



US Biochar Initiative Newsletter

February 2022

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SAFETY IN THE WOODS

by Tom Miles, Executive Director

Thanks to our presenters for demonstrating **safe practices** for making Biochar in the Woods so that we don't endanger personnel or wildlife. Flame cap kiln developer **Ken Carloni** displayed equipment needed for safe operations. Veteran forester and big box kiln developer **Darren McAvoy** showed how to ensure that embers are cold. **Butte Fire Safe Council** and **Calfire** volunteers demonstrated safe practices for pile burning. We look forward to fire-safe guidance documents and videos from the webinar and field days.



It has been a month of enlightening webinars. The December USBI/IBI Business of Biochar symposium is now available on the [IBI website](#). In January Dr. Claudia Kammann and Dr. Maria Luz Cayuela presented "[Biochar Use in Agriculture - What the Science Tells Us](#)"

USBI and IBI collaborated with **Dovetail Partners** on three excellent webinars and factsheets. Download the presentations, reports, and videos for biochar use in [Viticulture](#), [Livestock and Poultry](#), and [Stormwater Management](#) [here](#). We also appreciate the continued support from the biochar community for your expertise and willingness to share your knowledge for our USBI biochar fact sheets in progress. We are currently working on biochar use in compost.

US Forest Service Research and Development, in partnership with USBI and Southern Regional Extension Forestry, are presenting a monthly Biochar Webinar Series. In February, Dr. Kristin Trippe, USDA Agricultural Research Service, presented "[Hedging Your Biochar Bet: Pairing Biochar Properties with Soil Deficiencies](#)." In March, Dr. Kamalakanta, USFS Forest Products Laboratory, will present a "[Techno-economic analysis and life cycle assessment of biochar pellet production from forest residues and field application](#)."

Biochar projects should take advantage of the \$1 billion USDA funding opportunity [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#)" which is available for projects that will "build markets and invest in America's climate-smart farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to strengthen U.S. rural and agricultural communities." Let's make biochar a change agent.

LEARNING ABOUT FOREST RESILIENCE AT BIOCHAR IN THE WOODS 2022

by Kelpie Wilson, USBI Board Member

By all measures, the Biochar in the Woods Workshop Webinar and Field Days — featuring more than 15 speakers— was a great success. Attendees tackled the ins and outs of using biochar for forest resilience from logistics, economics, and environmental and social impact on various ecosystems to big box and flame cap kiln technologies. More than 130



people attended the full day webinar on January 27th and more than 45 attended one or more of the field days near Paradise, California in early February. A big thank you to all of the presenters and another shout out to John Webster of GO Biochar and Carille Greenberg Ribley, USBI Communications Lead for all their help getting the webinar organized and presented. We will be sending the recording out to registered attendees this week.

If you did not register for the workshop but would like to access the recording, [please contact us](#) to learn how you can pay for and receive the recording. We have made the [presentation files and information](#) about our speakers available to all on the USBI Learning Center Database at no cost. While you are visiting the USBI Learning Center, make sure to choose "forestry" as a learning topic to see other



related resources.

Many thanks to the Butte Fire Safe Council and Cal Fire for providing the logistics and the site where we demonstrated flame cap kiln and conservation burn techniques. With their help, we were able to make biochar from material that would otherwise have gone up in smoke.

« Hot coals in a conservation burn pile ready for a water quench to save the biochar..

We will be continuing the conversation on the Biochar in the Woods discussion forum. [Please join us here](#)

Biochar in the woods participants celebrate a great burn day! »



USBI is grateful to our sponsor, the US Forest Service, and all our partners who contributed to Biochar in the Woods - NRCS, Butte Community College, Butte Fire Safe Council, CSU Chico's Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, and Applied Biomass Technicians.



SCROLL ALL THE WAY DOWN TO SEE THE LATEST!

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BIOCHAR EVENTS CALENDAR

February 18 and 19 Biochar Workshops - New Mexico Quivira Coalition demonstrates how to safely prepare biochar kilns and conduct kiln burns (weather permitting).

— **February 18 Biochar Workshop** 9 am-3 pm MST, Tajiue, NM, free, [Register here now!](#)

— **February 20 Biochar Workshop** 9 am-3 pm, MST Velarde, NM, free, [Register here now!](#)



March 9 and 10 Hybrid Biochar Event hosted by the University of Arizona/Gila County Cooperative Extension, Globe-Miami, AZ

— **March 9 Biochar Kiln Demonstration** 1-4 pm MST, Russell Gulch Landfill, 5891 E. Hope Lane, Globe, AZ, [Register here](#) for in-person demo.

— **March 10 Biochar Workshop/Webinar** 9 am-4 pm MST, Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum, 150 N Plaza Circle, Miami, AZ or [Register to join online webinar here](#)

March 14-16 15th Annual International Biomass Conference and EXPO, Jacksonville, Florida [Register now.](#)

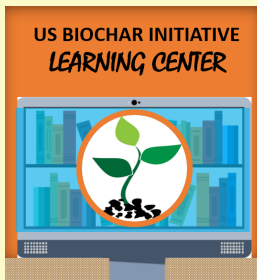
March 24 Biochar Pellet Techno-economic Analysis and Life Cycle Assessment Webinar 11 am-12 pm EST presented by Dr. Kamalakanta Sahoo from the USDA Forest Service, [Connect to free webinar here.](#)

May 16-19 Sustainable Energy for a Sustainable Future San Jose, Costa Rica, third in a series. This ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) Global Initiative Conference will promote interdisciplinary



dialogues and present regional energy innovations with a global perspective. [More details are available here.](#)

January 26 Livestock and Poultry, 2 pm ET Here's a link to a recording of the [Biochar in Viticulture Webinar](#) that took place last month.



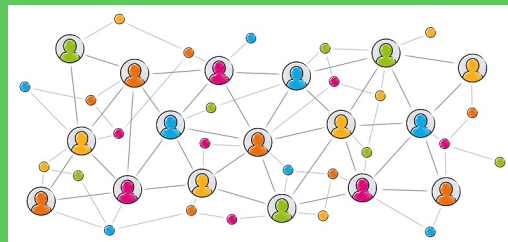
FEATURED FEBRUARY RESOURCE

[USBI/IBI Business of Biochar Symposium 2021 recording.](#) Learn about opportunities for growth, investment, global markets, policy advancements, and business development prospects for biochar.

Discover why carbon removal markets are rapidly evolving and demand for biochar-based credits is exploding. Start-up biochar entrepreneurs also present short video presentations on their enterprises.

THREE MORE! NEW DIRECTORY MEMBERS

The USBI Directory extends big welcomes to Soil Worx, of LLC Houston, TX, Blue World Biochar of Salem, NH, and Ecostrat Inc. of Toronto, Ontario. With a [USBI biochar directory listing](#), customers can find your products or services SO much more easily.



BIOCHAR NEWSLINKS

> [Washington State Senate Bill Promotes Use of Biochar.](#) Freshman Sen. Simon Sefzik, R-Ferndale, passed his first bill Thursday, a measure designed to promote biochar use in government projects. The bill requires state and local governments to consider whether biochar can be utilized when they solicit bids from contractors for public projects.

> [Spokane Biochar Company Revitalized with Merger.](#) Ag Energy, which began operations in 2010, will merge with NuPhy. Chief science officer, Amit Dhingra says the company's name, NuPhy, comes from the roots of two words: "Phy means plant and Nu means new. It basically signifies invigorated and best-quality plants." NuPhy will operate three distinct business units: biomass processing, plant and soil



► **Kulshan Carbon Trust Launches Biochar Pilot Program in Washington.** The Trust, started in 2021 by three Bellingham residents, confirmed that the pilot project has secured grant funding of \$60,000 over two years from the Regen Foundation. The Trust is hoping that local farmers can eventually get paid to generate “carbon credits” by applying biochar to their fields.

► **Verde Will Show Them in Missouri – Carbon Farming with Biochar Works.** Verde Renewables, signed a lease-to-purchase agreement for a 24-acre property in La Belle, creating more than 30 new jobs in rural Missouri. Carl Craven, Director of Verde Resources said, "We can make an immediate impact on the local farming industries, addressing several factors affecting the soil and environment. Processing biochar and regenerative compost will tackle the dairy industry's waste issues while addressing the world's emissions problems."



► **Winning with Biochar in Saskatchewan.** A study done by Saskatchewan Polytech on soil reclamation involving biochar could change the face of soil in Canada. The study was done on a gravel pit site that mimicked sandy soils of the northern oilsands region. In all, 600 pine seedlings were arranged in blocks with a variety of different soil amendments and biochar showed the most promise.

► **Nebraska Regulators Catch Neonicotinoid Contaminated Biochar.** The sale of biochar from an ethanol plant was halted after the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy determined that pesticide residues found in the feedstock were not completely destroyed by the pyrolysis process used. Regulators require that the biochar must be handled and disposed of as solid waste.

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