



## Nantucket Land Council, Inc.

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For Immediate Release:

The Nantucket Land Council is pleased to present a one-day course entitled, "Integration of Compost Technologies in Sustainable Land Care" on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Bartlett's Farm Hayloft. Led by Peter Schmidt of Compostwerks, the course is open to all homeowners, but landscapers, gardeners, and land care professionals are particularly encouraged to attend.

Compost technology is gaining attention as awareness of waste stream reduction and pesticide use increases. Attendees will learn the importance of organic matter and its role in compost production, plant nutrition and soil biology. The production and application of compost tea will be discussed along with soil amendments and microbial foods.

The course will qualify for re-accreditation for those land care professionals who already hold accreditation certificates from the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA.) The NLC will be charging a nominal fee of \$35 for the full-day course, which will include coffee and snacks, as well as a delicious lunch catered by Bartlett's farm. The course will be limited to 60 participants, and last year's program was sold out, so advance registration is required.

Over the past 3 years, the NLC has given over \$35,000 in scholarships to local landscapers to attend the NOFA accreditation course. It is now an essential part of our program to offer a different re-accreditation course each year on Nantucket so that these landscapers can continue their ongoing education and maintain their status as accredited professionals. Last year's course focused specifically on organic lawns and turf maintenance, of which, organic compost is an essential component. It is a natural step this year to focus on the composting process itself.

Peter Schmidt, certified arborist and founding partner of Compostwerks LLC, has been involved in the horticultural industry for 25 years. He graduated from University of Massachusetts, Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 1990, and has spent the balance of his career in arboricultural consulting.

Peter's interest and passion for natural land care began in 2000. Since then, he has consulted with hundreds of land owners and businesses on making the shift to sustainable practices. He interacts with Elaine Ingham of the Soil Foodweb Inc. on a regular basis and is working to become a certified advisor.

His company provides education, consulting, sales training and support to businesses who wish to apply compost tea as a professional service. Compostwerks LLC specializes in making premium compost specific to compost tea brewing as well as making compost tea brewers and sprayers.

For more information or to register, contact the NLC at 508-228-2818 or [nlc@nantucket.net](mailto:nlc@nantucket.net).