

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.

/// Register now for the IPS Convention in May 2006

We warmly welcome all IPS members to register now for the IPS Convention in Hanover, Germany. Until **30 March**, you will benefit from a € 30 lower registration fee. The Convention includes meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board and Executive Board on Thursday, **4 May**, a relaxing and interesting excursion on Friday, **5 May** and the Annual Assembly of National Representatives and the first presentation of the Wim Tonnis Peat Award on Saturday, **6 May**.

All guests will be accommodated in a German framework-style farm house not far from the city of Hanover. Typical German food, including sausages and beer, are awaiting us in the restaurant, and coffee and snacks are served during the meetings. For the fun part of the Convention, we will visit a peat museum at castle Schloss Landestrost and enjoy fresh sparkling wine in an original wine cellar.

During the field trip day, we will see a Conservation station at the beautiful Steinhuder Meer (a large lake), have the opportunity to visit ASB Greenworld, including a jovial ride on a peat train, and explore rewetted former peat production areas. We are looking forward to seeing you and your colleagues in Hanover! All further details can be found at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=184.

/// Bad Neydharting Round Table Conference Coming Up

The traditional Bad Neydharting Round Table Conference on “Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics” will be held for the 16th time on **26 - 28 May 2006** in Bad Neydharting, Austria. All those interested to join are asked to register and to send their topic proposals by **15 April** to the organizers. The conference will be held in English and German without simultaneous translation. The entrance is free. More information is available at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=127.

/// Programme for Minsk Conference Available

The International Conference on “Peat in Solution of Energy, Agriculture and Ecology Problems” in Minsk, Belarus on **29 May - 2 June 2006** is taking shape. The Scientific Committee has received so far 128 papers from different potential participants. Besides local experts, 87 participants from abroad have already registered for the conference, among whom are about 10 from Western European countries. All papers are currently edited and will be published as proceedings in early May. For more information, please visit www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=47.

/// Approaching Deadline for Peatland Restoration Conference

The early bird registration period for the 5th European Conference on Ecological Restoration, entitled “Land use Changes in Europe as a challenge for restoration” in Greifswald, Germany will end on **31 March**. Members of the International Peat Society, the International Mire Conservation Group and the Society of Ecological Restoration will have the opportunity to join at least 7 peatland sessions on **22 - 25 August 2006**, with 12 presentations in each section. The event is a good opportunity for employees in commercial companies, but also scientists and students, to learn more

about peatland restoration. According to Line Rochefort, many IPS members have already submitted their abstracts for presentations. More info: www.uni-greifswald.de/SER2006/.

/// **New Session on Peatland Soils for Agricultural Use in Greifswald**

A new session on: Restoration of Peatland Soils for Agricultural Use (10G) has been included into the programme of the Peatland Restoration in Greifswald (see above). The aim of this session, organized by Commission III Chair Lech Szajdak and Ryszard Oleszczuk, is to discuss the processes and mechanisms of peat soil degradation, to determine measures to slow down or halt these processes, and to evaluate the perspectives of restoration of degraded peat soils for agricultural use. More information: www.uni-greifswald.de/SER2006/themes_peatlands.html.

/// **Latvian National Committee Elects New Executive Board**

On **24 March**, the Latvian Peat Producers Association (IPS Latvian National Committee) held their Annual Meeting in Riga. At the meeting, which was attended by 25 of 26 members, a new Board was elected, consisting of: Valerijs Kozlovs as Chairman, Uldis Ameriks as Deputy Chairman and Ivans Cuprunis, Renārs Skudra and Pēteris Romanovskis. Mrs. Linda Raupe acts as Secretary of the Association. You can find her contact details at www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=28.

/// **Call for Papers: Scientific School on Bogs and Biosphere in Tomsk**

The Organising Committee of the “5th Scientific School on Bogs and Biosphere” has now published their first call for papers. Manuscripts for the event, to be held on **11 – 14 September 2006** in Tomsk, Russia, can be submitted until **10 May**, which is also the registration deadline. The conference will deal with biogeochemical processes in bog and lake ecosystems, physical, chemical and biological properties of bog formations, humic substances, perspectives in studying bog ecosystems and innovative aspects of their use. The event also includes an excursion to the Vasugan peatland. For more information, please visit www.tinyurl.com/lf9z5.

/// **150 Years of Norwegian “Cultivation of Peatland”**

150 years ago, Per Christian Asbjørnsen wrote the book “Cultivation of Peatland; Textbook in Harvesting Techniques and Peat as Fuel.” The famous Norwegian fairytale writer was born in 1812. He studied forestry in Germany in 1856 - 1858 and, after that, worked in Trondheim as a forester for several years. In 1864, he traveled to Denmark, Germany and Holland to study peat and peat production. Later he was engaged by the Government as “State peat master”, a position he held until he retired in 1876. Mr. Asbjørnsen also designed the chamber-sampler for extracting samples from deep bogs. For more info, please contact ar.selmer-olsen@tele2.no.

/// **Global Environment Centre Recruits Technical Coordinators**

The Global Environment Centre is recruiting three technical coordinators to be located in Petaling Jaya/Kuala Lumpur, Sandakan and Pekanbaru. Their task is to coordinate and provide technical support for activities at global, regional or country level related to forest and wetland management, particularly peatlands and mangroves, environment and climate change. Applicants should have at least a Bachelor Degree in environmental science, forestry or natural resource management, and 5-10 years relevant working experience. For more details, please contact latha@genet.po.my.

/// **Peatland Ecology Summer Course in Sweden**

An academic course in Peatland Ecology will be held for the first time in Uppsala, Sweden on **26 July - 25 August 2006**. The course is aimed at students with a background in biology, forestry, natural geography and environmental science as well as those professionally involved in conservation work. More information is available at www.ibg.uu.se/en/courses/1BL157E. Although the application deadline has passed already, you can contact hakan.rydin@ebc.uu.se for free places.