



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL HUMIC SUBSTANCES SOCIETY

Number 23

Fall, 1999

Dear Member,

*here we are again. This is our last issue of the century and of the millennium. As you can see, a large portion is devoted to the election procedure of new officers of the IHSS Board of Directors. Distinguished colleagues and friends are running as candidates for the positions of Vice President / President Elect, Secretary, and Board Member. At the end of this issue you will please find your election ballot: **express your vote ad mail it accordingly**. Also, an additional effort is requested: please indicate your vote for the needed and desired changes of the IHSS By-Laws.*

Many changes, several new activities and numerous project have characterized the life of the Society in the last year. Many of the darts we have been throwing have hit the targets. New chapters, now up to almost 40, have been founded and some are on their way; the Standard and Reference Collection is in a very good health, it is expanding and it is going to be partially replenished; in addition, a complete set of chemical, functional and structural data is provided by the Society together with the purchase of each IHSS sample; the IHSS Bylaws is undergoing a thoroughly critical review; and, finally, after few years, a complete, regularly updated and dynamic World Membership List of IHSS is ready. Also, our continuous contacts with National Coordinators enabled us to keep regular tracks of membership dues.

The Board of Director feels confident in continuing its performance as well as improving considerably the "aim" for the new year. An increase of collaborative work is mostly welcome, in particular with the new Board members, the National Coordinators, and also the rest of the membership.

IHSS 10
Toulouse, France
24-28 July 2000



**Entering the Third Millennium
with a common approach to
Humic Substances and Organic Matter
in Water, Soil and Sediments**

INTERNATIONAL HUMIC SUBSTANCES SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1999

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International Humic Substances Society on the World Wide Web

!!!!!!! The Web page address has changed !!!!!!!

Visit our home page at:

<http://www.ihss.gatech.edu>

Prof. E.M. Perdue coordinates the development of the IHSS WEB page. Progresses toward this goal may be followed at the above WEB site which resides on a server located at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA.

Suggestions and comments regarding the content and organization of the WEB pages are actively requested from all IHSS members.

E-mail Dr. E.M. Perdue at michael.perdue@eas.gatech.edu for more information.

LIST OF NATIONAL CHAPTERS COORDINATORS

Dear colleagues,

at the last Meeting in Adelaide, the Board of Directors of the IHSS agreed: a) to reinforce contacts with national coordinators in order to improve the membership structure; b) to reduce the number of very small chapters; and c) to hasten the process of updating and completing the general membership list. After a thorough and accurate discussion concerning increased numbers of national coordinators and needs of the continuous updating process, it was decided to merge all chapters **with less than 5 members** into a Rest of the World Chapter. The Secretary, Dr. T.M. Miano, was nominated temporarily as General Coordinator of the R-o-W Chapter. Further, the Board unanimously agreed on a 25% increase of membership dues. The additional income will be entirely devoted to enhance funding for the IHSS Travel Bursaries for young scientists. The General Assembly of the IHSS, held during the 9th Meeting of the IHSS, accordingly approved.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES (1999)

Chapter/Country	Regular	Student / Retired
Argentina	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Australia-New Zealand	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Austria	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Belgium	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Brazil	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Bulgaria	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Canada	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
China	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Czech R.	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
Denmark	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Developing countries (Africa, Asia, Central & South America)	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
Egypt	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
Finland	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
France	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Germany	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Hungary	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
Indonesia	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Ireland	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Israel	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Italy	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Japan	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Latvia	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Lithuania	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Malaysia	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Mexico	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Norway	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Poland	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
Portugal	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Romania	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Russia	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Slovakia R.	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
Slovenia	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
South Africa	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Spain	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Sweden	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Switzerland	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Taiwan	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
The Netherlands	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Turkey	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
United Kingdom	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
United States	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50
Venezuela	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50

National Coordinators should collect the fees from members of their chapters in local currencies, deduct 20-25 % out of the fees (postage, copying, etc.), and then send the balance in US \$ to the Treasurer, Dr. C.E. Clapp, Univ. Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Coordinators from 7\$-group chapters are invited to collect dues for two years (\$14, and save converting to US \$ not so often) and are allowed to keep up to 50% of the fee. Coordinators from 1\$-group chapters can keep the entire fee.

Members of the R-o-W Chapter should send their fees directly **to the Secretary** (in US \$).

IHSS Members are reminded that membership dues are payable at the beginning of each year directly to their National Coordinators.

ONE-TIME CHANGE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS

At the IHSS General Meeting in Adelaide last September 1998, it was proposed to the membership present that the elections of Secretary and Board Member-at-Large scheduled for 1998 be postponed until 1999. Both of the current office holders, Teddy Miano and Mike Perdue, have agreed to serve an additional year until the new elections are finalized in 1999.

The reasons for this request are based in the fact that the original plan for the elections, as state in the by-laws, was to hold elections every two years and that certain officer and board positions would overlap to provide continuity of leadership. Thus, the Society would only have elections every two years. This schedule was disrupted and we are now facing elections every year, sometimes for only one position. This situation is burdensome, confusing and costly. Therefore, the Board proposed to the membership the simplest mechanism to readjust the schedule and to allow us to be in accord with the by-laws. That was a one-time extension of the two positions mentioned.

I assure you that the Board did not make this suggestion lightly. We are committed to the efficient and legal operations of the Society as outlined by the by-laws. To that end, the proposal was made to the membership present at the business meeting and was overwhelmingly approved. Therefore, the 1999 elections will be for Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary and Member-at-Large, all for full terms.

IHSS VOLUMES (and related publications)

HUMIC SUBSTANCES IN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS. (675 pp). Edited by A. Piccolo. Elsevier, 1996. **ISBN 0-444-81516-3**

HUMIC SUBSTANCES IN SOIL AND WATER ENVIRONMENTS. *Characterization, Transformations and Interactions*. Proceedings 7th Int. Meeting of the IHSS. St. Augustine, Trinidad, 1994. 1996 (493 pp). Edited by C.E. Clapp, M.H.B. Hayes, N. Senesi, and S.M. Griffith and published by IHSS. **ISBN 1-889365-00-9**

THE ROLE OF HUMIC SUBSTANCES IN THE ECOSYSTEMS AND IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. Selected Papers of the 8th Int. Meeting of the IHSS. Wroclaw, Poland, 1996. (1002 pp.). Edited by J. Drozd, S. Gonet, N. Senesi, and J. Weber. PTSH & Polish Chapter of IHSS, Wroclaw, 1997. **ISBN 83-906403-2-5**

HUMIC SUBSTANCES, PEATS AND SLUDGES: Health and Environmental Aspects. Edited by M.H.B. Hayes & W.S. Wilson. The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, 1997. Special Discount Price £38.68 (\$72.80). **ISBN 0-85404-699-2**

HUMIC SUBSTANCES: STRUCTURES, PROPERTIES, AND USES. (259 pp.). Edited by G. Davies and E. Ghabbour, Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, England, 1998. **ISBN 0-85404-704-2**

UNDERSTANDING HUMIC SUBSTANCES: ADVANCED METHODS, PROPERTIES and APPLICATIONS (?? pp.). Edited by E. Ghabbour and G. Davies, Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, England, 1999 (in press).

SPECIAL ISSUE OF *SOIL SCIENCE*

The November 1999 issue of the journal *Soil Science* is a special issue highlighting the topic of: 'Sizes and shapes of humic molecules as fundamentally important in understanding the many basic interactions which take place in the environment'. Following an editorial by R.L. Tate, papers are presented by C.E. Clapp and M.H.B. Hayes, R.S. Swift, R.L. Wershaw, E. Tombáz, M. DeNobili and Y. Chen, I.V. Perminova, and N. Senesi. This initiative arose because of divergent views held by participants of a Workshop/Symposium sponsored by SSSA and IHSS at Anaheim, CA in October 1997. The proceedings book from that meeting "The role of humic substances in transport processes of xenobiotic organic chemicals and metals in soil and water ecosystems" will be published by SSSA early in 2000.

IHSS TRAVEL BURSARIES

A number of Travel Bursaries with the aim of providing a partial support to young researchers and students for attendance at the 10th Meeting of the IHSS, to be held on July 24-28, 2000 in Toulouse, France, will be assigned by an "ad hoc" Committee of the IHSS in the 1999-2000. Applications should be sent to the address of the forthcoming IHSS President: **Dr. Fritz Frimmel, Engler-Bunte Inst., Ber. Wasserchemie, Universität Karlsruhe, Richard-Willstätter-Allee 5, 76131 Karlsruhe, Germany**. Applications should include three (3) copies of the applicant C.V., three (3) copies of the full paper intended to be presented in Toulouse and a breakdown of the expenses the applicant will incur in order to participate at the Meeting. The absolute deadline for receipt of this material by the IHSS President will be April, 15, 2000. The President will then send the material to the other committee members and they will make decisions on successful candidates and the amount of awards to be notified by early June.

IHSS STANDARD AND REFERENCE COLLECTION

News Concerning the IHSS Collection of Humic Materials

By P. Bloom

Changes in Prices of IHSS Humic and Fulvic Acids. Prices of some samples changed effective 1 June, 1998 to better reflect their value to IHSS. The prices of the Suwannee River Humic Acid Standard *increased* from \$150 to \$175 for 100 mg lots. For the Nordic Aquatic Humic Acid Reference the price *increased* from \$100 to \$125. For the Suwannee River Fulvic Acid Standard the price *decreased* from \$150 to \$125 and for the Suwannee River Fulvic acid Reference the price *decreased* from \$100 to \$75 for 100 mg lots.

The Leonardite Humic Acid Standard will continue to be sold at \$5 for 100 mg lots but in addition we are offering 5 g lots at \$100. We have a large reserve of this material and want to offer it to soil, water, and plant scientists and engineers at a price that makes it attractive for conducting research or preliminary studies. Suwannee River Humic Acid Reference Sample is No Longer Available. The supply of Suwannee River Humic Acid Reference was recently exhausted. This material will not be replaced.

New E-mail Address. Effective 1 June 1998, the e-mail address for communication concerning the collection is IHSS@soils.umn.edu. E-mail is the preferred method of communication for ordering from the IHSS collection. For more details see the IHSS web site at www.ihss.gatech.edu.

Reference material of Aquatic Natural Organic Matter [NOM] is available

By Egil Gjessing

A research group in Norway, located at Agder College in Kristiansand, have "produced" a **Nordic Reference Material of NOM**.

Many of us have for a long time felt a need for alternatives to the standard and reference of Fulvic and Humic acids, that are available from IHSS. In relation to studies of organic matter in drinking water and in the general hydro ecological studies of the environmental impact of NOM, standards and reference, that include all the organics present in the waters, are needed.

The technique used to isolate the Nordic Reference Material of NOM is 1) reverse osmosis [RO] (after exchanging all cations by Na), followed by 2) low pressure, low temperature evaporation and finally 3), freeze drying. The isolate is based on a typical raw water source of a Norwegian water work, with a DOC of 10,7 mg C/L. In the isolation process, 10 % of the organic matter is lost; some of which is low molecular weight material that passes through the RO membrane. The ash content of the isolate is 41,4 %.

The Reference Material is available from Egil Gjessing, Agder College, Serviceboks 422, 4604 Kristiansand, Norway [e-mail egil.t.gjessing@hia.no]. The price is US \$ 100,- /200mg. The income will be founded for future reference material need. For further information contact Egil Gjessing, Agder College in Norway [Fax: +47.38.14.10.11; Phone: +47.38.14.15.61; e-mail egil.t.gjessing@hia.no].

MEETINGS

3rd Brazilian Meeting on Humic Substances, Santa Maria, Brazil, November 24-26, **1999**. The Brazilian Chapter of IHSS promotes the III Brazilian Meeting on Humic Substances next November, 24 to 26, in the city of Santa Maria, southern of Brazil. The Meeting is organized by the Department of Soil, Federal University of Santa Maria. Chairman of the meeting will be Prof. Dr. Carlos Alberto Ceretta, and the Executive Secretariat coordinated by Prof. Ph.D. Marcos R. Fries. The deadline to submit papers is October, 22 and complete informations, including Programme, can be obtained by e-mail at: ceretta@ccr.ufsm.br. Some international experts confirmed their participation as invited speakers: Alessandro Piccolo, University of Napoli, Italy; Martin Reicosky, USDA, Minnesota, USA; Christian L. Feller, IRD, France; Adrian E. Andriulo, INTA, Argentine, as well as Brazilian scientists: Julio Cesar Rocha, Eduardo Mendonça de Sá, Wanderley José de Melo, Arquimedes Lavorenti, Cimélio Bayer, Pedro Selbach, Érico Flores and Ladislau Martin-Neto. The Brazilian group presently has around 100 active members and the expectation of the organizers is a Meeting with at least 200 participants. On November 1997, as many as 150 scientists attended the 2nd Brazilian Meeting in the city of Sao Carlos, Central region of country. The 1st Brazilian Meeting was organized in the city of Belém, Amazonian region, on October 1996.

Northeastern Seminar on Humic Substances IV, Boston, USA, March 22-24, **2000**. Call for Papers. Oral and poster papers on the structures, properties and uses of humic substances are invited. New work only, please. The proceedings will be published. Registration limited to 120: US Residents \$100. US students \$50. All others \$75. Special nearby hotel rates available. Deadline for abstracts and registration December 30, 1999. For additional information please contact Dr. Elham Ghabbour, Barnett Institute, 341 Mugar Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, USA. Phone: +1.617.373.7988; fax: +1.617.373.2855; e-mail eghabbou@lynx.neu.edu; web: <www.barnett.neu.edu> under Current Events. Kindest regards, Geoff & Elham.

10th International Meeting of the International Humic Substances Society, Toulouse, France, July 24-28, **2000**. IHSS 10 "Entering the Third Millenium with a common approach to Humic Substances and Organic Matter in Water, Soil and Sediments". The 10th conference of our Society will bring together scientists from many fields, interested in not only humic substances but all organic matter. It therefore provides a forum for multidisciplinary discussion between researchers working on topics as different as chemistry, geochemistry, thermodynamics, agriculture and biology, water treatment, environment and health matters. The mechanisms of formation of organic matter and humic substances, their characterisation, properties and interactions with other components of their environment will all be covered, as well as the industrial applications of humic substances. This 10th Conference of IHSS is being organised by the French chapter of the IHSS. A keynote lecture will be given by Y. Tardy (ENSAT) during the opening session on the emerging topic "Thermodynamics of humic substances and organic matter". The conference will take place over five days, with four days of scientific programme and one day with a technical and cultural excursion. Conference Secretariat : PROGEP - Florence FOUCAUD, "IHSS 10", 18, Chemin de la Loge, 31078 Toulouse Cedex 4 (France), Tel : +33 (0)5 62 25 23 80 - Fax : +33 (0)5 62 25 23 18, E-mail : Progep@ensigt.fr

ELECTIONS OF IHSS BOARD MEMBERS

Enclosed with this Newsletter is your official ballot for election of the new members of the IHSS Board of Directors: Vice President - President Elect, Secretary, and a Board position.

The Nominating Committee has done an excellent job in selecting able and active members of our Society as candidates for all offices. Please give your choices careful consideration and exercise your privilege to vote.

When you have finished voting, return your ballot in an envelope indicating your name and affiliation on the outside. Please do not sign your ballot. In order to be counted, your ballot must be **sent to the President** of the IHSS and **received on or before December 1, 1999**.

SUGGESTED IHSS BYLAWS CHANGES

Fellow IHSS Members:

At the last Board of Directors meeting, there was considerable discussion about needed and desired changes to the Society's By-Laws. Some of the changes are needed to clarify wording and some represent procedural changes. Below are suggested changes with the underlined text being the current wording and the **bold** text the suggested changes. Please indicate your vote by placing an "X" after either "Yes" or "No".

When you have finished voting the 5 suggested changes, place them together with the election ballot in an envelope indicating your name and affiliation on the outside. Please do not sign your ballots. In order to be counted, your ballot must be **sent to the President** of the IHSS and **received on or before December 1, 1999**.

Suggested Change 1.

 Yes

 No

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 10. Application for membership, together with appropriate dues, shall be submitted to the Treasurer and, upon favorable action of the Board of Directors, membership shall be granted.

Section 10. Application for **regular and student** membership, together with appropriate dues, shall be submitted to the **National/Regional Coordinator or Secretary and membership granted. Applications for all other categories of membership should be sent to the Board of Directors for consideration. The Board of Directors shall maintain the right to review and approve or disapprove all membership applications.**

Comment: This change is suggested to streamline the process of membership acceptance. The Board meets only once per year and even with e-mail, Board approval of each individual membership is tedious and unnecessary.

Suggested Change 2.

 Yes

 No

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 3D. Under Treasurer's duties "...shall maintain accurate records thereof and of disbursements made on voucher signed by the President and the person responsible for incurring the expenditure."

Section 3D. "... shall maintain accurate records thereof and of disbursements made on vouchers signed by the person responsible for incurring the expenditure. **In the event of questions regarding the expenditure, the Treasurer will consult with the President before disbursing funds.**"

Comment: Practical experience has shown that the Treasurer is capable of making most reimbursement decisions and is responsible to the Board for those decisions through his/her annual report to the Board. In the case of a question on a reimbursement, the Treasurer consults the President.

Suggested Change 3. Yes No

ARTICLE VI. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

Section 2. ... Within sixty (60) days after the date of mailing, the ballots should be returned to the President. The ballots shall be opened and tabulated by the President in the presence of an impartial observer chosen by the President. The candidates who received the highest number of votes for each position will be declared duly elected by the President. The President shall forward the names of the elected candidates to the Secretary, and the Secretary shall inform the membership of those names. In the event of a tie, the retiring Board of Directors shall, by ballot, select the winner.

Section 2. ... Within sixty (60) days after the date of mailing, the ballots should be returned to the **Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The ballots shall be opened and tabulated by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee in the presence of at least one other member of the Nominating Committee. If no other member of the Nominating Committee can be present, the President will appoint an impartial observer. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee will forward the names of the candidates who receive the highest number of votes for each position to the President, who will declare those individuals duly, elected.** The President shall... .

Comment: The Board feels that having the Nominating Committee count ballots would be a more impartial procedure than that outlined in the current By-Laws.

Suggested Change 4. Yes No

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Comment: *Section 3. ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS* deals with the scheduling of meeting of the Board of Directors and should really be moved to this Article. The proposed change would be to move *Article VII. Section 3* to *Article VIII. Section 3*. This would also require that *Section 3* and *Section 4* of this article become *Section 4* and *Section 5*, respectively.

Suggested Change 5. Yes No**ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS**

Section 3. (proposed). The Board of Directors shall meet on call of the President or upon written request of four (4) Board members; it shall endeavor to hold at least one regular meeting during each fiscal year. Outgoing and incoming officers shall be present at International Meetings to insure continuity when the new officers subsequently assume their offices...

Section 3. (proposed). **The Board of Directors shall meet immediately prior to the International Meeting and at the call of the President or upon written request of four (4) Board members.**

Comment: The Board of Directors meeting prior to the International Meeting has been the practice for some time and the Board feel that it should be a formal part of the By-Laws. Furthermore, the deletion of the remaining text of the section is proposed because it is not always possible for all the outgoing and incoming officers to be present at the International Meeting. Inclusion of this wording would make questionable any actions taken without "all" of the incoming and outgoing officers.