

PEAT NEWS



No 2/2005

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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.

/// Decisions of the IPS Executive Board

At its meeting on **18 February 2005** on the Baltic Sea, the Executive Board approved the Annual Report, Profit and Loss Account and Balance for 2004, as well as the Working Programme, Plan of Activities, Budget and Membership fees for 2005. The Board agreed to further activate the IPS National Committees and the membership in countries without a National Committee, to launch a new IPS website, to develop a detailed framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2004-2008, and, as part of it, to take further steps in monitoring and implementing the concept of Wise Use. Decisions have also been made in establishing further cooperation with the ISHS in organizing events, and in creating an award for special achievements in the field of peat and peatlands. The IPS Secretariat continues to work on the new issue of the peat dictionary. Prof. Dr. Xianmin Meng from China was approved as a new individual member of IPS.

The 29th Board meeting is scheduled for **8 May 2005** in Warsaw, Poland, together with a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board. The Annual Assembly of National Representatives and a Commission II meeting will be held at the same venue on **9 May 2005**.

/// First Call for Articles - Peatlands International 1/2005

Peatlands International 1/2005 is planned to be published in July/August under the theme "Wise Use of Peat in Horticulture". Besides being sent to our members and other interested parties, the magazine will be widely distributed at the ISHS-IPS International Symposium on Growing Media in Angers, France in September. We encourage all corporate and individual members familiar with the topic to submit their contributions, such as research articles, company reports, interviews, press releases and similar insight reports accompanied by photos or graphic illustrations, by **30 April** to swarnecke@peatsociety.fi. We especially welcome new advertisers from the horticultural industry; the Media Kit 2005 of Peatlands International is available at www.peatsociety.fi/publica/pi.htm.

/// Call for Papers - Peat Balneology Symposium in Germany

An international symposium on "Peat Preparations in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Cosmetics" will be held in Bad Langensalza, Germany on **25 - 27 May 2005**. The conference is organized by IPS Commission VI in cooperation with the Germany Peat Society, the German Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Academy of the Arts and Sciences Useful to the Public in Erfurt. Manufacturers and users of peat preparations as well as researchers dealing with the study of peat ingredients are cordially invited to attend the conference. The symposium language is English. Abstracts can be submitted to rkloeck@zmkh.ef.uni-jena.de until **31 March**

2005, which is also the registration deadline. The conference is accompanied by an excursion to the regenerated Saukopfmoor peatland. More information: www.peatsociety.fi/events/events.htm.

/// **New Working Groups in Commission V**

IPS Commission V, dealing with “After-use of Cut-over and Disturbed Peatlands” has founded two new Working Groups. The newly established Working Group on “Forest plantation on cutover peatlands” cooperates closely with Commission VII - “Ecology and Management on Forested Peatlands”, and is coordinated by Lasse Aro from Finland and Florence Renou from Ireland. The new Working Group on “Cloudberry production in peatlands” is led by Line Lapointe and Kristine Knaess from Canada, Heli Pirinen from Finland and Kaare Rapp from Norway. More information on their goals and activities can be found at www.peatsociety.fi/com&wgs/commV.htm.

/// **Revision of European Eco-label Criteria**

An ad hoc meeting to review the criteria for the European Eco-label for Soil Improvers and Growing Media (“European Flower”) will be held in Brussels on **15 March 2005**. So far, peat is generally excluded from the Eco-Label due to environment protection reasons. The planned revision led by Stichting Milieukeur, the Dutch Competent Body, includes, among other items, “a reassessment of the possible use of peat”. Gerald Schmilewski will attend the meeting as representative of the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA) and of the Working Group on Horticultural Peat (HOPE) of the IPS. The background document to review is posted at http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/product/pg_soilimprovers_en.htm.

/// **New Book - Voices from the Peat**

Nancy Ashworth, coordinator of the Peat Heritage Project of the Somerset County Council, UK, has written and compiled a book on “Voices from the Peat - An oral history of the Avalon marshes”. The 82 page soft-cover is an oral history of the peat industry over the last 100 years in Somerset, including memories, stories and photos from local people who were interviewed in their homes or in the peat landscape itself. The anecdotes in the book beautifully illustrate the social and landscape history surrounding the peat extraction industry from hand-digging techniques, farm life and floods to archaeological discoveries, including the internationally famous “Sweet Track”. The book can be ordered from nancy.burditt@somersetlevels.org.uk for GBP 4.99 plus mailing costs.

/// **New Contact Details of the Canadian and Indonesian National Committees**

The Peat Research and Development Centre in Shippagan, New Brunswick, the office of Dr. Jean-Yves Daigle, Chair of the IPS Canadian National Committee, has merged its operations with two other research centres to form the Coastal Zones Research Institute (CZRI). Dr. Daigle’s contact details are now: Dr. Jean-Yves Daigle, Department of Peatlands, Coastal Zones Research Institute (CZRI), 232-B avenue de l’Église, Shippagan, NB E8S 1J2, Canada, phone: +1 506 336 6600, fax: +1 506 336 6601, e-mail: jydaigle@umcs.ca. Dr. Bambang Setiadi, Chairman of the Indonesian National Committee has also moved to another office; he can now be reached at: Dr. Bambang Setiadi, BPPT, Build II, floor 5th, Jalan MH. Thamrin 8, 10340 Jakarta, Indonesia, phone: +62 21 316 9104, fax: +62 21 310 1858, mobile: +62 816 188 5152, e-mail: bbsetiadi@yahoo.com.au.

/// **Correction Peat News 1/2005: Leila Korpela Secretary of IPS Finnish National Committee**

The Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura ry), which acts as the IPS Finnish National Committee, is chaired by Prof. Harri Vasander and supported by the Society’s Secretary Dr. Leila Korpela. More information about the Society can be obtained from www.suoseura.fi.