



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL HUMIC SUBSTANCES SOCIETY

Number 30

Spring, 2004

Dear Members of IHSS,

the ***IHSS election process*** now is complete. It took a long time because of the care taken to ensure that ballots were sent individually to all effective members and that all ballots that were sent back within the deadline had been received. These efforts were rewarded with a record number of participants in the elections with respect to the past editions. This is obviously also the result of the strenuous and continuous effort of National Coordinators in keeping the national members together and closer to the Society.

Elected officers are:

Vice President: Dr. **Paul R. Bloom**, USA

Secretary: Dr. **Gudrun Abbt-Braun**, Germany

Board Member: Dr. **Claudio Ciavatta**, Italy

According to the **IHSS** bylaws, the Vice President (President Elected) shall serve for two **(2) consecutive** years in the Board of Directors after which the person will become President of IHSS, whereas Board Members and Secretary will serve for four **(4) consecutive** years following the ballot election [*Article V. Officers and Duties. Section 1* and *Article VII. Board of Directors, Section 1*].

The election of Gudrun Abbt-Braun as secretary has left a vacancy in the Board; according to IHSS bylaws, vacancies occurring in any elective office shall be filled by appointees chosen by the Board of Directors, and the officer or officers so chosen shall serve until the next regular election of The Society. In consideration of the excellent work carried out during his service as Board member, of the high esteem in which he is generally held and of the high number of ballots received in the elections by Dr. Ladislau Martin Neto, the Board of Directors has unanimously decided to appoint him for the second time as Board member till the next elections.

We are sure that all members will join the Board in thanking our past secretary prof. Teodoro Miano (our very well known friendly and helpful Teddy) for his dedication to IHSS and all the efforts spent during the years he served as secretary of our society.

Prof. Maria De Nobili
President of the IHSS

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2004

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International Humic Substances Society on the World Wide Web

Visit our home page at:

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

NEW UPDATE!!! The website now contains a lot of analytical data on the standard and reference samples of the IHSS Collection
and also new guidelines for travel and research bursaries

Dr. E. M. Perdue is coordinating the development of the IHSS WEB page. You can follow the progress on the above WEB site which is located on the server of 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.

MEETINGS

XII International Meeting of IHSS will be held in Brazil (July 2004)

by Ladislau Martin-Neto

The XII International Meeting of IHSS will be held in Brazil, in July (26-30), 2004. The chairman of the next meeting is Dr. Ladislau Martin-Neto, a Member of Board of IHSS and Coordinator of the Brazilian Chapter. The meeting theme will be "**Humic Substances and the Soil and Water Environment**" and the following symposia will be included: Soil Humic Substances; Aquatic Humic Substances; Soil Carbon Sequestration; Characterization of Humic Substances: Emphasis on Advanced Methodologies; Soil Amendment and Remediation; Applications of Humic Products: Plant Growth, Organic Agriculture, Medicine, Sensors, etc.; Complexes of Humic Substances with Metal Ions; and Pesticide Reactions.

The meeting will be held in the city of São Pedro, in the State of São Paulo, in the center of Brazil and will be hosted by the Brazilian Corporation of Agricultural Research (Embrapa), the largest agricultural institute of Latin America, in cooperation with the University of São Paulo (USP), the Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar) and the State University of São Paulo (UNESP). This region has a pleasant climate (700 m altitude) and is known for its tourist attractions: water sources, water falls, historic coffee farms, and several sugarcane factories, which also produce large quantities of ethanol as renewable automobile fuel. Complete information and data regarding meeting is available at web page: www.xiihss.com.br or in the official web page of IHSS (Conferences): www.ihss.gatech.edu Any additional query send message to organizing committee: 12ihss@cnpdia.embrapa.br. The Brazilian membership of IHSS is highly motivated and excited about holding the XII International IHSS Meeting and they will do their best to organize an outstanding conference. So please make a note of the conference dates and we look forward to welcoming you to Brazil in July 2004.

Int. Workshop "Dissolved organic matter and the cycling of carbon, nutrients and metals" (DOM 2004), Bayreuth, Germany, 3-6 October 2004.

by Karsten Kalbitz and Klaus Kaiser

More than two years ago, we had a successful international workshop on ecological aspects of dissolved organic matter in terrestrial ecosystems at the University of Bayreuth (9 to 11 October 2001). About 60 colleagues from 10 countries attended and enjoyed discussions on (i) definitions, methods, concepts, (ii) nutrient cycles, biodegradability, effects of DOM on microorganisms, (iii) mobilization and transport of metals and organic pollutants, and (iv) land use effects on DOM, role of DOM for C sequestration in soils. The main results of the workshop were published in a special issue of *Geoderma* (2003; 113, 177-411). The participants also enjoyed the atmosphere of the location, a mediaeval castle in the remote countryside of Northern Bavaria. This atmosphere stimulated intense discussions thus contributed to the success of the workshop.

During the last two years, considerable progress was made in "DOM research". Despite these efforts, numerous questions are still waiting to be answered, such as DOM contribution to the cycling of nutrients, the preservation of C and to the binding, mobilization, immobilization and toxicity of metals.

The aim of the 2004 workshop is to continue the 2001 discussion on properties and dynamics of DOM in relation to its ecological effects and functions in terrestrial and related ecosystems, including recent advances and new ideas and concepts. Invited speakers will offer new perspectives on different aspects and provoke new questions to focus on in further studies. These keynotes will be followed by brief oral presentations of volunteered contributions on specific topic. The oral presentations and additional volunteered poster presentations will serve as a base for an intensive discussion in the auditorium. The discussion is planned to comprise the major part of the workshop following the to the principle "less oral contributions but more intensive discussions". This concept was the base of the success of the first workshop. Specifically, the topics addressed will be: 1. Carbon: mineralization, stability, C storage; 2. Nutrients: coupling with carbon cycle, temporal and spatial variability; 3. Metals: binding, mobilization and immobilization, toxicity.

This message is to encourage you and your co-workers to attend the workshop and to submit an abstract to one of the above given subjects until 31 May 2004. Please forward this message to anybody possibly interested in the meeting.

Please use the workshop website for further information, abstract submission and registration:

<http://www.bitoeck.uni-bayreuth.de/dom2004>. Contact person: Dr. Karsten Kalbitz, Dept. Of Soil Ecology, Bayreuth Institute for Terrestrial Ecosystem Research (BITOEK), University of Bayreuth, D-95440 Bayreuth, Germany. e-mail: karsten.kalbitz@bitoeck.uni-bayreuth.de

BACK TO THE FUTURE !

by Teodoro M. Miano

This is my last Newsletter as Secretary of the IHSS. I have been serving the Society for almost a decade and now my time is over. Time is gone very fast but I recall all the enjoyable moment and all the activities the Society has gone through in the last years. I have been glad and honored to be part of the Board of Directors of the IHSS and I will keep great memories of all the people I have had the chance to meet and to work with for so many years. I like to thank all of you for your patience, for your assistance and for all your suggestions and comments. At last, I like to express my deepest gratitude to the Board of Directors and my sincere congratulations to the new Board Members of the IHSS. So long,

Teddy Miano
IHSS Secretary



ABOUT BIOCYCLE AND COMPOST SCIENCE & UTILIZATION

by Rill Ann Miller, The JG Press, Inc -- *BioCycle, Compost Science & Utilization*

BioCycle, Journal of Composting & Organics Recycling, published since 1960, is recognized worldwide as the foremost magazine on using organic residuals to maximum advantage – from improving the health of soils and crops to producing renewable energy in the form of methane and alcohol fuels. Every monthly issue shows readers how to change wastes and wastewater into marketable end products. Subscription rates: U.S., one year (12 issues) \$69; two years (24 issues) \$113; Canada, one year \$89; two years \$153; Foreign, one year \$97; two years \$169. To subscribe, visit www.biocycle.net or call 610.967.4135, ext. 22. American Express, Visa and MasterCard accepted. Published by The JG Press, Inc., 419 State Ave., Emmaus, PA 18049.

Now in its eleventh year of publication, **Compost Science & Utilization** contains the most authoritative research on all aspects of composting organic feedstocks, end product quality and effective application. This quarterly referred journal presents results of significant studies by the world's leading researchers in fields pertinent to composting -- from the laboratories of soil scientists and microbiologists to the field trials of agricultural engineers and solid waste managers. **Compost Science & Utilization** includes evaluations of operations and process control methods at composting facilities. A major editorial objective is to increase interaction between researchers and compost practitioners. Each issue features latest research findings and complete scientific data on compost process control and end product quality. To subscribe, visit www.jgpress.com or call 610.967.4135, ext. 22; or <http://www.jgpress.com/SubscriptionForms/CSUSubscribe.html>. American Express, Visa and MasterCard accepted. Published by The JG Press, Inc., 419 State Ave., Emmaus, PA 18049. Subscription rates: U.S., one year (4 issues) \$129; two years (8 issues) \$219; Canada and foreign: one year \$154; two years \$269. E-mail Ann Miller, biocycle@jgpress.com or fax: 610.967.1345. (The JG Press, Inc., 419 State, Ave, Emmaus, PA 18049 USA).

To review contents pages of recent issues of COMPOST SCIENCE & UTILIZATION, visit:
<http://www.jgpress.com/CSUContents/csuContents.htm>

IHSS TRAINING GRANTS GUIDELINES

Besides the usual travel bursaries that are specifically destined to students wishing to attend International IHSS meetings, starting from 2005 the IHSS will support a limited number of training bursarie. These bursaries will allow students to spend 1-3 months training/research periods at leading laboratories with the aim of enhancing their PhD work and becoming acquainted with new techniques and new aspects of HS research.

1. Training bursaries will be given only to students, PhD students and young scientists. Priority will be given to students and PhD students, but young scientists (i.e. *'a young scientist/researcher is someone who at the time of the application has not been in an established position for more than 2 years'*) can also apply, provided they are not older than 35 years.
2. A committee consisting of the IHSS President and at least two other IHSS members appointed by the IHSS President will evaluate applications for travel bursary awards.
3. Applications should arrive or be e-mailed to the President of IHSS to the address indicated in the appropriate call, advertised in the Newsletter and in the web page, on or before April 30th of each odd calendar year.
4. Proposals (three copies, if submitted by regular mail) must be in **English**. If e-mailed, they must be sent as 1 attachment only, in **Word, rtf or pdf**. All margins must be at least 3cm and headers and footers not less than 2cm. Font size must be no smaller than 10. The following information should be given:
 - **Name and full coordinates** of applicant
 - **Proposed dates and location of the training** or research period, together with a brief description of the hosting institution
 - **Invitation letter** of the hosting institution
 - **Keywords** relating to the research topic (up to 5)
 - **Abstract** of the proposed research topic (50-70 words)
 - **Summary** of the proposed research work or training program (up to 1000 words) explaining the scientific background and rationale of the visit as well as its novel aspects. A clear justification of the need for visiting the hosting institution must be provided. The expected benefits of the training and/or outcome of the scientific work should be also outlined
 - **Preliminary programme**. Indicate briefly how the research work or training will be structured during the visit
 - **Estimated Budget**. Indicate (in dollars) the breakdown for travel, accommodation, meals and any other expenses. Indicate (if applicable) any financial support awarded or foreseen from the hosting institution or from sources other than the IHSS
 - **Brief curriculum vitae** of applicant
5. Scientific excellence, creativity and potential are the main selection criteria. This applies at all levels: CV of applicant, standard of hosting institution, program of research activities. It should be clear that the student wishes to pursue a career in a field in which humic substances science is important. Partnership arrangements (i.e. funding of part of travel and/or lodging, etc. by hosting institution or other national and international organizations) for research periods are welcome and will be given priority.
6. The number and amount of the awards will be determined by the President in consultation with the Treasurer and members of the travel bursary selection committee.
7. Successful applicants must submit scientific reports within 3 months of the visit. Failure to do so may result in the IHSS retaining part of the award.

On line information can be found in the society's web page.

IHSS TRAVEL BURSARIES - 2004

Ten Travel Bursaries providing partial support to young researchers and students for attendance at the 12th Meeting of the IHSS in Sao Pedro, Brazil, have been assigned by an "ad hoc" Committee of the IHSS in year 2004. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Maria De Nobili, received a record number of 20 applications, most of which were of high scientific standard and originality.

IHSS Bursary Awardees 2004

Magnus Christiansen , <i>Norway</i>	The effect of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) concentration and storage on the physio-chemical properties of dissolved natural organic matter (DNOM)
Bassam El Eswed , <i>Jordan</i>	Characterization of humic acids isolated by various extractants from Azraq oasis, Jordan
Guo Jingheng , <i>China</i>	Quantity and quality of of NOM in five acid sites in mid- and southern China
Ann McNally , <i>USA</i>	Kinetics and mechanism of the degradation of lignin models by singlet oxygen
Margit B. Müller , <i>Germany</i> * Malcolm Award Certificate	Structural characterization of brownwater SEC fractions by ¹³ C MAS NMR spectroscopy
Daniel Said Pullicino , <i>Malta (Italy)</i>	Interaction between dissolved organic matter and triasulfuron: chemical and spectroscopic study
Marta Fuentes Ramirez , <i>Spain</i>	New insights into the macromolecular and supramolecular nature of humic substances: an ultrafiltration-HPSEC study
Fernando L. Rosario-Ortiz , <i>USA</i>	Characterization of the Polarity of Natural Organic Matter Using Solid Phase Extraction
Ingo Schöning , <i>Germany</i>	Close associations between O-alkyl C and iron oxides in clay fractions
Natalia Sultimova , <i>Russia</i>	Triplet states of humic acids studied by laser flash photolysis with different excitation wavelenghts