

# Biochar: Promise for Spokane's Healthy Soil

June 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm PST

Spokane Conservation District Training Room – Virtual Hybrid  
4422 E 8th Ave. Spokane Valley, 99212



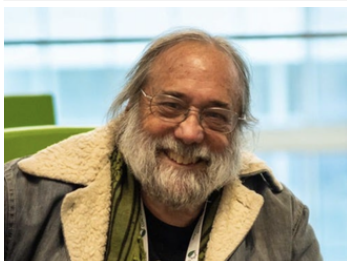
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Healthy soil is key to a healthy city. Discover an old technique, available to everyone, that creates soil fertility. Join the discussion needed to make this available here in Spokane. Confirmed presenters: Albert Bates, author: "The Biochar Solution: Carbon Farming and Climate Change" and "Burn: Using fire to Cool the Earth, with Kathleen Draper" as well as many other books; Kelpie Wilson, author of the soon to be released, "The Biochar Handbook: A Practical Guide to Making and Using Bioactivated Charcoal" and inventor of the Wilson Kiln; Tevon Lautenbach of Sagit Soil Inc. who sells biochar and compost, with more to come. Biochar is one of the methods that can be used to speed up soil health and then support it over long periods. What will it take for us to bring it here in quantities large enough to make the difference we need?



## The Program

Host: Kathryn Alexander MA, with a life-long focus on nature and a collator of the values the Earth lives by, Kathryn brings over 20 years of change and leadership expertise. Author of the book, "What's it Mean, Shifting to Green" and designated as a 'woman to watch' in sustainability by the Boulder Weekly.



Albert Bates, is a member of the intentional community and ecovillage movements. A lawyer, author and teacher, he has been director of the Global Village Institute for Appropriate

Technology [\[1\]](#) since 1984 and of the Ecovillage Training Center at The Farm in [Summertown, Tennessee](#), since 1994. A former attorney, he argued environmental and civil rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and drafted a number of legislative Acts during a 26-year legal career. He proposes a carbon-oriented agricultural revolution that could double world food supplies while simultaneously building soil fertility and lowering atmospheric and oceanic concentrations of carbon. Bates suggests that, if sourced cautiously, biochar energy systems could eliminate fossil fuel dependency, bring new life to desertified landscapes, purify drinking water, and build carbon-negative homes, communities and economies.

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Kelpie Wilson, is founder of Wilson Biochar Associates and a mechanical engineer, writer, and consultant with a background in renewable energy and forest protection. Currently, she specializes in biochar technology and market development. As Communications Editor and Project Development Director for the International Biochar Initiative (IBI) between 2008 and 2012, Ms. Wilson managed the public process and document development to publish the first international standards for product definition and testing.

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Tevon Lautenbach, is the head of Skagit Soils Inc. and has been recycling green and organic waste for over 30 years. Serving Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish, Island and San Juan counties, our composting facility diverts organics away from our landfills and produces high quality compost. We sell compost, general soil mix, mulch, beauty bark, gravel, and recently started producing Biochar-Enhanced Compost. Quality product and customer service is our number one priority!

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Charley Hine, a graduate of Washington State University, with a bachelor's degree in agriculture education and a master's degree in Agriculture. I continue learning by being an avid reader and working on various projects on my small farm to include organic/regenerative gardening, solar energy applications, and permaculture. He is a USDA certified organic farmer, working for various USDA agencies and teaching agriculture and horticulture at the Longview school district in southwest Washington and with the Institute for Extended Learning with the Community Colleges of Spokane. He also owned and managed his own landscaping business in Spokane and is now a gardener with the Washington State Department of Corrections in Medical Lake and Airway Heights, Washington.

He was introduced to biochar a decade ago and became intrigued with its history, permanence, and application to regenerative farming and carbon sequestration. I have read much on the subject and received a great deal of information from the book: *The Biochar Revolution, Transforming Agriculture and Environment*, written by several authors and edited by Paul Taylor, PhD. In 2010. He built and is using to produce bio-char. The feedstock that he uses comes from his property and gives him the opportunity to utilize what many landowners would consider waste materials and put them to a productive and appropriate use.