



How to Become a Sound-Friendly Gardener

Did you know that over the decades the use of chemical gardening products has spread to public and business properties, parks, playing fields and other landscapes, and that studies show that these chemicals are linked to a range of illnesses that affect humans and animals — cancer, neurological disorders, Parkinson's disease, immune system disorders and others? Did you also know that stormwater runoff carrying chemical gardening residue causes similar problems for marine life? GOSA has been a strong advocate for best management practices for stormwater runoff, and all of the land protected by GOSA's efforts helps to preserve the quality of Long Island Sound water, key to our regional recreational use and fishing and shell-fishing industries. But much more is needed.

A local nonprofit organization, **Clean Up Sound and Harbors, or CUSH**, is actively doing something about the runoff problem by offering a **free*** **"Sound Friendly Gardening"** program. CUSH is bringing Charles "Chip" Osborne to Stonington to conduct a third round of workshops on **Tuesday, May 14, 2013**, on the subject of transitioning from chemical gardening products to natural lawn and turf management. If you would like to become part of the solution to the runoff problem, please take advantage of one or more of the workshops listed below:



1. Consultation on Specific Land Management Concerns

8:00 - 9:00 a.m., Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm Street, Stonington. A meeting with Stonington's Public Works director, engineer and solid waste manager and officials from the school system, to move plans forward to expand the composting effort and provide compost for feeding/dressing the public playing fields.

2. From The Ground Up: Effective Steps to Organic Lawn Care

10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Groton. Private residential and business property owners will learn the basics: what to do, when to do it, how to interpret soil tests, what products to use, and if they use a landscaping company, how to instruct and monitor their contractors so the work is done properly. Chip provides reliable and easy-to-understand



CUSH President Fran Hoffman and Chip Osborne at a lawn and turf workshop.

guidance — based on current research and solid experience. His simple steps deliver beautiful results that are healthy for your family and the environment, at equal and then less cost than when pesticides and synthetic fertilizers are used.

3. Consultation on Specific Land Management Concerns

12 - 1:30 p.m., LaGrúa Center, 32 Water Street, Stonington Borough.

A unique opportunity for playing field and public property managers to discuss alternative land management strategies. In an interactive format led by Chip Osborne, questions, concerns, realities and expectations will be presented and discussed. One of the main objectives of this session will be to put to rest the fear of failure that is associated at times with chemical-free management. Open to towns of Westerly, Stonington, Groton and others by invitation. Lunch provided.

4. Repeat "From The Ground Up: Effective Steps to Organic Lawn Care"

2:00 - 3:30 p.m., LaGrúa Center, 32 Water Street, Stonington Borough. This seminar, given earlier in Groton, is being repeated in Stonington to provide more residential and business property owners a chance to learn the basics.

5. Repeat "From The Ground Up: Effective Steps to Organic Lawn Care"

7:00 - to 8:30 p.m., Westerly Public Library, 44 Broad Street, Westerly, RI. We want to give residential and business property owners in the Westerly area an after-work chance to learn the basics: what to do, when to do it, what products to use. Chip provides simple steps that deliver beautiful results.

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Charles Osborne is founder and president of Osborne Organics, LLC. He serves on the Northeast Organic Farming Association Board and training team, consults to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on land management product issues, serves on the board of directors of "Beyond Pesticides" and collaborates with the National Parks Service on pilot projects relating to good turf stewardship.

For more information:

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The 2013 GOSA Gala Committee wishes to thank [our generous donors](#) for their contributions to our annual silent auction! We had a record number of guests and donations, combining to ensure a festive event with plenty of competitive bidding!



Groton Open Space Association is on Facebook!

Sign in and “Like” us to find out about events, hikes, contests and information about our local area. Right now, we need your votes! Many beautiful and fun pictures have been posted on our site, all vying to be the next banner photo for our Facebook page. “Like” your favorite photos by May 10 to help one win.

gosafacebook@gmail.com

GOSA News will support the mission and purpose of the Groton Open Space Association by publishing electronic newsletters that will inform the public of past, present and future GOSA activities and threats to the health of open space. *GOSA News* will also serve as a link to the GOSA website <http://gosaonline.org/> for additional information and as a link to other key sites. Our mission is to inform and inspire the public to become actively involved. We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be sent with the writer’s name, address and daytime phone number via e-mail to: gosamail@gmail.com.

GOSA Mission and Purpose

To work to promote conservation, environmental preservation, open space and recreational areas in Southeastern Connecticut.

To educate the public about the value of open space, conservation and environmental preservation.

To enlist public support and funding to promote, acquire or maintain open space for public use, alone or in cooperation with local, state or federal agencies, or with other nonprofit organizations. GOSA is a nonprofit tax exempt organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

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Membership

To join, send a check to GOSA and include your name, address and e-mail. Annual dues are \$10 per year.

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