

# THE IAVS BULLETIN

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

9 2005



The 49th IAVS Symposium will be held in Palmerston North, New Zealand, from 12 to 16 February 2007. The main theme of the meeting will be 'New Zealand: New home; new habitat! new ideas?'

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## From the Secretary General

*Joop H.J. Schaminée*

Dear IAVS Members, Colleagues and Friends,

During the annual meeting in Lisbon, July 2005, several options have been discussed to improve the exchange of information within the IAVS. IAVS Bulletin 8 has recently been sent out too late and offered insufficient information on future IAVS meetings. It was decided to reorganize both the membership administration and the presentation of forthcoming news on the Website. With regard to the administration, Opulus has developed a data base linked to its website which includes entries for each IAVS member with a subscription to *JVS/AVS*. This data base will be expanded to include all members. The idea is that each member with Internet connection visits the IAVS website and makes a connection to the Opulus website. Membership will be checked and, after confirmation, members can then update their data, such as changes in E-mail address. It has also been decided to present regular news on the website more often, though news of upcoming events will also be announced through E-mails from the IAVS list server. In the meantime, a corrected and extended IAVS membership list has been prepared and will be sent to all members. In the future, members with access to the Internet can consult the IAVS Membership List online, where it will be available in the form of a PDF file.

In 2006 there will be no annual meeting, because the '2006 meeting' is being held during Southern Hemisphere summer, in February 2007. This meeting will take place in New Zealand, in Palmerston North. In the same year, the '2007 meeting' will be organized in Swansea, in Wales. This will be the 50th Symposium of the IAVS. So, let's meet in 2007 again, in New Zealand and in Wales.

*Wageningen, December 2005*

### **The International Association for Vegetation Science**

**President:** E.O. Box, Athens, GA

**Vice-Presidents:**

K. Fujiwara (Yokohama, Japan), J. Loidi (Bilbao, Spain), L. Mucina (Stellenbosch, South Africa), J.S. Rodwell (Lancaster, UK), M. Diekmann (Bremen, Germany, Publication Officer)

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**[www.iavs.org](http://www.iavs.org)**

## Honorary Members

The International Association of Vegetation Science has not selected honorary members since the annual meeting in České Budějovice, in 1997. This time – at the annual meeting in Lisbon – proposals were made (at the Council meeting) to add three new names to the list: Hartmut Dierschke, Eddy van der Maarel and Salvador Rivas-Martínez. Considering their great service to the organization, it will be no surprise that it was easy to convince the Council to honour these members. The three laudations that were addressed to the audience during the General Assembly are shown below.

### **Laudatio Hartmut Dierschke** *addressed by Joop Schaminée, Wageningen*

To honour Hartmut Dierschke it would be possible and maybe even appropriate to give two laudations, one dealing with his scientific work on vegetation science and one for his practical work on behalf of various institutes and organizations, one of which is the International Association for Vegetation Science.

It will surprise nobody that the scientific research and output of Hartmut Dierschke, growing up amongst the old masters of phytosociology, Reinhold Tüxen and Heinz Ellenberg, were strongly influenced by them. His work has to be positioned in what can be called the continental European tradition. Grasslands and forests have always drawn his special attention, and the number of papers dealing with these ecosystems is really impressive. Quite a lot of these publications do have a syntaxonomic purpose, but the scope is always much broader, presenting new and original information on the ecology, spatial variation and dynamics of these ecosystems. The *magnum opus* of Hartmut Dierschke is definitely his handbook on vegetation science, published in 1996, entitled *Pflanzensoziologie – Grundlagen und Methoden*.

With regard to the International Association for Vegetation Science, the achievements of Hartmut Dierschke can simply be summarized in one sentence: he has been the heart of the IAVS for many, many years. In his capacity as Secretary General, he has written hundreds of letters and given his support to the organizers of the annual IAVS symposia and excursions for a period of 16 years, from 1983 until 1998. In 1997 he started the series of IAVS Bulletins. He has also been Treasurer of the association during that same period and even somewhat longer, until 2002, and has kept our organization financially sound. Being his successor as Secretary General, it is a great and personal pleasure for me to welcome Hartmut Dierschke as an Honorary Member of the International Association for Vegetation Science.

### **Laudatio Eddy van der Maarel** *addressed by Ladislav Mucina, Stellenbosch*

Professor Eddy van der Maarel (or ‘Eddy’ as he is known to a large family of vegetation scientists, plant ecologists and nature conservationists on six continents) was born in 1934 in Amsterdam. He spent the first part of his career studying and working in The Netherlands – at the universities of Amsterdam, Groningen and Nijmegen, until 1981 when he moved to Uppsala (Sweden) to assume the most prestigious (and definitely the oldest) chair in plant ecology. He returned to his native country after his retirement, where he had already become associated with the University of Groningen once again. His name is connected to a period of great crossing-over in vegetation science. Great minds like Robert Whittaker, Victor Westhoff and Eddy catalysed a great renaissance in vegetation science which brought together various approaches to vegetation on the platform of modern science. The chapter by Westhoff & van der Maarel on the Braun-Blanquet approach in Whittaker’s volume on Ordination and

Classification of Communities and the recent book on Vegetation Ecology edited by Eddy are landmarks of this renaissance.

Building bridges, and mediating and initiating collaboration have always been most typical activities the name of Eddy is associated with. Friendship through and for science, respect for other people and their opinions, his deep interest in other cultures and languages are the most typical features of his personality. Many of us cherish great friendship with Eddy and his wife Marijke (the equally great woman behind the great man).

He devoted much of his life to furthering opportunities of all of us to communicate the results of our work. Eddy's contribution to our science as long-time Editor-in-Chief of *Vegetatio* and then the foundation of the *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science* are legendary. He has been one of the founding members of the very successful Working Group on Data Processing in Phytosociology, later the Working Group for Theoretical Vegetation Science. He also served for more than 20 years as a member of the Advisory Council, and more recently as Vice-President of IAVS. Eddy has been an active member of our Society for 45 years.

It makes us always proud to hear that his work has been met with appreciation and recognition. Eddy is elected member of the prestigious Royal Academy of Sciences of The Netherlands and the Royal Swedish Academy, as well as honorary member of the Royal Botanical Society of The Netherlands and the British Ecological Society. In 2004, Eddy received the knighthood in the order of the Dutch Lion from Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands to recognize his life-time work. The Honorary Membership is the highest recognition our learned Society bestows – and one for Eddy has been long overdue.

#### **Laudatio Salvador Rivas-Martínez** *addressed by Javier Loidi, Bilbao*

Salvador Rivas-Martínez was born in 1935, in Madrid, into a botanist's family: his father, Rivas Goday and his grandfather, Rivas Mateos, were prominent botanists in their time. Under his father's leadership, he made contact with the most important European vegetation scientists of the post-war period, during the 1950s and 1960s, particularly Braun-Blanquet and Tüxen. Other important scientists of that period who also were in contact with Rivas-Martínez were Pinto da Silva, Font Quer and Bolòs. As a researcher, Rivas-Martínez began by studying the vegetation of central and western Spain; his Ph.D. work about the Guadarrama Range is one example of this. From the 1970s on, he extended his interest to the whole Iberian Peninsula and later to the western Mediterranean area.

From the mid-seventies onwards he played an important role in developing the concept of vegetation complexes, called sigma-associations. Another milestone in his work is his intensive study of bioclimatology and biogeography on the basis of vegetation patterns, first in the Iberian Peninsula and later all over the world. In more recent times, since the early 1990s, he has led the vast inventory of the habitat types in Spain, and now he is finishing an overall check-list of the vascular plant communities for Spain and Portugal.

Salvador Rivas-Martínez is an IAVS member since the early times and has participated in many ways in the activities of the organization. He has been a frequent participant in the annual symposia, has been a member of the Advisory Council for several periods, and has helped with the organization of two IAVS symposia: Tenerife in 1993 and Bilbao in 1999. In those years he was co-leader of the IAVS excursions, which took place through Tenerife and peninsular Spain and Portugal, respectively.

## **Minutes of the IAVS Council Meeting in Lisbon on Monday, 25 July 2005.**

Council members present: M.G. Barbour (US), E.O. Box (US), U. Deil (DE), M. Diekmann (DE), H. Dierschke (DE), K. Fujiwara (JP), E. van der Maarel (NL), L. Mucina (ZA), A. Miyawaki (JP), J.H.J. Schaminée (NL) and J.B. Wilson (NZ). The meeting was also attended by N.A.C. Smits (IAVS administrator), M.D. Espírito-Santo (organizing committee present meeting), G.L. Rapson (organizing committee for IAVS meeting 2006 New Zealand, to be hold in February 2007), H.S.C. Thomas (organizing committee for IAVS meeting 2007 in Wales), and J. Delgadillo (proposal IAVS meeting 2009/2010 in Mexico).

### **1. Opening**

The president of the IAVS, Elgene Box, opened the meeting at 20:15.

### **2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting, in Hawaii 2005 (as published in IAVS Bulletin 8), were approved.

#### **2a. Financial Report**

The financial situation of the IAVS during the year 2004 was reported by the treasurer, Joop Schaminée, based on figures delivered by Nina Smits (Wageningen office) and Hartmut Dierschke (Göttingen office). Revenue for 2004 was EUR 5 787.82 , of which EUR 430.22 were from membership fees paid in Göttingen and EUR 5293.07 from membership fees paid in Wageningen. Expenses were EUR 5239.04, divided among 2 x EUR 2495.00 for the office in Wageningen (Nina Smits), and EUR 249.24 for bank and other costs. The balance for 2004 was + EUR 53.83. Because the expenses also included the delayed payment of office costs for Wageningen for 2003, the actual situation is somewhat better. This made the total IAVS balance EUR 28 570.42 euros on 31-12-2004, divided into EUR 6 143.66 in the Global Fund account and EUR 22 426.76 in the savings account. An extra sum of SEK 51 743 (ca. EUR 5 300) will be added to the accounts, representing a percentage of the net profit of Opulus Press over the year 2003, as part of the formal agreement between IAVS and Opulus. The Göttingen account will be closed, because there is no longer any need for its continuation. Hartmut Dierschke will inform everybody paying in Germany by letter.

A discussion was raised by Laco Mucina about possibilities to improve the financial situation of the organization. Van der Maarel promised to gain some information on the possibilities of investments (without risks) by contacting the Dutch Botanical Society. Mucina launched the idea to share possible gains from annual meetings between the local symposium organizers and the IAVS, which money could be used for inviting young people to the next symposia. It was decided not to formalize this idea but to keep it optional, partly because the formal procedures to conduct it could be rather complicated.

At the Council meeting in Hawaii, the financial report for the year 2003 was not discussed in detail, since the information was lost in the E-mail exchange between the office in Wageningen and the organization of the Hawaii meeting. The detailed report will be sent by Nina Smits to all Council members.

## **2b. Report of the Publication Officer**

Martin Diekmann presented his report of the IAVS Publication Officer for the year 2004. The report is concerned with the publication activities of the IAVS, mainly related to the two journals *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*. This report actually covers the years 2003 and 2004. Further details are presented in the annual report of Bastow Wilson on behalf of the IAVS. Both reports are added to these minutes.

Ladislav Mucina asked about the treatment of descriptive and phytosociological papers. He would like to get an idea of the number of such manuscripts submitted and the percentage that are rejected.

## **2c. Reports of Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections.**

During the meeting in Uppsala in 1998, it was decided that Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections should provide an annual report to the Council and that these (short) reports should be published in the IAVS Bulletin. These reports can be found elsewhere in this bulletin (see further under 'Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections') and are also made available on the internet ([www.iavs.org](http://www.iavs.org)).

## **2d. Membership list**

A new IAVS Membership List (November 2004) was presented and made available on paper for all IAVS members. However, it proved that the new list contains a number of mistakes or omissions (for example, names beginning with the letter Z are missing), which makes it unacceptable in its present form. It was decided that an updated, corrected list will be prepared, by Eddy van der Maarel, Nina Smits and Joop Schaminée, and published by Opulus Press to substitute for the present list. This list will be sent to all IAVS members by regular post.

It was discussed how to improve future communication within the IAVS, using modern techniques. Eddy van der Maarel informed the Council that Opulus is preparing a renewed membership administration that easily could be extended to non-journal members. In the near future, this system will also offer the possibility to pay through the Website by credit card, which highly facilitates this part of the membership administration, certainly for many American members.

## **3. Symposium guidelines**

Elgene Box prepared a draft of symposium guidelines (on paper) that may help candidates to organize future annual IAVS meetings. Everyone was asked to read them carefully and to deliver possible comments and additions. The status of this draft was discussed, and it was decided that it be sent to possible new organizers as a helping tool. These guidelines will not be published in the IAVS Bulletin, as they have no formal status.

## **4. New IAVS Honorary Members**

For the first time since 1997, a proposal was made to appoint new IAVS Honorary Members. Three nominees were brought forward: Hartmut Dierschke (by Joop Schaminée), Eddy van der Maarel (by Ladislav Mucina) and Salvador Rivas-Martínez (by Javier Loidi). After a brief discussion, the nominations were formally approved by the Council. It was decided that the new Honorary Members would be presented during the General Assembly and that the laudations would be published in the IAVS Bulletin.

## **5. Election of the next IAVS Council**

Formally, following the statutes, a new IAVS Council should be installed in 2006. Since the number of Council members present in Porto Alegre in 2002 was considered too low to elect an Executive Committee, however, the present Council was not installed until 2003, at the meeting in Naples. For this reason, and since there will be no annual meeting in 2006, it was decided to postpone the election and installation of the new IAVS Council to 2007. Members are asked to bring forward new candidates for the new IAVS Council. The secretary will prepare a provisional list that will be sent to all Council members for approval before the end of 2006. This list will form the basis for a postal ballot that will be organized in the first half of 2007, after which the new Council will be installed and a new Executive Committee elected at the meeting in Wales.

## **6. Activities of the coming years**

As decided before, the IAVS annual meeting of 2006 will be held in Palmerston North, New Zealand, in February 2007. Details were presented by Jill Rapson to the Council members. In the same year, the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will take place in Wales, organized by Hilary Thomas. The organizing committee of the meeting in Wales was hit heavily by the totally unexpected loss of Paddy Coker, one of the main organizers, but nevertheless has decided to go on with the preparations.

Options were also discussed for subsequent annual symposia. In 2008, the annual meeting will take place in South Africa, at Stellenbosch, combined with excursions in other parts of the country. The offer, made by Ladislav Mucina, was formally accepted by the Council. A new proposal was put forward by José Delgado to organize an IAVS meeting in 2009 or 2010 in Mexico, possibly in cooperation with Michael Barbour (California). This plan, too, got great approval. At the moment, there are no offers for Europe in 2009. The offer from Norway has been taken back. Some time ago, Irina Safronova from St. Petersburg offered to organize an IAVS excursion in Russia, but further plans have not appeared.

## **7. Closing**

The meeting was closed by the President at 22:50.

## **Minutes of the General Assembly in Lisbon, on Thursday, 28 July 2005**

1. The President, E.O. Box, opened the Assembly at 17.00. All members had been notified of, and were invited to, the General Assembly through the IAVS Bulletin of December 2004 and through the Third Circular of the Lisbon Symposium. Some 80 members were present, which constituted a quorum for decision making.

2. The assembly opened with obituaries for Paddy Coker and Janusz Falinski, presented by Hillary Thomas and Maria Wojterska respectively. Both scientists have been of great importance to the IAVS and our society is much obliged to them. Their life and work will be commemorated elsewhere in this Bulletin.

3. In contrast to this sad event, three new IAVS Honorary Members were appointed and spoken to. The great achievements of Hartmut Dierschke, Eddy van der Maarel and Salvador Rivas-Martínez were mentioned by subsequently Joop Schaminée, Ladislav Mucina and Xavier Loidi.

4. Information was given on issues discussed during the Council meeting, as reported in the relevant minutes. Extensive information was given about future meetings, including the meetings in 2007 in New Zealand (February) and Wales (July-August). Some options were presented for publishing papers of certain sections of the symposium.

5. Nina Smits reported on the decisions by the jury judging the student posters. The job was difficult because many excellent posters had to be compared. The following posters were awarded. Two second prizes went to Alessandra Fidelis of the Technical University of Munich in Freising (Germany) and to Ligia Carvalho of the University of Madeira in Funchal (Portugal), and the first prize went to Ana Luisa Diogo of the Musea Nacional de Historia e Jardim Botânico in Lisbon (Portugal).

## Report of the IAVS Publication Officer *presented by Martin Diekmann*

### **Subscriptions**

The number of subscribers to *JVS* has been somewhat lower than in 2002 and the years before. The situation was stable during 2003-2004, the only clear change being the decrease in the number of private on-line subscriptions. It is remarkable that, despite the growing importance of the World Wide Web and electronic media, the large majority of subscribers (both private and libraries) still prefer the paper version (> 90 %) or the combined paper + electronic version.

For *AVS*, while the number of library subscriptions was stable during 2003-2004 (but also lower than in 2002 and the years before), the number of private subscriptions has gone up considerably, due to a 25 % increase in the number of printed versions. This increase is most likely an effect of the inclusion of *AVS* in *Current Contents* and the *Science Citation Index* (see below).

#### *Journal of Vegetation Science*

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electronic	P + E	Paper	Electronic	P + E
2003	383	18	6	610	49	9
2004	368	18	17	607	28	13

#### *Applied Vegetation Science*

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electronic	P + E	Paper	Electronic	P + E
2003	85	3	4	254	10	2
2004	86	4	8	319	4	8

### *Impact factors*

The impact factors for *JVS* have been rather stable between 1999 and 2003, ranging from 1,59 to 1,75. The factor for 2004 increased to 1,85, reflecting the journal's position among the top journals in ecology and evolutionary biology. The impact factor for *AVS* has increased sharply, because authors have started to submit more (see below) and thereby probably also better papers to the journal, which in turn is an effect of *AVS* being included in *Current Contents* and the *Science Citation Index* (see also 'report of the chief editors of the journals'):

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<i>JVS</i>	1,75	1,59	1,59	1,73	1,67	1,85
<i>AVS</i>					0,88	1,57

### *Submissions*

Already during 2002 and 2003, the number of manuscripts submitted to *JVS* almost reached 300. In 2004, the number increased to 311, and an annualized figure for 2005 would show > 300 submissions (see also 'report of the chief editors of the journals'). Given the fact that new ecological journals are born every year (meaning that authors have the choice among an increasing number of journals), this is surprising, but it may again reflect the high (if not increasing) popularity of the journal.

The number of manuscripts submitted to *AVS* was stable (and relatively low) until 2004 (80 submissions), but for 2005 the predicted number is much higher (see 'report of the chief editors of the journals'). Again, this most likely is an effect of the inclusion of the journal in *Current Contents* and the *Science Citation Index*. The considerable increase in the impact factor for 2004 compared to previous years will possibly result in an even higher number of submissions in the near future.

#### *Printed papers, rejection rates and publication queue*

The number of papers published in *JVS* has been ca. 90 in most years, and this holds true also for 2003 and 2004. The same stability applies to the number of pages per research paper, which has always ranged from 9 to 10. Given the stable or increasing number of manuscripts submitted to *JVS*, this necessitates an increasing rejection rate, which has been around 60 % in most years but is now closer to 70 %.

The figures for *JVS* are:

Issue	No. of pages	No. of research papers (+ Forum papers and short communications)
14-1 February 2003	140	14
14-2 April 2003	164	15 (+ 1)
14-3 June 2003	160	16 (+ 1)
14-4 August 2003	160	15 (+ 3)
14-5 October 2003	156	16
14-6 December 2003	151	17 (+ 2)
Sum 2003	931	93 (+ 7)
15-1 February 2004	142	17 (+ 1)
15-2 April 2004	152	16
15-3 June 2004	142	17
15-4 August 2004	146	14 (+ 4)
15-5 October 2004	138	14
15-6 December 2004	136	14 (+ 2)
Sum 2004	856	92 (+ 7)

The situation is similar for *AVS*. If the trend of increasing submissions to the journal continues, the rejection rate (which has been similar to that of *JVS*) will also have to increase in the near future.

The journals *JVS* and *AVS* are published relatively quickly, as measured from the time of manuscript submission to first decision and the general manuscript processing time, but recently also the time from acceptance to publication. In 2004 several issues were published ahead of schedule. As a result of higher rejection rates and the fast production and distribution of the journals, the publication queue is very short at the moment. The rejection rates should, of course, not be so high that forthcoming issues cannot be filled in time, but a short manuscript handling time and publication queue is an important point when it comes to attracting authors to submit papers to *JVS* and *AVS*. Many other ecological journals have much longer processing times.

#### *Appearance of JVS and AVS*

While the scope, contents and quality of the journals have not changed, the outer appearance has: since the first issue of 2004 both *JVS* and *AVS* have a cover photograph related to one of the research papers inside, replacing the old drawings which have been part of *JVS* and *AVS* since the start of the journals. Both IAVS journals have thus followed the way of many other ecological journals in the past years – it has perhaps made the journals less unique, but possibly also more attractive to the eye.

#### *Editors and Editorial board*

The current status of the chief editors, associate editors and editorial board is treated in detail in the ‘report of the chief editors of the journals’ and the newsletters sent by the chairperson Bastow Wilson. While the same four chief editors (J.P. Bakker, S. Díaz, P.S. White, J.B. Wilson) have served both journals for the past two years, there have been several changes among the associate editors and in the editorial board. The appointment of new associate editors by the chief editors is guided by the attempt to involve people who are dedicated to the journals and also have expertise covering the wide range of subjects falling into the scope of the journals.

### *Visibility of the journals*

Both *JVS* and *AVS* are included in the BioOne aggregation since 2002. This has improved the visibility of the two journals considerably, and several papers have been among the top ten downloaded from all the journals integrated in BioOne (see 'report of the chief editors of the journals'). Unlike 2003, when the result was negative, there has been considerable income to OPULUS in 2004 by revenues from BioOne.

IAVS and OPULUS have signed an agreement with the JSTOR organisation, meaning that all papers from *JVS* and *AVS* (but with a five-year moving window, i.e. currently papers from all issues since 2000) will be available as PDF files (that can be printed and downloaded) within the JSTOR data-base through libraries subscribing to the JSTOR package. The two journals will be on line in JSTOR soon, which will probably result in a slight decrease in the order of older issues or separate prints from OPULUS but will at the same time increase the visibility and attractiveness of the journals, the more so since, in JSTOR, *JVS* and *AVS* are in the company of some of the highest-ranked ecological journals.

The visibility of the journals has also increased as a result of the new OPULUS website, which is more advanced, modern and user-friendly than the previous one. This is reflected in a considerable increase in the number of visitors to the homepage.

### *IAVS Bulletins*

The IAVS Bulletin 8 was distributed together with *JVS* issue 2005-2. This newsletter mainly included minutes from the Council meeting in Naples in 2003, minutes of the Council meeting in Hawaii in 2004, minutes of the IAVS General assembly in Hawaii, and information on working groups and forthcoming IAVS symposia.

### *On the relation between IAVS and OPULUS*

During the Naples meeting, IAVS and OPULUS signed a new agreement on the publication, distribution and sales of the two journals *JVS* and *AVS*. The new agreement covers the years 2004 to 2007 and the volumes 15 to 19 (*JVS*) and 7 to 10 (*AVS*).

From 2004 on, there are new prices to the journals: *JVS* (private subscriptions): EUR 110; *JVS* (library subscriptions): EUR 440; *AVS* (private subscriptions): EUR 60; *AVS* (library subscriptions): EUR 160; *JVS* + *AVS* (private subscriptions): EUR 140.

### *Financial Report*

As follows from the figures presented below, there was a positive balance for 2003, but according to the agreement between IAVS and Opulus Press the Publishers' claim of a 5% commission on the sales of the years 2001 and 2002, years with a negative balance, are added to the costs for 2003. Of the resulting net profit, 1/3 (SEK 24 824) goes to the IAVS itself and 1/3 to the Global Fund, to which donations up to SEK 2095 are added (sum SEK 26 919). The balance for 2004 is negative again, so there is no profit share for either the Global Fund or IAVS.

<i>Total revenues*</i>	SEK 2.227.315	SEK 2.142.683
<i>Costs</i>		
Production and postage <i>JVS</i> and <i>AVS</i>	- 615.545	- 663.032
Salaries and expenses	- 859.044	- 1.032.929
Other costs	- 540.530	- 485.876
Total	- 2.015.119	- 2.181.837
Balance	+ 212.960	- 39.154
Debet balance claims 2001, 2002	- 138.488	
Net profit	+ 74.472	

\*Including net royalty fees from EBSCO and BioOne.

**Report by the Chair of the Editors of the  
*Journal of Vegetation Science and Applied Vegetation Science*  
presented by J. Bastow Wilson**

The Chief Editors continue to make every effort to constantly improve the status of the *Journal of Vegetation Science and Applied Vegetation Science*.

*Progress*

Those present and involved with the journals attended a meeting during the IAVS Symposium in Hawai'i in July 2004. We covered many aspects of journal efficiency and standing. These were all subsequently discussed by the four Chief Editors and our two Consultant Editors, and changes were made to our procedures. This took up to the end of 2004. There were many informal discussions in Hawai'i with IAVS members commenting on journal matters. This was also an opportunity for the editors to make contact with members who might be willing and able to be involved with the journals in the future, indeed two of the three new appointments to Editorial Boards in 2005 were a direct result of contact made at that Symposium. However, we also look more broadly, hoping to involve others with the journals.

A major issue for us is the Impact Factors of the two journals. Many authors consider Impact Factors before choosing a journal to which to submit their best mss., in fact any ms. Whether we approve of Impact Factors or not, they are now vital for the health of a journal. Our primary obligation to IAVS is to avoid a downward spiral of a declining Impact Factor, declining quality of submissions, declining willingness to serve the journals, and declining subscriptions (with impacts on IAVS membership). We decided in Hawai'i to send to submitting authors PDFs of recent *JVS/AVS* papers, as an effective but tactful way of encouraging citations (this takes appreciable time at Opulus, and we are grateful to them for offering to help us in this). We do this in order to make the authors aware that those articles exist, and to point out that *JVS/AVS* readers may be interested in knowing how one article relates to others previously published in the journals. However, it is up to the author to decide whether citation of those papers is appropriate. We know that, even if the Impact Factor is important, many authors are offended by the heavy-handed approach used by some journals.

Since 2001 we have given Editors' Awards for each journal, to advertise the more noteworthy papers and to indicate the type of paper we are especially keen to receive, and this helps the Impact Factor. The many ways in which we try to improve the standard of the journal have resulted in an increase in *JVS*'s Impact Factor from 1.67 as published last year to a score of 1.85 now, and also improved our ranking amongst ecological/evolutionary journals. We have started to give certificates to recipients of the Awards, and present and previous recipients will be listed on the web site. Any suggestions from IAVS members for more tangible rewards would be welcome.

*Applied Vegetation Science* is still in the process of establishing its reputation. Because of lags in the ISI system, its first impact factor was not published until the end of last year. That was only 0.88, but the one just published has increased to 1.57, taking it from 73rd rank amongst ecological/evolutionary journals up to 45th. For comparison, *Plant Ecology* (Kluwer's version of *Vegetatio*) scored 1.28, even though it has been going for much longer than *AVS*. We were finding some authors very reluctant to submit to *AVS* because until a year ago it had no published Impact Factor, but its having one, and the increase to 1.57, should help us considerably. The rate of mss. submissions to *AVS* has been higher in the first half of 2005, and this may well be due to our having an Impact Factor.

Some of the other 16 issues from the Hawai'i meeting that we discussed were ways to speed the editorial and publication process, and starting a data base to help editors choose referees. We are very grateful to Opulus Press for the new and very attractive photographic covers for both journals. The photos are chosen from pictures submitted by authors, thus encouraging their participation in the journal. We have been delighted by the response: we always receive far more photos than the one we need for an issue. We have overcome a few initial quality problems that bothered some people, and we have an

efficient system by which the Chief Editors can choose the cover photo from among those submitted.

#### *Submissions*

Submissions to *JVS* are roughly constant: 287 in 2003, 311 in 2004 and 324 (annualized) in 2005. There is an upward trend, but we receive many very poor mss., or ones quite irrelevant to our scope, so it is the number of quality mss. submitted to which we pay close attention. I am a little worried about geographic spread of mss.: few North American vegetation scientists send us their best work. (And although we have North American editors and members of the Editorial Board, North Americans whom we have invited to be Associate Editors or Editorial Board members have frequently declined.)

We have some Special Features, but we find there is a danger of acceptance standards being lower and of the Feature being very behind schedule, so we look carefully at all proposals. However, we are looking forward to a Special Feature in *JVS* on lichen ecology, which will not only contain some fascinating papers, but also show that we are open to the whole range of vegetation science. Submissions to *AVS* fluctuate. That is partly because Special Features make up a larger proportion of the papers, but the Impact Factor probably helped this year. Again, we are concerned more with quality than with number. We have two Special Features in process for *AVS* that promise to be excellent: one on fen ecology and restoration and one on long-leaf pine ecology, management and community conservation.

#### *Speed of response*

We try very hard to give a fast response to authors. The average time of response from submission to first decision in the past couple of years is 7.4 weeks. This is much better than some journals manage. However, I know that some mss. wait for much longer than this, which remains a considerable concern.

About 20 % of submitted mss. are either way beyond our scope, or clearly never going to be accepted, almost always because their interest is entirely local and they do not (and usually cannot) address any general issues. I can often reject these within 24 hours. A further 10% seem to me in the same category, but I seek a second opinion from another editor. The fast turnaround for such mss. relieves the load on our editors, and surprisingly often we receive thanks that, even though the decision has been negative, at least it has been very fast. Sometimes, these authors ask for some more explanation/guidance, and I always give this as fully as I can.

If the manuscript is phytosociological, I pass it on to an appropriate editor automatically. I do this partly because this is not my area of expertise, and partly because I know this is a topic of interest to many IAVS members. I also pass on automatically mss. examining plant spatial distributions using Ripley's *K* and the like, simply because I do not feel qualified to judge (often the more specialist editor is able to make a quick decision).

We do sometimes receive mss. that appear to be of a good standard, but deal with only one species and that without any implications for the whole community. We feel that as IAVS journals we have to restrict ourselves to vegetation, i.e. to the plant community level, and not expand to become a general plant ecology journal. We therefore have to tell the author that s/he should approach another journal. Our queue of accepted papers is at present rather short. This is good in that the time from acceptance to publication is short. Authors appreciate this, and potential authors look for short publication times too. On the other hand, we worry about issues not being ready in time because of a shortage of accepted papers. There is a fine balance here, and sometimes we have been on one side of the line, sometimes on the other. In addition to trying to make the journals more attractive as outlets for potential authors, we are advising our editors to be slightly less strict about accepting papers in the interim until the queue is back to the desired length (too long a queue will lead to a delay in publication).

#### *Editors*

We now have 18 Associate Editors for *JVS* and 7 for *AVS*, though we do allow some flexibility between journals. The range of editors covers the range of expertise that we need for the manuscripts that we receive, indeed for the scope of the journals. This ensures that articles from all fields of vegetation science – ecosystems, interactions with herbivores, community ecology, phytosociology, large-scale

mapping whether by remote sensing or by traditional sampling, methods for vegetation analysis, field experimentation, experiments in controlled conditions, global change ecology, etc. – are given a fair and thorough treatment at *JVS*. We have a comparable range of editors for *AVS*.

Begoña Peco joined as a *JVS* Associate Editor this year, and Lauchlan Fraser, Robin Pakeman and Susan Walker as *AVS* Associate Editors. The four Chief Editors spend a considerable amount of time deciding whom we should approach. We appoint members of the Editorial Board (who act as referees) not only for their expertise and maturity of judgement but also for their potential as possible Associate Editors in the future. We made three appointments to the Board this year.

There is a Newsletter for all those involved with the editorial process, to inform and encourage them, and to make them feel members of the team. Issues are always well received.

#### *Balance in the journals*

It is only natural that for a particular reader, and for a particular IAVS member, some of the papers in any journal issue will be of more interest than most of the others. This leads to the common perception that the journal publishes many uninteresting papers and neglects the reader's area of specialisation. (However, and asking around which papers are interesting, one gets radically divergent views from different readers.) All but the narrowest journals have this problem.

Whilst we can never solve this, we are doing three things to make the broad scope of *JVS* and *AVS* clear. First, we are attempting to maintain balance in content by maintaining a board of editors that spans the field, actively seeking editors to fill in perceived gaps. This advertises to authors that there is an editor sympathetic to the author's field, and also assures informed coverage.

Second, we do invite well-established authors in under-represented fields within the scope of IAVS to submit papers. Third, we try to enforce an editorial policy that papers are written so that the significance of the work as articulated in the abstract and introduction are clear to the general reader and not just to a specialist. We introduced a new abstract format last year to facilitate this, ensuring that the author made clear to the reader the purpose of the work and what its main outcome was. The new format also enables the reader to quickly find information such as the location of the work, and the methods used, and it ensures that the abstract includes that information.

#### *The standing of the journals*

Our main aim is to continue to increase the reputation of *JVS* and *AVS* amongst both readers and potential submitters. Although the Impact Factor is important, perhaps more important than we would wish, we keep the image of the journals constantly in mind. Although the pictures for the cover are chosen partly for their attractiveness, we also choose ones that will tell a story, and reinforce the message of the paper with which they are associated. We chose the cover for 15 (3), a pot competition experiment, partly to emphasise our interest in publishing experimental approaches to vegetation science, which tend to be under-represented in the mss. submitted; we chose the cover for 15 (5) because it fitted an environmental model to a phytosociological classification; we chose the cover for 15 (6) to emphasise our interest in mapping; and we chose the cover of 16 (1) because it described regeneration processes in Mediterranean forests, with implications for management.

We can no longer take reader loyalty for granted. There has been a broad trend over the last decade for at least young scientists to read articles in more journals, but fewer articles in any one. This will include the younger members of IAVS, whose attention we need to capture. The change reflects a transition from discovery by browsing to discovery through digital databases (e.g. Science Citation Index, Google Scholar). We have to maintain journal loyalty in this new era.

From the very high Impact Factors of journals such as *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* and *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, we know that readers do browse journals from which they get news about their field. We would like to institute a section at the beginning of the journals with hot and exciting ideas, summarising what is new in the field, like the articles at the beginning of *Nature*.

However, we are aware there are some differences between *Nature* and *JVS/AVS*, and we are still considering about this.

We have been very concerned to boost the Forum sections of our journals, and Sandra Díaz as Forum Editor has spent a lot of time soliciting contributions and encouraging exchanges between several authors since these tend to have a high profile.

We have instituted an Invited Perspectives category, asking Sandra Díaz to invite well-respected plant ecologists to write briefly on whatever topic they wish. We hope these perspectives will attract new readers to our journals. It has been surprisingly difficult to follow an invitation through to a published perspective, but perspectives from Phil Grime, Christian Körner and Paul Keddy have been published, and one by William Bond is in press. The Grime and Körner perspectives have already contributed to raising our visibility. We are now wondering how to use such initiatives for the specific purpose of increasing the number of browsing visitors to the journals.

Our visibility is helped by our membership of the JStor (due to be online soon) and BioOne electronic databases. In the latter, our papers have been frequently appearing in the top ten of papers downloaded from all their journals. One month, three *AVS* papers were in the top ten simultaneously, and last time I looked at BioOne a *JVS* paper was at number three. Each time a new issue of *JVS* or *AVS* is due to be published, Opulus press ask me which of the papers in it should be submitted to BioOne for consideration as one of the papers featured on their home page that month.

Of course there is still electronic access to the journals through the Opulus web page, and we managed to persuade Opulus Press to make access to some issues free, as samplers of the journals.

#### *Conclusion*

There is ever-increasing competition, with new journals and with existing ones also trying to improve their status, but all the indications are that we are making progress. We try to make progress without betraying what we think are basic principles of academic and editorial integrity. However, it will be clear from the above that we are far from complacent on some issues.

#### *Acknowledgements*

We thank all those involved in the editorial process. We must especially thank Majvor Axelsson who is our contact at Opulus Press and who continues the efficient and friendly service we have always received from Opulus. We are very grateful to Bob Peet for his considerable work in encouraging and facilitating our membership of JStor and BioOne, and for the benefit of his expertise in this field. To be frank, at first we were all sceptical when he told us how important JStor and BioOne would become, but he was right and we were wrong. We thank also Eddy van der Maarel who puts in many unpaid hours for the journals, and is still very committed to their success.

## **Reports of Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections**

### **DISTURBANCE DYNAMICS IN BOREAL FORESTS**

*Contact person: Ola Engelmark, Umeå, Sweden*

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### **EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY**

*Contact person: John Rodwell, Lancaster, United Kingdom*

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The European Vegetation Survey held its 14th Workshop at the Orto Botanico in Rome on 11-14 March 2005. Over 35 delegates attended from more than 20 countries and the Working Group was especially pleased this year to welcome participants from Turkey, Albania and Luxembourg. On a more sombre note, the meeting remembered with affection and gratitude the life of Jonas Lawesson who had died since the previous workshop.

The first main subject this year was 'Dwarf-shrub vegetation' with 17 papers and posters on vegetation types of the Mediterranean, Temperate and Boreal zones. The other main subject was 'Vegetation mapping, modelling & monitoring' on which there were 15 papers and posters. In addition, there was a demonstration of the SynBioSys software by Joop Schaminée and Stephan Hennekens and the Workshop was preceded by a well-attended short course on JUICE software by Milan Chytrý and Lubos Tichý. There was a very enjoyable excursion to the town of Acquasparta and the palazzo of Federico Cesi, the Italian scientist who first coined the term 'biodiversity' and who founded the Accademia dei Lincei 400 years ago. The Workshop also incorporated a visit to the Villa Farnesina in Trastevere to see the depictions of biodiversity in the frescoes by Rafael and his school.

This year has also seen the appearance of the proceedings of the 13th EVS Workshop in Ioannina, Greece as a special edition of *Botanika Chronika* edited by Panyotis Dimopolous. The delayed papers from the 9th Workshop on Erice, Sicily in 2000 are due to be published shortly in *Annali di Botanica*. Various EVS members also participated in the IAVS Symposium in Hawaii in July 2004 and in the European Vegetation Conference in Galway, western Ireland in July 2005.

The 15th EVS Workshop will be held in Catania on 24-27 March 2006 when the subjects will be 'Grasslands in the Agricultural Landscape' and 'Natura 2000'. Plans are already in outline for the 16th Workshop in Italy in 2007 and the 17th Workshop in May 2008 in Brno.

### **LONG-TERM VEGETATION DYNAMICS**

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*E-mail j.p.bakker@biol.rug.nl*

### **NOMENCLATURE COMMISSION**

*Contact person: JeanPaul Theurillat, Champex, Switzerland*

*E-mail jean-paul.theurillat@bioveg.unige.ch*

#### **WORKING GROUP ON ECO-INFORMATICS**

*Contact person: Robert K. Peet, Chapel Hill, NC, USA*

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Numerous research institutions and national agencies have established databanks for species composition data that serve a multitude of purposes ranging from purely scientific to applications in nature conservation and landscape planning. Simultaneously, massive amounts of spatially explicit data on site attributes (e.g. climate, soils, topography) have become available and comprehensive data on specific taxa (e.g. distribution, phylogeny, life-history traits, functional attributes) are becoming available. This emerging availability of large quantities of species co-occurrence, site attribute, and taxon attribute data is transforming the study of ecological communities. The IAVS Working Group for Eco-informatics was formed to facilitate access to, and analysis of, such data. In particular, we wish to (1) establish standards for data exchange to facilitate data sharing; (2) provide tools for data identification, access, integration, storage, and analysis; (3) facilitate communication among scientists studying community ecology through exploration of multiple large databases. We invite vegetation scientists from around the world to join us in this enterprise.

We currently are focused on development of an XML schema and data exchange standard for plot data. In March 2005 we held a short discussion at the European Eco-informatics meeting in Halle. At that meeting Bob Peet (representing the *VegBank.org*), Stephan Hennekens (representing *TurboVeg*), and Rudi May and Martin Kleinkamp (representing *VegetWeb*) agreed to collaborate toward this end. Bob is attempting to find funding for this effort through the US National Science Foundation, and Susan Wiser is looking for funding through the New Zealand government. We will let the Working Group members know when and if we have any progress to report.

Our Working Group plans to sponsor a session on a topic in eco-informatics at the February 2007 IAVS meeting in New Zealand. Please send your suggestions for content to Bob Peet or Susan Wiser ([WiserS@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:WiserS@landcareresearch.co.nz)).

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

#### **Regional Section North America (update May 2003)**

*Contact persons: Chair Michael Barbour and Secretary Susan Will-Wolf*

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*Homepage <http://labdsv.nr.usu.edu/iavs-na>*

#### **Regional Section South Africa (update 2 June 2003)**

*Contact person ad interim: Prof. Laco Mucina, Pretoria, South Africa*

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#### **Regional Section for Pacific Islands**

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Following the PABITRA (the Pacific-Asia Biodiversity Transect Network) Session held at the 47<sup>th</sup> IAVS Symposium in Hawai'i, two major PABITRA publications appeared in 2005: (1) A PABITRA feature was published in the Journal *Pacific Science* Vol. 59, 2. The issue includes 13 papers presented by

PABITRA members from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, and Hawai'i, and (2) The methods book *Biodiversity assessment in tropical pacific islands: a manual for interactive ecology and management* was completed. This book was published as an electronic version. It is available free of charge on the PABITRA website under [www.botany.hawaii.edu/pabitra](http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/pabitra)

In March 2005, members of PABITRA were invited to Okinawa to contribute to a Symposium on *Systematic Biodiversity Assessment on Island Ecosystems and Coral Reefs*, a new Center of Excellence Program at Ryukyus University under the direction of Professor Makoto Tsuchya.

At the 48th IAVS Symposium in Lisbon, in July 2005, a keynote address was presented on *Biodiversity limitations and landscape change: a marginal site syndrome in the Hawaiian Islands*. The results were the outcome of Long-Term Ecological Research, a special objective of PABITRA.

End November 2005, a PABITRA workshop was held in Fiji to develop a permanent plot and transect system for two of the seven PABITRA Gateway Transect sites, Sovi and Mabo. Sovi contains still large segments of intact primary submontane tropical rainforest and Mabo is a cloud forest terrain next to Mount Tomaniivi (1324m), the highest mountain on Viti Levu, Fiji's main Island. The Sovi area is considered for designation as a World Natural Heritage site.

A new PABITRA proposal was developed in 2005 for the Palau (or Belau) Islands, the most western archipelago of Micronesia. A message was received in November from APN (the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research) that the proposal was selected in the first review process and that the Palau proposal will likely be funded in March 2006.

#### **Regional Section for Japan**

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## **IAVS Symposia**

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

**Main theme: 'New Zealand: New home; new habitat! new ideas?'**

**<http://www.IAVS2007.massey.ac.nz>**

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; Tel. +64 63569099 ext. 7963; Fax +64 63505623; E-mail: [grapson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:grapson@massey.ac.nz)

### **50th IAVS symposium, July 2007 at the University of Wales, Swansea**

Details will be presented later on the IAVS Website!

## Obituaries

**Prof. Dr. Janusz Faliński (1934 - 2004)**

*addressed by Maria Wojterska*

Janusz Bogdan Faliński was born on 28 October 1934 in Wolsztyn and died on 11 November 2004, shortly after his 70th birthday. He studied biology at the University of Łódź, but all his scientific career was connected with Warsaw University, particularly with its Geobotanical Station in the famous Białywiewieża Primeval Forest, which he developed to an scientific institution of international importance.

The scope of his scientific activities was very broad. To mention only the most important fields of interest we may start with the synanthropization of the plant cover. He presented a theoretical background, including an approach towards classification of vegetation according to the role of man in its formation, described stages of neophyte encroachment into plant communities, and created a working group for studies on synanthropization, which published several volumes on this topic. His habilitation degree was obtained on a study of problems of anthropogenic transformation of the vegetation of the Białywiewieża Primeval Forest.

As second field of interest in Faliński's work is the cartography of vegetation. He was one of the members of the Scientific Committee of the Map of Potential Natural Vegetation of Poland and published a fundamental paper on the methodical basis of this project. His expertise in the field of geobotanical cartography was shown in a comprehensive three-volume textbook. His death prevented the completion of a second edition of this book. He was also the main organizer of the IAVS Symposium in Warsaw in 1990, which dealt with problems of cartography of vegetation.

The third and most important field of study was vegetation dynamics. He designed a series of different studies and experiments on permanent plots concerning succession, regeneration and phenology. Phenological data in the Białywiewieża forest have been collected in five-day intervals for over 40 years. The results of his dynamical studies were published in his fundamental work on 'Vegetation dynamics in lowland primeval forests' published by Kluwer. One of his last publications summarizes his studies on post-fire vegetation regeneration.

Professor Faliński was an inexhaustible source of ideas but he also had a great ability to gather people and to organize working groups in which these ideas were discussed and subsequent studies fulfilled. One of the working groups I have already mentioned; another, the so-called CRYPTO, joined specialists for all cryptogamous plants and fungi, for studies on the diversity of these group of organisms in the primeval forest.

He cared especially for young geobotanists, and organized for them seminars and summer schools. Participants of his seminars still meet and develop common projects.

Under Faliński's leadership the Białywiewieża Geobotanical Station has attracted many scientists from different countries. He developed especially close links with Prof. Dr. Franco Pedrotti of the University of Camerino. He was awarded the degree of doctor honoris causa at this university.

Professor Faliński was Editor-in-Chief of the periodical *Phytocoenosis* and of a series of geobotanical textbooks. He himself wrote a book on the methods of studies on permanent plots.

Janusz Faliński was a very accurate, hard working and most eminent geobotanist, while he also appreciated good literature and was a great fan of the theatre.

**Dr. Patrick David [Paddy] Coker (1939-2005)**

*addressed by Hilary S.C. Thomas*

Paddy Coker, who died suddenly on 23 June 2005, aged 66, will be remembered with affection and respect by many generations of students and colleagues. He was an excellent teacher, renowned for his interest in environmental education and conservation as well as for his research and scholarship.

He began his career as a science teacher at Aylesford House School before being appointed to King's College, the University of London, becoming the warden at their field centre at Rogate, and later working at the University of Greenwich and at London University's LSE and Birkbeck College. He was a Fellow of the Institute for Ecological and Environmental Management, member of the Institute of British Geographers, the British Ecological Society, the Botanical Society of the British Isles, and the British Bryological Society, serving as committee and Council member respectively on the last two for considerable periods. His scholarly activities included valuable work on fragile environments in Scotland and in Scandinavia, work with the Centre Internationale et Régionale de Phytosociologie (Bailleuil, France) and, with the British Bryological Society, work on bryophyte conservation. This led to increased statutory protection for some of the rarer and more biogeographically interesting species.

As an external examiner, from senior school public examinations, through undergraduate, masters and PhD degrees to university inspections, he became renowned for his ability to combine scientific rigour and academic integrity with encouragement for those beginning their careers. His insistence upon meeting the students of the establishments and degree courses that he was assessing gave him a 'street credibility' that he used to enable good teaching to be recognised and supported wherever possible. He was also very successful in gaining support for his research students from a variety of funds from commercial, academic and private sources.

Paddy was also an IT and statistical expert, supplying customised machines and software packages for colleagues and using this skill to fund much of his own research. This expertise reached a wider audience in his co-authorship, with Martin Kent, of the classic text '*Vegetation Description and Analysis*'. Over the course of his career, he published almost 70 papers, on topics ranging from biogeography to computing, and four books.

Paddy Coker was an enthusiastic supporter of the IAVS – especially in its ability to facilitate through its symposia both formal and informal scientific discourse among a wide range of delegates. This was, he felt, the ideal way for knowledge to be tested and shared internationally, for understanding to move forward and for new agendas to be set.

He was happy to assist anyone with a genuine interest in vegetation science, proof-reading papers for those for whom English was not their first language and providing rich field experiences for his graduate students, many of whom in later years were mature, part-time students. His ability to encourage and inspire these learners, often already influential in their own careers, has done much to strengthen conservation in southern Britain and beyond. His address was in 'Darwin Close', always a source of merriment. Family, friends and colleagues will plant small woodland nearby in his memory and close to Darwin's own home. Paddy Coker will be sorely missed.

**Dr. Emilie Balátová-Tuláčková (1926-2005)**

*addressed by Milan Chytrů*

Emilie Balátová-Tuláčková, Czech botanist and vegetation scientist, died on 21 May 2005.

Emilka, as we called her, was born on 1 November 1926 in a Czech family in Zagreb, Croatia, where her father was a professor of music. In 1937 the family moved to Brno (then in Czechoslovakia, now in the Czech Republic), where she spent the rest of her life. She studied biology and chemistry at Masaryk University, Brno. Her thesis, focused on a local flora survey, was supervised by Professor Josef Podpěra, a prominent phytogeographer and bryologist. After graduation in 1951, she shortly worked as a secondary school teacher and later on as a researcher in the Research Institute of Fodder Production in Brno. From 1956 she was at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Brno, where she worked until her retirement in 1985. Despite severe health problems in her later years, Emilka continued with field vegetation sampling, attending scientific meetings, reading new literature and writing papers based on her extensive field data. She was an active member of IAVS, Czechoslovak (later Czech) Botanical Society and some other scientific and nature history societies.

Few vegetation scientists are so tightly linked with a particular ecosystem as Emilka was with meadows. She started her scientific career with synecological studies on continental wet meadows in Czech and Slovak lowlands, with a focus on the relationships between vegetation and water table dynamics. Later on she devoted herself to an extensive sampling of wet meadow vegetation in the former Czechoslovakia for the purposes of phytosociological classification. Due to her excellent floristic knowledge, her relevés were always of high quality. The Czech National Phytosociological Database currently contains more than 2400 electronic relevés made by her, the highest number contributed by a single person. She also did an extensive sampling of meadows in Slovakia, Austria, northern Italy and Croatia. She used her data and deep knowledge of meadow ecology for creating a syntaxonomical system of meadow vegetation, which was accepted in the standard lists or overviews of syntaxa of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria, where she was invited as a co-author responsible for the treatment of meadow vegetation. The results of her phytosociological field studies are published in many papers, mainly written in German, on local diversity of meadows in selected areas of Central Europe, always with a very careful documentation by relevés. Besides the Central European meadows, she also devoted much research effort to phytosociology of grasslands in Cuba, where she worked in the early 1980s. A partial bibliography of her publications can be found in *Preslia* 58: 279-284 (1986) and 68: 375-378 (1996).

Always very kind and modest, but enthusiastic and devoted, Emilka was a popular person both at symposia and among natural history colleagues in Brno. Through her friendly, outgoing personality she easily became friends with young botanists, even at a higher age. We were always welcome in her small flat for consultations, to look for hardly accessible literature in her library, or just for some chatting. In this way she was very influential. She survived her husband, ornithologist František Balát, by 13 years. Emilka left many friends who will greatly miss her.

## **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 during several years had to be removed from the list, it was decided to publish a Membership List 2005 as soon as possible.

Please check your name and address in the copy of the Membership List 2004. It is especially helpful to check whether your E-mail address was included, and presented correctly.

Please send 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](mailto:n.a.c.smits@bio.uu.nl)

## **Payment check**

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