

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.

/// Forthcoming IPS Meetings in Copenhagen

The next meeting of the IPS Executive Board is scheduled for **18 November 2005** in Copenhagen, Denmark. It is planned to connect the formal Board meeting to a special session to discuss the strategic development of the organisation. At the same venue, on **17 November**, the Scientific Advisory Board will come together for their 3rd meeting. We will keep you informed on the schedules and agendas of these meetings in Peat News and at www.peatsociety.org.

/// IPS Online Shop Opened

The IPS Secretariat has opened its new online shop. At www.peatsociety.org you can now buy almost 60 different publications of IPS and related organisations. Among others, we offer the book on "Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands", the Wise Use DVD, proceedings of International Peat Congresses, symposia, workshops and other events, the International Peat Journal and Peatlands International as well as other books on peat and peatlands. All mailing costs are already included in the prices of the publications. For National Committees and members directly associated with the IPS Secretariat, there is also the possibility to pay IPS membership fees. Payments can be carried out preferably by credit card or by bank transfer. We warmly welcome you to a first shopping tour!

/// Successful Growing Media Symposium in Angers

The "International Symposium on Growing Media" in Angers, France on **4 - 10 September 2005**, jointly organized by the International Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS) and IPS, turned out to be a great success. More than 200 participants enjoyed the scientific sessions, among others the one-day session on "Wise Use of Peat in Horticulture", as well as the field trips, dinners and other social get-togethers. We warmly wish to thank the organizers for their efforts and our French hosts for their hospitality. IPS hopes that this fruitful cooperation will continue. To our great pleasure, Dr. Omer Verdonck and Dr. Bill Carlile of the ISHS joined the Executive Board meeting on 9 September for a few minutes to sign the IPS-ISHS event cooperation agreement in original. Merci!

/// Decisions of the Executive Board Meeting in Angers

The IPS Executive Board held its 30th Meeting in Angers, France on **9 September 2005**. Among others, the Board members noted a draft document on Guidelines for the Practical Application of Wise Use, confirmed that Secretary General Jaakko Silpola will participate in the Ramsar COP9 in Uganda and welcomed the applications of Estonia, Latvia and Sweden for the 14th International Peat Congress in 2012. The venue of the Congress will be determined by the Annual Assembly in May 2006 on recommendation of the Board. The EB also approved the budget framework for 2006, dealt with outstanding membership fees, decided on how better to coordinate official IPS symposia and approved the contract and business plan for the new IPS-IMCG Scientific Journal. All IPS members will receive a summary of the Board decisions "in a nutshell" within the next few days.

/// Submission of Papers for Proceedings of Angers Symposium

As announced earlier, all those who gave presentations at the International Symposium on Growing Media in Angers are cordially invited to publish their papers in *Acta Horticulturae*. The deadline for submitting full papers is **30 September 2005**. In January 2006, the Symposium Secretariat will send reviewers' comments to the authors, who are allowed to make corrections until 28 February. The final version of the proceedings will be published in **June 2006**. *Acta Horticulturae* (ISSN 0567-7572) is a series of scientific-technical publications, mainly devoted to the proceedings of the symposia of the ISHS and its International Horticultural Congress. It is indexed in major databases including *Agricola* and *CABabstracts*. In addition to the print version, any title is available as *ActaHort* CD-Rom. More info: <http://ishs-angers.agrena.org>, www.actahort.org and www.ishs.org.

/// After-Use of Canadian Peatlands Tour

On **3 - 7 October 2005**, about thirty persons, among them eleven Europeans, will participate in the Peatland Restoration Workshop in Quebec and learn how peatland restoration is carried out the "Canadian way". The tour is organized by the Peatland Ecology Research Group of Université Laval in cooperation with IPS. The complete programme of the workshop is available at www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/fr_colloques.html. A report will be published in *Peatlands International* 1/2006.

/// Peatlands International 2/2005

We are in the last stages of editing *Peatlands International* 2/2005 now. The magazine will contain, on about 50 pages, an introduction of IPS for those who are not involved in the "peat family" so far, a review of the importance of peatlands within the Ramsar Convention, some considerations on peatlands and climate change, reports on the ISHS-IPS Growing Media Symposium in Angers, the Annual Assembly of the German Peat Society, a Symposium on Peat Preparations in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Body Care as well as an overview on the Baltic Peat Producer's Forum, book reviews and much more. As a member of IPS, you will receive your copy of the magazine in November. In case you would like to post an announcement or to place an advertisement in *Peatlands International*, please contact susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org within the next few days.

/// Electronic Peat Dictionary Available Soon

The online version of the IPS Peat Dictionary will be available at the IPS Website in October. It includes about 6,900 peat and peatland terms in English, German, Finnish, Swedish and Russian and was published for the first time in 1984. With the new online version, you will be able to search the database when you are on the Internet, but also offline if you have installed a small programme on your hard disk. The Scientific Advisory Board will take over the task of updating and adding terms. Please submit any comments to susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org.

/// Feedback from IPS Members Welcome

As to improve the services of the IPS Secretariat to our members, we will carry out a number of surveys this autumn. Within the next few days, all National Committee Chairs will be asked to participate in an extensive study on their organisations. Also the readers of *Peatlands International* will be asked for their feedback on the magazine, and, last but not least, we will carry out a quick peat production survey in November. If positive or negative comments, we hope to hear from you!

/// Welcome to New IPS Members

At its meeting in Angers, the IPS Executive Board approved the memberships of Dr. Omer Verdonck from Belgium, Chairman of the ISHS Commission Plant Substrates, and Mr. Oscar Gonzalez Gomez from Bolivia as of **1 July 2005**. We warmly welcome the new members!