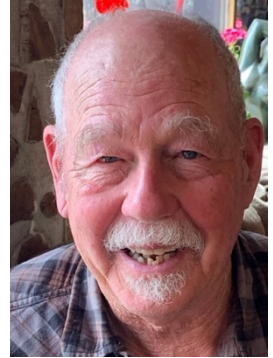


Learning about Biochar by Peter Arnold (How to Improve Your Garden and Save the World!)

Besides being a avid gardener, Peter Arnold has a long tradition of unique interests in the natural world including: alternative building, renewable energy of many forms, composting, making biochar, growing microgreens, seaweed farming, foraging and wild-crafting. His approach is simple, “look around and make use of what’s close-by”.



Professionally, Peter served in the Peace Corps, was a home builder, taught at Shelter Institute, worked as a licensed Social Worker (LCSW), a seaweed farmer and spent a dozen years at Chewonki guiding their sustainability programs including: bio-fuel, solar, photo/voltaic, wind, geothermal and hydrogen projects. Still involved in local sustainable energy projects, his interest in biochar is its ability to lower atmospheric CO₂.

What is Biochar?

Biochar is an extremely porous charcoal-like product made from woody materials which are high in organic carbon.

Why use Biochar?

Because Biochar:

- ✓ Sequesters CO₂
- ✓ Enhances crop yield
- ✓ Improves soil structure
- ✓ Retains moisture in the soil
- ✓ Reduces need for fertilizers
- ✓ Attracts and retains soil nutrients
- ✓ Houses beneficial soil microorganisms
- ✓ Has the potential as a sorbent for PFAS
- ✓ **Remains in the soil for 1000++ years!!!**

How is Biochar Made?

Biochar is made by burning carbon-rich materials at high temperatures and in low oxygen environments (pyrolysis). **If it burns to ashes, it is NOT biochar!**

How to incorporate Biochar in your garden?

Add it to your compost and let it do its magic!

Where can I get Biochar?

Biochar is commercially available or you can make your own.

Interested in more information on Biochar?

The Topsham Garden Club is hosting a presentation on “Learning About Biochar” on Wednesday, October 9th at the Topsham Public Library 12-1pm.