

PEAT NEWS



Monthly Newsletter of the International Peat Society

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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.

Come with us to Sweden and present your work!

There is only one month left to send your **proposal for a 15 minute presentation** at the International Peat Congress 2012 to the Scientific Committee. Presentation summaries, also called abstracts, can be submitted directly at the Congress website until **31 October 2011**. Please take this chance and come with us to the largest mire, peat and peatland event next summer. The Congress entitled "Peatlands in Balance" will be held at the City Congress Centre in Stockholm on **3 - 8 June 2012** and we expect at least some 500 - 800 participants.



We welcome your proposals for oral and poster presentations on the latest developments in the world of peat and peatlands – this is an excellent opportunity to obtain and share knowledge with other peatland experts, industry representatives, students and scientists of related disciplines. More information on the International Peat Congress in Sweden 2012, detailed instructions for abstract submission and a pre-registration form can be found at www.ipc2012.se. There is also a broad variety of sponsoring activities still available for our corporate members, their customers and suppliers. Hej Sverige, we look forward to seeing you and your colleagues!

IPS Executive Board Elections 2012

At the Annual Assembly of National Representatives at the International Peat Congress in Stockholm 2012, elections will be held for the following forthcoming vacant posts on the IPS Executive Board:

function	at present	status	term of office
<i>President</i>	<i>Donal Clarke, Ireland</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2008 – 2012</i>
<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>Björn Hånell, Sweden</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2008 – 2012</i>
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	<i>Paul Short, Canada</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2010 – 2012</i>
Ordinary members (2-6)	<i>Satu Helynen, Finland</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2008 – 2012</i>
	<i>Jutta Zeitz, Germany</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2010 – 2012</i>
	<i>Open position</i>	<i>To be elected.</i>	<i>2010 – 2012</i>
	<i>Valerijs Kozlovs, Latvia</i>	<i>Stays in office.</i>	<i>2010 – 2014</i>
	<i>Erki Niitlaan, Estonia</i>	<i>Stays in office.</i>	<i>2010 – 2014</i>
	<i>Lech Szajdak, Poland</i>	<i>Stays in office.</i>	<i>2010 – 2014</i>

There is now a real chance to participate in decision making: Nominations for the open positions can be sent to the IPS Secretariat by all IPS National Committees that have paid their membership fees until **31 January 2012**, including an application letter and a CV of the person concerned.

We would like to underline that strong, committed and active players for our Board are needed to be able to deal with the challenges of the coming years, and to keep our Society a living pool of enthusiastic specialists and devoted peatland friends. The Executive Board meets approximately 3-4 times a year for 2-3 days, mostly in Europe, and quick email access between meetings is essential.

The election of the three Presidents and one to three ordinary Board members will be carried out by the Representatives of our National Committees at the Annual Assembly of the IPS on **8 June 2012**. The new Board members will be elected for the terms 2012-2016. The Presidents will be elected independently from the venue of the International Peat Congresses. The Second Vice President is at the same time member and contact person at the IPS Scientific Advisory Board. Half of the ordinary Board members change every second year.

Please see the IPS Statutes and Internal Regulations for more details on the requirements and the election procedure at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=5, an extract of the most important items will be sent to the National Committees in mid October.

Final Call for Articles and Advertisements: Peatlands International 2/2011

The deadline for article and advertisement submission has slightly moved: now you can send in your manuscript and photos even until **10 October** to [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). We welcome all suitable reports in English about your studies, recent events, news announcements, photos and other peatland-related topics. Peatlands International 2/2011 will be published in December, 2,000 copies will be sent to all members of the Society as well as a number of stakeholders and subscribers. All contributions should be unformatted with less than 2000 words (1-4 pages Arial pt 10) with low case headlines, an introduction, sub headlines, if needed, and full author contact details. Photographs and other illustrations must be sent as separate files (jpg, pdf, tiff, high resolution), captions included as well as the names and permission of their copyright holders. More information and previous issues: www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55.

IPS-ISHS Growing Media Symposium in Barcelona, Spain in October

The International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis will be held on **17 - 21 October 2011** in Barcelona (Spain) in the facilities of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Barcelona TECH). The Symposium is organized under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and co-sponsored by the International Peat Society (IPS), with support from the ISHS-Commission of Plant Substrates and Soilless Culture and their Working Groups on Growing Media, Composting for Horticultural Applications and Substrate Analysis.

Topics covered at the symposium are:

- Advances in analytical methods for growing media and compost
- Physical and chemical properties of growing media
- Novel materials and new uses for existing materials
- Developments in composting and compost products for growing media
- Sustainable uses of compost and growing media in horticultural production
- Water and nutrition management in growing media

- Biological/microbial influences in growing media and composted products
- Weeds, pests and diseases control in growing media

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. Online registration for a lower fee than on-site is possible until **1 October 2011**. For more information, please see www.upc.edu/growingmediacomposting2011.

Peat Production Summer 2011 influenced by Rain in many Countries

The following information was collected by the IPS Secretariat in August and September from our National Committees and Industry Associations, for more details please contact these organisations:

Belarus: The extraction of peat in Belarus in 2011 amounted to 3.2 million tons (*Alexey Osipov, Beltopgaz*)

Canada: Poor weather conditions have caused Canadian peat harvesting to fall short of targets in the 2011 season. Harvesting has been especially difficult in the East of the country where only 15-30% of historically targeted requirements have been met. Continuous and heavy rainfall conditions throughout Eastern Canadian peatlands have impacted on the ability of the industry to harvest expected volumes. The areas hardest hit are in New Brunswick and Québec, accounting for 60-70% of all of Canada's peat production. The conditions at the end of September were so unfavourable that the harvest season has practically concluded. Weather conditions have been better in Western Canada, where harvesting is continuing in some locations. That area, however, represents only 30-40% of the total Canadian production. The outcome is that overall the industry is facing one of its poorest peat harvest seasons. The peat industry is committed to working cooperatively with its commercial business partners to minimize the short-term impacts for the horticultural and agricultural industries. (*press release Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association*)

Finland: According to preliminary figures gathered by the Association of Finnish Peat Industries, peat production accumulated up to 22.3 million cubic meters in 2011. This is only 75% compared to the long-term average production figures. Energy peat was produced little less than 21 million cubic meters (18.7 TWh) and horticultural & environmental peat about 1.5 million cubic meters. Due to low production and storage levels, peat demand will exceed supply within the coming winter months, endangering the national security of supply. The active peat production area amounted to 62,400 ha (0.7% of the total peatland area in Finland). Some 3,000 ha of peat production sites move on to new land use forms annually, mostly to forest, agriculture and various wetland ecosystems. Old production sites usually suffer badly from rainy season conditions, and there is an urgent need for new production areas – efforts are taken to speed up the environmental permission process in our country. (*Hannu Salo, Association of Finnish Peat Industries*)

Germany: Until June, the production season went very well, and about 80-90% of our targets could be harvested. After that, the weather conditions were very bad and production nearly impossible. We do not believe that there will be shortages, but there might be a lack of supply from the Baltics as, due to unsuitable weather, production in those countries was even lower. (*Johannes Welsch, Industrieverband Garten*)

Ireland (August): After an excellent early start in April to the peat production season in Ireland about 40% of normal annual volumes were achieved by the end of May. However, weather since

then has been broken with a lot of rainfall (well above average) and very patchy drying. Just now, almost at the end of August, volumes harvested are about 75 - 80% of normal and the weather outlook continues to be mixed. (*Pat Fitzgerald, Bord na Móna*)

Latvia (August): Until June weather conditions in Latvia were very good. Many extractors started their season already just after Easter. It was raining a lot in July and August, therefore peat extraction amounts were small. The average production amount in Latvia in the last five years (2006 - 2011) is approx. 790,000 t. Up to August, about 700,000 t were produced and because weather forecast for September promise a lot of rain the total production amount can reach just 720 - 750 which is more than last year (694,000 t) but less than average. Market situation - demand is greater than supply. (*Ilze Ozola, Latvian Peat Producers' Association*)

Norway: This season has been the poorest season ever for peat production in Norway. The peat producers have harvested much less than the demand for peat in the market. Many meteorological measuring stations have received more than annual normal precipitation in the period January to September. For the period January to August this year has been the wettest since 1900 for eastern Norway (150 % of normal), and for Norway as a whole this year was the fourth wettest since 1900 (135% of normal, see <http://tiny.cc/gssae>). In September, the rainy period has continued, causing flooding of rivers and agricultural land. The weather forecasts are not positive and no long periods without precipitation are expected. Therefore 2011 will end up as a very poor year for peat production in Norway. (*Trond Knapp Haraldsen, Norwegian Peat Producers Association*)

Russia: In 2011, peat was harvested industrially by 36 enterprises, which produced approximately 1,650 thousand tons. The weather in the North-Western region (Karelia, Pskov, Novgorod, St. Petersburg) allowed proper work only in June. The rest of the time was heavily influenced by rainfall. In other regions of Russia the weather was fine, allowing better production. (*Alexander Ivanov, Russian National Committee*)

Sweden: The weather has been very different in different parts of Sweden. A lot of rain in the southern parts, almost no rain in the middle and a normal amount of rain in the northern and northeastern parts. The weather was good to the end of June; July and August gave large amounts of rain, resulting in very low peat production in the southern parts. The biggest peat producer, Neova, is rather content with their peat harvest this year. Stefan Östlund, project manager: "Neova has harvested approx 75% according to our plan. We hope that we can harvest 10% more before autumn is over. We have a large demand of peat and we are dependent on import." In general, bad weather conditions gave less peat production as expected, with southern parts of Sweden having the most difficulties. In addition, the local demand is much larger than the production, resulting in a dependence on imported peat. (*Marie Kofod-Hansen, Swedish National Committee*)

Ukraine: The Ukrainian peat producers produced in 2011 in total 394 thousand tons of milled peat (for the manufacture of bricks) and 60 thousand tons of milled peat for use in agriculture, horticulture and floriculture. Sod peat is almost not extracted. The weather season is satisfactory, but in July rain prevented harvesting. (*Volodymyr Hnyeushev, Ukrainian National Committee*)

Finnish Peat Day on 18 October in Helsinki

The Association of Finnish Peat Industries (Turveteollisuusliitto ry) will hold its autumn seminar day at Hilton Kalastajantorppa Hotel in Helsinki on **18 October 2011**. The programme includes presentations about the status of peat in Finnish energy supply, taxation, environmental protection, the national peatland strategy, combined peat and wood combustion, waterway protection,

legislation for ash fertilization as well as an evaluation of current permission processes, a preview to peat use in coming years and many other topics. The seminar will be opened by Tomi Yli-Kyyny, Managing Director of Vapo Oy. The main speech of the seminar will be given by Mr Esko Kurvinen, Member of the Finnish Parliament. In addition, the annual award of the Association will be presented, and all participants are welcome to sign up for a special dinner in the evening. The Peat Day is held in conjunction to the Energia Forum Energy Day held in Helsinki on **17 October**. All presentations are given in Finnish. For the complete programme, accommodation information and to register, please go to www.turveteollisuusliitto.fi.

German Peat and Humus Day on 27 October in Bad Zwischenahn

The 46th Peat and Humus Day of the German peat industry will be held in Bad Zwischenahn, near Bremen, Lower Saxony on **27 October 2011**. This year, the conference will mainly deal with visions and visionaries. Those are indeed important for the future of the industry, for instance with regard to the competition for raw materials for substrates vs. their use in heat production, for land areas between agriculture and soil utilization, or peat production and nature protection requirements on the other side. The event will discuss these current issues, giving also an update on recent developments in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, and learning about scenarios for new raw material sources, for instance, in Ireland and Western Siberia. In addition, the participants will hear about alternative products, Sphagnum farming progress as well as obtain an overview of European legislation in our business field. Last but not least, the participants are invited to the traditional Spiekerabend dinner event. The conference is held in German and in English, more details can be obtained from www.ivg.org/ivg_de/ivg_veranstaltungen/ivg_dtht/.

Biomass for Heating and Cooling in Spain

The European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) invites all those interested to a Technical Seminar on Biomass for Heating and Cooling of the RHC-ETP organized on **18 October 2011** in Valladolid, Spain. The RHC-ETP, Renewable Heating & Cooling - European Technology Platform will show the latest technological innovations on biomass for heating and cooling in Europe. The seminar will address especially research priorities for future EU funding and innovation in the industry with regard to high efficient cogeneration, gasification, torrefaction, micro-CHP, trigeneration and related techniques. The technical seminar will be held in conjunction with the 6th International Bioenergy Congress, the second edition of the International Matchmaking "Business Opportunities in Bioenergy" and the Expobioenergia 2011. For more information, please visit www.aebiom.org, www.rhc-platform.org or go directly to www.congresobioenergia.org/en/.

American Geophysical Union's Fall Meeting in San Francisco

The 2011 American Geophysical Union's Annual Fall Meeting will take place in San Francisco, California, USA on **5 - 9 December 2011**. For decades, energized and passionate Earth and space scientists from around the world have been gathering at AGU's Fall Meeting to connect with colleagues, broaden their knowledge base, and embrace the joy of science. The groundbreaking research presented at this world-renowned event is critical to advancing our understanding of the natural world and to addressing the challenges society faces as they relate to our science. As an organization, AGU works to unite Earth and space scientists who are dedicated to the common goal: scientific discovery for the benefit of humanity. Session B49 of the Fall Meeting, for instance, will deal with Natural Wetlands: Observations and Modeling of Distributions and Methane Dynamics. Early bird registration is open until **1 November**. Please visit <http://sites.agu.org/fallmeeting/> for more information and to register.

New RHP Bog Flora Available

On request of their members, the RHP, knowledge center in the field of substrates and soil improvers, introduced the “RHP Peat Bog Flora” in June 2011. This Flora is especially written for people who are involved in the production of horticultural peat in Europe. Peatlands that are in production for horticultural peat have to be free of weeds. But not every plant on a bog is a weed. It is a difficult job for many employees to separate ‘good’ and the ‘bad’ species with regard to horticultural applications of the peat. The RHP Peat Bog Flora makes this easier. In the book, 86 different plants are described, supported by more than 280 pictures. For every particular plant, there is an indication about the level of its harmfulness in horticulture. The Flora is published as a small handy and practical book, which can be used easily on site. This book is also available for non RHP members for €30, shipping costs will be added. For more information, please visit www.rhp.nl or mail us at info (at) rhp.nl. (Marco Zevenhoven)

Klasmann-Deilmann broadens Raw-Material Supply Base in the Baltics

Klasmann-Deilmann is stepping up its activities in the Baltic region and is now also active in Latvia. With effect from **13 September 2011**, the Group has acquired the Latvian company Blue Mountain Peat SIA, which produces milled and sod-cut white peat over an area of around 1,325 ha within the Valmiera district. The extraction enterprises in the towns of Zilaiskalns, Raki, Tevgarsas, Koceni and Ozolmuiza operate with a workforce of around 60 under the name Klasmann-Deilmann Latvia SIA. Klasmann-Deilmann has been active in the Baltic states since the early 1990s. Its business activities in the region are focused on its four subsidiaries in Lithuania. In Silute, a state-of-the-art growing-media factory went into production in 2010. With annual production exceeding 1 million cubic metres, it is one of the largest in Europe. The Klasmann-Deilmann Group is the world’s leading producer of growing media for commercial horticulture. The company is set to generate turnover of more than € 150 million in the 2011 financial year, employing some 810 people in Europe, Asia and the USA. More information and the full press release can be found at the website of the company at www.klasmann-deilmann.com/en/news_2/news.

How to become an IPS member in countries without National Committees?

Persons, companies or other organisations in countries without a National Committee can join IPS directly at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=21. In general, individual or corporate member directly associated to the IPS Secretariat can benefit from:

- access to the events of the IPS, such as meetings, workshops, congresses and symposia
- significant discount on registration fees and certain publications
- free subscription of the magazine “Peatlands International”, published twice annually with about 60 pages of reports from peat events, research results, background stories
- free subscription of the monthly e-mail newsletter “Peat News”
- access to publications on peat and peatland business, research and related fields
- networking with about 1,500 specialists in peat and peatland science and industry
- online access to IPS membership list and publications database (coming soon)

The annual membership fee amounts to €45 annually for individual, €22 for student and €265 for corporate members (companies, universities, NGOs, up to six contact persons). A list of IPS National Committee Chair and Secretaries and their contact details as well as background information and their Annual Reports can be found at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=28.