

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 1,500 individual and institutional members from 44 countries.

Hannu Salo new Secretary General of the IPS

The International Peat Society has successfully finalised the recruiting process for a new Secretary General. Mr. Hannu Salo will start working for the IPS Secretariat on a part-time basis by 1 May 2014. In addition to his new position, he is Regional Manager at the Bioenergy Association of Finland (www.bioenergia.fi), but has also much experience of peat production, silviculture, education, stakeholder engagement and nature conservation. He holds a Masters degree on Peatland Forestry from Helsinki University and a Diploma in Professional Forestry Education and Training. From 2007 to 2012 Mr Salo has worked, among others, for the Association of Finnish Peat Industries, and he served also on the Board of Suoseura, the Finnish Peatland Society. Hannu can be reached at [hannu.salo \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:hannu.salo@peatsociety.org) and by mobile phone +358 40 056 7538, and he will be glad to meet you in Riga. The IPS was looking for a new Secretary General after Jaakko Silpola resigned in September 2013. From October to April his tasks were taken care of by Communications Manager Susann Warnecke in close cooperation with the IPS Executive Board.



Welcome to our Commission workshops in Riga in August!

During the Annual Convention of the IPS in Riga, we have reserved the full Tuesday (and partly Wednesday) for Commission activities. The ten IPS Commissions will hold meetings, seminars and excursions which can be attended by all guests of the conference. So far, on the list are the following opportunities:

- Commission I - Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands & Commission V - Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands:
Joint session and excursion: **"Peatland Restoration in practice"** (Chair Lars Lundin), 26 - 27 August
- Commission II - Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes:
Meeting and workshops for IPS' industrial members (Gerald Schmilewski)
- Commission III - Agricultural use of peatlands and peat:
Seminar **"Drained organic soils – responsible management"** (Barbara Kalisz)
- Commission VI - Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics:
Seminar **"New results of balneological research and international collaboration in healthcare"** (Leena Larva & Riitta Korhonen)
- Commission VIII - Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands:
Seminar and excursion **"Value and use of peatlands for education"** (Michiel Gerding)
- Commission IX - Tropical peatlands:
Meeting with vision for and details of the scientific programme for **IPC15 in Kuching in 2016** (Lulie Melling)

The **International Peat and Technology Symposium** will be held in Riga, Latvia for the full week of **25 - 29 August 2014**. All IPS members and friends are welcome to attend. This year's event is combined with the traditional Baltic Peat Forum and offers you and your co-workers great benefit with presentations on all kinds 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". The IPS Annual Assembly of National Representatives is scheduled for **28 August 2014**. For more information and the preliminary programme visit www.peat2014.lv. Registration and hotel booking will open very soon.

Preview Peatlands International 1/2014

Peatlands International 1/2014 is currently being edited and will be published later in April with a colourful collection of articles on different aspects of peatland management.

- Analysis of the IPS Survey for the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management (SRPM), Henna Honkala & Jack Rieley
- Sharing peat perspectives - An international biomass sustainability criteria workshop in Sweden, Ingrid Kyllerstedt, Svensk Torv
- Responsibly Produced Peat - A Dutch Initiative for European Certification of Growing Media, Reinier de Man
- Bogology: sharing the science of peatlands and past climate change! Matt Amesbury

- Global change experiments reveal response of temperate peatlands to global warming, Mariusz Lamentowicz, Alexandre Buttler, Vincent E. J. Jassey
- The EU-funded Tellus Border Soil Carbon Project; Using Airborne Geophysical Data for Soil Carbon and Peat Depth Assessment, Jennifer McKinley, Alastair Ruffell and Antoinette Keaney
- Guardians of the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forests, GEC Malaysia

- 'Wilder by Design' and 'In the Bog' Conferences in Sheffield, Christine Handley & Ian Rotherham
- Tropical Peat and Oil Palm Workshop 2013 well received, Lulie Melling, Malaysian Peat Society
- Peat producer increases market share with turnkey plant, Premier Tech
- Book on Latvian peat production published

Peatlands International is published electronically in 4 issues this year, and the latest two magazines of 2013 can be downloaded at www.peatlandsinternational.wordpress.com as PDF, epaper and blog articles (password ipsmember13). Articles for the next issues can be submitted until **30 May 2014** to the IPS Secretariat. The Annual Report 2013 will be published later this spring as a separate document containing Commission and National Committee reports and the financial statements of the IPS.

New Address for IPS Invoices

The IPS Secretariat is taking new accounting services provided by TietoAkseli / Procountor into use. In the future, please send ALL invoices (but no other letters!) electronically to OVT-code: 00310741814, Internet invoice operator: OpusCapita Group Oy (Itella), Transfer code: 003710948874; or by email directly to [kansainvalinenturveyhdistysry.FI.P.102026-2 \(at\) docinbound.com](mailto:kansainvalinenturveyhdistysry.FI.P.102026-2@docinbound.com). If you need to send a paper invoice, please use the following address: Kansainvälinen Turveyhdistys / International Peat Society, PL 39651, 00063 LASKUNET, Finland.

Yrjö Pessi Festive Seminar on Peatlands in Food Production

The Finnish Peatland Society is inviting all those interested to the House of the Estates (Säätytalo) on **8 May 2014** at 13:00 hrs for a seminar to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the Finnish Society for Peatland Cultivation and, at the same time, to honour Professor Yrjö Pessi, who has also been President of the IPS during 1985 - 1992. The topic of the seminar is "Peatlands serving food production" and the programme consists of:

- Coffee and registration 13:00 – 14:00 hrs
- Association work to assure national food security, Director Erkki Kempainen, MTT Agrifood Research Finland
- Greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands and their mitigation, Professori Kristiina Regina, MTT Agrifood Research Finland
- Sphagnum mosses as growing media and the use of degraded peatlands as Sphagnum production sites, Professor Risto Tahvonen
- The characteristics of former peat production fields and thereon growing timothy grasses in black schist

- areas, Professor Markku Yli-Halla, University of Helsinki
- Yrjö Pessi's jubilee speech

If you wish to participate, please contact Reijo Heikkilä by 30 April 2014; raheikkila (at) gmail.com or by calling +358 50 526 0395. More information can also be found at www.suoseura.fi. (*Leila Korpela, Suoseura*)

Successful Peloid Congress in Bad Bayersoien, Germany

The beautiful and friendly Park Hotel Bayersoien in Germany was a fine place for the interesting Peloid Congress during **21 -22 March 2014**. Altogether about 50 participants were present. Dr Leena Larva, Chair of IPS Commission VI on Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics, congratulated Professor André-Michael Beer and his colleagues for their great efforts to organise this meeting. Many of us know that peat is not only important for energy, agriculture and climate. It helps in health promotion too. From a scientific point of view, it is not enough that people are happy with the treatment, but notice that they look better after having peat cures. A lot of academic work is needed to show the effectiveness of peat therapy to the other medical doctors. (*Leena Larva, MD Gynecologist, Aino Klinikat*)

Siberian Peat Resources Conference in Tomsk

An International conference «Problems of studying and use of Siberian peat resources» will be held in Tomsk, Russia, **18 - 21 August 2014** (note: shortly before the IPS Annual Meetings!). Topics to be discussed include genesis, investigation and peat resources, physical and chemical characteristics of peat, peat in energy, peat and agriculture, application of peat in medicine, composite materials on the basis of peat, wise use of peat resources, nature protection aspects in production and application of peat, environmental impacts of peat production, modern technologies in studying and development of peat, and mire ecology, and mire conservation. One-day field trips to Siberian peatlands will head to the Temnoe and the Vasyugan mires. Deadline for abstract submission is **1 May 2014**. Please contact Iletomsk (at) yandex.ru or the Siberian Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture and Peat, Anna Sinyutkina, phone: +7 382 2527541, 533390, +7 929 371 5297. More information: www.sibniit.tomsknet.ru.

Bioenergy from Forest Conference in Helsinki

The Bioenergy from Forest Conference will be held in Helsinki, Finland from **15 - 18 September 2014**, at the Marina Congress Center. The Conference will focus on the factors affecting the future of the bioenergy and biobased modern technologies and business solutions, including logistic systems, management, total procurement chains, the effects of the energy markets, the influence of green marketing and other trends affecting forestry, agriculture, industry and climate. For more information and to register see www.bioenergyevents.fi. (*Mia Savolainen, Benet*)

Earth Living Skin: Soil, Life and Climate Changes

The deadline for abstract submission for the ELS2014 "The Earth Living Skin: Soil, Life and Climate Changes" in Bari, Italy, **22 - 25 September 2014**, is still open. Abstracts can still be sent e.g. for the following sessions:

- "Plant and soil interaction in a changing climate" (Session ELS04) Conveners: Giustino Tonon, Claudio Zaccone
- "Ecology and biogeochemistry of organic-carbon-rich soils in a changing world" (Session ELS08) Conveners: Claudio Zaccone, Luca Bragazza
- "Earth Fire System: The role of fire on Earth, hazards, the anthropocene and in deep times" (Session ELS20) Conveners: Claudio Zaccone, Guillermo Rein

The list of all sessions is available at: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/els2014/sessionprogramme>. For more information please visit www.els2014.eu. (*Claudio Zaccone, University of Alberta*)

Arctic Biodiversity Congress in Trondheim, Norway

The Arctic Biodiversity Congress will be held in Trondheim, Norway on **2 - 4 December 2014**. Main themes of this event are: Climate change: Arctic biodiversity, resilience and adaptation; Mainstreaming biodiversity: linking

ecosystems to society; and Understanding cumulative effects and managing impacts. The Congress aims to promote the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity through dialogue among scientists, policy-makers, government officials, industry, civil society and indigenous peoples. Submissions for inclusion in the Arctic Biodiversity Congress programme are due via electronic forms on **30 April 2014**, and early bird registration is available until **24 July 2014**. Proposals for sessions, presentations and more activities are still welcome. The conference also features a photo contest and hour-long case studies that highlight best practices and lessons learnt on cross-cutting issues. The Arctic Biodiversity Congress is being hosted and arranged by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group of the Arctic Council in close co-operation with Norway as the host country and the Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet). For more information and to sign up visit www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress.

News from Ramsar Europe

The Ramsar Secretariat has changed the date of the 8th European Ramsar Meeting, which will take place in Austria, in Kufstein, Tyrol on **20 - 24 October 2014**. This meeting will be used to prepare for the 12th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP12), which will take place in Uruguay in 2015. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) meeting will be held on **8 - 12 September**, and Standing Committee on **24 - 28 November 2014**. Both will finalize the draft resolutions to be submitted to COP12. The Kufstein meeting will focus on the new Ramsar Strategy for Water and Wetlands, on the wetland nexus linking water, food and energy, on the economics of wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity, and on societal challenges in times of a changing climate. A field visit will tell participants about solutions and wise use practices for water and wetlands in the Alpine region.

- The forms for National Reports by Contracting Parties to COP12, 2015 are now available for downloading. The deadline for their submission is **1 September 2014**.
- A Nordic-Baltic Ramsar project on peatland and climate regulation reviews the potential of Nordic Baltic wetlands to mitigate climate change. In that context, Denmark has designated its "Lille Vildmose" Ramsar Site as the first site to include criteria of CO₂ carbon storage and climate change mitigation. For further information contact STRP member Lars Dinesen, email: ladin (at) nst.dk.
- The final report of the Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Conference "Nordic Baltic Wetlands in a time of climate change – mitigation, resilience and adaptation", held on **3 - 5 September 2013** in Ilulissat, Greenland has been released and can be downloaded at www.bit.ly/1INCFyp.
- The EU LIFE project "Life to ad(d)mire" run by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and a number of county administrations aims to restore 35 Natura-2000 mires and Ramsar Sites. More about the project can be found at www.lifetoaddmire.se.

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The treaty was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and the Convention's member countries cover all geographic regions of the planet. See also www.ramsar.org.

"War and Peat" Book Available Now

War & Peat - The remarkable impacts of conflicts on peatlands and of peatlands on conflicts - a military heritage of moors, heaths, bogs and fen (ISBN: 978-1-904098-55-3) is now available as soft back; black & white book with 292 pages; crown quarto (7.5" x 9.7"); for a cover price of £30.00. There is a special discount price of £17.50 + £3.50 P&P (UK) until **31 May 2014**; the full colour version has a guide price of £70 (£55 discount). As we approach the centenary of the Great War (WW1), matters of landscape, terrain, resources and strategies become increasingly topical and relevant. The relationships of people and landscapes, of economies and conflicts, and ecology and history, are complex and multi-faceted. For peatlands, including bogs, fens, moors, and heaths, the interactions of people and nature in relation to history and conflicts, are both significant and surprising. The themes of this book were addressed at a major international conference in September 2013, and the expanded papers are presented here as chapters. The conference and book are mostly focused on temperate environments, but the interactions of peatlands and conflicts are more global and wetlands have been hugely influential in tropical conflicts too. Please contact Wildtrack Publishing, c/o Venture House, 103 Arundel Street, Sheffield, S1 2NT (cheque attached), or order via e-mail: info (at) hallamec.plus.com, phone: +44 114 272 4227. Payment will be by cheque or as a paypal (email) invoice.