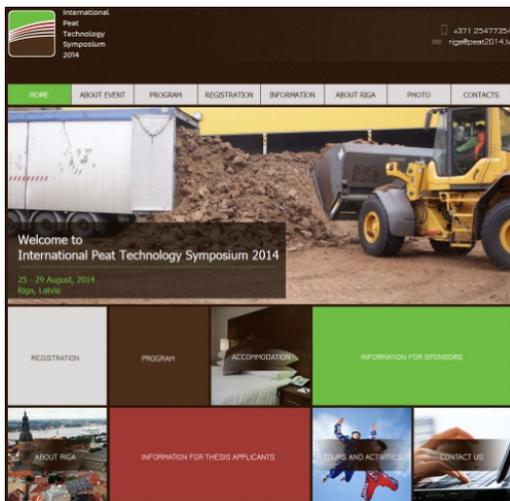


The IPS is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. It promotes the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience. The Society serves all those interested in peat and peatlands including the scientific, industrial and commercial, and regulatory communities. It respects the economic, social and environmental values of the peatland resource. Currently the IPS has more than 1,400 individual and institutional members from 42 countries.

IPS Annual Meetings in Riga, 25 - 29 August

The Latvian National Committee of the IPS is hosting this year's IPS Annual Convention at the **International Peat and Technology Symposium in Riga** for the full week of **25 - 29 August 2014**. This event is combined with the traditional Baltic Peat Forum and will thereby offer you and your co-workers great benefit with presentations on all kind of peat management, knowledge and practical experience and the science behind. The Symposium is devoted to "Peat in the 21st Century: its effective and efficient production and high quality processing" with an aim to maximize peat resources utilization, as well as working out clear-cut plans for re-naturalization and sustainable management of cut-over peatland areas. Authors are invited to submit either their abstract and/or papers related to:

- Peatland survey
- Planning (construction) of peat production areas
- Restoration of peatlands
- Peat harvesting technologies
- Energy peat: equipment and use
- Horticultural peat and its effective use
- Horticultural peat: equipment for its processing
- Responsible peat production and use
- IT Solutions and communication in the peat industry (covering weather, stock pile measurement, GPS etc)
- And other topics that can still be suggested.



Further to its session content, the Symposium will be a networking event providing a unique opportunity to meet your fellow professionals from all the relevant fields of the peat industry and related areas, suppliers and customers, and those people who will have to determine the future of our peatlands. All together, Riga is expecting more than 500 peat professionals and this conference will offer an excellent chance for all stakeholders – scientists, policy makers and industry representatives – to meet, share and discuss new data on all aspects of peat and peatlands. Simultaneous interpretation from English into Russian and from Russian into English will be provided during all the sessions and seminars of the Symposium. The IPS Annual Assembly will be held on **28 August** followed by a Gala Dinner. There will also be a full day for IPS Commission excursions and seminars and a special Get-Together for National Committee officials. For more information and to register (from February onwards) visit www.peat2014.lv.

Horticultural Programme at IPM Essen, Germany

IPM Essen will take place this year from **28 to 31 January**. This international trade fair for plants is the world's leading trade fair for horticulture and will also be attended by many peat specialists and suppliers. The trade fair covers the entire value chain of plants, including production, technology, floristry, garden features, and point of sale. At the IPM ESSEN 2014, more than 1,500 exhibitors from 50 countries and trade visitors from more than 100 countries are expected. The Accompanying Programme includes the International Horticultural Forum on **30 January**, this time dedicated to the horticultural and plant industries in Turkey. More info: www.ipm-essen.de.

IPS Award of Excellence 2014

We would like to draw your attention to the IPS Award of Excellence that has its deadline for submissions on **31 January 2014** (strict deadline). Please note the following terms of reference and promote this possibility to your networks: The IPS Award of Excellence was launched in 2005 and is annually conferred for a distinguished contribution by a single person, group or project in any sector of peatland activities. The Award comprises a framed scroll and a cash prize of total € 1,000. Submissions can be made by a written letter, email or online at the IPS website, containing at least:

- Name and contact details of the submitting person/organisation
- Name and contact details of the candidate for the Award
- Reasons why the Award should be given to that person/group/project

The decision on the Award winner is made by the IPS Executive Board by simple majority decision. The Award shall be presented annually unless the IPS Executive Board considers that no suitable candidate has been nominated. The 2014 Award will be handed over at the Annual Assembly of the IPS in Riga, **28 August**. More information and an electronic nomination form can be found at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/award-excellence.

PERG Conference in Québec in February

Welcome to the symposium „**Responsible management of peatlands: Involvement of the industrial sector**“ on **19 - 20 February 2014** at Université Laval in Québec City, Canada. The topics discussed during the sessions include: Management of horticultural peatlands (Keynote speaker: David J. Cooper, Colorado State University), Biodiversity, Climate & Hydrology (Keynote speaker: William Shotyk, University of Alberta), and Oil Sands & Mines. The 20th symposium is organized by the Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG) with the collaboration of Commission V of the IPS – Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands, and the Society of Wetland Scientists. Deadline for registration is **3 February 2014**. For more information, as well as the registration forms, please go to www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/actualiteevenements/symposium-2014. For more information, you can also contact Claire Boismenu, email: [claire.boismenu \(at\) fsaa.ulaval.ca](mailto:claire.boismenu@fsaa.ulaval.ca).

Registration Opened for SER 2014 in Oulu, Finland

The registration to the 9th European Conference on Ecological Restoration in Oulu, Finland on **3 -8 August 2014** has just been opened. The Abstract submission is open until **30 March**. There are 25 session proposals, listed under four main themes. The peatland topics are co-organized with the IPS who has headquarters in Finland. The sessions are based on the proposals, which SER received by December 2013. They cover a wide range of topics in Ecological Restoration, from fundamental restoration ecology to the ecosystem service concept, policy and education issues. Never before has there been such interest to propose special sessions, so the organizers expect very inspired and motivated participants to the Conference! Please note that if you are a presenting author you should register by **30 April 2014** in order to guarantee that your abstract will be printed in the Conference Abstract Book. Please also note that there is limited availability to the pre- and especially post-conference excursions, so by registering early you will guarantee your access to these unforgettable field trips. At www.ser2014.org you will find information on the Preliminary Conference Programme, Plenary speakers, Conference Excursions, and Accommodation options. (*Anne Tolvanen, SER2014 Conference Chair*)

Leila Korpela new Chair of Finnish National Committee

The Annual Meeting of Suoseura has elected Dr. Leila Korpela as their new Chair from 2014 onwards. She is supported by the Board members Tapio Lindholm (SYKE), Juha Ovaskainen (Vapo Oy), Harry Uosukainen (Turveruukki Oy), Sakari Sarkkola (Finnish Forest Research Institute), Riitta Korhonen (formerly Geological Survey of Finland), Raija Laiho (Finnish Forest Research Institute), Timo Makkonen (Finnish Forest Centre Otso), Jenni Simkin (National Land Survey of Finland), Minna Tanskanen (University of Eastern Finland) and Samu Valpola (Geological Survey of Finland). Her contact details are Dr. Leila Korpela, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Vantaa Research Center, PO Box 18, 01301 Vantaa, Finland, phone: +358 10 211 2629, email: [leila.korpela \(at\) metla.fi](mailto:leila.korpela@metla.fi). Jenni Simkin ([jenni.simkin \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jenni.simkin@gmail.com)) works as Secretary of Suoseura. More info can be found also in English and Finnish at www.suoseura.fi.

Results of IPS Commission Survey

The IPS Commission Survey 2013 was closed this month and all Commission Chairs have received new contacts for their topical work this week. Altogether **60 persons** had participated in the survey and indicated which Commission(s) they would like to follow and support. The IPS has the following ten Commissions right now. If you did not have the possibility to sign up during the survey period, you are welcome to contact their office holders directly to contribute:

- Commission I - Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands (lars.lundin at slu.se)
- Commission II - Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes (gerald.schmilewski at klasmann-deilmann.com)
- Commission III - Agricultural use of peatlands and peat (barbara.kalisz at uwm.edu.pl)
- Commission IV - Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat (j.schoenherr at hszg.de)
- Commission V - Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands (roxane.andersen at thurso.uhi.ac.uk)
- Commission VI - Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics (leena.larva at ainoklinikat.fi)
- Commission VII - Ecology and management of forested peatlands (sakari.sarkkola at metla.fi)
- Commission VIII - Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands (m.gerding at home.nl)
- Commission IX - Tropical peatlands (jack.rieley at btinternet.com)
- Commission X - Peatlands and Climate Change (SAB Chair jack.rieley at btinternet.com)

Flow Country Research Conference in Scotland

Roxane Andersen, acting Chair of Commission V, would like to remind you of the Flow Country Research Conference: Looking Forward (**4 - 7 March 2014**) in Thurso, Scotland which is supported by the UK Peat Society, IPS National Committee. The conference will explore current and future research opportunities in the Flow Country, and take a critical look at how things have moved on over the last 1.5 year, since the launch of the Flow Country Research Hub. Registration forms and details can be found at www.nhconline.net/nhconline/flow.

West Siberian Peatlands and Carbon Cycle Conference

The Fourth International Field Symposium: "West Siberian Peatlands and Carbon Cycle: Past and Present" will be held in Novosibirsk, Russia during **4 - 17 August 2014**. The objectives of the Symposium are to exchange knowledge in the fields of biodiversity, peat accumulation and paludification, protection of the biodiversity and of biospheric functions of mires, ecological monitoring of mire ecosystems, the role of peatlands in the global carbon cycle, and evaluation of the anthropogenic activities on the functioning of mire ecosystems and furthermore on the introduction of the contemporary technologies of the wise use of natural resources, modeling of peat accumulation in the global climate change. For the participation in the Field Symposium and the Excursions it is necessary to send the registration form to wspcc (at) mail.ru before **31 January** and to submit your abstracts or papers according to the requirements of the symposium abstract book before **1 April 2014**. Working languages of the Symposium are Russian and English. For additional information see the Call for Papers at http://sibsoil.nsc.ru/images/stories/files/Info_WSCC-2014_%20eng.doc. (Natalia Koronatova, Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry SB RAS)

Wetlands 2014 Congress in Huesca, Spain

The SWS IX European Wetland Congress Wetlands Biodiversity and Services: Tools for Socio-Ecological Development will be held in Huesca, Spain, **14 - 18 September 2014**. This plans to be a meeting point for different professionals and persons interested on the integration of land and wetland uses for the sustainable development of people, in addition to formal specialized sessions on all the research and management aspects of wetlands. Particular emphasis will be given to topics dealing with wetlands restoration and creation and the integration of wetlands with socio-ecological issues. So far at least one session on peatlands is planned, "Peatlands: ecology, sustainable use and contributions to socio-ecological development" coordinated by Catherine Farrell, Chair of IPS Commission V, and Eduardo González Sargas of the Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG). The Conference will be a forum for meeting farmers, managers, decision makers, GOs and NGOs, scientists, and professionals to present experiences, prospects, and expectations on the integration of land, water, biodiversity and other resources for contributing to a wise socio-ecological development. Proposals for sessions and presentations can be submitted until **1 April 2014**. Two excursions are part of the interesting program. For more information see www.wetlands2014.eu.