

## Report of the IAVS Award Committee over the year 2017

*Joop Schaminée, chair*

At the annual IAVS meeting in Palermo (Italy), F. Stuart Chapin III has received the (fourth) *Alexander Von Humboldt Award*, for his impressive scientific work, especially on arctic vegetation. This year, at the meeting in Bozeman, Ladislav Mucina will become an IAVS Honorary member, to express our gratitude for all the work he has delivered for the organisation for so many years. At this meeting, the price-winner will be honoured by a joint *laudatio speech*, given by Robert Peet and Milan Chytrý. Mucina will receive – in line with former price-winners – an original watercolour painting, especially made for this occasion by the Dutch artist Ed Hazebroek, depicting *the unique South Africa fynbos with its beautiful plants and animals*. The members of the Governing Board are invited to nominate candidates for the next Alexander Von Humboldt Award, before 31-12-2018.



At the meeting in Palermo, 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](http://www.iavs.org) (see under Awards).

#### Poster competition:

First prize: Malgorzata Radula (Poland): Topographic wetness index predicts soil moisture better than bioindication with Ellenberg's indicator values (Co-authors: Tomasz Szymura, Magdalena Szymura).

Honorable Mentions:

Liis Kasari (Estonia): Good dispersers disappear from European calcareous grasslands following the payment of extinction debt (Co-author: Aveliina Helm);

Francesca Jaroszynska (Norway): Shifts in biotic interactions with climate change in semi-natural grasslands in Western Norway (Co-authors: Vigdis Vandvik, Siri Lie Olsen, Kari Klanderud).

#### Oral presentation competition:

First prize: Francesco Petruzzellis (Italy): Sampling intraspecific variability in leaf functional traits: practical suggestions to maximize collected information. (Co-authors: Chiara Palandrani, Tadeja Savi, Roberto Alberti, Andrea Nardini, Giovanni Bacaro).

Honorable Mentions:

Maria Majekova (Czech Republic): Temporal fluctuations and functional traits in high-diversity plant communities (Co-authors: Francesco de Bello, Alena Vítová, Jiří Doležal, Jan Lepš);

Manon Hess (France): Microwave soil heating for controlling invasive plant species germination (Co-authors: Mélissa De Wilde, Hugo Fontes, Loïc Willm, Nicole Yavercovski, Elise Buisson, François Mesléard);

Morgan Raath (South Africa): Do positive plant-plant interactions expand the upper distributional limits of vascular plant species on Marion Island? (Co-author: Peter C. le Roux)

Stephni van der Merwe (South Africa): Do plant-plant interactions affect functional traits? (Co-authors: Michelle Greve, Peter C. le Roux).