

Report of the IAVS Award Committee over the year 2016

Joop Schaminée, chair

At the annual IAVS meeting in Pirenópolis (Brazil), Robert Peet became an IAVS *Honorary Member*, for all the work he has performed for our organisation for so many years. This year (2017), for the fourth time, the *Alexander Von Humboldt Award* will be awarded to an outstanding scientist in the field of vegetation research. After awarding Professor Philip Grime in 2011, David Tilman in 2013, Sandra Lavoural in 2015, F. Stuart Chapin III will receive this award at the IAVS meeting in Palermo. At this meeting, the prize-winner will be honoured by a *laudatio speech*, given by Robert Peet. Chapin both will receive an original watercolour painting, especially made for this occasion by the Dutch artist Ed Hazebroek, depicting a *Herd of mammoths in the post-glacier tundra of Canada*. The members of the Governing Board are invited to nominate candidates for the next Honorary membership in 2018, before 31-12-2017.



At the meeting in Brazil, also the *young scientists competitions* took place, for *best poster* and *best oral presentation*. The winners were announced at the General Assembly and their names are mentioned on our website www.iavs.org (see under Awards).

Poster competition:

First Prize: Nathalia Bonani (Brazil). How is fire affecting the germination of legume species? The study of Cerrado and forest species. (Co-authors: L. Felipe Daibes & Alessandra Fidelis).

Honorable Mention: Anaclara Guido (Brazil). Invasive species removal: assessing community impact and recovery from invasion (Co-author: Valério D. Pillar).

Honorable Mention: Joosep Sarapuu (Estonia). Cut evolution in cut forests? Changes in phylogenetic structure of tropical rainforests due to ecological release of leaf-cutting ants (Co-authors: Elâine Ribeiro, Bráulio A. Santos, Marcelo Tabarelli, Rainer Wirth, Inara R. Leal & Pille Gerhold).

Oral presentation competition:

Joint First Prize: Anina Coetzee (South Africa). The importance of Proteaceae species richness in providing nectar resources. (Co-authors: Phoebe Barnard, Anthony G. Rebelo & Anton Pauw).

Joint First Prize: Michele Dechoum (Brazil). Factors controlling grassland occupancy by shrubs in montane systems in Southern Brazil (Co-authors: Pedro Cavalin, Nivaldo Peroni & Francisco I. Pugnaire).

Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Gorgone Barbosa (Brazil). Can fire be used as a management tool to control invasive grasses in Cerrado. (Co-authors: Vânia Pivello, Lara Souza & Alessandra Fidelis).