



“do not lose heart, know that it is not the momentary success that matters, it is the working on and on with iron perseverance.”



—RUDOLPH STEINER, AGRICULTURE - A COURSE OF EIGHT LECTURES, Bio-Dynamic Agricultural Asso., London, 1984, trans. by George Adams, p. 61.



SO THAT THE EARTH MAY BE HEALED

The Josephine Porter Institute
for
Applied Bio-Dynamics, Inc.
P.O. Box 133, Woolwine, VA 24185-0133



Applied BIODYNAMICS[®]



WINTER 1995

A Quarterly Publication of the Josephine Porter Institute • Woolwine, Virginia

ISSUE N° 14

A WORD OF THANKS

If not for the legion of backyard gardeners, as well as the several farmers and market gardeners giving us their loyal support, JPI would have no reason to exist. Without your contributions of dandelions, chamomile, horsetail, articles for the quarterly, along with your words of encouragement and praise JPI would only subsist. Those of us at JPI are only as alive and viable as you, our customers, make us. And, of course, we are as strong and effective as our staff, present and past has made us. Thanks to you all for your caring support.



1995 – A YEAR OF CHANGE AND REAFFIRMATION

As the year draws to a close we can look back on substantial changes here at JPI. We began the year with Nick Franceschelli making plans for his departure at the end of March, after nearly five years of valued service at JPI. We all miss his hard work and droll sense of humor. (Nick, as some of you now know, is in Ghent, NY working with visiting Waldorf students and building BD compost piles).

In anticipation of Nick's leaving, JPI increased the contract hours for the Cranberry Creek Community staff: Josh Coffin, Erin Coffin, Drew Roden (Erin's husband), Candace Coffin and Duke Coffin. The first of April saw the arrival of Chris Stearn, formerly at Weleda in Spring Valley, NY (see Issue #11). Chris took up residence at Cranberry Creek, allowing for the convenience of car pooling transportation for JPI staff. After the crush of Spring orders for the preparations, in mid-May we all began staff planning for the future of JPI. Throughout the year there were also continuing negotiations with the Pfeiffer Foundation and General Compost Corporation with a view to having JPI assume the production of the Pfeiffer BD Compost Starter and BD Field Spray Concentrate so as to keep these valuable products in the world. In fact, a principal

concern at the JPI Board of Directors meeting at the end of June was how to properly house a production facility for these products at JPI, which led further to planning a building to allow for adequate room for this additional task.

During the various planning sessions, it became evident that a definite difference in the views of staff and the Director of JPI existed regarding the vision for JPI as well as the methods whereby the organization was to be managed. It appeared to the Director that Cranberry Creek Community wanted consensus as a method of management. At this point in the biography of JPI, the Director was not prepared to consider this within the context of all that was happening.

In the third week of August, the two streams of effort regarding the Pfeiffer negotiations and the staff planning sessions came to a culmination. On August 22, the agreement with The Pfeiffer Foundation and General Compost Corporation was consummated, with JPI to take over production of the Pfeiffer BD Compost Starter and BD Field Spray Concentrate along with distribution rights within the agricultural/horticultural sector. This was followed on August 23 by the

CHANGE (continued on page 4)

MISSION

The Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Bio-Dynamics, Inc., was founded to produce quality biodynamic agricultural preparations based on the spiritual scientific research of Rudolf Steiner.

It serves as a living memorial to Josephine Porter, a biodynamic pioneer for this work in America.

The mission of JPI also includes education and research in biodynamic agriculture.

JPI undertakes these tasks so that the Earth may be healed.

REALIZING THE MISSION — FURTHER PROGRESS

As will be evident when some of the articles in this issue are read, JPI is experiencing a great deal of change. Nevertheless, our dedication to our mission of producing quality biodynamic preparations remains paramount. We believe that that mission now should include the production of the Pfeiffer BD Compost Starter and BD Field Spray Concentrate and in order to fulfill this added responsibility we urgently solicit your donations toward construction and furnishing of the facility we have begun that will house production. JPI now has established a Receiving Fund at the Rudolf Steiner Foundation, RD 1 Box 147A, Chatham, NY 12037. Your contribution directly to JPI is, of course, also most welcome.

ASSOCIATIVE CONTRACT — TIME TO RENEW/SUBSCRIBE

We would urge all of our present Associative Contractees to renew your contract for 1996 and urge others to consider this convenient approach to a thorough implementation of bio-dynamics. The Associative Contract helps JPI get a head start on paper work and scheduling our daily/weekly workload during the very busy Spring months. We believe it can be of great benefit to the biodynamic practitioner, be he/she a large scale farmer, a market gardener, or a back yard gardener. Remember, if you need preparations anytime during the year at a level beyond your contract, they will be shipped at a cost of 50% of the normal retail price plus the cost of additional shipping if applicable.

Applied
BIODYNAMICS®

© 1995 Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Bio-Dynamics, Inc. *Applied Biodynamics* is a quarterly publication of the Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Bio-Dynamics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. Requests for rights to reprint this newsletter, articles or artwork may be made by writing or calling:

Editor
Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Bio-Dynamics, Inc.
P.O. Box 133
Woolwine, Virginia 24185-0133
(540) 930-2463

The subscription price of \$35/yr. helps subsidize JPI research and development.

APPLIED BIODYNAMICS — AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

As a result of the staff changes at JPI which occurred in 1995, we are presently without an Editor for *Applied Biodynamics*, with no immediate prospects to assume this assignment. Given the increased workload at JPI due to construction of a facility to house production of the Pfeiffer materials, we are, at the very least, compelled to present a much briefer and more austere publication for the near term. We will make every effort to avoid cessation of publication of *Applied Biodynamics*, but we must keep our primary mission clearly in mind when making choices for the future. Part of the considerations to be made are concerned with the substantial expense involved in publishing *Applied Biodynamics* at the scale of recent issues as well as the fact that those issues were at a level far greater than our original intent when we first undertook to publish a newsletter.

JPI ON THE "WORLD WIDE WEB"

By the first of December, JPI Associate Allan Balliett, a BD gardener in Shepherdstown, WV, expects to have installed a "Home Page" for JPI. This "page" will put the JPI contact information, mission statement, book list and articles on the preps on the internet. If you are internet savvy, point your browser at www.his.com/~claymont/jpi.html. Allan has already installed the BD Association page at www.his.com/~claymont/bda.html. Allan can be contacted at igg@his.com.

The 1996

STELLA★NATURA

Along with important information for working with the cosmic rhythms, there is much practical advice for the beginner and professional gardener/farmer.

NOW AVAILABLE !!!

\$10.50 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.

Purchase your 1996 calendar now and please consider these for your gift list

Biodynamic Preparations Legend

BD #500— Horn Manure	
BD #501— Horn Silica	
BD #502 — Yarrow	} C O P M R P E O P S S T
BD #503 — Chamomile	
BD #504 — Stinging Nettle	
BD #505 — Oak Bark	
BD #506 — Dandelion	
BD #507 — Valerian	
BD #508 — Horsetail (Equisetum arvense)	

THE PFEIFFER BD COMPOST STARTER AND BD FIELD SPRAY: A NEW RESPONSIBILITY FOR JPI AND ITS MEANING FOR THE FUTURE

As noted elsewhere in this issue, on August 22 JPI concluded an agreement with The Pfeiffer Foundation and General Compost Corporation to produce the Pfeiffer BD Compost Starter and BD Field Spray Concentrate. These products have been produced and distributed for more than forty years, and have a worldwide reputation as the best in the business. The BD Compost Starter in particular has been frequently imitated, and, perhaps, has been the target for what could be termed "industrial espionage." All imitations have essentially "come up short", because they focus materialistically on the "bacteria" involved in good compost and ignore the need to include the biodynamic preparations in the process. Other aspects of the formulation that are vital to the process of making the BD Compost Starter and BD field Spray Concentrate have also escaped the attention of those who have sought to duplicate these products. For a number of years, Ms. Selke, who celebrated her 95th birthday last spring, has been concerned about how the production and distribution of these products might be carried forward into the future. Although many possibilities came to her attention, in the long run, none met her discerning requirements until JPI offered its services so that these products might "remain in the world". We are deeply honored at this prospect as well as greatly humbled and even overwhelmed by the enormous responsibility of carrying this work into the future, while at the same time continuing our present quality of work with the biodynamic preparations. As soon as we have completed the necessary facility to house this work, we can anticipate a considerable period of expansion in the workload here. We will definitely be looking for additional people who feel a calling to this work.

CHANGE (continued from page 4)

The situation created by the abrupt departure of staff was relieved somewhat by the President of the Board of Directors of JPI, Lee McWhorter, who is devoting 3 days a week to the work here. Also contributing some effort to the work has been Steve Yates, a long time friend of JPI over the years. A hectic Fall preps making season was made less so by the valued contribution of many volunteers including Keith, Linda, and Samantha Atkins along with Kenny and Susan Atkins all from right here in Woolwine, Virginia. Other volunteers helping out were Sara and Tracy Tufts, Carmel Smith, Lynn Charlton and friend Jeanne, and Charles Howell, along with interim staff Steve Yates and Lee McWhorter. Over the weekends of October 13/14/15, and 20/21/22 this exceptional crew managed to stuff 1,000 horns of #(X)500, 800 horns of regular BD#500 plus stuffing sausages with over 42 pounds (dry weight) of chamomile blossoms. Following these very intense weekends, we managed to dress out some 36 cow skulls as well as collecting and grinding some oak bark in anticipation of making the oak bark preparation. Still to come as of the time

As the first step in accepting the responsibility referred to above, we arranged to move the equipment that had been in storage in Spring Valley, NY to a barn we have rented from a neighbor here in Woolwine. Having to actually deal with the equipment, brought us to the immediate realization that plans for a facility to house that equipment in a working arrangement (as opposed to simply storing it) would have to be expanded beyond the modest building we were initially envisioning. Further requirements came to light after the Director made a visit to Spring Valley for discussions with Ms. Margrit Selke concerning the actual production of the Pfeiffer materials. As a result, we are now planning to construct a 36 by 60 foot facility with a barn-like design which we believe will house the necessary production spaces as well as provide for additional needs such as guest facilities for visitors, workshop attendees or, perhaps, apprentices.

We have already begun construction of this building, and we are planning for much of this construction to be accomplished by our interim and newly arriving staff under the supervision of Lee McWhorter, an accomplished brick mason. I will be serving as general contractor for the job as well as performing whatever "grunt work" I can in conjunction with this effort. We will be undertaking this work in the least costly fashion possible, but will need some construction funds in order to carry the task to completion. We are also very open to having volunteers contribute their labor to the job. If you are in a position to contribute either your time or money towards this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

this is actually being written (1 November), besides completing the BD #505 are the dandelion preparation, BD #506, as well as several batches of Barrel Compost and very probably some more regular BD #500 horns. Also to be accomplished are the burying of the yarrow preparation and the digging up of the horn silica, BD #501. In mid-November comes the BDA conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where the Director will be making two presentations and running the book table with the help of a good friend of JPI, "Beau" Johnson. On November 29,30 and December 1, the Director and Mark Trela will be staffing a booth at the *Acres USA* conference in St. Louis. We will close our year with our annual JPI Board of Directors meeting, the second Saturday in December, where we must consider replacing the Board position that became vacant when Candace Coffin resigned at the same time she resigned from the staff. Altogether, we have a very full plate in front of us. Needless to say, any additional volunteers to help us complete our preparations tasks for the year would be more than welcome. Regardless, we shall persevere, as Steiner admonishes, simply because the work is so necessary and must be done.