We Will Be Closed November 22nd
To Give Thanks With Family & Friends

NOVEMBER, 2007

The GREENLEAF

SHADES OF GREEN INC.

NEWSLETTER

HOURS: MON - SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.
SUN 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

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What Is Your Contribution To The Earth?

by Michelle Bradley

If you had to make a list of what you put in the Earth in one day, what would it look like? For most of us the list would start out something like this:

In my lakes, rivers, and oceans I left toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo, and soap. (All before breaksfast!)

In my earth I put a milk carton, cereal box, chemicals for the oranges from my orange juice, and a Starbucks coffee cup.

I polluted the air on the way to work.

I encouraged the destruction of a few old-growth forests to make the paper I wrote my To Do list on and maybe put a few animals on the endangered species list. I produced a mountain of waste just to make the plastic pen I am writing with, which won't decompose for at least 500 years. I drank a bottle of water - although it comes free from the tap! - and that bottle won't decompose for at least 1,000 years. Is this our legacy to the future? What will our ancestors say about us?

I applaud you for reading on … after all what does all this self-analysis have to do with plants and suburban life in Texas? Everything!! Many Shades of Green customers and employees drive extra miles (37 miles one way for me!) for a purpose and you probably don't think about what that purpose is. Let me enlighten you! Our seven-acre oasis is a dedication to preserving natural beauty and enhancing personal natural habitats. We are all unconsciously focusing on the big picture by choosing the natural, organic alternatives in our own space.

Every decision we make as human beings effects the ecosystem. Every ounce of fertilizer, pesticide, laundry detergent, dishwasher soap, bubble bath … that we buy ends up in the ocean where the turtles, whales, and dolphins swim. Many Shades of Green customers have taken the first step by switching to natural, organic fertilizers and pesticides.

Take The Next Step ...

Consumer demand drives the market. If you don't buy it - they won't make it. What do we demand?

Organic produce may be more expensive, but what's another 50 cents when you are supporting the guy who's trying to make a difference in your world on a global scale? Keep those extra

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Don't claim War against Nature …We'll Lose.

Timely Hints

Plant ... Color! Pansies, Viola, 'Panola', Snapdragons, Dianthus, Ornamental Kale and Cabbage, and Cyclamen. Now is the time to plant Shrubs, Perennials, and Vines … as well as Trees (take advantage of our **Tree Sale!**). Planting them now allows them to root-in and become established before next summer's heat. Wait on planting bulbs till December.

Fertilize ... Pansies and other winter color will do their best with **Blood Meal**. Sprinkle lightly over the top and water in - every two weeks. You'll be the envy of the neighborhood! Remember to pick up some **Liquid Fence** to keep the bunnies away, too! You can use **Superthrive** on newly planted trees and shrubs once a month.

Prune ... Pick-prune as needed to keep things shapely. You can trim back old flower stalks and unsightly foliage on perennials if you are a tidy type. Myself, I leave it all till mid-February with the excuse that I'm leaving it for the birds and wildlife. Besides … there aren't any football games in mid-February! Wait on major tree pruning until trees are dormant - usually mid-December to mid-February.

Pests ... Fire ants can mound up in cold, wet, weather. Use **'Come & Get It'** (a great bait), or **'Mound Drench'** to knock them out. Scale insects were a major problem this year. Apply **Ultra-Fine Oil** or **Dormant Oil** late in November through January to smother live scale and their eggs. An application during the winter will reduce their return next season and is easier to apply once foliage has dropped from the trees, such as Crape Myrtles.

Water ... Turn your sprinkler to **OFF**! IF we don't get any rain for more than two weeks, then manually run it once every two weeks. Your lawn and landscape need hardly any moisture during the dormant winter months. Don't waste that water running your sprinkler excessively. Hand-water your color beds and any newly planted shrubs and trees as needed. Don't run your sprinkler on the whole yard when you just want to water your pansies! Hand watering is good exercise, let's you observe your garden and saves a lot of precious water.

Odd Jobs ... Un-stake trees that have been in the ground a year or longer.

Misc ... Decorate your home for the holidays with branches, foliage, and berries from your garden.

A customer sent in an email that I wanted to share with everyone.

We All Need A Tree ...

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and he had just finished a rough first day on the job -- a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start. While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence.

On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

As he opened the door he underwent an amazing transformation … his face was wreathed in smiles as he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterwards he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied, "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children . . . so I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again." "Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Thanks Martha B. for sharing this with us!

~Rob

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by Michelle Bradley

chemicals from being produced, bought, used, and dumped. When you buy an organically grown peach, what have you just done? You sent a message. You increased demand for organic produce. You reduced the demand for chemicals. You can change the world. You can save the world.

I Can Do My Part ...

Moderation and simplification. You don't have to move into a tree house and eat fruits and berries. Make a small change every day. Recycle that bottle. Install that energy efficient light bulb. Don't worry about a few weeds in your lawn. Buy an organic cotton t-shirt. Buy an organic peach. Hang your wash out on a clothesline. Find your way back to nature … you'll be amazed how your stress floats away.

It is up to each one of us to make small changes in our lives. Take your demand for natural products into the home and into your workplace. Replace our society's obsession of consumerism with an obsession for environmentalism. You don't take vacations to home or to work. You take vacations to Nature. Parks, lakes, mountains, oceans, rivers, countryside, forests … all depend on you for their health. Why not depend on your health from them? What defines who we are and where we derive true happiness? It isn't from the things we buy - it's from the experiences, people and places that shape our lives.

Switch to natural soaps for your body, your laundry, and your home. If you spend extra effort on your lawn to go organic - allow yourself the luxury of treating your body the same. All the products you buy at the grocery store have an easily obtainable natural alternative.

What kind of an example are you setting for your children? Buy it … use it … throw it away. We are a disposable society on our way to disposing of ourselves. Why do you do what you do? Because it's what everyone else does? That tree that you just planted, or are planning on planting … will it be here in 100 years? Will the human race? That tree may just be part of the answer. It's what you leave behind on this planet that matters. What will your "footprint" be? Will it be graceful oaks, fields of wildflowers, colonies of colorful butterflies, and patches of homegrown vegetables? Slow down. Think about everything you do, everything you buy, everything you throw away. Find your awareness. Following everything you do through its cycle.

Environmentalism is the fastest movement in the world.

Join In!

Our Thanks go out to all of you that participated in our Gardeners' Happy Hour Events this season!

Be sure to check the Events page on our website in the spring for the return of Happy Hour classes.

Plants Are Not OPTIONAL

by Brice Creelman

The 10th Biennial Southern Plant Conference was in Mobile, Alabama this past September. I didn't see anyone from the DF/W area there, so I'll bring you all up to date.

The plant conference is really all about new plant introductions and how best to promote them to the public. Not an easy task. An example: Phlox 'Shortwood' was talked about at the conference in South Carolina in 2003. I only found it this year, but there were probably 20-30 new colors or varieties of Pholox paniculata this year. 'Shortwood' has a much larger flower, blooms freely, and holds up well in Texas heat. I'm gonna hope we can find it next year also. But I have a feeling it will be lost in a sea of under-performing and over-promoted perennials that look better in a pot and ship easier when blooming. Remember, Texas is different. It is hotter and drier and most new, nationally promoted plants shrivel up and blow away after a summer here. That's why we promote so many native plants. They have adapted to the weather extremes that aren't like anywhere else in the country. You have probably found that out the hard way. There are still lots of great native and adapted plants that will do well here, but it does take a lot of time and patience to find them. We are lucky to have a local, independent garden center here in Frisco (that would be Shades of Green) that works with plants that live and thrive in this area.

Any who, speaking of time … Acer truncatum Shantung Maple was collected and brought to the U.S. National Arboretum in 1906. It took almost 100 years for Shantung to catch on. Same for the Chinese Pistache, which was first grown at the U.S.N.A. in 1908. These trees are still relatively unknown, but should be more widely planted here. So why has the Bradford Pear been so popular? Because it blooms in spring when most people are out buying trees. Shantung Maple will be around long after the Bradfords are all split and gone.

Two newer trees to watch for as we test them for alkalinity and drought tolerance are **Acer skutchii** (from Mexico), and **Bald Cypress 'Nanjing Beauty'** (from China) which is a cross between our native East Texas Cypress and 'Montezuma' from Mexico.

"New to us" shrubs to trial include **Foresteria 'Woodlanders Weeping'**. This native we have had available and grow for the Heard Museum plant sale each year. This is a great shrub with a weeping habit that grows 5-6' tall. Buy one now before the big boys put a 'knockout' name on it. Paul Cox from the San Antonio Botanical Gardens found a chance seedling from Viburnum rufidulum (Rusty Blackhaw) and Viburnum obovatum growing at the garden and called it **V. 'Lord Byron'**. We have one growing at the tree farm now to check its winter hardiness, although that shouldn't be a problem. This is a great example of a new plant - very specific to Texas - that will do much better than some over-hyped hydrangea.

Speaking of over-hyped hydrangeas, when in Mobile we 'turd' a couple of nurseries, one being Cottage Hill Nursery which sells plants on QVC home shopping network. I know I don't and you don't buy anything from them, but someone does. We saw a video showing them selling over 30,000 5" Hydrangea 'Blushing Bride' in an hour. Three (3!) 5" Hydrangeas sold for $30 (plus shipping and handling of course). Everyone felt really good about that and at the same time really bad about that. I guess if you buy three and two die, you still can feel good about your own self.

Earlier this year, we were looking forward to seeing the new Yellow 'Knockout' series rose called 'Sunny'. Apparently 'Sunny' has some "production pressure" (read disease) and some of the larger nurseries have already decided not to grow it. Our best yellow rose as of now is a found rose from East Texas called 'Nacogdoches', or 'Grandma's Yellow Rose', which probably will be easier to pronounce. Again, a plant specific to Texas. Always a good practice to know where your plants originate.

The U.S. Botanical Garden is newly opened in Washington DC. One plant that was talked about being a great performer there was **Habranthes 'Russell Manning'**. This rain lily relative has the largest pink flowers of any rain lilies and if our propagation department does its magic, we will be promoting this plant next spring. We do have some available now. Trust me, if you see it, buy it and plant it. Ask no questions. Russell has been around a long time, but rarely available in Frisco, Texas. Plants like these are what makes a landscape a garden. You'll want to stop at the nursery all the time just to see what's blooming, and Russell blooms whenever he wants and we never quite know when that will be. Go ahead, just try to control your landscape …

Holiday Wreath Making Happy Hour Workshop

Join Us!
Thurs, Dec 6th
5:00pm - 6:00 pm

We will have Wreaths, Boughs,
and Bows for purchase,
as well as complimentary Hot Toddies!!

~ Loyalty Points Reminder ~

Use your Loyalty Points accumulated
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SHADES OF GREEN INC.

Remember To Visit Our Website For Promotions and Events!

www.ShadesofGreeninc.com

ANNUAL TREE SALE

NOW IN PROGRESS!!

For Container and B&B* Trees!!

Buy ANY ONE tree, 10 gallon or larger, to be planted and guaranteed and save $$$!

$0 - $599 5% Discount

$600 - $999 10% Discount

$1000 - Up 15% Discount

Save an additional 5% when you purchase THREE OR MORE TREES!

*SEE SALES ASSOCIATES FOR COMPLETE DETAILS AND BE SURE TO ASK ABOUT OUR NEW "PREMIUM PLANTING PACKAGE" !!

NOTE ... EXTRA CHARGES WILL BE INCURRED FOR PLANTING IN ROCK, DIFFICULT ACCESS, EXISTING TREE REMOVAL, FENCE REMOVAL FOR LARGER TREES, OR PLANTING OUTSIDE A 20 MILE RADIUS OF THE NURSERY. SALE PRICES ARE FOR TREES PLANTED AT ONE ADDRESS.