

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.

## International Peat Congress: Abstract Deadline 31 October 2011

The Scientific Committee of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress is asking all IPS members and their colleagues to consider submitting abstracts for oral and poster presentations for this most important event next summer. The Congress will be held at the City Congress Centre in Stockholm on **3 - 8 June 2012** and we expect at least some 500-800 participants. Please note that the abstract deadline is already in roughly two months time, on **31 October 2011**.

### Submission

All authors are requested to submit their abstracts via the on-line submission form at [www.ipc2012.se](http://www.ipc2012.se). In the abstract submission module, authors are requested to register, to fill in a form for author's information, to select the presentation form, to suggest under which theme and sub-theme the contribution should appear, and finally to submit the abstract. Please note that sub-themes are preliminary and may be subject to change. An abstract has been submitted successfully and has been received if the title appears on the author's personal page, following submission. The author will have access to his/her abstract – for modifications – until the abstract submission is closed. Later on, the personal page will show information on review results and any registered presentations. This information will also be sent by e-mail.

### Abstract format and content

Abstracts must be written in English language and contain: Title of the paper (maximum 20 words), main text of abstract, maximum 250 words including key words (maximum 5 words) as well as introduction, description of methods, main results and conclusions in written form. Figures and tables are not allowed.

### Review of abstracts

All abstracts will be reviewed and evaluated by members of the Congress Scientific Committee. Primary selection criteria are scientific quality, relevance to the Congress themes and clarity of expression. The Scientific Committee does not have the capacity to correct language shortcomings. Abstracts that are e.g. ambiguous, may for that reason be rejected. We urge authors not fully confident in English to check the language before submitting the abstract. Abstracts will be evaluated starting 1 November 2011, it is strongly recommended to submit abstracts well in advance of 31 October. Notifications of acceptance/rejection will be sent in early December 2011.

### Extended abstracts

Following acceptance of an abstract, the author(s) will be requested to submit an extended abstract (=short article). These manuscripts must not exceed 5 pages (including abstract, figures, tables and

references), and should follow conventional scientific writing style, format and English language up to full scientific standard. Detailed instructions for extended abstracts will be issued later. Deadline for submission of extended abstracts is 31 January 2012. After review by the Scientific Committee members, accepted extended abstracts will be included in the Congress Proceedings. Full papers will thus not be published, but theme/session organisers are encouraged to explore alternative publication options (books, special issues of journals, etc.) for papers and/or posters presented in their sessions. Authors will be informed by the theme/session chair persons, if such alternative publication can be offered.

More information on the International Peat Congress in Sweden 2012 and a pre-registration form can be found at form at [www.ipc2012.se](http://www.ipc2012.se). Let's get ready for a fabulous Congress!

### Call for Articles: Peatlands International 2/2011

Peatlands International 1/2011 should arrive in your mailbox during the next few days. Now it is time to prepare the autumn issue of the IPS magazine. Please send your reports about studies, recent events, news announcements, photos and other peatland-related topics by **30 September 2011** (strict deadline) to the IPS Secretariat, susann.warnecke (at) peatsociety.org. Peatlands International 2/2011 will be published in December in 2,000 copies and after that sent to all members of the Society as well as a number of stakeholders and subscribers. Please make sure that your article is written in English language, unformatted with less than 2000 words (1-4 pages Arial pt 10, no caps), contains sub headlines, if needed, and full author contact details. Photographs and other illustrations are very welcome and must be sent as separate high resolution files with captions as well as the names and permissions of their copyright holders. More information on Peatlands International can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55). We also accept additional advertisements – this is a good opportunity for our corporate members to promote their products!

### Irish Peat Society Autumn AGM and Field Study / Workshop Seminar Event

The Irish Peat Society is organizing a two day event based around informing the development of a National Peatland Strategy. The event will take the form of a field trip on **18 October 2011** to Clara Bog, followed by a conference dinner that evening in the Court Hotel, Tullamore. The following day, **19 October**, will comprise of a number of presentations from national and international speakers on peatland management and experiences in developing peatland strategies. Please hold these dates and we will be back with more information in the next couple of weeks as we confirm speakers and trip details. More information can be given by Mairead Hynes, email: mairead.hynes (at) bnm.ie. Regular updates on activities of the Irish Peat Society can also be seen at [www.facebook.com/pages/Irish-Peat-Society/190659956823](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Irish-Peat-Society/190659956823). (via Catherine Farrell)

### Stefan Östlund New Chair of IPS Swedish National Committee

Torvforsk, the National Committee of the IPS in Sweden, is now lead by Mr. Stefan Östlund. He can be contacted at Neova AB, Box 1143, 824 13 Hudiksvall, email: stefan.ostlund (at) neova.se, phone: +46 650 547 417, +46 70 665 98 80. Here is Stefan's introduction to IPS members:

"I am 42 years old and have worked in the peat industry for a long time. For the last nine years I have been working as exploration manager for Neova, the largest peat producer in Sweden. I believe that IPS through its unique ability to bring together various stakeholders to the same conferences and meetings have an extremely important role in the development of the view of peatlands and peat. To be elected to chairman of Torvforsk (Swedish National Committee for IPS) I see as a great

honour and will do my best to develop the Swedish operations. I would also like to thank resigned Chairman Lena Dahlman for her efforts and invite you all to IPC 2012 in Stockholm.”

## DEFRA Consultation on the Reduction of Peat in England's Horticulture

Defra, the UK government department responsible for policy and regulations on the environment, food and rural affairs, has set out a new policy framework to reduce the use of peat in horticulture to zero by 2030 as part of the Natural Environment White Paper. This includes the following milestones:

- a progressive phase-out target of 2015 for government and the public sector on direct procurement of peat in new contracts for plants;
- a voluntary phase-out target of 2020 for amateur gardeners; and
- a final voluntary phase-out target of 2030 for professional growers of fruit, vegetables and plants;
- Defra will establish a Task Force bringing together representatives from across the supply chain with a clear remit to advise on how best to overcome the barriers to reducing peat use, exploring all the available measures to achieve this goal;
- building on the advice of the Task Force, Defra will review progress towards these targets before the end of this spending period and consider the potential for alternative policy measures if necessary.

The taskforce will be chaired by Dr. Alan Knight OBE and include representatives from retailers, growing media manufacturers, growers and environmental organisations. It will have a clear remit to foster a partnership approach focussing on identifying and addressing supply chain issues, exploring all available measures to deliver our ambition and determining the criteria against which the policy will be reviewed. Peat is cheap, readily available and of consistent quality, and any alternative has to compete with these factors. The taskforce will produce a comprehensive and detailed roadmap to address barriers in relation to both the supply and demand of peat alternatives, with the aim of reforming once and for all a supply chain focussed around peat. The document is available at [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/).

Also published on 7 June was the summary of responses to Defra's recent consultation on this issue, along with two research reports which provide part of the evidence base for the above paper:

- Summary of consultation responses: [www.tiny.cc/lu4mg](http://www.tiny.cc/lu4mg)
- Research on the costs of phasing out peat in the hardy nursery stock sector: [www.tiny.cc/rxr1a](http://www.tiny.cc/rxr1a)
- Research on use of peat in growing media in other countries: [www.tiny.cc/d60bq](http://www.tiny.cc/d60bq)

Defra thanks all experts for their input to date, and looks forward to continuing to work with you. If you have any questions, please contact soils (at) defra.gsi.gov.uk. (Defra, via Jack Rieley)

## Global Bioenergy Outlook Seminar in Jyväskylä

A Pre-Conference seminar on global Bioenergy issues will be held on **5 September 2011**, from 15.00 to 19.00 hrs, as kick-off to the International Nordic Bioenergy 2011 Conference and Exhibition, being held on **5 - 9 September**. Many Governments in the world are now looking at sustainable energy. Bioenergy is the largest source of renewable energy and the potential is very big. The purpose of this half-day event is to show benefits of efficient use of biomass all over the world.

Speakers will come, among others, from WBA, AEBIOM, Japan, Sweden, Kenya, Zambia, Brazil and Australia. To register for the pre-conference workshop (100 €) and/or the Bioenergy conference, please visit [www.nordicbioenergy.finbioenergy.fi](http://www.nordicbioenergy.finbioenergy.fi); there is a 10% discount on registration if you combine both events and mention this in the comment section.

### Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Minneapolis

The Geological Society of America invites the international geology community to attend the 2011 GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA on **9 - 12 October**. The meeting includes an array of interesting field trips, and presentations in 217 topical sessions, sessions, short courses, workshops, and other events. The theme of the conference captures diversity - Archean to Anthropocene; the past is the key to the future - stressing the broad research and education agenda of the GSA community as a whole, as well as the application of their work to society. The complete programme can be found at [www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011) and sessions related to peatlands are, for instance:

- T56. From Organic Detritus to Coal: Tracing the Terrestrial Decomposer Community in Permineralized Peat, Lignite, and Coal
- T96. Carbon and Water Dynamics in Peatlands and Their Relationship to Climatic Change
- T97. Advances in Understanding at the Groundwater–Surface Water Interface and Challenges for the Future: A Reflection on Tom Winter's Legacy
- T102. Shallow Lakes and Wetlands: Sedimentary Records and Modern Dynamics of Small Systems That Pack a Big Punch in the Carbon Cycle

### Fuel Peat Activities in Ontario, Canada

Peat Resources Limited has renewed its permits on 19,000 hectares of peatlands in the Upsala area of north-western Ontario and has received a Letter of Authority from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to carry out surveys and resource evaluations of peatlands in the McFaulds Lake (Ring of Fire) region. As previously reported, the Upsala properties contain approximately 200 million tonnes of fuel-grade peat (defined at NI 43-101 standard). The peat resources are within economic transportation distance of OPG's Atikokan Generating Station and the Port of Thunder Bay. Peat Resources Limited is in discussion with mining companies, and provincial government authorities, urging consideration of the use of peat fuel to supplement the energy needs of these mining and ore processing developments as well as the introduction of peat-fuelled combined-heat-and-power systems in remote (off-grid) First Nations communities. The company's small-scale peat fuel production operation in Stephenville, Newfoundland serves as a demonstration facility for these remote applications. For more information, please see [www.peatresources.com](http://www.peatresources.com). (*Peter Telford*)

### Klaus Döring New Managing Director at Terracult GmbH

As of 1 July 2011, Mr. Klaus Döring has taken over the management at Terracult GmbH in Sankt Augustin, Germany. By the end of the year, a shareholding in the company is planned. With the change in leadership, the company's founder will no longer have an active part in the company's day to day business, but will continue to be available for advice as the company's main shareholder. Klaus Döring has extensive experience in the industry. After graduating as a horticultural engineer, he has worked for over 20 years in senior positions in the peat and substrate industry. Terracult, an international brand supplier of peat raw materials and peat substrates, can look back on a successful development since the company's foundation 17 years ago. The company has an export share of 90% in over 40 countries worldwide. More information: [www.terracult.com](http://www.terracult.com). (*Terracult*)