

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.

## IPS Convention and Annual Assembly in Leiden, NL in June

The International Peat Society will hold this year's Annual Assembly and related meetings, such as the National Committee Round Table and Commission meetings as well as talks of the Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board during the ISHS-IPS International Symposium on Growing Media and Soilless Cultivation "Water Efficient Horticulture Word Wide" in Leiden, the Netherlands. We have prepared in cooperation with the ISHS the following registration options:

**OPTION 1:** To participate fully in the ISHS-IPS Symposium, Mo-Fri, 17 - 21 June 2013  
Registration fee for IPS members: €725

**OPTION 2:** Thursday, 20 June **ONLY:** IPS meetings and the peat-related program of the symposium. Special IPS part day registration fee €160, covering:

*ISHS-IPS Symposium GroSci 2013 - Peat session:*

8:30 Key Note about Growing Media  
9:00-10:30 Orals: Peat and Alternative Materials

*IPS activities:*

10:45-12:15 IPS National Committee Chair Round Table  
12:20-13:00 Lunch (on behalf of GroSci 2013)  
12:30-14:00 IPS Commission II (industrial use) lunch meeting, chaired by Gerald Schmilewski  
14:15-15:30 IPS Annual Assembly including IPS Award of Excellence

*ISHS-IPS Symposium GroSci 2013 - Peat session continues:*

15:30 Coffee or tea  
17:00 GroSci Debate

**OPTION 3:** Thursday 20 June **ONLY:** IPS activities, lunch and coffee, registration fee €60:

10:45-12:15 National Committee Chair Round Table  
12:20-13:00 Lunch (participants may join Com 2 or other commission meetings)  
14:15-15:30 IPS Annual Assembly including IPS Award of Excellence  
15:30 Coffee or tea

**In addition, all above mentioned participants can register for:**

Thursday, 20 June: 20:00 GroSci Symposium Dinner, €50  
Friday, 21 June; 8:00-19:00 GroSci Excursion, €60

And finally, but not least, the whole **IPS-related program begins already on Wednesday, 19 June** in the afternoon with a special excursion and a splendid peat family dinner! We are very

excited and look forward to meeting you at this surely very interesting conference. Please see all further details, book your flights and hotel (Holiday Inn Leiden or others) and register as soon as the above mentioned packages are visible at [www.grosci2013.wur.nl](http://www.grosci2013.wur.nl). We will keep you updated.

## Peat in Horticulture next topic of Peatlands International

We kindly invite all IPS members and friends to be one of the authors of Peatlands International 1/2013. The magazine will be published at the end of May and mainly deal with the use of peat in horticulture. Consequently, we will present Peatlands International 1/2013 at the ISHS-IPS Symposium on Growing Media and Soilless Cultivation in Leiden, the Netherlands during 17-21 June, where also the IPS Convention and Annual Assembly 2013 will be held. Please send your manuscripts of max. 2,000 words in Arial or Calibri pt 10 (2-4 pages) by **15 March** (strict deadline!) at the latest to [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). All articles have to be written in English and should be proofread, if possible. Please avoid formatting: no indents, no full cap sentences, no underlining; just one line space between paragraphs. We also appreciate photographs or other illustrations. Please send these as separate jpg or pdf files with high resolution and include captions and the names of the photographers. You can find further information and a template for a "perfect manuscript" at [www.peatsociety.org/publications/peatlands-international](http://www.peatsociety.org/publications/peatlands-international). The Editors reserve their right to choose and edit articles if necessary. Of course also new advertisers are very welcome, just contact us or see the above website to receive our Media Kit.

## Spring Seminar of the Finnish Peatland Society

Suoseura ry, the Finnish Peatland Society, is holding its spring annual meeting and seminar at the House of Science and Letters in Helsinki on **13 March 2013** at 14:00 hrs. In addition to decision-making, presentations will deal (in Finnish) with the following matters:

- The Finnish peatland conservation program and changes in environmental protection legislation (Satu Sundberg, Ministry of the Environment)
- Forest act amendments and their influence on the forestry use of peatlands (Johnny Sved, Forestry Development Centre Tapio)
- Introduction of the new Finnish Bioenergy Association (Jouko Rämö, Bioenergia ry):
- Current availability of horticultural and litter peat in Finland (Hannu Salo, Bioenergia ry)
- Sphagnum moss production and the restoration of donor areas (Niko Silvan, Metla)
- Sphagnum moss as growing media (Risto Tahvonen, MTT):

On behalf of the IPS Secretariat, Susann Warnecke and Birgit Hyyryläinen will participate. To register, please contact Suoseura's new Secretary Jenni Simkin by **11 March**, phone: +358 50 357 5337, email: [jenni.simkin \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jenni.simkin@gmail.com).

## The Ecologist about Peatland Utilisation in Canada

The Ecologist has recently published an article "The truth about peat moss", dealing especially with the responsible use of peatlands and their restoration in Canada, and peat use in general in North America. "Jesse Trail asks us to re-examine our concerns about peat extraction, querying whether the peat moss industry might actually function as conservation stewards of these unique wetland ecosystems." Among others, IPS Executive Board member Paul Short and Science Coordinator Biologist (M.Sc.) Stephanie Boudreau of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA) are interviewed, and many prejudices and beliefs are put in a different light. Please see, read and share the very balanced commentary article at <http://bit.ly/TxiFDB>. (Paul Short)

## Transnational Access to Interact Boreal Stations

IPS was informed on the latest INTERACT TA call that offers free access to conduct research at six stations in Finland, Norway, Faroe Islands and Russian Federation. The current call is open for researchers to conduct studies at Boreal Stations of INTERACT network in summer 2013 or winter 2013/2014. The deadline of the call is **28 February**. The sites represent a variety of ecosystems from boreal forests, bogs and other peatlands, wetlands, flood plains and freshwater ecosystems to highlands and fells, periglacial landscapes and low alpine tundra, providing opportunities for researchers from natural sciences to human dimension. Transnational Access includes free access for user groups/users to research facilities and field sites, including support for travel and logistic costs, and free access to information and data in the public domain held at the infrastructures. The detailed call for proposals and a list of open stations are open on the INTERACT website at [www.eu-interact.org](http://www.eu-interact.org). For additional information, contact WP4 coordinator Hannele Savela, [hannele.savela \(at\) oulu.fi](mailto:hannele.savela@oulu.fi), or WP4 leader Kirsi Latola, [kirsi.latola \(at\) oulu.fi](mailto:kirsi.latola@oulu.fi).

## SE Asia Peat Swamp Symposium & Workshop at SAGE 2013

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany and the Humboldt University will host the second International conference on Southeast Asian Gateway Evolution (SAGE 2013) during **11 - 15 March 2013**. This meeting focuses on the origin, diversification, and conservation of Southeast Asia's megadiverse fauna and flora against the background of the region's complex geology and climate history. It is aimed to attract climatologists, biogeographers, palaeontologists and geologists to this multidisciplinary meeting. The programme includes, among many others, workshops on paleogeography on 11 March, on peat swamps on 12 March and biodiversity on 15 March. There is also an extra symposium and workshop on " Southeast Asian peat swamp forests: biodiversity vs. biofuel", aiming for a high-profile review paper. The congress will be held at the main building of the Humboldt University right in the historic centre of Berlin, with the icebreaking party being in the legendary dinosaur hall of the Museum für Naturkunde, and the congress dinner is planned for Friedrichsfelde Palace in Berlin Tierpark. The registration fee amounts to € 275 (students €175), and you can sign up at [www.sage2013.org](http://www.sage2013.org).

## Government & Expert Review of 2013 Wetlands Supplement

IPS would like you to pay attention to the ongoing commentary process for the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Wetlands Supplement. Please see the email from the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) below. As this is of high importance for all involved in peatland activities we kindly ask you to take part in the process as representatives of the IPS and/or your local association. The expert review is open until **7 April 2013**:

“We would like to invite you to take part in Government and Expert Review of the Second Order Draft (SOD) of the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands (Wetlands Supplement) that the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) is preparing. The Wetlands Supplement will update national-level inventory methodological guidance on wetlands, including default emission factor values, with the aim to fill gaps in the coverage of wetlands and organic soils in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. Experts who would like to provide comments are welcome to register and review the SOD. A wide range of reviewers including those with expertise in wetlands, forests and wetland soils; the IPCC Guidelines; land use, land-use change and forestry; and inventory compilation are sought to participate in this review.” For more information, and to register as reviewer, please visit [www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/home/wetlands.html](http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/home/wetlands.html). (*Thelma Krug & Taka Hiraishi*)

## FAO Peatland Expert Workshop in Rome in April

FAO is organizing an expert workshop “Towards more sustainable land management practices for peatlands – special focus on drained areas” on **3 - 4 April** in Rome. The workshop concentrates on emissions from drained peatlands in agricultural use (including plantations, forests and managed grasslands) from different parts of the world. The aim of the workshop is to:

- Discuss advances in mapping the degraded peatlands and the quantification of their emissions.
- Gather information, and the information gaps of location, use, and potential for changing land use of the peatlands soils in agricultural use, and existing initiatives working on these issues.
- Develop ideas for a guidebook on sustainable practices or sustainability pathways for management of peatlands soils in agricultural use.
- Create a working group for writing the guidebook.

### *Questions of the workshop:*

- What and where peatlands are? – Special focus on drained areas used for agriculture.
- How are drained peatlands used (i.e. food production, pastures, oil palm etc.)?
- How are peatlands managed? What are the options for their more sustainable management? How can we develop sustainability pathways (both for ecosystems and livelihoods)?

The workshop will gather an expert group for writing a guidebook on the management of degraded soils in agricultural use. Please send your proposals and ideas to: maria.nuutinen (at) fao.org or discuss on the FAO peatland list: peatlands (at) dgroups.org. (*Marja-Liisa Tapio-Biström, MICCA*)

## AWARE Fen Restoration Workshop in Warsaw

An International Workshop AWARE: Approaches in Wetland Restoration - focus on fen landscapes will be held on **21 - 23 April 2013** in Warsaw, followed by a field excursion to the Całowanie Fen, the Biebrza river valley and the heavily degraded fen site Niecka Gródecko-Michałowska during **23 - 25 April**. The focus of the workshop is on the restoration of wetlands belonging to broadly understood fen landscapes. These wetland types, once characteristic and widespread in the temperate zones of the World now belong to the most endangered ecosystems, along with their characteristic plant and animal species. At the same time, fen landscapes have lost ecosystem functions, which are vital for providing services that are of key societal importance, such as climate and catchment regulation and impact on surface water quality. As restoration projects are initiated for different objectives, synergies and trade-offs may appear. The organisers want to allocate time to discussion rather than presentations in order to stimulate brainstorming and knowledge exchange. The workshop will be held at the Faculty of Biology, University of Warsaw. For more info, please see [www.biol.uw.edu.pl/aware/main.php](http://www.biol.uw.edu.pl/aware/main.php). (*Catherine Farrell*)

## EU Life+ Call for Proposals 2013

The seventh LIFE+ call for proposals was published by the European Commission on 19 February, 2013, with up to €278 million available for co-financing of projects under three headings: Nature and Biodiversity (NAT); Environment Policy and Governance (ENV); and Information and Communication (INF). Project proposals should be submitted to the relevant national authority using the eProposal tool no later than 16:00 hours (Brussels time) on **25 June 2013**. Member States will forward proposals to the European Commission by 5 July 2013. The earliest possible starting date for 2013 projects is 1 June 2014. Please note that applicants must only use the eProposal tool to create and submit proposal(s) under the 2013 LIFE+ Call for Proposals. For more information on the call, see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus2013/call/index.htm>.