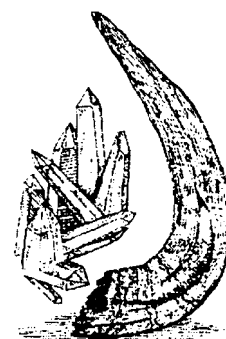


Applied BIODYNAMICS®



Fall, 2005

Newsletter of the Josephine Porter Institute • Woolwine, Virginia

Issue No. 50

Working with Elemental and Ancestral Forces: A Weekend of Healing and Transformation in New York City

Florence Rewinski

When I received a message from Hugh Courtney asking me if I would like to go to a weekend workshop given by Marko Pogacnik and Orland Bishop in New York, I was thrilled at the opportunity. But when I spoke to Hugh I found out there was a catch. I was asked to document my experiences of the weekend.

I had no prior introduction to the work of Marko and Orland, but I had just finished reading Verena Stael von Holstein's book, *Nature Spirits and What They Say*, which awakened in me a greater interest in the elemental world. Once I knew the topic of the workshop, "Working with Elemental and Ancestral Forces," I had to go.

I had the good fortune to share this weekend with a friend and co-intern at the Pfeiffer Center, Deb Taft, so arriving at the New York City branch of the Anthroposophical Society in Manhattan on Friday went quite smoothly. I was pleasantly surprised to see a few familiar faces. My world is getting smaller.

The evening included introductions given by both Marko and Orland. A long-awaited rain began to fall on the greenhouse-type ceiling, which opened up the moment for Orland who spoke of water being a renewing connection – information of the past coming down, it holds ancestral memory. He also asked what our agreement would be to each other and as a group. At first I was puzzled by the question, but as the weekend progressed, things became clearer.

Marko spoke of the earth sending us signs that we need to perceive each other, not to be oblivious to each other and our surroundings, and the need for a deeper conscious awareness. I've been hearing such messages from many different

continued on page 3



The old elm grove in Central Park was one of the many places visited during the workshop. Photo © Florence Rewinski

Notes

A weekend workshop, "Working With Elemental and Ancestral Forces" became a blessed opportunity for participation in a special healing process at Central Park. Read this poignant account from workshop attendee Florence Rewinski, our newest JPI staff member.

Also in this issue, you will find updated versions of the instruction sheets for biodynamic preparations #500, #501 and #508. From our estimation, the instructions have remained unchanged since the 1940s when Dr. Ehrenfried Pfeiffer first drafted these documents. To this end, we enlist your help to review this material (which is a work in progress) and offer suggestions so that the information will be most helpful and understanding for all, especially those new to biodynamic farming and gardening.

As more people come to learn about biodynamics, JPI has experienced the need for more space to grow; hence, the first phase of the new addition to the JPI building has been completed. To carry out the next phase of this addition, JPI seeks your support financially. See page 10 for details.

Blessings as one season ends and another begins.

—Patricia Smith, Editor

New Steiner Book with Courtney Intro

We are very pleased to offer *What is Biodynamics? A Way to Heal and Revitalize the Earth* by Rudolf Steiner, published by SteinerBooks. Contained in these 200 pages are seven well chosen lectures, with a thoughtful and engaging introduction by JPI's founder and executive director, Hugh Courtney. Another one of JPI's own, Matthew Baker, drew the fine illustrations for the book. *What is Biodynamics?*

is available from JPI for \$18.00 plus postage and handling. Upon request, Hugh will be glad to sign your copy.



Applied Biodynamics

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Mission



The Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Bio-Dynamics Inc. (JPI), 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 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.

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continued from page 1

Working with Elemental and Ancestral Forces

sources: books, people, my gut. I heard Marko say, “The earth cannot change unless we do.” I thought to myself, “Wow, how simple is that?” I’ve been working on change for the past few years and now I need to make it simple.

He then spoke of a vision he had while in Central Park. It was of a light; he described it as being like the sword *Excalibur* being removed from the stone in downtown where the Twin Towers had stood. He described a crack, a wound opening, so healing can begin and the ability to breathe again. (Readers, please know this is my memory and interpretations of this workshop, and not word-for-word.) I went home that night with great anticipation for what the next day would bring.

Saturday morning began a bit differently. I took some wrong turns off the bridge and we arrived about fifteen minutes late. To my horror, Marko stopped speaking and asked everyone by the door to move their chairs to add a few more for us – how embarrassing!

When we were all settled, he spoke again about the crack downtown, that the future was possible now because of it, and an awareness has begun. Through this crack an energy flows up Sixth Avenue into Central Park where he felt it stop at the obelisk known as Cleopatra’s Needle. He said we were going to visit several large stones in the park that were left behind by a glacier, but that could only have been placed there by the spiritual forces of nature. I just absorbed the information and tried to hang on to what I could. Being in a room full of artists, writers, teachers and healers was a humbling experience. It always amazes me what leads me to these places because I felt I was right where I was supposed to be.

Biodynamic Preparations Legend

BD #500 – Horn Manure

BD #501 – Horn Silica

BD #502 – Yarrow

BD #503 – Chamomile

BD #504 – Stinging Nettle

BD #505 – Oak Bark

BD #506 – Dandelion

BD #507 – Valerian

} Compost
Preparations

BD #508 – Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)



Photo © Florence Rewinski

After lunch we met in the park by the memorial to John Lennon, *Imagine*. At that point we moved to a quieter place to do an exercise to connect with earth forces. He explained this location as “Tears of Mercy,” but with a little bit of input by members of the group, it was re-titled “Tears of Compassion.” We were to pick a spot and meditate about the things that are being done to the earth. It wasn’t difficult for me to bring the tears to the surface. I’ve been crying about these things from time to time for some years now. The difference this time was there were fifty or so people standing around in Central Park meditating with tears in their eyes. It felt both very strange and very right at the same time. The day gets better. . . .

From there we moved to a hill in Strawberry Fields. I have to be honest here. As I was about to try the meditation I sat down by a tree, shut my eyes, but started to smell a foul odor. I happened upon some excrement of the human nature so I was very distracted during the important part of the connection. Needless to say that moment was totally lost in disgust and cleaning myself up, rather than forming a connection with the forces of the earth, but who’s to say I wasn’t connected? What entered my mind was, “Who didn’t want me to meditate, why did I get distracted, why me?”

From there we went to another part of Strawberry Fields to connect with the angelic forces, and when we came to the top of a hill we came across two “angels” sunbathing in bikinis, and to their surprise we gathered near and began to meditate. Their giggles could be heard. My distractions were great. I have a friend who always tells me I’m busy, busy all the time – there was no difference on that day. I needed to know all that was going on around me.

We then moved on into some old elm groves to do work with the ancestral forces. (Orland explains that these forces are not really buried and gone, because they walk with us and are present all the time.) The trees are so beautiful; I couldn’t help but feel I was in the presence of elders. Marko left us to our own devices but gave us instructions on how



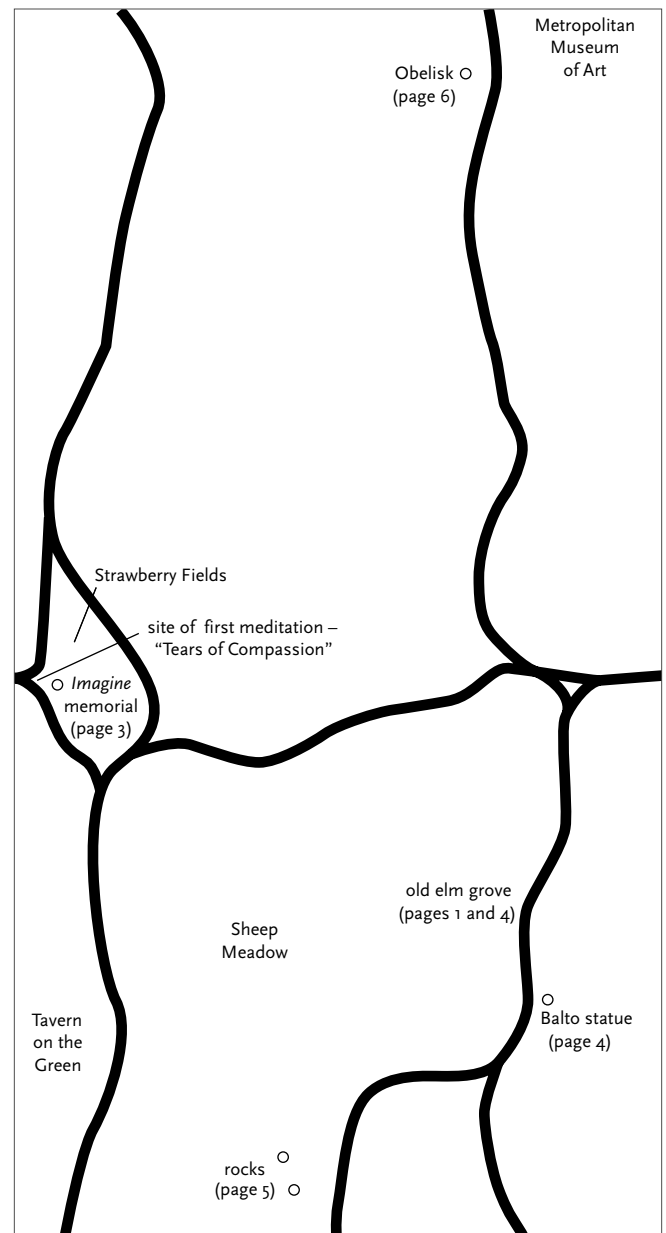
The elm trees in Central Park. Photo © Florence Rewinski

to reach out. He said to put one hand face up and the other face down with the middle fingers touching. Also to use the area in the back of the head behind our third eye, the doorway to the ancestral world. So we were to turn our backs to a tree of choice and were to just feel. From there we were to move to the World War I Memorial and do the same. Is there a difference? I did feel a difference, but I'm not sure if it was because of the physical change or an internal change. The war memorial felt darker, colder, emptier, whereas by the other trees I felt more light and movement. Even with all the distractions in the park – ball games, loud music, thousands of people, I kept plugging along, hoping that no matter what went on around me, my intentions would be making a difference.

We all gathered together at this point to try a group healing. Again we picked a spot to do our work. We were to contact the guardians of the city to go to a place that needed healing, put it into a golden ball and bring it back to the group, which had then formed a large circle. We were to put



Balto the husky. Photo © Florence Rewinski



Schematic map of New York's Central Park, running from about 64th Street at the south (bottom) to 82nd Street at the north. Approximate locations of sites mentioned in the article are marked.

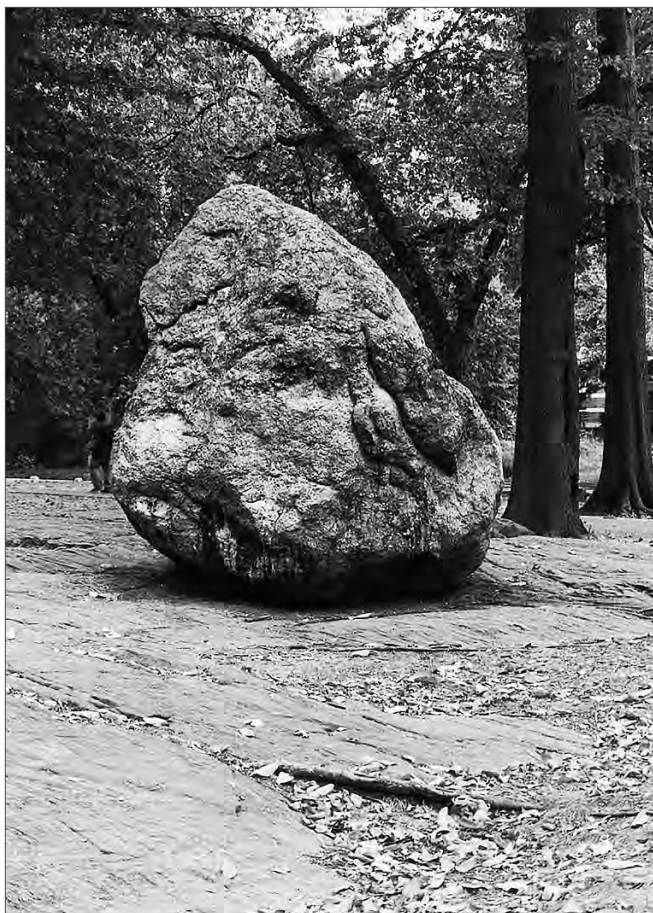
our ball into a larger ball, add violet healing light, then white light, then send it back to its original place. My emotions became very strong at this point; I felt overwhelmed by the fact that I was even a part of this beautiful gesture. I do believe our thoughts and intentions have consequences, so doing this work just filled me up.

Our last stop for the day was Balto, the statue of a husky, and our purpose was to contact the animal kingdom, which Marko said was between the ancestral and elemental kingdoms. To connect with them he said to use the point between our knees and the back of our heads. We were to connect a

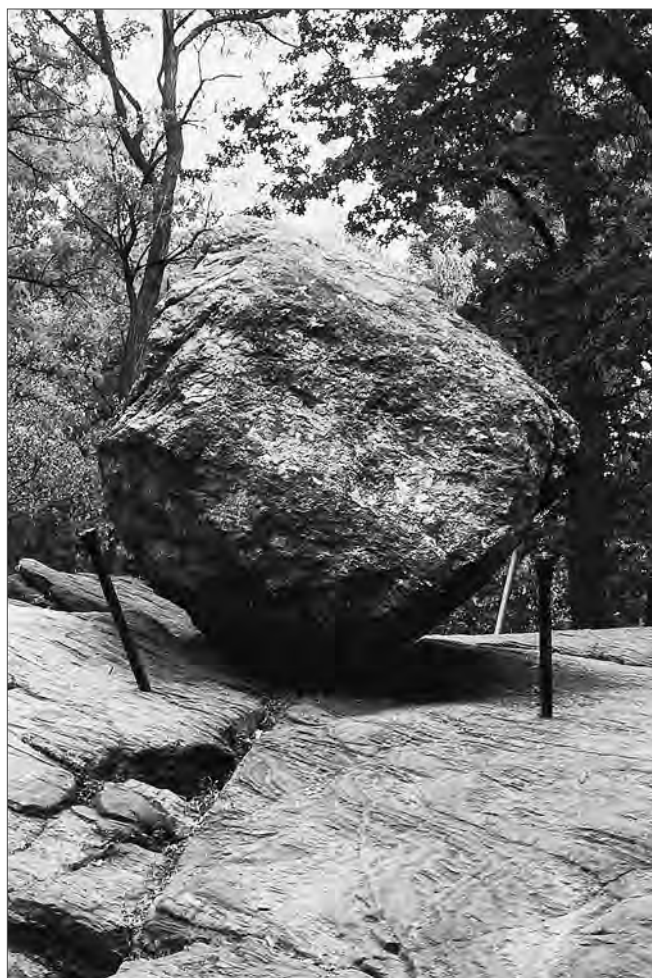
rainbow from the memorial, *Imagine*, to the statue of the husky, to anywhere we wanted to. My rainbows flew all over to many of my earlier angels who have guided me on my journey, such as JPI, the Nature Lyceum, the Pfeiffer Center, Steve Storch, and my mom.

What a day, and we were still to meet after dinner for questions and answers. I did ask a question about the ability to meditate. Seeing as I have difficulty even in the quietest of places, my mind never seems to be still. Orland answered thoughtfully and gently. What I understood from his response was that our intentions and motivations play a large role in the outcome, so even a thought, if good, makes a difference. Marko suggested taking a minute every day to observe a flower, its essence, not the actual structure. This sounds like good advice and I'll try to add this to my daily routine.

Sunday was structured in the same way; we began at the Anthroposophical Society and ended in Central Park. In the park we worked mostly with the rocks I mentioned earlier, the ones left by the glacier. They were laid out in pairs throughout the park. The first pair was near the ball fields; a lot of people were about, as it was a hot and sunny day.



Above and at right, the second pair of rocks visited.
Photos © Florence Rewinski



We once again meditated, surrounded the rock with light and an image of its location and orientation. The other rock of this first pair was about two hundred yards away and we repeated the exercise.

The second pair of rocks we visited was by the rowing pond. They were guardians of the water. At that point my thoughts were very scattered. One of the rocks looked as though it was placed there by a crane; it rested on other rocks in such a way that it was hard to believe it just landed there. The other rock of this pair was fairly close. As I sat there trying to form an image in my mind, I happened to be shat upon by a passing bird; all I could do was laugh good and hard.

The third pair of rocks sat very close together, and if my memory serves me, Marko described them as a gate to the ancestral world. Orland explained to us that the ancestral world was not of the past, but a parallel to our present. In this meditation we were asked to gather our "luggage" i.e., emotional baggage, leave it by the gates and pass through just a little to see how we felt or what we experience. There were several people in our group who shared their experiences which were vivid and powerful.

At this pair of rocks we were very obviously doing something that made people stare, giggle, and even ask what we were doing. Throughout these two days there always seemed to be someone who would stop and listen. I'm not surprised – the energy that surrounded us was bound to attract someone.

Our last stop of the day was at the site of Cleopatra's Needle. I enjoyed and felt very connected to the exercise we did. Marko felt that the obelisk was not connected to the stone foundation on which it rested, and the stone was not connected to its location. Marko described to us his wishes. We all moved closer to the stone's shadow (because it was very hot), and as Marko said "lift," in our minds we lifted the obelisk. Then he said "roll," and we rolled the stone foundation, let it fall through the core of the earth and replaced it where it was. Marko said "violet," and we surrounded it with healing violet light. He then said "blue," and we placed a blue mantel between the obelisk and stone for peace. We then gently replaced the obelisk where it had rested. I went through this exercise with no distractions, with a full image in my mind and heart. What was different?



The obelisk known as Cleopatra's Needle. Photo © Florence Rewinski

I cannot answer but when we were done I felt like I was a piece of the whole. What a gift to be given and received.

Our day ended with sharing and difficult good-byes. At that point I began to understand Orland's words – what was our agreement? I believe our unspoken agreement was fulfilled by the acts we performed over the past two days. For me it was a blind trust, a faith that I was safe, and being part of a larger picture doing important work. My agreement was to be there.

I carry that weekend with me today, and I've added much of what I learned to my daily actions. What a wonderful experience it was to have met Marko and Orland in such an intimate gathering. I look forward to Orland's book, which will be published in 2006 by SteinerBooks. His kind, gentle way will inspire me forever. And Marko's work and dedication to healing the earth is a gift to us all.

Workshop Leaders

Marko Pogacnik is an internationally known geomancer, landscape sculptor and earth healer. He was born in Kranj, Slovenia, in 1944 and has been actively engaged in earth healing for over twenty-five years. He leads seminars in earth healing and provides advice on landscape matters for communities, businesses, towns, and countries around the world. He is the author of many books, including: *The Daughter of Gaia: Rebirth of the Divine Feminine*; *Earth Changes, Human Destiny*; *Healing the Heart of the Earth*; *Nature Spirits and Elemental Beings*; and *Turned Upside Down*, all of which are available for purchase through JPI.

Orland Bishop came from Guyana and has lived since 1984 in South Central Los Angeles, working with troubled youths. In 1996 he created the Shade Tree Foundation, which meets in people's homes and other centers, offering a haven to all who come as well as a training to mentors in trust-building and listening skills. (Marko and Orland's biographical information provided by SteinerBooks.)

Florence Rewinski grew up in eastern Long Island in a family that encouraged a deep respect for the land. One of Florence's earliest influences in biodynamics was Steve Storch, founder of Natural Science Organics, in Water Mill, NY. Following her education at the Nature Lyceum in West Hampton Beach, the Pfeiffer Center and the Josephine Porter Institute, her curiosity and need to understand more about biodynamics led her on her present journey. Florence worked as an intern at the Pfeiffer Center and has relocated to the Josephine Porter Institute earlier this fall to continue on the biodynamic path.

Brief Directions for the Use of Biodynamic Sprays 500, 501 and 508

We are in the process of updating the instruction sheets for use of the biodynamic spray preparations. We would appreciate your careful examination of this material. Please make any suggestions to better clarify the information in our effort to educate biodynamic practitioners in the use of the preparations. We enclose in this newsletter a copy of the current instructions.

Soil Spray 500 (Horn Manure)

Applicable to: BD #500, (X)500 and "Prepared" 500

Keep moist until ready to use. Partial quantities may be used, keeping the same proportions and stirring the appropriate time for each. Spray only on areas previously fertilized with: manure, and/or compost treated with BD Preparations #502 to 507, or at least sprayed with Biodynamic Compound Preparation (a.k.a. Barrel Compost or BC).

BD #500 – One of the preparations based on the original indications given by Rudolf Steiner. Stimulates root growth and humus formation.

"Prepared" 500 – Created by Alex Podolinsky. It is the same as 500 but includes BD preparations 502 to 507. This is used where sufficient biodynamic compost is unavailable, although it is advised that "Prepared" 500 is not to be regarded as a long-term substitute for actual compost. In Australian practice, "Prepared" 500 is used only after BD #500 has been applied for at least two years.

(X)500 – This preparation was formulated at the Josephine Porter Institute. Same as BD #500 but is pre-potentized so that it requires stirring for only 20 minutes. Please note that BD #500 and "Prepared" 500 require 1 hour of stirring.

Time

- In the latter part of the day. Application within one-half hour of sunset is ideal.
- Mainly in spring or fall.
- Preferably on an overcast day.
- Shortly before seed sowing or transplanting.
- If possible, avoid applying just before or during a heavy rain, or in windy conditions.
- More effective if soil is moist.

Use

- One unit (¼ cup) of 500 in 3 to 5 gallons of lukewarm water. Must be stirred in enough water to cover area up to 1 acre for each unit being used.
- Rainwater or other water not contaminated with chemicals.
- A clean container with no chemical residues large enough (at least 6 to 8 gallons) to prevent splashing out.
- A light-weight, but strong stick – discover by experience

what length you like. Note: This applies to those who prefer not to stir the preps with their hands.

Stir

- **Vigorously** in one direction until liquid forms a deep crater. **Quickly reverse** direction and repeat.
- Using direct from the shoulder motion, not just wrist motion. For bare hand stirring, preferably change hands with each reversal, stirring towards the heart region, i.e., with left hand stirring in a clockwise motion and right hand stirring in a counter-clockwise motion.
- For **BD #500** or **"Prepared" 500**, continue this alternation every 30 to 60 seconds or **so for 1 full hour**.
- For **(X)500**, continue this alternation every 30 to 60 seconds or **so for a full 20 minutes**.

Spray

- As soon as possible after stirring – it starts to deteriorate in about 4 hours, and if left overnight is useless. Note: The only exception to this is (X)500, which may remain potent for up to 4 days, although this has not been scientifically verified.
- With *clean* utensils – chemical residues could make the 500 preparations useless.
- With ordinary sprayer with wand pointing downwards towards ground. For small areas of one acre or less, a bucket and whisk broom dispersing with an underhand motion.
- When using spray equipment (mechanical sprayer) be sure to strain or sieve out larger particles to avoid clogging nozzle(s).
- Covering 1 acre of ground with this amount.
- If possible on soil that has been recently worked.
- If possible, follow spray with a light raking or shallow (1 to 3 inch) cultivation.
- If on area where 500 has been used before, quantities may be more *dilute*, increasingly so with each application. Again, scientific verification is still needed.

Plant Spray 501 (Horn Silica)

Applicable to: BD #501, BD #501(F) and 501(sx)

Keep in any dry or sunny place until used. Keeps indefinitely if dry. *Spray only on area where 500 has been used previously.*

BD #501 – Quartz-based silica preparation made according to the original indications given by Rudolf Steiner. Stimulates, regulates and harmonizes leaf growth.

BD #501(F) – Feldspar-based silica preparation which is suggested for sandy soil. Same use as quartz-based BD #501. Feldspar is principally aluminum silicates of potassium, sodium and calcium.

#501(5x) – Same use as other forms of #501. This preparation was homeopathically formulated at the Josephine Porter Institute. It is provided at the 5th homeopathic potency and only needs to be stirred for a brief period. JPI recommends a 20 minute stir. Please note that BD #501 and BD #501(F) require 1 hour of stirring.

Orthoclase – While this is not currently available at JPI, orthoclase could also be used to make a 501 preparation since Rudolf Steiner specifically mentions it when giving indications for 501. A particular form of feldspar, orthoclase is potassium aluminum silicate.

Time

- At sunrise, early enough that the morning dew is still present on foliage.
- Only after plant roots are well established.
- *Never* before transplanting.
- Usually in late spring or early summer when warm weather is well established.
- Use caution when applying when there is danger of frost.
- With seedlings – when second or third leaves have unfolded.
- *Never* on young shrubs, evergreens, fruit trees or vines.
- With trees or vines – not until they are of bearing age.
- In foliar emergencies – when diseases or pests have destroyed much foliage.
- Only following blossoms on trees or shrubs where these come before leaves.
- Especially during wet seasons with too little sunshine. Indoors or in greenhouses – during shortest days of the year.
- If possible, avoid applying just before or during a heavy rain, or in windy conditions.

Use

- For 501 or 501(F), one unit (½ teaspoon) in 2½ to 3 gallons of lukewarm water.
- For 501(5x), one unit (½ teaspoon) in 2½ to 3 gallons of lukewarm water.
- Rainwater or other water not contaminated with chemicals.
- A clean container with no chemical residues, large enough (at least 6 gallons) to prevent splashing out.
- A light-weight, but strong stick – discover by experience what length you like. Note: This applies to those who prefer not to stir the preps with their hands.

Stir

- *Vigorously* in one direction until liquid forms a deep crater. *Quickly reverse* direction and repeat.
- Using direct from the shoulder motion, not just wrist motion. For bare hand stirring, preferably change hands with

each reversal, stirring towards the heart region, i.e., with left hand stirring in a clockwise motion and right hand stirring in a counter-clockwise motion.

– For 501 or 501(F), continue this alternation every 30 to 60 seconds or so **for 1 full hour**.

– For 501(5x), continue this alternation every 30 to 60 seconds or so **for a full 20 minutes**.

Spray

– As soon as possible after stirring – it starts to deteriorate in about 1 to 2 hours.

– With *clean* utensils – chemical residues could make the 501 preparations useless.

– With ordinary sprayer (will need straining first) with wand in an upward direction using a fine mist – adjust nozzle on sprayer; for small areas of one acre or less, a bucket and whisk broom dispersing with a vigorous underhand motion to create smaller droplets. Ideally one wants to create a fog-like atmosphere around the plants.

– When using spray equipment (mechanical sprayer) be sure to strain or sieve out larger particles to avoid clogging nozzle(s).

– At waist level into the air or slightly above foliage – particularly effective when impacting stomata on underside of leaves. It will do no harm to soil.

– Covering an area of 1 acre with 1 full unit.

Soil and Plant Spray 508

Applicable to: Fresh and Fermented Tea Versions of BD #508 (Equisetum arvense/Horsetail Herb)

Keep herb dry and in darkness until needed. Part portions may be cooked, keeping same proportions. *Fully effective only when used following other biodynamic preparations.*

BD #508 – One of the preparations based on the original indications given by Rudolf Steiner. One unit of dried herb makes 2 gallons of fresh tea spray, or 10 gallons of fermented tea spray. The fresh 508 tea is the form suggested for use as a foliar spray to control fungus. The fermented 508 tea is mostly suggested for use as a soil spray to prevent fungus. Either form has both preventative and prophylactic properties. Preparation 508 in either form also helps to regulate the water element and harmonize lunar forces.

Time

– During wet, damp or sunless warm weather as preventive of, or cure for fungus diseases.

– Usually at two week intervals, more often if plants are in a stressed condition.

– If possible, avoid applying just before or during a heavy rain, or in windy conditions.

– More effective if soil is moist.

To Prepare as a Fresh Tea

To Make: Add one unit of 508, which is ten ounces of shredded herb by volume, or 1½ ounces by weight, to 1 quart of water – for cooking. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer slowly in a covered vessel for 20 minutes. Strain herb particles from liquid. **Add** two gallons of rainwater or other water not contaminated with chemicals for later dilution. Treats up to **one acre**. See below under “Use” for further directions.

To Prepare as a Fermented Tea

To Make: The following is a slightly modified recipe of the one developed by Lily Kolisko. Take one unit of 508, which is about 10 ounces of shredded herb by volume or 1½ ounces by weight. Bring to boil in one gallon of water and simmer for one hour. Let cool and transfer to a crock or other storage container with a loose fitting lid. Store this in a cool place, e. g. basement, and allow to ferment 10 to 14 days, until the “characteristic sulfur smell” described by Kolisko develops. Thereafter, strain the remaining herb particles out, fill the tea in a glass jug, and store it in a cool dark place until ready to use. It can be stored 6 or more months without losing effectiveness. Add ½ gallon of the **fermented tea** to 4½ gallons of rainwater or other water not contaminated with chemicals for later dilution and use to **treat up to 1½ acres**. One unit of horsetail can thereby treat up to **3 acres** with as powerful effect as can be achieved by the fresh tea recipe on only one acre. Ratio for diluting is one part fermented tea to 9 parts water.

Use

- A clean container with no chemical residues large enough (at least 6 to 8 gallons) to prevent splashing out.
- A light-weight, but strong stick – discover by experience what length you like. Note: This applies to those who prefer not to stir the preps with their hands.

Stir

- *Vigorously* in one direction until liquid forms a deep crater. *Quickly reverse* direction and repeat.
- Using direct from the shoulder motion, not just wrist motion. For bare hand stirring, preferably change hands with each reversal, stirring towards the heart region, i.e., with left hand stirring in a clockwise motion and right hand stirring in a counter-clockwise motion.
- For either **Fresh** or **Fermented Tea**, continue this alternation every 30 to 60 seconds or so **for a full 20 minutes**.

Spray

- With ordinary sprayer using a fine mist – adjust nozzle on sprayer; for small areas of one acre or less, a bucket and whisk

broom can be used dispersing with an underhand motion.

- When using spray equipment (mechanical sprayer) be sure to strain or sieve out larger particles to avoid clogging nozzle(s).
- As a foliar spray apply to foliage – it will do no harm to soil.
- As a soil spray apply directly to the soil – it will do no harm to foliage. If possible, follow spray with a light raking or shallow (1 to 3 inch depth) cultivation.
- If possible on soil that has been recently worked.
- Recommended quantities will cover about **1 acre using the Fresh Tea** and **1½ acres or more using the Fermented Tea**.
- Within a few days when once cooked and diluted for the fresh tea, but stir for 20 minutes as described above before use.
- Fermented tea once prepared (but before dilution for actual application) retains viability for several months.
- If applied to the soil where 508 has been used before, quantities may be more *dilute*, increasingly so with each application. Scientific verification is still needed.

*Note: It is always important to use all nine of the biodynamic preparations (BD #500 to 508) so that a healthy balance for the land is achieved. For making compost, the **Biodynamic Compost Preparations** (BD #502 to 507) are used. The **Pfeiffer BD Compost Starter** which contains the BD Compost Preps BD #502 to 507 plus BD #500, may also be used to make compost. There are additional formulations of the preparations which provide help or a means to maximize one's efforts in applying as many preparations on the land as frequently as possible. The **Biodynamic Compound Preparation (a.k.a. Barrel Compost or BC)** is based on the recipe of Maria Thun and contains biodynamic preparations #502 to 507. While BC does not take the place of biodynamic compost, it can be used for those new to biodynamics when there is not a sufficient supply of biodynamic compost available. It is also useful for application when plants and soils are under stress from drought, insect attack, etc. The Pfeiffer BD Field Spray contains a high proportion of BD #500 along with BD Compost Preps #502 to 507 and can be used in the same fashion as a combination of the BC spray followed by BD #500 spray. It serves to build humus and is especially helpful breaking down stubble or green manure prior to incorporating them into the soil.*

For further reading consult:

Biodynamic Sprays by Herbert Koepf

Using the Bio-Dynamic Compost Preparations and Sprays in Garden, Orchard, and Farm by Ehrenfried Pfeiffer

The Biodynamic Spray and Compost Preparations: Directions For Use by Christian von Wistinghausen, et al

Handbook on Composting and the Bio-Dynamic Preparations by George Corrin

JPI Building Fund

Over the summer, the first phase of the JPI building expansion was completed. Much needed office and conference meeting room space was established for the two floors. Given that there has been a dramatic rise in construction costs and the additional expense of upgrading office computers, the next phase to finish these new rooms has been postponed. In order to continue, we ask for your financial help with a tax deductible donation to the JPI Building Fund. JPI is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Your donation would be very much appreciated to benefit future biodynamic educational activities.



The new section of the JPI building completed this past summer.



Expansion of office space at JPI during the first phase of construction.
Photos © Patricia Smith

Associative Contracts Due

Please submit your Associative Contract to JPI by January 31, 2006, unless other arrangements are made. Consult the JPI product catalog for details about the contract or call (276) 930-2463 if you have questions. The absolute final deadline for contracts to be received is March 31, 2006 to obtain the 25% discount. After that date, an Associative Contract can still be negotiated for the year 2006, but the discount will be reduced to 20%.

Prizes Go To Biodynamic Vegetables At County Fair

Biodynamically-grown vegetables won many ribbons in the 2005 McKean County Fair in Pennsylvania. Biodynamic Evergreen Elm gardeners in Bradford submitted twenty-nine entries, of which twenty-eight won ribbons (eighteen blue, eight red and two white). Longtime biodynamic practitioner L. A. Rotheraine of Evergreen Elm attributes use of the Pfeiffer BD Field Spray applied to soil and plants, as well as the enthusiastic gardeners themselves for this successful growing year. In fact, for several years now the Evergreen Elm gardeners have won numerous ribbons for their biodynamic vegetables at the fair. In our next issue, we will include an article about specialty planting of biodynamic cherry tomatoes developed by Rotheraine.

Biodynamic Seed Catalog

The Turtle Tree Seed Catalog is available for those seeking a source of biodynamic seeds. They offer open-pollinated varieties of flower, vegetable, herb, farm, grain and cover crops. To request a catalog, contact Turtle Tree Seed, Camp-hill Village, Copake, NY 12516; tel: (800)620-7388; fax: (678)202-1351; <www.turtletreeseed.org>. Please note that orders must be received by May 31, 2006.





In photo above, the yarrow preparation (BD #502.) In photo at right from this past summer, JPI staff members Matthew Baker and Osiris Abrego observe the beautifully finished yarrow preparation (BD #502) which they dug up in early July. Photos © Patricia Smith

Thank You!

It is with great appreciation for the following who harvested Dandelion (BD #506) and Horsetail (BD #508) for 2005. Their collections contribute a great deal towards making the biodynamic preparations here at JPI.

Sharon Carson – Delmar, DE

Polly Hieser – Check, VA

Nancy Keiser – Marne, ME

Bill Lambie – Hurley, WI

Philip Lyvers – Loretto, KY

Kim Mason – Longmont, CO

Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes & Conrad Mentjes – Anchorage, AK

Nancy & Paul Vallus – Fayetteville, AR

Zephyr Farm – Check, VA

Ruth Zinniker, Family & Friends – East Troy, WI

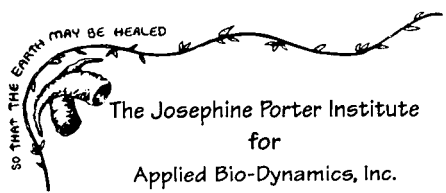
Addendum: At JPI it was evident that an anomaly was occurring with a small yarrow harvest for 2005. This was also reported in several areas of the country which usually have a generous amount of yarrow blooming in a three to five week time period. Instead, the bloom was sporadic over two to five months. The possible reason for this could be last year's planetary event of the Venus Transit (June 8, 2004). Venus is considered the planet most closely associated with, and influential for yarrow.



In all these matters, I can only give indications, but as you see, these indications are capable of direct practical application. And as there is still the prevailing judgment – I will not call it prejudice – that all things must be subsequently verified, good and well! Set to work and try to verify them. If you do the experiments rightly, you will soon see them confirmed.

Rudolf Steiner – *Agriculture*, Lecture 6, p. 111

SO THAT THE EARTH MAY BE HEALED



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