

2008 WSSA Committee Report to Members Summary for 2008 and Action Plan for 2009

Committee Code and Name:

W3 Awards Parent Committee

Committee Chair:

Lori Wiles

Board Coordinator:

Ralph Whitesides

Committee Members Rotating Off:

Appropriate Replacements:

Members are chairs of subcommittees and replacements are dealt with in the subcommittees.

2008 Summary of Activities

What were the committee's goals for 2008?

- Decrease the time required for the Awards Ceremony.
- Increase the number of nominations for awards by:
 - Greater publicity about the awards
 - Converting to online nomination procedure
 - Having subcommittee chairs reduce the burden of the nomination procedure by eliminating requests for information in the package that is not useful for selection of the winner

List the committee's accomplishments in 2008:

- The Awards Ceremony was more efficient by changing the order of the awards presentation for consecutive presentation of awards by one sponsor and sending an email to all ceremony participants asking them to sit in the front of the room.
- President of every regional weed society was contacted to request that they include information about WSSA awards in their newsletter. All agreed although this may not have happened in all cases.
- Formed a committee for Outstanding Paper in IPSPM. Syngenta has generously agreed to sponsor this award.
- Made reviewers for IPSPM eligible for the Outstanding Reviewer Award, but chose to only have two awards this year.
- Assisted with development of the procedure for awarding Graduate Student Travel Grants.

What information was posted on the WSSA website?

How to nominate.

How much funds were requested? How much was spent?

None

What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?

None

What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities?

- There were no nominations for Outstanding Teacher and Honorary Member and only one nomination for Outstanding Industry Award. Nominations were plentiful for the Early Career, Research and Extension Awards.
- We did not change to an online nomination procedure due to concerns of subcommittee chairs. Also, nomination packages were not streamlined because the conversion to online nomination and streamlining was to be simultaneous because it can be difficult for nominators and committees when procedures are changed often.

2009 Plan for Committee Activities

Goals for 2009 & Plan of Action:

- Revise the procedure for selecting Outstanding Reviewers:
 - Should there be two or three awards?
 - Is it necessary for recipients to be members of the WSSA?
- Consider if teams should be eligible for certain awards. This issue is in response to a request to nominate a team for the Honorary Member award. This nomination made sense but the constitution specifically states the award is for an "individual."
- Increase the number of nominations by reducing the burden of the nomination procedure. We will ask subcommittee chairs to consider minimizing the amount of information requested for a nomination and eliminating rigid format requirements and use of specified forms. I do not recommend converting to an online nomination procedure. Our procedure works well and is not an apparent impediment to nomination.
- Post list of past award winners on the website. This information is often requested by someone considering making a nomination.

What is needed to further the goals of the committee/project?

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

Funds requested for 2009:

None

Other requests for the Board:

- Members of subcommittees have indicated that the rigid and extensive requirements for the nomination packages do discourage nominations. It would be helpful if the Board reviewed the current nomination packages and offered suggestions on improving the package and strongly encouraged subcommittee chairs to follow these suggestions and make other revisions. Assigning a board member to assist with this task would be useful.
- Consider an award targeted towards invasive weed management to raise awareness of WSSA support of invasive weed management and science. The WSWS has such an award:

OUTSTANDING WEED MANAGER

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. This award is intended for those paid by taxpayers and are working in the public sector, such as employees of state departments of agriculture, weed boards, public land managers, and vegetation management personnel. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWS and weed science for at least five years at the time of nomination.