

# PEAT NEWS



No 2/2006

28 February 2006

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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.

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### /// Mark your Calendars: IPS Convention in May 2006

The IPS Convention 2006 will be held in Hanover, Germany at the Hotel Jägerhof in Langenhagen on **4 - 7 May 2006**. It is planned to hold the Scientific Advisory Board meeting in the morning of 4 May, followed by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board meeting in the afternoon. For Friday, 5 May, we have scheduled an excursion to the Ecological Protection Station Steinhuder Meer and the plant of ASB Greenworld in Neustadt. Additionally, the Moorhütte as well as the peat museum Schloss Landestrost will be visited. In the evening, we invite all guests to a sparkling wine cellar. On Saturday, 6 May 2006, all IPS Commissions and Working Groups are welcome to hold their meetings. In the afternoon, the Chairmen of the IPS National Committees will meet for a Round Table Discussion, followed by the formal Annual Assembly of National Representatives. We hope that many IPS members will use this opportunity to get to know each other, to benefit from and to influence the work of IPS. A registration form and more information will be sent out soon. More information: [www.der-jaegerhof.de](http://www.der-jaegerhof.de) and [www.peatsociety.org](http://www.peatsociety.org). Herzlich willkommen!

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

We would like to remind you that there is, until **1 March 2006**, still the opportunity to send your nominations for the 2006 Wim Tonnis Peat Award to the IPS Secretariat. 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 comprises a framed scroll and a cash prize of €1,000. The 2006 Wim Tonnis Peat Award will be presented at the IPS Annual Assembly in Hanover, Germany on 7 May 2006. All further information can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=103](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=103).

### /// Last Call for Articles: Peatlands International 1/2006

Please note that the submission deadline for Peatlands International 1/2006 is approaching fast. We will accept your articles and announcements for publication until the end of this week, **3 March 2006**. The magazine, 3,000 copies, will be published in April and sent to all IPS members and a number of other stakeholders in peat and peatlands. The Editorial Board welcomes all conference reports, in-depth reviews, project summaries and announcements for future events, but also short news items dealing with peatlands and related topics. Special emphasis in the next issue is laid on Peatlands and Climate Change, but other articles are also welcome. Please write your texts in MS Word, Arial pt 10, single lines, max. 2,000 words, without additional formatting. More information on Peatlands International is available at <http://peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55>.

### /// Riitta Korhonen New Chair of Finnish National Committee

Specialist researcher M.Sc. Riitta Korhonen of the Geological Survey of Finland has been appointed Chair of the Finnish Peatlands Society (Suoseura ry), the Finnish National Committee of IPS, as of **1 January 2006**. She can be contacted at Riitta Korhonen, Geological Survey of Finland, P.O. Box 96, 02151 Espoo, Finland, phone: +358 205 50 2390, fax: +358 205 50 12, mobile: +358 40 524 2486, e-mail: [riitta.korhonen@gtk.fi](mailto:riitta.korhonen@gtk.fi). Mrs. Korhonen has also been Chair of IPS

Commission VI on "Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics" since 2004. More information: [www.suoseura.fi](http://www.suoseura.fi).

#### /// **New E-mail Address for Norwegian National Committee**

Please note that Mr. Alf Reidar Selmer-Olsen, Secretary of the Norwegian National Committee of the IPS, has changed his e-mail address to [ar.selmer-olsen@tele2.no](mailto:ar.selmer-olsen@tele2.no).

#### /// **Annual Assembly of the IPS Polish National Committee**

On **31 January 2006**, the Polish National Committee held its Annual Assembly in Warsaw. The Chairmen of the Polish commissions reported on their activities in 2005, as well as on their plans for the coming year. Prof. Kazimierz Tobolski from the A. Mickiewicz University in Poznan was appointed Chairman of the recently established Polish Commission VIII on Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands. The meeting also approved four new members and discussed aspects of the practical application of "Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands" in agriculture and forestry.

#### /// **Harri Vasander Appointed Professor in Peatland Forestry**

The Chancellor of the University of Helsinki, Finland, has nominated Dr. Harri Vasander as the new Professor in Peatland Forestry as of **1 February 2006**. The post had been held by Professor Juhani Päivänen since 1985. Both Juhani and Harri have been very active in the Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura ry, Finnish National Committee of IPS) and the IPS. Professor Harri Vasander was Chairman of the Finnish National Committee of IPS 1997 - 2005 and also was one of the key persons in organising the 12th International Peat Congress in Tampere in 2004.

#### /// **Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association Has Moved**

The Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA) has changed its contact details. As of **1 March 2006**, President Gerry Hood and his colleagues can be reached at 13 Mission Avenue Suite 2208, St. Albert, AB T8N 1H6, Canada, phone: +1 780 460 8280, fax: +1 780 459 0939, e-mail: [cspma@peatmoss.com](mailto:cspma@peatmoss.com), web: [www.peatmoss.com](http://www.peatmoss.com). CSPMA will hold its semi-annual meeting in Rivière-du-Loup, Québec on **8 - 9 June** and its annual meeting in Deerfield Beach, Florida on **8 - 12 November 2006**. The Canadian National Committee of IPS consists of the members of CSPMA and of the Canadian Society for Peat and Peatlands (CSPP) and is chaired by Dr. Jean-Yves Daigle.

#### /// **Application Deadline Approaching for Wetland Course in Biebrza, Poland**

**1 March 2006** is the application deadline for the "3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop and Short Intensive Course on Wetland Water Management" in Biebrza, Poland on **26 June - 2 July 2006**. The event aims to describe the processes leading to the creation and functioning of wetlands, focussing on the role of water management. The course gives an overview of all main types of fens and marshes in Central and Western Europe and explains the hydrological processes and their impacts on peat formation and vegetation. Main target group of the course is young professionals, who are asked to give a presentation on their research work. The event consists of indoor and outdoor lectures as well as field trips. All further information can be obtained from <http://levis.sggw.waw.pl/wethydro>.

#### /// **In Memoriam: Harry Fraser**

Mr. Henry "Harry" Walker Fraser, 66, of Fort Gratiot, passed away on 17 January 2006 in the company of his family. As former Operations Manager of the Michigan Peat company and previous to that as an operation Manager for the former Western Peat Moss Company in Canada, Mr. Fraser had attended many IPS functions, including the 6th Peat Congress in Duluth and peat symposia in Duluth, Athlone and Sheffield. On a post Congress trip to the Winnipeg area, many IPS members visited the operation that he managed. With his wit and "off-beat" sense of humour, Harry touched the lives of all who knew him. He was well loved and will be sadly missed.