

Schedule for the 2016 Char Production Gathering (CPG) (Intentionally flexible and subject to changes). Version 2016-08-04

Registration information is at: <http://drtlud.com/cpg2016>

Friday 19 August 2016

Morning: From 9 to Noon,

The CPG overlaps with the final hours of the Aprovecho Stove Camp that will be comparing and evaluating the stoves and test results of the previous 4 days. While the Stove Camp activity is in the main large meeting room, the CPG attendees will gather in the dining room/kitchen, with the following agenda (the order could be changed to suit the needs of the participants):

1. Registration (everyone, upon arrival)
2. Identification of specific interests and abilities of the participants.
3. Opening remarks by Paul Anderson and Paul Taylor.
4. Orientation about the facilities at Aprovecho Research Center (our host location)
5. Overview of char production technologies and understanding the basic terminology. The technologies are “traditional”, “retort”, “TLUD”, “FC (Flame Cap or Flame Curtain)”, and any other methods that can be relatively inexpensive and for small to medium size operations.
6. Setting up (but not ignition) of CPG demonstration units for char production. Units are available for viewing (to see construction) before they become hot. Introduction to issues of fuel supply, especially for our CPG.
7. Focus on TLUD char-making, including the latest on cookstoves. That could include a short summary of the results of the week-long Aprovecho Stove Camp event, especially the char-making aspects.
8. Moving upward in size, we discuss and see the latest in barrel-size TLUD gasifiers, featuring the newest model by Norm Baker, including its ignition. **FIRE SAFETY IS A MAJOR CONCERN AT ALL TIMES.**

Noon:

1. Lunch will be a make-your-own-sandwich event (ingredients provided).
2. Making sure that everyone knows each other at the CPG. Identifying working-groups.
3. Orientation about FC (Flame Cap) technology for char production. Presentation by Paul Taylor.

Afternoon: About 2 PM to 5:30.

1. By 2:00 PM we would like to begin igniting several FC and TLUD char production devices. Expect to be outside, in the sun (wear a hat and sunscreen). **FIRE SAFETY IS A MAJOR CONCERN AT ALL TIMES.**
2. FC devices include:
 - FC Kon Tiki (Taylor et al.);
 - FC Cone kilns (Kelpie Wilson, who will arrive Saturday morning);
 - FC Troughs (designs by Karl Frogner and Michael Shafer in Thailand; presented by Paul Anderson);
 - FC C4 kiln (Paul Anderson);And any other FC configurations.

Dinner and evening presentations / discussions: From 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Dinner in the Aprovecho dining room will involve a joint effort to be decided upon in the morning by the attendees. Options include “we cook it” and “pizza pre-made” and combinations. (Reasonable dinner expenses are covered by the event registration fee.)

Evening presentations: Attendees are encouraged to speak about their char-making experiences. Any further material about TLUD and FC methods can be presented. It is likely that “focus groups” will be formed for various topics, with findings reported on Saturday morning.

Saturday, 20 August 2016

Breakfast: On your own if staying in motels where breakfast is provided. Those who are camping are welcome to enjoy simple breakfast food (such as cereal and milk and juice) on a DIY basis.

Morning: 8:30 AM to 10:00 and onward to Noon.

1. Continuation of USE of char-making devices.
2. Further discussions and experiences of making (and improving) char-making devices.

10:00 AM: Comments and insights about FC char-making, by Kelpie Wilson. When she concludes, a **panel** of experts of FC (Flame Cap) devices will discuss important issues of FC char-making. Moderator will be Tom Miles. Question to consider: How can the results of this Char Production Gathering be best presented to others for accomplishing the greatest positive impact?

Noon:

1. Lunch -- make your own sandwiches with ingredients provided, and left-overs from previous dinner.
2. Networking.

Afternoon:

1. **Panel** of experts about TLUD issues for char production.
(Optional to continue to make char outside with whatever devices are of interest.)
2. Summary session: Current status and future prospects for low-budget moderate scale char production.
3. We expect to conclude between 4 PM and 5 PM.

Primary discussion topics (there will be people present with experiences to discuss):

TLUD stoves and larger devices.

FC devices

Char characteristics

Fuels / feedstocks – Types ranging from straw and stalks to wood and pellets

Fuels / feedstocks – Drying of damp woodchips, etc. (Norm Baker is bringing a fuel dryer.)

Social-Cultural-Economic issues of char in affluent societies and char in impoverished societies.

Regional experiences with char and char production.

Related topics, but not specifically about char production:

Climate change / global warming / carbon sequestration.

Preparation of char (inoculation, charging, etc.)

Use of biochar and its impact in agriculture.

Use of char and its impact in other ways, such as water filters.

Contact: From 8 to 28 August, Paul Anderson can be contacted at his mobile phone number: 309-531-4434. And he will occasionally see email that is sent to psanders@ilstu.edu