



July 16 2009

IBI Rolls Out New Website

IBI's new website at www.biochar-international.org offers many new resources to help members of the biochar community. These include:

- IBI's biochar extension service - IBI Extension Director, Dr. Julie Major will answer your questions about how to use biochar for specific farming and gardening applications.
- Breaking news and updates on biochar policy developments.
- Short informative articles and videos on all aspects of biochar production and utilization.
- A comprehensive research bibliography.
- An archive of conference proceedings and white papers.
- A calendar of events and conferences.

IBI is also excited to announce some new networking tools for members:

- The publicly searchable IBI Network Directory where members can enter information on their projects and people can find the projects they are interested in by region.
- Regional biochar network pages where regional groups can report on their activities.
- A member bulletin and job board for announcements.

IBI hopes that as a member, you will make the site your own by submitting items for the bibliography, sending in regional reports and updates, and entering your project information into the IBI Network Directory. Once you join the IBI Network, you will be able to log in to your personal profile and make changes to your information. If you have any questions about how this works, please contact Kelpie Wilson at kelpie@biochar-international.org for assistance.

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IBI also asks that members please make a donation. IBI is working hard to promote biochar in both regional and international policy areas. IBI would like to continue this valuable work and add more programs in communications and support for the biochar community, but we cannot do it without your help. You'll find a donation form on the new site.

Thanks from the IBI Team:

Johannes Lehmann, Chairman of the Board
Stephen Joseph, Vice-Chairman of the Board and Technical Director
Ellen Baum, Treasurer
Debbie Reed, Executive Director
Julie Major, Extension Director
Thayer Tomlinson, Communications Director
Kelpie Wilson, Media Liaison
Lee Parker, Administrative Director

Asia Pacific Biochar Conference

The First Asia Pacific Biochar Conference was held on the Gold Coast, Australia (May 17 - 20), jointly organised between the Australia New Zealand Biochar Researchers Network and the Japanese Biochar Association. The conference organisers were overwhelmed by the interest from all sectors (farmers, researchers, industry) in the conference. The conference "sold out" at 200 delegates from 10 countries, and had to turn a large number of people away due to limitations of the venue. Additionally, seven sponsorships were awarded to delegates from developing countries in the region to attend and present at the conference.

Highlights of the conference included an address by the Hon Malcolm Turnbull at the conference reception, a field trip to a commercial coffee producer on the north coast on NSW and visit to biochar field trials at NSW Department of Primary Industries at Wollongbar, and 56 excellent presentations over the two days. The conference Committee congratulated Dr Hirowaka from the International Charcoal Co-op Association, Japan for being awarded the "best" oral presentation "Charcoal application for poultry farming", and Prakash Srinivasan from Landcare Research NZ for best student poster "Retention capacity of three types of biochar for estrogenic steroid hormones in dairy farm soil."

The conference proceedings, photos, and some presentations are available at <http://www.anzbiochar.org/2009presentations.html>. Once again, the conference organisers wish to thank the invited keynote presenters Prof Lehmann and Prof Ogawa, the generous sponsors (details in the proceedings), and the 200 delegates who helped make the event so successful.

Announcements

North American Biochar Conference 2009 Sunday, August 9, 2009 - Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Rocky Mountain Biochar Initiative is pleased to update readers that the North American Biochar Conference 2009 is less than one month away. [Registration](#) (http://cees.colorado.edu/North_American_Biochar_2009.html) is still possible but filling up quickly.

New information and functionality to the registration website has been added including optional conference activities and a detailed session agenda. Please sign up for an optional tour to Biochar Engineering in Golden Colorado (space is limited) Sunday afternoon.

A Google chat group is also available for those who would like to coordinate lodging, transportation, or other issues with colleagues. To join the chat group or for additional logistical information please contact Kristin Charipar at Kristin.Charipar@Colorado.EDU.

Invitation to Take Biochar Survey sponsored by UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

A Review of the Potential Benefits, Costs and Issues Surrounding the Addition of Biochar to Soils - The UK Biochar Research Centre (UKBRC) has been commissioned to review biochar addition to soil for Defra. As part of this review, UKBRC has developed an [online survey](#) (at <https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/ukbrcdfra>) seeking input to a comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of the state of scientific knowledge around biochar, evaluating the key issues, questions and uncertainties as perceived by the wider academic and stakeholder community.

The survey is open until Friday 31st July and by replying within this time you will be entered into a draw to win £100 equivalent Amazon.com vouchers. The survey should take between 20 and 50 minutes depending on how many sections you choose to answer.

Any questions about this or for further information please contact Sarah Carter (sarah.carter@ed.ac.uk) at the UK Biochar Research Centre (UKBRC). The UKBRC is a partnership between the University of Edinburgh, Newcastle University and Rothamsted Research.

New Bill in US Senate would create pilot program for black carbon-free stoves

Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Dick Durbin (D-III.) introduced a bill this week to promote the use of fuel-efficient

stoves that produce significantly less black carbon than traditional stoves. Black carbon absorbs sunlight and traps heat in the atmosphere. It is thought to be a significant source of worldwide global warming emissions. It is made of particulate soot from diesel engines, biomass burning and rural cooking.

The bill, S. 1396, would direct the administrator of U.S. AID to set up a two-year pilot program to promote the production and use of stoves that are engineered to operate without producing black carbon. The stoves need to be customized for use throughout the world. To read the complete bill, go to: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-111s1396IS/pdf/BILLS-111s1396IS.pdf>

The Senate bill would authorize \$1 million for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011 for the project. S. 1396 was referred to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Regional Reports

Northeast Carbon-Negative Network (US)

We are now hosting monthly roundtables on biochar. On September 12 we are sponsoring "The Future of Forests in New England: Carbon-Negative Forest Management for the 21st Century." This event takes place at The Lodge at Pony Farm. For more information and to register, contact [Douglas Williams](mailto:Douglas.Williams@carbon-negative.us), 603 924-7008, www.carbon-negative.us/roundtable

Seattle Biochar Working Group (SeaChar) (United States)

The team at SeaChar.org is proud to announce that after much work and planning, the Alterna Energy Biochar and Bailey's Compost treatments are in the ground. This signals the official start of our 5-year USDA supported biochar plot test. We have also begun a limited release of our soon to be available: SeaChar BlackBerry BioChar ("It's the gnarly char.") We have kept up our series of public outreach talks, tabling and demos, with more to come. We have just launched our new website: www.seachar.org and we hope it will grow into a valuable resource for information sharing and community building. Our Tech. Dept. (Don Hennick) is nearing completion of his solar fired, steam pyrolysis unit. We are hoping to debut his exciting prototype at this month's Seattle Stove Lab. From Thursday July 30th through Saturday August 1st, SeaChar is pleased to be hosting a visit from noted TLUD-Champion designer and biochar researcher: Dr. Paul Anderson. Dr. Anderson will present a talk and a design workshop.
