

April 11, 2013

Natural Lawn Care and Community in the Garden

Want to green up your lawn? Join us at North Island College on Tuesday April 16th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. to learn about creating a gorgeous green lawn that is easy on the environment too! Lawns and streams are closely connected and the overuse of chemicals and water, especially during times of summer drought, can be detrimental to fish populations and aquatic life. It is possible to have a healthy lawn that also sustains our local environment. Learn techniques for effective composting, waterwise gardening, and pesticide-free lawn maintenance.

Pesticides harm the microorganisms, beneficial insects and earthworms that are essential to maintaining healthy soil, and therefore, healthy turf. High nitrogen fertilizers can disrupt the nutrient balance, accelerate turf growth, increase the need for mowing and contribute to thatch buildup. By nourishing the soil you can achieve the greenest grass to ever grace your garden! For more information or to register for a Lettuce Grow workshop visit <http://www.nic.bc.ca/continuingeducation/> or call Julia Peters at 250-923-9724.

From learning low impact lawn care techniques to growing a garden, active environmental responsibility, and enjoyment doesn't have to stop at home. On Saturday, April 20th the Laughing Willow Community Garden in Willow Point will be holding a garage sale fundraiser on Saturday at the garden (1909 Simms Rd) from 8am till 12 noon.

"Our garden consists of 19 beds for locals to use, a massive "soup kitchen" garden maintained by our gardeners and volunteers, which produces gourmet, organic food for hungry bellies in Campbell River, a "kids" garden, and a large row of young hazelnut trees on the garden perimeter, which, when mature, will provide a tasty snack for passers-by," says Chelsea Holley. "Our vision is to create an outdoor classroom for gardening workshops, to build wheelchair-accessible garden beds, and to continue building up a collection of fruit trees, nut trees, berries and veggies in areas around the perimeter of the garden for anyone's eating enjoyment."

The Laughing Willow was built by volunteers and funded by donations and grants, with Greenways Land Trust acting as an "umbrella" and partner. Community members are invited to come and see what our community has built, and help keep it growing by supporting the garage sale. Donations of goods for the sale can be brought to the garden on Friday, April 19th at 2 p.m. or you can contact Chelsea at chelsea@holleys.ca to make other arrangements. Check out the Facebook page, "LaughingWillowCommunityGarden" to learn more about this great cause and how to get involved.

Like this article? What to hear more? Is there a workshop you would like us to organize? Write us your questions and requests to growlocal@campbellriver.ca

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