

PEAT NEWS



No 6/2005

22 June 2005

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.

/// Peatlands International 1/2005 on its Way

Peatlands International 1/2005 will be sent to all IPS members at the end of June. The magazine contains 48+32 pages and includes the Annual Report 2004, an introduction to the Angers symposium and the use of peat in horticulture, the results of the Workshop on Sphagnum Farming, a summary of peatland use and restoration in northern Germany, a report on Finnish-Canadian cooperation in cultivating cloudberries, information on both the Canadian peatland restoration tour and the European Peat and Growing Media Association, a report on a visit to the peatlands of North Karelia, and last but not least a review of the IPS meetings in Warsaw and on the Baltic Sea. You will receive Peatlands International either from the Chair of your National Committee or directly from the IPS Secretariat. The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is **30 August 2005**.

/// Registration Deadline for Angers Symposium Approaching

The registration deadline for the joint “International Symposium on Growing Media” of IPS and the Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS) in Angers, France is coming closer. Until **15 July 2005** you can register for the symposium at <http://ishs-angers.agrena.org/registration.php>. As announced earlier, IPS will hold a full-day session on “Wise Use of Peat in Horticulture” on **8 September**, the overall symposium taking place on **4 - 10 September 2005**. The complete schedule of the scientific sessions can be found within the next few days at <http://ishs-angers.agrena.org>. Additionally, IPS will hold a number of business meetings at the venue. A Commission II meeting is planned for **8 September** at 17:30, presumably at the congress center, and the 30th Executive Board meeting will be held on **9 September** at the Bleu Marine hotel starting at 8:00. Bienvenue!

/// Peatland Restoration Tour in Canada

As announced earlier, IPS is promoting a 5-day tour in Canada especially for European peat experts to become familiar with the “Canadian way” of peatland restoration. The “International Knowledge Transfer Workshop on Peatland Restoration and Reclamation” will be held in Québec on **3 - 7 October 2005**. Participants will learn the step-by-step methods described in the Peatland Restoration Guide by François Quinty and Dr. Line Rochefort, visit industrial sites and learn more about the cultivation of berries and forest plantations on cutover peatlands. During field excursions, the delegates will visit many restored sites and will be able to see restoration work in action. Registration deadline is **1 September 2005**, but as places are limited, it might be wise to book as soon as possible. We also recommend you to organize joint flights together with colleagues from your home country. All participants are encouraged to send a copy of their booking to susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org so that we can keep you informed about other participants from your region. Further information can be found at www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/fr_colloques.html.

/// **New Contact Details for Estonian Peat Association**

Erki Niitlaan, Managing Director of the Estonian Peat Association, informed us that their organization has moved to a new address. He can be contacted now at: Erki Niitlaan, Estonian Peat Association, Pärnu mnt 238, 11624 Tallinn, Estonia, phone: +372 6140 261, mobile: +372 5527 327, fax: +372 6140 263, e-mail: erki.niitlaan@mail.ee. The Estonian Peat Association was founded as a National Committee of IPS in 1992. Having been called Estonian Peat Producers Association since 1999, in 2004, the association started to use its old name again and will be officially registered as non-profit organization soon. It is also planned to better organize the cooperation with the Estonian scientists and other non-industrial peatland experts in a new-to-establish National Committee. Currently, the Estonian Peat Association has 32 members. It unites the peat producing, processing and marketing companies in Estonia, including providers of machinery. The companies belonging to the Association produce 95% of the total peat production of the country, reaching an average annual production of about 4.5 - 5.5 million m³ peat. Estonia is one of the most important peat producing countries today.

/// **Review of the International Peat Balneology and Medicine Conference**

IPS Commission VI held its international conference on "Peat and Humic Substance Preparations in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Body Care" on **25 - 27 May 2005** in Bad Langensalza, Germany. Forty scientists, producers and users of peat preparations from nine countries met at the Rehabilitation Clinic in the Thermal Sulphur Spa Bad Langensalza, Thuringia to discuss the latest developments in the area. The symposium was organized by the IPS Commission VI in cooperation with a number of related organizations. A special highlight of the symposium was a field trip to the revitalized rainmoor peatland Saukopfmoor near Oberhof guided by two initiators of the revitalization project, Dr. Lebrecht Jeschke, Greifswald, and Dipl.-Biol. Andreas Henkel, Gotha. A report on the conference will be published in Peatlands International 2/2005.

/// **Volcanoes Slow Down Wetland Emissions**

A group from the Open University in Milton Keynes, UK says that volcanoes may have a stronger cooling effect on the Earth than previously thought. According to the researchers and Dr. Vincent Gauci, large eruptions allow sulphate-reducing bacteria in peat bogs and wetlands to out-compete the methane-producing microbes even for decades and therefore cool the Earth in addition to the sun-blocking effect of dust and gas. The study also shows that the impact of acid-rain fallout on methane-producing bacteria can outlive the short-term cooling effect of sulphuric acid in the atmosphere. A summary of the results is posted at: news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4088314.stm.

/// **Successful German Peatland Conference in Saxony**

The German Peat Society held its symposium on "Peatlands in Saxony - Moore im sächsischen Tief- und Hügelland" on **3 - 5 June 2005** in Marsdorf, Germany. More than 100 participants attended the sessions, its excursions and especially an evening session by Dr. Lebrecht Jeschke, including local guests. More information and photos of the event can be obtained from www.fachtagung-marsdorf.de and www.fg-grossdittmannsdorf.de/fachtagung_marsdorf.htm.

/// **Peatland Events in Russia**

A workshop on "Wise Use of Peatlands in Russia" will be held in Moscow and Tver on **20 - 25 September 2005**. For more information, please contact Tatiana Minaeva at tminaeva@wwf.ru or visit www.peatlands.ru. The third scientific school on "Bogs and Biosphere" is held in Tomsk on **12 - 15 September 2005**. More information: labor@mail.tomsknet.ru, www.ltorf.tom.ru/nschool.htm.