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## GCA Plays Integral Part at 2001 BioCycle Southeast Conference

By **Britt Faucette**  
University of Georgia

The 2001 BioCycle Southeast Conference was held on August 27-29 at the JW Marriott Hotel at Lenox in Buckhead. The theme for the composting and organics recycling conference was "The Soil and Water Connection" which focused on how the recycling and utilization of organic materials in soils can improve water quality and conservation methods. The conference topics laid heavy emphasis on composts and mulches role in storm water management, specifically in increasing its utilization for erosion prevention and sediment control on disturbed soils.

The Georgia Compost Association was one of the co-sponsors of the conference and was granted complimentary space for our booth, which was located right next to the conference registration table! Wayne King led the opening plenary session with a presentation on "Broadening the Base for Compost Demand" and also served on the closing discussion panel to address "Forming Alliances to Achieve Long-Term Solu-

tions to the Southeast Water Crisis". Board member Jerald Sargent presented on "Entrepreneurs Provide New Energy to Create Marketable Products", Peter Germishuizen spoke on "On-Farm Compost Improves Large Scale Vegetable Production", KC Das led a talk on "Odor Control Technologies - What Works Best", Britt Faucette presented on how a "Georgia Juice Company, Microbrewery, and Community Link Up in On-Farm Composting Demonstration Site", Jason Governo shared his "Software Model for Windrow Composting", Davy Simonson spoke about "Communications, Assistance and Network Development to Promote Organics

Sensibility" and Wayne King set up a stakeholder meeting to discuss expanding composts new role in storm water management. Bob Kerr, Director of the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources recognized GCA members Julia Gaskin, Britt Faucette, and Wayne King in helping

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*"The Soil and Water Connection" focused on how the recycling and utilization of organic materials in soils can improve water quality and conservation methods.*

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...continued, Page 3

### Welcome New Members

Andy Hull - Atlanta, Georgia

# Compost Challenges

## Letter from the President

By Wayne King, President



### Upcoming Articles

A computer program to help design composting facilities  
*...more to come*

### Information for the Composting Chronicle?

Please submit any materials for the *Composting Chronicle* to Julia Gaskin at: [jgaskin@engr.uga.edu](mailto:jgaskin@engr.uga.edu). Please feel free to call with any ideas for upcoming issues.

At the beginning of the year the Georgia Composting Association established a goal to promote the use of compost in storm water management and erosion control. The GCA put together a very ambitious program to raise awareness that compost and "engineered soils" (soils that perform to a minimum standard of permeability and fertility) should be adopted to begin reversing the trends in soil and water resource management in Georgia.

The Georgia Composting Association developed a program to demonstrate compost use in erosion control and to improve water and soil quality. A proposal for funding of the demonstration project and a research project was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources. While the proposal for the demonstration project did not gain approval there is still some hope that the research project will be approved.

The good news for the Georgia Composting Association is that we were successful in both our goal to promote the use of compost and to bring the Southeast BioCycle Conference to Atlanta for the first time. The theme of the conference was the "Soil and Water Connection".

The conference was a huge success and we were fortunate to have some of the most respected speakers in the United States and Georgia speak on the importance of quality compost and mulch in sustainable development and cleaner watersheds. Through the

support of the GCA the featured speaker, Sejo Jackson, was flown in from Washington State to speak about the "Soils for Salmon" program. This model program using compost is now being adopted by other states to reduce erosion, increase soil water retention and improve water quality.

The success of both the Southeast BioCycle Conference and the International Composting Awareness week can only be attributed to the hard work and dedication of our members. I want to extend my personal thanks to all of you who made these events possible. A special thanks goes to Cynthia who should be named composting woman of the year for coming up with yet another great idea. We will close out this year with our general membership meeting to be held at the prestigious Chateau Elan in Braselton, Georgia. I want to encourage all of you to invite your wives, husbands, and friends to come and join us on what promises to be a grand finish to this years events. We are planning a great meeting (we will elect new officers, Yea!!) and will be mixing business with a lot of fun. The Chateau Elan offers a full menu in a setting that will bring out the best in all of us. You might want to plan on staying overnight and do some golfing or just tour the wine resort.

Thanks again for a great year and I hope to see you at the Chateau Elan !

## Jasper County, Georgia

By Britt Faucette  
The University of Georgia

The Jasper County School System located in central Georgia is including compost science and composting in their curriculum in addition to implementing an on-site food waste compost program. Biology students will be involved in monitoring the compost and studying microorganisms. Physics students have been involved in sizing and

building the bins based on an internal organic waste audit. The Phoenix School and Piedmont Academy use a three bin system that also includes the schools' yard waste and grass clippings. Educational signs will be posted around the site to further explain the benefits, aspects, and uses for compost. There has been interest in expanding this

# Georgia Compost Increases Bell Pepper Yields

By Julia Gaskin  
University of Georgia

We often hear anecdotal evidence that compost improves vegetable yields in gardens and now a recent study here in Georgia shows the stories you hear have some basis in fact. Dr. Darby Granberry and several other University of Georgia researchers obtained a grant from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program to determine if high quality compost could be used in potting soil mixtures to improve the growth of bell pepper seedlings and if the improved growth would increase pepper yields. Working with a vegetable farmer and GCA's Peter G., they grew flats of bell pepper seedlings in the standard potting mix used by the farmer and the standard potting mix with

20% compost added. They found the pepper seedlings grown in the potting soil/compost mix were taller, had a larger stem, and had more leaves and roots. When these seedlings were planted in the fields, they had more peppers and the peppers were bigger. The compost-grown pepper plants out-yielded those grown in the standard potting mix by 20%. The researchers have not pinpointed exactly why compost has such a beneficial effect, but hope to conduct more studies to gain a better understanding of the factors involved.

## Upcoming Events

**GCA is planning a membership meeting from 12:00 - 4:00PM, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at Chateau Elan. This is one you won't want to miss. The agenda includes election of officers, a review of what GCA has accomplished over the past few years, and possibly a guest speaker. The meeting will be followed by a wine and cheese.**

## GCA Involved in 2001 BioCycle Conference, from page 1

him prepare his closing plenary session talk on "Recognizing the Role of Organics in Water and Soil Resource Management."

The final day of the conference featured a tour of the Cobb County Composting Facility and an Erosion and Sediment Control demonstration site using composts and mulches set up by GCA members Wayne King and Britt Faucette and visiting speaker Rod Tyler. The demonstration site featured the use of compost and mulch blankets and filter berms as an alternative to silt fence and hydroseeding (which were applied in comparative plots). Visually the compost and mulch plots outperformed both the hydroseeding and silt fence plots and Britt Faucette shared information gathered from two storm water samplers placed out at the demo site. The tour stop also featured an

equipment and application demonstration which incorporated composts from Sargent Nutrients, Inc.; Erth Products, Inc.; Cobb County Composting Facility, and mulch from WoodTech Mulch.

Equipment demos also included Packer Industries mobile grinders, MetroMulch Blowing Services LLC, Rexius Blowing Services, Mill Creek Berm Builders, and Filtrex Filter Socks. Special thanks to GCA Board member Cynthia Poslynski for locating the demonstration site so we could pull the whole thing off!



*Looking at compost for erosion control at the July BioCycle Conference.*

## Jasper County, Georgia, from page 2

program to all the schools in the county system. The finished compost will be used on school landscape and garden projects and promoted at the local farmers' market. The program is sponsored through the 4H Youth

Development program and the University of Georgia is providing technical assistance. For more information contact Britt Faucette at the University of Georgia.

## A Closer Look at Our Members

### K.C. Das

Dr. K.C. Das is an important part of the composting community. An Assistant Professor in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at the University of Georgia, he has spent the past several years building the Bioconversion Research and Education program. This UGA facility has been the site of several GCA member meetings. The facility also hosts several Compost Awareness Week activities and the Compost Facility Operators Training. Dr. Das was born in Madras, India. He began doing research in composting in 1995 at Ohio State University with Drs. Keener and Hoitink. His research currently focuses on solid waste composting, with other work on air pollution control and bioremediation. Dr. Das is married to Jeanne, a speech therapist. They have a very young son, Rahul, who is making life interesting. K.C. enjoys gardening and cooking for friends

on the weekend. He has been actively involved in the formation of GCA and promoting composting throughout Georgia. We're lucky to have him.



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