

PEAT NEWS



Monthly Newsletter of the International Peat Society

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The International Peat Society (IPS) is a non-governmental, non-profit multidisciplinary organisation of scientific, industrial and regulatory members both individual and institutional. The mission of the IPS is to bring people and organisations together to foster the advancement, exchange and communication of scientific, technical and social knowledge and understanding for the wise use of peatlands and peat.

Abstract deadline extended to 30 November – International Peat Congress 2012

By the end of October, more than fifty proposals for oral and poster presentations were received by the Organising Committee of the 2012 Peat Congress in Stockholm. However, there is room for more! The abstract submission deadline is now extended until **30 November 2011**. Please read the abstract submission guidelines at www.ipc2012.se and submit your proposal for a 15-minute presentation online before the end of November. The 14th International Peat Congress entitled “Peatlands in Balance” will be held at the City Congress Centre in Stockholm on **3 - 8 June 2012** with some 500-800 participants. There is also a broad variety of sponsoring activities still available for our corporate members, their customers and suppliers. We look forward to meeting you!



Next IPS Executive Board Meeting on 16 November 2011

The third regular meeting of the IPS Executive Board in 2011 will be held in Helsinki, Finland on **16 November**. The Board will speak about the review process of the Strategy for Responsible Peatland management, about different peatland certification schemes and their implementation, the practical application of Wise Use, a possible international peatland rehabilitation guide and other current developments. The outcomes of the meeting will be circulated shortly after the meeting by email. If your National Committee is interested in hosting the EB/SAB meeting in **March 2012** with about 20 participants, please contact us as soon as possible.

40 Years Ramsar Convention – Conference in Helsinki

An international conference on “The Future of Wetlands – 40 Years of Global Wetland Conservation” is held on **25 October 2011** in Helsinki, Finland. The Conference addresses the following themes: Why are wetlands relevant? What is the state of wetlands? How should we interact in order to find more efficient and sustainable solutions? How to increase the political commitment for future? The 2010 Biodiversity Target was an overall conservation target aiming to

halt the decline of biodiversity by the end of 2010. The world largely failed to meet the target. Especially the state of wetlands has deteriorated more than the state of other ecosystems. The Conference is organized and funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services and the Nordic Council of Ministers. IPS will be represented by Secretary General Jaakko Silpola. The panel discussion: “The future of wetlands?” will be moderated by Tobias Salathe, Senior Advisor, Ramsar Secretariat. More information about the Ramsar Convention and its 40th Anniversary is available at www.ramsar.org.

Contribute to the IPS Peatland Inventory 2011

The International Peat Society is currently updating its peatland database and, together with the IPS Scientific Advisory Board, would like to gather the most up to date information for each nation. We have forwarded an open questionnaire to our nineteen National Committees, but of course all IPS members with expert knowledge are also welcome to contribute. Please visit the survey document at www.tiny.cc/ipspeatlandinventory2011 and fill in the data where possible, mentioning references and your name. Please do not delete previously given information, but add yours in a new line or behind older figures, commenting is also possible (insert -> comment). The data will be collated and presented at the International Peat Congress in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2012. Further instructions can be found in the questionnaire table; basically the table works exactly like an Excel sheet. Please contact us if you have any difficulties/queries or need further information. The questionnaire can also be printed and sent by post to the IPS Secretariat.

Preview Peatlands International 2/2011

Peatlands International 2/2011 is currently being edited and will be sent to all IPS members by post in December. So far, the following articles have arrived at the IPS Secretariat:

- *Sharing Best Management Practices on Peatlands in Southeast Asia* by Noor Azura Ahmad, Global Environment Centre
- *The Hydrology of the Ayer Hitam Peat Swamp Forest, Johore, Peninsular Malaysia* by Marryanna Lion, Forest Research Institute Malaysia
- *Biodiversity research and conservation in Borneo’s peat-swamp forests* by Mark E. Harrison, Susan M. Cheyne, David A. Ehlers Smith, Simon J. Husson, Helen C. Morrogh-Bernard and Bernat Ripoll
- *Scientific Workshop: “Peatlands in a transformed landscape – functioning and protection”* by Sławomir Żurek, Institute of Geography, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Poland; Jacek Forysiak, Department of Quaternary Studies, University of Łódź, Poland
- *Sphagnum farming workshop in the Canadian Maritimes: A chance to overview the international research efforts and challenges* by Josée Landry, Rémy Pouliot, Greta Gaudig, Sabine Wichmann & Line Rochefort
- *Estonian mire inventory completed* by Jaanus Paal, Eerik Leibak, Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Estonia, Estonian Fund for Nature
- *Some aspects of raised bogs conservation in Northern Poland* by Maria Herbichowa, Paulina Ćwiklińska, Agnieszka Sadowska, University of Gdańsk

- *Workshop on Peat and Humic Substances in Zittau, Germany: Current research in chemical, physical and biological characterization of peat* by Yvonne Seel
- *Green rehabilitation opportunities for hazardous waste sites* by Paul Stook, Wouter Pronk, Marten van der Wijk and Harm Hubbeling
- *Peat extraction in Mediterranean Spain, an example of how peat extraction can contribute to more biodiversity* by Peter Colpaert and Enrique Climent Arquimbau
- *Ukrainian Peat: Problems and Prospects* by Volodymyr Hnieushev, O.Stadnik, Ukrainian National Committee of IPS
- *Griendtsveen AG's fully automated peat briquette production line is a success!* by Jan Schram, General Manager, Gustav Bio Heat, Germany
- *Lehtopeat – feel the magic of the peat* by Heikki Ruha, Hannu Kolunsarka, Lehtopeat Oy, Finland
- *Famous Estonian conductor in peat* by Nick van de Griendt
- *Book review: The Żabieniec peat bog: the natural conditions, development and palaeoecological changes recorded in their sediments (in Polish)* by Krzysztof J. Wójcicki, authors: J. Twardy, S. Żurek, J. Forysiak (Eds.), 2010

If you want to write an article for this or one of the next issues, please send your text and photos to [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) as soon as possible. We welcome reports in English about your studies, recent events, news announcements, photos and other peatland-related topics. All contributions should be unformatted with less than 2000 words (1-4 pages Arial pt 10) with low case headlines, an introduction, sub headlines, if needed, and full author contact details. Photos and other graphics must be sent separately (jpg, pdf, tiff), captions included as well as the names and permission of their photographers/copyright holders. The editorial team reserves its right to choose, edit and shorten articles, if necessary. There is also still some advertisement space available. More information and former copies as PDF files: www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55.

Lithuanian Peat Industry 2011: Optimism with Spices of Concern

After two rainy seasons, the Lithuanian peat producers met the year 2011 with optimism and hope. Several new peat companies and active young people joined the Peat Producers' Association "Lithuanian Peat" and the activities became more stirring and interesting. In 2011, the Association united nearly all Lithuanian peat companies. This has strengthened the work much more, consolidated common aims and facilitated decision making. Lobbying work became more active when working with various governmental institutions.

Weather conditions allowed starting peat extraction even earlier than in the previous years. Spring and the beginning of summer were promising, especially after the rainy 2009-2010, when peat extraction dropped by half, compared to the year 2008. However, July and August of 2011 were very rainy, especially in the western districts of the country. Not even half of the planned amount of peat was collected. Companies began calculating tremendous economic loss after three successive rainy seasons. Besides this, the Lithuanian Government prepared a new law project for a tax for natural resources, including an increase of tax for extracted peat by more than three times.

The Association carried out a peat profit and cost economic analysis, which revealed that such tax increase is not based on any economic calculations and may result in peat companies' bankruptcy, which would cause serious negative social consequences. The State's concern to use natural resources more rationally is clear, however, it should be justified by economic arguments. After long and serious debates with governmental institutions, the decision to increase the peat extraction tax is temporarily suspended. However, concern about the future of the peat industry remains.

It is gratifying that our neighbouring Latvians brightened the mood in the middle of September and organized a lovely and impressive forum of Baltic countries' producers in Riga. We are grateful to our Latvian colleagues for their inspiring good mood and optimism. (*Juozas Daukantas*)

New Book in German: The World's Sphagnum Species (2011)

Michaelis' new illustrated German language monograph documents worldwide Sphagnum species (peat mosses) and provides a key for them. It is the first synoptic documentation since Carl Warnstorfs seminal „Sphagnologia Universalis“ (1911). Since that time, many names were recognized as synonyms and revised, particularly by Andrews, Eddy und Isoviita. These revisions, plus approximately 150 valid newly described species and many data by the author are presented in the book. Genetic studies were used to distinguish problematic species. Different approaches to subdivide Sphagnum are available, which yield up to four subspecies and up to 18 distinct sections, 13 of which are distinguished by this author, among them the newly established section Lapazensis.

The author initially describes the anatomy and morphology of Sphagnum, and expands this to describe its reproductive biology, evolution and the history of peat moss research. The systematic part is subdivided in three sections: subdivision and description of the sphagnum sections, identification key for all peat moss species and lists of sphagnum species for 19 regions worldwide. Keys for Africa, Europe and North America are based on previously available data, and completed by adding recent descriptions, new species concepts and new floristic data. The keys for South America and Asia are new, because previously there were none.

286 Sphagnum-species are exhaustively described, supplemented by data on habitats, geographic distribution and synonym lists. Internal and external features are depicted on 194 plates. The volume concludes with a very exhaustive list of references. For more info and a look into the book, please go to: <http://schweizerbart.de/9783510480319>. (*Schweizerbart*) ISBN 978-3-510-48031-9

International Peat Society Group now also on LinkedIn

The International Peat Society has opened its own group on LinkedIn, the most popular professional social media website. To join the discussion and to contact other IPS members, please visit www.linkedin.com/groups/International-Peat-Society-4077745. The 14th International Peat Congress 2012 in Stockholm can be virtually joined at <http://events.linkedin.com/14th-International-Peat-Congress/pub/825580> or www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=165861211452. If you want to read regular updates on peatland matters and the IPS, you might also want to “like” www.facebook.com/peatsociety. Remember to invite your colleagues =)

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