

PEAT NEWS



Monthly Newsletter of the International Peat Society

No 2/2011, 30 March 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.

IPS Convention 2011 in Québec – Meet and greet your overseas colleagues!

The IPS Annual Assembly 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**. **Early bird registration is open until 5 April**. We kindly invite all IPS members to attend this important series of meetings and presentations:

	Sunday 12 June	Monday 13 June	Tuesday 14 June	Wednesday 15 June	Thursday 16 June	Friday 17 June to Sunday 19 June	Monday 20 June & Tuesday 21 June
Morning		Sessions Canadian National Workshop & IPS Scientific Advisory Board meeting + IPS Executive Board meeting	Excursion to a peatland ecological reserve & IPS Commission meetings	Plenary session (2 invited speakers) & Sessions (oral communi- cations) International Symposium	Plenary session (2 invited speakers) & Sessions (oral communi- cations) International Symposium	Excursions	Workshop on Sphagnum Farming (in New Brunswick)
Afternoon		Sessions Canadian National Workshop & Bilateral discussions on peatlands (CSPMA, IPS EB, SAB)	Sessions Canadian National Workshop & IPS National Committee Round Table + IPS Annual Assembly (open to all)	Sessions (oral communi- cations) & Poster session with happy hours International Symposium & IPS Commission V meeting	Sessions (oral communi- cations) & Concluding plenary session International Symposium	Excursions	Workshop on Sphagnum Farming (in New Brunswick)
Evening	Registration to the Canadian National Workshop Welcoming cocktail		Registration to the International Symposium Welcoming cocktail	Banquet	Outdoor BBQ & Commercial Exhibitions & Beginning Excursion 4	Excursions	Workshop on Sphagnum Farming (in New Brunswick)

The Annual Assembly of National Representatives and the IPS Commissions have scheduled their meetings for Tuesday, **14 June**. These meetings can be freely attended by all interested guests. Venue is the Loews Hotel Le Concorde in Québec city. The symposium is organised by Commission II (Industrial utilisation of peat and peatlands) and V (After-use of Cut-over peatlands) of the IPS together with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). More information and a registration form can be found at www.peatlands2011.ulaval.ca. This is a must to attend in 2011 for every peatland expert and we look forward to meeting you in Canada!

1,450 Members for the Wise Use of Peatlands

The IPS membership comprises now of **1,450 members in 36 countries**. These are 1,029 individual and 283 corporate members, 60 universities and governmental institutes, 45 honorary members and 33 students. We are especially glad that 121 persons have joined our Society in 2010, although 85 members left or had passed away. As mentioned in the editorial of Peatlands International 2/2010, our student members are especially important as they will be the scientists and managers of tomorrow. So if you know younger colleagues, please introduce IPS and our activities to them – and maybe you are willing to **sponsor their membership** for a year or two?

We would like to thank all members, and the Chairs and Secretaries of our 19 National Committees, for their continuous work to make IPS membership attractive by organising versatile local events and investing hours of personal work for editing publications, designing websites and staying in touch with the IPS Secretariat. Voluntary work, commitment and deep interest in peatland matters remain to be the pillars of our Society. The complete Annual Report 2010 of the International Peat Society will be published in Peatlands International 1/2011 in June.

Order your Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management

The Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management facilitated and launched by the IPS in 2010 was published together with Peatlands International and sent to all members in January this year. However, you are welcome to order additional copies to promote the Strategy and its concepts within your organisation and to important decision makers in your country. The Strategy can be ordered for free now from the IPS online shop, www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=80.

Extended Deadline: Last Call for Articles for Peatlands International 1/2011

The editorial staff of Peatlands International has extended the submission deadline for Peatlands International to strictly no later than **11 April 2011**. Please send your reports or short announcements by email to the IPS Secretariat, [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). Peatlands International 1/2011 will be published in June and sent to all IPS members. Please write your article in English with 1-4 pages in Arial pt 10 without additional formatting, and add your full contact details at the end of the text. Photographs and other illustrations are always 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. The editors hold the right to reject and edit articles, if necessary.

New Abstract Deadline for Growing Media Symposium in Barcelona

As announced by email already, the Organizing Committee of the “International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis 2011” would like to inform all IPS members that the deadline for the abstract submission has been extended until **1 April 2011**. Abstracts should

be submitted through the ISHS online article submission and review page at <http://publish.actahort.org/ishs/handle/123456789/221>. Detailed instructions for abstract submission are available also at www.upc.edu/growingmediacomposting2011/call-for-abstracts. The symposium is organised by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) in cooperation with the International Peat Society. (*Xavier Martínez Farré*)

Baltic Peat Forum 2011 in Latvia After-Use of Cut-over Peatlands: Measures and Methods

The Latvian National Committee of IPS is hosting this year's Baltic Peat Producer's Forum in Riga on **14 - 16 September 2011**. The conference will deal with the after-use of cut-over peatlands, its measures and methods. The preliminary agenda includes:

14th September – arrival, excursion and ice breaking party

15th September - forum and dinner

16th September - excursion

The official languages of the Forum will be English, Russian and Latvian. Simultaneous interpreting will be provided. LCD projectors and computers will be available for presentations. A one-day post-forum excursion will be organized on 16 September 2011. Riga can be easily reached by airplane, train, bus, car or ferry from many European cities. Personal invitations will be provided for those who need a visa. Participants are responsible for arranging their accommodation, preferably at Hotel Radisson Blu Hotel Latvia, www.radissonblu.com. Pre-registrations should be sent until **30 April** to the organisers, please see more information at www.peat.lv/index.php?m0=6&m1=11&lng=en.

Mires and Wilderness Conference in Estonia

The Estonian Fund for Nature and the Estonian Environmental Board are organising an international conference on "Mires and Wilderness" in Tartu, Estonia on **18 - 20 April 2011**. Purpose of the conference is to bring together leading mire scientists and specialists, and other interested parties to present and discuss the latest developments in mire conservation and management, and to continue exchange of information between different countries. Main themes of the conference are mire conservation, management and restoration in connection to the wilderness concept. Speakers are, among others, Olli Ojala of the European Commission, Tobias Salathé, Senior Advisor for Europe of the Ramsar Secretariat, and Hans Joosten of Greifswald University. Field trips on the river Emajõgi and to the Soomaa National Park are also included in the programme. Please visit www.tiny.cc/b9to7 and register by **30 March** in case you want to attend.

All-Russian Peat Forum in Tver in April

The Association of Managers and the Administration of Tver Region will hold an All-Russian Peat Forum on **27 - 28 April** in Tver Oblast, Hotel Emmaus Volga Club. The forum is officially supported by the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation and its main objective is to develop priorities for the effective use of peat resources in the sustainable development of regions of Russia. The Forum will be attended by the heads of relevant federal and regional authorities, representatives of enterprises in the energy sector, timber and agriculture, thermal power companies and utilities, research institutions and professional associations, as well as foreign experts, including peat specialists from Belarus and Ukraine. The early bird registration deadline is **6 April 2011**. For more information (in Russian), please download the complete programme at www.peatlands.ru/files/1300694229.pdf or contact Liubov Abramova at [l.abramova \(at\) amr.ru](mailto:l.abramova@amr.ru).

IUCN Conference in Scotland: Investing in Peatlands

The conference “Investing in Peatlands - Delivering Multiple Benefits” of the UK Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature will be held at the University of Stirling, Scotland on **20 - 22 June 2011**. The focus of this second annual conference of the Committee is on securing peatland ecosystem service benefits through different funding opportunities. Sessions will discuss major national and international market and regulatory mechanisms and consider present and future opportunities for better targeting of resources to help deliver functioning peatlands. The findings of the IUCN Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands will be launched at the conference. Networking opportunities include a welcome lecture and mixer on Monday evening, a conference dinner and a traditional Gaelic social gathering on Tuesday and a choice of field trips on Wednesday afternoon. All details can be found at www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/news/148.

Date Changed: Indonesian Summer School on Peatlands for Students

The IFES-GCOE Field Short Course and Summer School 2011 on “Management Strategy of Tropical Peatland: Development and Conservation” in Indonesia will now be held on **8 - 19 November 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**.

Organic Matter Management & Compost Use in Horticulture in Australia

There is one week left to the International Symposium on “Organic Matter Management and Compost Use in Horticulture”, held on **4 - 7 April 2011** at the University of Adelaide, Australia. Keynote speakers will be renown growing media specialists from Australia, Germany, the USA, Israel and Italy, and there will be different field trips organised to see the diversity of horticultural industries in and around Adelaide. Participants will also visit research sites, gain an insight into relevant R&D work and have the opportunity for additional trips to different Australian States. Australia is challenging for horticulture with its varying climates and production systems. For the complete programme, please visit www.compost-for-horticulture.com.

New Members of the IPS

The Executive Board of IPS has approved the individual membership of Prof. Katsuhiko Sasada from Japan and student member Shailendra Mishra as of 1 January 2011. We welcome our new members and wish them success for their work! To see our membership benefits and to join the IPS in countries without a National Committee, please visit www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=21.

Open Positions at IPS Website Now

The IPS Secretariat is regularly receiving announcements for open research positions and similar posts. We are now publishing these and other peatland-related job offers on a special page in the Cooperation section of our website, the direct link is www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=303. All interested are asked to contact the organisations or persons who have placed their offer directly. IPS is not taking responsibility for their content and cannot give further background details. Offers are posted until the application deadline or removed earlier on request of the person that has submitted the announcement to us. If you want to see your offer at this page, please post all details (linked if possible) in plain text to [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). We hope you find this offer useful.