

PEAT NEWS



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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEAT SOCIETY

The International Peat Society (IPS) is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization of scientific, industrial and regulatory stakeholders. It is dedicated to fostering the advancement, exchange and communication of scientific, technical and social knowledge and understanding for the wise use of peatlands and peat.

/// **Nominate an IPS Member for the Wim Tonnis Peat Award!**

The International Peat Society confers the annual “Wim Tonnis Peat Award” on an IPS member who has made a distinguished contribution to peat and peatland science or industry, especially in the promotion of Wise Use. The Award was launched in 2005 and will be presented for the first time at the IPS Annual Assembly in Hanover, Germany on 7 May 2006. We now would like to ask all IPS members to send their nominations for the 2006 Wim Tonnis Peat Award by **1 March 2006** to the IPS Secretariat. The Award comprises a framed scroll and a cash prize of €1,000. Please find all requirements and further information at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=103.

/// **Peat Dictionary Available Online Now**

The Peat Dictionary of 1984 can now be found for online use at the IPS website. Currently, the database includes 6,373 peat and peatland-related terms in five languages: English, Russian, Finnish, Swedish and German. Updates will be carried out in close cooperation with the IPS Scientific Advisory Board. The Dictionary can also be downloaded for offline use and burned on a CD-Rom. You can find the Peat Dictionary at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=93 or in the menu on the left hand side of the index page. Printed copies of the Dictionary can be ordered from the IPS Online Shop at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=80 for €35 including mailing costs.

/// **Kick-off Meeting of the IPS Peatlands and Climate Change Working Group**

Twelve invited experts from Finland, Sweden, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom and Canada participated together with representatives of the IPS Executive Board and IPS Secretariat in the Kick-off Meeting of the new IPS Working Group on “Peatlands and Climate Change” (CC-WG) in Helsinki, Finland on **1 February 2006**. The delegates refined the mission, tasks and objectives of the Working Group and explored possibilities on how to coordinate their scientific work on this important topic. The proposals of the Group will be dealt with at the IPS Executive Board meeting next week in St. Petersburg. All guests also attended, together with about thirty Finnish participants, a very informative seminar on “Greenhouse impacts of the use of peat and peatlands in Finland” at the Finnish Forestry Research Center (Metla) in Vantaa on the day before the meeting. More details on the Working Group can be found at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=179.

/// **IPS Executive Board Meets in St. Petersburg**

The IPS Executive Board, on the invitation of the Russian National Committee, will hold its 32nd meeting on **10 - 12 February 2006** in St. Petersburg, Russia. As last year, you will receive a summary of the Board’s decisions by e-mail shortly after the meeting.

/// **New Contact Details for German, Russian and UK National Committees**

There have been slight changes in the contact details of the IPS German, Russian and UK National Committee Chairs and Secretaries, two of which are at the same time Executive Board members. The institute of Dr. Gerfried Caspers from Germany has changed its name as of 1 January to “Landesamt für Bergbau, Energie und Geologie”. Due to a change of prefixes in the Russian

telephone system, you can now reach Mr. Dmitriy Gogin by phone at +7 495 207 2332 and by fax at +7 495 207 2350, the 0 after the country code has been replaced by a 4. Mr. Alan Shaw, Secretary of the National Committee in the United Kingdom, can now be reached at 14 Duke Street, Haughley, Stowmarket, Ipswich, Suffolk IP14 3QS, United Kingdom, e-mail: alan@ashawco.fsnet.co.uk. The contact details of all National Committees, Commissions, Working Groups and Executive Board members can also be found at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=5.

/// **Bad Neydharting Round Table in May**

The traditional Bad Neydharting Round Table Conference of IPS Commission VI on „Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics” will be held on **26 - 28 May 2006**. The venue is, as in previous years, the Heilmoorbad Neydharting GmbH in Bad Neydharting, Austria. We will keep you informed on the programme. In case you have any questions, please contact Mag. Fausta Piccini-Stöber at moor@moor-neydharting.com or Riitta Korhonen at riitta.korhonen@gsf.fi

/// **Call for Papers: SER Peatland Restoration Conference**

The European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) hosts the “5th European Conference on Ecological Restoration” at the Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald, Germany on **22 - 25 August 2006**. IPS Commission V in collaboration with the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) are actively organizing a series of peatland restoration sessions at the event. The lectures will pay particular attention to human interactions with peatlands and solutions on how better to manage peatlands for future generations. Under theme 10, peatlands, the sessions will deal with: 1) Sphagnum bog restoration for biodiversity, 2) Fen restoration for biodiversity, 3) Restoring peatlands for environmental regulation, 4) Restoring peatlands for sustainable productive use, 5) Peatland restoration: public participation and policies, and 6) Restoration of Peatlands in the Tropics. Proposals for additional sessions should be submitted to the organizers immediately. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations can be sent in before **1 March 2006**. The complete call for abstracts can be found at www.uni-greifswald.de/SER2006.

/// **World’s Tiniest Fish Found in Peatlands**

Scientists from Europe and Singapore say they have discovered the world’s tiniest known fish in a tropical peat swamp forest in Indonesia. Fully grown, *Paedocypris progenetica* is about 0.31 inches (7.8 mm) long, about the size of a mosquito. It has a translucent body, enlarged pelvic fins and a head unprotected by a skeleton. The fish, a relative of the carp, was discovered by Maurice Kottelat and Tanheok Hui, who are researchers at the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore. The highly acid peat swamps, a unique landscape of flooded trees growing in water-logged, soft peaty soil on the island of Sumatra and in Borneo are threatened by fires, illegal logging, forestry and agriculture. More information: www.tinyurl.com/dtvwz.

/// **Iron Age Bog Man Used Hair Gel**

Two bog bodies, discovered in peat bogs in central Ireland in 2003, were unveiled in Dublin in January and will go on display at the National Museum of Ireland in May. The men, found in separate peat workings, were preserved so well that a police murder investigation was started before archaeologists joined the case. According to the researchers of the Museum who studied the human remains, the men were probably wealthy, well-connected individuals. Living more than 2,000 years ago, both were tortured and killed while in their 20s, possibly as ritual sacrifices to pagan gods. The researchers were especially surprised by the height of 1.98 cm of the Oldcroghan man, but also by the fact that the other body, the Clonycavan man, had coiffeured up his hair using an early hair gel, possibly made from vegetable oil mixed with resin from Spanish and French pine trees. Details of the finds were broadcasted on BBC television. Peatlands provide cold, acidic, oxygen-free conditions, which prevent decay and mummify flesh. More details: www.tinyurl.com/a63bt.