

Greifswald,
Germany

RRR

2nd
Announcement
CALL FOR
ABSTRACTS

2025

September 23rd – 26th
4th International Conference on
the Utilisation of Wetland Plants

Renewable Resources from Wet and Rewetted Peatlands

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline

- 28.02.2025

Notification of acceptance

- 15.05.2025

Early bird registration deadline

- 31.05.2025

Registration deadline

- 15.08.2025

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WELCOME

How can peatland rewetting and innovative land-use concepts be combined for an effective contribution to climate change mitigation? What are innovative examples for creating and strengthening regional value chains? What strategies can overcome barriers and challenges to enable a just transition to sustainable peatland use?

The 4th RRR conference on Renewable Resources from Wet and Rewetted Peatlands in Greifswald offers a platform to explore these questions and many others, fostering dialogue between science and practice. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the event aims to encourage knowledge exchange, build networks, and develop and strengthen practical, forward-looking solutions.

The Greifswald Mire Centre warmly invites you to join the RRR2025 conference and to actively contribute to shaping a sustainable future for our peatlands.

Scope of the conference

The use of wetland biomass has a long history and has recently gained renewed attention as global efforts focus on renewable resources and climate protection. The term “paludiculture” was created and introduced in 1998, more than 25 years ago. Since then, significant progress has been made in areas such as rewetting, cultivation methods, biomass processing, marketing, policy development, and raising public awareness. This conference aims to unite stakeholders involved in paludiculture, welcoming scientists, landowners and land users, administrators, businesses, artists, designers, policymakers, conservationists and all other interested people.

Key topics

For the RRR2025 conference, we welcome a wide range of peatland related contributions according to the following list of topics:

- Governance of peatland utilisation
- Lessons learned from practical implementation
- Ecosystem dynamics, processes and services
- Biodiversity and paludiculture
- People and peatlands: perceptions, communities, education, transformation
- One Health
- Agronomy
- Biomass utilisation
- Economics of paludiculture
- Machinery and innovations
- Photovoltaics on rewetted peatlands

PROGRAMME AND DETAILS

Oral and poster presentations, workshops and excursions will allow you to share and widen your knowledge. All poster presenters will have the opportunity to give a short oral introduction to their topic.

| Tue 23rd | Ted 24th | Thur 25th | Fri 26th |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Workshops | Keynote | Excursions | Sessions & Workshops |
| Welcome and Keynote | Sessions & Workshops | | Sessions & Workshops |
| Exhibition | Sessions & Workshops | | Closing |
| Evening event | Evening event | | |

Registration fees

- Early bird: 180 €
- Regular: 240 €
- Reduced: 140 € (students, PhDs)
- Excursions (the specific additional price packages for the different excursions will be available during registration in March)
- Support: Please contact us if you have problems financing your conference visit. We will try to find a solution.

Paludiculture Exhibition

We can build houses with it, grow vegetables on it, eat food from it, heat with it and much more. Paludiculture biomass can be used for a large variety of applications. We present them at a creative product fair.

We provide limited space for contractors, manufacturers and any other stakeholders to present their paludiculture products and innovative solutions at an indoor exhibition. For details please contact info@rrr2025.com.

Side events

Further information will follow soon on the website.

Share your research findings, lessons learnt and experiences:
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

We invite you to submit an abstract for a presentation and/or poster on the key topics. Abstract submission opens beginning of February 2025 on rrr2025.com. The submission deadline is **28.02.25**. Submission guidelines can be found on the website.

Traditional sessions with presentations leave little room for deeper exchange, discussion and collaboration or even training. Therefore, we want to offer workshops alongside the sessions for the first time at a RRR conference. If you would like to offer and organise a workshop, please submit an abstract via the submission page on rrr2025.com by **28.02.25**. If you have any questions, please send an email to info@rrr2025.com

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ABSTRACTS

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CONFERENCE VENUE & CONTACT

University of Greifswald
Partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre
Lecture hall at Campus Loefflerstraße
Loefflerstraße 23,
17489 Greifswald, Germany
☛ info@rrr2025.com
rrr2025.com

The Greifswald Mire Centre is the interface between science, policy and practice in all peatland related questions – locally and globally. It unites over 100 peatland experts in one place. Partners in the Greifswald Mire Centre are the University of Greifswald, the Michael Succow Foundation and DUENE e.V.



Partners in the Greifswald Mire Centre



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EXCURSIONS

We invite you to participate in one of the many great excursions at the RRR2025 conference. Destinations will include rewetted peatland sites and examples of paludiculture or biomass processing in northern Germany.



10 ha *Typha* paludiculture in June 2024 (Photo: T.Dahms)

Excursion 1

Peatland research on *Typha* paludiculture, fen meadows near Neukalen, and a local stakeholder dialogue in a peatland restaurant

- Whole Day Trip
- Highlights: Managed *Typha* paludiculture on 10 ha site with up to 5 m of peat layer, surrounded by grassland dominated by reed canary grass, partly grazed by suckler cows and mown for winter fodder. The fen meadows “Neukalener Seewiesen” (ca. 400 ha) have been drained for agricultural use, nowadays a re-wetted peatland with sedge-meadows dominating. The “Moorbauer” is a riverside excursion restaurant situated in the middle of the peatland and accessible only by pedal boat swan, used to engage in conversations with regional and local stakeholders:

moorbauer.com



Water Buffaloes (Photo: W. Wichtmann)

Excursion 2

Peatland research on mown and grazed rewetted peatland on the Darß peninsula (Baltic Sea), river valleys of Recknitz and Trebel

- Whole Day Trip
- Highlights: grazing sites with water buffaloes on the Darß peninsula. Influence of buffalo grazing on coastal peatlands. First harbingers of migrating cranes. Management of near natural sites for conservation with site-adapted, biodiversity promoting mowing in the lower Recknitz river valley. Study sites of research projects on matter dynamics in rewetted peatlands in the Trebel river valley (WETSCAPES). The sites were rewetted >20 years ago in an EU LIFE project with a generally positive development regarding vegetation development as well as ecosystem functioning. We will also discuss results that showed that paludiculture use might be beneficial for the GHG balance of rewetted peatlands.

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Polder Bargischow Süd (T. Dahms 2022)

Excursion 3

Peatland research and nature conservation near Anklam (near Island of Usedom), establishing a new reed stand, rewetting for breeding birds

- Whole Day Trip
- Highlights: Lower Peene river valley near Anklam with large rewetted sites; long-term project “peatland pilot” with 480 ha former grassland currently in rewetting process; establishment of new reed stand on 40 ha, broad monitoring activities, such as for mosquitos, biodiversity and GHG emissions; project sites of LIFE “LIMICODRA” with high water levels for the protection of meadow birds



Coastal peatland near Greifswald (Photo: AESA aerial)

Excursion 4

Karrendorfer Wiesen – restoration of a coastal flood peatland near Greifswald

- Half day trip
- Highlights: Created by grazing and seasonal flooding – a coastal flood peatland with anthropo-zoogenic salt meadows; rare variation of the fen type in their natural form, where natural flooding dynamics still occur, exists in only a few locations along the Bodden coast in NE Germany.



Aerial view of the 20 ha *Sphagnum* paludiculture site in the peatland Hankhauser Moor near Oldenburg/Lower Saxony (Photo: S. Busse)

Excursion 5

Cultivation methods and diverse research on *Sphagnum* paludiculture on rewetted bogs in Lower Saxony/NW Germany

- Whole day trip
- This excursion involves a 5 hrs bus trip to and from the sites in Lower Saxony and will therefore start and end later than the other excursions**
- Highlights: Two *Sphagnum* paludiculture sites on former bog grassland (~20 and 10 ha) with sub-areas at different stages of development (installed in 2024/25, 2020 or 2016) and experiments on best practice, top soil removal depth, water management (different ditch distances, subsurface irrigation), regeneration after harvest, a small scale field trial on the selection of productive provenances of 12 potential *Sphagnum* paludiculture species and field test of axenic in vitro-cultivated *Sphagnum* clones; sundew cultivation. Investigations on GHG, water quality and demand, biodiversity etc.

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Rewetting of a coastal flood peatland: before and after (Photo: Ostseestiftung 2020)

Excursion 6

Coastal flood peatlands, extensive grazing, traditional winter harvest of reed stands for thatching on the Island of Rügen

- Half day trip
- Highlights: Coastal flood peatland on the Island of Rügen, 95 ha rewetted since 2020 by relocating a 1.5 km long dyke, one of the few salt meadows along the coast of the Baltic Sea, being part of the 30 most important biodiversity hotspots in Germany; reed stands harvested since centuries for roof thatching as typical elements along the coast, learn about the traditional knowledge and skills of thatching which are recognized as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage in Germany.



Photo: M. Hohlbein

Excursion 7

Photovoltaic power plant on a rewetted peatland in Lottorf/Schleswig-Holstein

- Whole day trip
- This excursion involves a 4 hrs bus trip to and from the site in Schleswig-Holstein and will therefore start and end later than the other excursions**
- Highlights: ca. 30 ha photovoltaics with an installed capacity of 17 MWp on a rewetted peatland previously used as grassland, continued agricultural use by regularly mowing, research on the impacts of PV systems on rewetted peatlands, focusing on biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, and economic viability.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Christian Fritz



Christian Fritz is a trained peatland scientist with extensive experience in paludiculture and wetland restoration, which he has focused on since 2005.

His research spans carbon, nutrient, and water cycles in European peatlands,

complemented by research stays in New Zealand, South America, and Siberia. Since 2023, Christian has chaired the Eco-Hydrology and Peatland Science Group at Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands. The group collaborates across disciplines to advance socially inclusive research and quantify processes essential for climate neutrality and ecosystem services in rewetted peatlands and paludiculture systems.

In his keynote speech, Christian Fritz will guide you on a journey across European peatlands managed for the production and use of paludiculture biomass. He will highlight success stories where paludiculture has improved ecosystem services and contributed to climate mitigation, supported by quantitative insights. Christian Fritz will also discuss how best-practice management can overcome barriers and build broader acceptance. As you navigate the challenges and innovations of piloting paludiculture, this journey will explore its limitations, opportunities, and the necessity to scale up paludiculture to achieve a climate-neutral Europe.

Kate Flood



Kate Flood is a peatland researcher working at the intersection of social science, ecology, and arts and humanities disciplines to explore the relationships between people and peatlands. Her research interests

include the cultural and social dimensions of peatland conservation and the role of communities (geographical and communities of interest) in contributing to the restoration and resilience of peatlands. Recent research encompasses diverse peatland-related themes, including work on Peat Hub Ireland, WaterLANDS, and the Tóchar Community Stories project.

This presentation explores the theory and practice of Just Transition in Ireland, focusing on recent research, restoration, and lived experience of communities in the Irish midlands. These communities are transitioning from extractive industries that once provided employment and socio-economic benefits to regenerative models that foreground restoration, conservation, recreation and socio-cultural transition. Such transitions are crucial for driving the societal transformation needed to address the ongoing climate and biodiversity crises and to achieve sustainable development goals. However, significant knowledge gaps, barriers, and challenges remain, particularly regarding the socio-economic, political, and equity dimensions of implementing peatland conservation and restoration initiatives. Drawing on insights from research, practice, and grassroots efforts, this presentation highlights the dual ecological and social nature of peatland restoration and the need for integrated, interdisciplinary research and practice to deliver interconnected ecological, economic and social benefits.

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