

The International Peatland Society (IPS) is an organisation of individual and corporate members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. Our mission is to serve all those involved in peatlands and peat through the promotion, gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience, by means of events and projects which address key issues, including climate change, biodiversity, the need for responsible use and restoration. Currently the IPS has 1495 individual, corporate, student and institutional members from 42 countries.

Register for the IPS Convention in Aberdeen by 31 March

As you have probably noticed, registration is now open for the major peatland event of the year – the Annual Convention in Aberdeen. Please visit <https://peatlands2017.net/registration> to sign up, book your accommodation and invite your colleagues or family to come with us to North East Scotland. **Early bird registration deadline is 31 March** and we offer some significant discounts for IPS members as well. The organizing team has prepared a fantastic experience with 5 field trips, workshops and sessions on “Responsible Management of Peatlands”, including environmental, social and economic factors, and a special entertainment programme in the evenings. Do not miss this chance to meet your colleagues from overseas! The full programme and 2nd Circular of the event as well as information on the venue and a continuously updated blog can be found at www.peatlands2017.net.

Allan Robertson Grants 2017 – New deadline 30 April

Young peatland researchers and young industry employees (normally under the age of 30) can still apply for the IPS Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals in Peatland Management. The application deadline was extended to **30 April**. The Grants can be used for research or practical work in managing peatlands or peat industry, for your project work, for equipment or travelling. IPS will give out at approximately 8 grants of €500 each this year. Undergraduates are ineligible. Please fill in and submit the application form at <https://goo.gl/forms/5HQz4PosVYjUdJup2>. The winners of the grants will be announced at the Gala Dinner of the IPS Convention in Aberdeen, **28 - 31 May 2017** (no need to be present). Payments will be made by bank transfer after that event. Successful applicants must agree to provide a report on their project or work that will be published in the IPS magazine Peatlands International and/or give a presentation of it at an international IPS event at the latest 12 months after the grant funding has been paid to them. For more information and the names of previous winners visit also: www.peatlands.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants.

Recent Decisions of the IPS Executive Board

The Executive Board (EB) of the IPS met in Lund on invitation of the Swedish National Committee during **1-3 March 2017**. This meeting was also attended by the Chairs of the new IPS Commissions on Peatland Economy, Environment and Society issues, the observers of the EB from Indonesia and China, and several Swedish representatives, e.g. during the excursion to a greenhouse and a power station not far from the city.

At the meeting, among others, the EB received reports of the representatives at the recent Ramsar STRP and similar policy-making meetings. It is one of the tasks of the IPS to provide science-based facts to resolutions and international decisions which benefit scientists, environmentalists as well as industry in their daily work. Summary briefing reports will be prepared shortly.

As every spring, the Annual Report, including financial accounts of the previous year, and a plan of activities, budgets and membership fees for the two following years were approved and submitted to the Annual Assembly. An illustrated version of the report will be sent to all members in April. The EB also adopted the newly drafted Statutes of the Society for submission to the Annual Assembly, and approved the refreshed Internal Regulations. Monitoring of the implementation of the IPS Strategy is going on under the leadership of the Presidents.

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members who attended the meeting reported on the staffing of their new Commissions and Expert Groups. More detailed information will follow as soon as the process is closed. Main issues to

address were also the Global Peatland Initiative, in which IPS was accepted as a member recently, and the Annual Convention in Aberdeen in May, for which preparation work is making great progress.

The Board also noted updates on the International Peatland Congress in 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia and went through options for the Annual Conventions 2018 and 2019. National Committees will soon be asked to bid for being a host of the 17th International Peatland Congress in 2024. Furthermore, the EB spoke about recent developments in UNFCCC and IPCC and discussed its involvement in the tropical peatland debate in Southeast Asia. It also noted updates on the Peat Dialogue and evaluated IPS funding for the Sphagnum Farming project.

The next EB meeting will be held virtually on **6 April 2017**. IPS representatives will, in the meantime, attend the FAO Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon in Rome, and a meeting of the Global Peatland Initiative in Jakarta, Indonesia. Further events with IPS participation were agreed, see www.peatlands.org/events for details.

Wetland NGOs Support US Clean Water Rule

Representing more than 200,000 members total, the Society of Wetland Scientists, Ecological Society of America, American Institute of Biological Scientists, American Fisheries Society, Society for Ecological Restoration, Society for Freshwater Science and Phycological Society of America wrote recently a letter to the US President arguing in favor of the Clean Water Rule of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers. These societies support the brief, its use of the best available science to explain the need for the rule, and the underlying sound science supporting the rule itself. The full letter can be found here: www.sws.org/Resources/letters-of-comment.html.

BES Blanket Bog and Climate Change Workshop in York

A focused workshop on Blanket Bog and Climate Change will be held at the Environment Department of the University of York, UK on **28 March 2017**. This is aimed at taking forward our understanding of the impacts of climate change on blanket bogs and the implications for conservation. It is open to all and will particularly be of interest to those involved with research on the topic or its application in conservation planning and management. The organizers welcome participation by PhD students and early career researchers as well as more established scientists. There is a charge of £20. Full details: www.britishecologicalsociety.org/event/workshop-blanket-bog-climate-change.

Sponsor the IPS Convention in Scotland!

Are you and your company interested in showcasing your products to some 200 participants at the IPS Convention in Aberdeen, Scotland, UK, **28 - 31 May**? This includes a seminar and workshops on Responsible Management of Peatlands and is dealing with economic, social AND environmental aspects of peat and peatlands. Look what we have to offer: <https://peatlands2017.net/2017/03/21/sponsors>. Be the first in line and sign up still today!

Register for the IVG Forum Gartenmarkt in Germany

The popular IVG Forum Gartenmarkt of the German Garden Industry Association will be held on **8 November 2017** at the Steigenberger Hotel in Berlin. At the Forum, the most important players of the industry will be present to discuss current trends and development of the sector. Registration is possible already now: www.ivg.org/forum-gartenmarkt-2017. The Association offers a 20% discount on registration fees until **30 June 2017**.

Tapestry of Light – new book coming soon

Tina Claffey is an Irish nature photographer with a love for bogs & wetlands. For almost 10 years, she lived and worked in pristine wilderness areas in Botswana, and this experience influenced her new appreciation of Ireland's natural world. Her observations and unique perspective of the flora and fauna of the pristine raised bogs and wet woodlands of the midlands will now be celebrated in her forthcoming book 'Tapestry of Light - Ireland's bogs & wetlands as never seen before'. This hard back, 156 page, highly illustrated and beautifully designed book will be launched in October 2017 and will include the poetry of renowned Irish musician John Sheahan of The Dubliners. To pre-order or assist with sponsoring of this unique book click here: <http://artisanhouse.ie/product/tapestry-of-light>.