

2018 IAVS Symposium: Second Circular



The 61st Annual IAVS Symposium will be held from Sunday, 22 July to Friday, 27 July, 2018 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, USA. The theme of the meeting is "**Natural Ecosystems as Benchmarks for Vegetation Science**". Bozeman is located in the Greater Yellowstone Area close to the Crown of the Continent of the northern Rocky Mountains. The timing of the symposium is optimal to see the subalpine and alpine flora in flower and will also allow participants to attend the 103rd Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of America, which is August 5-10 in New Orleans, Louisiana if they wish. The symposium website is located at: <http://iavs.org/2018-Annual-Symposium/Home.aspx>



Local Organizing Committee

- David W. Roberts, Montana State University (co-chair), droberts@montana.edu
- Peter R. Minchin, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (co-chair), pminchi@siue.edu
- Kent Houston, US Forest Service (retired)
- Stephen V. Cooper IV, Montana Natural Heritage (retired)

Scientific Committee

- Alessandra Fidelis, Brazil
- Alessandro Chiarucci, Italy
- Dave Roberts, USA
- Florian Jansen, Germany
- James Moore, USA
- Jari Oksanen, Finland
- Javier Loidi, Spain
- John Du Vall Hay, Brazil
- Laco Mucina, Australia
- Loretta Battaglia, USA
- Mark Fulton, USA
- Martin Diekmann, Germany
- Meelis Pärtel, Estonia
- Milan Chytrý, Czech Republic
- Miquel de Cáceres, Spain
- Monika Janišová, Slovak Republic
- Pavel Krestov, Russia
- Peter Minchin, USA
- Riccardo Guarino, Italy
- Scott Collins, USA
- Scott Franklin, USA
- Susan Wiser, New Zealand
- Valério Pillar, Brazil

Registration

Registration is now open through a link on the symposium website. The early bird registration fee for IAVS members is US\$570 for non-students and US\$330 for students. Registration includes the Sunday evening welcome reception at Story Mansion, plenary and breakout oral sessions, poster sessions, a mid-week excursion, coffee breaks, lunches, and shuttle bus transport between MSU campus, downtown Bozeman, and the symposium hotels. Tickets to the symposium dinner, which will be held at Deer Park Chalet at Bridger Bowl on the Thursday evening, are US\$80. **Please be sure to register early (by 30 April), as fees are significantly higher after that date.**

Abstract Submission and Travel Award Application (Deadline 5 March, 2018)

Abstract Submission and Travel Award Application are now open through a link on the symposium website. The deadline for submission of abstracts and travel award applications is **5 March, 2018** at 11:59 PM (eastern US time). If you are planning to apply for a Travel Award, please read the web page on Travel Award Application first and make sure that you meet the eligibility requirements and have the required documents at hand. If you are a student and you would like your talk or poster to be considered for a **Student Presentation Award**, there is a box that you should check during abstract submission.

The abstract text is limited to a maximum of 400 words. We recommend that you type your abstract in a word processor and then copy and paste it into the submission form. Once you have submitted an abstract, you will be able to come back and edit it as often as desired, up until the deadline on 5 March. The Global Sponsorship Committee and the Scientific Committee will work hard to ensure that decision letters on abstracts and travel award applications are sent out by 26 March, 2018.

Volunteering. As in past symposia, the Local Organizing Committee is offering prospective attendees the possibility to volunteer at the symposium in exchange for a discounted registration fee. Please see the IAVS 2018 website for details.



Program

We are excited to announce that our **plenary speakers** will be:

- Bob Peet, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Janet Franklin, University of California – Riverside
- Scott Collins, The University of New Mexico
- Naia Morueta-Holme, University of Copenhagen

Nine **special sessions** have been accepted, on the following topics (organizers' contact information is available on the IAVS 2018 website):

- Species pools across scales: an integrative perspective
- Temporal and spatial vegetation changes using permanent plots
- Toward a circumpolar Arctic vegetation classification
- Invasive species on coastal dunes
- How can novel ecosystems be useful as benchmarks for vegetation science?
- Historical ecology in vegetation science
- The US national vegetation classification system
- Dispersal and plant reproduction in disturbance driven vegetation dynamics
- Theory and methods in vegetation science

An outline of the program structure will be released soon. There will generally be four parallel oral sessions each morning and afternoon, with 20 minute time slots for talks. Each session will be 2 hours in duration, allowing for up to six talks. Three poster sessions are scheduled, on the afternoons of the Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Each is 1.5 hours in duration and a cash bar will be available. Guidelines for preparation of talks and posters are on the IAVS 2018 website.

Sunday, 22 July has been set aside for **workshops and meetings** of working groups and rooms will be available in the MSU conference center. So far we have approved only one workshop, which is organized by the IAVS Vegetation Classification Working Group on the topic of "Rethinking biomes – towards a consistent high-level classification of global vegetation". More information on this workshop can be found on the IAVS 2018 website. **If you would like to hold a workshop or meeting on Sunday, 22 July, please let the organizers know as soon as possible.**



Excursions

Pre- and post-symposium excursions will visit regional grassland, steppe, forest, and alpine vegetation. Full details are available on the IAVS 2018 website. You can book and pay for excursions during registration. The following are brief summaries.

Pre-symposium Excursion A: Continental Divide and Glacier National Park

July 17-21, 2018 (4 nights). Cost US\$695.

This excursion heads west of Bozeman to the western side of the Continental Divide. We will spend the first day exploring the beautiful Swan Valley, featuring the majestic and charismatic *Pinus monticola* and *Larix occidentalis* among the diverse, low elevation vegetation. We will stay overnight in Whitefish, Montana. The second day we will explore Glacier National Park, observing dramatic variability in vegetation, ranging from foothill grasslands and woodlands through dense forests to alpine vegetation at the peaks. Glacier National Park features many of the iconic species of the northern Rockies, including *Thuja plicata* and *Tsuga heterophylla* forests, and the well-known *Xerophyllum tenax*, *Vaccinium globulare*, and *Rubus parviflorus* hillsides. After another night in Whitefish, we will continue west along the Kootenay River through the Flathead, Kootenai and Kaniksu National Forests to Sandpoint, Idaho, exploring the mesic low elevation forests of western Montana and the Idaho Panhandle. After Sandpoint, we will head south and east along the Clark Fork River to Missoula, Montana. Along the way we'll visit both more xeric grassland vegetation and wetlands on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Finally, we'll travel back to Bozeman through the valley bottoms of western Montana to see the iconic *Pseudoroegneria spicata*/*Festuca campestris* grasslands.

Pre-symposium Excursion B: Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks

July 17-21, 2018 (4 nights). Cost US\$935.

This excursion will travel south from Bozeman to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. The first stop will be in the Gallatin Valley at Big Sky, Montana, where we'll take the tram up Lone Mountain to visit alpine vegetation. The next day we will enter Yellowstone National Park through the West Yellowstone portal and travel south through the western side of Yellowstone to Jackson, Wyoming. From Jackson we'll explore Grand Teton National Park. We'll visit *Artemisia*-dominated stream terraces, unique *Picea pungens* riparian woodlands, and the woodlands and forests of the Teton Range. After another night in Jackson, we'll return to explore Yellowstone National Park, including vegetation of thermally-altered soils and other unique communities. We'll spend the night at the iconic Yellowstone National Park Lake Lodge. Finally, we'll return down the Paradise Valley of Montana through Livingston, Montana on our way back to Bozeman by Saturday evening.

Post-symposium excursion C: Beartooth and Yellowstone National Park

July 28 – August 1, 2018 (4 nights). Cost US\$845.

This excursion will head east from Bozeman to the Beartooth Mountains, and return through Yellowstone National Park. The first day we'll explore lower and mid-elevation conifer forests of the Beartooth, spending the evening in Red Lodge, Montana. The next day we'll travel up the Beartooth Highway ("the most beautiful road in America") to spend the day on the extensive alpine plateau. We'll then enter Yellowstone National Park through the northeast entrance and travel down the Lamar River Valley. The Lamar features a broad valley of grasslands and wetlands with numerous bison, and often elk, wolves, and bears. We'll spend the third evening at the iconic Yellowstone Lake Lodge, and then exit Yellowstone and travel south for Grand Teton National Park spending the last evening in Jackson, Wyoming. The vegetation of Grand Teton is quite distinct from Yellowstone, with the beautiful Snake River stream terraces and the Teton Range to the west. The last day we'll travel north from Jackson back to Bozeman with stops in the Gallatin Valley of Montana.

Mid-Symposium Excursions

A selection of one-day mid-symposium excursions will be provided to local grasslands, forests, and cultural/historic sites on Wednesday, 25 July, with costs included in registration. Details of these are still being finalized. We will open a web page soon that will allow registered participants to select their preferences for mid-symposium excursions.



Venue and Accommodation

The location for the 61st Annual Symposium of IAVS is Bozeman, Montana, USA. This traditional, yet contemporary town has a population of 45,000 and is tucked away in a valley surrounded by mountain ranges on all four sides. The symposium will be held at the Montana State University conference center, which is located in the Strand Union Building. The conference facility has a capacity for 500+ people.

July is one of the most beautiful and pleasant times of year in Bozeman. Although the surrounding mountains affect local weather in unpredictable ways, average daily temperatures peak around 28 °C and nighttime lows often hover around 10 °C. Mean rainfall in July is 36 mm. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are not uncommon during this time of year, so be sure to pack a raincoat. The days are long, with sunrise at approximately 6:00 AM and sunset at approximately 9:00 PM. Links to information on dining options and things to do in and around Bozeman are available on the IAVS 2018 website.

We have blocks of rooms reserved at special rates at six hotels in Bozeman. Nightly rates for a double room range from US\$149 to US\$179 (plus taxes of 7% and US\$2 per night). Though these prices may seem high, it must be remembered that July is the peak time of year for tourism in the Rocky Mountains and there is a very high demand for accommodation. A budget alternative is provided by student dorms, which are located on the campus of Montana State University. The nightly rate for a double dorm room is US\$46 (\$23 per person) and the rate for a single room is US\$28 (in each case there is an additional 7% tax).

Full details of the accommodation options will be posted soon on the IAVS 2018 website. Symposium participants will need to book accommodation directly with their chosen hotel or dorm. In order to receive the negotiated symposium rate, you may need to quote a Group Code that is unique to each property. In most cases, web links for direct reservations will be provided.

Travel to Bozeman and Local Transport

Bozeman can be readily reached by connections to Bozeman-Yellowstone International Airport (BZN). Direct flights from the east arrive from Minneapolis and Denver, with connections to New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Washington, and Atlanta. Direct flights from the west arrive from Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The selected conference hotels all provide free airport shuttle services and a shuttle bus will be provided for people staying in student dormitories. Other airport transportation options include taxi and Uber.

Most of the symposium hotels are located off Interstate 90, approximately 4 km from the symposium venue on MSU campus. Downtown Bozeman is mid-way between the hotels and campus. We will provide a circulating shuttle bus service between the hotels, downtown, and MSU campus on each day of the symposium, starting early morning and finishing late evening. Downtown Bozeman is a pleasant 25 minute walk (2 km) from campus through the tree-lined streets of the historic residential district. It is considered safe to walk in Bozeman at all hours. Other local transport options include taxi, Uber, and the free Streamline bus service, which operates daily between campus, downtown, and the area where the hotels are located. More information is available on the IAVS 2018 website.



Important Dates

- IAVS travel grant applications (and abstracts) 5 March, 2018
- Regular abstract submission 5 March, 2018
- Decision letters on abstracts 26 March 2018
- Travel grant decisions announced 26 March 2018
- Final date for early registration with reduced fees April 30 2018
- Final date for standard registration 25 June 2018
- Final date to cancel and receive a refund (minus \$35 management fee) 25 June 2018

We look forward to seeing you in Bozeman in July!

<http://iavs.org/2018-Annual-Symposium/Home.aspx>