

# Farm-Scale Composting

## A Means to Attaining Farm Resilience Through Building Soil Fertility

Friday evening, May 17, 2013

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- Lecture of composting method and theory
- Light dinner included

Saturday, May 18, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Hands on practical demonstrations at site pilot project
- Picnic lunch included

This workshop will provide the theoretical and practical basis for reconsidering the importance of composting in agriculture in order for it to become a central element for developing healthy and thriving farms. This course will explore, through composting, how one is able to begin to build a solid base to counteract the enormous loss of soil fertility and biological fragility of our farms. Drawing from the pioneering work of the German biochemist, Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, we'll explore how his hot controlled fermentation compost process becomes a major pillar in establishing farm resilience and a strong and viable means to build soil fertility.

After an evening with an introduction of this method of composting we will have a full practical day on Saturday at our pilot project where we'll look into the process of mixing the organic resources, establishing proper C/N ratios, setting the windrows, temperature, data collection, and overall management of a thriving compost site.

### ~~~~~Instructors~~~~~



Bruno Jorge R.  
Follador,  
Biodynamic Researcher



Angela L. Curtes,  
Lands Director, Skylark  
Inc.

### ~~~~~Location~~~~~

**Michael Fields Agricultural Institute**

W2493 County Road ES, P.O. Box 990

East Troy, Wisconsin 53120

### ~~~~~Registration~~~~~

Cost of this 2-day event is only \$ 80 (\$ 64, for CRAFT or FairShare members) This fee includes dinner on Friday evening and a Saturday lunch. To register online at [www.michaelfields.org](http://www.michaelfields.org) (click on Education, Whole Farm Workshops, Farm-Scale Composting on the Calendar and click on Sign up Today) If you want to pay by check, please send your check to: Michael Fields Agricultural Institute  
P.O. Box 990, East Troy, WI 53120



## Angela Curtes

Nokomis Farm, pilot compost project

Angie has worked for over 20 years within the fields of environmental and wilderness education, and natural area and farmland preservation. She graduated from Prescott College, Arizona in 1992 with BA degrees in Environmental Studies and Alternative Education. She co-founded and co-directed Common Earth: Educational Adventures of the Earth and Mind for 8 years in Marin, California. During this time she also worked full-time as the Education Director of the Pacific Environment and Resources Center (PERC), an international non-profit. In 2000, she moved back home to her family's farm in southeast Wisconsin where she began working for the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust as their Lands Specialist, and as Assistant Director, guiding natural area and farmland preservation efforts to preserve over 2,000 acres in less than 8 years. In 2008, Angela began work for a national land trust, Yggdrasil Land Foundation, as their first Acting Executive Director. This work focused on a gap in the land trust movement of sustainable agriculture preservation and specifically biodynamic and organic farmland preservation. Since 2012, she has worked for Skylark, Inc. as its Lands Director to co-create a land preservation strategy to protect 800 acres for sustainable, non-chemical agriculture production, research, and education. Her interest in biodynamic agriculture led to a 2 month intensive study, under mentors Roland Ulrich and Bruno Follador in Germany, where she learned the hot controlled fermentation compost method and chromatography. In June 2012 she implemented a compost pilot project producing over 160 tons of humus-quality compost within a 6 month period. She has also set up a chromatography lab to test base farm soils and compost qualities.

## Bruno Follador

Bruno was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil where he studied Geography at the University of Sao Paulo (USP) and biodynamic agriculture at the Pfeiffer Center. From 2006-08 he worked in the Atlantic Rain Forest with small banana farmers in a project to convert conventional farms into biodynamic operations. For the last six years he has been involved in establishing Goethean Science at USP participating in the organization of numerous courses. Prior to going to Germany, where he has been working for the past two and half years as one of the researchers and consultants of the Ludolf Andreas lab, at the Andreashof, with composting and chromatography, he worked for one year as the gardener of the Camphill Community Heartbeet Lifesharing in VT.

Bruno at pilot compost project,  
East Troy, WI

- Some overnight accommodations are available on a first come basis. Please contact:

Jodie Janovec, at  
(262) 642-3303 ext. 128 or  
farmandfood@michaelfields.org  
for more information.

- Rain date: June 7th & 8th

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