

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.

Candidates for the IPS Executive Board

This year's **28 August** is the day of elections for the IPS Executive Board's next work period of 2014-2018. Three of the six ordinary members' seats will be vacant and it will be up to the National Committee's representatives to decide on successors that offer most benefit and valuable work input for the IPS and its members. By the submission deadline, the IPS Secretariat has received nominations for the following persons:

- Moritz Böcking, Germany (German Peat Society (DGMT); Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH)
- Erki Niitlaan, Estonia (Estonian Peat Association; Steiger Engineering LLC)
- Claes Rülcker, Sweden (Swedish Peat Producers Association; Swedish Peat Research Foundation)
- Liliya Stepchenko, Ukraine (Dnepropetrovsk Agricultural University) (valid if membership fees 2012-2013 are paid before the commencement of the Annual Assembly on 28 August 2014)
- Lech Szajdak, Poland (Polish Academy of Sciences)

The invitations for the Annual Assembly will be sent out by post within the next few weeks to the Chairs and Secretaries of our National Committees, who send their national representatives to the Assembly. Each country (NC) that has paid its full membership fees and is present in Riga is allowed to vote. Be sure to have your voice heard when deciding on the future of the IPS! More info: www.peatsociety.org/about-us/national-committees.

Come with us to Riga in August!

The call for papers for the International Symposium on Peat and Technology in Riga, **25 - 29 August 2014**, is out now. You are welcome to write your abstract for a presentation at this important event until **1 July 2014**. The conference offers sessions on the following topics, and a wide selection of workshops and excursions on all kind of peat and peatland matters. This is surely the most important event of the year for all IPS members.

Sessions:

- Peatland survey, Chairman: Mr. Erki Niitlaan
- Peatland restoration in practice, Chairman: Prof. Lars Lundin
- Peat harvesting technologies, Chairman: Mr. Giedrius Kavaliauskas
- Social, environmental and economical viewpoints in the production and use of energy peat, Chairman: Mr. Jaakko Silpola
- Horticultural peat and its effective use, Chairman: Mr. Gerald Schmilewski
- Planning and construction of peat production areas, Chairman: Mr. Donal Clarke
- Horticultural peat: equipment for its processing, Chairman: Mr. Renārs Skudra
- Responsible peat production and use, Chairman: Mr. Hein Boon
- IT solutions and communication in the peat industry (covering weather, stock pile measurement, GPS etc), Chairman: Mr. Artūrs Kažmers

Workshops:

- IPS Commission IX - Tropical Peatlands: workshop about vision and details of the scientific programme for IPC15 in Kuching in 2016 (Lulie Melling)
- IPS Commission II - Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands for Horticulture, Energy and Other Economic Purposes: meeting (Gerald Schmilewski)

- IPS Commission III - "Drained organic soils – responsible management" (Barbara Kalisz)
- IPS Commission VI - "New results of research in balneology and international collaboration in healthcare" (Riitta Korhonen/Leena Larva)
- IPS Commission VIII - "Value and use of peatlands for education" (Michiel Gerding)

The excursions of the conference will lead us to Kemer National Park, SIA Laflora, Cena Mire, Old Riga, Peatland Olaine, Rundale Palace and Jurmala. In addition, you are most welcome to enjoy the social programme, including an Ice Breaking Party, the Exhibition "Sounds of the Earth", several dinners and business meetings.

Please remember to sign up as a participant and (with the same form) book your room preferable before **1 August**. For more information visit www.peat2014.lv and for abstract instructions: www.peat2014.lv/#!for-thesis-applicants/c1kf6. For up to date info and discussions join also www.facebook.com/events/525128787604553.

Finnish Forestry Peatland Excursion to Parkano

The Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura ry) and the Forest Biology Group of the Finnish Society of Forest Science (SMS) organize a joint spring field trip to Parkano on **2 June 2014**. Poorly productive forests on drained peatlands are the main topic of the excursion. The trip starts at Parkano railway station at 9:45 hrs and includes Tunkiosalonneva with Sphagnum moss biomass production trials and rehabilitation of habitats for Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), lunch at Kourajärven käämpä with instructions on how to identify low production forestry peatland sites and whether re-ditching is appropriate, alternatives for tree growing,; possibly also waterway protection measures with overflow fields at a restoration site. The group returns at 17:17 hrs to Helsinki. For the full programme and to register, contact immediately jenni.simkin (at) gmail.com, phone: +358 50 357 5337. Instructions are given in Finnish.

Prospects for Mire Conservation in Lower Saxony

The Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Protection organizes in cooperation with the German Peat Society (DGMT) a seminar on "Prospects for mire conservation in Lower Saxony". The event takes place at Camp Reinsehen, Schneverdingen during **25 - 26 June 2014**. The seminar and an excursion to the Teufelsmoor are led by Dr. Joachim Blankenburg, DGMT, Bremen and Bernhard Salomon, NNA, and the registration fee of € 145 includes two days of information exchange and catering. Registration is open until **11 June 2014**. For more information (in German) and to sign up as participant visit www.nna.niedersachsen.de/veranstaltungen/morschutz-niedersachsen-119522.html.

Joint ISHS/IPS Symposium in September 2015

Working Groups under the Commission of Plant Substrates and Soilless Culture of the International Society of Horticultural Sciences - ISHS (Growing Media, Composting for Horticultural Applications, Substrate Analysis) and Commission II (Utilization of peat for horticulture and other purposes) of the International Peat Society (IPS) are pleased to announce a joint Symposium during **7 - 11 September 2015** in the historic city of Vienna. In modern horticulture, sustainability should be achieved along the whole production cycle. The sourcing and processing of growing media constituents, preparation of substrates as well as their final use should be taken into account and be the basis for sustainable horticultural production in growing media. At this symposium, world-wide scientific and technical advances in approaches towards these aims will be presented and discussed between researchers, industry and end-users. The official language of the symposium is English. The main topics will be:

- Worldwide developments in the sustainable production of growing media
- Sustainability in horticultural production systems
- Advances in production of high quality compost for horticultural purposes
- Compost as substrate constituent
- Physical and chemical substrate properties; Microbial diversity, resilience and disease suppression
- New analytical methods for composts and growing media
- Specification, development and use of "Urban" substrates (e.g. for roof gardens, trees, green walls)
- Water and nutrient management
- New regulations on growing media and compost

Please find more information at www.susgro2015.ages.at (Gerald Schmilewski)