

## **NEWSS Report to the WSSA Board**

January 23, 2008

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### **I. 2007 Collegiate Contest**

The 2007 NEWSS Weed Contest was held in Blacksburg, VA at Virginia Tech's main campus on July 31, 2007. A total of 45 graduate and undergraduate students participated from six universities. The universities represented at the contest were North Carolina State, Virginia Tech, Penn State, Cornell, Guelph, and Nova Scotia Ag College. Students participated in four contest segments including weed identification, unknown herbicide identification, sprayer calibration, and farmer problems. Shawn Askew of Virginia Tech organized the overall contest event while most of the planning, purchasing, preparing, and worrying was done by his assistant, Julie Keating. Numerous volunteers helped with the contest as judges, farmers, scorekeepers, etc.

The nine stakeholder problem scenarios included:

- Invasive weed identification and management for a newly-acquired property
- A brush pile burn last year deactivates pre-emergence herbicide in corn
- Insect repellent leaves green footprints on a golf putting green
- Contaminated hay mulch kills tomatoes
- A 10X rate of crop oil makes Cobra "burn" soybeans
- Reclaiming roses totally consumed by weeds
- Sonar in irrigation water creates white rings on golf fairway
- Arsenal prevents fescue establishment on a roadside
- "Your glyphosate killed my goat."

Full details and images from the contest can be obtained by accessing the August 2007 NEWSS newsletter at: <http://www.newss.org/index.php>. The 2008 contest will take place at the University of Delaware. The contest date still needs to be confirmed.

### **II. 2008 Annual Meeting**

The NEWSS held its 2008 annual meeting at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, January 7-10, 2008. This was the 62nd meeting for the NEWSS and the theme for this year's meeting was: *Effects of Climate Change on Weeds*. The keynote address was given by Dr. Cameron Wake, from the University of New Hampshire

Climate Change Research Center, Durham, NH and was entitled: *Indicators of Climate Change in the Northeast Over the Past 100 Years*. Our room costs were \$119 per night. Preregistration was \$150 and \$95 for regular members and students, respectively, while the on-site registration was \$180 for regular members and \$125 for students. As was the case last year, an Awards Luncheon was included in this year's program. Note that the NEWSS covers room costs for students giving oral presentations at the meeting.

Attendance at the NEWSS meeting was 173, a slight decrease from the 2007 meeting (187 in attendance). This total included regular members (119), distinguished/ retired members (11), students (21), and sustaining associates (22). The 2007 NEWSS total meeting attendance reached 192 when the 14 attendees of symposia and the 5 invited guest speakers are included.

**NEWSS 2008 Award Recipients were:**

Distinguished Member: Jeffrey Derr, Virginia Polytechnic and State University

Award of Merit: Domingo Riego, Monsanto

Outstanding Educator: Mike Fidanza, The Pennsylvania State University

Outstanding Researcher: Shawn Askew, Virginia Polytechnic and State University

The Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Jacob Barney, Cornell University

**III. Current Officers and Committee Chairs of the society are:**

President - Jerry Baron, IR-4

President-elect – David Yarborough, Univ. Maine

Vice President – Hilary Sandler, Univ. Massachusetts

Past President – Renee Keese, Syngenta

Secretary/Treasurer – Chris Becker, BAAR Scientific LLC

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations – Dwight Lingenfelter, Penn State Univ.

Editor – Greg Armel, Univ. of Tennessee

Legislative Committee – Daniel Kunkel, IR-4

CAST Representative – Robert Sweet, Cornell

Sustaining Membership –Carrie Judge, BASF

Graduate Student Representative – Matt Ryan, Penn State Univ.

Research & Education Chair –Rakesh Chandran, West Virginia Univ.

WSSA Representative – Antonio DiTommaso, Cornell Univ.

**IV.** The NEWSS newsletters can be found on the NEWSS website: [www.newss.org](http://www.newss.org).