



## US Biochar Initiative Newsletter

### February 2023

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#### **BIOCHAR, CARBON REMOVAL, AND SOIL IMPROVEMENT**

by Tom Miles, Executive Director

Many thanks to Envirapac, Glanris, and Soil Carbon Innovations for helping at the USBI booth at Compost 2023. We look forward to working with the US Composting Council (USCC) to promote using biochar-amended compost to help farmers improve soil health by using the new USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Code 808/336 Soil Carbon Amendment practice. USBI is working with the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the American Farmland Trust (AFT) to assist NRCS with education and deployment.



**You can help promote adoption** of the Soil Carbon Amendment by [letting us know](#) if you are currently supplying biochar to farmers using the 808/336 practice. We hope to demonstrate the practice at key sites this growing season and will be developing guidance documents, videos, and webinars for biochar and compost producers and users.

USBI is a sponsor of the [International Biomass Conference and Expo](#) which will be held February 28-March 2 in Atlanta. Pacific Biochar CEO Josiah Hunt, a USBI board member and biochar producer, will exhibit at the event. It is an excellent opportunity to encourage the biomass energy industry to invest in biochar.

**USDA Forest Service [Wood Innovations or Community Wood Grant Programs](#) Deadline Is March 23** – Have you considered applying? These programs have been invaluable for financing biochar production and renewable wood energy projects that support hazardous fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. The deadline is March 23 at 5:00 pm local time in your region.

**USBI at Bio360 in Nantes, France**– USBI joined the International Biochar Initiative, European Biochar Council, Australia New Zealand Biochar Industry Group and many others at this event. Many thanks to Paul Stuart who hosted us and to the biochar communities who participated. We all benefit from international collaborations.

**IBI Biochar Academy** – If you are new to biochar please consider attending this program on June 13-19 in New York. It will be a two-week course packed with the fundamentals of biochar production and use. See the calendar below.

If you are a biochar producer send your ideas for how we can collectively build biochar markets and promote biochar standards and practices to [usbiochar@gmail.com](mailto:usbiochar@gmail.com).

#### **BIOCHAR EVENTS CALENDAR**

**February 20, 21 [Biochar Burn Field Days](#)**, near Preston, ID (10am - 3pm, free) Are you interested in getting hands-on experience making biochar and learning about its potential as a restoration tool? Join Darren McAvoy from Utah State University for a fantastic experience: [More details](#).

**February 24 [HVFS – Practical Climate Risk Management](#)**(virtual, 12-1 p.m. EST, free) – Check out the use of a climate battery greenhouse, carbon farm planning, and agroforestry as climate resilience strategies in Putnam County, NY. [Register here](#). For more information, contact [jw2254@cornell.edu](mailto:jw2254@cornell.edu) or [travis.ferry@ny.nacdn.net](mailto:travis.ferry@ny.nacdn.net).

**Feb 28-Mar 2 [16th Annual International Biomass Conference and Expo](#)**, Atlanta, GA - Stop by and visit USBI Board Member, Josiah Hunt with Pacific Biochar at booth 829. Get your free USBI sticker!

**March 2 [Burn with Benefits: Intro to Biochar Workshop](#)**(virtual with online discussion, 6-7:30 p.m.,

free) presented by Oregon Roundhouse Foundation, School of Ranch, and High Desert Food & Farm Alliance; led by Kelpie Wilson of Wilson Biochar, OR

**March 11 [Burn with Benefits: Intro to Biochar Live Demo](#)**, free, Pine Meadow Ranch, Sisters, OR.

**March 10 HVFS Field Day** (in person, 12-3 PM) – Check out the use of a climate battery greenhouse, carbon farm planning, and agroforestry as climate resilience strategies in Putnam County [Register here](#). For more information, contact [jw2254@cornell.edu](mailto:jw2254@cornell.edu) or [travis.ferry@ny.nacdnet.net](mailto:travis.ferry@ny.nacdnet.net).

**March 21-23 [NACW - North American Carbon World Conference](#)**

Join USBI Board Members, Kathleen Draper and John Webster, in Anaheim, California. Learn, collaborate, and network on carbon markets and climate policy at NACW, North America's largest carbon event. #NACW2023

**March 24 HVFS Field Day** (in person, 12-4 PM) – Check out a rotational grazing system, a manure management system, and a biochar operation in Ulster County, NY., free [Register here](#). For more information, contact [jw2254@cornell.edu](mailto:jw2254@cornell.edu) or [travis.ferry@ny.nacdnet.net](mailto:travis.ferry@ny.nacdnet.net).

**April 17 Field Day in Utah** to test emissions of the Conservation Burn, Ring of Fire, Big Box Kiln and Char Boss organized by the US Forest Service and Utah State. Check for more details on the Biochar in the Woods discussion group as they become available. [Join the group here - it's free!](#)

**June 19-30 [IBI Biochar Academy](#) 2023** is your chance to immerse yourself in all things biochar. Led by IBI Board Chair Kathleen Draper and other upstate NY biochar experts and practitioners as well as world-renowned experts from around the globe, this two week, in-person program will provide a unique opportunity to quickly connect with and contribute to scaling the biochar industry. [Register here](#).

## SCROLL DOWN TO SEE MORE NEED-TO-KNOW BIOCHAR NEWS!

■ Get NRCS 336 Funding for Biochar Amendments that Improve Your Soil Health

■ Learnings from Compost23  
■ Biochar in the Woods Update

■ Biochar Newslinks  
■ Get a Directory Listing, Ads

### ***At Last...Get NRCS FUNDING FOR BIOCHAR TO BUILD SOIL HEALTH***

by John Webster, USBI Communications Director

Last month, USBI hosted a successful webinar series on the NRCS Code 336 & 808 Soil Carbon Amendments. The webinar series was designed to educate the biochar community on how NRCS plans to build soil carbon and how reimbursements for soil health projects can be obtained.

[See Day 1 presentations by the USDA NRCS Soil Health Division Team here.](#)

[Day 2 presentations](#) covered the Biochar Atlas, the Web Soil Survey, the pending USBI biochar calculation tool, composting, shipping, safety, safety, more. (Subscribe to the USBI YouTube channel to be notified when more Day 2 videos are published.)

One hurdle to obtaining Code funds is that adoption by states is not mandatory. States have the ability to choose which NRCS Codes they adopt and which features within the Codes to adopt. This makes it all a bit tricky.

Lack of adoption is generally attributed to low awareness of biochar use and implementation, as



many states consider it a new-to-market material. Your USBI team is working hard to demonstrate that biochar implementation is science-based with ample works by USDA Agricultural Research Service which represents hundreds of soil and other scientists in the academic community.

*To help build more confidence in biochar, we encourage you to be proactive and share our video series with those who have reservations about the value of biochar. We also encourage you to [reach out to USBI](#) for guidance as we can help on the federal, state, and local levels.*

*We truly appreciated the opportunity to partner with the NRCS Soil Health Division on the Code 336 & 808 Webinar Series. USBI looks forward to more events with this amazing, fantastic team!*

- Get involved with your state Technical Advisory Committee members and request Code adoption
- Join Local Working Groups as they strongly influence conservation programs in your state
- Contact your NRCS State and Regional Conservationists and ask for Code support
- Get your farmers and ranchers to do the same!

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

### COMPOST23 LEARNINGS US COMPOSTING COUNCIL CONFERENCE



#### BIOCHAR AND COMPOST ARE NOW SYMBIOTIC INDUSTRIES

by John Webster, USBI Communications Director

USBI continues to build industry presence by hosting booths at key conferences like last month's Compost 2023 which drew thousands of attendees, exhibitors, and is the largest annual composting conference in North America.

By attending these events, we build a greater presence for the biochar industry and gain critical insights into the biochar market and attendee interests. Our booth was happily buzzing with interest in biochar and its use in compost. Here are some of the most common questions attendees and USCC leadership posed:

1. What are the known benefits of biochar in compost?
2. Where can I source biochar?
3. How do I mix biochar in compost and apply it?
4. Am I eligible for carbon credits?

5. How much does on-site biochar production cost?

6. How can the compost industry increase state adoption and implementation of NRCS Code 336? (a federal reimbursement program for installing biochar amendments to improve soil health)

Attendees also showed significant interest in biochar production machines priced between \$300,000 to \$600,000. This indicates that the lack of mid-line production equipment presents a barrier to adopting biochar as a value-add material and entering the market.

Compost23 presentations ranged from deep science to practical applications, all focused on the latest composting research and practices. Three of the most notable were [PFAS Contamination and Remediation](#), [Dairy Manure Co-composting with Wood Biochar](#), and [NRCS Code 336](#).

*Thanks to booth staff David Bogue of [Glanris](#), John Reese of [enviraPAC](#), and Dustin Hancock of [Soil Carbon Innovations](#) for all your help!*

*Also, a shout out to USCC for the large equipment demo that works with a wide range of biochars and biochar slurry applications.*

***Would you like to display your biochar production equipment or participate at our Compost 2024 booth in Florida next year? [Join us!](#)***



#### Get to Know the USBI Biochar in the Woods (BIW) Committee!

by Kelpie Wilson, Wilson Biochar

Are you interested in learning how to make biochar on site in the woods using simple technologies? USBI BIW Committee members meet by Zoom every month to share experiences and new developments on this very topic. Learn about what we're doing to quantify our impact and get funding for our work. [Read more.](#)

### BIOCHAR NEWSLINKS

➤ [Biochar Is Top of the Heap for Carbon Removal](#) In 2022, more biochar was purchased for carbon removal than for any other method, according to Sebastian Manhart, Carbonfuture's Senior Policy Advisor. Forty percent of the nearly 600,000K tonnes purchased for carbon removal in 2022 was for biochar. Next in line was concrete mineralization (27%) and Direct Air Capture (DAC) (20%).

➤ [Biochar a Winner of Global Impact Challenge](#) Biochar Now, a Colorado company, won the People's Choice Award given at the 2022 Thrive Global Impact Challenge in San Jose, California last November. Company founder and CEO James Gaspard described biochar's impact— "We've shown triple-digit increases in plant yield."

➤ [Good Fire and Biochar Workshop Inspires Paradise](#) Volunteers demonstrated the use of

good fire to make biochar from woody debris for a community that experienced the devastating 2018 Camp Fire.

➤ **Char Boss Rules the Woods** Research scientists from the U.S. Forest Service and a private company have teamed up to create equipment that could result in cleaner burning of logging slash piles while producing a soil amendment product. Debbie Page-Dumroese, a soil scientist at the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Moscow, ID, said biochar can



help rehabilitate soil at logging sites while sequestering some of the carbon from the wood waste.

➤ **New Jersey Town Ready to Deploy Biochar** Bay Head recently received a \$99,900 grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for water quality improvement using biochar. Biochar will help remove sediments, debris and algae worms from Twilight Lake, which overflows during heavy rains, strong winds and high tides.

➤ **Quantifying Biochar's Benefits to Drive Finance, Investment** Canadian Biomass Magazine shares in-depth information on the biochar methodology from Verra which sets standards for climate action and sustainable development. Verra provides a framework that environmental NGOs and other groups can use to develop methodologies that help finance underfunded climate solutions, such as biochar.



➤ **Tigercat Comes to Montana** The Nature Conservancy and others had a chance to use Tigercat's Carbonator to make biochar in the woods. Participants were impressed with the results and encouraged about the potential. "The evidence is very strong that it's the best approach [to carbon sequestration]," said Chuck Hasebrook, head of the National Center for Appropriate Technology's (NCAT) Biochar Policy Project.

➤ **Podcast Preview with Andrew White, CHAR Technologies.** Biomass Magazine interviews Andrew White, CEO of CHAR Technologies. White describes his experience starting a Toronto company at a former pulp and paper plant — processing biomass to make biocarbon and renewable gasses instead of paper.

➤ **Soil Building Inspiration from the Amazon Doubles Size of Eastham Turnips**

Biochar pioneer Bob Wells describes his process of discovery of Terra Preta and the amazing powers of biochar on Cape Cod's sandy soil. His Massachusetts' company, New England Biochar, consults all over the world.

➤ **Nebraska Scientist Looking for Gardeners, and Urban Farmers for Research Project** Nebraska's Sam Wortman, associate professor in agronomy and horticulture, is searching for gardeners and urban farmers to participate in a science project to collect plant and soil data in their

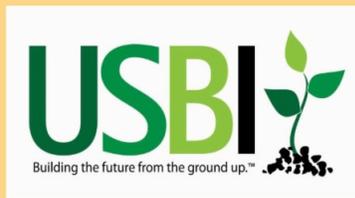


own gardens. The purpose is to learn more about the benefits of soil health management practices firsthand and provide the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with data to evaluate changes in soil health over time.

➤ **Pacific Gas and Electric Demo Shows Biochar's Promise for Managing Wood Debris** Converting wood debris to biochar is one promising strategy for managing catastrophic wildfire risk. In this demo, an air curtain burner converted more than 1,000 tons of wood debris to 80-plus tons of biochar. The burner is mobile and can be moved to where debris is abundant — drastically reducing the need to haul it away.

➤ **Research Shows Biochar Has Competitive Advantage Over Other Natural Fillers** Alabama researchers at Tuskegee University studied how synthesizing carbon from biomass-based precursor materials affect reinforcement in composites.

- biochar suppliers
- equipment manufacturers
- researchers
- consultants
- organizations



Listings are more than just an ad - they include information about your sector, products, applications, technology, and scale of your operation.

### DIRECTORY LISTING

*Only \$25*

Welcome to the USBI Directory – Delta Land Services, LA (environmental management), Wonderchar, TX (supplier and pyrolysis systems), XLII BioChar Inc., MT (distributor), and Qualterra, WA (producer and equipment manufacturer)!

**GET YOUR LISTING**

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

*Newsletter ads reach nearly 5000 readers per month!  
Contact [admin@biochar-us.org](mailto:admin@biochar-us.org) to become a sponsor.*

**JOB OPPORTUNITY - Part-time Doctoral Research Assistant** (m/f/d) at the Department of Applied Ecology (Professorship for Research into Climate Impacts in Germany's Rheingau region (50 km west of Frankfurt/Main); three-year position starts immediately

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