

# 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.

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### /// Register now for Peat in Horticulture Symposium in Amsterdam!

All IPS members are now invited to register for the 5th International Symposium on “Peat in Horticulture – Peat in the Stranglehold of Interest Groups” to be held on **30 October 2006** at Hotel Novotel in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. At the symposium, twelve invited speakers, among them Mr. Donal Clarke, Mr. Gerald Schmilewski, Mr. Gerry Hood, Prof. Dr. James Waddington, Prof. Dr. Joachim Blankenburg, Mr. Hartmut Falkenberg, Mr. Jonathan Cox and Mrs. Päivi Picken, will inform the attendants on legal aspects of peat extraction in different countries, peat production and climate change, restoration of peatlands, the EU Ecolabel for growing media and other current topics. The registration fee for IPS members amounts to € 195, for students € 100. The Second Circular, including the final programme, an invitation and the registration form, can be downloaded at [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=47](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=47). We look forward to meeting you in Amsterdam!

### /// Call for Papers: Peatlands International 2/2006

The next issue of Peatlands International, the member magazine of IPS, will be published in early November. We warmly welcome your research reports, review of conferences and similar events, announcements and in-depth stories about all issues related to peat and peatlands for the magazine. If you would like to be among the authors of Peatlands International 2/2006, please contact Communications Manager Susann Warnecke as soon as possible, announcing the topic and length of your article. All contributions must be submitted to [susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) by **15 September 2006** at the latest. Please compose your text of max. 2,000 words in MS Word, font Arial 10 pt, single line spacing and without additional formatting. Photos or graphics should be sent separately as high resolution jpg, tif, eps, psd, or pdf files. Please also remember to submit captions for all illustrations as well as the names of their copyright holders (photographers). To speed up the editing process, we ask all authors to have their papers checked by a native English speaker before submission, wherever possible. The Editorial Board of Peatlands International reserves the right to select, edit and shorten papers, if necessary. More info: [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=55).

### /// Wise Use of Tropical Peatland Review Online

A synthesis of the scientific research information produced as a result of two EU INCO Projects, “Biodiversity and Natural Resource Functions of Tropical Peatland” (EUTROP) and “Strategies for Implementing Sustainable Management of Tropical Peatland” (STRAPEAT), that operated with the collaboration of twelve international partner institutes from 1998 until 2004 has been published on the Internet. This electronic book, which is freely downloadable, is a compendium of information on tropical peat and peatland with an emphasis on Southeast Asia. It contains a fully referenced review of the extent and location of tropical peatlands globally and of peatlands in Southeast Asia in particular, assessment of their natural resource functions and values, discussion of their role in the global carbon cycle and climate change processes, uses of and impacts on tropical peatlands and strategies for implementing appropriate management to ensure their wise use. This book, which is edited by Professor Jack Rieley, University of Nottingham, UK and Dr. Susan Page, University of Leicester, UK is entitled “Wise Use of Tropical Peatland: Focus on Southeast Asia”. It can be

viewed at [www.restorpeat.alterra.wur.nl](http://www.restorpeat.alterra.wur.nl). As this is an evolving document, any comments and corrections are welcomed and should be sent to [jack.rieley@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:jack.rieley@nottingham.ac.uk).

### /// **New Report on the Use of Drained Forests and Drained Mires for Peat Extraction**

A project report on “Drained forest land and mires with thick peat as resources for sustainable peat harvesting in Sweden” has been published by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and the Swedish Peat Research Foundation (TorvForsk). Author of the report is Björn Hånell, Professor at SLU’s Department of Silviculture. The 29-page report describes the extent and location of drained peatlands in Sweden, which are, from an environmental perspective, most suitable for peat harvesting, and determines the country’s peat harvesting potential for the future. Also the role of greenhouse gas emissions and technical requirements of peat extraction are covered. The report estimates that, based on the present production rate in Sweden of about 12 million m<sup>3</sup> peat per year, the peat with a potential for harvesting will last for more than 750 years. The report in Swedish, including an English summary (ISSN 1653-7955), can be downloaded free at [www.torvforsk.se](http://www.torvforsk.se) or ordered for € 10 from [marie.kofod-hansen@torvforsk.se](mailto:marie.kofod-hansen@torvforsk.se).

### /// **Cotton Grass Fibres May Help to Remove Oil**

Universitas Helsinkiensis, the quarterly of the University of Helsinki, reports in its summer issue about a project to use cotton grass fibres to remove oil spillings. Sonja Suni, a PhD student who is investigating natural oil removal methods at the University’s Department of Ecological and Environmental Sciences, discovered that the absorption capacity of cotton grass fibres is 2-3 times better than that of the currently available synthetic materials. Cotton grass also helps the survival of organisms after diesel spills and is easier to dispose of after use. The waxy and water-repellent fibres are usually removed from the energy peat before combustion and could be used, for instance, in small to medium-sized oil spillages. More info: [www.helsinki.fi/uh/2-2006/juttu2.shtml](http://www.helsinki.fi/uh/2-2006/juttu2.shtml).

### /// **New Peatland Fire Website**

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) has launched a new website that summarises their fire-related research done within the previous years. The information is organised by research topics, such as fire ecology, underlying causes and impacts of fires in Indonesia and other countries. The page also lists a number of available publications and provides downloadable PDF files where permitted. In other cases, abstracts and URLs are provided. The website can be found at [www.cifor.cgiar.org/fire](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/fire). CIFOR is an international research and global knowledge institution committed to conserving forests and improving the livelihoods of people in the tropics.

### /// **Large International Wetland Conference in Australia**

The Society of Wetland Scientists holds its 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on “Catchments to Coast” on **9 - 14 July 2006** in Cairns, Australia. The event is connected to the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Australian Marine Sciences Association and includes scientific sessions, poster presentations, a science writing workshop, a silent auction and several excursions. The conference focusses on the vital role and value of wetlands within terrestrial and marine environments, but also includes more specific topics of current interest, such as migratory species, hydrological/geological processes, ecosystem-based management and protected areas. More info: [www.catchments.org.au](http://www.catchments.org.au).

### /// **In Memoriam: Pjotrs Šakuns from Latvia**

Pjotrs Šakuns, IPS member from Latvia, passed away at the age of 69 on 25 June 2006. Mr. Šakuns was a peat veteran, one of the founders of the Latvian Peat Producers Association and lifelong Chairman of the Board of JSC Olaines Kūdra where he had worked since 1960. The areas managed by Mr. Šakuns are regarded as the best in the peat industry of Latvia. The industry has lost a good professional, an efficient manager and a wonderful colleague. Mr. Šakuns was well loved and will be sadly missed.