

The IPS is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. It promotes the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience. The Society serves all those interested in peat and peatlands including the scientific, industrial and commercial, and regulatory communities. It respects the economic, social and environmental values of the peatland resource. Currently the IPS has more than 1,400 individual and institutional members from 42 countries.

## Registration for the IPS Convention in Leiden, NL in June

The organising committee of the ISHS-IPS “International Symposium on Growing Media and Soilless Cultivation - Water Efficient Horticulture Word Wide” (GroSci) has now opened a special registration page for IPS members. There are several options to sign up, depending on your interests. GroSci2013 in association with the IPS Convention 2013 features a key note speech and interesting presentations with new knowledge of peat as growing media, meetings of the IPS Commissions, National Committees, the Annual Assembly and talks of the Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board. If you want, you can of course also participate fully in the symposium week to explore other aspects of horticulture and meet fellow colleagues.

All IPS members are invited to a special peat family dinner on Wednesday, **19 June**. Thursday, **20 June** is the GroSci peat-related day with presentations on the status of peat use for horticulture and its alternatives. This is followed by the IPS National Committee Round Table and the Annual Assembly in the afternoon. Commission meetings will be arranged on request, Commission II on industrial use of peat is confirmed already for Thursday lunchtime.

The IPS Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, **18** and Wednesday, **19 June** dealing especially with IPS’ Strategy.

For the complete IPS programme and to register, please see our special Convention website at [www.peatsociety.org/ipsleiden2013](http://www.peatsociety.org/ipsleiden2013). In cooperation with the ISHS we can offer you the following participation possibilities:

**OPTION 1:** *To participate fully in the ISHS-IPS Symposium, Monday-Friday, 17 - 21 June 2013, Registration fee for IPS members: €725*

**OPTION 2:** *Thursday, 20 June, all IPS meetings and the peat-related program of the symposium, morning and afternoon presentations, lunch, coffee and debate. Special IPS fee €160 (price valid until 3 May, after that the fee is + 25 € higher)*

**OPTION 3:** *Thursday, 20 June, IPS meetings without the symposium, but including the National Committee Round Table and Annual Assembly, 10:45 - 15:30 hrs, lunch and coffee, Special registration fee €60 (price valid until 3 May, after that the fee is + 25 € higher)*

All above mentioned participants can of course also register for the GroSci Symposium Dinner on **20 June**, €50 and the GroSci Excursion on **21 June**, €60.

We warmly invite all IPS members to join and meet us in the Netherlands. Please see all further details, book your flights and hotel (Holiday Inn Leiden or others, e.g. [www.hotel.info](http://www.hotel.info)) and register

before **3 May** (lower rates!!!) via the link on our homepage, [www.peatsociety.org/ipsleiden2013](http://www.peatsociety.org/ipsleiden2013), or directly at the GroSci website. For the full symposium programme see [www.grosci2013.wur.nl](http://www.grosci2013.wur.nl).

All National Committee Chairs and Secretaries as well as Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board members will receive their personal invitations with more instructions by email in the near future. This is again a great chance to see and meet and to exchange information. We look forward to welcoming you and our horticulture colleagues to the beautiful city of Leiden!

## David Bellamy new Honorary Member of the IPS

The Executive Board of the IPS has granted Honorary Membership to Professor David Bellamy. On application of the UK National Committee, the EB unanimously shared the opinion that Prof. Bellamy is a very significant and memorable person in peatland science and public interest. He has been a long-time member of the IPS and has contributed massively to peatland conservation and management over the last 50 years. David Bellamy is known as an English professor, botanist, author, broadcaster and environmental campaigner. He has been the writer and presenter of some 400 television programmes on Botany, Ecology and Environment. His academic and research achievements include research on the peatlands of Europe from Iceland to the Mediterranean on which he published over 80 scientific papers and supervised more than 36 Ph.D. students in many aspects of peatland ecology. In addition he launched several conservation awards and programmes. Prof. Bellamy became a lecturer in Botany at the University of Durham in 1960 and was Senior Lecturer from 1968 until 1982, now being their Honorary Professor for Adult and Continuing Education. He has been a member of the International Peat Society since it was established in 1968, and was a remarkable keynote speaker at the Tullamore International Peat Congress in 2008. We warmly congratulate Prof. Bellamy for his achievements! (*Jack Rieley*)

## Most interesting Facts about Peat – in 12 Countries

Do you remember the exhibition “12 sculptures from 12 artists for 12 months” ([www.peatprojects.com](http://www.peatprojects.com)) exhibited in Stockholm during the International Peat Congress? Public interest was very active during several exhibitions. Therefore the artists have decided to improve their project aiming to show that peat is a unique natural resource with a long history, unseen characteristics and wide usage possibilities - and to exhibit that in 12 countries around the world! To achieve this they need your help: Which are the most interesting, educational and important facts that people should know about peat? What is important for you? Send the three most interesting facts that should be included in the new exhibition - and maybe your idea how to present them in an attractive way - to Ilze Ozola, [ilze.ozola \(at\) peat.lv](mailto:ilze.ozola@peat.lv) until **26 April 2013**.

## IPS Events at the SWS Annual Meeting in Duluth, MN, USA

We would like to draw your attention to the following symposium and field trip organised as part of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) meeting being held in Duluth, Minnesota, **2 - 6 June 2013**. There will be a special symposium held at the event titled “Advances in Peatland Restoration”. This has been orchestrated by IPS members Kurt Johnson, Rod Chimner, Line Rochefort and Tom Malterer. There are still some places for speakers to present and there will always be room for posters on the topic. The abstract deadline has been moved out to **29 March**. A fieldtrip to be part sponsored by the US National Committee of the IPS will be held on the Sunday:

*Field Trip Peatland Restoration: Cedar Swamps and Bogs: Although peatlands are common ecosystems in the northern Great Lakes region, many regional peatlands are degraded and require*

restoration. Visit three peatlands and learn about Minnesota's bog and northern white-cedar swamp restoration efforts. The first stop will explore two cedar swamps that are currently undergoing restoration and discuss the ecology and management of cedar swamps. The trip will conclude with an excursion to a bog that was restored about five years ago using the "Canadian Approach" to re-establish sphagnum moss – the primary component of bog vegetation.

For more detailed information and to sign up for this exciting event, please go to the conference website at [www.swsannualmeeting.org](http://www.swsannualmeeting.org) - and remember to recruit new IPS members among your fellow colleagues! (Catherine Farrell and Rod Chimner)

## Workshop of Structural Geomorphology in Poland in June

The IPS Polish National Committee Commission on "Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands" will take part in organising the IV Workshops of Structural Geomorphology in Lublin and Chelm, Poland from **5 - 8 June 2013**. The workshops are organised under the auspices of the Association of Polish Geomorphologists, the Faculty of Earth Sciences and Spatial Management of Marie-Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin and Polesie National Park. The main theme of the workshop is "The structural factor in the development of wetland ecosystems". We warmly invite all IPS members to attend. For more information, please see [www.sgp.org.pl](http://www.sgp.org.pl), download the first circular (in Polish) at [www.sgp.org.pl/wg/IV\\_WGS2013-kom1.pdf](http://www.sgp.org.pl/wg/IV_WGS2013-kom1.pdf) or contact the Commission Chair, Danuta Urban at [danuta.urban \(at\) up.lublin.pl](mailto:danuta.urban@up.lublin.pl).

## "War and Peat" in Sheffield in September 2013

The UK Peat Society, National Committee of the IPS in Britain, is co-sponsoring the conference "War and Peat" that will be held in Sheffield on **4 - 6 September 2013**. IPS UK has contributed £500 towards the cost of this meeting and in return IPS members will receive special member discounts on the registration fees. A business meeting of the UK Peat Society will be held on **5 September** to elect officers and receive a statement of accounts. This very special conference event will deal with "the military heritage of moors, heaths, bogs and fens" and will, under the leadership of Professor Ian D. Rotherham and colleagues, bring together speakers and poster presentations from military & history, environmental conservation, ecology, heritage, tourism, archaeology, and geography. Oral and poster presentations will relate to specific small case study areas, major conflicts or different branches of the military including home defence, aviation, etc, as well as papers on wider landscape or heritage issues. Displays and posters from community heritage groups as well as from national and regional bodies are very welcome. For more details, please see [www.ukeconet.co.uk/events/50-conferences/295-war-and-peat-conference-september-2013.html](http://www.ukeconet.co.uk/events/50-conferences/295-war-and-peat-conference-september-2013.html).

## Status of Peat for Energy Use in Finland Endangered

The current shortage of energy peat in Finland is covered mainly (85%) by imported coal and other energy imports instead of local wood fuels, which would have been preferred and foreseen by decision-makers. This is the main finding of a study conducted by Pöyry Oy and ordered by the Bioenergy Association of Finland (Bioenergia ry). The main reason for the reduction of peat usage in heat and power production (e.g. by 22% from 2011-2012) are slow and complex permission processes for new peat extraction areas, changes in taxes for peat and subventions for wood energy, and two unusually rainy summers. Older peat extraction sites have a lower surface and different peat structure, and are therefore more difficult to dry after wet periods. Annually around 3,000 hectares of new sites would be needed to cover demand, but much less environmental production licences are granted. This situation could, according to a study by Finnish Pellervo Economic

Research PTT (ordered also by Bioenergia ry), even reduce peat extraction by half and with this endanger up to 3,200 work places in Finland, in the peat industry and related sectors, such as logistics. For more information (in Finnish), go to [www.bioenergia.fi](http://www.bioenergia.fi).

## Carbon Budget Talks on Tropical Peat in Indonesia's IPS

The Indonesian Peat Association (IPA), National Committee of the IPS in Indonesia, recently held a series of five Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) in general exchanging views about Methodologies for Analyzing, Measuring and Monitoring Carbon Budgets in Tropical Peatlands. The discussed topics ranged from peat subsidence, carbon emission, carbon stocks and allometric growth of forest plantations (Acacia) to uses of remote sensing/radar, etc. Foreign scientists who attended the discussions were, among others, Prof. Toshihide Nagano of Utsunomiya University and Prof. Ryusuke Hatano of Hokkaido University, Japan. In the last FGD, the Association also made efforts to improve the rules of the organisation. For more information and to download the materials of the 3rd and 4th FGDs, please access [http://tsda.sil.fateta.ipb.ac.id/?page\\_id=480](http://tsda.sil.fateta.ipb.ac.id/?page_id=480) and [http://tsda.sil.fateta.ipb.ac.id/?page\\_id=451](http://tsda.sil.fateta.ipb.ac.id/?page_id=451). IPS has currently 103 members in Indonesia, for more info see [www.peatsociety.org/about-us/national-committees/indonesia](http://www.peatsociety.org/about-us/national-committees/indonesia). (Budi Intra Setiawan)

## Cropland and Grazing Land Management voted mandatory for Emission Accounting in Europe

On **12 February 2013**, the European Parliament has voted to elect cropland and grazing land management as mandatory accounting activities in the EU. The emissions and removals resulting from these two activities will, as of 2013, be accounted for – but they will not yet have any emission reduction targets attached to them. This possibility will be explored again after 2020. Emissions and removals from wetland drainage and rewetting remain under voluntary accounting. It is, however, estimated that by accounting for cropland and grassland management, the vast majority of emissions and removals from wetlands/organic soils will be covered as well. For more information, please visit Wetlands International's website: [www.wetlands.org/News](http://www.wetlands.org/News) (Vera Coelho)

## AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference in Brussels in June

AEBIOM, the European Biomass Association, has launched the programme for its annual Bioenergy Conference "Bioenergy Markets for Europe" during **17 - 19 June 2013** in Brussels and opened the registration website. In its 4th year, the AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference has established itself as one of the main leading bioenergy conference in Europe. 2013 is an important year to become active and involved because:

- The EC will release this year a report (very likely accompanied by a legislative proposal) on sustainability criteria for solid and gaseous biomass used for heat and electricity production.
- The European Commission recently proposed to change the RES and Fuel Quality Directives and introduce measures aiming to tackle ILUC issues. The proposal is now under discussion in the Council and in Parliament
- The debate on carbon emissions accounting is expected to continue and the principle of biomass carbon neutrality will have to be strongly supported so as to face the criticisms related to the so called "carbon debt" issue.

Around 300 industry representatives are expected to be present at this event. Early bird deadline is **15 April 2013** and sponsors will be taken until **5 April**. For more information and to register, log on to [www.aebiom.org/conference](http://www.aebiom.org/conference). (Anamaria Olaru)