

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.

Annual Assembly 2011 in Québec – Have you signed up?

As announced before, the 2011 Annual Assembly of National Representatives of the International Peat Society, the National Committee Round Table and meetings of the IPS Commissions, the Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board will be held at Loews Hotel Le Concorde in Québec City, Canada on **13 - 15 June**. At the same venue, the IPS Award of Excellence 2011 will be handed over. If you have not registered so far, please visit www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=306 and sign up before **6 June** to take part in this important event.

The IPS Convention is held this year in connection to the **International Symposium on Responsible Peatland Management and Growing Media Production**, which is held in Québec on **13 - 17 June**. So far, more than 200 participants from 22 countries have registered for the conference. To attend the sessions, field trips and evening programme of the symposium, please see the full programme and register at www.peatlands2011.ulaval.ca. All participants are asked to pay their own travel and accommodation costs if not otherwise agreed with the IPS Secretariat. Please note that the IPS meetings and the symposium require **two different registrations** – all forms are available at the above mentioned links.

Preview Peatlands International 1/2011

The next issue of Peatlands International is currently being edited and will be printed and sent to all IPS members in June/July. So far, we have received the following articles:

- Annual Report 2010, including Commission and National Committee Reports
- Reducing the Use of Peat in Horticulture in England, An Appraisal of the UK DEFRA Consultation, Jack Rieley
- LIFE Active Blanket Bog in Wales Project, Mike Morris
- CALISTO: Carbon Loss from Histosols. Investigation of carbon loss from organic soils under grassland in Ireland, Florence Renou-Wilson, Christoph Müller and David Wilson
- Bog Microlandscapes in Teiči, Orlava and Gaiņi Bogs, Austrumlatvija Lowland, Latvia, Anita Namatēva
- Dependence of Estonian Peat Deposit Properties on Landscape Types and Feeding Conditions, Mall Orru, Ingo Valgma and Heidi Soosalu
- Nordic cooperation in peatland forestry reactivated, Sakari Sarkkola and Juhani Päivänen
- German Peat Society reflected the connections between Mires and Water, Michael Trepel
- Emsland Moormuseum - from small beginnings to international dimensions, Michael Haverkamp
- Peat extraction in mediterranean Spain, an example of how peat extraction can contribute to more biodiversity, P. Colpaert and E. Climent Arquimbau
- Regional Training of Trainers Programme on Peatland Assessment and Management, and the Celebration of World Wetlands Day 2011 at Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Adelaine Tan

- The PEATART project, Nick A. van de Griendt
- In Memoriam: Anton Scholz

Publications:

- Mires and Peat publishes Manuscript 100, Olivia Bragg
- New guide about planting trees in cutover peatlands, Sandrine Hugron and Line Rochefort
- Yorkshire's Forgotten Fenlands, Ian D. Rotherham (2010), Review: Jack Rieley
- Mires and Peat. Māris Kļaviņš (Ed.), 2010, Review: Andrzej Lachacz
- Ecology and hydrology of peatland/upland watersheds, Randall K. Kolka et al. (2011), Review: Juhani Päivänen

Advertisements:

- Turftech
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Additionally planned topics:

- Join us at the International Peat Congress 2012!
- IPS Meetings Spring 2011
- The Finnish Peatland Strategy
- New IPS Members
- List of Events

Additional advertisements are very welcome. You can find all ad sizes and price in our Media Kit 2011, which can be downloaded at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55. All advertisers will also be mentioned in Peat News for six months. A few short news announcements can also still be considered for the magazine if they are sent to [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) within the next two weeks. The editorial team reserves its right to choose, edit and shorten articles, if necessary.

Registration Opened for Growing Media Symposium in Barcelona

The Organizing Committee of the International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis 2011 is pleased to inform the IPS members that their online registration is now open. To register, please visit www.upc.edu/growingmediacomposting2011/registration before **15 June** to benefit from lower registration fees. 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 at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain on **17 - 21 October 2011**. 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. We look forward to welcoming you in Barcelona! (*Xavier Martínez i Farré*)

Annual Meeting and Excursion of the German Peat Society in Meppen

The German Peat Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Moor- und Torfkunde e.V.) will hold its annual meeting and excursion this year in Meppen on **14 - 17 September 2011**. The Emsland was, as many areas between the rivers Ems and Wester, characterized by large mires until the 18th century. These are today, for instance, the almost 2000 km² Bourtanger Moor, the Tinner/Staverne Dose, Leegmoor, Bockholter Dose, the Hahnenmoor and the Esterweger Dose. Even after intensive agricultural use, this is still the area with the most peatlands in Germany. The participants will hear presentations on different regional and general topics in German in the morning of 15 and on 16 September. The Thursday programme includes an excursion to the facilities of Klamann-Deilmann GmbH to see peat production, rewetting and oil production at Klein and Groß Heseper Moor as well as the Emsland Moormuseum, about which Dr. Michael Haverkamp reports also in the coming issue of Peatlands International (www.moormuseum.de). On Saturday, 17 September, the guests will travel to Tinner Dose and see rehabilitation efforts at Bargerveen in the Netherlands. Registrations are accepted until **1 September 2011** and the programme can be downloaded at www.dgmtev.de.

International Nordic Bioenergy Conference 2011 in Jyväskylä, Finland

The traditional International Nordic Bioenergy Conference will be in Jyväskylä, Finland this year on **5 - 9 September 2011**. The main programme includes a pre-tour from Helsinki to Jyväskylä and a get-together evening on 5 September, conference sessions and poster views on 6 - 7 September, technical tours on 8 September as well as the post-tour to Helsinki on 9 September. In addition, the International Bioenergy and Wood 2011 Exhibition is open to all attendees. The official language of the conference is English. Please register by **31 May 2011** to benefit from the early bird fee of 500 € (after that 700 €). More information can be found at www.nordicbioenergy.finbioenergy.fi.

Peat Production and Use Conference in Tomsk, Russia

A conference on “Innovative Aspects of Production, Processing and Use of Peat” is planned to be held in Tomsk, Russia on **18 - 20 October 2011** in cooperation with the Natural Resource Institute of Tomsk Polytechnic University. The conference will cover the following topics:

1. Improving of the use of peat deposits, methods and economic-geological evaluation.
2. Innovative technologies and equipment for peat production, profitability and achievements.
3. Major types of peat processing, experience of successful enterprises.
4. Range of peat usage, international experience, problems, perspectives.
5. Ecological problems of peat enterprises.

The conference will also include an exhibition of peat products, models of operating enterprises, as well as photo and video materials. Corresponding publications will be presented at the scientific-technical library of Tomsk Polytechnic University. The conference proceedings will be issued in Russian and English. For more information, please visit www.peatlands.ru/files/1289914742.doc or contact Olga Pasko, e-mail: oap (at) sibmail.com.

Sustainable Management of Wetlands in Transboundary Context, Belarus

All IPS members are invited to take part in the International Conference “Sustainable management of wetlands in transboundary context”, which will be held in Minsk, Belarus on **11 - 13 October 2011**. The Conference will be organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus in cooperation with the UNDP/GEF Project “Catalyzing

Sustainability of the Wetland Protected Area System in Belarusian Polesie through Increased Management Efficiency and Realigned Land Use Practices” and conjunctly with the KfW/BMU Project “Restoring peatlands and applying concepts for sustainable management in Belarus – climate change mitigation with economic and biodiversity benefits”. The aim of this high-level conference is to share the experience in sustainable management and conservation of wetlands including transboundary context. By sharing knowledge and the outcomes, the Government of Belarus and the international organizations hope to encourage the European Governments and other stakeholders to promote new mechanisms to secure the long-term management of wetlands in Belarus and across Europe, to benefit biodiversity conservation, regional development and climate change mitigation. The First Announcement for the conference can be found, for instance, at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=4.

IUCN BES Investing in Peatlands – Conference in Bangor, UK 2012

A joint symposium of the British Ecological Society (BES) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will be held under the title “Investing in Peatlands – Demonstrating Success” at Bangor University, United Kingdom on **26 - 28 June 2012** (NOTE: the IPS International Peat Congress will be held on **3 - 8 June 2012**). The symposium will bring together experts from science, policy and practice from a wide range of backgrounds to highlight and debate the importance of peatlands from an ecological, social and economic perspective. Our current state of knowledge of peatlands and their ecosystem services will be reviewed and important knowledge gaps will be addressed in order to provide recommendations on how these can be filled. The symposium will assess socio-economic tools to embed peatland conservation in practice and policy, e.g. through payment for ecosystem services as well as novel partnership approaches between conservation, business and policy. The symposium will be interdisciplinary with a strong focus on interaction of ecology and conservation science with socio-economics and policy. This will be reflected in the selection of keynote speakers and themes for the breakout sessions. For more information on this symposium, please visit www.britishecologicalsociety.org.

Lough Boora Parklands Shortlisted for Major Award

Bord na Móna’s Lough Boora Parklands is in with a chance of becoming a European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) in association with Fáilte Ireland. This former industrial peatland, which was also visited during recent IPS events in Ireland, has become a popular tourism destination in the midlands and has been short-listed to the final three applicants. On-site facilities include angling lakes, walkways and cycle paths, guided tours, bicycle hire and picnic areas. Each year, the aim of the competition is to draw attention to the value, diversity and shared characteristics of European tourist destinations and to promote destinations where the economic growth objective is pursued in such a way as to ensure the social, cultural and environmental sustainability of tourism. The winners will be officially awarded in Brussels on **27 September 2011**. More information on Lough Boora Parklands and the EDEN Award can be found at www.loughbooraparklands.com and http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/eden/what-is-eden/index_en.htm. (*Bord na Móna*)

Peatland Fires Return with the Summer Heat

News agencies have reported serious peatland and forest fires for many countries and regions. For instance, wild fires have broken out in parts of Indonesia (Sumatra), Russia (eastern Russia and Moscow region), parts of the UK (Berkshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Wales, Londonderry), Ireland (Donegal, Mayo, Galway) and the United States (North Carolina, Georgia) within previous weeks. For up-to-date news, please visit, for instance, Google News: <http://tiny.cc/r1k9y>.