

Peatlands

International

issue 1.2015



Viewpoint: Welcome to Tullamore 2015!

Moorwelten: The European Competence Centre for Peatland and Climate Broadens Horizons

Let's stick together - MoorLIFE conference demonstrates benefits of partnership working

How did Mires and Peat perform in 2014 and what can you do to help improve it?

Why are the Allan Robertson Grants important and how do we make them prestigious and sustainable?

Discovering the Grande plée Bleue... large, peeled and blue

New Peatland Areas Confirmed in Myanmar

Ancient peatlands to grow again

**Welcome back to
Ireland!**

IPS Convention:

**A new
conversation
on peatlands**

**Tullamore
7 - 11 June 2015**

www.irishpeatsociety.ie

Editorial

A busy spring and summer for all of us!

The IPS has been very busy during spring. Besides the usual work with organising meetings and finalising the accounts for 2014, we have planned to move the office to more “active” surroundings, meaning to a start up center with other companies and organisations to cooperate with and learn from each other. This will happen on 22 May and will be exciting, as there are many important books and documents to take with us - although most of our work is done and stored electronically nowadays. For our members, just the postal mail address will be different, phone and email addresses stay the same, of course.

The Executive Board of the IPS has shown its true strengths during the previous months. We held a three-day Strategy Meeting in Geeste, Germany, where all Board members participated in planning future goals, tasks and resources for the International Peat Society. In addition the Board discussed and extended these plans at the regular meeting in Berlin in March. We hope that the Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020 can be further developed within the next few weeks, especially when we meet in Tullamore for the Annual Convention.



EB meeting in Geeste. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Talking about Tullamore - of course all of you are warmly invited to attend this special conference. This time, it is planned that all of us stick together during the week and truly exchange information and get to know each other. Of course it will be pleasant to visit some peatlands, castles and production sites on the Green Island as well. See the programme and sign up at www.irishpeatsociety.ie.

After the summer holidays, we peat and peatland experts will be able to choose from a large

Peatlands International is the global magazine of the International Peat Society (IPS). It provides the more than 1,500 corporate and individual members of the Society with up-to-date information on peat and peatland matters, reports and photos of conferences and workshops, background reports and publication reviews.

To serve all of our members, we provide always a good balance between economic, social and environmental points of view. To receive Peatlands International in your email every three months, visit www.peatsociety.org/join-us and sign up as a member.

collection of different events. This includes peatland and mire symposia in Russia and the United Kingdom, in Germany and Finland, and especially the ISHS-IPS Symposium on Horticulture in Vienna, Austria in early September. In addition some local events and online webinars add up to the portfolio of what is available.

We kindly invite you also to participate actively in the preparations for and the promotion of the International Peat Congress 2016 in Kuching, Malaysia. Sponsors are very welcome and naturally the call for papers will be out very soon. Get ready to see the tropical peat swamp forest and exchange information with the locals.

Finally we wish to encourage you to make use of the Mires and Peat Journal of the IPS and IMCG. This open-access journal has now achieved Thomson accreditation, but we have to keep up the good work and write papers for the coming volumes to maintain this standard.

Be active and invite your colleagues to participate as well!

This issue of Peatlands International will guide to the European Competence Centre for Peatland and Climate in Northern Germany, to peatland restoration projects in the United Kingdom and to newly discovered mires in Myanmar.

Jack Rieley writes about the Mires and Peat Journal and its development and he explains why the new Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals deserve your interest and contributions. You will also read about the Grande plée Bleue peatland in Québec and a review of an introduction to Andean cushion peatlands. If you would like to participate as an author, please contact me by 15 June.

Finally, we wish you a pleasant summer with colleagues, your family and friends. Warm thanks also to all volunteers putting their efforts into use for the IPS!

Susann Warnecke

IPS Communications Manager
susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org

www.peatlandsinternational.wordpress.com

Peatlands International
ISSN: 1455-8491

Publisher: International Peat Society
Kauppakatu 19 D 31, 40100 Jyväskylä
phone: +358 40 418 4075, email: ips@peatsociety.org

Editor-in-Chief
Hannu Salo, IPS Secretary General
Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief & Layout
Susann Warnecke, IPS Communications Manager

Editorial Board
Paul Short, Canada
Juhani Päivänen, Finland
Michael Trepel, Germany
Catherine Farrell, Ireland
Lech Szajdak, Poland
Anne Jelle Schilstra, the Netherlands
Marie Kofod-Hansen, Sweden
Tom Malterer, USA

Cover: Kant Zaw in Myanmar.
www.peatsociety.org/publications/peatlands-international

To receive Peatlands International for free and by email,
become an IPS member: www.peatsociety.org/join-us.

For the online versions of our articles and more background information, go to Peatlands International's own website and blog at www.peatlandsinternational.wordpress.com and type ->

password: **ipsmember13**

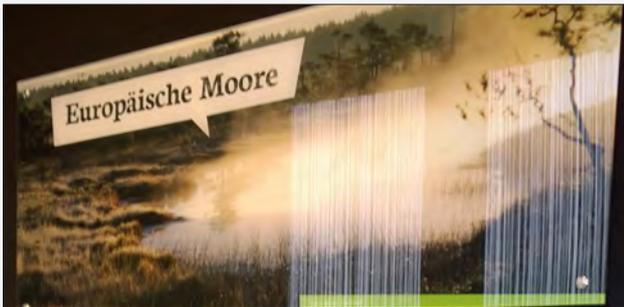
This will give all IPS members reading access during May 2015 - October 2015.

Contents

- 6 Viewpoint: Welcome to Tullamore 2015!
- 12 Let's stick together - MoorLIFE conference demonstrates benefits of partnership working
- 14 How did *Mires and Peat* perform in 2014 and what can you do to help improve it?
- 18 New Peatland Areas Confirmed in Myanmar
- 23 IPS Document Database & Peat News & Become a member!
- 25 STRETCH-ALL: Technologies adapted to our worldwide clientele
- 26 Ancient peatlands to grow again
- 34 In memoriam: Henk van de Griendt
- 35 Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics Round Table Conference in Valkeakoski, Finland
- 36 Book Review: Cushion Peatlands in the High Andes of Northwestern Argentina as Archives for Research
- 38 Peat and peatland events

New snail mail
address as of
22 May!

IPS Secretariat!
Nisulankatu 78
40720 Jyväskylä
Finland



Moorwelten: The European
Competence Centre for
Peatland and Climate
Broadens Horizons
page 8

Why are the Allan Robertson
Grants important and how do
we make them prestigious and
sustainable?
page 22



Discovering the
Grande plée Bleue...
large, peeled and blue
page 30

Viewpoint

Welcome to Tullamore 2015!

Teaching skills of plant identification. Photo: Irish Peatland Conservation Council

The Irish Peat Society is a great National Committee to be Chair of right now. Since our formation we have enjoyed a happy mix of peatland specialists engaging with our work from the industry, conservation, politics, land management, research and education.

We have built up a wealth of experience and supporters from organising our own annual conferences and field meetings and from attending, as a team, the various IPS events around the world. The synergy we are experiencing led us to be daring and to bid to host the 2015 symposium of the IPS. And we won!

So its back to Tullamore in June 2015 for "Peatlands - A New Conversation".

We wanted to take a new approach to the annual meeting that would provide members with an all inclusive memorable conference experience combined with the best of Irish hospitality.

I have spent my career working in the environmental NGO sector for the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Conservation of peatland habitats and biodiversity and communicating this to the public in order to generate financial, physical and moral support in our mission is my daily work. My membership of the IPS has brought me and the organisation I work for into contact with people who might be considered to do the exact opposite to what I do. And that's a great thing.

If the right platform is built we can talk together and work together for mutually beneficial outcomes for peatlands. When the Irish Peat Society were thinking about the big difference

Do you agree? Mail us at ips@peatsociety.org or discuss at www.facebook.com/peatsociety.

we want our conference to make it is helping IPS members of different backgrounds within the peatland family to stand in the shoes of their opposite number to get a sense of the challenges we each face. With practical mutual understanding we can move forward.

To achieve this goal of role swapping a new structure for the conference has been devised. There are three themed field excursions taking in the different perspectives in peatland utilisation, protection, after-use and restoration for all to attend. Each field trip will have a hands-on approach to learning and we will be demonstrating best practice in the different management works being undertaken.

Skill-building master classes on education and certification are included in the indoor sessions. These provide an opportunity for participants to receive training in a new area that they can put into practice when they return to their workplace. Interactive poster sessions to showcase what's new in the world of peatland operations. In the evenings wonderful food and fire side sessions with experts are included – a chance to voice

Blocking drains. Photo: Irish Peatland Conservation Council



your opinion and to meet everyone from the top to the bottom of the IPS. By including a line up of different activities and meeting formats and combining this with an exciting arts programme we hope to encourage interaction and fun for IPS members.

When you leave Peatlands – A New Conversation we hope you will have learned new skills, made new friends and colleagues and feel inspired about telling your peatland story to others. Register now at www.irishpeatsociety.ie!



Harvesting sod peat. Photo: Irish Peatland Conservation Council

Catherine O'Connell

Chair of the Irish Peat Society
Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Bog of Allen Nature Centre
Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, Ireland
bogs@ipcc.ie, www.ipcc.ie

Moorwelten

The European Competence Centre for Peatland and Climate Broadens Horizons

One can hardly think of a better place for this kind of information and activity centre. The World of Peatlands, Moorwelten, is located in the heart of northwestern Germany at Wagenfeld in the district of Diepholz. The “Diepholzer Moorniederung” consists of more than 20,000 ha of protected areas, most of which also belong to an EU designated bird sanctuary and Natura 2000 nature protection area.

The centre offers a wide variety of services for both researchers and visitors who are interested in peatlands, climate and also, bird watching. The centre is designed to cater to the needs of education, studies and minor research projects. The European Competence Centre for Peatlands and Climate (in German, Europäisches Fachzentrum für Moor und Klima, EFMK – Moorwelten) was inaugurated in October 2014. For more than 10 years, it required the efforts of the local municipality of Wagenfeld, the

environmental protection NGO BUND Diepholzer Moorniederung and a diverse range of regional actors. Since 2011, the development of the centre has been boosted and coordinated by the supporters association, “EFMK”, followed by the foundation and registration of an enterprise next year. The proposed concept reached European funding agreement in 2012.

Conservation, Climate and Cranes in Focus
The three main goals of the EFMK also describe the activities of the centre:

1. Empowering practical peatland protection and restoration work.
2. Networking and exchanging experiences and knowledge among ecologists, planners, managers and practitioners of peatland and climate protection.
3. Building bridges between landowners, peat producers, environmentalists, researchers and all the other interested stakeholders to find

new ways to responsibly use peatlands.

Many of the tasks that derived from these goals work alongside those of the IPS:

- Transferring scientific knowledge between the regions and institutions of Europe.
- Cooperation between European universities and scientific research units.
- Gathering and processing relevant information.
- Supporting and working for further education possibilities.
- Establishing a hub for European scientists, students and post-graduates.
- Planning and carrying out peatland and climate protection measures throughout Europe.
- Facilitating scientific research projects.

EFMK is an active partner of DGMT (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Moor- und Torfkunde), the German National Committee of IPS.

“EFMK is proud to be an organization with an evidence-based and thus, neutral perspective in

The multi-purpose auditorium is full of natural light and caters to many needs.
Photo: EFMK/Jonathan Olbert



the field of mires and wetlands restoration,” says Chief Executive, Mr Grabowsky. The centre offers modern facilities such as a laboratory, conference rooms and full catering. “We target a wide range of users, including visiting researchers, conference managers and organizations, using our unique environment for their corporate functions,” Mr Grabowsky adds.

Regarding activities for schools, groups and tourists, the Chief Executive summarizes what EFMK offers as follows: “Together with our local

The European Competence Centre for Peatlands and Climate (Europäisches Fachzentrum für Moor und Klima, EFMK) was inaugurated in October 2014. An aerial view shows the ‘crane-in-flight’ shape of the building. Photo: EFMK/Andreas Möhl



Moorwelten's showroom is a must for every peat enthusiast! A video can be previewed via the Internet (www.moorwelten.de/erleben/moorshow), but viewing it while standing on the sponge-like floor of the EFMK showroom is a completely different experience. Photo: EFMK/Jonathan Olbert



The integration of different disciplines of land use and research is the focus of many applied research projects, which are planned and carried out in the EFMK. "The core idea of the centre is to protect peatland. This is why we are trying to find solutions for restoration, peat replacement and adapted management of organic soils, which are realistic and accepted by all of the different stakeholders in this field," Dr. Geerd Smidt states.

As an example, he explains the realization of paludiculture farming projects in our region.

partners, we are building educational programmes that are specific to school curricula. Our interactive exposition, which extends into the outdoors, offers manifold opportunities for visiting school classes.

Programmes are also open for any visiting group seeking information and entertainment at the same time. Being in an area that is popular for bike tourism, our house is well suited as a stopover along their route".

Current joint projects of EFMK include a variety of themes - from practical marketing regional products, running a visitor centre and enabling protection work with many scientific themes, such as carbon credit calculation, assessment of climatic impact of various mire site types and the different uses of peatlands.

The needs and expectations of farmers, the peat and horticulture industry, universities, environmental protection and municipalities, as well as the state of Lower Saxony, are complex. A centre with an objective position, like EFMK, fills the gap. It translates between the different interests and disseminates knowledge in any direction.

Together with the European Land and Soil Association (ELSA), the EFMK is organizing the conference, "Peatland Protection as a Municipal Way to Protect Climate?" on 11 - 12 June 2015.

Moorwelten is an extraordinary place for anybody who is interested in peatlands and also, climate and migratory birds. The centre and its surroundings are certainly worth visiting for more than just a few hours! For more information and details of upcoming activities, please go to the web page www.moorwelten.de.

Hannu Salo

IPS Secretary General
hannu.salo@peatsociety.org



Dr. Geerd Smidt explains the possibility of EFMK hosting research projects to Gerald Schmilewski (Chair IPS Comm. II). The EFMK offers decent facilities for basic sample processing and analysis. Photo: Hannu Salo

100
1913-2013



**One hundred years of shared
history and sustainable growth**

www.klasmann-deilmann.com

KLASMANN  DEILMANN
we make it grow



Let's stick together

MoorLIFE conference demonstrates benefits of partnership working

Results from the successful MoorLIFE project show the benefits of partnership working. The well-attended final conference, 'An Integrated Approach to Upland Biodiversity Conservation' in March, highlighted the impressive results of the five year project, which restored four areas of Europe's most degraded blanket bog - Turley Holes, Rishworth Common, Black Hill and Bleaklow.

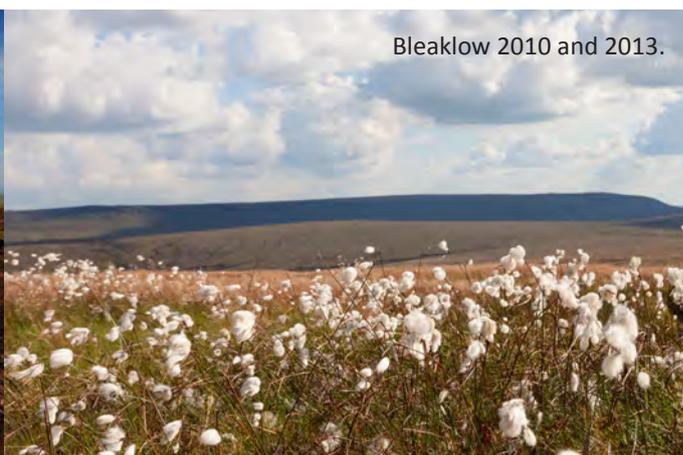
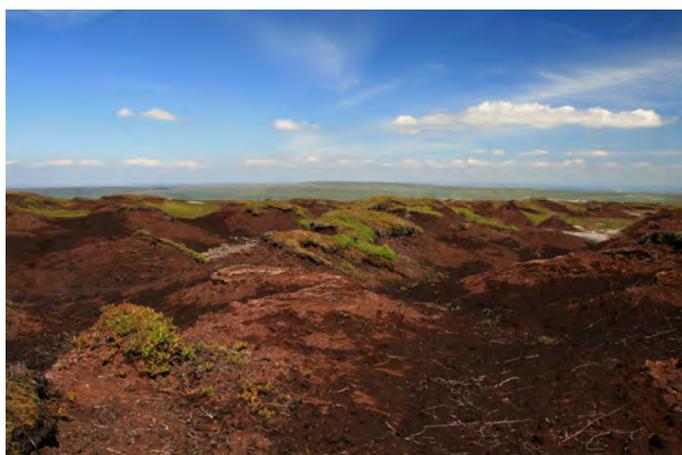
Co-funded by the European Commission's LIFE+ Programme, project partners include Environment Agency, Natural England, National Trust, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water. Working in partnership has brought benefits to all. Water companies now have scientific evidence that restoration can have a positive effect on water quality, and landowners can see the potential for flood mitigation.

The scale of works – over 886 hectares of moorland – provided incentive for contractors to come up with innovations. "Improvements over the five year project included new ways of distributing Sphagnum mosses and native moorland plant species, which will be useful for the partnership in future projects," said MoorLIFE Contracts Manager Brendon Wittram.

One of MoorLIFE's key missions was to protect moorlands by educating the public about the risk of wildfires. The 'Be Fire Aware' campaign, developed with University of Manchester, Wide Sky Design and Peak District Fire Operations group, took an innovative approach – using science and weather data to demonstrate real-time wildfire risk, combined with games, interactive maps and videos. There has been interest in setting up something similar in the Netherlands.

Sarah Fowler, Chief Executive of Peak District National Park explained how important financial support from the LIFE programme has been: "European funding helps broaden our scope beyond just England or the UK and work closer with partners. And that's been critical to the global element, the global innovation and the science revolution we are doing here."

MoorLIFE achieved its goals, but work continues. Partnership Manager Chris Dean said "Our original objectives still apply. Science-led, evidence based conservation allows methods to continually evolve and improve. We need to maintain scientific momentum, and our partnerships are the key to that."



Bleaklow 2010 and 2013.

MoorLIFE conference Black Hill fieldtrip.



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 European Union's Life+ Programme and delivered by the Moors for the Future Partnership.

For more information about our moorland conservation and restoration techniques and Moors for the Future Partnership projects please visit our website www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk.



Sarah Fowler - PDNPA chief Executive at the MoorLIFE conference.

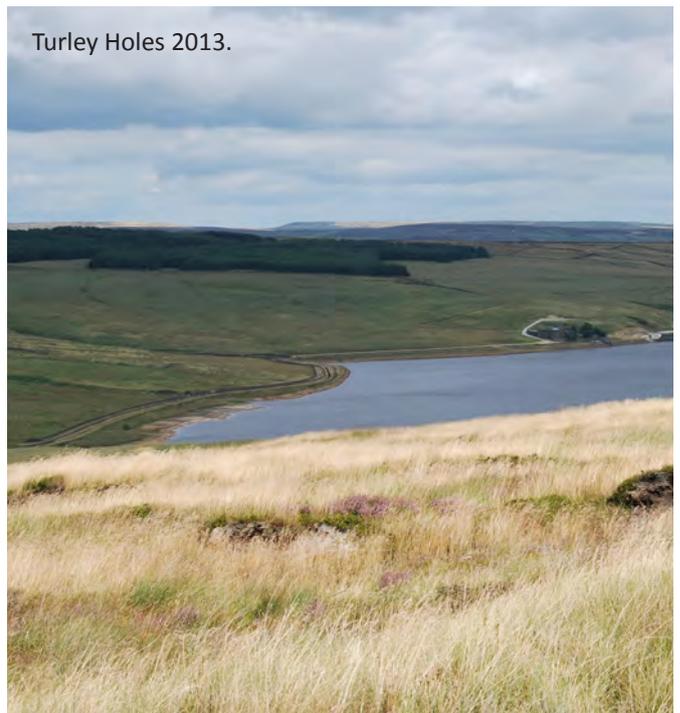
Debra Wilson

MoorLIFE Communications Officer
debra.wilson@peakdistrict.gov.uk
+44 1629 816586

Laura King

MoorLIFE Project Manager
laura.king@peakdistrict.gov.uk
+44 1629 816596

Turley Holes 2013.



How did *Mires and Peat* perform in 2014 and what can you do to help improve it?

Olivia Bragg and Jack Rieley, Editor-in-Chief and Deputy Editor *Mires and Peat*

Background

Mires and Peat is a “free-to-users”, immediately accessible, peer-reviewed internet journal that publishes high-quality research papers on all aspects of peatland and peat science, technology and wise use. It is published jointly by the International Peat Society (IPS) and the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG). *Mires and Peat* is indexed by Thomson Reuters Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus, EBSCO Environment Complete, CABI Abstracts, CSA Proquest (including their Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts ASFA, Ecology, Entomology, Animal Behavior, Aqualine and Pollution databases) and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). *Mires and Peat* also participates in the CABI Full Text Repository. Short communications and review articles on

these and related topics are also considered, and suggestions for special issues of the Journal based on the proceedings of conferences, seminars, symposia and workshops are welcomed. The submission of material by authors and from countries whose work would otherwise be inaccessible to the international community is particularly encouraged.

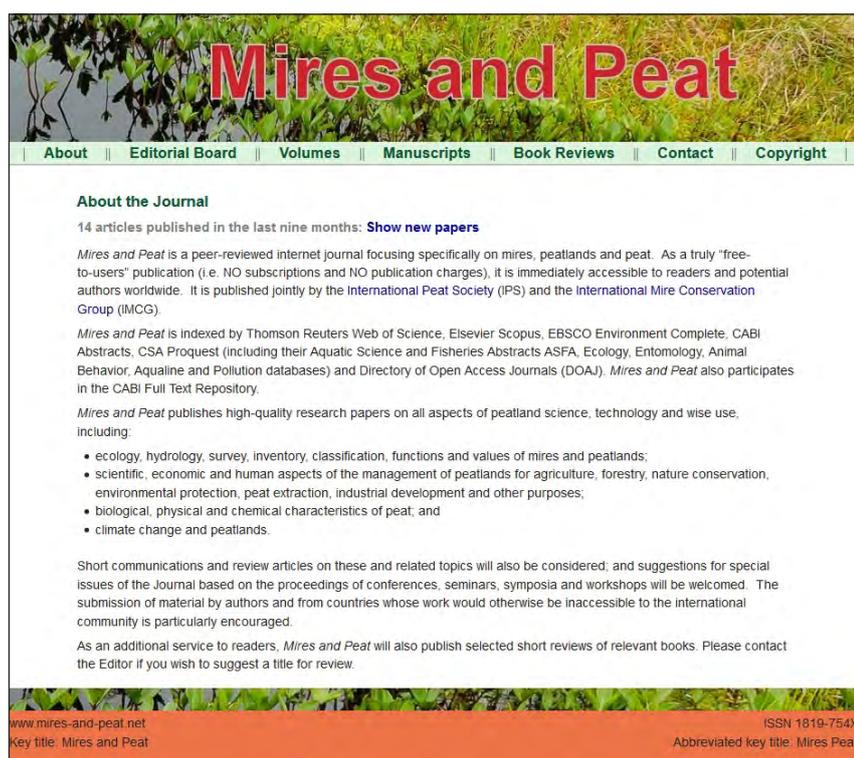
Material published

Mires and Peat has published 120 peer reviewed articles since it began in 2006. Throughout 2014, one or two articles have been posted on the website every month in a 2-2-1 sequence (i.e. we have published at a steady rate of five articles every three months). This is the minimum publication rate required for a Web of Science journal (actually stated as 15 articles in any period of nine months).

At the end of 2013, Special Volume 13 (2013/14), entitled Reed as a Renewable Resource and Other Aspects of Paludiculture (guest editors Wendelin Wichtmann and John Couwenberg) contained a Foreword (2 pages) and five peer reviewed articles (53 pages, from 5 countries). In 2014, seven articles (76 pages, from 4 additional countries including Belarus) were added to complete the volume.

Standard Volume 14 (2014) contains eight peer reviewed articles (126 pages) by authors from ten countries, and is also complete.

Special Volume 15 (2014/15), entitled Mountain Peatlands,



The screenshot shows the website for *Mires and Peat*. The title "Mires and Peat" is prominently displayed in red over a background image of a peatland. Below the title is a navigation menu with links for About, Editorial Board, Volumes, Manuscripts, Book Reviews, Contact, and Copyright. The "About the Journal" section is highlighted, containing the following text:

About the Journal
14 articles published in the last nine months: [Show new papers](#)

Mires and Peat is a peer-reviewed internet journal focusing specifically on mires, peatlands and peat. As a truly “free-to-users” publication (i.e. NO subscriptions and NO publication charges), it is immediately accessible to readers and potential authors worldwide. It is published jointly by the International Peat Society (IPS) and the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG).

Mires and Peat is indexed by Thomson Reuters Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus, EBSCO Environment Complete, CABI Abstracts, CSA Proquest (including their Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts ASFA, Ecology, Entomology, Animal Behavior, Aqualine and Pollution databases) and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). *Mires and Peat* also participates in the CABI Full Text Repository.

Mires and Peat publishes high-quality research papers on all aspects of peatland science, technology and wise use, including:

- ecology, hydrology, survey, inventory, classification, functions and values of mires and peatlands;
- scientific, economic and human aspects of the management of peatlands for agriculture, forestry, nature conservation, environmental protection, peat extraction, industrial development and other purposes;
- biological, physical and chemical characteristics of peat; and
- climate change and peatlands.

Short communications and review articles on these and related topics will also be considered; and suggestions for special issues of the Journal based on the proceedings of conferences, seminars, symposia and workshops will be welcomed. The submission of material by authors and from countries whose work would otherwise be inaccessible to the international community is particularly encouraged.

As an additional service to readers, *Mires and Peat* will also publish selected short reviews of relevant books. Please contact the Editor if you wish to suggest a title for review.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the website URL www.mires-and-peat.net, the ISSN 1819-754X, and the abbreviated key title "Mires Peat".

opened in April under the guest editorship of Antoine Cleef, Piet-Louis Grundling and Hans Joosten. This volume is inspired by the 2012 IMCG Field Symposium in the Andes (South America). At the end of 2014 it contains five peer reviewed articles (84 pages, 6 countries), and will be continued in 2015.

During 2014, Mires and Peat thus published 20 peer reviewed articles (286 pages) by authors from 17 countries. New countries represented amongst this year's author list are Belarus, Colombia and Peru.

Progress on ISI status

Mires and Peat was successfully evaluated for Web of Science during the second half of 2014 and since November has been included in the Thomson Reuters Master Journal List. Inclusion in Web of Science has been a major target for Mires and Peat since it was founded by IMCG and IPS. However, owing to the previously erratic publication schedule, it took until August 2014 for the calculated 'IF statistic' (number of articles published in the previous nine months) to stabilise at 15. We have published 35 articles in the 21 months since April 2013 and are on course to publish 40 articles in the two-year period April 2013 to March 2015. This has obviously proved sufficient for purpose.

Citations

Inclusion in Thomson Reuters Master Journal List will lead to an official citation index (Impact Factor) in due course. Meantime, an indication of the number of citations for most articles from publication to late 2014 has been derived from Google Scholar data using Harzing's Publish or Perish (PoP) software .

Time since publication is obviously a factor in determining the citation intensity of an article.



The image shows the cover of the journal 'Mires and Peat'. The title is in large red letters at the top. Below the title is a navigation bar with links: About, Editorial Board, Volumes, Manuscripts, Book Reviews, Contact, Copyright. The main content area is titled 'Volumes' and lists articles from Volume 16 (2015) and Volume 15 (2014/2015) Special Volume: Mountain Peatlands. Each article entry includes the title, authors, and publication date.

Volumes
go to Volume 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 or go to new articles published in the last nine month

Volume 16 (2015) go to top

- Article 1: *Everglades peats: using historical and recent data to estimate pre-drainage and current volumes, masses and carbon contents.*
by S.M. Hohner and T.W. Dreschel Published online: 02.01.2015
- Article 2: *Biosorption of mercury from aqueous solutions using highly characterised peats.*
by A.M. Rizzuti, F.L. Ellis, L.W. Cosme and A.D. Cohen Published online: 11.02.2015
- Article 3: *Characteristics of Eastern Canadian cultivated Sphagnum and potential use as a substitute for perlite and vermiculite in peat-based horticultural substrates.*
by M. Aubé, M. Quenum and L.L. Ranasinghe Published online: 01.03.2015

Volume 15 (2014 / 2015) Special Volume: Mountain Peatlands go to top
Guest editors Antoine Cleef, Piet-Louis Grundling and Hans Joosten

A collection of current research on mires and other peatlands in mountains around the world. This volume is inspired by the 2012 IMCG Field Symposium in the Andes (South America).

- Article 1: *The effect of drainage on organic matter accumulation and plant communities of high-altitude peatlands in the Colombian tropical Andes.*
by J.C. Benavides Published online: 29.04.2014
- Article 2: *A geographical model for the altitudinal zonation of mire types in the uplands of western Europe: the example of Les Monts du Forez in eastern France.*
by H. Cubizolle and G. Thebaud Published online: 29.04.2014
- Article 3: *Peatlands of the Peruvian Puna ecoregion: types, characteristics and disturbance.*
by F. Salvador, J. Moneris and L. Rochefort Published online: 14.05.2014
- Article 4: *Peatlands in the Toledo Mountains (central Spain): characterisation and conservation status.*
by J.A. López-Sáez, R. García-Río, F. Alba-Sánchez, E. García-Gómez and S. Pérez-Díaz Published online: 06.11.2014
- Article 5: *An introduction to the bofedales of the Peruvian High Andes.*
by M.S. Maldonado Fonkén Published online: 03.12.2014
- Article 6: *Enhanced sensitivity of a mountain bog to climate change as a delayed effect of road construction.*
by P. von Sengbusch Published online: 02.01.2015
- Article 7: *Fen mires with cushion plants in Bale Mountains, Ethiopia.*
by B.W. Dullo, A.P. Grootjans, J.G.M. Roelofs, A.F. Senbeta and C. Fritz Published online: 11.02.2015
- Article 8: *Fens of the Sierra Nevada, California, USA: patterns of distribution and vegetation.*
by E.C. Wolf and D.J. Cooper Published online: 30.04.2015

At least one article from every volume of Mires and Peat up to and including Volume 12, except Volumes 9 and 11, has been cited ten or more times. Some authors, topics and geographical regions have been particularly popular; and Volume 7 (A Review of Protocols in Peat Palaeoenvironmental Studies, 2010/11) has been especially useful to other authors. Few citations for Volumes 13-15 have been registered so far. The PoP data have been used to calculate an average number of citations per article published by Mires and Peat for each year from 2006 to 2014, and this information is given in the last column of Table 1. These averages may be regarded as roughly equivalent to the Thomson citation index or 'impact factor' (IF), which is the average number of times each article published in the preceding two years is cited in Web of Science journals (only) during the year of evaluation. However, the PoP data are derived from a wider literature base.

In contrast to PoP statistics, the Impact Factor will not consider material published prior to 2012/2013 or even 2013/14 and, thus, will not take account of Volume 7 (2010/11). However, we have published frequently-cited individual articles since that time.

Throughput of manuscripts

Two of the 28 manuscripts (numbers 133 to 160 inclusive) submitted during 2013 were rejected, nine (including two non-reviewed Forewords) were published in 2013 and 15 (all peer reviewed) were published during 2014. The remaining two are making slow progress but may yet reach publishable standard. Of the 13 manuscripts submitted for peer review during 2014, five have been published in 2014 and one has been withdrawn having failed to reach publishable standard. Thus, seven of the 2014 submissions plus the two 'stragglers' from 2013 remain available for publication in 2015. Four of these are destined for Special Volume 15 (2014/15).

Sustainability

Prospects for maintaining the current publishing schedule (and, thus, continuing to qualify for ISI status) are not secure for two reasons which have now been at least partially addressed.

The first reason is that the 2013/14 publication rate has stretched editorial capacity. To publish at the recently established steady rate in

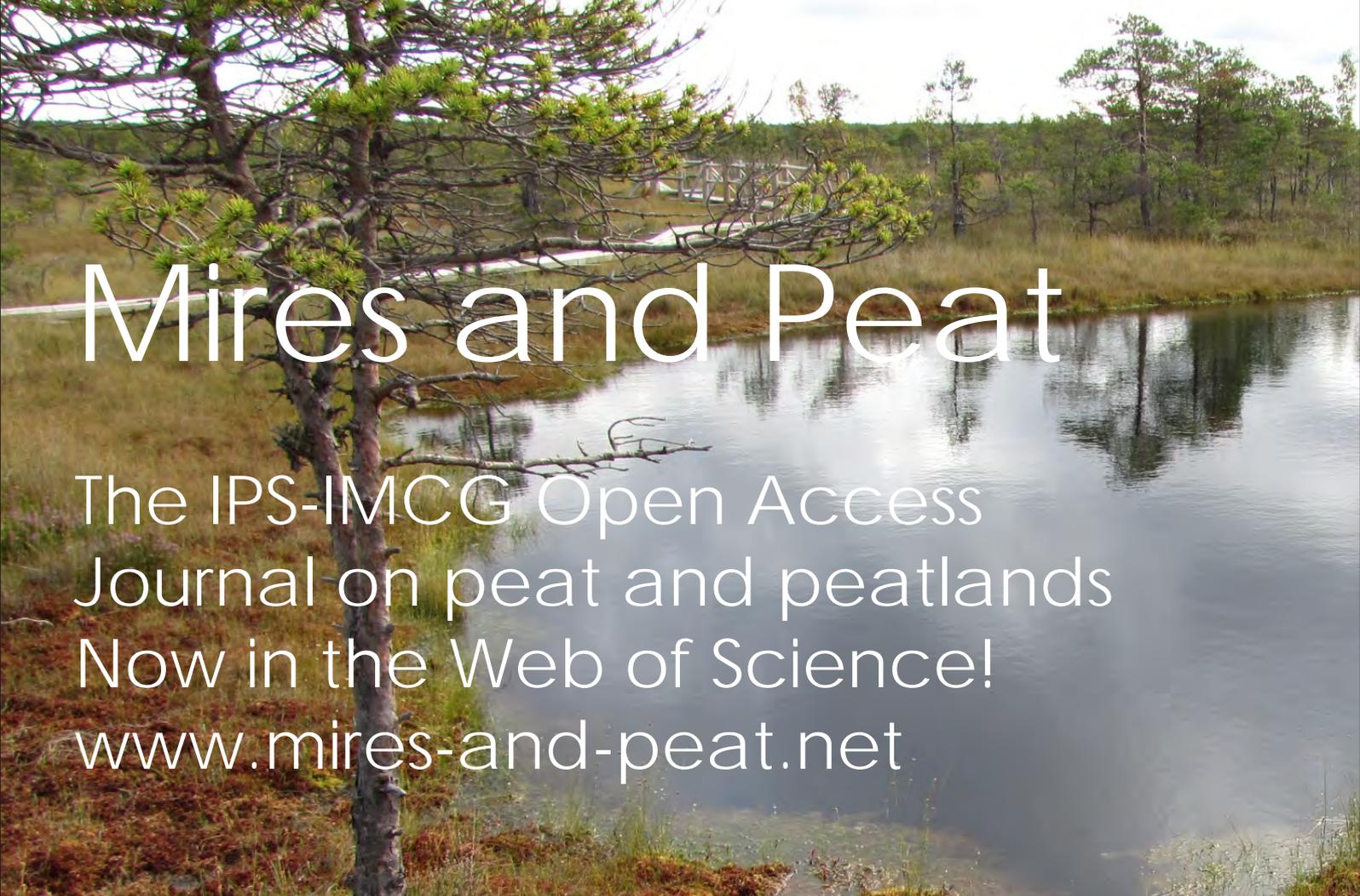
perpetuity, it will be necessary to delegate some responsibilities. To this end, two new Editors were appointed in November 2014 so that we now have a core editorial team of five, namely: Editor-in-Chief (Bragg), Deputy Editor-in-Chief (Rieley) and three Editors (Clymo, Glatzel, Jones). It should also be mentioned that former Assistant Editors Richard Payne and Derrick Lai have confirmed their willingness to remain on the Editorial Board and have been added to the list of Associate Editors.

The second reason is that, if the publication rate is maintained for the time being we shall **run out of material in May/June 2015**. In other words, whereas the 2013 submission rate proved sufficient to support the publication rate required for Web of Science (essentially 20 articles per year), the 2014 submission rate did not. The 'healthy' submission rate during 2013 (28 manuscripts) was due mostly to our collecting material for three Special Volumes almost concurrently, and the unprecedented publication rate of 2014 was achieved by publishing across three volumes (two Special, one Standard) simultaneously.

This has proved to be an effective publishing model for present targets and circumstances, and it is intended that it should be perpetuated for the immediate future.

Table 1. Summary of publication rate and Google Scholar citation rates derived using Harzing *Publish or Perish (PoP)* software; to 09 Nov 2014 and (Dec 2013).

Publication year (years ago)	Number of articles published	Number of citations recorded	Citations per article	Citations per article per year
2006 (8)	6	94 (84)	15.7 (14.0)	2.0 (2.0)
2007 (7)	9	72 (68)	8.0 (7.6)	1.1 (1.3)
2008 (6)	18	177 (137)	9.8 (7.6)	1.6 (1.5)
2009 (5)	8	42 (36)	5.3 (4.5)	1.1 (1.1)
2010 (4)	16	160 (119)	10.0 (7.4)	2.5 (2.5)
2011 (3)	16	166 (100)	10.4 (6.3)	3.5 (3.1)
2012 (2)	14	36 (22)	2.6 (1.6)	1.3 (1.6)
2013 (1)	17	28 (8)	1.6 (0.6)	1.6 (0.5)
2014 (0)	20	1	0.1	0.1



Mires and Peat

The IPS-IMCG Open Access
Journal on peat and peatlands
Now in the Web of Science!
www.mires-and-peat.net

A topic for a 2015/16 Special Volume (Peatland Management Strategies and Action Plans) has recently been proposed and advertised. This was the most prominent theme amongst presentations at the 2014 IMCG biennial symposium in Belarus, and approaches to the presenters have so far yielded promises of nine manuscripts for submission between January and May 2015 and a tenth for December 2015. The promised submission dates make it possible to open a 2015/16 special volume around the middle of 2015. IPS have also expressed interest in the theme and an intention to contribute manuscripts. This volume will be progressed by Peter Jones as lead volume editor; Jack Rieley will also take on a volume-editor role.

A challenge has been issued to the membership of IPS to help avert the anticipated publication hiatus by contributing up to ten manuscripts during the first half of 2015. Furthermore there is a strong possibility of having at least one special issue based on presentations at the 15th International Peat Congress that will be held in Kuching, Sarawak in August 2016. Thus, significant steps have been taken to address the two immediate practical impediments to sustainability.

The message from this information and the current 'state of play' is quite clear. Mires and Peat requires more manuscripts on peatland and peat topics, especially from members of the IPS who probably do not view publication in this journal as a high priority.

Unfortunately, it is a 'chicken and egg' situation in which peer reviewed papers published regularly are essential to maintain Web of Science accreditation while a high impact factor is a necessary prerequisite before scientists will publish in Mires and Peat in the first place. One way forward might be to encourage postgraduate students and other younger researchers and practitioners to publish in Mires and Peat in order to get on to the 'publishing ladder'.

Hans Joosten commented on the text of a previous draft of this article and his comments are much appreciated by the authors.

Jack Rieley

IPS 2nd Vice President
jack.rieley@nottingham.ac.uk

New Peatland Areas Confirmed in Myanmar



Author: Faizal Parish
Global Environment Centre

Rare freshwater crab breeding
in burrows in the spring mound
peatland. Photo: David Abrahamson

Introduction

Until recently, one can only guess the extent of peatlands in Myanmar. Much of the quoted numbers were merely 'guesstimates' based on meagre information. With the recent changes in country leadership and funds from several peatland related projects, it has become possible to do proper surveys to confirm peatland areas in Myanmar.

A preliminary survey held in 2012 confirmed some areas as peatlands but hesitated with others due to mineral deposits that covered the peat surface and infused it with mineral soil. In February 2014, a joint Myanmar-international team of peatland specialists went to take a second look and in March, announced the discovery of rare peatland ecosystems near Inle Lake in North-east Myanmar.

Surveys were taken over a two-week period by a team from Myanmar, Vietnam, Malaysia and the USA under the framework of the SEApeat (Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in South East Asia) Project in conjunction with the ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) funded by the European Union and IFAD-GEF respectively.

Surveys were undertaken between 15-27 February 2014 and involved detailed surveys of the area in and around Inle Lake in Shan State with sampling and peat depth assessments in more than 70 locations.

A total of 9021 hectares of peatland was identified comprising three separate types:

1. Lake-margin peatlands up to three meters thick along the shores of Inle Lake
2. Floating peatlands between 50cm to 1.5m thick floating on the surface of the lake. These are subdivided into two—natural floating peatlands and modified floating peatlands used as floating gardens for the cultivation of tomatoes and other vegetables.
3. Calcareous spring mound peatland

found in Taung Bo Gyi Village in the northwest corner of the Inle Lake wetland. This peatland has been formed over thousands of years around an active spring fed by calcium rich groundwater. It has formed a mound of peat about 6.5 m thick and covers about three hectares. Mound spring peatlands are very rare and this is one of the first to be described in Asia.

Inle Lake

The peatlands of Inle Lake play a key role in stabilizing water levels and improving water quality in the lake. The floating peatlands are also integral to the culture and economy of the local Intha Community who have cultivated the peat in floating gardens for hundreds of years.

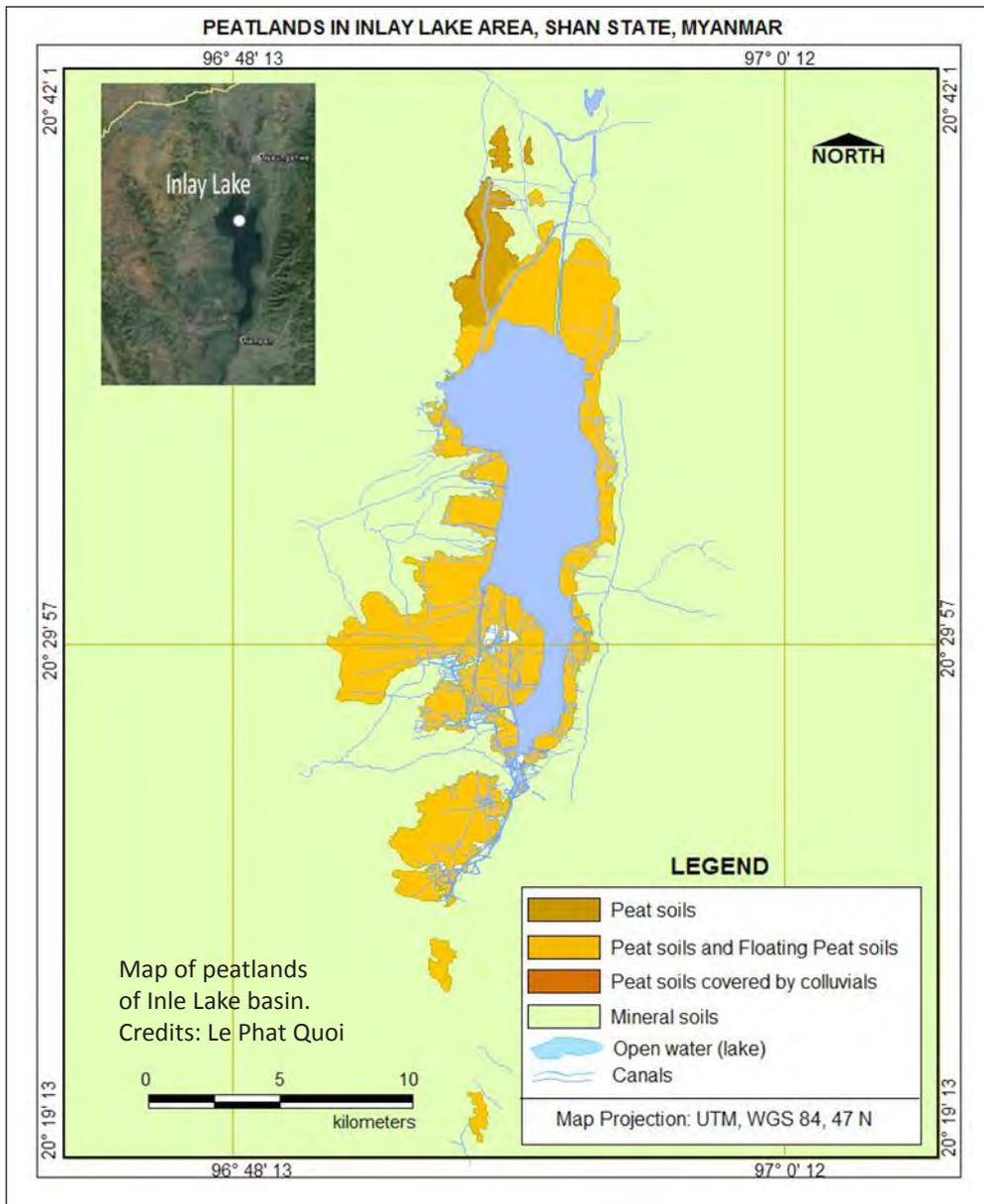
Although the floating vegetation around Inle Lake has been known for years it was not recognized that these were part of a much larger peatland system along the margins of the lake. The 9,021 hectares (ha) of peatlands represents the largest single area identified during 18 months of surveys



Soil in Palaw area.



Cultivation of vegetables in natural peatland area on the edge of Inle Lake. Photo: Faizal Parish



Inle Lake is internationally known for its beautiful environment, clear waters and unique customs of the Intha people who row their fishing boats with their legs and balance on one foot as they catch fish with nets and special traps.

Inle Lake has been designated as an ASEAN Heritage Park and joins U Minh Thuong National Park in Viet Nam and Tasek Merimbun National Park in Brunei Darussalam as ASEAN Heritage Sites with significant peatlands.

The peatlands at Inle are home to a range of rare and threatened species including the Eastern Sarus Crane, Ferruginous Duck and a number of endemic fish species. During the survey freshwater crabs were

observed breeding in burrows on the calcareous mound spring at Taung Bo Gyi.

in different parts of Myanmar. In addition, 1,599 ha of peatlands were found in the nearby Heho Basin where peatlands are all cultivated and covered with soil eroded from nearby hills.

“The identification of the peatlands of Inle Lake are an important component of a national inventory of peatlands under the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF) led by the Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA) with support from the Global Environment Centre (GEC)” stated U Sann Lwin, Secretary (Finance) of FREDA.

“We have documented more peatlands around Inle Lake than remain in the whole of Vietnam” said Dr Le Phat Quoi – a Vietnamese peatland expert who played a key role in the surveys.

“Calcareous mound spring peatlands are very rare and the discovery at Inle lake may be the first system to be documented in East or Southeast Asia” stated Faizal Parish Director of the Global Environment Centre. “The mound spring in Taung Bo Gyi Village has been protected by the local community who do not allow any cultivation on it – to maintain its function to provide drinking water supply to part of the village and nearby monastery,” he added.

“Peatlands in the Inle Lake basin are facing a number of threats including conversion for agriculture, clearance and burning of the vegetation and pollution by domestic waste and agrochemicals,” – said U Sann Lwin of FREDA.

Why are the Allan Robertson Grants important and how do we make them prestigious and sustainable?

Do you believe that IPS has a responsibility to assist young peat and peatland researchers, managers and practitioners in developing their interests and skills, in encouraging them to learn first-hand about the importance of this vitally important global resource and learning about and implementing its wise use and responsible management in their day to day career activities? If so you should support this new initiative to provide some pump-priming money and encouragement through enhanced experience that will enable them to become the future leaders in the fields of peatland and peat research and practice.

I remember asking Allan Robertson when attending the IPS Annual Convention in Belfast in 2009 if he would agree to the UK National Committee nominating him for the then IPS Award of Excellence. His answer surprised me but on reflexion it was characteristic of his selflessness. He said “don’t you dare; don’t even

think about it because I shall refuse point blank!” He explained: “We should not be giving awards to people, prominent as they may be, at the high points or end of their careers. It can only lead to disagreement and even dispute and anyway they certainly don’t need the money!”

These sentiments motivated me to suggest to the IPS Executive Board that we close down the ‘Award of Excellence’ and replace it with the ‘Allan Robertson Grants’ specifically aimed at young persons in the early stages of peatland and peat careers at a time in their lives when a small amount of additional money can be a major help to them.

That is also why in this first year of these new awards IPS is able to provide up to five grants of €500 each instead of only one of €1000. This is a major advance and achievement that has the financial and moral support of Allan’s family but to make these grants a firm annual obligation IPS has

The IPS has launched new Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals in Peatland Management, named after Allan Robertson, Honorary President of the IPS.

The Grants are targeted towards all persons who have carried out or are still carrying out major research or practical work on behalf of peat and peatlands. Applicants will normally be younger than 30 on application deadline and the grants amount regularly to 2 x € 500 annually. This can be extended if additional funds are obtained.

Applications were to be sent by email to the IPS Secretariat, [ips \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:ips@peatsociety.org) until 30 April 2015. References, project plans and other documentary were submitted additionally. There is so far no special form for applications, but all material should be sent in a SINGLE document (pdf, doc). Decisions are made by the IPS Executive Board.

A report on the project or work shall be submitted for Peatlands International and/or a presentation should be given at an international IPS event at the latest 12 months after the grant has been provided by bank transfer. If your networks would like to provide additional funding for the grants, please do not hesitate to contact us.

to raise additional funding from members. No one likes to give money in these difficult times but this cause is an extremely worthy one and the results will be to the benefit not only of the recipients but to IPS, peatlands and society at large.

This is why I am appealing to all members to contribute to the "Allan Robertson Grants Fund Appeal". I am targeting different levels of membership and organisation in this appeal with suggestions for a contribution level for each. This is not official; it is only my suggestion because I know the impact that this fund can have.

At the top of my list are our National Committees. These collect membership fees and after transferring the required amount to the IPS Secretariat they dispense the rest in various ways. The UK National Committee decided to contribute €500 to the grants fund and therefore I challenge all other National Committees to do the same and sponsor a grant!

Next on my list are the members of Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board all of whom are professionals with a wide range of experience and income. I suggest a contribution of €100 from each would not be unreasonable. Our corporate members could also be asked to give €100 with individual members providing €50, €25 or €10 depending on circumstances.

National Committees could collect contributions from members in their countries and then forward it to the Secretariat, otherwise contributions can be made directly to IPS in Jyväskylä, Finland. Please give your support. Please give generously.

Jack Rieley

IPS 2nd Vice President
Secretary UK National Committee
jack.rieley@nottingham.ac.uk



Receiving Peat News?

If you are an IPS member and would like to receive our Peat News newsletter every month, please email us at susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org. All members receive the newsletter automatically.

Corporate and other organisations members can sign up even six employees to receive full membership benefits. ---> peatsociety.org/join-us

IPS Document Database

Each IPS member has access to the document database of the IPS website. This contains a large collection of IPS publications, such as the proceedings of our 2012 and 2008 Congresses, Peat News, International Peat Journal, Peatlands International and much more. Your user name is usually `firstname.lastname` or the first part of your email address before the `@`. In case you need a new password, visit www.peatsociety.org/user/password and type the email address to which you receive Peat News. We are constantly uploading new items - come back regularly!

How can I become a member of the IPS?

If you live in Canada, China, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom or the USA, please contact the Chair of your National Committee to join the IPS: www.peatsociety.org/about-us/national-committees. Otherwise simply go to our website at www.peatsociety.org/join-us and apply for direct membership. You will receive an invoice by post or email and can pay by credit card, bank transfer or paypal.



STRETCH HOODER

STRETCH-ALL :
A New Stretch Hooding technology

- **Transparent hood** that ensures visibility of the product
- Elasticity of films up to **200%**
- Can reach an output up to **100 pallets per hour**
- Optimum product **safety against humidity, UV, water** and other weather conditions

CONVENTIONAL PALLETIZER

AP-440 :
A New Generation of High-Level Automatic Palletizers

- **Servomotor-driven bag pushers**, improving **speed, flexibility** and **precision**.
- Newly-designed turner-indexer for a more **accurate bag positioning** and better control, thereby improving the quality of the finished pallet.

STRETCH-ALL

Technologies adapted to our worldwide clientele

When considering packaging line automation, pallet load securing is one part of the process that is sometimes underestimated. Premier Tech Chronos now offers the STRETCH-ALL, a worldwide platform of stretch hood technology that provides the weather protection and load stability benefits of shrink wrapping with the savings of stretch wrapping.

Premier Tech Chronos is once again committed to adapting its innovative and successful technologies to serve its worldwide clientele. Following consolidation of our American, European and Asian business units under the Premier Tech Chronos brand, we have adapted our STRETCH-ALL platform to the needs of our worldwide clientele. Indeed, we decided to create one knowledge point. This way we are sure that we can ultimately use our knowledge to keep improving this unique and innovative technology while also optimizing the production process.

To create a platform that we can introduce in the global market, components are specifically selected so that they will be well-accepted in every market, and specifically where the unit will be installed. We also look at country-specific requirements to ensure that the STRETCH-ALL is fully optimized for these requirements.

Inspired by the old European Rainbow stretch hood platform, but totally redesigned today's requirements, the STRETCH-ALL offers significant advantages with regard to performance, maintenance and cost.

Where the STRETCH-ALL differentiates itself from other stretch hoods is its new mobile film-loading system. This innovative design feature allows the film carriage to be lowered outside the frame to a safe working height, where new film reels can be changed in a safe and efficient manner.

The STRETCH-ALL from Premier Tech Chronos can be used in various applications for containers, bags, boxes, bottles, cans, trays, big bags, octabins and barrels, as well as loose products. The innovative stretch hood system can be used in all industrial segments and is already widely used in many markets such as food, feed, agriculture, chemicals and many more.

The system ensures optimum product safety by protecting it against humidity, UV rays and other weather conditions as well as against the danger of cargo shift during transport, without the need to incur costly energy expenditures normally associated with shrink wrapping.

The STRETCH-ALL provides durable solutions that are adapted to global market standards to satisfy your load-securing needs.

Rob Cornelissen

Mechanical Engineer
Premier Tech Chronos
Eersel, Netherlands

Your advertisement here?

Contact us!

susann.warnecke@

peatsociety.org

phone: +358 40 418 4075

www.bit.ly/16yPM17

Matthew Scott-Campbell,
Louise Turner, Ginny Hinton



Ancient peatlands to grow again

Farmers and grouse moor owners are teaming up with conservationists to restore vast expanses of Peak District and South Pennines peatlands, home to extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland with upland heath and peat bog, birds of prey and wading birds.

The peat bogs have been in decline since the industrial revolution, but thanks to individual moorland business owners, 30 large Environmental Stewardship (ES) agreements are now underway to bring about £15 million of moorland restoration measures over the coming 3-5 years. Funding from the scheme will be of great importance in bringing upland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) into better condition.

The ES scheme, which is administered by Natural England on behalf of Defra will also allow for changes to management on 39,000 hectares of moorland, such as less heather burning and a return to traditional shepherding to help improve the moorland environment. Running through to 2024, the agreements will bring great benefits to water quality, wildlife, recreation and business through these restoration measures.

How it works:

Restoration management such as gully blocking, heather brush spreading and re-introduction of a wonderful moss called 'Sphagnum' will provide the following benefits:

- increased water retention on the SSSIs to sustain peat bogs and their special plant life and birds
- good conditions for grazing animals and grouse
- reduced peat erosion into reservoirs
- improved paths for recreation and reduction in disturbance to wildlife habitats
- slower run-off into rivers after downpours, reducing flood-risks
- more carbon retention in peat, which helps mitigate climate change

Agreement holders can choose to organise the work themselves or collaborate with a specialist moorland conservation organisation such as the not-for-profit Moors for the Future Partnership.

Healthy peat moorlands:

- provide a unique habitat for a wide range of wildlife;
- absorb and store carbon – peat is the single biggest store of carbon in the UK, storing the equivalent of 20 years of all UK CO₂ emissions and keeping it out of the atmosphere;
- provide good quality drinking water – 70% of our drinking water comes from these landscapes. Damaged peat erodes into the reservoirs so that water companies have to spend more money cleaning the water for consumption;
- reduce the risk of flooding downstream.

Natural England's Chairman Andrew Sells said "The end-result will be amazing - the peatlands will become active again providing long-lasting prosperity for the environment and businesses.

There will be improvements for people and wildlife, cleaner water for surrounding cities, reduced flood risk, better public recreation and increased global carbon storage. What a fantastic way to work with rural businesses to undertake necessary regeneration and to harness benefits from the moorlands, whilst also enhancing the rural economy."





The scheme is also supported by the Moorland Association, which represents many owners. Peak District representative Simon Gurney welcomed the ambitious large-scale restoration plans, explaining the extensive experience and knowledge of land managers would be invaluable to the project's long-term goals and success.

He added: "By working collaboratively, changes and improvements can take place while safeguarding the land use which is essential to the economy of our internationally recognised moors."

Natural England (NE)

The Peak District and South Pennine Moors support vital upland habitats and species that are nationally and internationally important. There are extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland including upland heath and blanket bog which contribute greatly to ornithological interests (birds of prey and wading birds). NE has a duty to protect and enhance these sites for nature conservation through UK and EU law.

- The government's Biodiversity 2020 Strategy sets out a commitment for NE to improve the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) by ensuring that sites continue to recover or achieve favourable condition by 2020. Favourable condition on the moors means sites with improved hydrology (and no bare peat), with a range of peat forming species (such as sphagnum moss) and a healthy community of other plants and animals. We monitor sites regularly to measure progress towards favourable condition.
- As well as biodiversity benefits, moorland restoration also delivers clean water to surrounding cities, reduces flood risk, provides better public recreation opportunities and enhanced carbon storage, all of which are Natural England (and partner) priorities. Higher Level Stewardship Scheme is a mechanism through which NE supports upland businesses, working with them to undertake the restoration necessary to secure all these public goods, whilst also enhancing the rural economy.
- At a landscape scale, the Moors for the Future Partnership enables us to work in partnership with land owners, water companies and other organisations to deliver services that benefit both people and wildlife through access, conservation and restoration works. Improving the resilience of moorlands by providing "bigger, better, more and joined up" habitat areas will create positive outcomes inside and outside protected areas.

More about the Private Lands Project

Many new agreement holders are joining Moors for the Future's Private Lands Project to deliver restoration. With over 11 years' experience, the Moors for the Future Partnership has already made significant progress on restoration projects and can assist landowners with practical work, expertise, cash-flow and indemnification. As more individuals join the project, a patchwork of special sites across neighbouring areas of private land come together to create large 'landscape scale' improvement for people and wildlife.

Matt Scott-Campbell, the Private Lands Project Manager said: "Moors for the Future is pleased to be working with five private land managers across the Dark Peak at Saddleworth, Crowden, Moscar, Peaknaze and Stalybridge".

"We look forward to more opportunities to work with private businesses to help achieve conservation on their land and to contribute to the landscape scale effort funded by Environmental Stewardship".

Moors for the Future Partnership (MFFP)

The Partnership and Private Land Project is led by the Peak District National Park Authority and supported through its partners: Natural England, the Environment Agency, the National Trust, United Utilities, Severn Trent Water, Yorkshire Water and the RSPB.

MFFP was set up in 2003 to restore damaged and eroding moorlands across England's northern hills. The damage has been caused by more than 150 years of airborne industrial pollution from surrounding northern cities and wildfires - leaving bare, eroding peat - an environmental catastrophe.

More than 10 years on, the partnership is still working closely with land-owners to provide land management solutions which protect our uplands.

Matthew Scott-Campbell

Private Lands Project Manager
Moors for the Future Partnership
+44 1629 816577
matthew.scott-campbell@peakdistrict.gov.uk
www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk

Ginny Hinton

Team Leader Dark and South West Peak
Natural England
+44 7900 608286
ginny.hinton@naturalengland.org.uk
www.gov.uk/naturalengland

Louise Turner

Communication Programme Manager
Moors for the Future Partnership
+44 1629 816581
louise.turner@peakdistrict.gov.uk
www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk

Advertisement

PeatPRO.com
Slava Golod
Peat Specialist
peat@peatpro.com
T: +1 416.917.6550

Advertisement



Discovering the Grande plée Bleue... large, peeled and blue

A man captured by a peat bog...

In 1979, Jean-Paul Doyon founded an organization that was to educate the population of the Quebec region about the necessity to support positive behaviours and initiatives regarding its environment... the Fondation Echo-Logie was born. Few years later, he had a decisive meeting with a man who introduced him to a specific local ecosystem, a unique peat bog, surrounded by a rural area. Large, peeled and blue... These characteristics gave the peat bog its name, the «Grande plée Bleue». Large, it covers nearly 11 square kilometers or 1 500 ha, one of the biggest bogs unexploited in the St. Laurent river valley.

Peeled, it has been a long time ago almost bare of trees. Blue, because at the end of the 20th century, bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis Canadensis*) was covering a part of this area and farmers who would not have enough hay for their needs would go into the bog to cut this wild grass. Now, the peat bog lost some of its original tint, and the blue colour is rather the fact of the so many ponds that it hosts and the blueberries growing in it. Guy Lemelin did not have any

difficulty to convince his visitor to be involved in the protection of this wetland. Jean-Paul wished to give a new mandate to the Foundation, which was to create a park with pedagogical and scientific goals, attracting at the same time people and authorities to the importance of this ecosystem.

In 1987, a master planning for the Lévis territory opened the possibility to create specific recreo-ecological areas. At the head of the Foundation, Jean-Paul took this opportunity to form a committee working on the project stressing the necessity to have a distinct legal entity aiming this goal. Then, to reach this objective, in 1989, he co-founded with other volunteers a new organization totally devoted to the peat bog protection, the Société de conservation et de mise en valeur de la Grande plée Bleue (Society for the Conservation and Enhancement of the Grande plée Bleue).

On the long way to become an ecological reserve

On March 19th 1990, the Society applied for the status of an ecological reserve for the Grande plée

Bleue. The government of Quebec had introduced the law creating this kind of status as soon as 1975. The proposed project was not covering the whole surface of the peatland leaving private areas in the rural part. Following the provincial law, ecological reserves do not give access to the general public but only to scientists or researchers teams with specific authorization. Because this proposition had a strong educative objective, the government considered having a specific area included in the projected reserve which could integrate an

interpretive kiosk, wooden bridge and sidewalk, all these installations to be administrated by the town of Lévis for the purpose of informing the public visiting this limited part of the reserve.

In 1992, the Society fought against a private project planning to install a golf course in the peat bog. Finally, the Commission for the protection of the agricultural territory excluded the possibility to build such an installation in the bog, to protect its integrity, and limited the project to the forest next to it. But this project has not been materialized. At the same time, the Society for the Conservation and Enhancement of the Grande plée Bleue publicized its own project proposing to create the first Interpretation Center in Canada located in a peat bog, hoping for a partnership with a university. Its project has not been carried out yet.

In 2006, a report made for Ducks Unlimited confirmed that the territory of the town of Lévis was the one where the most important number of bogs and mainly small wetlands have been destroyed within the whole Chaudière-Appalaches region. In 2009, the Society reaching its 20th anniversary, the town of Lévis purchased some land next to the peat bog planning to build there a parking lot, an interpretive kiosk and facilities to not disturb the bog ecosystem. The Grande plée Bleue, with woods and farming fields at its periphery had not been exploited commercially,



its peat being unfit for this purpose. This fact gave it a chance to survive with lesser impacts due to human activities than the ones threatening other territories.

More and more the peat bog showed its uniqueness, the fact that it became an extraordinary example of the typical biodiversity found in a bog with many animal and vegetal species vanished or rare elsewhere but still present there. The Grande plée Bleue is waiting, still after 25 years, for its protective status as an ecological reserve, the file is going on...

A Web site following the evolution of the peat bog

Retired from both organizations, Jean-Paul Doyon decided to concentrate his environmentalist involvement in making better known the peat bog that captured him 27 years ago; the mean he chose was a Web site. This way, he would share as much as possible information about the Grande plée Bleue, following its evolution season after season. Knowing that the future municipal installations (parking, interpretive kiosk, wooden walkway) would not allow visitors to explore many

EXCLUSIVE PEAT THERAPY

Experience the relaxing and health-promoting effects of peat sauna therapy in a spa led by a (specialist physician) gynecologist.

This traditional Finnish therapy is a natural, researched and affordable treatment for • muscular pain and tension • musculoskeletal disorders such as arthrosis and arthritis • urinary tract disorders • stress • insomnia • depression • ovarian disorders and menopausal symptoms • lethargy • cellulite and swelling • weight management and gout.

We are also happy to give informative presentations on these subjects.

Information and booking: Monday-Friday 9-12 tel. 0500 607 553
email: info@ainoklinikat.fi



**Groups up to 15 people
are welcome!**

AinoKLINIKKA

Toijalantie 286, Metsäkansa
www.ainoklinikat.fi

**MD.Gynecologist
Leena Larva**



We all have peat on the plate...

In only 1m³ peat substrate it is possible to produce up to 350,000 vegetable seedlings. Without peat efficient commercial horticulture is not conceivable. And our plates were nearly empty.





parts and specific phenomena in the peat bog, he thought that this site could be a complement to a visit or even replace a real field trip for people who would never have the opportunity to visit the region.

The site shows many pictures taken from the air or near the ground, and some videos, most of them taken by Jean-Paul himself who visits the peat bog very regularly, in every season. Contributors added their own works to illustrate also the texts. Details on flowers, bushes, old drains, ponds patterns, events past and present, researchers' reports summaries, have been shared by different writers, among them the GRET members of Laval University.

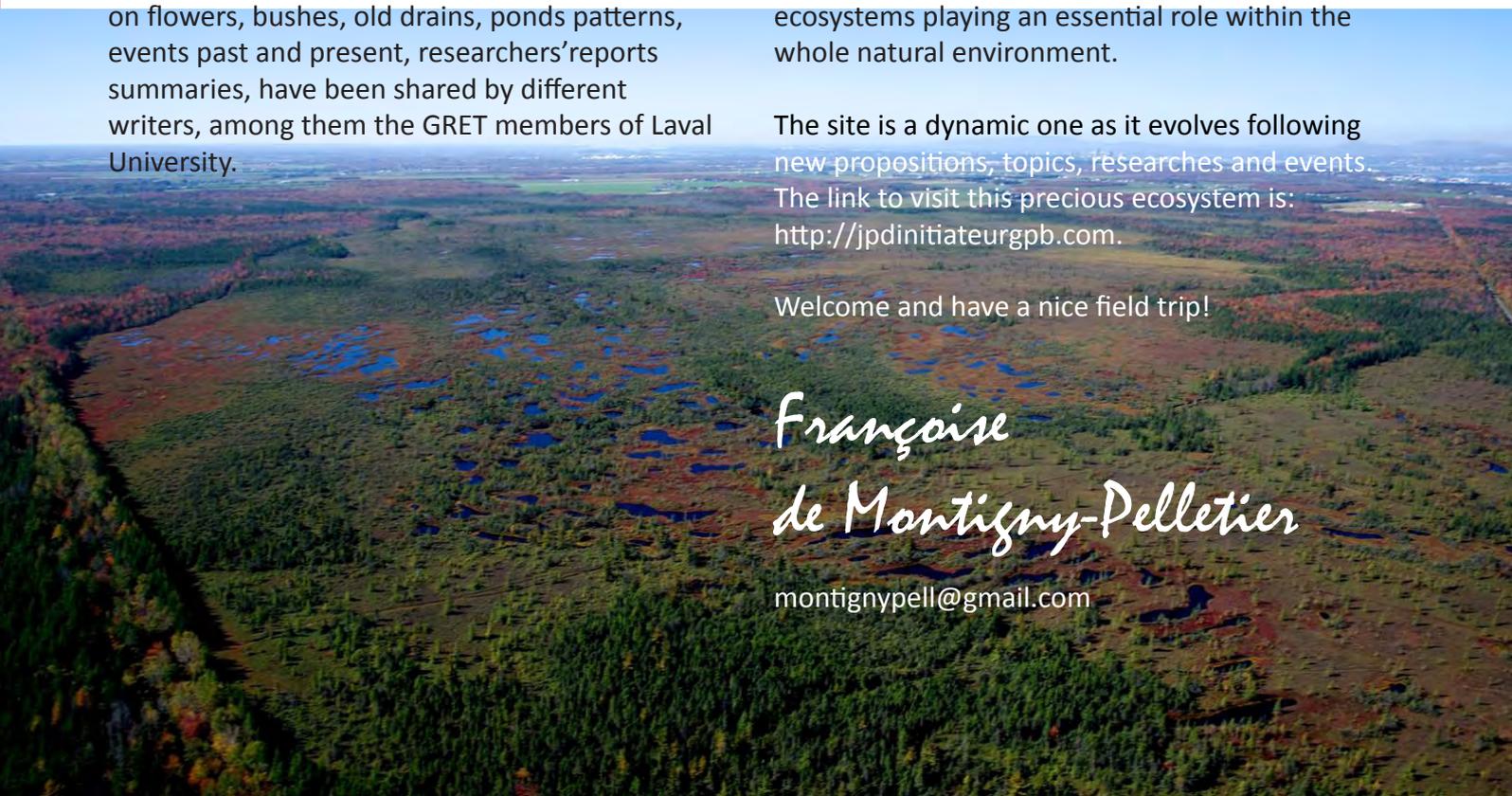
The Grande plée Bleue is mainly ombrotrophic and includes several pounds. Many pictures, tables and diagrams found on the site illustrate its characteristics. Jean-Paul Doyon is very grateful to all authors and contributors who took part into the development of this site, enhancing it with precious information. They accepted to share their knowledge and inspired the editor to deepen some questions regarding peat bogs, comparing the Grande plée Bleue with others and arousing the interest for the protection of wetlands, ecosystems playing an essential role within the whole natural environment.

The site is a dynamic one as it evolves following new propositions, topics, researches and events. The link to visit this precious ecosystem is: <http://jpdinitiateurgpb.com>.

Welcome and have a nice field trip!

*Françoise
de Montigny-Pelletier*

montignypell@gmail.com



In memoriam:

Henk van de Griendt

24 June 1925 - 10 March 2015

Nearly 90 years old and having been married to Patricia for nearly 65 years Henk passed away.

Born on the shores of the river Maas in Rotterdam he was looking forward to a life in the Navy. However the World War II changed his life as it did with many others. His brother Joost who was destined to take over the family company died in the last days of the war.

After the bombing of Rotterdam in 1940, where both the family home and the office of Griendtsveen with its archive were lost, the family moved to New Amsterdam, in the vicinity of the peatbogs in the north of The Netherlands. During the war Henk went to school in the town of Coevorden and after the war he pursued agricultural studies in Groningen in order to come into the Griendtsveen family company in 1950 as 4th generation.

He worked all his life with peat, not only in the Southeast of the province of Drenthe but also in the neighbouring area of Germany. Because peat and water are closely related he served also many years as member of the general administrative body of the water board in the province of Drenthe. During his time the company developed in The Netherlands from peat producer to farming and from sand supplier to supplier of water for professional horticulture.

After 40 years in the Griendtsveen group of companies he retired in 1990 to spend more time on his hobbies in Zwolle where he lived for 56 years.

Henk has been an important member of the International Peat Society. He was the only



member in IPS that attended all the International Peat Congresses up till now, from the first one in 1954 in Dublin where he attended together with his father.

He was the initiator of the IPS National Committee in The Netherlands that was accepted by IPS on 5th February 1992. In the following year he became Vice President of the IPS. In 2008 during the IPS Congress in Tullamore he was appointed honorary Vice President of the IPS. In 1999 he received the Dutch Peat Award.

Due to the fact that with the bombing of Rotterdam the company archive was lost he always had a special interest in everything that had to do with the history of the company and peat in general. Therefore he left behind an impressive collection of photographs and many other interesting documents.

After his retirement he wrote a book "Uit Sphagnum Geboren" about one century of peat industry in The Netherlands. He also published articles about the history in various magazines; Peatlands International was one of them.

Henk had a good sense of humour and he was creative. He always had a lot of plans; he had planned to come to the symposium in Tullamore in June.

Unfortunately he did not make it back to Ireland.

*Nick A.
van de
Griendt*

Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics Round Table Conference in Valkeakoski, Finland, 3 - 4 July 2015

IPS Commission VI on peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics organises a Round Table Conference during 3th - 4th June 2015 in Southern Finland. The Venue will be Aino Clinics in Valkeakoski, about 150 kilometres north of Helsinki, and close to Tampere.

On the first day there will be round table discussions and talks about quality issues of balneological peat, results of studies and practical experiences of peat therapy. There is the possibility experience the Finnish "Suomaa" Peat Sauna!

The second day will include an excursion to the Torronsuo National Park, the deepest mire in Finland.

Accommodation is arranged at Waltikka Hotel in Valkeakoski. www.valkeakosken-waltikka.fi. Registration by email to: info@ainoklinikat.fi. When registering please tell us the topic of your presentation if you like to hold one. Let us also know whether you would participate in the excursion and also your arrival and departure times. We can help you to arrange transport.

The registration fee is and 50 € for one day and 100 € for two days, including meals, peat sauna and travelling to Torronsuo.

The Program will be send in the beginning of June by e-mail. More information also from Riitta Korhonen: riittakorhonen3@gmail.com.

Welcome to the special midnight sun in Finland!
Herzlich Willkommen!

Leena Larva
Chair of Commission VI

Riitta Korhonen
Vice Chair of Commission VI

Cushion Peatlands in the High Andes of Northwestern Argentina as Archives for Palaeoenvironmental Research

This short book presents the results of postgraduate research into the stratigraphical and geochemical patterns of peat sections collected from high-Andean cushion peatlands in the Eastern Cordillera of northwestern Argentina. These high altitude peatlands have been little studied and palaeoecological studies focussed on macrofossil analyses to obtain better knowledge of the age of formation and composition of the peat and the local development of cushion peatland vegetation types. Fire has played an important role in the ecology of high-altitude Andean vegetation for millennia. Because of the abundance of charred particles in the peat emphasis was placed on the reconstruction of past fire activity, the first time it has been determined for central Andean and high-altitude cushion peatlands.

The objectives of the research programme were:

- Do high-Andean cushion peatlands offer high resolution, continuous archives for palaeoenvironmental research?
- Do the analysed proxies reflect prominent Holocene climatic changes and how did they influence peatland development?
- Are possible human impacts reflected by the analysed proxies and what influence did they have on the peatland?
- Do the results of the peatlands investigated show correlations at the temporal scale?

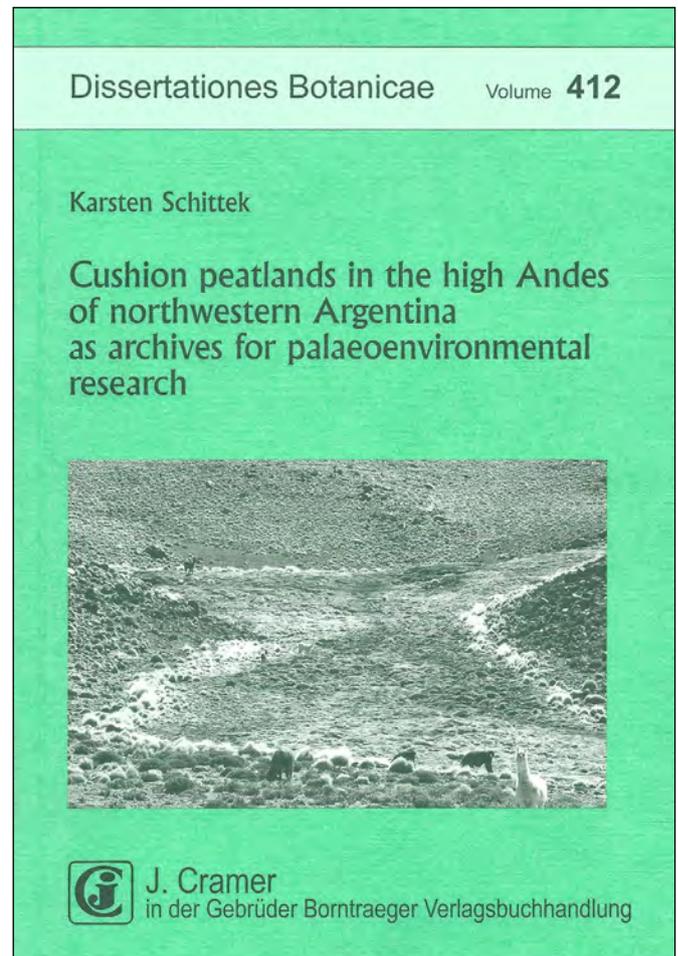
Dissertationes Botanicae Volume 412, 2014
Gebr. Borntraeger Verlagsbuchhandlung
Stuttgart, Germany

176 pages including 47 Figures and 5 Tables
in the text and 12 appendices of tables and
reference collection

Price: €48; £36; 54\$US

ISBN: 978-3-443-64325-6

ISSN: 0070-6728 (Dissertationes Botanicae)



Field research

Three field work campaigns were carried out in 2006 (February - March) and 2007 (February - April and October - November) on study areas that were selected based on information gathered in an earlier botanical expedition in 2004. Site selection also depended on accessibility and use was made of aerial photography and satellite imagery. Out of 95 peatlands surveyed, two sites were chosen for this detailed study. Assistance in the field was provided by students from the universities of Jujuy and Buenos Aires.

Cores of 4cm diameter were taken from suitable areas with thick peat using a newly-designed sampler suitable for dense, fibrous Andean peat.

Samples of 0.5-1.0 cm³ were removed for age determination; other samples were taken at 10cm intervals or smaller to measure total carbon and nitrogen contents. From a few cores samples of 10 cm³ were taken from continuous 10 cm intervals for macrofossil analysis.

Geographical setting

The Argentine northwest is at the southern end of the Central Andes tectonic domain, commonly referred to as the Altiplano or Puna plateau that extends from the south of Peru, through central-west Bolivia, north-east Chile to northwest Argentina. The Argentine Puna is characterised by wide valleys and closed basins. Peatlands can be found throughout the cordilleras on slopes below springs and in flushes at altitudes of 4000 - 4800 m usually in the headwaters of rivers or along lake shores. Cushion peatlands are soligenous mires dependent on water flow and chemistry. The high-Andes region is an extreme environment with many microenvironments as a result of gradients of rainfall and temperature and is subject to strong winds. In order to survive many plants have adapted to a cushion forming habit.

Cushion peatlands

Cushion peatlands are a unique and characteristic ecosystem of the high Andes occurring from Argentina and Chile to Colombia and Venezuela. They are dominated by hygrophilic, cushion-forming chamaephytes, alpine and sub-alpine plants of the Southern Hemisphere. The principal peat-forming species are *Distichia muscoides* (*Juncaceae*) and *Oxychloe andina* (*Cyperaceae*). Mosses are rare and Sphagna are absent. These peatlands are characterised by mosaics of more or less homogenous plant formation complexes. Every peatlands complex has its own unique character.

Summary of the research results

- Peat accumulation is evident only above 4000 m owing to lower rainfall and higher temperature below this altitude.

- Peat cores consist of alternating bands of peat, sand, silt, gravel and organic silt.
- Peatland vegetation is affected by overgrazing.
- The greatest age of the bottom peat is 9644±75 - 8934±70 14C YBP.
- The highest carbon content of 20-40% is in the upper peat layers and nitrogen 1.5-2%; lower down profiles carbon content is less at about 15% and N<1%.

Conclusions

- High-Andean cushion peatlands are a valuable natural archive for palaeoenvironmental research.
- They are sensitive to environmental change
- Peat is produced mainly by cushion plants in plant communities that developed in response to changing climatic and hydrologic regimes.
- Andean peats are characterised by significant sediment enrichment which explains their lower carbon concentration compared to other types of peat.
- A decrease of C/N ratios in the fossil record is attributed to drier episodes triggering the mineralisation process.
- The macrofossil assemblages provide new information not only of the principal peat-forming species but also of the ecology of fungal and invertebrate taxa in these high altitude peatland ecosystems.
- Reconstructions of fire activity reveals that fire has played an important role during the past millennia in the high-Andes.
- Fire activity appears to have been highest where tussock grasses are most abundant and in highest densities.
- The results support strongly that the main driver of long-term climatic variations in the tropical/subtropical Andes during the Holocene has been the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).
- High-altitude cushion peatlands are a key habitat for the landscape's water budget.

Jack Rieley

IPS 2nd Vice President
jack.rieley@nottingham.ac.uk

Peat and peatland events

2015

Wise Use of Peatlands Conference
Ballybay, Ireland, 21 May 2015
www.irishwetlands.ie

17th IBFRA Conference
Towards a New Era of Forest Science
in Boreal Region
Rovaniemi, Finland, 24 - 29 May 2015
www.ibfra2015.org

Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
Annual Meeting
Changing Climate. Changing Wetlands
Providence Rhode Islands, USA
31 May - 4 June 2015
www.swsannualmeeting.org

Ramsar COP12
Punta, del Este, Uruguay, 1 - 9 June 2015
www.ramsar.org

Biotalous 2015
Helsinki, Finland, 9 June 2015
www.biotalousuomessa.fi

UNFCCC
Climate Change Conference
Bonn, Germany, 1 - 11 June 2015
http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php

IPS Annual Meetings
Colloquy on the Peatland Experience
A New Conversation on Peatlands
Tullamore, Ireland, 7 - 11 June 2015
www.irishpeatsociety.ie

Finnish Peatland Society
Excursion to Central Finland, 18 August 2015
www.suoseura.fi

Apply now to host the 50th
Anniversary Conference of the
International Peat Society in May/
June 2018! Ask for more info:
ips@peatsociety.org.

SER 2015 World Conference on
Ecological Restoration
Towards Resilient Ecosystems: Restoring the
Urban, the Rural and the Wild
Manchester, UK, 23 - 27 August 2015
www.ser2015.org

Mires of Northern Europe: Biodiversity,
Dynamics, Management
Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, Russia
2 - 5 September 2015
email: [mire2015 \(at\) krc.karelia.ru](mailto:mire2015@krc.karelia.ru)

Bioenergy 2015
Jyväskylä, Finland, 2 - 4 September 2015
www.bioenergyevents.fi

Baltic Peat Forum
Tallinn, Estonia, 5 - 7 September 2015
www.turbaliit.ee

IPS-ISHS Peat in Horticulture
Vienna, Austria, 7 - 11 September 2015
www.ages.at/index.php?id=27529

XIV World Forest Congress "Forests and People:
Investing in a Sustainable Future"
Durban, South Africa, 7 - 11 September 2015
www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/87584/en

Wilder by Design 2
UK, 9 - 11 September 2015
www.ukeconet.org

More events at: www.peatsociety.org/events



Next issue...

New authors and advertisers are welcome!

Please send your manuscript (max. 1,000 words, A4, Arial, no full cap lines, with author contact details, language proofread if possible, e.g. www.englishproofread.com), photos and illustrations (separate jpg or pdf files with the names of the photographers) and advertisements (pdf files, prices according to Media Kit) as soon as possible to the IPS Secretariat, susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org.

Submission deadline: PI 2/2015: 15 June

Give us quick feedback to this magazine:

www.bit.ly/17VfJF2 or by email to ips@peatsociety.org.



Which International Conventions, Organizations and Initiatives have the Greatest Impact on the Management of Peatlands?

IPS Convention in Tullamore, Ireland
“A new Conversation on Peatlands” 6 - 11 June



And many other topics - share your experience and knowledge!

FIBA-ZORB[®] plus

APPROVED
FOR USE IN RHP CERTIFIED
SUBSTRATES

The most advanced growing media wetting agent in the world

FIBA-ZORB PLUS is manufactured by Turftech International and has been designed to meet today's special demands of not only the substrate manufacturers, but also, the professional growers that are striving to achieve maximum commercial benefits for their crops in their respective competitive market place.



KEY BENEFITS OF INCORPORATING FIBA-ZORB PLUS...

- Rapid first time wetting up by capillary or overhead irrigation.
- Fast re-wetting with maximum water uptake **for over a year**.
- Improves the Air Filled Porosity (AFP).
- Excellent crop safety plus increased stem and root lengths.
- Increased final crop size and weight yields for all crops tested – **commercial benefits far exceed product costs**.
- Factory treated substrates can be **stored up to 10 months** before use without any loss in water uptake performance.
- **Comprehensive efficacy & crop safety trials undertaken successfully in the UK, The Netherlands, Germany and Canada.**
- Fast delivery from storage depots in the UK & Europe, Baltics, Canada & USA.

Exclusively available from:

Turftech International Limited

5 Cable Court, Pittman Way, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR2 9YW, England

T +44 (0) 1772 704433 F +44 (0) 1772 704477 E info@turftech.co.uk

Visit our web site in several languages – www.turftech.co.uk



Standard FIBA-ZORB[®] Liquid/Granular is also available from Turftech International Ltd