



Myles Gray Steps into Leadership

We are honored to welcome Myles Gray, P.E., as the new Executive Director of the US Biochar Initiative.

Myles has had an exceptional year serving as our Program Director, overseeing a variety of projects including the USBI/IBI Global Biochar Market Survey, the 2024 North American Biochar Conference, webinars on carbon markets and biochar applications, and coordinating the launch of our North American Biochar Laboratory testing standards development program. Myles brings extensive experience with biochar as a graduate student, professional engineer, and project developer for biochar-enhanced products. We look forward to having him lead us into the next phase of industrial biochar production and use.



Special thanks to the USBI board and the numerous volunteers for their continuous support and contributions. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Ronald Larson and the late Eric Knight for their suggestion to start a biochar discussion list in 2006, which has helped build the international biochar community. Thanks also to Ronald, Albert Bates, Gloria Flora, and Jeff Wallin for suggesting, over lunch at an IBI conference in Rio de Janeiro, that we should create an organization focused on the needs of North America. Gloria served as Executive Director of USBI from 2010 to 2016.

We also thank the many individual donors and foundations for their support. Additionally, we appreciate the public agencies and nonprofits, especially the US Forest Service and the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for their encouragement and financial support. Their assistance enabled us to hire talented consultants. With a strong foundation in place, Myles is well-equipped to lead the way forward.

Tom Miles
Director



Guiding the Future of Industrial Biochar

Meet USBI's New Executive Director - Myles Gray P.E.

The following is available on the USBI website.



Embracing the Executive Director Role: A Journey of Growth and Optimism

As I move into the Executive Director role here at USBI, I am honored, optimistic, and naturally a bit nervous. Starting my biochar journey back in 2010, I never would have imagined I would lead an organization like USBI with such a clear opportunity to catalyze growth in the industry. Like many in the industry, I came in with starry-eyed optimism, expecting that farmers, policymakers, and others would immediately see what I saw – a beautifully complex approach to turn waste biomass into value while also storing carbon for thousands of years. I naively expected progress to be quick and easy, and when it was not, my optimism drained away, and I left the industry to become a water resources engineer. While working on the sidelines, the industry diligently recreated itself one step at a time. For my part, I focused on developing the use of biochar in stormwater management, pushing the envelope and specifying biochar in projects whenever I could. Many other industry pioneers were doing the same in other parts of the industry, developing technologies to produce and use biochar more effectively, spurring innovation. Meanwhile, climate change continued to worsen, and the world began to pay more attention to the crisis. From my viewpoint, the turning point came with the advent of biochar carbon removal credits, which unlocked significant funding for biochar producers and raised the salience of the technology.

I came back into the industry in 2021, first with Myno Carbon, and then at USBI. Now, as Executive Director at USBI, I aim to capitalize on the opportunity to continue pushing the industry forward.

Honoring Industry Leaders and Tom Miles' Lasting Legacy

I want to share my heartfelt thanks for the team and board of directors at USBI, and all of the many pioneers in the industry, but especially Tom Miles, who has led USBI since 2016. Tom has put more into growing this industry than just about anyone, working tirelessly to spread the potential of biochar production and use. He has become a trusted source of knowledge in the industry by highlighting the potential of biochar, but also clearly pointing out the obstacles, risks, and pitfalls. His legacy will last for years to come, and I hope to build upon that legacy by

growing USBI into an even stronger driving force within the industry.

A New Direction: Driving Market Development for Biochar

As part of this leadership transition, there will also be changes in how USBI leads the biochar industry. Most importantly, USBI will re-focus on growing markets for physical biochar, which has emerged as the key obstacle to scaling the biochar industry in North America. Time and again, we hear input on the need to develop markets. Our focus area over the next few years will be growing demand for physical biochar as a soil amendment, as a component of biochar enhanced fertilizer, in potting and horticultural media, as a concrete additive, in landscaping and tree care, and in stormwater and other environmental applications. To support the building of markets, USBI is hiring a Soil and Agriculture Program Director to build upon the tremendous opportunity presented by industrial agriculture.

As part of growing markets, USBI will also continue to lead the way in developing an American National Standard (ANSI) for physical biochar to build the trust and confidence in biochar materials.

We will continue to serve as a trusted resource and nexus for industry networking, including hosting the annual North American Biochar Conference, with the next event being in Minneapolis in September 2025, which will serve as a platform for further elevating biochar's role in a resilient future.

[Read more on our website.](#)

Miss an issue? No worries! Find our archive online. [Past Newsletter Issues Here](#)

We are Hiring!

Soil and Agriculture Program Director Position



Join USBI and help us grow the market for biochar in soil and agriculture.

USBI is hiring for a Soil and Agriculture Program Director to lead our Soil and Agriculture Program. This will be a full-time, director level position, responsible for developing and leading the implementation of the USBI Soil and Agriculture Program. We are looking for an energetic and visionary leader to grow demand for biochar in soil and agriculture, and to become a national and international leader in this space. We begin application reviews September 30, 2024.

More details can be found here: [USBI Careers](#)

Grain empowers producers to turn waste into profit

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Explore the USBI Biochar Slides & Presentations Archive

Biochar Events Calendar

Connect and collaborate at in-person or online events!

September - October 2024

September 23 - 24

[NYC CLIMATE WEEK event with USBI & Grain Ecosystem](#) Sponsored by USBI and Grain Ecosystem | Support the premiere biochar climate event at Climate Week! *Location: NYC, NY - [Event sponsorships available.](#)*

September 24 - 26

[Great Plains Biochar Conference](#) Sponsored by The University of Nebraska–Lincoln [Department of Agronomy and Horticulture](#), the [Nebraska Forest Service](#) and the [Nebraska Biochar Initiative](#)
Location: Lincoln, NE - [Registration](#)

October 10

[USDA USFS Monthly Biochar Webinar](#) Research Advances on specialized trees and biochar to remediate and stabilize mining waste | Speaker [Dr. Zalesny](#) develops phytoremediation and other phytotechnologies for ecosystem recovery, remediation, and restoration along the urban to rural continuum. Presented in partnership with the [US Biochar Initiative](#) and The [Southern Regional Extension Forestry](#). Virtual Oct 10, 11 AM EST [Register for the virtual event here.](#)

October 24-25

[CarbonUnbound West Coast: The Golden Gateway to Carbon Removal Pioneers in the Americas](#) | San Francisco - In person conference | Organized by Carbon Unbound - Catch USBI's Myles Gray fireside discussion. [Register for this in-person event here](#)

October 30 Webinar: [Biochar Storage, Handling, and Transportation](#) Join [Scaling Up Biochar](#) for the October Community of Practice Session presented by the [Center for Watershed Protection](#). Join speakers [Charles Hegberg](#) and [Tom Miles](#). [Virtual event registration here.](#)

Climate Week NYC



Sponsors

USBI and Grain Ecosystem thank those who helped our Climate Week NYC 2024 program possible.

Sequestration Advocate Sponsors:

[EcoEngineers](#)
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Carbon Removal Ally Sponsor:

[Davey Tree](#)

Continue these conversations at 2025 North American Biochar Conference



What to Watch

[Navigating Carbon Dioxide Removal: The Role of Policy, Regulation, and Value Chains](#) | IBI Webinar explore CDR with a focus on biochar, providing you with the insights needed to navigate the complex intersections of policy, compliance, and value chains. [YouTube](#)

[Applied Carbon Wins \\$500,000 Grant!](#) | The Wilkes Center for Climate Science & Policy at the University of Utah announced that Applied Carbon is the winner of the \$500,000 Wilkes Climate Launch Prize. Applied Carbon, formerly known as Climate Robotics, has developed a mobile, in-field solution that picks up crop waste left after harvesting and converts it into carbon-rich biochar in a single pass. [YouTube](#)

[Biochar's Wildfire Mitigation Potential in the PNW: Insights from C6 Forest to Farm](#) | International Biochar Initiative (IBI) and US Biochar Initiative (IBI) webinar on biochar's Wildfire mitigation potential in the Pacific Northwest as studied by C6 Forester Farm multi-year project. Forest management fire mitigation work and biochar systems or biochar production are are very complimentary. August 20, 2024 [YouTube](#)

[Wakefield BioChar - Technology Driven Environmental Opportunity](#) | Family Office Networks webinar with Tom Marrero of Wakefield Biochar

[Putting Carbon Where It Belongs | Gina McCoy | TEDxLacamas Lake](#). Ted Talk on biochar recorded in 2023 and released July 2024. Imbalances in the distribution of carbon are at the core of the climate crisis. This talk describes the pursuit of solutions to the mega-fires destroying our dry forests, and how that led to an essential tool for rebalancing the distribution of carbon in our ecosystems and atmosphere. Gina is affiliated with the C6-Farm-2-Forest organization highlighted in the IBI webinar on Wildfire Mitigation. [YouTube](#)

[LEGION 44 FILM - RELEASE](#)

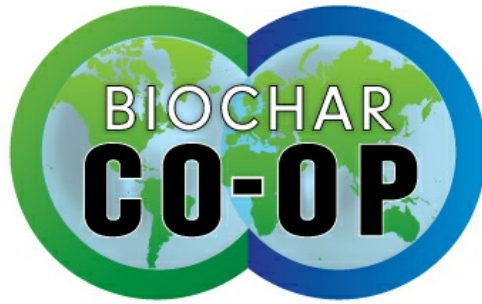
New documentary film on carbon removal heroes, includes biochar content! Film premiering at NCY Climate Week. XXXXXX





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We are building the most comprehensive biochar directory for the US market.

People use the directory to connect with biochar producers, suppliers, equipment manufacturers, professional service providers, labs, and financial consultants. Together we are putting the world's carbon budget back in the black!

Get a Directory Listing!

Contact john@biochar-us.org with questions.

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[USBI Hiring Soil & Agriculture Program Director](#)
[Davey Tree hiring biochar production system operator.](#)
[ECOM Latin American is hiring a Biochar Manager](#)
[Indeed has some very good biochar jobs posted.](#)



compostingcouncil.org / compostconference.com / compostfoundation.org

Biochar Newsbytes



[\\$10M Biochar plant opens in Waverly, VA](#)

Restoration Bioproducts executives and employees gathered officials Wednesday (9/18/24) to celebrate the opening of the company's Sussex County biochar production



Photo credit Restoration Bioproducts

facility which will host 15 green biochar jobs!

USBI Board Member, Jeff Waldon is a managing partner at Restoration Bioproducts. We congratulate Jeff on years of hard work coming to fruition!

Biochar farm robots win \$500K Wilkes Climate Launch Prize

“The prize is quite catalytic to us right now. We don’t have a line of credit yet from a big manufacturer, so we are self-funding the pyrolizer units. This prize will directly allow us to build out a fleet,” said Aramburu. “It’s really important that we built more units to show future lenders and financiers that the technology works, and that it’s scalable.”



Applied Carbon builds mobile robotic systems that pick up crop waste to produce and distribute biochar in one pass.

Remediation with Biochar



Pike Hill Copper Mine – Vermont Superfund Site

Clean Maine Carbon is a proud supplier of premium biochar to support the water and soil remediation project at Pike Hill.

EPA Pike Hill Copper Mine superfund cleanup site in Vermont using Biochar

Clean Maine providing biochar for the EPA cleanup at the Pike Hill Copper Mine. As the biochar industry scales, we are excited to see the growing adoption of biochar in soil and water restoration projects. [Linkedin post.](#)

Solving Climate Requires Shift in Perspective - Finger Lake Biochar

A recent visit to Spruce Haven Farms highlighted an ambitious biochar demonstration project led by Cornell University and Biomass Controls, aiming to reduce methane emissions, sequester carbon, optimize energy use, and explore biochar's role in renewable natural gas production—all while navigating the



challenges and complexities of scaling on-farm pyrolysis.



[CDRjobs Salary Report Released](#)

CDRjobs released it's a first of a kind report that aims to drive salary transparency to help us build a fair, equitable, and competitive industry from the start. Great survey derived data on the salary contours of our growing sector. Enjoy, learn and share! Biochar jobs are green jobs!

[Position Paper - Decarbonizing Cement Industry with Biochar](#)

Cement production accounts for 8% of global greenhouse gas pollution. Addressing the growing need for more sustainable construction practices, a new position paper by the EBI's Materials Working Group explores the potential of biochar in concrete as a long-term solution for carbon removal.



[Download the EBI Permanence of Biochar in Concrete position paper here.](#)



[NOW PRODUCING - Standard Biocarbon Plant Online in Enfield, Maine!](#)

Congratulations to the team at Standard Biocarbon on their new facility, helping sustain the local and regional forest products economy. Green jobs all around!

Situated by the Pleasant River Sawmill in Enfield Maine, this new manufacturing facility uses low-grade wood to produce biochar. We look forward to seeing more plants like this

go online very soon.

[Biochar Discussion List](#)

Join the USBI moderated email and web based discussion list found at <https://biochar.groups.io/>

This lively forum is dedicated to conversations on the emerging and exciting climate-energy-soils-carbon technology called "Biochar" and the industry growing around it.



Practical Biochar
For Farms, Homesteads and Properties

Prelaunch


Unlock the **practical potential of biochar**—a carbon-rich material that enhances soil health—through this course led by **Kelpie Wilson**, an engineer with **35 years of experience, including 16 years in biochar**. You'll explore biochar's **environmental benefits**, its role in combating climate change, and its **impact on soil health**, gaining a **well-rounded understanding of this regenerative technology**. Ideal for anyone looking to deepen their knowledge and **apply biochar to their farm, homestead, or property**, this course offers valuable skills and expert insights.

January 9 - March 13 2025
Thursdays 5pm PST, 6pm MST, 7pm CST, 8pm EST

Session 1 - Introduction to Biochar
Session 2 - Biochar Chemistry
Session 3 - Making Biochar
Session 4 - How to Design Kilns and Stoves
Session 5 - Biochar Properties

1 Week BREAK - Go make BIOCHAR!

Session 6 - Biochar for Animals
Session 7 - Biochar and Compost
Session 8 - Biochar in Your Garden or Farm
Session 9 - Healing the Earth With Biochar



REGENERATIVE LIVING

Practical Course - Practical Biochar for Farms, Homesteads and Properties Course

Regenerative Living biochar course with Kelpie Wilson. Wilson Biochar paired up with educational platform called Regenerative Living Online that offers self-paced courses. The Practical Biochar program follow The Biochar Handbook content but with deeper context as provided by Kelpie.

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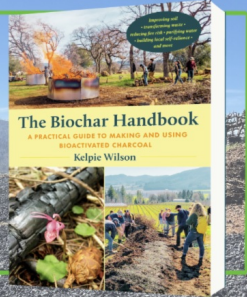
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USBI thanks the USDA Forest Service, Wood Innovation Program for continued support of its activities and publications. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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