

## August 2008 International Biochar Initiative News

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Welcome to IBI's first monthly newsletter. IBI has had some exciting changes in the past year and the 2008 Conference in Newcastle, UK is just a month away. The articles below provide a short synopsis of recent news.



We will send monthly newsletters which will also be cataloged on the IBI website. Each newsletter will contain links to news and events, biochar articles, project information, and a write up on a project or practitioner in the field. If you have information to contribute or would like your project to be featured, please contact us at [info@biochar-international.org](mailto:info@biochar-international.org).

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### Upcoming 2008 IBI Conference in Newcastle, UK

***September 8 - 10, 2008***

The 2008 Conference is just a month away. We have had four times the amount of abstract submissions for presentations as last year's conference, twice as many registrants, and a lot more publicity. With three full days of presentations, events, and discussions, this year's conference is a must-attend event.

The leaders in the biochar field will be presenting and attending the conference. Tim Flannery will be giving a public lecture, the poster session alone will have over 80 presentations, there will be a full day for break out discussions, and we will all have a chance to sing the "Biochar Blues".

If you have not yet registered, there is still room. A link to conference information which includes registration, updated agendas, information on travel and lodging, sponsors, and keynote speakers can be found at:

<http://www.biochar-international.org/ibi2008conference.html>

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## June 2008 IBI Board Meeting and Site Visits

In late June, the current IBI Board and Steering Committee met in Washington DC to form a strategy for IBI for 2009 and into the future. Thanks to a grant from the Packard Foundation, IBI will have operational funding to begin activities. These activities will be spelled out at the Newcastle conference and included in next month's newsletter. The group was also able to visit two biochar production sites in Virginia and West Virginia.

IBI announces the following new Board positions:  
Johannes Lehmann, Chairman of the Board  
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Stephen Joseph, Vice-Chairman of the Board and Technical Director  
University of New South Wales, Saratoga, NSW, Australia

Ellen Baum, Treasurer  
Clean Air Task Force Boston, MA  
IBI staff will include:  
Debbie Reed, Executive Director and Policy Director

Julie Major, Extension Director

Thayer Tomlinson, Communications Director

Lee Parker, Administrative Director  
For more information on the governance of IBI, please go to:  
<http://www.biochar-international.org/abouttheibi/ibigovernance.html>



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### Listen to and Sing the *Biochar Blues*

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IBI Technical Director and Vice Chairman of the Board Stephen Joseph has recently penned the Biochar Blues.

The blues were written with help from David Roth, Roia Rafieyan, Diana Neri, Claudia Lees, Nick Jackson and Jennifer French and sung by Roia Rafieyan. IBI plans to sing the blues at the Newcastle Conference next month. To hear the blues, read the lyrics, (and contribute lyrics of your own), go to:

<http://www.biochar-international.org/newinformationevents.html>

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## Terra Preta Included in New Smithsonian Exhibit on Soils

The new exhibit at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum in Washington DC, "Dig It: The Secrets of Soils" features a monolith of typical Terra Preta soil complete with char layers and pottery shards. IBI Chairman of the Board, Johannes Lehmann, worked with the Smithsonian Museum to ensure that this important example of soil was included in the exhibit. To see more information on Dig It!, visit the website at: <http://forces.si.edu/soils>

Dr Johannes Lehmann at the exhibit

### Coming Up in Next Month's Newsletter

Highlights from the 2008 Conference in Newcastle

Our first practitioner's profile

News, articles, and more