts. This study shows evidence of a similar trend in soil organisms in the natural environment. You can read the abstract of the paper, and find options for purchasing access to the full text, here: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es901221x>

These research results are not at all surprising to those of us who are already in the habit of thinking about human effects on the populations of soil microbes. As more and more of us take action to reduce our need for antimicrobial agents, we might help to slow this trend. And by building up diverse, resilient communities of beneficial microbes in the soils we manage, we will certainly help our own plants and animals stay healthy. ■

III. From Earthfort

A. New Transcript Available

The transcript for the Turf Systems audio CD has been completed and is now available at the regular price of US\$14.95. It will soon be available for purchase online through www.earthfort.com and can already be ordered by telephone at 541-257-2612. ■

From all of our staff, happy sustainable growing! ■ ■ ■