



Speaker Info - USBI Biochar in the Woods Webinar and Field Days

January 27 - Feb 3, 2022

Kelpie Wilson

Wilson Biochar Associates

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Kelpie Wilson is the owner of Wilson Biochar Associates and Wilson Biochar, LLC, manufacturer of the Ring of Fire Biochar Kiln. She is a mechanical engineer, writer, and analyst with a background in renewable energy and forest protection. She has worked with biochar since 2008, when she joined the staff of the International Biochar Initiative to work on communications and project development. In 2012 she started her consulting company, Wilson Biochar Associates, where she has been commissioned by a broad portfolio of clients. As a founding member of the US Biochar Initiative, Kelpie Wilson has been a long-time contributor to biochar industry development.

Carlos Rodriguez-Franco

Senior Leader, Strategic Forest Science Synthesis

US Forest Service

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Carlos Rodríguez- Franco received his doctorate in Forest Sciences from Yale University with a specialty in silviculture. Currently, he works with the US Forest Service, where he is a Senior Forester. He is the former Deputy Chief for Research and Development (2016 – 2018). Before that he worked for the USDA Agricultural Research Service and was in charge of the research collaboration with Latin America and Canada. In Mexico he worked for the National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Research (INIFAP) for 25 years. He was the former Forestry Research General Director at INIFAP from 1996 to 2000. He has published widely many related fields and his current research interests are related to forest management for climate change adaptation in forest ecosystems, impacts of extreme climate events on forest ecosystems, wildland fire and research topics about forest inventories, silviculture, plant production techniques, forest plantations and agroforestry systems, and the forest products industry.

Deborah S. Page-Dumroese, PhD

Senior Scientist & Research Soil Scientist

Rocky Mountain Research Station

US Forest Service

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Deborah Page-Dumroese is Senior Scientist & Research Soil Scientist at the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station in Moscow, Idaho. She has been involved in assessing the long-term productivity of forest soils for many years and has worked on sustaining forest growth after harvesting and site preparation. She has worked for the past decade on minimizing the impacts of slash pile burning while

finding a better use for unmerchantable logging residues. This led to using biochar to improve forest, range, and abandoned mine soils around the western US. Debbie has a dozen diverse field sites where biochar application is used to restore soil and hydrologic function. She studies biochar impacts, biomass utilization, nutrient cycling, long-term productivity, organic matter, and how temperature and moisture regulate decomposition processes.

Karen Youngblood

Forest Conservation Specialist
Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.

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Karen Youngblood is a naturalist and field biologist who has been working on ecological restoration in the California redwoods and nearby natural environments since the 1990s. Karen joined Redwood Forest Foundation Inc and the Usal Redwood Forest Company in July 2018 where she manages watershed restoration projects. Once a thriving ancient redwood and Douglas fir forest, over-harvesting left the Usal Redwood Forest dominated by dense young trees with decreased conifer dominance and fire resiliency. The Redwood Forest Foundation supports projects that restore forest health and use sustainable harvesting practices that promote biodiversity, enhance carbon storage, and support local economies.

Kai Hoffman-Krull

Forest Health Manager
San Juan Islands Conservation District

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Kai Hoffman-Krull joined the San Juan Islands Conservation District staff in 2020 as the Forest Health Manager after 5 years of running an ecological journalism non-profit, Forage. Kai studied forestry and literature at Yale University, and also holds a certificate in Business Plan Development from the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute. He has coordinated research projects in agriculture and forestry with the University of Washington, University of Montana, and Oregon State University in the San Juan islands since 2014. He has co-authored peer-reviewed articles in Biogeochemistry and Agriculture, Ecosystems, and Environment, and has written extensively for publications such as Growing for Market, Civil Eats, New Society Publishing, The Sound Consumer, Rodale Institute, and Stone Pier Press. Kai lives on Waldron Island, where he enjoys trail running, growing food, and managing his forest for biodiversity, plant resilience, and carbon sequestration.

Laurie Schoonhoven

National Forester
USDA-NRCS

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Laurie Schoonhoven is the National Forester for Natural Resources Conservation Service. She holds a Masters degree in Forest Resources from Penn State and has over 21 years of experience working with federal, state, and non-profit partners to educate and provide assistance to woodland owners. Her work focuses on national forest policy and collaboration with partners to provide technical and financial assistance to private forest landowners interested in maintaining healthy forests.

Ken Carloni

Botanist/Forest Ecologist
Ecosystem Restoration and Biochar Consulting

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Ken Carloni received his Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from Oregon State University where his doctoral research focused on the use of landscape fire by the indigenous peoples of southwestern Oregon. He

taught a wide range of Biology and Natural Resources classes at Umpqua Community College from 1987 to 2018, and partnered with the OSU College of Forestry to develop the Natural Resources Associate of Science degree at UCC. Since retirement, he has focused on ecological restoration and biochar kiln design and testing as the Education Program Chair of the Yew Creek Land Alliance, Inc. The YCLA has recently completed a 12-acre NRCS-funded oak habitat restoration/biochar project. His experience in flame cap kiln design and construction, and in the logistics and best practices of multi-acre integrated biochar production has led to consulting work in Oregon, California, Massachusetts and Guam.

Joe Pongratz

Pongratz Forestry

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Joe Pongratz is the owner of Pongratz Forestry, a forestry contracting company that specializes in habitat restoration, fuels reduction, prescribed fire support and biochar projects. Joe has studied biochar as part of his education with Siskiyou Permaculture, and has assisted with biochar projects with the Long Tom Watershed Council and with local small woodland owners. Joe has been doing this work since 2017. His goal is to preserve and enhance landscape health and diversity, and to help prepare the land to receive good fire.

Dan Hanson

Nighswander Resources, LLC

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Dan Hanson is the owner of Nighswander Resources, LLC, a forestry contracting company that specializes in habitat restoration, forestry, fuels reduction, and biochar projects. Dan has worked with Joe Pongratz on several biochar projects with the Long Tom Watershed Council and private landowners with contracts with NRCS. Dan has been doing work in restoration and wildfire since 2006 and was formally introduced to biochar methods in 2018. His goal is to add capacity to address the complexities of our rapidly changing forests with planning and grunt work.

Mark Vander Meer

Restoration Ecologist / Forester/ Soil Scientist & ISA Certified Arborist

Watershed Consulting LLC - Missoula, Montana

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Mark Vander Meer is Principal Partner at Watershed Consulting and has been with the company since 1998. He is our senior restoration ecologist with more than 30 years of experience in ecologic restoration and bio-physical assessments. Mark is a USDA certified soil scientist and an ISA Certified Arborist. Mark has developed many innovative revegetation and soil stabilization techniques. He is the lead author for three regional revegetation manuals. Mark is continually learning and teaching restoration and forest management techniques throughout Western Montana.

Abby Colehour

Restoration Projects Manager

Long Tom Watershed Council.

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Abby Colehour works as the Restoration Projects Manager for the Long Tom Watershed Council, specializing in oak, prairie, and wetland ecosystem restoration. They are involved in a range of collaborative projects including oak woodland thinning, hazardous fuels reduction, reseeding, biochar making, social forestry, vegetation monitoring, targeted animal grazing/browsing, prairie conversions, and management plan writing. Abby is working towards a vision of land management in which ecology and human culture are inextricably linked, starting by uplifting indigenous leadership and sovereignty.

Gloria Flora

Executive Director

Sustainable Obtainable Solutions

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In her 22-year career with the U.S. Forest Service, Gloria Flora became nationally known for her leadership in ecosystem management and for her courageous principled stands. As supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest in north-central Montana, she made a landmark decision to prohibit natural gas leasing along the spectacular 356,000-acre Rocky Mountain Front near the Bob Marshall Wilderness, a place often described as an American Serengeti for its abundant populations of wildlife, birds and fish. In 2001, she founded and now directs Sustainable Obtainable Solutions, an organization dedicated to the sustainability of public lands and of the plants, animals and communities that depend on them. In 2009, she founded the US Biochar Initiative, and has been deeply involved in biochar education and biochar industry development for more than a decade.

Dylan Perceval-Maxwell

Co-Founder and CEO

Carbonface

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Dylan Perceval-Maxwell has been a committed environmentalist for three decades. He opened Quebec's first eco-boutique selling organic clothes in Montreal in the 1990s. He was the first in Canada to publicly run a car on used vegetable oil and instigated Canada's first bio-diesel pilot project in coordination with Montreal's public bus corporation. This project resulted in 265,000 fewer tonnes of CO₂ in the atmosphere. He also was a Green Party of Canada candidate 5 times, including in 2000 when he was the first Green to get more votes than both the Conservatives and the NDP.

Darren McAvoy

Extension Assistant Professor

Utah State University

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Darren McAvoy is an Extension Assistant Professor of Forestry at Utah State University and chairs the Utah Biomass Resources Group. Darren was formerly a consulting forester in Sandpoint, Idaho. He was a wildland firefighter, crew boss and prescribed fire ignition boss in Montana and Idaho, and was a sawyer on the Flathead Hotshot Crew during the 1988 Yellowstone Fires. He is a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters. At Utah State, Darren has initiated many innovative projects to develop biochar production technology and markets for biochar products.

Raymond Baltar

Director & Board Member

Sonoma Biochar Initiative

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Raymond Baltar is the Director of the Sonoma Biochar Initiative and the Biochar Projects Manager for the Sonoma Ecology Center. He has also served as a consultant and project manager for groundbreaking biochar projects with the Redwood Forest Foundation, North Coast Resource Partnership, Department of Water Resources, CalFire, and many private companies. With a solid background in visual communications and a Masters in Business Administration from the Green MBA program at Dominican University, he has been a driving force in the development of the biochar industry in California.

Jim Archuleta

Regional Wood Innovations Coordinator
USDA USFS

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Jim Archuleta grew up in Junction City, Kansas in the Flint Hills area. He started his career as a district soil scientist on USDA Forest Service's Umpqua National Forest, where he became interested in using charcoal and biochar to improve the soil quality. This experience eventually evolved into a career in biomass and wood innovation, and ultimately to his current position as the Pacific Northwest Region Biomass and Wood Innovation Coordinator.

IN-PERSON CHICO PRESENTERS:

Paul Maslin

Full-time volunteer

Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, CSU Chico

pemaslin43@gmail.com

Paul Maslin is a now retired biology professor with ecological emphasis at CSU Chico from 1970 to 2000. He is a full-time volunteer at the BCCER from 2000 to the present, experimenting with techniques for ecological management.

Wolfy Rougle

Forest Health Watershed Coordinator

Butte County Resource Conservation District

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Wolfy Rougle currently serves the RCD as a Forest Health Watershed Coordinator under a grant from the Department of Conservation. Her projects include developing the Butte Forests Plan, helping local landowners put "good fire" on the ground through our Prescribed Burn Association, and writing grants to develop the next wave of watershed health projects in the county. Wolfy is also a self-confessed CEQA/NEPA geek who has developed environmental documents for a broad array of RCD and partner projects, including the Concow Resilience Project and the City of Chico Vegetative Fuels Management Plan. Wolfy is particularly fascinated by oak woodlands and the interdependence between humans, oaks, and fire. She holds an M.P.A. (Master's in Public Administration) from CSU, Chico (2019), where her thesis explored prescribed fire policy on private lands. She also holds a CEQA Practice certificate from UCSD and is a recovering farmer.

Stephen I. Feher

Associate Faculty at Butte Community College

Executive Director of the Sustainable Community Development Institute (SCDI)

Board Member, Butte Fire Safe Council

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Steve Feher is a retired engineer with 60 years of broad experience, from aerospace to construction management and community development, working worldwide. Since 2012, he taught Materials Science for Engineers, as Associate Faculty at Butte College in Oroville, California and served as Technical Director for two consecutive EPA-P3 (People-Planet-Prosperty) Grant Projects related to waste biomass utilization, including biochar production and application. Mr. Feher is the founder and Executive Director of the Sustainable Community Development Institute (SCDI), a nonprofit (501-c-3) consulting organization based in Paradise, California. Since its formation in 2001, SCDI has provided management consulting services to several large-scale development projects in South and Central America, and more recently in Vietnam, related to relocation of indigenous population centers affected by the projects. In

2018, SCDI's office and Steve and Elisabeth's home burned to the ground in the Camp Fire. They have since re-built and recently moved back to Paradise. They are taking an active role in the rebuilding of Paradise as a sustainable community. Mr. Feher is a recently elected Board Member of the Butte County Fire Safe Council and is a Member of its Biomass Working Group. He is continuing to advocate the conversion of waste biomass into biochar, especially in the WUI regions, as part of fire safety and forest management practices.