



THE IAVS BULLETIN

The IAVS Bulletin is a newsletter for the members of the
International Association for Vegetation Science

10 2006



The 50th Symposium of the IAVS will be held on the campus of Swansea University (Wales), from 23 to 27 July 2007; it will be preceded by the 49th Symposium at Palmerston North, New Zealand, from 12 to 16 February 2007

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From the Secretary General

Dear IAVS Members, Colleagues and Friends,

In the opening address of the last Bulletin, it was announced 'to reorganize both the membership administration and the presentation of forthcoming news on the Website'. It is a pleasure for me to inform you that these plans indeed have been realized. Opulus has developed a data base linked to its website which includes entries for each IAVS member both with and without a subscription to the journals *JVS* and/or *AVS*. Membership will be checked and after confirmation, members are able to continuously update their data, such as changes in E-mail address. It has also been made possible to pay the membership fee and journal subscriptions over the Internet by means of a Credit Card.

Concerning the topic of presenting regular news, the first News Alert was sent to all IAVS members registered with an E-mail address, just some weeks ago.

For the first time in the history of the IAVS, there will be two annual meetings in the same year. The 'postponed 2006 meeting' will take place in New Zealand, in Palmerston North from 12 to 16 February 2007, whereas the '2007 meeting' will be held in Swansea, Wales, from 23 to 27 July 2007.

Finally, this Bulletin will also be available online! (www.iavs.org)

Wageningen, 13 December 2006

Joop H.J. Schaminée

The International Association for Vegetation Science

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Membership fee: 20 EUR / 20 USD. Payment by Credit Card via the Website of IAVS, or to Account no. 92.15.29.023 of IAVS, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, Renkum, The Netherlands. Use BIC/Swift code: SNS BNL 2A, and/or IBAN code: NL40 SNSB 0921 5290 23

www.iavs.org

Financial Report

The financial situation of IAVS for the year 2005 is derived from data delivered by Nina Smits (office Wageningen) and Hartmut Dierschke (office Göttingen).

Office Wageningen

Revenues	Euro 4 804.47	of which 4,526.08 from membership fees.
Expenses administration*	194.43	
Balance	+ 4 610.04	

Total balance on 31-12-2005	34 611.14	
Divided over Global Fund		16 248,10
Savings account		22 535,71
Current account		5 827.33

Office Göttingen – for the period 01.01.2005 - 31.01.2006

Revenues	Euro 320.00	membership fees
Expenses administration	73.15	
Bank costs	172.81	
Total	245.96	
Balance	+ 74.04	

*The annual costs for 2005 for the office in Wageningen (Nina Smits) were paid at the beginning of 2006, and are not included here.

Note from the Administrator

Many things concerning the administration of IAVS have been changed in the last two years. The database with membership information is now available online as a result of a deal with Opulus Press. Consequently, members can update their own information and even download an updated membership list. Furthermore, internet payment of the IAVS fee is now possible. For more information, please visit the IAVS Website www.iavs.org, or go directly to www.opuluspress.se, or contact N.a.c.smits@bio.uu.nl. In case you are a paying member, please check whether you have paid your membership fee for 2007 as well as for earlier years!!

In case you subscribe to the Journal of Vegetation Science and/or Applied Vegetation Science, please check whether you have paid for 2007 as well as for earlier years!!

New Membership List

Since there were several major and many minor errors in the Membership List 2004, published in July 2005, and since many members, who had not paid for several years, had to be removed from the list, it was decided to publish a new Membership List as soon as possible.

Please check your name and address in the on line IAVS data base. It is especially helpful to check whether your E-mail address was included, and presented correctly.

Please send your questions, corrections and additions to: Nina Smits, IAVS Administrator, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, 6871 VJ Renkum, The Netherlands; E-mail: n.a.c.smits@bio.uu.nl

Report of the Publication Officer for the year 2005

This report is concerned with the publication activities of the IAVS in 2005, mainly relating to the two journals *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*. See also the Report of the chair of the chief editors of the journals.

Subscriptions

Journal of Vegetation Science

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electr	P + E	Paper	Electr	P + E
2004	368	18	17	607	28	13
2005	240	12	23	369	130	33

In addition, there are 14 free and 3 not yet renewed library subscriptions of JVS, as well as 64 free and 80 not yet renewed private subscriptions.

The number of both institutional and private subscribers to JVS in 2005 is considerably lower than in 2004. This is mainly caused by a 'cleansing' of the lists of subscribers, i.e. removal from the list of those libraries/persons that had not paid for several years. However, there is also a real decline in the number of subscriptions, which for libraries is somewhat counteracted by the growing number of institutions that have access to the journal(s) via BioOne. Another obvious trend regarding private subscribers is the predicted rapidly growing number of subscriptions to the electronic or combined paper & electronic versions of the journal.

Applied Vegetation Science

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electr	P + E	Paper	Electr	P + E
2004	86	4	8	319	4	8
2005	90	5	9	240	94	23

In addition, there are 11 free and 2 not yet renewed library subscriptions of AVS, as well as 37 free and 18 not yet renewed private subscriptions.

Although there has been a 'cleansing' too, the trend in the number of subscriptions is different from JVS. The number of both institutional and private subscribers in 2005 is somewhat higher than in 2004, which is most likely a continuing effect of the inclusion of AVS in Current Contents and in the Science Citation Index, as already observed in the previous Bulletin.

Impact factors

	2002	2003	2004	2005
JVS	1.57	1.67	1.85	2.11
AVS		0.88	1.57	1.52

The impact factors for JVS have slowly increased until 2004, and this trend has continued in 2005 with an IF of 2.11; the IF of the journal has thus exceeded 2 for the first time. This underlines the journal's position among the top journals in the fields of ecology and evolutionary science. However, it must be



mentioned that also most other comparable journals in these fields had a higher IF in 2005 than in the years before, and that the increase observed in these journals has been even more pronounced than for JVS, meaning that the relative position of JVS has not improved.

The IF of AVS for 2005 was almost the same as for 2004, but much higher than for 2003, again a continuing effect of the inclusion of the journal in the Science Citation Index.

An initiative by Eddy van der Maarel resulted in the revival of the Adoption Committee which has led to an agreement between IAVS and Opulus Press about new adoptions. In 2005, 27 private members of the IAVS received adopted electronic subscriptions to both JVS and AVS. For further information, see the special report in this Bulletin.

Submissions of manuscripts to JVS and AVS

In 2004, the number of submitted manuscripts to JVS was 311, which is exactly the same figure as for 2004 and somewhat higher than for 2003. The number of manuscripts accepted during the period Jan-Dec 2005 was 62, which is higher than the corresponding figure for 2004.

The number of submitted manuscripts to AVS in 2005 was 123, compared to only 81 in 2004. This again reflects the increasing attractiveness of AVS as an applied ecological journal. The number of accepted manuscripts during the period Jan-Dec 2005 was 21 and has remained unchanged since 2004. See also the Report of the chair of the chief editors of the journals.

Printed papers, rejection rates and publication queue

Journal of Vegetation Science

Issue	No. of pages	No. of papers*
February 2004	142	16 (+ 1)
April 2004	152	16
June 2004	142	17
August 2004	146	14 (+ 4)
October 2004	138	14
December 2004	136	14 (+ 2)
Sum 2004	856	91 (+ 7) = 98
February 2005	144	16 (+ 1)
April 2005	116	14 (+ 1)
June 2005	102	9 (+ 2)
August 2005	124	14
October 2005	126	13
December 2005	116	11 (+ 2)
Sum 2005	728	77 (+ 6) = 83

*Research papers; in brackets: + forum papers, editorials, short communications, etc.

The number of papers published in JVS has been around 90 or slightly > 90 in most years, while it has been considerably lower in 2005, accompanied by a lower total number of pages that year (and a stable average number of pages per research paper of 9 to 10). As the number of submitted manuscripts to JVS has tended to increase from year to year, the reason for the thinner issues (except for the February issue) in 2005 is not a shortage of submitted manuscripts, but a lower number of accepted manuscripts, especially in 2004, in other words an exceptionally high rejection rate of about 70%. As the queue of accepted papers / papers in print at the same time was short, there was a lack of papers



to fill the JVS issues in question. This was very unfortunate, but it should be added that the situation has changed again so that from April 2006 on the issues are back at normal size (about 140 pages).

Applied Vegetation Science

Issue	No. of pages	No. of papers*
May 2004	150	16
November 2004	126	14 (+ 1)
Sum 2004	276	30 (+ 1)
May 2005	114	12 (+ 1)
November 2005	104	11
Sum 2005	218	23 (+ 1)

*Research papers; in brackets: + forum papers, editorials, short communications, etc.

The situation is similar for AVS which has been published with considerably thinner issues in 2005 compared to 2004. Also here, the reason was a rather high rejection rate of manuscripts. In general, despite high rejection rates, the increasing number of submissions to AVS will sooner or later result in a situation where the number of accepted manuscripts exceeds the space being available in two issues per year. A possible solution is the future publication of three issues of AVS per year. This would also shorten the average time span between acceptance of an AVS paper and its publication.

The problems met with in 2005, especially with JVS, show the potential risk of having a very short publication queue, otherwise a desirable feature of a journal. However, a short manuscript handling time and publication queue are important aspects of a successful journal.

Visibility of the journals

JVS and AVS are included in the BioOne aggregation since 2002. In 2004, there has, for the first time, been a considerable income to Opulus Press through revenues from BioOne. In 2005, revenues from BioOne have more than doubled and the trend is continuously positive.

As already mentioned in the previous Bulletin, JVS and AVS are now part of the JSTOR package, meaning that all papers from the two journals (except for those from the last 5 years) are available as PDF-files that can be printed and downloaded through libraries subscribing to the JSTOR package.

The number of visitors to the improved website of Opulus Press increases steadily, which is accompanied by a positive trend in single article sales directly from the Opulus website.

IAVS Bulletins

The IAVS Bulletin No. 9 was published in 2006. The Bulletin includes the laudations for the new honorary members Hartmut Dierschke, Eddy van der Maarel and Salvador Rivas-Martínez, the minutes of the IAVS Council meeting in Lisbon in 2005, the minutes of the General Assembly in Lisbon in 2005, the Reports by the IAVS Publication Officer and the Chair of the Editors of JVS & AVS, as well as some reports by representatives of Working Groups and Regional sections. The Bulletin finishes with an outlook on forthcoming IAVS symposia and memorial notes for Paddy Coker and Emilie Balátová-Tuláčková.



Financial Report concerning our publications

Revenues for Opulus Press include subscriptions, royalty fees from EBSCO and BioOne, as well as single article sales through Internet using the website of the Publishers. Revenues from BioOne over 2005 totalled 25 500 USD after deduction of the costs made by Allen Press to prepare the data for inclusion in the BioOne data base. Total revenues amounted to 2 321 878 SEK, which is slightly higher than in the two preceding years.

The costs for the Publishers (production of the journals, salaries and personnel costs, other costs) in 2005 were 2 394 080 SEK and thus considerably higher than for year 2004. One reason for this is the investments made for a new online manuscript handling system, and also for the improved online service to IAVS members. The predicted costs for the next years are therefore lower.

As there was no net profit for 2005, there has been no income via the Publishers to the Global Fund or to IAVS.

Martin Diekmann, December 2006

The Adoption Committee of IAVS

The Adoption Committee was established in the early years of the Journal of Vegetation Science in order to stimulate members of IAVS to adopt a colleague from a so-called poor country who could not afford a subscription in internationally used currencies, or to support the IAVS Global Fund from which adoptions could be paid. Until the late 1990s up to 30 people, mostly active in plant ecology and vegetation science departments, could be helped. Gradually the adoptions and donations to the Global Fund decreased and the Adoption Committee became somewhat dormant.

Two years ago the Committee was revitalized, partly because IAVS became officially registered as an organization and the Global Fund could be administered by IAVS itself (earlier Opulus Press did this for the Association). It now consists of Martin Diekmann, Chairperson, Eddy van der Maarel, Secretary, Joop Schaminée, IAVS Secretary, Nina Smits, IAVS Administrator, and Tomáš Herben and Michael Palmer as members. A financial reason for the revival was the introduction of electronic subscriptions; there are relatively low additional costs for an electronic subscription. IAVS was happy to make a deal with Opulus Press that a combined electronic subscription to JVS and AVS for adopted colleagues would cost only 15 Euro. Old and also several new candidate-adoptees were informed about the new perspective and asked to confirm that they would be able to take care of receiving the journals and make them available to members of their group. As a result nearly 30 colleagues were elected as recipients of a free electronic subscription. The countries represented in the new adoption system are Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nepal, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Uruguay. Several of these countries are now getting richer, but their scientists and research institutions are still unable to subscribe to international journals.

Several more candidates are waiting to be adopted in this way and we would therefore call upon IAVS members to pay an extra amount of 15 Euro or a multiple thereof to enable us to increase the number of colleagues with a free electronic subscription to our journals.

Martin Diekmann, Chairman
Eddy van der Maarel, Secretary



Report by the Chair of the Editors of the IAVS journals

The Journal of Vegetation Science in 2006

In 2006 the Journal of Vegetation Science published 92 papers on 844 pages. In 2004 and 2005 the numbers of published papers were 98 and 83 and pages numbers were 856 and 728, respectively. Thus, in 2006 JVS published a higher number of papers than in 2005 and fewer papers than in 2004 but on average they were longer. At the beginning of 2006 we decided to be more flexible on paper length. It is true that many, perhaps most, manuscripts are submitted with a length that is longer than their content justify. However, other journals publish longer papers and some potential authors appeared to avoid the journal because of their impression that we take only short papers. Our rule is still that there is no lower or upper limit to the length of a paper so long as this is justified because of the paper's importance. Longer papers could be of any type. Monographic, descriptive papers are an obvious type, though nowadays papers can be reduced by publishing long tables and other documents in the JVS/AVS Electronic Archives.

The 'corresponding' authors of the papers published in 2006 were from 24 different countries: the USA was the country with the highest number of corresponding authors in 2006 (26) followed by Spain (8), the United Kingdom (7), Sweden (5), Australia (4), Canada (4), the Czech Republic (4), France (4), Germany (4) and The Netherlands (4). Other corresponding authors of papers published in 2006 were from Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, The People's Republic of China, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland and Uruguay. These data clearly indicated that most of the 2006 vegetation science papers came from North America and Europe, but almost all other continents were represented as well. 365 manuscripts were submitted to JVS in 2006, which is exactly one per day: a rather high submission rate for such a specialised journal. This is much higher than in previous years. See also the report of the Publication Officer.

The impact of the Journal of Vegetation Science on the scientific community increased in 2006. It grew to 2.112 in 2005 (the value published in 2006). During the previous years, the Impact Factor of JVS was 1.730 in 2001, 1.569 in 2002, 1.665 in 2003 and 1.845 in 2005: an increasing trend is evident! The ranking of JVS amongst comparable journals in 2005 was 38 of 112 (while it was 35 of 107 in 2004) in the subject category of Ecology, 29 of 144 (was 33 of 138 in 2004) in the subject category of Plant Biology and 2 of 36 (was 4 of 34 in 2004) in the subject category of Forestry.

The above cited numbers confirm the good 'health' of JVS, and indicate how important this journal is for vegetation scientists and plant ecologists worldwide. JVS maintains its reputation in the fields of Ecology and Plant Biology (only a few fluctuations in the ranks of these subjects) but is also becoming one of the leading journals in the field of forestry! However, we are far from complacent about this progress. Other journals are increasing their Impact Factors too. We constantly seek to improve our service to IAVS members and vegetation science in general, being confident that this is, in the long term, the way to further improve other indices such as the Impact Factor, the circulation of the Journal and its profitability for IAVS.

At the Lisboa meeting of the Advisory Council, concern was expressed that some vegetation scientists had obtained the wrong impression that there was a bias against descriptive papers, especially those using more traditional methods. Those bringing the matter to our attention emphasised that it was not their view, and that they tried to correct it, but that it would be useful for us to make this clear. Since it is certainly true that the journals accept descriptive papers, and since we wanted to make this clear, the Chief Editors responded writing a longer editorial than usual for 2006 [JVS 17 (1): 1-3] to list the range of approaches that we include, and emphasised our commitment to descriptive work.

During 2006 Bastow Wilson was on leave as Chief Editor of the journals to complement a study leave from his university. Jan Bakker resigned as a Chief Editor to concentrate on his work as a



co-ordinating editor. Alessandro Chiarucci and Beverly Collins stepped in to fill the two vacancies as acting Chief Editors for this year, while Chiarucci is continuing as acting Chief Editor until the Advisory Council has regulated the situation. Several Associate Editors resigned during 2006, due to increased commitments in their jobs and/or the pressure of editing work: Mike Austin, Janet Franklin and Susan Wisser. We thank them for their excellent work over the years. To fill these vacancies, Alicia Acosta, Milan Chytrý, Zuzana Münzbergová and Martin Zobel have agreed to be appointed as Associate Editors. Their places on the Editorial Board have been taken by Richard Busing and Jason Fridley.

Applied Vegetation Science in 2006

In 2006 Applied Vegetation Science published 34 papers on 316 pages. In 2004 and 2005 the number of published papers was 31 and 25 and page numbers were 276 and 218, respectively. In 2006 AVS published a higher number of papers than in 2004 and 2005 and more pages were printed. The corresponding authors of the published papers were from 12 different countries: the USA was the country with the highest number of corresponding authors in 2006 (16) followed by The Netherlands (7), the United Kingdom (2) and Argentina (2). Other corresponding authors were from Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Spain and Switzerland. A total of 130 manuscripts were submitted to AVS during 2006, which means a large increase over the years.

The above cited numbers indicate the growth of AVS. To accommodate the increase in accepted papers, three in stead of two issues will be published in 2007. This demonstrates the growing importance of AVS as a publication medium for applied themes, such as management, monitoring, conservation and restoration of vegetation. The impetus seems to have been the acquiring of an Impact Factor (see below), but also the more frequent publication and greater visibility for the journal increases its service to those IAVS members who work on applied aspects and also confirms the importance of IAVS in the field.

In 2006 AVS maintained an impact on the scientific community, as quantified by its Impact Factor. The 2005 IF of AVS was 1.517, almost the same value as obtained in 2004 (1.571) and almost double the value for 2003, the first year for which an Impact Factor was published). The ranking of AVS amongst comparable journals in 2005 was 49 of 112 (it was 45 of 107 in 2004) in the subject category of Ecology, 52 of 144 (41 of 138 in 2004) in the subject category of Plant Biology and 7 of 36 (3 of 34 in 2004) in the subject category of Forestry. The ranking of Applied Vegetation Science for 2005 was slightly lower than for 2004, but this may be a simple fluctuation.

To fill vacancies and to increase our service to authors, four new Associate Editors were appointed: Alicia Acosta (jointly with JVS), Ingolf Kühn, Aaron Moody and Janet Ohmann. Vacancies in the Editorial Board have been filled by Geoffrey Henebry, Norbert Hölzel and Ralf Ohlemüller.

Alessandro Chiarucci, Acting Chair, on behalf of the Chief Editors



Reports of Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections

DISTURBANCE DYNAMICS IN BOREAL FORESTS

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EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY

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The 15th Workshop was held from 24-27 March 2006 at the Orto Botanico, University of Catania, Sicily, by kind invitation of Professor Salvatore Brullo. There were over 70 participants from 16 countries and it was a particular pleasure to welcome delegates from Croatia, Oman and Egypt, attending for the first time. The first main subject this year was 'Vegetation in Agricultural Landscapes' for which there were 16 papers on weed communities, vernal pools, hedgerows, landscape quality and management. The second main subject was 'Natura 2000' for which there were 7 papers on habitat condition monitoring, favourable conservation status, habitat restoration, classification and mapping methodologies. A more general session on other semi-natural vegetation included papers on dry calcifuge and calcicolous grasslands, mountain meadows, ephemeral wetlands and steppes. In total there were 25 posters on a wide variety of subjects. A special session was dedicated to an update on the SynBioSys software by Stephan Hennekens and Joop Schaminée and to a discussion of the use of Ellenberg values in vegetation science. There was also discussion on the progress of the *Overview of Alliances*, and on making available the syntaxa bibliography and synonymy on the EVS website.

There were two excursions: one to Mt. Etna led by Prof. Emilia Poli Marchese, where snow and the recent eruptions prevented delegates reaching the very summit, and one to Pantalica and the Anapo Valley, led by Riccardo Guarini. There was also opportunity to sample the archaeological, cultural and culinary delights of Catania. Proceedings of the Workshop will be published in the New Series of *Annali di Botanica* and delegates were given deadline details by Dr. Andrea Savoia. Other particular publishing achievements by EVS members this year included the appearance of the *Monitoring Guide for Nature 2000 habitats and species in Greece* by a team led by Panyotis Dimopoulos.

The 16th EVS Workshop will be held in Rome on 22-26 March 2007 when the main subjects will be 'Change in Vegetation' and 'Favourable Conservation Status' with a pre-meeting on software.

LONG-TERM VEGETATION DYNAMICS

Contact person: *Jan Bakker, Groningen, The Netherlands*

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The Working Group Long-term Vegetation Dynamics did not meet the past few years. We announced a meeting for the IAVS meeting in Lisbon, but there was no response. As the topic of the Working Group is close to that of the Working Group Eco-informatics, the members of the Working Group Long-term Vegetation Dynamics will be asked to merge the two Working Groups. A decision will be made at the IAVS meeting in Wales, July 2007.

NOMENCLATURE COMMISSION

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WORKING GROUP ON ECO-INFORMATICS

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The Eco-informatics Working Group will sponsor a symposium at the annual IAVS meeting to be held in New Zealand in February 2007. This symposium has been organized for the working group by Susan Wiser of LandCare. In December 2006, Robert Peet represented IAVS at a meeting about data archives and data sharing held for representatives of professional societies at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara California. Susan Wiser, Nick Spenser, and Bob Peet have organized a meeting to be held 24-27 April, 2007 at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in Durham, NC. The objective of the meeting will be to draft an international exchange standard for vegetation plot data. A broadly international team of approximately 12 persons has been invited. Costs are being covered by a grant obtained by Susan Wiser from the New Zealand government. North American ecology has been lagging significantly behind European ecology in the compilation of plant traits. This past year Robert Peet endorsed on behalf of the Eco-informatics Working Group a research coordination network proposal to the US NSF specifically to develop a trait database for North American taxa. We have recently learned that the proposal will be funded. The initial steering Committee is expected to consist of D. Bunker (Chair), S. Diaz, S. Naeem, M. Schildhauer, and R. Peet.

The Working Group maintains a website as well as an E-mail mailing list to which you can subscribe:

<http://www.bio.unc.edu/faculty/peet/vegdata/>

http://lists.unc.edu/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=vegdata%20



REGIONAL SECTION NORTH AMERICA (UPDATE MAY 2003)



Contact persons: Chair Michael Barbour or Secretary Susan Will-Wolf

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The North American section of the International Association of Vegetation Science coordinates its activities with the Ecological Society of America's (ESA) Vegetation Section, including a combined annual business meeting and now a web site (<http://www.uga.edu/srel/esavegsec>). We also work together to sponsor special symposia at the annual ESA meeting, and we are responsible for judging a number of student competitions at that meeting, including the Ton Damman award for the best student presentation in vegetation science (see <http://www.uga.edu/srel/esavegsec/awards.htm>). The web site includes information about our activities, awards, officers, and other exciting news. The Members Only section contains a membership list and archives of past newsletters and minutes from business meetings.

Here are some highlights from the minutes of the business meeting held in August 2006 at the annual ESA meeting:

1. The current officers of the sections are as follows - IAVS-NA Section Officers: Janet Franklin, Chair; Vice Chair position is vacant and we are recruiting nominees; Susan Will-Wolf, Secretary-Treasurer. ESA Vegetation Section Officers: Scott Franklin, Chair; Mark Fulton, Vice Chair; and Randy Balice, Secretary.
2. Janet Franklin, IAVS-NA Chair, reported on upcoming IAVS meetings and other IAVS and ESA news, and so this may be redundant with information found elsewhere in the IAVS newsletter! The 49th meeting of the IAVS will be held in February 2007 in New Zealand, and the 50th meeting of the IAVS will be held in July 2007 in Wales. The 2008 meeting of the IAVS is planned for South Africa. Regarding the journals, The *Journal of Vegetation Science* now has an ISI impact factor of 2.1 and *Applied Vegetation Science* has a 1.5 impact score. We are proud of the journals and encourage everyone to submit their best vegetation science papers to the IAVS journals! It is now possible to subscribe to the journals and renew IAVS dues on-line, as well as check the journals' impact factors; see <http://www.opuluspress.se!> Encourage your institutional





library to subscribe if it does not already. The next ESA meeting will be held in 2007 in San Jose, California, with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER).

3. Susan Will-Wolf, IAVS-NA Secretary-Treasurer, reposted that she is working with IAVS, and specifically Opulus Press, to obtain an up to date membership list, and sort out the allocation of our funds to our obligations to IAVS (to support journal subscriptions in developing countries), and to our own initiatives.

4. Robert Peet reported on the VegBank project (<http://www.vegbank.org/vegbank/index.jsp>). The VegBank is up and active. It currently contains 20 000 to 30 000 plots. There will be a draft of the international standard for plot data after the New Zealand meeting.

5. No items for inclusion in the ESA Vegetation and IAVS-NA sections' combined Newsletter have been submitted recently. The value of the Newsletter and alternative formats was discussed. One alternative would be to send out E-mail notices, as necessary. The information on the combined ESA Vegetation and IAVS-NA sections website will be updated quarterly and would substitute for a newsletter. The general consensus was to support this alternative.

6. Anyone wishing to submit items of interest to the IAVS-NA membership should contact Susan Will-Wolf (swwolf@wisc.edu) or Janet Franklin (janet@sciences.sdsu.edu).

REGIONAL SECTION SOUTH AFRICA

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REGIONAL SECTION FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS

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From August 7-11, 2006, an initial synthesis meeting of PABITRA (the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Transect) Network was held in the island Republic of Palau. The PABITRA Coordinator for Micronesia, Dr. Harley Manner, with the cooperation of Ms. Tarita Holm, Chairperson of the Palau Natural Resources Council, organized the workshop. In addition to Dr. Manner, two overseas PABITRA core members, Dr. Dieter Mueller-Dombois (Emeritus Professor of Botany and Ecology) and Dr. Curtis Daehler (expert on invasive species), were invited to explain the PABITRA concept under the capacity building and training project funded by APN (the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research CAPaBLE Grant CBA 2006-01NSY-Manner). The meeting comprised several seminars and fieldtrips. A first attempt was made to synthesize existing information of Palauan ecosystems and to define potential PABITRA transects and landscape segments from the central mountain range inland to the coast. The Palau PABITRA group selected the Ngerikiil and Diongradid watersheds as PABITRA study sites for the 2007 Joint Analysis Workshop planned for 28 March-5 April, 2007. The group was asked to review the PABITRA Manual and to begin a consultation process with the local communities about the 2007 workshop and the potential study sites, and to recruit students from PCC (Palau Community College) and interested villagers in an effort to build capacity for ecological biodiversity assessment.

REGIONAL SECTION FOR JAPAN

Contact person: Prof. Kazue Fujiwara, Yokohama, Japan

E-mail: kazue@ynu.ac.jp





IAVS Symposia

49th IAVS symposium, February 2007, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Massey University is situated just outside Palmerston North (75 000 people), a 40-minute flight from Auckland. Buses travel from town to campus regularly, although the distance can be walked in 30 minutes. Massey University, with about 25 000 students, has an attractively planted campus, adjacent to several small patches of native bush. The campus has student hostels, and the town a full range of accommodations from self-contained motels to hotels, B&Bs, and backpackers and camping grounds.

The IAVS meeting will be held 12-16 February 2007. The preliminary excursion will run for a week beforehand, travelling from Auckland to Palmerston North, and visiting kauri forest, thermal areas, volcanic mountains, and lowland beech and podocarp forest. The post-conference excursion will travel from Palmerston North to Nelson, and then around the South Island, finishing in Christchurch after about 15 days. It will visit a range of lowland and alpine sites, in both wet and dry conditions, and cover all southern vegetation types. Mid-conference excursions are planned to dunes, native forest remnants, Kapiti Island nature reserve, and Mt Taranaki. The accompanying-persons' programme includes Te Papa museum in Wellington, Cape Kidnappers' gannet colony, river rafting, and local gardens.

Contact: Dr. Jill Rapson, Ecology, Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand; Phone: 0064 6 356 9099 Ext 7963; Fax: 0064 6 350 5623; E-mail: grapson@massey.ac.nz

50th IAVS symposium, July 2007, Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom

The venue of the 50th IAVS symposium will be the Swansea University in Wales, where the meeting will be held from 23-27 July 2007. The main theme of the symposium is 'Cultural Landscapes – Changing Landscapes'. More information is available on web-site <http://www.iavswales07.org/>

A second circular has been distributed in December 2006. Accommodation will be available on the University campus. The scientific sessions include 'Long-term vegetation dynamics linked to eco-informatics', 'Land-use history of woodlands and the present landscape', 'Modelling metapopulations', 'Ecology of invasive species', 'Effect of climate change on vegetation', 'Plant animal interactions, especially grazing', and 'The co-existence of species in plant communities'.

A pre-symposium excursion to the Burren and other parts of the Irish Republic and a post-symposium excursion to Cornwall are under development.

Expressions of interest should be sent to: Hilary Thomas: hsct2@yahoo.co.uk, with the subject line 'IAVSWales interest'. Abstracts of posters and papers should be submitted to: Alison McDonald: alison.mcdonald@plants.ox.ac.uk with the subject line 'IAVSWales abstract' + your last name.

51th IAVS symposium, September 2008, Stellenbosch, South Africa

In 2008 the IAVS annual symposium will be held in South Africa in September (1 week, including a mid-symposium excursion to Cape Peninsula) or the surrounds of Hermanus. The Organizing Committee under the leadership of Prof. L. Mucina (President), Prof. K.J. Esler (Vice-President) and Prof. V.R. Smith (Vice-President), assisted by an able team of colleagues at large (incl. Profs. G.J.H. Bredenkamp and R. Lubke) is currently busy with preparation of the meetings topic, agenda and pre-symposium and post-symposium excursions (Namaqualand, Capensis, Eastern Cape, Kruger National Park). A website of the meeting is scheduled for launch in January 2007. Until then interested colleagues may contact Prof. L. Mucina at lm3@sun.ac.za



Election of the new Council (2007-2011)

A new IAVS Advisory Council will be elected prior to the Symposium in Wales 2007 and will be installed during the meeting in Swansea. Each IAVS member is asked to select a maximum of 40 persons from the list below. The names of the members of the present Council are in bold; the members of the Executive Committee (including the IAVS Administrator) are underlined.

O Alicia T.R. Acosta (IT)

O Mike P. Austin (NZ)

O Jan P. Bakker (NL)

O Michael G. Barbour (US)

O Renée M. Bekker (NL)

O Erwin Bergmeier (DE)

O Gudrun Bornette (FR)

O Reinhard Bornkamm (DE)

O Elgene O. Box (US)

O George Bredenkamp (ZA)

O Helge Bruelheide (DE)

O Andraž Čarni (SI)

O Alessandro Chiarucci (IT)

O Milan Chytrý (CZ)

O Antoine M. Cleef (NL)

O Beverly S. Collins (US)

O Scott L. Collins (US)

O José-Carlos Costa (PT)

O Manuel Costa (ES)

O Mike B. Dale (AU)

O Fred J.A. Daniëls (DE)

O Guillaume Decocq (FR)

O Ulrich Deil (DE)

O Julie S. Denslow (US)

O Sandra Díaz (AR)

O Martin Diekmann (DE)

O Hartmut Dierschke (DE)

O Klaus Dierßen (DE)

O Panayotis Dimopoulos (GR)

O Zbigniew Dzwonko (PL)

O Ola Engelmark (SE)

O Rasmus Ejrnæs

O Nikolai B. Ermakov (RU)

O Brigitta Erschbamer (AT)

O M. Dalila P. Espirito-Santo (PT)

O Jerzy Fabiszewski (PL)

O Gábor Fekete (HU)

O José-Maria Fernández-Palacios (ES)

O Anton Fischer (DE)

O Janet Franklin (US)

O Jason Fridley (US)

O Kazue Fujiwara (JP)

O Jean-Marie Géhu (FR)

O Deborah E. Goldberg (US)

O Georg Grabherr (AT)

O Andrew Greller (US)

O Sabine Greulich (FR)

O Riccardo Guarino (IT)

O Paul A. Harcombe (US)

O Otto Hegg (CH)

O Tomáš Herben (CZ)

O Martin Hermy (BE)

O Mark O. Hill (GB)

O Renate Hirschfelder (DE)

O Sun-Kee Hong (KR)

O Yoshinobu Hoshino (JP)

O Norman C. Kenkel (CA)

O Jong-Won Kim (KR)

Election of the new Council (2007-2011) (cont.)

Please, fill in the election form and send it, before 31 March 2007, to the IAVS administrator:
Nina Smits, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, NL-6871 VJ Renkum, The Netherlands.

You also may send the list with candidates voted for by E-mail to n.a.c.smits@bio.uu.nl

O Frank A. Klötzli (CH)

O Jan Lepš (CZ)

O Christoph Leuschner (DE)

O Javier J. Loidi (ES)

O Roy Lubke (ZA)

O Rob H. Marrs (UK)

O Alison McDonald

O Akira Miyawaki (JP)

O Mari Moora (EE)

O Ladislav Mucina (ZA)

O Dieter Mueller-Dombois (US)

O Nobukazu Nakagoshi (JP)

O Yukito Nakamura (JP)

O Gia Nakhutsrishvili (GE)

O Zdena Neuhäuslová (CZ)

O Ian R. Noble (AU)

O Rune H. Økland (NO)

O Jari Oksanen (FI)

O Vladimir G. Onipchenko (RU)

O Laszlo Orlóci (CA)

O Mara Pakalne (LV)

O Robin Pakeman (UK)

O M. Palmer (US)

O Begoña Peco Vasquez

O Franco Pedrotti (IT)

O Robert K. Peet (US)

O Jörg Pfadenhauer (DE)

O Sandro Pignatti (IT)

O Valerio de Patta Pillar (BR)

O János Podani (HU)

O Richard Pott (DE)

O Karel Prach (CZ)

O Marcel Rejmánek (US)

O Salvador Rivas-Martínez (ES)

O John S. Rodwell (UK)

O François Romane (FR)

O Irina Safronova (RU)

O Joop H.J. Schaminée (NL)

O Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil (DE)

O Andrej Seliškar (SI)

O Jamuna S. Singh (IN)

O Nina A.C. Smits (NL)

O Ayzik I. Solomeshch (RU)

O Yongchang Song (CN)

O Karel V. (Karle) Sýkora (NL)

O Hilary S.C. Thomas (UK)

O Bela Tóthmérész (HU)

O Milan Valachovič (SK)

O Eddy van der Maarel (NL)

O Marinus J.A. Wegerer (NL)

O Otto Wildi (CH)

O Wolfredo Wildpret de la Torre (ES)

O J. Bastow Wilson (NZ)

O Maria Wojterska (PL)

O Kerry D. Woods (US)

O Song Yongchang (CN)

O Martin Zobel (EE)



Application form for new IAVS members

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Name – including title(s):

Address – including postal code and country:

Tel. – work; otherwise private:

Fax – work; otherwise private:

E-mail:

Website:

Date:

Journal: None

Journal of Vegetation Science (JVS)

Applied Vegetation Science (AVS)

Both journals (JVS + AVS)

Signature:

For those who would like to become a member without subscribing to a journal (*JVS* or *AVS*), the annual membership fee (20 EUR or 20 USD) has to be paid to Account no. 92.15.29.023 of IAVS, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, Renkum, Netherlands, mentioning BIC/Swiftcode SNS BNL 2A, and/or IBANcode NL40 SNSB 0921 5290 23 for bookings from outside The Netherlands. Please check the banking costs! Electronic payment with a Credit Card is now also possible via our website www.iavs.org!

Members who would like to subscribe to a journal do not have to pay the annual membership fee, since membership is included in the journal subscription. Journal subscribers have to contact Solveig Bodare at Opulus Press, Gamla vägen 40, 770 13 Grangärde, Sweden. Tel. +46 240 641250, Fax +46 240 640880, E-mail: admin@opuluspress.se. Electronic payment with a Credit Card is now also possible via the website www.opuluspress.se!

