

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.

Come to the Baltic Peat Producers Forum in Vilnius

The Annual International Baltic States Forum for Peat Producers is taking place this week in Vilnius, Lithuania on **4 - 6 September 2013**. The aim of the forum is to show that peat production and related business is a very important branch of industry, for the growing media and energy sectors, which is able to remain stable and visible even in the background of an economic crisis, and to exchange information which is needed even more during these busy times. As in previous years, the organisers expect guests from all over the world, not only peat producers, but also traders of peat products, environmentalists, and representatives of related services. A simultaneous translation into English will ensure the wide spread and understanding of the shared information and valuable knowledge. In addition to the 15 speakers there will be 57 Lithuanian, 35 Latvian and 40 Estonian participants and many guests from Germany, the Netherlands, Belarus, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Russia, and the United Kingdom. More than 30 companies with 60 attendees from 9 countries gladly support and sponsor the Forum, giving altogether 272 participants. The programme can be seen at www.asocdurpes.lt/forum2013/program_en.html. As a participant you will meet old friends and be able to share experiences with colleagues. It is a fantastic opportunity to introduce your business and to find new business partners. The Lithuanian Association of Peat Companies "Lietuviskos durpes" is looking forward to your arrival and hope that you will gladly contribute to our common works. For more information, please see www.asocdurpes.lt/forum2013 or write an email to the organising committee at info (at) asocdurpes.lt.

IPS Executive Board and Industry Meeting in October

IPS will hold its next regular Executive Board meeting during **28 - 29** and possibly **30 October** in Tallinn, Estonia on the invitation of the Estonian Peat Association. The meeting is set to deal with the IPS strategic projects and their finance, with the survey, improvement and practical utilisation of the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management (SRPM) and, of course, to prepare the budget and action plan of the Society for 2014. The Board will also have the first look on the potential hosts for the 2020 International Peat Congress based on their bidding material. In connection with the EB meeting, IPS will invite its major industrial partners for an afternoon round table to evaluate and develop the Society's work in view on techniques, policies and other practical aspects of peat production, trade and use for horticulture and energy purposes. The Board will also evaluate the preparation of the major "International Peat Technology Symposium" which is planned for Riga, Latvia next year, **25 - 29 August 2014**.

Organisational Changes at the IPS Secretariat

IPS will be looking for a new Secretary General as Jaakko Silpola steps back from the position at his own wish at the end of September and heads for new challenges. Jaakko has been working as IPS Secretary General since 2004 and at the same time Managing Director of the Association of Finnish Peat Industries for 2004-2012. We wish him well in his future endeavours and thank him for all the years he has brought drive and enthusiasm to IPS's work! Until new arrangements are in place, IPS Communications Manager Susann Warnecke will be the main contact person at the IPS Secretariat for administrative matters, IPS publications and membership services, assisted by the IPS interns we introduced earlier and in this Peat News. Further information will be available later this autumn.

Sign up for the IPS Commissions!

Dear IPS members, participation and cooperation in the 9 topical IPS Commissions and the Standing Committee on Climate Change is open to all IPS members interested in the subject. Therefore we would like to ask you to mark those Commissions and their working fields that interest you the most. We will add you to the Commissions' mailing lists

and you will be the first to know about their current activities and can stay in touch with the other members of the Commission. To sign up, please visit www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups and follow the link to our special sign up form. Note that you need to be a member of the IPS to participate. (Sandra Lubinaite, IPS)

Intern Support for Project Work and Finance

Ms Ines Boettcher is now supporting the IPS Secretariat regarding project-funding opportunities, coordination of future projects and tasks as well as providing general office support and editorial help for IPS publications. Originally from Germany, she holds a degree in Information Management from the University of Applied Sciences in Hanover. Until May 2013, Ines worked for the Leibniz Research Laboratories for Biotechnology and Artificial Organs (LEBAO) of the Hanover Medical School (MHH). As project manager she was responsible for the international coordination of projects co-funded under the European Commission's Framework 7 Programme. However, within her duties for the IPS, Ines may contact you and your colleagues during the next weeks and we would like to ask you to support her with your kind assistance. Her email address is [ines.boettcher \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:ines.boettcher@peatsociety.org). We welcome Ines and wish her good luck for her project related work!

Irish Peat Society Meets in Kerry in October

The Irish National Committee of the International Peat Society is holding its Annual Meeting, Study Tour and Seminar on the topic "Blanket Bogs – Education and Management" in Killarney, County Kerry during **14 - 16 October 2013**. The Irish Peat Society aims to bring together organisations (including Government bodies, academic institutions, NGOs and forest, peat and energy companies) and individuals with an interest in peatlands and peat. This year the Irish Peat Society will host its Study Tour and Seminar in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to highlight some of the management issues in relation to blanket bogs and heathland. The study tour will commence with a gathering of the delegates on the evening of October 14th in the Lake Hotel, Killarney. On the following day we will travel to a number of sites of interest including Sheheree Bog, Knockreer Education Centre and Ballygisheen Bog where we will be guided by local experts to inform us of education, carbon, restoration and management of blanket bogs. A seminar will be held on October 16th and we will cover topics such as overgrazing, catchment management, wind farm development and forestry with invited speakers from both local institutions such as Tralee IT and across Ireland. Our base will be the Lake Hotel, Killarney www.lakehotelkillarney.com. The Society will circulate an outline cost in the coming month or so but for the meantime please put these dates in your diary and register your interest with an email to Tony McKenna [tony.mckenna \(at\) bnm.ie](mailto:tony.mckenna@bnm.ie). We encourage all interested members to attend and contribute to this knowledge sharing exercise. (Catherine Farrell and Tony McKenna, BnM)

Nordic Seminar on Peatland Drainage in Kuopio

A Nordic seminar on peatland drainage and environment: "Future strategies for mitigation of GHG emissions and diffuse pollution to watercourses from arable land management" will be held in Kuopio, Finland, **4 - 6 November 2013**. It will cover a range of topics related to peatland agriculture and drainage in general: the impact of drainage on soil physical characteristics, leaching of nutrients and impact of mitigation and restoration options, greenhouse gas emissions and processes, soil use, management and mitigation options, modelling methods and monitoring approaches, bioenergy crops on drained peatlands and more. Contact information and registration by **10 September** to Marja Maljanen, University of Eastern Finland, [marja.maljanen \(at\) uef.fi](mailto:marja.maljanen@uef.fi), phone: +358 40 355 3587. The seminar is free of charge. More information can be found at www oulu.fi/pyovesen/node/18456. (Sandra Lubinaite, IPS)

Welcome to Researching for the Interact Project

The INTERACT project under EU FP7 has a Transnational Access Program that offers access to 20 research stations in the northernmost Europe and Russian Federation. The sites represent a variety of glacier, mountain, tundra, boreal forest, peatland and freshwater ecosystems, providing opportunities for researchers from natural sciences to human dimension. The UNESCO Chair "Environmental dynamics and global climate changes" of Yugra State University (Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia) kindly invites you to participate into investigations in the field of peat research, biodiversity, forestry management, hydrology, climatology and environmental sciences in general. You can find additional information on the programme at www.eu-interact.org and at www.eu-interact.org/field-sites/russia-6/mukhrino-field-station/. (Evgeny Zarov, Yugra State University)