

Report to the Weed Science Society of America from the Southern Weed Science Society
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2008 Summer Report

The following items, of interest to WSSA, were discussed at the SWSS winter Board of Directors (BOD) meeting held January 28 and 31, 2008.

1. **SWSS/WSSA joint meeting in 2009:** SWSS and WSSA continue to work together to have a completely integrated meeting at the Disney Hilton in Orlando, Florida. Greg MacDonald is working diligently as chair of local arrangements along with Dan Reynolds (SWSS president elect) and David Shaw (WSSA president elect) to ensure a quality program and meeting.

There are still a few concerns that have resulted from having a joint meeting. These are mainly with graduate student contests, which were discussed at the SWSS BOD meeting.

- Speaking/Poster Contests: The Student Program Committee for SWSS recommended to the SWSS BOD that SWSS graduate students have an opportunity to compete in speaking and poster contests as in past years. The SWSS BOD agreed to follow the student program committee recommendation to have a separate contest for SWSS students at the 2009 joint meeting.
 - Quiz Bowl: In recent years, there has been a quiz bowl on Tuesday evening of the SWSS meeting. The SWSS graduate students would like to see this activity continued at the joint meeting. The consensus of the SWSS BOD is that a quiz bowl at the joint meeting is okay if the logistics can be worked out. There was some discussion as to whether universities outside of SWSS could compete in the event, but no decision has yet been reached.
2. **SWSS Membership and Meeting Attendance:** There were a total of 420 SWSS members in 2007, of which 72 were students. There has been a slight annual decline in membership over the past years. In 2000, there were 658 members, with 131 of these being students. At the SWSS annual meeting in 2008, there were 301 registered attendees. Similar to other weed science societies, SWSS is looking at ways to increase membership and meeting attendance.
 3. **SWSS meeting in 2010:** The 2010 SWSS meeting will be held at the Peabody in Little Rock, AR, during the week of January 25. Dick Oliver will serve as chair of the local arrangements committee. The 2111 SWSS meeting is scheduled to be held in the central portion of the SWSS region, and the Site Selection committee suggested somewhere in Alabama.
 4. **Weed ID update:**
 - *Weeds of the South* is scheduled to be published by the University of Georgia (UGA) Press in summer 2009. UGA Press originally considered producing 10,000 copies of the book but has since increased that to 20,000. Estimated

selling price will be \$39.95, but that could be reduced. There will be 400 species in the book. Printing costs for the book are being paid by SWSS and non-private sponsors that would like to be acknowledged in the book.

- There is another weed identification book that is being prepared by Charles Bryson and Mike Defelice on Midwestern weeds. This book is a joint effort between SWSS and the NCWSS, and the book will have 350 species.
- Mike Defelice is working on version 4 of the DVD *Weeds of the United States and Canada*. There were 447 species in the last version, and 160 new species will be added.