

# PEAT NEWS



Monthly Newsletter of the International Peat Society

No 11/2011, 24 October 2011

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.

## New IPS Website Launched – See fellow members and download papers!

We are glad to invite you and your colleagues to the renewed homepage of the International Peat Society at [www.peatsociety.org](http://www.peatsociety.org). The new website contains many useful features for all peat and peatland friends, but especially for the members of the IPS:

Join IPS » More than 1450 members from 36 countries for the wise use of peatlands

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### About IPS

Currently it has 1,450 individual and institutional members from 36 countries.

The vision of the IPS is to be the authoritative international organisation on all aspects of peatlands and peat.

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### Latest news

IUCN UK: Publication of Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands Report  
Consultation on the Guidelines for the Practical Implementation of...  
International Peat Congress 2012 - New abstract deadline 30 November  
Peat News 8/2011 published  
IPS Press Release on Responsible Peatland Management Strategy  
Preview Peatlands International 1/2011  
Peat News 6/2011 online

[more »](#)

### Document database

Peat News 10/2011  
Peat News 3/2011  
Peatlands in global conventions: status and prospects  
The distribution of different types of Sphagnum peat: a comparison...  
Climate-friendly peatland management in Germany: stakeholder...  
Actual evapotranspiration and micrometeorology of a raised peat bog...

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### Open positions

Postdoctoral research fellow in peatland science  
Graduate Research Opportunity in Ecosystem Ecology  
PhD in Plant Biology, Université Laval, Québec, Canada. Modelling...

[more »](#)

### Peatland News

Biofuels 'as carbon intensive as gasoline' - TG Daily  
Green house gas emission dissemination - Jakarta Post  
Study finds biofuels produce as much carbon as fossil fuels - The Engineer

### Scholar

El Bilali & Patterson Nov 2011: Influence of cellulose oxygen isotope variability in sub-fossil Sphagnum and plant m...  
Whitfield et al Nov 2011: Managing Peatland Ecosystem Services: Current UK Policy and Future Challenges in a Changing Wo...

### Video bank

[more »](#)

### Peatlands and Climate Change

click to order new book

### Mires and Peat

The new scientific journal of IPS and IIRG

### Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management

For instance, you are able to browse and download scientific papers from the proceedings of IPS congresses, conferences and symposia for free – with new content added daily. In addition, all

previous issues of Peat News and Peatlands International will be published in the member section as PDF files. All IPS members will receive their personal IDs and passwords for the document and member databases with further instructions within the next few days.

The new membership list allows you to see other IPS members, to explore their areas of expertise and to contact them directly. To protect your data, all contact information is hidden until each user has opened his or her information by ticking a “show my information” box. The new member database also gives you the possibility, for instance, to change your address and other contact information yourself, without contacting the IPS Secretariat.

You can also find a section to upload documents and to post open scientific or industry career opportunities, and of course there is the online version of the famous Peat Dictionary. Have a look!

### **IPS Award of Excellence 2012 – Now for persons, groups, and projects!**

During its meeting in Espoo, Finland on 16 November, the Executive Board of IPS has lifted the rules for the IPS Award of Excellence to make the Award more attractive and applications easier. Firstly, the Award can now be presented also to projects and groups for any peat and peatland activity, and neither the winner nor the applicants have to be IPS members. The Award continues to be €1,000 – this is a great opportunity to receive funding for your projects! Secondly, applications are now much easier to submit: the IPS Secretariat welcomes application letters with the contact details of both the applying person and the nominee plus an explanation why the Award should be given to that special person, group or project. This can be sent by email or post to the IPS Secretariat, [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org), or even be submitted via the website of the IPS at [www.peatsociety.org/webform/nomination-ipsaward-2012](http://www.peatsociety.org/webform/nomination-ipsaward-2012). All proposals are reviewed by the IPS Executive Board in March and the Award is presented at the Annual Assembly in Stockholm in June. Deadline for applications is strictly **31 January 2012**.

### **Just a few days left: Submit your presentation proposals for Stockholm 2012!**

The abstract submission deadline for the International Peat Congress 2012 is approaching fast: just one week is left to **30 November**, when all presentation summaries must be submitted to the organising committee. This is a great chance to present your work, research results or new technologies to a broad variety of experts in mire, peatland and peat science. We welcome all researchers, students and peat industry experts: Please come with us, read the abstract guidelines at [www.ipc2012.se](http://www.ipc2012.se) and write and upload a summary of your speech. The 14<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress on “Peatlands in Balance” will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on **3 - 8 June 2012** with some 500-800 participants from all over the world. The organising committee also has six exhibition spaces left waiting for our corporate partners – plus some other sponsoring opportunities just suitable for you and your customers. Get ready to be in!



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### **IPC 2012: Grants for Young Scientists from Eastern Europe**

Young scientists from Russia, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Hungary can apply for grants to cover registration fees and lodging at the 2012 Congress. So far seven grants are

promised, each worth €750. The grants will be issued by selection based on the quality of submitted abstracts. Applicants should send their CV's to Tord Magnusson, tord.magnusson (at) slu.se.

## IPS Elections 2012 – Choose the best for the IPS Executive Board

At the Annual Assembly of National Representatives at the International Peat Congress in Stockholm on 8 June, elections will be held for the following five forthcoming vacant posts on the IPS Executive Board (marked in blue).

Function	At present	Status	Term of office
<i>President</i>	<i>Donal Clarke, Ireland</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2008 – 2012</i>
<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>Björn Hånell, Sweden</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2008 – 2012</i>
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	<i>Paul Short, Canada</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2010 – 2012</i>

### Ordinary members (2-6)

<i>Satu Helynen, Finland (not for re-election)</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2008 – 2012</i>
<i>Jutta Zeitz, Germany (not for re-election)</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2010 – 2012</i>
<i>Open position</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2010 – 2012</i>
Valerijs Kozlovs, Latvia	Stays in office.	2010 – 2014
Erki Niitlaan, Estonia	Stays in office.	2010 – 2014
Lech Szajdak, Poland	Stays in office.	2010 – 2014

There is now a real chance to participate in decision making: Nominations for the open positions can be sent to the IPS Secretariat by all IPS National Committees (that have paid their membership fees) until **31 January 2012**, including an application letter and a CV of the person concerned.

We would like to underline that strong, committed and active players for our Board are needed to be able to deal with the challenges of the coming years, and to keep our Society a living pool of enthusiastic specialists and devoted peatland friends. The Executive Board meets approximately 3-4 times a year for 2-3 days, mostly in Europe, and quick email access between meetings is essential.



The election of the three Presidents and one to three ordinary Board members will be carried out by the Representatives of our National Committees at the Annual Assembly of the IPS on **8 June 2012**. The new Board members will be elected for the terms 2012-2016. The Presidents will be elected independently from the venue of the International Peat Congresses.

The Second Vice President is at the same time member and contact person at the IPS Scientific Advisory Board. Half of the ordinary Board members change every second year. Please see the IPS Statutes and Internal Regulations for more details on the requirements and the election procedure before writing your nomination. They can be downloaded at [www.peatsociety.org/about-us](http://www.peatsociety.org/about-us).



## IPS Elections 2012 – Commissions and Scientific Advisory Board

At the International Peat Congress in June 2012, it is also time to elect the Chairs, Vice Chairs and Secretaries of the nine IPS Commissions. All Commission activists and IPS members in general are asked to think about suitable candidates within the next few months. According to the rules of the Society, the major part of scientific work is done within our Commissions. This should happen in active and close international cooperation, also with other peatland-related organisations, and taking current findings into consideration. All Chairs of the IPS Commissions are automatically members of the Scientific Advisory Board which supports the Executive Board and Annual Assembly in decision-making, especially in regard to topics that require deep specialist knowledge and expertise. The current Commissions and their Chairpersons are:

- *C1: Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands (Dr Lars Lundin & Assistant Professor Maria Strack)*
- *C2: Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes (Mr Gerald Schmilewski & Mr Pat Fitzgerald)*
- *C3: Agricultural use of peatlands and peat (Professor Dr Lech Wojciech Szajdak)*
- *C4: Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat (Professor. Jürgen Schoenherr)*
- *C5: Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands (Dr Catherine Farrell)*
- *C6: Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics (Mrs Riitta Korhonen)*
- *C7: Ecology and management of forested peatlands (Dr Hannu Hökkä & Dr Florence Renou-Wilson)*
- *C8: Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands (Dr Michiel Gerding)*
- *C9 Tropical peatlands (Professor Jack Rieley)*
- *Standing Committee on Peatlands and Climate Change (Professor Mats Nilsson)*

More information about the work of the Commissions, their contact details and Annual Reports of the previous years can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups](http://www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups). The detailed rules for applications and the election of Commission key persons can be read, among others, in our Statutes and Internal Regulations: [www.peatsociety.org/about-us](http://www.peatsociety.org/about-us).

## Public Consultation for Guidelines for the Practical Application of Wise Use

IPS has launched a consultation process for the Guidelines for the Practical Application of Wise Use on 10 November, deadline for comments being **9 December 2011**. The document is intended as a hands-on aid to implementing the 'Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands' guidelines and as a follow-on to the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management. The current draft has been prepared by IPS members with assistance from friends and colleagues in other organisations over a course of years. The consultation process is launched with a view to having as wide a participation as possible in drafting the document and to achieving the maximum possible consensus. To this end we would be grateful if all IPS members would consider to review the document and let us have your suggestions for improvement as soon as possible. It is proposed that Jack Rieley and Donal Clarke will then re-edit the document in the light of the comments received and issue the revised for further circulation hopefully by 3 March 2012 with a view to completing the consultation by 16 March 2012. Following re-editing in the light of these suggestions, a Seminar could be held in April 2012. The hope would be to have a wide-consensus agreed document ready for the 2012 Congress. Please remember to make all changes to the original document using the “review” and “track changes” tool. You can also use “comments” to explain your thoughts. After that please save and return your new file to ips (at) peatsociety.org by 9 December. The draft guide and further instructions can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/peatlands-and-peat/practical-application-wise-use](http://www.peatsociety.org/peatlands-and-peat/practical-application-wise-use). (Donal Clarke)

## Have you filled in the IPS Peatland Inventory 2011 already?

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 eighteen 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](http://www.tiny.cc/ipspeatlandinventory2011) and fill in the data where possible, mentioning references and your name. The data will be collated and presented at the International Peat Congress in Stockholm. 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.

## Symposium on Peloid Therapy in Germany

The German Peat Society (DGMT) is organising a symposium on “Peloid therapy in outpatient and inpatient medical care – empiricism and evidence“ at the Blankenstein hospital in the town of Hattingen, North Rhine-Westphalia on **9 - 10 March 2012**. The symposium will give new medical-scientific and life-science oriented research information as well as inform about clinical applications of peloids (mud, peat, chalk, healing earth etc.), and foster exchange of information between therapeutics, doctors and scientists. Abstracts can be submitted until **15 February** and registration for the event will be open until **2 March 2012**. Participation is free of charge; participants are asked to take care of their own accommodation. The symposium is organised in cooperation with Section VI of the German Peat Society, the Working Group on Balneology, Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation and Acupuncture of the German Society for Gynaecology and Obstetrics and the German Health Spa Federation. More info in German can be obtained from <http://naturheilkunde.klinikum-bochum.de> and [www.dmtev.de](http://www.dmtev.de) or by email from karin.schenke (at) klinik-blankenstein.de.

## IPC 2012: RHP Workshop on Growing Media in Balance

During the IPS International Peat Congress in Sweden in June 2012, RHP will organise a workshop on peat in horticulture to highlight the following aspects:

- peat as constituent for growing media (e.g. phytosanitary aspects):
- measuring and weighing (defining product properties and mixing)
- the application of growing media, potting and stability

Markets and customers have expectations, preferences and requirements regarding growing media. Peat is by far the most important constituent of growing media. Peat has the ability to make a difference and manage properties of growing media. The audience will be offered a balanced picture of growing media and its functions, with support of practical examples, performed for and with the audience itself (measuring EN-volume, evaluating peat products, potting pots etc). The workshop is planned for Tuesday **5 June 2012**, 16-18 hrs at the Congress venue. More info: [www.ipc2012.se](http://www.ipc2012.se).

## Welcome to New IPS Members

The Executive Board of IPS has approved the following new members from countries without a National Committee: Individual membership: Dr William L. Mayo, Australia; and Corporate membership: Florentaise (Jean-Pascal Chupin), Dumona (Philip Delaney), Eurotourbes (Stéphane Drouet), Falienor (Anne-Claire Godet), and CAS (Laurent Largent), all from France. A warmly welcome to the “peat family”! To read about membership benefits and to join the International Peat Society as a new individual, corporate or student member, please visit [www.peatsociety.org/join-us](http://www.peatsociety.org/join-us).

## GEF Honour for Wetlands International's Peatland Rehabilitation Project

Wetlands International announces that all four of its projects are listed among the 20 most successful Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded projects. To celebrate its 20th Anniversary, the GEF announced "20 Projects to Showcase 20 Historic Years of Environmental Finance", highlighting the most successful environmental projects undertaken in its history, in collaboration with partner agency United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Wetlands International led, among others, the work on the successful project "Integrated Management of Peatlands for Biodiversity and Climate Change: The Potential of Managing Peatlands for Carbon Accumulation While Protecting Biodiversity". This project pioneered new techniques to rehabilitate over 30,000 hectares of peatlands in China, Indonesia and Russia in 2003-2007, and provided the first figures on the alarming greenhouse gas emissions caused by peatlands degradation worldwide. Since its founding in 1991, GEF has approved more than 460 projects to be implemented by UNEP with a total value of over US \$920 million. For more details see: [www.gefweb.org](http://www.gefweb.org), [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org) and <http://www.unep.org/dgef/Portals/43/news/facts/PeatlandsFinal.pdf>. (Alex Kaat)

## IUCN UK Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands Report Out Now

The report and summary of findings of the International Union for Conservation of Nature UK Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands are available. According to the authors, "this report represents the culmination of 18 months of focused collaboration between peatland experts from land management, science and policy from across the UK, and reveals the enormous importance of our peatlands for people and wildlife. It is of great concern that the Inquiry found that much of the UK's peatlands have been damaged, with severe consequences for biodiversity and valuable ecosystem services. A significant amount of carbon is leaking into the atmosphere from drained and deteriorating peatlands. This is particularly alarming as a loss of only 5% of the carbon stored in peat would equate to the UK's total annual greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, healthy peatlands and those that have been restored and enhanced can make a positive contribution to tackling climate change. The Inquiry has identified a clear strategy for action to bring our peatlands back from the brink, and points the way forward to avoid the social and environmental costs of further deterioration. This report makes clear the multiple benefits of peatland conservation and restoration, particularly in relation to carbon savings, cleaner drinking water, wildlife conservation and historic archive preservation. This has been an important collaborative exercise which reveals a strong community of interest in securing the future of our peatlands and we urge you to read and digest the findings." (Mary Church) We thank all IPS members who have participated in the public consultation for the document although the IPS, its key persons and important publications, such as the Wise Use book and the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management, do not seem to be mentioned in the document. More info: [www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/commission/findings](http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/commission/findings).

## Study Suggests EU Biofuels are as Carbon Intensive as Petrol

A new study on greenhouse gas emissions from oil palm plantations by the University of Leicester, UK has calculated a more than 50% increase in levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than previously thought – and warned that the demand for 'green' biofuels could be costing the earth. The researchers carried out the first comprehensive literature review of the scale of greenhouse gas emissions from oil palm plantations on tropical peatland in Southeast Asia. In contrast to previous work, this study also provides an assessment of the scientific methods used to derive emissions estimates. They discovered that many previous studies were based on limited data without appropriate recognition of uncertainties and that these studies have been used to formulate current biofuel policies. The Leicester team established that the scale of greenhouse gas emissions from oil palm plantations on

peat is significantly higher than previously assumed. They concluded that a value of 86 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare per year (annualised over 50 years) is the most robust currently available estimate; this compares with previous estimates of around 50 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare per year. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increase further if you are interested specifically in the short term greenhouse gas implications of palm oil production – for instance under the EU Renewable Energy Directive which assesses emissions over 20 years, the corresponding emissions rate would be 106 tonnes of carbon dioxide per hectare per year. The research was commissioned by Dr Chris Mallins of the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) and led by Dr Susan Page and Ross Morrison, both of the Department of Geography, University of Leicester. Other contributors to the work were Professor Jack Rieley of the University of Nottingham, Dr Aljosja Hooijer of Deltares in the Netherlands, and Dr Jyrki Jauhainen of the University of Helsinki. The research was conducted over a period of three months during spring 2011 and has recently been published as an International White Paper by the ICCT. For the press release click <http://tiny.cc/8xrq4>. (Susan Page)

### UK Defra Funds Peat Content Study

East Malling Research (EMR) has received a £ 78,000 research grant from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to identify a method for investigating whether compost samples contain peat as part of plans by the Government to ensure that all bagged compost is peat-free after 2020. The year-long project got underway with a literature review of current testing methods and will end in October 2012. Defra wants to find a cheap and easy-to-administer test that will help ensure manufacturers are not including cheaper, lighter peat in bags of growing media after 2020. EMR project leader Jean Fitzgerald said she could not pre-judge which method might be best, but said carbon dating and molecular tests were options. Defra announced voluntary targets this summer to end retail peat sales by 2020 and commercial peat use by 2030. More information: [www.hortweek.com/Retail/article/1102156/defra-funds-peat-content-study/](http://www.hortweek.com/Retail/article/1102156/defra-funds-peat-content-study/) (Matthew Appleby)

### Peat Resources Ltd. Shows Locally Produced Peat Pellets in China

Peat Resources Ltd. from Canada is shipping a quantity of pellets to China in hopes of securing the essential market to substantiate a major production facility in the Stephenville area. Peter Telford, president of the peat pellet producing company based in Toronto, Ontario said a 20-tonne shipment was expected to be trucked from the Stephenville pilot plant to Halifax, N.S., to be shipped to the Asian country. He said the company has been working with a group in China to attract interest in the alternative fuel source in the hope it will lead to a market sufficient enough to quantify a 200,000-tonne per year peat facility near Stephenville. He said there are a number of interested parties in China, who will use the pellets to test to market them as an alternative fuel source. For more information, please see the website of the company: [www.peatresources.com](http://www.peatresources.com). (Peter Telford)

### Geo-textiles Protecting Bleaklow Moor, United Kingdom

MoorLIFE, one of the largest conservation projects in the UK, is now spreading thirty-three kilometres (more than twenty miles) of geo-textile netting onto the moor surface of Bleaklow to help reduce erosion of the bare peat and establish a new layer of vegetation. The Bleaklow conservation work site, stretching between the cities of Sheffield and Manchester, is so extensive it will be clearly seen by air passengers flying in and out of local airports. Bleaklow is one of four MoorLIFE project sites – a £5.5 million project protecting active blanket bog by conserving bare and eroding peat in the South Pennines Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). It is co-funded by the EU's Life+ Programme and delivered by the Moors for the Future Partnership. For more info please visit [www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk). (Louise Turner)



## AEBIOM Workshop on Perennial Energy Crops

The European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) is pleased to invite all those interested to a workshop entitled “Perennial energy crops within the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy” that will take place on **14 December 2011** in the Renewable Energy House in Brussels. The European Commission has published a new proposal to reform the CAP for the period 2014 - 2020. Bioenergy development could be one of the CAP priorities. Even though bioenergy is not a novelty within the CAP, the opportunity to develop bioenergy in agriculture has not been properly exploited in the past. This workshop is organised at a crucial moment providing an excellent opportunity to discuss how to include and develop the bioenergy sector within the new CAP reform. The focus will be on perennial energy crops such as miscanthus, willow, poplar, to be grown on agricultural land and used mainly for energy purposes. The workshop is organised within the GreenPellets project, supported by LIFE programme. More info: [www.aebiom.org](http://www.aebiom.org). (*Jean-Marc Jossart*)

## Fuels of the Future in Berlin in January 2012

The program of the 9th International conference organised by the Bundesverband BioEnergie (BBE) and the Union zur Förderung von Öl- und Proteinpflanzen (UFOP) “Fuels of the future 2012” in Berlin is now finished and available at [www.fuels-of-the-future.com](http://www.fuels-of-the-future.com). A lot of top-class speakers will give a speech during this international event, where again more than 500 participants are expected. Focal points will be political framework conditions for biofuels in Europe, experiences with the new sustainability certification on national, EU level and worldwide. Biomethane as a fuel and activities for the market launch of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and Biomass to Liquid (BtL) biofuels will be discussed on the second day. Key aspects will be also: analysis of the current market development, presentation of updated research and development results in the particular biofuel segments as well as political and economic recommended procedures out of it. The conference is held in Berlin, Germany on **23 - 24 January 2012**. (*Markus Hartmann*)

## New Papers in Mires and Peat Vol. 8 & 9

Mires and Peat, the scientific, peer-reviewed and open-access Journal of IPS and the International Mire Conservation Group, has published the following new papers in Volumes 8 and 9 within the last six months. They can be read and downloaded at [www.mires-and-peat.net](http://www.mires-and-peat.net). Enjoy reading and consider Mires and Peat when your next paper is ready for being published.

- Dynamics of vegetation development on drained peat soils of the Hula Valley, Israel by Z. Henkin, M. Walczak and D. Kaplan
- Genesis, classification and human modification of peat and mineral-organic soils, Hula Valley, Israel by M.I. Litaor, O. Reichmann and M. Shenker
- Considerations for the preparation of peat samples for palynology, and for the counting of pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs by F.M. Chambers, B. van Geel and M. van der Linden
- Restoring sedges and mosses into frost heaving iron fens, San Juan Mountains, Colorado by R.A. Chimner
- Intermediate fen patches on a sloping rock outcrop in Koitelainen, Finnish Lapland by J. Laitinen, H. Kondelin and R. Heikkilä
- Re-vegetation of block-cut and milled peatlands: an Estonian example by T. Triisberg, E. Karofeld and J. Paal
- Constructing deposition chronologies for peat deposits using radiocarbon dating by N. Piotrowska, M. Blaauw, D. Mauquoy and F.M. Chambers
- A statistical approach to determining the uncertainty of peat thickness by J. Torppa