

2005 IAVS Honorary Membership Hartmut Dierschke

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 und 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.