

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 1,500 individual and institutional members from 44 countries.

## Call for papers ISHS-IPS Vienna Horticulture Symposium

The registration and call for abstracts for the "International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis - SusGro 2015" in Vienna, Austria from **7 - 11 September 2015** are now open at [www.susgro2015.at](http://www.susgro2015.at). The Symposium will be organized under the auspices of the International Society of Horticultural Sciences (Commission of Plant Substrates and Soilless Culture of the ISHS; Growing Media, Composting for Horticultural Applications, Substrate Analysis), the International Peat Society (Commission II), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the Austrian Horticultural Society and the City of Vienna. It will be organized by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety with the following topics:

- Worldwide developments in the sustainable production of growing media
- Sustainability in horticultural production systems
- Advances in production of high quality compost for horticultural purposes
- Compost as substrate constituent
- Physical and chemical properties of growing media and compost
- Microbial diversity, resilience and disease suppression
- New analytical methods for growing media and composts
- Specification, development and use of "Urban" substrates (e.g. for roof gardens, trees, green walls)
- Water and nutrient management
- New regulations on growing media and compost

In modern horticulture, sustainability should be achieved along the whole production cycle. The acquisition and processing of growing media constituents, preparation of substrates as well as their final use should take into account the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and societal. Sustainable production should be acceptable, feasible and appropriate for all three sectors. In this symposium, world-wide scientific and technical advances in approaches towards these aims will be presented and discussed between researchers, industry and end-users. Early bird registration is open until **31 May** for € 450 (IPS/ISHS members). Abstracts and proposals for presentations can be submitted until **15 March 2015**. For more information, see [www.susgro2015.at](http://www.susgro2015.at).

## Peat and Peatlands at the EGU General Assembly 2015

The European Geosciences Union's General Assembly 2015 will be also held in Vienna, Austria, **12 - 17 April 2015**. A quick search revealed the following sessions related to peat and peatlands.

- **BG1.10:** Excitation-emission fluorescence spectroscopy in characterisation of dissolved organic matter in natural and engineered aquatic systems (Convener: Magdalena Bieroza | Co-Conveners: Andrea Butturini, Elfrida Carstea)
- **BG2.3:** Understanding CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes from WETLANDS: Reducing the gaps between experimentalists and modellers (Convener: Donatella Zona | Co-Conveners: Joe Melton, Janne Rinne, Walter C. Oechel)
- **BG2.10: Peatlands and the Carbon Cycle (Convener: Gareth Clay | Co-Conveners: Fred Worrall, Stephan Glatzel)**
- **BG4.3:** Wetland Restoration Biogeochemistry (Convener: Klaus-Holger Knorr | Co-Convener: Leon P.M. Lamers)
- **EMRP3.3:** Soil, Sediments and Dust Magnetism (SOILSEDUMA) (Convener: Tadeusz Magiera | Co-Conveners: Eduard Petrovsky, Karl Fabian)

- HS2.3.4: Water quality at the catchment scale: measuring and modeling of nutrients, sediment and eutrophication impacts (Convener: Britta Schmalz | Co-Conveners: Andrew Wade, Ype van der Velde, Michael Rode, Nicola Fohrer)
- HS7.4/AS4.23/CL2.8: Change in climate, hydrology and society (co-organized) (Convener: Demetris Koutsoyiannis | Co-Conveners: João de Lima, Xiaolan L. Wang, C. Cudennec, Manfred Mudelsee, Harry Lins)
- **HS10.5: Peatland Hydrology (Convener: Bärbel Tiemeyer | Co-Conveners: Joseph Holden, Björn Klöve, Michel Bechtold)**
- SSS5.1: Biogeochemical processes in peatlands, wetlands and organic soils (Convener: Claudio Zaccone | Co-Conveners: Vanessa Wong)
- SSS9.2/BG5.10/GM4.8/HS12.8: Post-fire environments. The complex interaction among ash, soils, vegetation recovery and Human intervention. (co-organized) (Convener: Paulo Pereira | Co-Conveners: Jorge Mataix-Solera, Antonio Jordán, Guillermo Rein, Edivaldo L.Thomaz)
- SSS9.17/ERE6.6: Novel approaches for sustainable utilization of mineral resources: environmental management, modeling and monitoring (co-organized) (Convener: Soile Backnäs | Co-Conveners: Raluca-Mihaela Maftei, Tommi Kauppila, Calin Baciu, Malgorzata Szlachta)

The deadline for abstract submission is **7 January 2015**. For more information visit [www.egu2015.eu/home.html](http://www.egu2015.eu/home.html).

## Upland Biodiversity Conference in Halifax, UK

The Moors for the Future Partnership announce a 'Save the Date' for their conference: 'An Integrated Approach to Upland Biodiversity conservation' in Halifax on **3 and 4 March 2015**, with field trips on **5 March**. Keynote speakers from the peatland and upland community will be presenting at the two day event which will bring together practitioners, policy makers, researchers and communicators. The event will provide opportunities for delegates to share knowledge and best practice of biodiversity conservation across uplands, particularly the South Pennine Moors SAC. There will be discussions on strategies for conserving upland biodiversity, an update on the status of key species, and an overview of the ecosystem service benefits of upland biodiversity conservation initiatives. The event will also include sessions on communications and engagement activities. On the final day, field trips will be arranged to Black Hill and Rishworth Common where the five year MoorLIFE project has undertaken conservation works to protect 2,500 hectares of moorland in the Peak District and South Pennines. More details, including registration arrangements, will be available soon at [www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife-final-conference](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife-final-conference). (Debra Wilson)

## Apply for the EC Natura 2000 Award

The European Commission's Natura 2000 Award opens for a second year of applications. The aim of the award is to bring the success of Natura 2000 network to the public's attention and to demonstrate its importance for protecting our valuable natural heritage. The annual award is open to any entity involved in activities related to Natura 2000. Local and national authorities, businesses, site managers, land owners, NGOs, educational institutions and individuals from all 28 EU Member States are all eligible to apply. The Natura 2000 Award is dedicated to rewarding excellence in the management and promotion of the network and its objectives and to raising awareness about Natura 2000 and its benefits to European citizens. To this end, in addition to the five category prizes, an "EU Citizen's Award" will be introduced this year, with the public being encouraged to vote for their favourite application. The call for applications was launched with a deadline of **21 January 2015**. For more information on how to apply, please consult the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/awards/>. (Angelo Salsi & Stefan Leiner, DG ENV E3)

## Volunteer for OuTrop in Borneo in 2015

OuTrop is looking for volunteers to help with their conservation and research projects in Borneo in 2015. Volunteers will join them for 6 weeks to gain first-hand experience of a tropical forest environment, working alongside enthusiastic researchers, and receiving practical training in field survey skills and biodiversity monitoring. "Volunteering is challenging, exciting and a rewarding experience. You will have the chance to see some of the incredible wildlife that inhabits this special part of the world, from sun bears to flying lizards and of course the charismatic orangutan." There will be three volunteer groups in 2015: Group 1: **23 June - 3 August**, Group 2: **7 August - 17 September**, Group 3: **24 September - 4 November**. The cost to volunteer for six weeks is £1675. Please note that this does not cover all travel expenses. OuTrop will allocate volunteer places on a first-come first-served basis. For more information and to apply, visit [www.outrop.com/volunteer.html](http://www.outrop.com/volunteer.html).