

USBI Newsletter January 2021



US Biochar Initiative Newsletter

January 2021

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2020 IS TOAST BUT IT WASN'T FOR BIOCHAR!

By Kathleen Draper, USBI Board Member and International Biochar Initiative Chair

Good riddance 2020! Though I'm not sad to see 2020 ride off into the history books, upon reflection there were a few highlights within the US Biochar Industry that should not go unacknowledged. Here are five worth celebrating as they may well help the biochar industry scale quickly in the year to come.



#1 An explosion of biochar related webinars! For many years, I've hosted biochar webinars for the International Biochar Initiative to fill a void in biochar education. This year, that void was filled to overflowing from many different organizations hosting a wide variety of biochar presentations, forums, and continuing education credit opportunities. Most of these are recorded presentations and are now available for free. Several worth watching include:

The US Forest Service hosted a series of [eight webinars](#) on a wide variety of topics including: what is it, production technologies, economics and several more. Mostly these were presented by US Forest Service employees that have been working with biochar for many years. (There were a few exceptions including one I gave on Innovative Products.)

The Scaling Biochar Forum, held in mid-October, was a two-day event aimed at educating investors and philanthropists about the growing number of opportunities and funding needs within the biochar industry.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County hosted [four November webinars](#) thanks to funding from Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE). Topics included: Biochar Basics; Science Behind Biochar; Ornamental Nursery Applications; and Landscape Applications of Biochar.

Thermochemical Conversion & Biochar workshop hosted virtually by the Rochester Institute of Technology was aimed at educating New York State policymakers, farmers, investors and more. The full recording is [here](#) and an overview of the event found [here](#).

National Biochar Week Biochar progress and prospects were discussed in 46 presentations during National Biochar Week in December. Presentations are posted [here](#)

[Learn More >>>](#)

**PRODUCERS AND TECH SUPPLIERS: JOIN THE
USBI BOOTH AT THE IBCE MAR 15-17**

[Email here](#) to sponsor and join USBI's booth at the **International Biomass Conference and Expo!** Let's engage the biomass energy industry: biochar as a co-product of wood pellets, power, and jet fuel. USBI exhibit and contact info will be online for 30 days after the event.



BIG THANKS TO RECENT USBI CONTRIBUTORS

Kim Chaffee, Chair
USBI Fundraising Committee



Donor gifts to USBI are beginning to roll in. Our heartfelt thanks goes to individuals like North Carolina-based electric transportation advocate, John Bonitz, who are leading the way with their generous contributions.

Bonitz says, "I know we cannot solve the climate change puzzle without the carbon sequestration dynamics biochar provides and I love that I can contribute to this by supporting USBI's work."

*This newsletter and the USBI website (a hub for current industry trends and practices) both rely on your support. **Make your monthly donation** today!*

HOW CUSTOMERS FIND YOU, YOUR BIOCHAR & SERVICES

The USBI North American Biochar Industry Directory is YOUR place to show the continent what you are doing in the biochar industry. The directory is not only for biochar producers (find new customers) and end users (find a great source of quality biochar for your application), but also for all of those who support the industry with action in their local community or who provide important services to the industry.

For instance, we received a recent request for North American consultants that could help apply for biochar carbon credits. Do you offer this service? If so, be sure to get a USBI Directory listing! If you're not yet listed in the directory and are active in the North American biochar industry, don't hesitate! Let's build our industry connections. There's no time to waste. The cost is only \$25/year.

If you took our Biochar Learner Survey, you are still eligible for a free listing. Visit the Directory to meet more industry members.

MEET BIOCHAR PRACTITIONER

JOSIAH HUNT

Pacific Biochar, Founder and CEO

Q Pacific Biochar recently became the first US company to certify biochar for carbon credits. How did you make that happen?

A (Josiah) The process of accomplishing one of the [first successful certified biochar carbon credit projects](#) in the US began years ago, involved the efforts of many, and required hard work and perseverance. That my company happened to be the one to carry the baton



across the finish line is perhaps due to a little bit of luck, vision, and grit.

[Learn more about steps to certify biochar for carbon credits here.](#)

USBI Outreach and Education Committee Update

Kelpie Wilson, Chair

Biochar Learning Center

We continue to add new resources to the Biochar Learning Center (BLC) database on the USBI website. All resources are tagged and searchable by topic and media type. We hope you find these resources useful.

Visit our [Biochar Learning Center here](#).

New USBI YouTube Channel

Last December's **National Biochar Week** presentations are now available for free on our new USBI YouTube Channel!



BIOCHAR EVENTS CALENDAR

January 26-27 US Composting Council Virtual COMPOST2021

With three focused tracks and 20+ speakers, this two-day event will be the go-to compost event of the year. [Register here](#).

March 15-17 The [International Biomass Conference and Expo](#) virtual conference is a true one-stop shop – the world's premier educational and networking junction for all biomass industries. [Register here as an attendee or an exhibitor](#).

Submit your North American Biochar event for our calendar to Carille@biochar-us.org.

BIOCHAR NEWSLINKS

► [Paper Is the Past & Biochar the Future for Waste Wood Chips at Canadian Lumber Mill](#)

Elmsdale Lumber is seeking approval to build a new biochar plant in Nova Scotia using waste wood chips. The operation would use about 45,000 tonnes of wood chips a year and produce about 8,400 tonnes of biochar. Home gardening could present a marketing opportunity for the biochar.

► [Don't Waste that Dead Tree](#). Researchers at the University of Minnesota in Duluth are eyeing biochar as a valuable product that would help pay for removing trees killed by beetles. Too much standing dead wood inhibits new growth and threatening deforestation. The resulting biochar has plenty of uses far from the woods such as helping restore trees in towns harmed by road salt.

At right, a 2007 aerial view shows widespread damage to a tamarack forest from an outbreak of larch beetle near Big Falls in northern Minnesota. Native to the state, the beetle population has been exploding since 2000 due to longer warm seasons.



► [Such a Waste. Biochar Can Be the Pits!](#)

Michigan cherry pits could lower waste disposal costs for processors and reduce the industry's environmental impact by avoiding the need to dump the pits into landfills, according to a new study by Cornell University researchers.



► [No Bones About It, Biochar Cleans Mine Waste](#) With a grant from the EPA, Montana Technological University student scientists are experimenting with a new solution to acid mine drainage -- sustainable biochar wattles using bone char. The bones are waste from a nearby meat processing plant. Left, Mami Scherman, a Montana Tech environmental engineering student, holds up a bag of biochar that was created from burning ground-up animal bones.

► [Cornell leads the way in transforming human waste into a powerful fertilizer](#). Researchers from Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the University of Saskatchewan have

proven it is possible to create nitrogen-rich fertilizer from human waste. It all starts with separating the solids from the liquids.

► **When Waste Is Not a Waste - A Biochar Plastic Dental**

Flosser Researcher Jessica Smith has developed a new material called "Carbyn" that combines biochar with a bioplastic to make a carbon-negative material. The first product is a single use dental flosser that will biodegrade into soil.



► **Waste Not, Want Not - Private Philanthropy Supports Greenhouse Gas Research in Agriculture at North Carolina State University**

The money will help fund investigation of novel practices including enhanced biochar to add soil carbon. One effort seeks to optimize soil-biochar interactions for prolonged carbon storage in temperate soil environments by testing various biochar processing methods. Researchers hope to convert locally available crop residue and waste (wood chips and poultry manure) into stable soil carbon.

----- promotional section -----

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Kiln total volume:	3 cubic yards
Kiln weight (fully assembled)	240 pounds
Number of kiln body sections	3
Weight of one kiln body section	40 pounds
Burn time to make 1 cubic yard biochar	4 hours

For more information, please visit WilsonBiochar.com.

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Visit Biochar-us.org for more information.

1/15/2021

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