doesn’t pursue it further or become an entrepreneur as an adult, she is enjoying its impact on her son now. He has spoken to local groups about the environmental properties of earthworms. He has learned to budget his time between school classes, sports and his business, and is putting profits back into his enterprise.”

Moreover, continues the newspaper, she likes the “positive effects that ripple out to his friends. She’s been known to front the funds to his classmates for athletic shoes, etc. The students work off the debt at $5 an hour at the ‘worm factory,’ packaging orders or tending the worms in their crates.”

GEORGIA JUICE COMPANY LINKS UP WITH LOCAL FARM

Arden’s Garden Juice Company near Athens, Georgia is cooperating with a nearby farm and staff at the University of Georgia to divert pressed juice pulp from the landfill. Once a week, East Lake Farm Manager Ryan Cohen drives a pickup truck to the juice processing plant where employees put the pulp into the back of his truck instead of the dumpster. Feedstock is easy to handle because it has been dewatered and ground into small particles in the juice pressing process. Then the juice residues are mixed with residential yard trimmings and composted; in as little as two months, the compost is ready to fertilize garden and farm soils.

Arden’s Garden is a fresh fruit and vegetable (smoothie) juice company that caters to the health conscious community. According to owner Leslie Zinn, besides reducing dispositional costs, “recycling the juice waste and returning it to the farmer creates excellent public relations with our consumers.”

The East Lake Farm (Gaia Gardens) is part of the larger East Lake Commons Community where townhouses have been built alongside the five acre organic farm to create a neighborhood green space in this environmentally conscious urban neighborhood. For more information, contact Britt Faucette at the University of Georgia (brittfaucette@hotmail.com).

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