

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.

## Register for the IPS Convention in Leiden!

There are just a few days before the end of the early bird deadline for the Annual Meetings of the IPS – you should register by **3 May** to benefit from lower fees and reserve your seat at this important event. The weeks programme of **17 - 21 June** includes the ISHS-IPS “International Symposium on Growing Media and Soilless Cultivation - Water Efficient Horticulture Word Wide”, the IPS Commission II (industrial use) meeting and possibly other IPS Commission meetings, the IPS Annual Assembly and National Committee Round table and related networking activities. Of course also shorter meeting packages are available.



As a special extra we are now offering a guided city walk and three-course special IPS Dinner in Leiden on the evening of **19 June**. Please see the detailed meeting and presentation schedule at [www.peatsociety.org/ipsleiden2013](http://www.peatsociety.org/ipsleiden2013), book your flights and accommodation, and then register at [www.peatsociety.org/webform/registration-ips-meetings-leiden](http://www.peatsociety.org/webform/registration-ips-meetings-leiden). IPS Commission meetings and other smaller workshops can be arranged on request. The IPS Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board Strategy meeting will be held on **18 - 19 June** in Wassenaar close to Leiden.

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

**OPTION 2:** Thursday, 20 June, all IPS meetings and the peat-related program of the symposium, morning and afternoon presentations, lunch, coffee and debate. **(recommended)**  
Special IPS fee **€ 160 (early fee, € 185 after 3 May)**

**OPTION 3:** Thursday, 20 June, IPS meetings without the symposium, but including the National Committee Round Table and Annual Assembly, 10:45 - 15:30 hrs, lunch and coffee.  
Special registration fee **€ 60 (early fee, € 85 after 3 May)**

For the full symposium programme see [www.grosci2013.wur.nl](http://www.grosci2013.wur.nl). This is again a great chance to see and meet and to exchange information in the heart of Central Europe. We look forward to seeing you and your colleagues!

## Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2013 in Vilnius

The Annual International Baltic States Forum for Peat Producers is taking place in Vilnius, Lithuania on **4 - 6 September 2013**. At the same time Lithuania will – by coincidence – be holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Thus, the aim of the forum is to show that peat production and related business is a very important branch of industry for the growing media and energy sectors, which is able to remain stable and visible even in the background of the global economic crisis. As in previous years, the organisers expect guests from many countries of the world. These are not only peat producers, but also traders of peat products, environmentalists, and representatives of related services. The Forum participants will be able to meet old friends and to share their experiences with colleagues. It is a fantastic opportunity to introduce your business and to find new business partners. The Lithuanian association of peat companies “Lietuviskos durpes” is looking forward to your arrival and hope that you will gladly contribute to our common works. For more information please see [www.asocdurpes.lt/forum2013](http://www.asocdurpes.lt/forum2013) or call or write an email to the organising committee at info (at) asocdurpes.lt.

## Responsible Management of Peatlands – Implications for the Industrial Sector: February 2014 in Québec

The Peatland Ecology Research Group is pleased to invite researchers, students, industry and government stakeholders to a symposium on “Responsible management of peatlands: Implications for the industrial sector” on **19 - 20 February 2014** at Université Laval, Québec City, Canada. The event is chaired by Line Rochefort, NSERC Industrial Chair in Peatland Management, Université Laval and Jonathan Price, Professor in Geography, University of Waterloo, and organized with the collaboration of Commission V of the International Peat Society and the Canadian Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists.

The horticultural peat industry of Canada has invested 22 years in R&D in habitat restoration. They continue to invest in research to achieve higher standards for sustainable peatland management. The oil sands industry, which is strongly impacting the boreal wetlands of western Canada, recognizes the need to reduce its ecological footprint. Industry has responded by supporting experimental re-creation of peatlands on decommissioned open mine areas near Fort McMurray, Alberta, and sponsoring restoration attempts of former oil pads in the Peace River region. Mineral resource extraction in the boreal zone of Canada is causing further stress on peatland ecosystems. Dewatering of an open pit mines in the Hudson/James Bay Lowland of northern Ontario causes depressurization of the limestone aquifer that underlies the predominantly peatland-covered landscape, resulting in partial desiccation of the surrounding area. The restoration and reclamation of extensive disturbance in peatland landscapes command innovative solutions. For more information, please see [www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca](http://www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca). (Claire Boismenu)

## Yorkshire’s Forgotten Fenlands Event, UK

Professor Ian D. Rotherham will talk about “Yorkshire’s Forgotten Fenlands: Potteric Carr Drainage and Re-Birth” at the Potteric Carr Nature Reserve, Sedum House, Mallard Way, DN4 8DB on Sunday, **28 April** at 13:00 - 14:30 hrs. The event is organised by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Ian D. Rotherham is Professor of Environmental Geography and Reader in Tourism & Environmental Change at Sheffield Hallam University and has appeared on numerous TV programmes, and both regional and UK news. For more information and to book your seat, please see [www.ywt.org.uk/events/2013/03/08/yorkshires-forgotten-fenlands-potteric-carr-drainage-and-re-birth](http://www.ywt.org.uk/events/2013/03/08/yorkshires-forgotten-fenlands-potteric-carr-drainage-and-re-birth). (Jack Rieley)

## Mire Fauna Symposium in Bad Liebenwerda, Germany

A meeting on current developments in mire conservation „Aktuelles zum Moorschutz: Umsetzung in der Niederlausitzer Heidelandschaft & faunistische Aspekte“ will be held by the German Peat Society (DGMT) together with Landesforst Brandenburg and Nature Reserve Niederlausitzer Heidelandschaft in Maasdorf, Bad Liebenwerda, Brandenburg, Germany, **6 - 8 June 2013**. The Loben excursion area is one of the last remaining large forest-mire-complexes that has not been destroyed by drainage or open lignite extraction. At the same time, one can see trials for drainage. During previous years, attempts were made to stabilise hydrology of the area and to include its fauna into conservation measures. Consequently, presentations and discussions of the meeting will include the importance of mires for animals. Participants are asked to book their own accommodation, bring rubber boots, and to use public transport, other emissions will be balanced by moor certificates (see [www.moorfutures.de](http://www.moorfutures.de)). The registration fee includes catering, presentations and the excursions and amounts e.g. for DGMT (IPS) members to € 55 plus € 15 until **15 May** (early fee). To sign up, please contact Jörn Kasch, joern.kasch (at) lbeg.niedersachsen.de, phone: +49 511 643 3563. More information can also be obtained from Michael Trepel, mtrepel (at) ecology.uni-kiel.de. For the complete programme in German, see [www.dgmt-ev.de](http://www.dgmt-ev.de) and visit also [www.naturpark-nlh.de](http://www.naturpark-nlh.de). (Gerfried Caspers)

## Nordic Baltic Bioenergy 2013 in Oslo in May

The Nordic Baltic Bioenergy Conference 2013 is scheduled for **21 - 22 May** at the Radisson Blu Scandinavia, Oslo, Norway. The event is an attractive meeting point for representatives from all parts of the bioenergy sector where business representatives, consultants, researchers, scientists, policymakers and media meet. This year’s event will focus on trade, economics, marketing and finance within the bioenergy industry. New technologies and market opportunities regarding bioenergy production and utilization are as always of great interest. Also important topics regarding climate and environmental issues related to the use of bioenergy will be discussed. Parallel sessions and panel debates with profiled speakers will be organised to discuss future challenges and possibilities of bioenergy. Side

events will provide opportunities for networking, match making, share experiences and improve knowledge about various activities in the bioenergy sector. Among these IEA Bioenergy, Nordic Energy Research and other active actors will participate. The Conference is arranged by the Norwegian Bioenergy association (Nobio) in co-operation with their sister-organizations in the Nordic and Baltic countries. For more information, see [www.bioenergy2013.no](http://www.bioenergy2013.no).

## Fen Peatlands after Drainage for young Scientists

IPS Commission III "Agricultural use of peatlands and peat" is organizing a special workshop dealing with fen peatlands after drainage. The workshop will be held in English on **9 - 11 July 2013** in Poland, near Warsaw. The meeting focuses on morphological classification of peats and mucks as well as discussions over changes in physical and chemical properties after several dozens of years of peatland drainage. The workshop is addressed to young scientists and divided into oral presentations and field measurements. For the full programme and registration, please visit the website [www.uwm.edu.pl/gleba/IPSC3/](http://www.uwm.edu.pl/gleba/IPSC3/). We are looking forward to your participation! (*Barbara Kalisz*)

## Impacts of Pollution & Climate Change on Peatlands

A special symposium on "Impacts of Air Pollution and Climate Change on Peatland Biodiversity and Biogeochemistry" is planned for the 2013 Society of Wetland Scientists - Europe Annual Meeting in Padua, Italy. The full meeting will take place on **1 - 4 September 2013** and this peatland symposium will be held as a parallel session on **4 September**. At the symposium, findings from the PEATBOG project will be presented. A post-conference excursion to peatlands in the Dolomites is planned for **5 September**. Early registration extends until **30 June**. For more information, see [www.sste.mmu.ac.uk/peatbog](http://www.sste.mmu.ac.uk/peatbog) and [www.sws2013.com](http://www.sws2013.com). The PEATBOG project has investigated the impact of nitrogen pollution and climate change on the health of peatlands. The project was funded by the European Research Association BiodivERsA programme and ran from spring 2009 through to the end of 2012. The seven project partners were from the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Sweden. (*Nancy Dise and Jos Verhoeven*)

## Busk Medal 2013 for Professor Susan Page

Professor Susan Page, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Leicester, UK and a member of IPS has been conferred the Busk Medal 2013 by the Royal Geographical Society for her work on conservation research on tropical peatland in Indonesia. The Medal will be presented at the Society's Medals and Awards celebrations on Monday **3 June 2013**, hosted by the RGS President Professor Judith Rees. (*Jack Rieley*)

## International Indonesia Peatland Conversation

The Indonesia National Council on Climate Change and Indonesia Climate Change Centre (ICCC) facilitated an International Indonesian Peatland Conversation (IIPC) in Bandung, Indonesia from **25 to 27 February 2013**. The objective was to increase awareness on and understanding of what is needed to achieve Indonesia's targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions from peatland. The meeting was attended by 50 participants (comprising both national and international scientists, and policy makers from Indonesia) from 10 countries, from over 35 institutions. The IIPC identified the challenges and opportunities in realizing policy implementation that will contribute to Indonesia's GHG emission reduction target as a result of effective peatland management and determined priority policy requirements for sustainable peatland management.

Several important topics were discussed, including key elements of effective peatland management that should be considered in Indonesia and significant examples of policy development processes that have produced positive results elsewhere. This conversation also identified the issues and opportunities to be further explored in Indonesia in order to mitigate the impact of greenhouse gas emissions from peatland, as well as the necessary starting points to develop a policy agenda to pursue in the near term.

IIPC suggested that there is a significant need of commitment from all stakeholders, government, private sector, technical experts, and environmental organizations, as well as local communities to utilize science input for robust policy directives for peatland management. Sustainable peatland management according to ICCC involves five areas, namely, protection of remaining intact peat forests, restoration of degraded and drained peatland, prevention of peat forest and peat fires, restricting the development of new plantation concessions on peat, and reduction of emissions

from existing plantations. The IIPC proposed a sixth area as another important component towards Sustainable Peatland Management, which is to raise awareness of the importance of peatland and capacity building. The conclusions of this IIPC suggest many issues need to be addressed in order to support sustainable peatland management in Indonesia, such as institutional capacity to enforce better coordination and leadership in peatland management. *(Jack Rieley)*

## Peat Production Preference Areas to be removed from regional Developments Plans in Lower Saxony

The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony, Germany announced on 9 April 2013 that it wants to increasingly protect the federal state's peatlands by changing regional development plans. The intention is, according to their press release, to remove all peat production preference areas from the regional development plan (Landesraumordnungsprogramm LROP). For climate and nature conservation reasons they will refrain completely from areas foresighted for peat extraction. The process to change the regional development plans shall be started even before the summer break and will – as there is more involvement than usual – be finalized probably in 2014. The federal government intends further to define peatlands as natural CO<sub>2</sub>-sinks and by this to end further peat extraction. A current inventory of the raised bogs and fens is intended to be the basis for mire protection in Lower Saxony. The aim is to transfer soils with high carbon content back to a near-natural state. By this, their climate and soil protection characteristics shall be re-established. On mid and long-term, the federal government would like to build up a Mire Protection System „Northern German Mire Landscapes“. For this, areas should be identified and aims of protection and uses determined, in cooperative dialogue with local people, farmers and associations. These first steps for a protection area setting shall be done until the end of the year.

The German Garden Industry Association (IVG) stated as a response on 10 April 2013 that “mire conservation and peat production in Lower Saxony do not object to each other. As peat extraction and rehabilitation have co-existed for 30 years by now, climate and nature protection reasons do not justify a politically motivated end of the industry sector. For the peat industry, by no means intact mire areas are drained and destroyed. The industry uses degraded areas instead that have been drained for agricultural use hundreds of years ago and that do not have any typical mire fauna anymore. After production a peat layer of 0.5 m remains as basis for rewetting and thereby mire regeneration. Within a few years sphagnum mosses start to grow and an intact, carbon assimilating mire evolves from the former agricultural, degenerated area. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from peat production amount to less than 0.2% of the total emissions of Germany. The peat industry uses with currently 11,500 ha peat production area less than 2% of the Lower Saxonian bog and fen areas. [...] The industry is doing research on alternative materials and additives already for decades. At the moment potting soils contain about 23% of other materials than peat, professional growing media already 7%. Whereas in the past, it was possible to use compost to replace peat at least partially, nowadays these amounts are strongly decreasing due to their competing energy and heat use. [...] Peat that is not produced in Lower Saxony will, following estimations of the industry, be imported from the Baltic countries still for a long time as there are no alternatives available, with the corresponding CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which further increase because of transporting.”

For the original press releases, please see [www.umwelt.niedersachsen.de/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/114261.html](http://www.umwelt.niedersachsen.de/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/114261.html), [www.ivg.org](http://www.ivg.org) and [www.warum-torf.info](http://www.warum-torf.info) (in German). *(Guus van Berckel, roughly translated by the IPS)*

## Creative School Students for MoorLIFE

A competition to encourage school students to think creatively about the uniqueness of the moorland habitat is being launched by Edale-based Moors for the Future Partnership. Students aged 8 - 16 are being invited to write a story or poem or to create a poster or comic strip exploring important moorland issues or simply reflecting the beauty of the unique upland landscape. First prize will be an inspiring, two-day drama workshop for the successful secondary and primary schools with a theatre production company. Actors from the company will work with students to bring the winning entry to life and to make a film of the performance. Runners-up will receive an achievement certificate and an invitation to the winners' celebration event at the Moorland Discovery Centre, Derbyshire in July. The closing date is **17 May 2013**. To find out more go to [www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife-learning](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife-learning). MoorLIFE is a £5.5 million, EU Life+ project. Its aim is to protect 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. Partners in the Project include the Environment Agency, Natural England, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water. *(Louise Turner)*