

The International Peat Society (IPS) is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organisation of scientific, industrial and regulatory stakeholders. It is dedicated to fostering the advancement, exchange and communication of scientific, technical and social knowledge and understanding for the wise use of peatlands and peat.

Come with us to the Annual Assembly in Québec!

The IPS Convention 2011 will be held during the **International Symposium on Responsible Peatland Management and Growing Media Production** in Québec City, Canada on **13 - 21 June 2011**. We kindly invite all IPS members to attend the very interesting seminar and broad range of excursions in addition to your participation at the IPS meetings. **Please note that the Abstract Deadline for this conference has been extended to 21 February 2011.** The IPS Annual Assembly and related business meetings will be held as follows:

Sunday 12 June:

IPS Scientific Advisory Board meeting (for those who are present already)

Monday 13 June:

IPS Scientific Advisory Board meeting (continues), IPS Executive Board meeting (morning, parallel, members only)

Meeting of SAB and EB with Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association Board of Directors (afternoon)

Tuesday 14 June:

IPS Commission Meetings (morning, open to all)

IPS National Committee Round Table, IPS Annual Assembly (afternoon, open to all)

All meetings will be held at the Loews Hotel Le Concorde in Québec city. The seminar will include scientific presentations in 12 sessions on **15 and 16 June**. In addition, eight different excursions are on the programme for **17 to 19 June** and a special workshop on Sphagnum farming is planned in New Brunswick on **20 to 21 June**. This is a must to attend in 2011 for every peatland expert and we look forward to meeting you in Canada! The symposium is organised by Commission II (Industrial utilisation of peat and peatlands) and V (After-use of Cut-over peatlands) of the IPS with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). More information can be found in the attached PDF and at www.peatlands2011.ulaval.ca.

Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board meetings in Stockholm

The IPS will hold the next meetings of its Scientific Advisory Board on **7 - 8 March** and the Executive Board on **9 March 2011** in Stockholm, Sweden on the invitation of the Swedish Peat Research Foundation TorvForsk. In addition, a special session will be held between the members of the organising committee of the International Peat Congress 2012 and the IPS Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board (consisting of the IPS Commission Chairs and Paul Short, Second Vice President) on **8 March** to discuss the preparations of the Congress. The Executive Board meeting will, among other actual matters, confirm the Annual Report and Financial Statement of the IPS for 2010, choose the winner of the IPS Award of Excellence 2011 and prepare the documents for the

Annual Assembly of National Representatives, including our plan of activities, membership fee proposals and budgets 2011 - 2012. Please note that any additions to the agenda of the Annual Assembly must be submitted to the IPS Secretariat four months in advance of the Assembly, in practice by **14 February**. Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you have any questions.

Peatlands International 2/2010 in your Mailbox

Peatlands International 2/2010 was sent to all IPS members in January 2011 with some delay because we did not receive all address updates from our National Committees in time. Members in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and from countries without a National Committee receive the magazine directly from the IPS Secretariat by post. IPS members in Canada, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and USA will get their copies via the National Committee in their country. Address changes can be announced also in the course of the year directly to the IPS Secretariat. More information on Peatlands International can be found at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55 and additional copies, also of older issues, can be ordered from our online shop www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=80.

Call for Articles Peatlands International 1/2011

We encourage all IPS members and their colleagues to send reports about their studies, recent events, news announcements, photos and other peatland-related topics by **15 March 2011** to the IPS Secretariat, [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). Peatlands International 1/2011 will be published in June in 2000 copies and also contain the Annual Report 2010 of our Society. Please make sure that your article is written in English language, unformatted with less than 2000 words (1-4 pages Arial pt 10), contains sub headlines, if needed, and full author contact details. Photographs and other illustrations are very welcome and must be sent as separate high resolution files with captions as well as the names and permissions of their copyright holders. Strictly scientific papers can be suggested to the online journal Mires and Peat, www.mires-and-peat.net.

Call for Papers: ISHS-IPS Growing Media and Substrate Analysis in Barcelona

The International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis will be held under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and the IPS in Barcelona, Spain on **17 - 21 October 2011**. The venue is in the facilities of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Barcelona TECH), hosted by the Escola Superior d'Agricultura de Barcelona (ESAB) and the Department d'Enginyeria Agroalimentària i Biotecnologia (DEAB). The ESAB celebrates the centenary of its foundation in the academic year 2011-12, and the Symposium is included as a special event of this celebration. The conference will bring together stakeholders from around the world to address the scientific and technological advances in growing media, analytical methods and composting for horticultural uses, focusing on the sustainability of the involved processes, resources, products and management practices. The event intends to provide a forum for information exchange and discussion and to foster collaboration amongst the participants. The organising committee welcomes abstracts on the symposium topics until **1 March 2011**. For more information and to pre-register please visit www.upc.edu/growingmediacomposting2011.

Peat for Health and Peatlands for Many Things...

A Finnish seminar on "Turpeesta terveydeksi & suosta moneksi" is held on **8 February** at the Geological Survey in Espoo, Finland. The programme includes presentations on 20 years

balneological peat research, results of Finnish peat sauna, the use of peat for hair and skin treatments, the role of peatlands for free time activities, local economies and tourism as well as the use of peat fibres for textiles and balneological products. At the same time, this is the farewell celebration for Riitta Korhonen who has been very active in IPS and Suoseura for many years and is now leaving from the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) for her deserved retirement. More information on this and other activities of the Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura ry) can be found at www.suoseura.fi.

17th PERG's Annual Workshop at Université Laval, Québec

The Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG) is pleased to invite you to its 17th Annual Workshop that will be held at Université Laval, Québec City, Canada, on **24 February 2011**. The workshop will focus on the latest results about peatland restoration and management. More than a dozen presentations are scheduled. Presentations will be in French and in English. Please confirm your registration before **11 February 2011** to Claire Boismenu, email: [claire.boismenu \(at\) fsaa.ulaval.ca](mailto:claire.boismenu@fsaa.ulaval.ca). The registration fee is CAD 75 regular and CAD 5 for students. More info on PERG and this event can be obtained from www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca.

Mires and Water Conference and Excursion in Plön, Germany

“Mires and Water” is the title of a conference organized by the German National Committee of the IPS. The conference will take place from **17 - 19 March 2011** at Koppelsberg, Plön in Northern Germany. More than 20 presentations will give an overview of the hydrology and hydrochemistry of mires and peatlands, present current possibilities and research in the field of paludiculture, and discuss methodologies for the quantification of ecosystem services provided by mires and peatlands. The conference language is German, and as a highlight the conference participants can dance to a rock band on Friday night. On Saturday, the participants have the chance to visit restored and rewetted mires in Schleswig-Holstein. For more information please see www.dgmtv.de or contact Dr. Michael Trepel at [mtrepel \(at\) ecology.uni-kiel.de](mailto:mtrepel@ecology.uni-kiel.de). (*Michael Trepel*)

Finnish Peatland Society travelling to Belarus

Suoseura, the Finnish Peatland Society has joined forces with the Finland-Belarus Society to visit a selection of Belarusian peatlands and cultural sights on **2 - 10 May 2011**. The excursion is open to members of both Societies and will lead the participants via the Estonian capital Tallinn to the Braslau National Park, Vitebsk, Gomel, the Pripet National Park, the Belarusian capital Minsk and finally back via Vilnius and Tallinn to Helsinki. All those interested should quickly contact [susan.ikonen \(at\) helsinki.fi](mailto:susan.ikonen@helsinki.fi), +358 44 341 3133 as places are limited. More information can also be found at www.svvs.fi and www.suoseura.fi.

Necessity of Peatland Protection in Poland in September

Lech Szajdak, Chair of IPS Commission III - Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands in Agriculture - is welcoming all IPS members to the conference on “Necessity of peatlands protection” in the town of Tleń located in Bory Tucholskie, central Poland, on **1 - 2 September 2011**. Topics to be covered at the meeting are peatlands and forest areas, protection of peatlands in agricultural and forestry landscape and multifunction of peatlands. The conference is dedicated to Professor Kazimierz Tobolski, as it is his 75th birthday, and will offer an excellent opportunity for all scientists, policy makers, and industry representatives - to meet, share and discuss new knowledge and experience on all aspects of peat and forestry peatlands. More information can be found at www.tiny.cc/cyl4r. The

organisers very much look forward to having your attention for this event and to hearing from you in promoting the “necessity of peatlands protection”.

Asian Wetland Conference and Workshop in Malaysia

The 2nd Asian Wetland Convention and Workshop "Asian Wetlands and Beyond - Livelihood, Sustainability and Management" will be organised by the Society of Wetland Scientist's Asian Chapter in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia on **13 - 15 September 2011**. The organisers are calling all scientists, engineers, industry researchers, park managers and other scholars to share their experiences on all aspects of wetland science relevant to sustainable use and to explore and discuss innovative ways to sustain wetland function and services. The convention will have four plenary papers and parallel sessions based on 1) Livelihood practices in wetlands, 2) Wetland sustainability and management, 3) Wetland science and biodiversity and 4) Wetlands and climate change. It will include workshops on best management practices and wetland rehabilitation/restoration and a visit to the Sarawak Ramsar Site. Abstracts for the Convention can be submitted until **15 March 2011**. The early bird registration rate is USD 320 / MYR 1,000 and valid before **1 June 2011**. For more information please visit www.unimas.my/swsac2011.

Indonesian Summer School on Peatlands for Students – Apply now!

An IFES-GCOE Field Short Course and Summer School 2011 will be organised on “Management Strategy of Tropical Peatland: Development and Conservation” in Indonesia on **4 - 15 October 2011**. Graduate students in doctoral and master courses, post-doctoral researchers regardless of affiliation, nationality and academic discipline as well as undergraduate students in Indonesian universities are invited to apply for the school. Please see www.tiny.cc/qet6h for more requirements and submit your application before **31 March 2011**.

Happy Belated World Wetlands Day!

The 2nd of February was celebrated, as every year, as World Wetlands Day. In 2011, this day marked also the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted on **2 February 1971** in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Each year since 1997, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, and groups of citizens at all levels of the community use the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular. More information on this special day for all peatlands and related posters, flyers etc. can be found at www.ramsar.org.

Successful Development of Mires and Peat Journal

The editors and the webmaster of the Journal “Mires and Peat” wish you a successful new year and have the pleasure of informing you on recent developments of the Journal. The regular Volume 6 for 2010 has seven papers and several articles were published during the second half of 2010. A new special volume entitled “A Review of Protocols in Peat Palaeoenvironmental Studies” (Volume 7) started in 2010, it has already 6 articles giving an overview of modern palaeoenvironmental methods. The regular volume for 2011 (number 8) has also the first paper. To read the above mentioned and other papers, please visit the journal's website at www.mires-and-peat.net and then click on Volumes. Mires and Peat is a peer-reviewed internet journal focusing specifically on mires, peatlands and peat. As a truly “free-to-users” publication (i.e. NO subscriptions and NO publication charges), it is immediately accessible to readers and potential authors worldwide. Mires and Peat is published jointly by the International Peat Society (IPS) and the International Mire Conservation

Group (IMCG). If you work in the area of mires, peat and peatlands, please submit your next paper to Mires and Peat. (*Olivia Bragg and Michael Trepel*)

Public Consultation on Horticultural Peat Use in the UK

The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has opened a public consultation to invite views on proposals for a new policy to reduce the horticultural use of peat in England. According to the call, peat became the dominant material for horticulture and gardening in the 1970s, but since then environmental impacts associated with peat extraction and the implications for biodiversity and climate change were recognised. Building on progress that has already been made in reducing the use of peat and switching to good quality, peat free alternatives, this consultation proposes options for a future policy framework with the eventual goal of completely phasing out the horticultural use of peat in England. This consultation is expected to be of particular interest to amateur gardeners; professional growers of fruit, vegetables and plants; growing media manufacturers; DIY retailers and garden centres; landscape gardeners; local authorities and the wider public sector. Responses should be sent by **11 March 2011** to peat (at) defra.gsi.gov.uk. The complete call and all consultation documents can be downloaded at www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/peat/index.htm. In addition, a number of stakeholder meetings are being planned, which will also be attended by Prof. Jack Rieley, Chair of the UK National Committee, UK Peat Society and the IPS Scientific Advisory Board.

Contact Detail Changes for IPS Key Persons

The annual update of the IPS membership list has brought a few changes: **Björn Hånell**, First Vice President of IPS can now be reached by email at bjorn.hanell (at) slu.se. **Lars Lundin**, Chair of Commission I, has changed his email to lars.lundin (at) slu.se. The new Chair of the Norwegian National Committee of the IPS is Mr. **Magnus Valen-Sendstad**, Norske Torv- og Jordproducenters Bransjeforbund, Herremyr Gård, N-2150 Årnes, Norway, phone: +47 639 09505, fax: +47 639 02495, email: magnus (at) herremyrgaard.no. In Lithuania, Mr. **Juozas Daukantas** is now acting as Chair, his address is Lietuviskos Durpes, M. Marcinkeviciaus Str. 5-40, LT-08412 Vilnius, Lithuania, email: juozas (at) asocdurpes.lt, web: www.asocdurpes.lt. The French National Committee Chair **Michel Ecobichon** has changed his postal address to 49 Rue Waldeck Rousseau, F-49400 Saumur, email: michel.ecobichon (at) wanadoo.fr. Our Hungarian Secretary Dr. **Julianna Balázs** has moved to Jegenye u. 35, H-8360 Keszthely, her email is balazsjulianna (at) freemail.hu. The contact details of all National Committee Chairs and Secretaries of the IPS can be found at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=28.

Register for the International Peat Congress 2012!

www.ipc2012.se